



# WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

## (Reopening the Forests on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation for the Limited Purpose of Collecting Firewood)

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**WHEREAS,** The Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe (“Tribe”) of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation provides, at Article IV, Section 1(a) that the Tribal Council (“Council”) shall exercise the power, “to Represent the Tribe and act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe...”; and

**WHEREAS,** On March 23, 2020, via Resolution No. 03-2020-65, the Council temporarily closed the forests on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (“Reservation”) to public entry, as an emergency measure to help slow the spread of COVID-19 and preserve the limited resources of law enforcement and first responders; and

**WHEREAS,** With winter approaching and the spread of the disease beginning to slow on the Reservation, the Council now finds that re-opening the forests to allow Tribal members to gather firewood for themselves and their family members 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 the Tribe’s forests are hereby reopened, subject to reasonable regulation by Tribal Forestry and Game and Fish, for the limited purpose of gathering firewood for Tribal members and their families residing on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the forests remain closed to recreational activities and all other activities not related to gathering of firewood.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that all persons under stay-at-home order, pursuant to Resolution No. 04-2020-86, may leave their homes, for the purposes of collecting firewood. Persons under mandatory quarantine because of a positive diagnosis must remain under quarantine.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that all sales of firewood to non-members of the Tribe shall continue to be strictly prohibited.


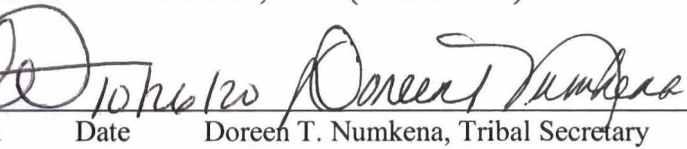
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event this Resolution directly conflicts with the Tribal Constitution, Tribal Ordinances, or any material facts concerning the issues presented are later found to be false, this Resolution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

***Resolution No. 08-2020-181***

**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 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.

The foregoing resolution was on AUGUST 5, 2020 duly adopted by a vote of ELEVEN for, ZERO against, and ZERO 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).

   
Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, Chairwoman      Date      Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Secretary      Date