

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

- WHEREAS,** the Tribe has authority and jurisdiction throughout the territory comprising the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, a 1.7 million acre expanse of land which sits at the heart of the Tribe's larger ancestral homelands.
- WHEREAS,** such authority and jurisdiction extends to persons, subjects, property and all activities occurring therein; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribe's territory consists of rich and diverse landscapes and natural resources, including rivers and water bodies within said territory; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribe has received a request from the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names for comment on names proposed for twenty-one locations along the Tribe's Salt River; and
- WHEREAS,** the initiative for the name designation proposal is based in part on a request from the U.S. Forest Service for permanent names which would be recognized by all parties to avoid "potentially dangerous confusion" from the conflicting use of names for locations along the Salt River; and
- WHEREAS,** it has been suggested that river rafters and river runners need a uniform and consistent name for each identified location for purposes of route planning and rescue efforts on the Salt River; and
- WHEREAS,** the White Mountain Apache Tribe licenses and regulates river rafting on the Salt River from the White Mountain Apache Tribe's lands from which the majority of river rafters disembark; and
- WHEREAS,** the White Mountain Apache Tribe strongly supports public safety efforts and also recognizes the role of uniform place names to coordinate outdoor recreation and rescue efforts; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal representatives have provided comments in the past to the Forest Service to establish uniform names for purposes of river rafting and rescue efforts; and
- WHEREAS,** the twenty-one sites identified in the place names request are largely within or adjacent to Tribal lands and other locations of great cultural significance to the Tribe; and

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WHEREAS, the Tribal custom and Tribal law including the Tribal constitution affirm the Tribe's right to appropriately identify and name geographic locations contained within and appurtenant to the Tribe's Reservation; and

WHEREAS, Apache names for most of the sites in question have been in existence for as long as there have been Apache speaking people within the Tribe's lands; and

WHEREAS, it is the sovereign right and regulatory authority of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, not that of the State of Arizona, to establish names for the identified locations; and

WHEREAS, for these reasons it would be inappropriate for the Tribe to submit comments to a state agency seeking the adoption of English names to identify Tribal heritage sites and locations; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council concludes that a letter should be sent to the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names advising that as a matter of Tribal law, the names for these sites must come from the White Mountain Apache Tribe and not from a state agency; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe, in the interest of preserving place names for future generations and for the public's safety intends to promptly list and make public the traditional Apache names for the sites.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the sites in question are Tribal rather than state sites, and it is the Tribe's sovereign right to identify the name for each of the sites in question, and therefore, it will not submit comments on the twenty-one names proposed, but will compile and provide to the U.S. Forest Service and the State of Arizona the Tribal names for each location.

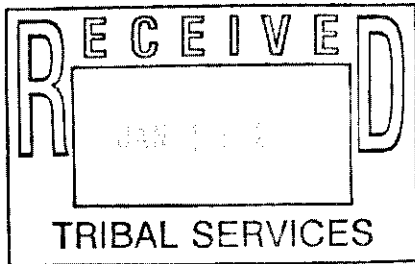
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that a letter be sent to the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names advising that the Tribe shall locate and identify the twenty-one sites for specific name designations and will verify with community members and Tribal elders names used by Apaches for each of the twenty-one locations as the means of listing and cataloging the names for each of the sites in question.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby authorizes the Tribal Chairman or his designee to work with the Tribal

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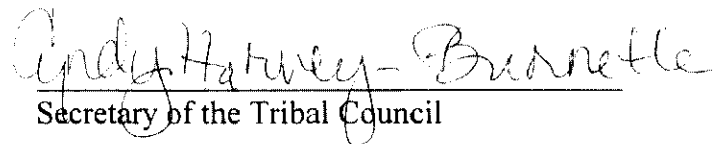
elders committee to promptly complete the inventory and catalog of the place names for the twenty-one sites and to report back to the Tribal Council for further action.

The foregoing resolution was on December 29, 1999 duly adopted by a vote of eight for 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), (f), (g), (h), (i), (m), (q), (s), (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).



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Chairman of the Tribal Council


Secretary of the Tribal Council