

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

**WHEREAS,** the White Mountain Apache Tribe has occupied the White Mountains in what is now known as the State of Arizona since time immemorial; and

**WHEREAS,** the White Mountain Apache Tribe presently resides on the approximate 1.6 million acre Fort Apache Indian Reservation, a remnant of its once vast aboriginal lands; and

**WHEREAS,** the Bureau of Indian Affairs, as the trustee for the White Mountain Apache Tribe, is obliged to ensure proper funding and infrastructure are available to protect and maintain the natural resources of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, including wildlife which lives within the exterior boundaries of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation and which is culturally important to the White Mountain Apache people; and

**WHEREAS,** the White Mountain Apache Tribe, through its Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Department (WORD), has maintained a sterling national reputation for its wildlife management and protection program; and

**WHEREAS,** as part of its management activities, WORD monitors and helps protect animal and plant species which are either threatened, endangered or tribally sensitive, including the American Bald Eagle, the Mexican Spotted Owl, the Loach Minnow, the Apache Trout, the Mexican Grey Wolf, the Chiricahua Leopard Frog, the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, the American Peregrine Falcon, the Jaguar, and the Arizona Willow, all which have thrived on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation due to the management programs, culture and philosophy of the White Mountain Apache Tribe; and

**WHEREAS,** the White Mountain Apache Tribe and WORD has, on a yearly basis, submitted an Unmet Needs Assessment of approximately \$200,000 to the Fort Apache Agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs detailing expenses necessary for the Bureau of Indian Affairs to adequately meet its trust responsibility for proper management of wildlife and natural resources within the Fort Apache Reservation; and

**WHEREAS,** the White Mountain Apache Tribe and WORD has never received funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs sufficient to satisfy its unmet need in managing and protecting the threatened, endangered and tribally sensitive species listed above, and instead has received only \$20,000 in direct funding to address the Mexican Spotted Owl, with the attached promise of another \$20,000 in year-end monies and the hope of additional year end monies for monitoring its American Bald Eagle population; and

**Resolution No. 01-2003-15**

**WHEREAS,** the WORD Sensitive Species program requires at least \$125,927.72 in funding to meet bare minimums for the work required of the program; and

**WHEREAS,** except for the \$20,000 in direct funding and the hope of more than \$20,000 in year end monies from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Tribe and WORD have had to fund the entire amount of this required yearly expense for the proper care, management and recovery of endangered, threatened and tribally sensitive species within the Fort Apache Reservation; and

**WHEREAS,** the Bureau of Indian Affairs, in its Fiscal Year 2000 Opportunities and Needs report for Threatened and Endangered Species Management programs admitted that current funding levels for these programs "neither fulfills the federal government's trust responsibility, nor conserves or recovers federally listed species, and meets only a fraction of the need and opportunity that exists on tribal trust lands in relation to endangered species management and recovery;" and

**WHEREAS,** despite the failure of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and other responsible federal agencies to fulfill their trust responsibility to assist the Tribe in properly protecting and managing the Tribe's wildlife and natural resources including endangered, threatened and tribally sensitive species, the Tribe is appreciative of the Bureau's commitment to provide the Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Division \$8,000 in funding through an Annual Funding Agreement for an Eagle Nestwatch Program to monitor American Bald Eagles and their nests on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation; and

**WHEREAS,** the American Bald Eagle enhances the condition and quality of life for the White Mountain Apache people and serves as a symbol of freedom and unity for the people and government of the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS,** the Tribal Council desires that the Bureau of Indian Affairs acquire and provide to the Tribe and WORD sufficient funding required for the proper maintenance and administration of its trust duties within the Fort Apache Indian Reservation and to the White Mountain Apache Tribe and its members


**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby authorizes the Chairman, or in his absence the Vice-Chairman, to sign the Annual Funding Agreement for an Eagle Nestwatch Program.

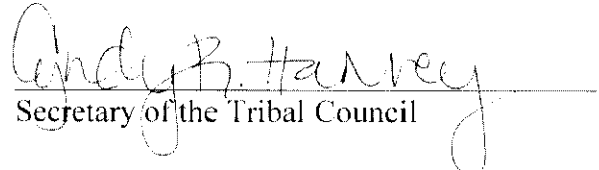
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby finds that the Bureau of Indian Affairs has failed to adequately fulfill its trust responsibility to assist the Tribe in properly protecting and managing the Tribe's wildlife and natural resources - including endangered, threatened and tribally sensitive species.

**Resolution No. 01-2003-15**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby requests that the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fort Apache Agency provide adequate funding to the White Mountain Apache Tribe to properly protect and manage the Tribe's wildlife and natural resources, including endangered, threatened and tribally sensitive species present within the exterior boundaries of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation.

The foregoing resolution was on January 23 2003 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), (c), (f), (g), (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).

  
ACTING Chairman of the Tribal Council

  
Secretary of the Tribal Council