

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

- WHEREAS,** in 1995 the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe was advised that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (the Service) proposed reintroduction of the Mexican gray wolf, a federally-listed endangered species, into the Blue Range of Arizona which is in close proximity to the Fort Apache Indian Reservation; and
- WHEREAS,** pursuant to Resolutions Nos. 12-95-371 and 12-95-385, the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe opposed the introduction of the Mexican gray wolf in the Blue Range area in Eastern Arizona; and
- WHEREAS,** Resolution No. 02-94-060 prohibits access to the Reservation by federal and state agencies for scientific research or data collection without the Tribe's express written consent; and
- WHEREAS,** on January 12, 1998, the Fish and Wildlife Service issued the final rule announcing its decision to go forward with the proposal to reintroduce the Mexican gray wolf into the Blue Range Wolf Recovery area as an "experimental nonessential population" and set forth management directions for the wolf; and
- WHEREAS,** on March 29-30, 1998, the Service released eleven wolves into the Apache National Forest; and
- WHEREAS,** Mexican gray wolves have entered the Fort Apache Indian Reservation and are likely to continue to enter the Reservation, giving rise to numerous management considerations and potential impacts on recreation, livestock, tourism, and other Tribal programs; and
- WHEREAS,** the Statement of Relationship between the White Mountain Apache Tribe and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recognizes the Tribe's aboriginal rights, sovereign authority and institutional capacity to manage the lands and resources, including sensitive species, within the Reservation and further provides that upon request, the Service will provide technical assistance to the Tribe; and
- WHEREAS,** under the experimental population rule, the Statement of Relationship between the Tribe and the Service, and the Tribe's inherent sovereign authority, the Tribe has the option of having the wolves that enter the Reservation removed or allowing the wolves to enter and remain on the Reservation under a variety of management options; and

WHEREAS, the Mexican Wolf has cultural ties with the Apache, but the Tribe is concerned that the harmony that exists between the White Mountain Apache Tribe and all other living things on the Reservation be preserved and protected; and

WHEREAS, at the Tribal Council's direction, a Mexican Wolf Task Force was formed to study the issue and develop a recommendation; and

WHEREAS, the Mexican Wolf Task Force has evaluated: (1) the possible benefits of allowing wolves to enter the Reservation, such as enhancement of tourism and recreation programs and control of other predators such as coyotes; (2) the possible adverse biological effects with game populations and livestock; and (3) the impacts of wolf reintroduction in other parts of the country; and

WHEREAS, the Mexican Wolf Task Force has concluded that the benefits of a Mexican Wolf management program outweigh the costs and recommends that the Tribe take a proactive approach with respect to wolf management that includes allowing wolves to enter the Reservation and monitoring them closely, and participating in other Wolf recovery activities; provided that a suitable agreement with the Service can be developed that provides adequate funding and training in wolf management, the Tribe retains management control, and ensures the Tribe retains the option of removing wolves from the Reservation if at some point the Tribe determines that removal of the wolves would be in the best interest of the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the Record of Decision issued by the Service with respect to reintroduction of Mexican gray wolves specifically provides that the Service may enter into a wolf management agreement with the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the Service's Native American Policy commits the Service to entering into contracts, cooperative agreements, or grants with tribes to the extent provided by the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act, and the Tribal Council has concluded it is in the best interest of the Tribe that any Mexican Wolf Management Agreement with the Service be pursuant to P.L. 93-638.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it concurs with the recommendation of the Mexican Wolf Task Force that a Mexican gray wolf Tribal management program be initiated on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation that includes monitoring the wolves that enter the Reservation, provided that an acceptable P. L. 93-638 contract, grant, or cooperative agreement is developed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the purposes of providing funding, training and technical assistance to the Tribe to initiate and carry out the wolf management program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby authorizes designated staff and Special Counsel of the Tribal Legal Department and the Tribal Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Division to initiate negotiations with the Service to develop a self-determination contract or cooperative

agreement (whichever best serves the interests of the Tribe) pursuant to P.L. 93-638, regarding Mexican wolf management, funding, training, and technical assistance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby authorizes Tribal Chairman Dallas Massey, Sr., to negotiate and sign the Agreement on behalf of the Tribe.

The foregoing resolution was on August 12, 1998, duly adopted by a vote of seven for and one against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it by Article IV, Section 1 (a), (c), (f), (g), (i), (t), and (u) of the Constitution of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe 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).

ACTING

Herbert Tate

Chairman of the Tribal Council

Andy Harvey-Burnette

Secretary of the Tribal Council