

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

- WHEREAS,** the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe (Tribe) considers the preservation and protection of its tribal homelands to be among its highest obligations and responsibilities to future generations; and
- WHEREAS,** the economy of the Tribe is dependent on the judicious use and management of the natural resources of Tribal lands; and
- WHEREAS,** many species of animals and plants which are proposed or listed as threatened or endangered off Reservation have thrived on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation due to the development and implementation of a Sensitive Species Management Program and various management plans that supplement the cultural values and philosophy of the Tribe; and
- WHEREAS,** in recognition of the growing complexities of conflicting wants and needs, the Tribe is on the threshold of embarking on a Reservation-wide integrated resource management plan that will give added emphasis to the protection and enhancement of all animal and plant species; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal members, Tribal biologists, foresters, hydrologists, watershed specialists, and range managers employed by or under contract to the Tribe who possess knowledge of the Tribe's reservation and its natural resources that is superior to that of Federal and State Agency personnel or environmental organizations and are best able to manage the lands, fauna, flora, and waters of the Tribe's Reservation to ensure ecological maintenance and stability for all such species; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribe has earned a national reputation for its wildlife and fisheries management programs; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribe has established wilderness areas, reserved areas and special permit areas to conserve lands, forests, plants, animals and their habitats, and has established strict limitations on the taking of such animals and plants; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States of America and the Tribe have a government to government relationship as set forth in the "Statement of Relationship/Information Protocol" developed with the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service and used as the basis for Secretarial Order #3206; and
- WHEREAS,** Secretarial Order #3206 and Executive Order #13804 acknowledges Federal trust responsibilities to Tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States and its principal agent, the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, is the trustee for the Tribe and said trust responsibilities must be carried out in accordance with the highest fiduciary standards by the United States to ensure perpetuation of the Tribe's Reservation as a self-sustaining homeland for the Tribe; and

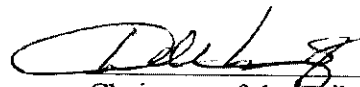
**WHEREAS**, Tribes get no Federal funding assistance for wildlife, fisheries, land conservation, recreation development, or for natural resources education via Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux, or ESA as do States; and

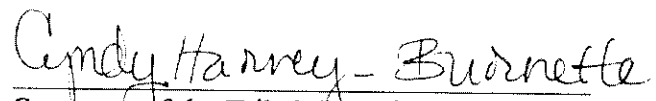
**WHEREAS**, various bills have been proposed in the U.S. Senate (S.25, S.446, S.532) and the House of Representatives (H.R. 701, H.R. 798, H.R. 1118) to provide for the use of monies generated from the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act currently held by the Federal Treasury for nongame fish and wildlife conservation and related conservation and education, for assistance to coastal states for impacts associated with OCS activity off their shores, and for funding of Land-Based Conservation and Recreation; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed bills generally fail to provide wording for the inclusion of Tribes as potential participants in the program or recipients of any funding from these bills; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe affirms the proposition that Tribes should be afforded the same opportunity for funding under any final Senate or House bill for the dedication of funds from OCS oil and gas lease monies as any State or territories that manage natural resources.

The foregoing resolution was on August 13, 1999, duly adopted by a vote of SIX and ZERO against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it by Article IV, Section 1 (a), (b), (f), (h), (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, 1933 (48 Stat. 984).

  
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Chairman of the Tribal Council

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Secretary of the Tribal Council