



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

(Cooperative Agreement for Management of the Mexican Wolf for 2017)

WHEREAS, in 1998, the Tribal Council appointed a Mexican Wolf Task Force to look at issues impacting the Tribe concerning the reintroduction of the Mexican Wolf in eastern Arizona; and

WHEREAS, that same year, Tribal Council was advised by staff of entries by the Mexican Wolf onto Tribal lands and concluded that it would allow wolves to remain on Tribal lands without pursuing removal, and that the Tribe would pursue a 638 Contract or Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to monitor and manage the wolves that may come onto Tribal lands; and

WHEREAS, in the year 2000, the Tribal Council and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service approved the Mexican Wolf Management Plan which identified objectives and goals dealing with wolf management on Tribal lands; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Tribal resolution, a Cooperative Agreement was developed and signed by the Tribe and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in 2002; and

WHEREAS, Tribal staff implemented monitoring and provisions under the management plan and has evaluated the program's success to date and now come before the Tribal Council with a proposal to continue the program under a new and similar Cooperative Agreement with the USFWS for the following reasons:

1. As a sovereignty issue, Tribal land and all resources within the boundaries of the Reservation should be under Tribal management. The Tribe is pro-actively managing a wildlife resource with Federal and State cooperation instead of interference.
2. The USFWS is under a judicial settlement to release and recover Mexican Gray Wolves; releases will continue until or unless there is either a Congressional or Judicial Order to discontinue the recovery. Wolves will continue to come onto the Reservation because of the good prey base and habitat.
3. Wolves were here in the past and part of the land and the culture of the Tribe and elders have advised that "What was here in the past and is here now should be here for future generations".
4. Tribal member program personnel provide a more timely and immediate response to issues; they are familiar with the land and the resources. The field team monitors wolf current and historical locations, home ranges, and livestock pastures. They also respond to reports on depredations, sightings, and any possible wolf incidents. Investigations are done by Tribal member personnel who know the land and speak the language.

5. The Tribe has an equal voice on the Management Committee on all reintroduction and recovery issues including release locations off Reservation.
6. There is current depredation, incentives (payment for presence), and interdiction funding available from the Livestock/Wolf Council and Farm Services Agency.
7. Federal Funding provides employment for Tribal staff and equipment and outside funding has provided for education and outreach, as well as equipment.
8. Grant funding has been developed through partnerships with NRCS and Defenders of Wildlife for livestock associations.
9. Potential benefits exist for Ranch and Eco-Tourism in conjunction with livestock associations and the Game & Fish Department.
10. Positive National and International recognition for Tribal programs such as articles in national and international magazines, case studies, Presidential certificates/awards, award/recognition from USFWS, and State awards.
11. Protection from potential litigation has been provided by participation in Endangered Species recovery through the Tribe's Sensitive Species Program.
12. Mitigation measures are in place to cover major concerns for depredation of livestock, potential impacts on wildlife, and potential threats to people and pets through the new 10j rule, active depredation/incentives/interdiction funds, management plan protocols, and standard operating procedures; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has assured the White Mountain Apache tribe that it will cooperate with the Tribe on a government to government basis in the monitoring, management and recovery of the Mexican Wolf to implement the provisions of the Final Rule on Mexican Wolf Reintroduction (50 CFR 17.84 (k)), the new 10j Rule, and the White Mountain Apache Tribe's Mexican Wolf Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, a questionnaire was sent out in 2007 to all Tribal members of the White Mountain Apache Tribe 18 years and older and the returned responses were favorable to continuing the Mexican Wolf Program; and

WHEREAS, prior members of the Mexican Wolf Task Force provided comments in the past, on the continuation of the Tribe's Wolf Program; a majority concurring that there should be Tribal management of Tribal resources on Tribal lands.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby accepts the continuation of the Tribal Mexican Wolf Program for management of the wolves on the Reservation under a new five-year Cooperative Agreement (August 1, 2017 to July 31, 2022) with total funding of at least \$1,125,000.00; yearly disbursement at the Tribe's discretion, subject to availability of appropriations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event this Resolution directly conflicts with the Tribal Constitution, Tribal Ordinances, or any material facts concerning the issues presented are later found to be false, this Resolution shall be deemed null and void and have no legal effect.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event that this Resolution conflicts with a prior Resolution or Policy, this Resolution shall supersede and govern over the conflicting subject matter.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was on **APRIL 17, 2017** duly adopted by a vote of **EIGHT** for, **ONE** against, and **ONE** abstentions by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it under the enumerated powers listed in Article IV, Section 1 of the WMAT Constitution, so ratified on September 30, 1993, and federally recognized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).



Ronnie Lupe, Tribal Chairman

7-17-17
Date



Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Secretary

7-17-17
Date