

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

**WHEREAS,** *Dzil nchaá si an*, the vast and unique mountain range known to non-Apaches as Mt. Graham, is a sacred site of long-standing and ongoing historical, cultural, and religious importance to many Apaches; and

**WHEREAS,** the sacred character of the range encompasses all landforms, minerals, plants, and waters associated with or flowing from *Dzil nchaá si an*; and

**WHEREAS,** the United States Forest Service, through the Coronado National Forest, manages *Dzil nchaá si an* in the public trust and continues to process and approve requests for projects and activities that threaten and diminish the characteristics and values that define and perpetuate the mountain's cultural and religious significance to Apache people; and

**WHEREAS,** the United States Forest Service in its correspondence dated January 12, 1999 and June 22, 1999, respectively, has stated that the Forest Service has recognized and acknowledged that *Dzil nchaá si an* is "aware of the religious significance of Mt. Graham to the Apache People" and is "very important to Apaches"; and

**WHEREAS,** the Coronado National Forest has acknowledged its statutory and trust responsibility to assess the eligibility of *Dzil nchaá si an* for listing on the National Register of Historic Places; and

**WHEREAS,** the President of the United States on May 24 1996 issued Executive Order 13007 requiring all federal land management agencies to "(1) accommodate access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners and (2) avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sacred sites"; and

**WHEREAS,** placement on the National Register, or determination of eligibility therefor would afford *Dzil nchaá si an* a long-overdue measure of respect and protection; and

**WHEREAS,** elders and cultural specialists representing many tribes, including the White Mountain Apache Tribe, have asserted the moral and legal mandate for the Forest Service to respect and protect *Dzil nchaá si an* and to consult with the Apache tribes on a government-to-government basis in all decisions affecting the mountain range.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the United States Forest Service is urged to promptly acknowledge that *Dzil nchaá si an* is

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eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as the first step towards the possible submission of a formal nomination of the mountain and its associated historic and cultural sites for listing in the National Register.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that said determination of eligibility should include all available and appropriate information pertaining to the historical, cultural, and religious importance of the mountain to the Apache people.

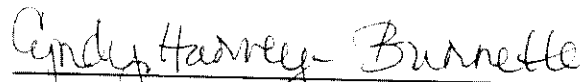
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Tribe's Cultural Resources Director, Ramon Riley, and Historic Preservation Officer, John R. Welch, are authorized to collaborate with the Tribe's Cultural Advisory Board in order to monitor and, if appropriate, assist Forest Service Officials in meeting the Service's obligations.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that any determination of eligibility or National Register nomination that fails to identify the entirety of the mountain range know as *Dzil nchaa si an* as having substantial and indivisible historical, cultural, and religious importance to Apaches is unlikely to be acceptable to or endorsed by the White Mountain Apache Tribe.

The foregoing resolution was on July 15, 1999 duly adopted by a vote of five for and zero against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it by Article IV, Section 1 (a), (g), (t), and (u) of the Constitution of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe 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

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