



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

(Authorizing the Bureau of Indian Affairs to Resume Field Activities on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation)

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe (“Tribe”) of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (“Constitution”) provides, at Article IV, Section 1(c) that the Tribal Council (“Council”) shall exercise the power “To advise the Secretary of the Interior [or his designee] on all activities that may affect the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (“Reservation”)...”; and

WHEREAS, Field activities by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (“BIA”)- Fort Apache Agency support the management, conservation, and protection of land and trust resources for the benefit of the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, As a way to slow and mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tribal Council, by resolution, has mandated the closure of the Reservation’s forests; and

WHEREAS, The management of forests to make available commercial forest products to the Tribe’s Forest Products Enterprise, WMATCO, requires much field preparation by Forest Development, Presales, and Roads Field Crews to nurture and protect forest resources; and

WHEREAS, After careful consideration, the Council finds that authorizing the BIA to resume field activities related to the Tribe’s timber and forest management is in the best interests of the Tribe and its members.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that BIA Forestry and Roads field employees are hereby allowed to enter the Reservation’s closed forest areas for the express purpose of completing scheduled projects to support the Tribe’s land management activities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that any person found trespassing and violating this or other duly enacted regulations shall be subject to applicable penalties as provided for by Tribal and federal law.

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

Resolution No. 08-2020-180

The foregoing resolution was on **AUGUST 5, 2020** duly adopted by a vote of **TEN** for, **ZERO** 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).

	<u>9/15/2020</u>		<u>9-17-2020</u>
Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, Chairwoman	Date	Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Secretary	Date