

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

**WHEREAS,** the Rodeo-Chediski wildfire burned more than 275,000 acres within the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, creating an immediate need to salvage within the next two years the merchantable fire killed timber; and

**WHEREAS,** the Tribal Council has reviewed options for instituting immediate timber salvage sale operations on the lands impacted by the Rodeo-Chediski wildfire and determined that due to the immense scale of this wildfire that timber sales to off-reservation purchasers is the only means of recovering and capturing value from the timber that is in excess of the Tribe's capacity to harvest and merchandise; and

**WHEREAS,** the Bureau of Indian Affairs has the Trust Responsibility to obtain the greatest value for damaged Trust Resources and time is of the essence; and

**WHEREAS,** there is a need to salvage this timber immediately to capture the greatest value before insects and disease render it valueless; and

**WHEREAS,** the Tribe's Fort Apache Timber Company (FATCO) has reviewed its capabilities and business operations and has selected areas to be reserved for harvest by FATCO, under its right of first refusal of Tribal timber; and

**WHEREAS,** the areas FATCO has selected are the tractor operable areas of the Hop Cot, Limestone, Grasshopper, Cibecue and South Cibecue Ridge Timber Management Units; and

**WHEREAS,** FATCO has determined it will not exercise rights for harvesting from the tractor and helicopter operable areas of the Chediski, Chuckbox, Bull Flat, Whiskey Trail, Wildhorse, Deer Springs and Jumpoff Timber Management Units and the helicopter operable areas of the Hop Cot, Limestone, Grasshopper and Cibecue Timber Management Units, thereby making those areas available for off-reservation purchases through the BIA; and

**WHEREAS,** the Bureau of Indian Affairs has received interest and response from potential off-reservation timber purchasers to competitively bid on the purchase of available salvage timber.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby authorizes and urges the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fort Apache Agency to solicit the sale of timber to off-reservation bidders from those available areas, provided that a competitive bidding process is used to encourage maximum bid rates for the sale of this material and that the proposed sales abide by the Tribe's TPPR process.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it urges the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fort Apache Agency to request additional

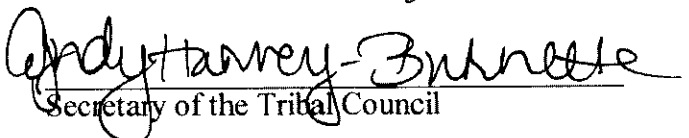
staffing expertise and funding to facilitate the many complex tasks involved in organizing the off-reservation sales of this magnitude.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby concurs with and approves the determination of the Fort Apache Timber Company for those areas which it will harvest and those areas which will be released for the competitive bidding process with the understanding that should the areas reserved by FATCO prove to contain more material than can be salvaged within the next two years, or at any time should the other areas not reserved for FATCO have material lacking qualified bidders, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fort Apache Agency shall consult with FATCO and the Tribal Council and develop arrangements for this excess material prior to further degradation of value.

The foregoing resolution was on September 16, 2002 duly adopted by a vote of seven 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), (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