

**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 Indian Reservation; and

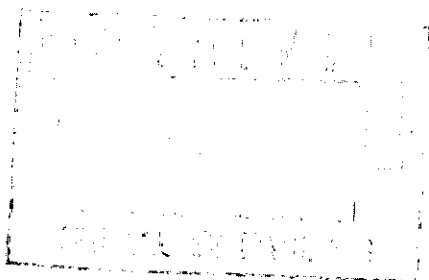
WHEREAS, the Chediski Fire destroyed irreplaceable sacred and culturally important sites, killed and altered the habitat of endangered species of animals and plants, destroyed innumerable natural resources and severely damaged the Tribe's economic viability; and

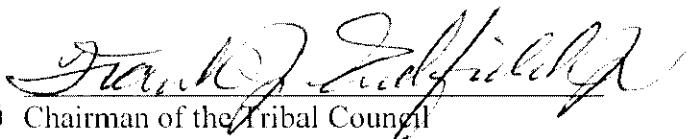
WHEREAS, the Tribal Council is disappointed that, despite the wide scale destruction and injury that Ms. Elliott's act caused to the Tribe and to its neighbors in Clay Springs, Pinedale, Linden, Heber and Overgaard, Mr. Charleton declared he will not file charges against Ms. Elliott unless the Tribe provides additional information or evidence which, in his opinion, indicates such charges are appropriate; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council believes that the Legal Department should review the facts surrounding the ignition and abandonment of the Chediski Fire and file appropriate charges against the responsible individuals and entities.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs the White Mountain Apache Tribal Attorney and Legal Department to review the facts surrounding the ignition and abandonment of the Chediski Fire and file appropriate charges against the responsible individuals and entities.

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).



ACTING 
Chairman of the Tribal Council


Secretary of the Tribal Council