

DEF 16 2004

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

**(Authorizing Chairman to Execute Heritage Resource
Memorandum of Understanding With United States Forest Service)**

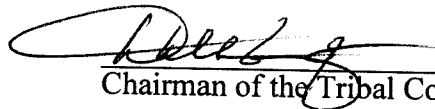
- WHEREAS**, the White Mountain Apache Tribe maintains a longstanding commitment to government-to-government relations with the United States of America through collaborations and consultations with the Federal government, including agency-level consultations; and
- WHEREAS**, the United States Forest Service (USFS), as an agency of the administrative branch of the United States government shares in the Federal trust responsibility for the welfare of the White Mountain Apache Tribe and its constituent communities and members; and
- WHEREAS**, USFS carries out land management and resource conservation programs on millions of acres used or occupied by the ancestors of the members of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, including lands bordering the Fort Apache Indian Reservation to the north, east, and west; and
- WHEREAS**, on the basis of spirituality and lifeways, the White Mountain Apache Tribe and its members maintain connections with aboriginal and ancestral lands and cultural and natural resources managed by USFS, thus deriving aspects of the distinctive identity and vitality of the White Mountain Apache from lands managed by USFS; and
- WHEREAS**, authorities and practices relating to USFS land management and resource conservation increasingly reflect Federal recognition of these connections and, more broadly, attention to Native American ecological and spiritual knowledge, wisdom, and mandates to protect sacred places, plants, animals, and minerals; and
- WHEREAS**, representatives of the White Mountain Apache Tribe Heritage Program have joined with representatives of the Tonto Apache Tribe, the Yavapai-Apache Nation, and the San Carlos Apache Tribe to identify issues, concerns, and best practices relating to the stewardship of lands and heritage resources formerly under Ndee control and currently managed by USFS; and
- WHEREAS**, duly designated Apache tribal representatives, in consultation and collaboration with representatives of the National Forests managing former Apache lands today located in the State of Arizona—the Apache-Sitgreaves, Coconino, Coronado, Prescott, and Tonto National Forests—have developed a *Memorandum of Understanding* (MOU) that embraces many Ndee preferences and priorities relating, among other matters, to culturally appropriate consultation, heritage resource conservation, and the protection of sacred mountains and values; and

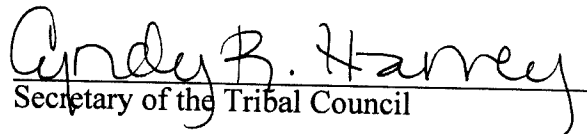
Resolution No. 12-2004-284

WHEREAS, execution of the MOUs intended to facilitate USFS communications and consultations with the affected Apache Tribes, to increase protection for lands, sacred places, heritage sites, and resting places important in Ndee culture and history, and to streamline compliance processes for USFS activities and programs that will not affect historic properties or other heritage resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that, contingent on final review and endorsement of the proposed agreement by the Tribal Attorney, it authorizes the Chairman of the Tribal Council to sign and execute the *Memorandum of Understanding Between the Apache-Sitgreaves, Coconino, Coronado, Prescott, and Tonto National Forests and the San Carlos Apache Tribe, Tonto Apache Tribe, White Mountain Apache Tribe, and the Yavapai-Apache Nation For the Management and Protection of Historic Properties and Other Resources Pertaining to the Cultural Heritage Of the Western Apache.*

The foregoing resolution was on DECEMBER 1, 2004 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), (b), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (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