

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

- WHEREAS, the forest lands of the White Mountain Apache Tribe are among its most valuable resources and if properly managed on a sustained yield basis is a perpetually renewable and manageable resource which provides economic benefits, including income, employment, subsistence, and financial stability, and provides natural benefits, including ecological, cultural, and esthetic values; and
- WHEREAS, the United States has a trust responsibility in respect to Indian forest lands; and
- WHEREAS, the National Indian Forest Resource Management Act allows the Secretary of the Interior to take part in the management of Indian forest lands, with the participation of Tribes as beneficial owners in a manner consistent with the Secretary's trust responsibility to manage the forest on a sustained yield basis, consistent with the objectives of the Tribe; and
- WHEREAS, forest resources as used in the National Indian Forest Resource Management Act means all of the benefits derived from Indian forest lands, including forest products, soil productivity, water, fisheries, wild life, recreation, and esthetic or other traditional values of Indian forest lands; and
- WHEREAS, the Bureau of Indian Affairs has submitted a draft Environmental Assessment for consideration by the Tribal Council as part of a yet-to-be presented ten year Forest Management Plan [FMP] for the Tribe's forest; and
- WHEREAS, said Environmental Assessment is being presented to the Tribal Council for consideration of various FMP alternatives discussed therein prior to submitting a draft Forest Management Plan; and
- WHEREAS, the Tribal Council is advised that the Tribal water rights team has made a preliminary review of the Environmental Assessment and its review raises issues and concerns which need clarification and further explanation by the BIA so that the Tribal Council's participation and decision making in respect to the proposed FMP is meaningful, appropriately identifies the goals of the Tribal Council in the FMP, and satisfies the fiduciary standards of the Secretary in its role as Trustee; and
- WHEREAS, the Tribal Council has also raised certain concerns in respect to whether the Forest Management Plan goals for forest growth, forest condition, Tribal economy, and environmental values on a sustained yield basis for the previously ten years have been actualized, and whether the proposed Forest Management Plan provides for adequate protection of springs, and for the protection of other culturally valued resources within the forests, road construction such as location, closure, new construction, protection of water quality in riparian areas, livestock as a cultural

value and economic benefits in accordance with maintaining the Tribe's forest lands in a continuously productive state; and

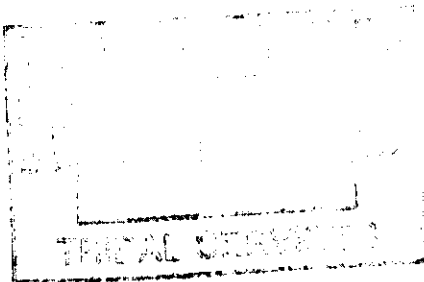
WHEREAS, some of the preliminary concerns, observations and issues identified by the Tribal water rights team and the Tribal Council have been collected and distributed to members of the Tribal Council this date; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council concludes that the BIA and any other author of the Environmental Assessment for the proposed ten year Forest Management Plan should be directed to address the Council's issues and concerns by further investigations and meetings with Tribal water rights team, the Tribal Council and appropriate Tribal departments such as Tribal GIS, Tribal Cultural Center, Tribal Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Division, Tribal Environmental Planning, Tribal Agricultural and Livestock and that BIA clarify and provide documentation respecting the issues and concerns identified by the Tribal Council.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby requests that the Bureau of Indian Affairs address the issues and concerns of the Tribal Council, its consultants and various departments and divisions, in respect to the draft Environmental Assessment for the yet to be presented Forest Management Plan, a preliminary list of which has been distributed to the Tribal Council this date but which will be revised for delivery to the BIA by the Tribe's consultants and legal counsel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby requests that the Bureau of Indian Affairs prepare a report as to the extent to which the prior ten year Forest Management Plan's economic and forest management goals have been actualized and achieved not only in table form, and by appropriate and detailed analysis but in a comprehensive narrative with appropriate references to documentation.

The foregoing resolution was on October 5, 2001, 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), (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 Interior on November 12, 1993, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).



Frank J. [Signature]
ACTING Chairman of the Tribal Council

Andy Harney-Burnette
Secretary of the Tribal Council