

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

- WHEREAS,** the Rodeo/Chediski Fire complex, the largest fire in Arizona history, encompasses more than 276,000 burned acres within the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, creating an immediate need to salvage within the next two years the remaining standing timber estimated to be in excess of 466 million board feet; and
- WHEREAS,** the salvage trees are a host to insects, which may cause insect populations to increase epidemically such that green trees may be attacked and killed, further increasing the damage to the remaining forest stands; and
- WHEREAS,** the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fort Apache Agency has worked very closely with the Tribe in completing the fire suppression phase and will continue planning and implementing programs for stabilization, rehabilitation, and reforestation; and
- WHEREAS,** there is an immediate need to enter into a major timber salvage program in conjunction with the Tribe's sawmill enterprise, the Fort Apache Timber Company ("FATCO"); and
- WHEREAS,** the damage and financial losses experienced by the Tribe have created a serious drain on Tribal financial resources, restricting its ability to properly address this emergency situation; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribe requests financial assistance from Congress to prepare FATCO for manufacturing and marketing as much salvage timber volume as possible in the shortest period of time, while preserving and protecting the remaining trust assets; and
- WHEREAS,** any further delay in establishing logging operations and start-up operations will result in catastrophic losses to the Tribe through decay and deterioration to the timber resource; and
- WHEREAS,** immediate salvage operations will promote forest health, by reducing threats of insect infestation, and remove dead standing timber, which would otherwise lead to increased future wildfire risk for the region if left unharvested; and
- WHEREAS,** there is an immediate need for funding assistance to salvage this resource, recognizing that the FATCO facilities are over forty years old; and
- WHEREAS,** FATCO is in Phase II of its long term capital improvement program to operate under

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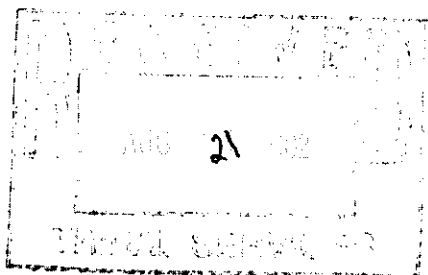
the Ten Year Forest Management Plan, and there is a need to accelerate these improvements to avoid downtime and to increase production levels as soon as possible in light of the urgent time constraints imposed by the devastating fire impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council must take the appropriate action to protect and preserve its Tribal resources with the assistance of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

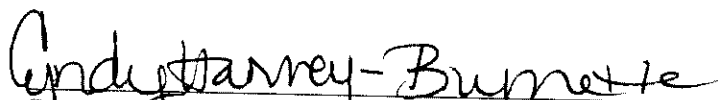
BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby requests immediate funding in the amount of Twenty One Million Dollars (\$21,000,000.00), as detailed in Attachment A to this Resolution, in order to initiate logging and sawmill operations as soon as possible to allow the Tribe to implement the timber salvage program at the levels required to obtain the highest remaining value from the remaining timber stand resource within the burned area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Tribal Chairman is authorized to present this request to the United States Congress for emergency funding as a rider to any bill this fiscal year for immediate consideration.

The foregoing resolution was on July 23, 2002 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), (b), (c), (f), (h), (i), (j), (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).




Chairman of the Tribal Council


Secretary of the Tribal Council