

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



**WHEREAS,** the loach minnow (*Tiaroga cobitis*) was listed as a Federally threatened species in October 1986 and on September 20, 1999, a New Mexico Federal District Court judge ordered the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to designate critical habitat for this fish and spikedance (*Meda fulgida*); and

**WHEREAS,** a viable and consistently identified population of loach minnow exist on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (FAIR) in the East Fork of the White River; and

**WHEREAS,** the White Mountain Apache Tribe Wildlife & Outdoor Recreation Division has been involved in inventories, monitoring, and management of the loach minnow for many years, without having a formal management plan in place; and

**WHEREAS,** the Statement of Relationship between the White Mountain Apache Tribe and the USFWS recognizes the Tribe's aboriginal rights, sovereign authority and institutional capacity to manage the lands and resources, including sensitive species, within the Reservation and further provides that upon request, the Service will provide technical assistance to the Tribe; and

**WHEREAS,** the designation of critical habitat by USFWS is to be made April 20, 2000 with public comment period closing Friday 14, 2000; and

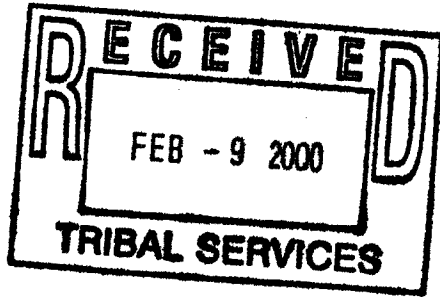
**WHEREAS,** although overall ecosystem health drives resource management decision on the FAIR and is based on a watershed-based regime to benefit all species, in light of the proposed critical habitat designation, the Tribe has decided to formalize its comprehensive management plan for this Federally listed species as it has done with Mexican Spotted Owl, Arizona Willow, and Mexican Wolf; and

**WHEREAS,** the Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Division has developed the "White Mountain Apache Tribe Loach Minnow Management Plan."

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby approves the "White Mountain Apache Tribal Loach Minnow Management Plan" and approves the submission of the Plan, in redacted form as appropriate, and comments to the USFWS prior to the designation of critical habitat for the loach minnow.

The foregoing resolution was on January 06, 2000 duly adopted by a vote of TEN 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), (b), (c), (f), (h), (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).



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Willie Lee", written over a horizontal line.

Chairman of the Tribal Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Andy Harvey-Burnette", written over a horizontal line.

Secretary of the Tribal Council