

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

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fort Apache Agency has been engaged in the preparation and development of the Tribe's Ten-Year Forest and Woodlands Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe considers development of the comprehensive Forest and Woodlands Management Plan as essential for the stewardship, management, and use of the Tribe's vast natural resource base; and

WHEREAS, on a reoccurring basis the Tribal Council has sought status reports from the Agency on the development of the Ten-Year Plan, and in writing and through briefing meetings has identified key factors which the Plan and related documents must competently address in order to meet the requirements of the National Indian Forest Resource Management Act, and to allow the Tribe to undertake a fully informed review and make informed decisions concerning the future management goals and standards for its forest resource base; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council, on January 8, 2003, adopted Resolution 01-2003-06 to further identify critical elements lacking from the draft Forest and Woodlands Management Plan Environmental Assessment and to establish a protocol for more coordinated collaborative work between Tribal and Bureau of Indian Affairs staff on development of the Plan and the Environmental Assessment; and

WHEREAS, to date, these efforts have yet to produce the coordinated efforts necessary for development and completion of the Forest and Woodlands Management Plan and the Environmental Assessment; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council on this date has held a confidential briefing with Tribal staff concerning the status of the draft Forest and Woodlands Management Plan, Environmental Assessment, dated April, 2003; and

WHEREAS, Tribal staff advise that repeated Tribal staff requests and comments have not been incorporated into the draft nor have other key elements identified by prior Council resolution and other communications; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of timely completion of a Plan which fulfills the standards of the National Indian Forest Resource Management Act and the Tribe's laws, regulations, and stated objectives, the Tribal Council directs that a letter be sent to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fort Apache Agency detailing its concerns over the Plan development process and the changes and additional needs identified for the Plan documents; and

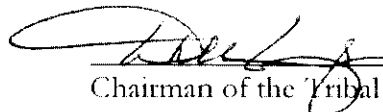
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WHEREAS, Tribal Council takes this action in the expectation that prompt attention and review will be given to these concerns, and thereafter the draft Plan and Environmental Assessment will be revised, and necessary briefing documents prepared, to fully address the Tribe's concerns so that the Tribe may make an informed decision.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby authorizes the Tribal Chairman with the assistance of resource staff and other Tribal advisors to finalize and submit to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, written comments and concerns, and additional information needs, as discussed this date over the April, 2003 draft Forest and Woodlands Management Plan Environmental Assessment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fort Apache Agency fully address the written concerns and comments to be delivered to the Agency, and that the Agency provide an explanation to the Tribe in writing concerning any of the requests or concerns which in the Agency's view cannot be incorporated into the Ten-Year Plan or into the Environmental Assessment or accompanying briefing documents.

The foregoing resolution was on June 10, 2003 duly adopted by a vote of TEN 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


Secretary of the Tribal Council