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Resolution No. 81-248

FORT APACHE INDIAN  
AGENCY  
WHITERIVER, ARIZ.

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

- WHEREAS, the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe has expressed through prior Resolutions No. 81-41 and 81-223 its grave concern as to whether or not proper forest management practices are being followed in the cutting of tribal timber on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, and
- WHEREAS, the concerns of the Tribal Council has centered upon the issue of whether or not the Bureau of Indian Affairs who is responsible for the management of tribal timber is adhering to the master plan, the purpose of which is to require a sustained yield policy, and
- WHEREAS, further, the Tribal Council is equally concerned with clear cutting practices and removal of vegetation and timber which causes substantial increase in water run-off, and
- WHEREAS, the Tribal Council, by Resolution 81-223, had requested that the Bureau of Indian Affairs provide the Tribal Council at a special meeting, an explanation of its sustained yield policy as carried out on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation as well as a discussion of timber and vegetation eradication programs and its effect on water run-off of streams and rivers of the reservation, and
- WHEREAS, in response to said request, the Bureau of Indian Affairs presented to the Tribal Council on November 16, 1981, a program for the purpose of providing the Tribal Council an explanation of the sustained yield policy, reforestation program, clear cutting operations, run-off studies, and basically, as to the continuous forest inventory program, as adhered to on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, and
- WHEREAS, the Tribal Council following the presentation by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Forestry Department, is of the consensus that there remain serious questions as to the purpose of timber cutting and stream vegetation eradication programs conducted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Salt River Project in the 1950's and, further, that a serious question still remains as to the purposes and functional benefit of controlled burning as it relates to water run-off, and soil nutrient loss, and
- WHEREAS, the Tribal Council remains unpersuaded and unconvinced without further independent expert investigation that a continuous forest inventory is being maintained for the benefit of future generations of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council concludes that additional meetings will be necessary with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Forestry Department, to discuss in depth, the water run-off problem, controlled burning practices, soil nutrient loss, and long term effects of clear cutting, and increased water run-off on the productivity of its timber for commercial purposes.

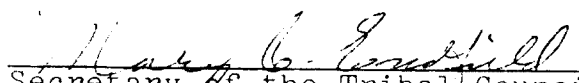
BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, that it hereby concludes that although the BIA Program presented to the Tribal Council on November 16, 1981, was informative as to the master management plan and sustained yield policy of the BIA, there remains grave concern in the Council as to whether or not the master plan or sustained yield policy is actually being practiced as represented.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tribal Council concludes that questions and issues relating to controlled burning, water run-off, clear cutting practices, soil erosion and soil nutrient loss, must be discussed in much greater detail with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and that in addition to such discussions, independent experts should be retained by the Tribe at Federal Government expense as part of their trust obligations to insure an independent and non-selfserving study of all of these areas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council that the Tribal Chairman is hereby delegated the authority to arrange for future meetings with the Bureau of Indian Affairs for intensive discussions reference the issues of concern set forth herein and further, that he be granted authority to seek federal funds from the Bureau of Indian Affairs for purposes of retaining expert witnesses on behalf of the White Mountain Apache Tribe for purposes of providing the Tribal Council with advice and counsel reference these problem areas.

The foregoing Resolution was on November 16, 1981, duly adopted by a vote of 10 for and 0 against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe pursuant to authority vested in it by Article V, Section I(f, 1) of the Amended Constitution and By-Laws of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe June 27, 1958, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on May 29, 1958, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934, (45 Stat. 984).

  
Chairman of the Tribal Council

  
Secretary of the Tribal Council