

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

WHEREAS, in 1998, the Tribal Council appointed a Mexican Wolf Task Force to look at issues impacting the Tribe concerning the reintroduction of the Mexican Wolf in eastern Arizona; and

WHEREAS, that same year, Tribal Council was advised by staff of entries by the Mexican Wolf onto Tribal lands and concluded that it would allow wolves to remain on Tribal lands without pursuing removal, and that the Tribe would pursue a 638 Contract or Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to monitor and manage the wolves that may come onto Tribal lands; and

WHEREAS, in the year 2000, the Tribal Council and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service approved the Mexican Wolf Management Plan which identified objectives and goals dealing with wolf management on Tribal lands, including future discussion of potential releases of wolves on the Reservation after the program was established and evaluated; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the plan and the Cooperative Agreement between the Tribe and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service that was approved by the Tribal Council in 2002, Tribal staff have implemented monitoring and provisions under the plan and have evaluated the program's success to date and now come before the Tribal Council with a proposal to release Mexican wolves on the Reservation; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has assured the White Mountain Apache Tribe through the Cooperative Agreement that it will cooperate with the Tribe on a government to government basis in the monitoring, management and recovery of the Mexican Wolf to implement the provisions of the Final Rule on Mexican Wolf Reintroduction (50 CFR 17.84 (k)) and the White Mountain Apache Tribe's Mexican Wolf Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, members of the Mexican Wolf Task Force have advised the Tribal Council that the introduction would be beneficial for enhancement of tourism, recreation activities, ecosystem health, and control of other predators; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Wildlife & Outdoor Recreation-Sensitive Species and Mexican Wolf staff have met with all the Livestock Association representatives, the Mexican Wolf Task Force, and Tribal Plan and Project Review Panel and all entities have provided comments and the majority have agreed to the releases of Mexican wolves on the Reservation; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Wildlife & Outdoor Recreation Division staff now requests permission from the Tribal Council to select release sites for introductions of Mexican wolves on the Reservation in cooperation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; and

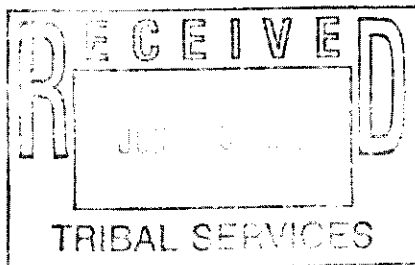
WHEREAS, this would initiate direct introduction of Mexican wolves onto Tribal lands.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby approves the release of Mexican wolves on the Reservation subject to the following conditions for each release proposal and selected release site:

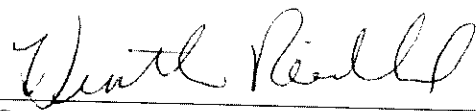
- 1) A biological assessment would be required;
- 2) An evaluation and clearance from the affected Livestock Association, the Mexican Wolf Task Force, the Tribal Plan & Project Review Panel;
- 3) A final approval by Tribal Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs the Wildlife & Outdoor Recreation Division and the Mexican Wolf Task Force to evaluate all releases of Mexican wolves on the Reservation on a yearly basis and report back to the Tribal Council with recommendations as to the success of said releases and their appropriateness in reaching the goals set in the Mexican Wolf Management Plan.

The foregoing resolution was on May 15, 2003 duly adopted by a vote of EIGHT for, ZERO against and ONE abstention 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), (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