

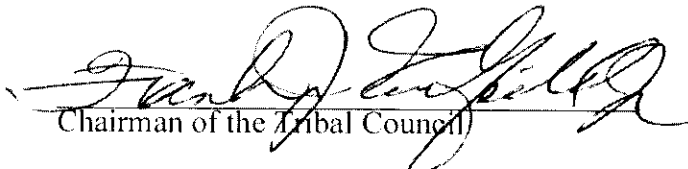
**RESOLUTION OF THE
WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE OF THE
FORT APACHE INDIAN RESERVATION**

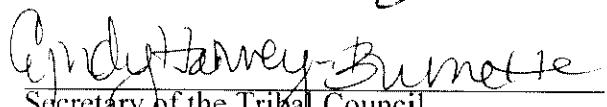
- WHEREAS**, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT) has come before the Tribal Council with a proposal to reduce wildlife hazard and severity; and
- WHEREAS**, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT) would manage the vegetation within the White River Basin urban interface area; and
- WHEREAS**, the proposed (Alternative III Limited Treatment) has also been reviewed and approved by the Tribal Plan and Project Review (TPPR) for implementation; and
- WHEREAS**, the proposal has been reviewed and approved by THPO personal, provided that the area be surveyed for sites and cultural signification plants prior to operations being; and
- WHEREAS**, the proposed treatments include combinations of mechanical thinning, prescribed fire to reduce activity and natural wildland fuels, and treatments to manage resprouting vegetation and the Tribal Council believes it is the Tribe's best interests to exclude the use of herbicides; and
- WHEREAS**, the proposed treatments will focus on treating priority areas deemed to be at greatest wildfire risk, such as those adjacent to residential or commercial structures; and
- WHEREAS**, Tribal Forestry recommends adoption of the proposal.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby approves the Environmental Assessment for the North Fork Fuels Reduction Project (Alternative III Limited treatment), the project area encompasses the North Fork Whiteriver corridor (full location and description are within the EA), with the requirement that herbicides shall not be used for any of the treatments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby delegates authority to the Tribal Forest Manager, to monitor this project and have authority to act on behalf of the Tribe.

The foregoing resolution was on August 8, 2002 duly adopted by a vote of EIGHT 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), (c), (f), (i), (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

North Fork Fuels Reduction Project Synopsis

Proposed action:

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the White Mountain Apache tribe (WMAT) propose to reduce wildfire hazard and severity by managing vegetation within the White River Basin urban interface areas. The proposed treatments include combinations of mechanical thinning and prescribed fire to reduce activity and natural wildland fuels, and treatments to manage resprouting vegetation.

Objectives:

Reduce stocking densities of vegetation adjacent to the community interface areas.
Alter species composition to reduce wildfire severity and intensity within interface areas.
Reduce potential for wildfire threats to life and property
Reduce ladder fuel component within interface areas.

Alternatives:

Alternative I: Continuation of Current Management Practices (Status Quo)

The current management practices and trends would continue with this status quo alternative

Alternative II: Combination Treatment

Area A - Mechanical thinning and spot herbicide application for reduction of resprouting vegetation

Area B - Mechanical thinning and use of prescribed fire to reduce resprouting vegetation.

Area C - Site specific broadcast fire to reduce existing fire hazards.

Alternative III: Limited treatment (Recommended)

Area A - Mechanical thinning and repeat mechanical treatments at frequent intervals for reduction of resprouting vegetation.

Area B - Mechanical thinning and use of prescribed fire to reduce resprouting vegetation.

Area C - Site specific broadcast fire to reduce existing fire hazards.

Alternative IV: Mechanical Treatment Only

Area A - Mechanical thinning and repeat mechanical treatment at frequent intervals for reduction of resprouting vegetation.

Area B - Mechanical thinning and repeat mechanical treatment at frequent intervals for reduction of resprouting vegetation.

Area C - No treatment to reduce existing hazardous fire conditions would occur.

Table 1: Comparison of Alternatives and Objectives

	Alt I: Status Quo	Alt II: Combination Treatment	Alt III: Limited Treatment	Alt IV: Mechanical Treatment Only
Reduce stocking density of vegetation	Does not achieve. Trees/Acre remain at current levels of 225-290	Achieves. Trees/Acre reduced to target levels of 34-110.	Achieves. Trees/Acre reduced to target levels of 34-110. More frequent follow-up treatment required.	Achieves. Trees/Acre reduced to target levels of 34-110. Labor intensive slash treatment required
Reduce fire suppression activities	Does not achieve. Fire potential remains high.	Achieves. Fire potential decreased	Achieves. Fire potential decreased	Achieves. Fire potential decreased, but slash treatment costs increased
Reduce wildfire threats to life and property	Does not achieve. No defensible space created	Achieves. Defensible space created around communities	Achieves. Defensible space created around communities. More frequent follow-up treatment required.	Achieves. Defensible space created around communities, but slash treatment costs increased
Reduce Ladder Fuel Component	Does not achieve. Vegetation composition remains unchanged.	Achieves. Spacing to target of 24' TPA to 34-110 target. BA to target of 60.	Achieves. Spacing to target of 24' TPA to 34-110 target. BA to target of 60. More frequent follow-up treatment required	Achieves. Spacing/TPA/BA to target levels. Slash treatment costs increased
Reduce wildfire severity and intensity	Does not achieve. Trees/Acre & ladder fuels remain at high levels	Achieves. Trees/Acre and ladder fuels reduced	Achieves. Trees/Acre and ladder fuels reduced. More frequent follow-up treatment required.	Achieves. Trees/Acre and ladder fuels reduced, but slash treatment costs increased

Table 2: Comparison of Areas

	Acres	Location	History/Vegetation
Area A	3,474	Hospital to Post office canyon, located on both sides of Highway 73	Rainbow fire, 600 acres of past treatment, encroaching vegetation
Area B	2,462	Located on the bench between the mountains to the west and the power lines to the east.	Rainbow fire, no past treatment, dense understory vegetation
Area C	7,041	West of area B; up to ridge and over into Bear Canyon	Mountainous terrain, no past treatment, dense vegetation, poor access

Total acres in project area 12,977

Issues:

Archeological sites are located throughout the project area. Surveys will be conducted prior to treatment by marking crews, forestry personnel and THPO personnel. Any sites will be avoided by all activities, or as otherwise directed by the agency archaeologist.

Medicinal Plant surveys will be conducted prior to treatment in the project area. Areas identified containing medicinal plants will be protected from all treatments

Threatened or Endangered species are known to exist in the project area. Treatment in the project area will comply with the Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Department office and biologists. Buffer zones and treatment restrictions have been established in this project area as directed by the WORD office.

Watershed and water quality protection in the project area will be achieved with established buffer zones and treatment restrictions during adverse weather. Tribal BMP's and the GPMP will be followed according to established procedures during the treatment of the project area.

Silvicultural treatments will vary from stand to stand in the project area based on inventory data, timber volumes and stand density. Mistletoe infected, diseased and poor vigor or unhealthy trees will be removed first to achieve desired density. The stands will be marked to maintain or improve growth and forest health.

Smoke management will be controlled with timely burning in the spring and fall. Tribal and federal standards concerning smoke and particulate matter will be used. All burning will comply with the WORD office and biologists to limit impact on T & E species in the area. Buffer zones will be implemented in the project area to prevent erosion and excess runoff.