

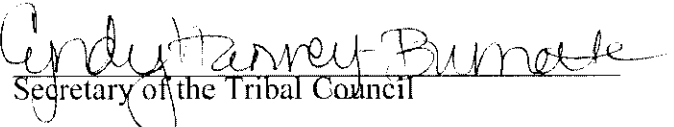
**RESOLUTION OF THE  
WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE OF THE  
FORT APACHE INDIAN RESERVATION**

- WHEREAS,** the Tribal Council met with the United States Attorney for Arizona, Paul Charleton, on July 26, 2002, to discuss the basis for his decision to refrain from prosecuting criminal charges against Valinda Jo Elliott, the woman who ignited the Chediski Fire on the Fort Apache Reservation; and
- WHEREAS,** the Chediski Fire destroyed irreplaceable sacred and culturally important sites, killed and altered the habitat of endangered species of animals and plants, destroyed innumerable natural resources and severely damaged the Tribe's economic viability; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribal Council is disappointed that, despite the wide scale destruction and injury that Ms. Elliott's act caused to the Tribe and to its neighbors in Clay Springs, Pinedale, Linden, Heber and Overgaard, Mr. Charleton declared he will not file charges against Ms. Elliott unless the Tribe provides additional information or evidence which, in his opinion, indicates such charges are appropriate; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribal Council strongly encouraged Mr. Charleton to give a jury the opportunity to decide whether criminal charges are appropriate against Valinda Jo Elliott for igniting and then leaving unattended the Chediski fire; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribal Council believes that Mr. Charlton's basis for declining prosecution against Ms. Elliott should be reviewed by the United States Attorney General John Ashcroft; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribal Council believes it proper for the Tribal Chairman to request assistance from Attorney General Ashcroft and the Tribe's congressional delegation in the appointment of an independent prosecutor to further investigate and charge Valinda Jo Elliott and all other responsible parties with violations of federal law for igniting and leaving unattended the Chediski Fire on the Fort Apache Reservation.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby authorizes the Chairman to request that the United States Attorney General, John Ashcroft, and the Tribe's congressional delegation from Arizona and across Indian Country demand: (1) further investigation of the facts surrounding the ignition and abandonment of the Chediski fire, and (2) the appointment of an independent prosecutor to bring the facts surrounding the ignition of the Chediski fire to a federal grand jury.

The foregoing resolution was on August 2, 2002 duly adopted by a vote of SIX 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), (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