

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

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe has taken strong action to provide for the protection and restoration of the natural resources of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, perhaps the most prominent being the creation of the Permanent Land Restoration Fund from a 20% set aside of 22-H settlement moneys; and

WHEREAS, the Permanent Land Restoration Fund is, by design, intended to provide seed moneys which will be leveraged against other available funding sources to allow for a larger overall funding base for undertaking restoration activities; and

WHEREAS, technical expertise in natural resources within the Tribe has grown significantly within recent years under direction of the Council, however, additional technical expertise is needed in disciplines such as soils science, soil conservation, animal science, hydraulic engineering, botany and other; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, is charged nationwide with providing technical assistance to tribal governments, private landowners and other government agencies; and

WHEREAS, the natural resources of the Reservation and individuals charged with protection of these resources, including but not limited to the managers and staff of the eight tribal livestock management associations, the tribal Agricultural Enterprise, the tribal Land Operations program, the tribal Watershed Planning program, and other tribal and Bureau of Indian Affairs technical and administrative staff, would benefit from the technical expertise and funding which could be provided by the USDA-NRCS if the Tribe establishes a formal relationship with the Natural Resources Conservation Service; and

WHEREAS, the mechanism employed nationwide, and with other Indian tribes for conveying technical expertise and funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service to the parties it is mandated to serve has been through the establishment of natural resource conservation districts having their own administrative boards, staff and conservation goals and objectives.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby approves the attached draft "Interagency Agreement" for the purpose of entering into discussions with the Natural Resources Conservation Service regarding establishment of a formal relationship between the Service and the Tribe.

Resolution No. 02-98-21

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council that in anticipation of successfully establishing a formal relationship with the Service it hereby creates the "White Mountain Apache Natural Resource Conservation District" the geographic description of which shall be the exterior boundaries of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation and any additional land acquired by the Tribe.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council that the Board governing the management and operations of the District shall be the same Board created by the Tribal Council for purposes of administering the 22-H Permanent Land Restoration Fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council that should discussions and negotiations between the Tribe and Service fail to produce an Interagency Agreement satisfactory to the Tribal Council, the Conservation District and Board established pursuant to this resolution may be abolished by subsequent Council resolution.

The foregoing resolution was on February 12, 1998, duly adopted by a vote of nine 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, Section 1 (a), (b), (e), (h), (i), (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).



Chairman of the Tribal Council



Secretary of the Tribal Council