

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

- WHEREAS,** the White Mountain Apache Tribe is facing many challenges to its natural resource base including the ongoing rehabilitation efforts from the Rodeo-Chediski Fire, and the drought conditions that are creating a drastic impact on the forest, woodlands and rangelands; and
- WHEREAS,** the Rainbow Fire of 1999, the Ridge Fire of 2001 and the Rodeo-Chediski Fire of 2002 have been a direct result of the persistent drought conditions, dense forest fuels and one hundred years of fire suppression which have greatly impacted the White Mountain Apache Tribe in many ways; and
- WHEREAS,** the drought and drought related factors such as bark beetles and wildfire has impacted the physical characteristics and ecological sustainability of the forest; and
- WHEREAS,** these drought related factors are impacting the health, safety and sustainability of our forest land and the safety of our communities, residents, businesses, infrastructure and visitors; and
- WHEREAS,** the forest and woodlands are experiencing wide spread tree mortality due to unnatural high tree and brush densities, insects, disease and drought; and
- WHEREAS,** the current conditions have greatly increased the extreme fire danger and the risk of another devastating wildfire like the Rodeo-Chediski Fire, and accelerated the decline of forest and watershed health, and impacts on wildlife habitat and sustainable ecological processes; and
- WHEREAS,** recreation and tourism is a viable and important industry on the reservation, which has been severely impacted due to forest closures, decreased scenic beauty due to tree mortality and fire scars, and visitor perception that forests are hazardous and unattractive; and
- WHEREAS,** the local forest products industry is also threatened by many factors including a decrease in potential harvest volume due to tree mortality, overall forest production reduced due to drought, loss of timber due to wildfire, site productivity lost due to high wildfire intensities, and a weak lumber market, providing the White Mountain Apache Tribe with few viable options to handle small diameter wood at large quantities; and
- WHEREAS,** there are sound scientific and technological management alternatives that could be

implemented to slow or reverse the trend of an epidemic insect outbreak and reduce the impacts of drought conditions such as thinning and prescribed burning to achieve a more natural forest and stand structure which would decrease stand densities and increase stand growth and vigor, protecting the economic, the scenic and the wildlife habitat values of the forest and provide safety to communities, businesses, infrastructure and visitors; and

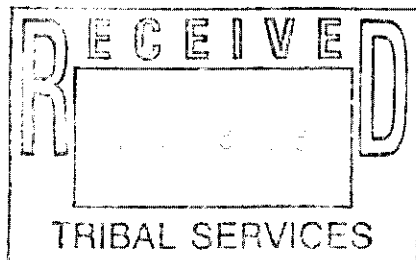
WHEREAS, the Tribal Council determines that it wishes to take measures to protect Tribal lands from drought related impacts.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby declares a state of emergency to exist in its forests and woodlands.

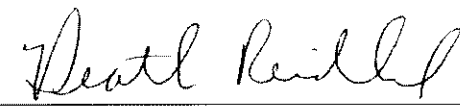
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby requests that the President of the United States, Arizona's Governor, and appropriate State, Federal and Tribal agencies and offices to enact emergency regulations, rules and processes, and provide sufficient funds, technical assistance, and other resources necessary to alleviate this state of emergency in the forest, woodlands and rangelands of the White Mountain Apache Tribe.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby delegates authority to the Tribal Forester, with the assistance of Natural Resource Staff, to carry out the intent of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was on May 20, 2003 duly adopted by a vote of NINE 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), (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


ACTING Secretary of the Tribal Council