

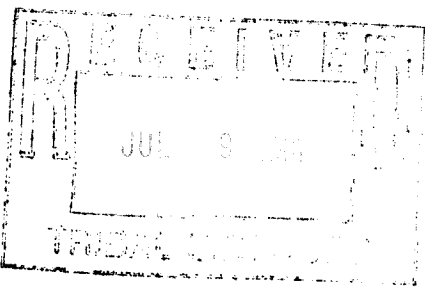
**RESOLUTION OF THE
WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE OF THE
FORT APACHE INDIAN RESERVATION**

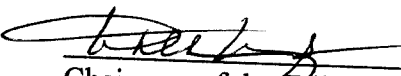
- WHEREAS**, the White Mountain Apache Tribe has vast commercial timber areas, and other areas of natural vegetation within its 1.66 million acres of trust land; and
- WHEREAS**, recent years have shown the increased threat of uncontained wildfires within the tribal lands and the danger they pose to communities and forest health; and
- WHEREAS**, the White Mountain Apache Tribe has the world's largest stand of commercial ponderosa pine and relies upon this trust asset as part of its active and ongoing forest management program; and
- WHEREAS**, adequate fire fighting resources to protect this trust asset are essential; and
- WHEREAS**, the Tribe through far-reaching grant funding efforts has acquired FAA funding to make major and necessary renovations to the Whiteriver Airport; and
- WHEREAS**, upon the completion of these improvements later this summer, the airport will once again be available to house and serve as the base for National Inter-Agency Fire Center (NIFC) work within the region; and
- WHEREAS**, the Fort Apache Indian Reservation provides a primary area of coverage for the NIFC crews, although at present the crews and equipment are based at San Carlos; and
- WHEREAS**, the White Mountain Apache Tribe requests that the NIFC crew base its regional operation at the Whiteriver Airport upon completion of the airport renovations in order to more effectively serve the primary areas needing NIFC response and fire suppression management; and
- WHEREAS**, the Whiteriver Airport will provide a modern and safe airport facility for air fire suppression operations.
- BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby requests that the National Inter-Agency Fire Center base its regional operation for fire suppression within the Fort Apache Indian Reservation and adjoining lands at the Whiteriver Airport, upon airport completion on or about August 15, 2001.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it directs that this Resolution be forwarded to the NIFC Headquarters in Boise, Idaho and that staff and representatives from the Tribe be available to explain to the NIFC

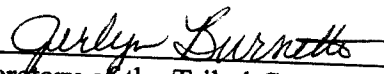
Resolution No. 06-2001-174

representatives about the pressing need for stationing NIFC crews in Whiteriver and to assure that the facilities and the runway specifications fully meet NIFC standards.

The foregoing resolution was on June 20, 2001 duly adopted by a vote of SIX 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), (f), (h), (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

ACTING 
Secretary of the Tribal Council