

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

- WHEREAS**, an aerial detection survey conducted in September of 1998 by the USDA Forest Service Arizona Zone Office of Forestry and Forest Health (Forest Service) identified approximately 1,000 acres of defoliated Englemann spruce and subalpine fir forest in the Mount Baldy area of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation; and
- WHEREAS**, subsequent field visits by BIA Foresters and Forest Service Entomologists identified the primary damaging agent as a caterpillar of a geometrid moth (*Nepytia janetae*); and
- WHEREAS**, an additional aerial detection survey conducted in August of 1999 by the Forest Service determined the area of defoliation had increased to approximately 10,000 acres and was expanding in the direction of the Sunrise Park Resort; and
- WHEREAS**, it is known that recurrent defoliation can weaken trees, predisposing them to bark beetle attack; and
- WHEREAS**, a similar pattern of defoliation was observed on Mount Graham in southeastern Arizona in 1997 and 1998, and this current season the stands have suffered significant tree mortality due to bark beetle (*Dendroctonus rufipennis* and *Dryocoetes confusus*) attack; and
- WHEREAS**, because of the recent and ongoing insect damage on Mount Graham, Forest Service Entomologists believe the Mount Baldy area may be at high risk of bark beetle attack next season; and
- WHEREAS**, the Sunrise Ski Resort constitutes an extremely important investment to the White Mountain Apache Tribe, and serious damage to adjacent forest stands would severely impact the aesthetic and recreational value of the resort area; and
- WHEREAS**, aerial spray application of a biological control agent (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) is the only viable short-term option for controlling defoliation in the Sunrise Park resort area; and
- WHEREAS**, it has been determined that the most effective option for protecting the resort is aerial treatment of approximately 3,500 acres of forested lands within and surrounding the ski area, with a second application after seven days; and

**WHEREAS**, all necessary environmental analysis has been completed for the proposed project (see Sunrise Park Defoliation Control Project Biological Assessment, and Environmental Assessment), and it has been determined the project will have no significant negative impacts on the physical, biological, or human environments; and

**WHEREAS**, because the insects' life-cycle and progression of spread dictates that control measures, to be most effective, must be initiated immediately; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council was informed about the proposed project through a field trip to the affected area on September 7, 1999; and

**WHEREAS**, the project has been reviewed and approved by the Tribal Plan and Project Review committee.

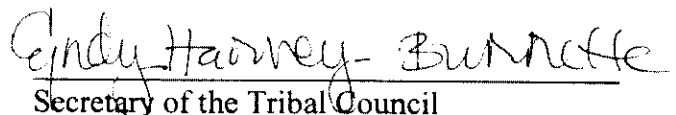
**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby approves aerial application of *Bacillus thuringiensis* on approximately 3,500 acres within and surrounding the Sunrise Park Resort, to be administered in compliance with all label directions and the subject environmental documents.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the project be implemented immediately or whenever considered most appropriate by the Forestry Staff.

The foregoing resolution was on September 16, 1999 duly adopted by a vote of SEVEN for and TWO against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it by Article IV, Section 1 (a), (b), (f), (h), (i), (j), (s), (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