

**RESOLUTION OF THE
WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE OF THE
FORT APACHE INDIAN RESERVATION**

- WHEREAS**, the Upper Black River Watershed of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation includes an estimated 6,000 acres of habitat which is well-suited for sustaining a population of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep; and
- WHEREAS**, a small population of bighorn sheep exists today in this area but could be expanded with improved habitat conditions, primarily in areas of steep grade that have become overgrown with brush; and
- WHEREAS**, the wildlife biologist for the Tribal Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Division has prepared a four-year plan for improving bighorn sheep habitat in the Upper Black River Watershed, under which some 250 acres per year of prime habitat would be treated with prescribed fire, with the objective being to clear out several overgrown, brushy areas and restoring these areas to the more natural grassy, open areas preferred by bighorn sheep; and
- WHEREAS**, benefits of improving the habitat of bighorn sheep include recreation-based activities such as wildlife viewing and big game hunting with the potential for significant revenues to be generated for the Tribe from these activities, as well as potential benefits to other plant and wildlife species, including mule and white-tail deer, and overall watershed conditions; and
- WHEREAS**, the project was submitted to the Tribal Plan and Project Review Panel as required by Council Resolution No. 08-96-182 and received approval by the Panel at its November 26, 1997 meeting, with the conditions that the project be referred to the Tribal Council for final approval and that appropriate tribal cultural and sensitive species advisors first be consulted prior to the project proceeding.
- BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby approves the Tribal Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Division's proposal to improve bighorn sheep habitat in the Upper Black River Watershed, contingent on consultation and approval by the Tribal Cultural Resources Office, and the tribal sensitive species coordinator.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council that it directs the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Branch of Fire Management, to conduct prescribed fire activities for this project under a detailed plan prepared cooperatively between Tribal Forestry, Tribal Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation, and the Branch of Fire Management, subject to review and approval by the Tribal Plan and Project Review Panel.

Resolution No. 12-97-372

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Tribal Council that Tribal Forestry and Tribal Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation will have primary oversight responsibility in ensuring that prescribed fire is applied safely and within the limits of the approved plan, and that these parties will prepare a summary report to the Council upon completion of the project.

The foregoing resolution was on December 18, 1997, duly adopted by a vote of five for and zero against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it by the White Mountain Apache Tribal Constitution, including Article IV, Section 1 (a), (f), (g), (i), (j), (s), (t), and (u) of the Constitution of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe on September 30, 1993, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on November 12, 1993, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).



Chairman of the Tribal Council



Secretary of the Tribal Council