

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

WHEREAS, the White Mountain Apache Tribe suffered an unprecedented loss when the Rodeo-Chediski Fire in June, 2002, consumed 276,000 acres of prime Tribal forest land; and

WHEREAS, the impacts to the Tribe, through damage to its watershed, disruption and elimination of a large portion of its commercial forest activity, loss of jobs, impacts to health, and continuing costs for recovery programs and threats of future damage from the fire impacts have caused untold harm and jeopardized the Tribe's livelihood, viability and welfare; and

WHEREAS, in order to chart its recovery from this historic and devastating wildfire, the Tribe has identified several key components for recovery, consisting of assistance to its timber harvesting and processing program, aid to communities impacted by the fire, development of other programs to allow the Tribe to utilize its natural resource base for other beneficial and economic purposes to make up for the shortfall in decades to come through loss of a portion of its commercial timber base, and additional assistance for resource management to support identified needs which are not funded by any other program but necessary to restore the land base devastated by the fire; and

WHEREAS, each of the components of the recovery plan is intended to secure long-term assistance and recovery for the land and the people of the Tribe, and to promote recovery throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council recognizes that the impacts from this fire have spread well beyond the boundaries of the Tribe's reservation, and for that reason recovery work which will begin on the reservation must and should extend to other impacted areas, and for that reason the Tribe seeks authorization and funding for some of these programs on a demonstration project basis to develop forest management techniques which can be utilized throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, other specific components will promote other economic uses of the vast natural resource base in this region to promote tourism and the beneficial effects of such tourism throughout the White Mountain region; and

WHEREAS, without Congressional aid at this time, the Tribe's losses from the fire will be compounded, perpetuating even more hardship and loss for the Tribe and the region; and

WHEREAS, the destruction to the land and other natural resources, in addition to the devastating financial setback, are an incalculable cultural loss for the Apache people, who rely on the air they breath, the earth on which they walk, and the

water which flows through their lands as the foundation for their identity and their relationship with their creator; and

WHEREAS, the elements of our natural world, which includes fire as a great teacher, form the connection in prayer of the Apache people to our creator, and the recovery of these forest lands is necessary to ensure that our Apache children, and their offspring for generations to come, through prayer and tradition, will know who they are as Apache people and their connection to their lands and creator; and

WHEREAS, for these reasons the Tribal Council urgently requests that Congress provide funding for the Rodeo-Chediski Fire recovery plan attached herein.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby requests Congressional funding for the programs attached herein to assist the White Mountain Apache Tribe and the greater White Mountain region in its recovery efforts from the devastating June 2002 Rodeo-Chediski Fire.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it requests that the Arizona delegation to Congress support these requests to bring a measure of recovery for the people and land of the White Mountain Apache Tribe and to promote needed recovery throughout the White Mountain region.

The foregoing resolution was on February 25, 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), (f), (g), (h), (j), (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