

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

WHEREAS, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS, formerly soil Conservation Service) was officially banished from the Fort Apache Indian Reservation by Tribal Council Resolution No. 79-229 on November 21, 1979, due to concerns over water rights; and

WHEREAS, in the past twenty-seven years since that resolution was passed, the NRCS has refashioned itself and the Tribe has significantly developed its own internal capacity in natural resources management; and

WHEREAS, the NRCS now offers valuable technical assistance only upon tribal request in the areas of wetlands, stream restoration, soil surveys, erosion control and flood control; and

WHEREAS, the NRCS also provides an avenue for funding for natural resources conservation and restoration programs, particularly under the 1996 Farm Bill, and the Tribe and tribal livestock associations could draw upon those funding sources for natural resource conservation and land restoration projects.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby rescinds Resolution No. 79-229 and invites the NRCS to provide technical assistance upon request of tribal staff.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council that the prohibition against the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the USDA from entering into a memorandum of understanding with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to conduct soil inventory classifications and mapping as outlined in Resolution No. 79-229 is still in force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tribal Council requests that NRCS assign a conservationist to the reservation to serve as a liaison to the Tribe and that the NRCS consult with the Tribe on the benefits and process of establishing a conservation district for the reservation, and to pursue funding opportunities.

Resolution No. 02-97-024

That the foregoing resolution was on February 05, 1997, duly adopted by a vote of eight for and zero against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it by the White Mountain Apache Tribal Constitution, including Article IV, Sections 1 (a), (b), (f), (i), (j), (s), (t) and (u) of the Constitution of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe on 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).

RECEIVED

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WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE INDIAN AGES
WHITERIVER, ARIZONA


Chairman of the Tribal Council


Secretary of the Tribal Council