



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

(Approving Mexican Gray Wolf research project by Sarah Rinkevich)

- WHEREAS,** pursuant to Article IV, Section 1(a) of the Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, *inter alia*, the Tribal Council has the authority to represent the Tribe and act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe; and
- 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 Mexican gray wolf was extirpated by the U.S. government throughout the southwest and later reintroduced onto public lands adjacent to the Fort Apache Indian Reservation in 1998; and
- WHEREAS,** the White Mountain Apache Tribe has earned a national reputation for its wildlife management and protection program; and
- WHEREAS,** many species of plants and animals, including Mexican gray wolves, are thriving on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation due to pristine areas, management programs, culture, and philosophy of the White Mountain Apache Tribe; and
- WHEREAS,** the White Mountain Apache Tribe has a management plan for wolves on the Reservation but current wolf population numbers are currently unknown; and
- WHEREAS,** conflicts with cattle have raised concerns about Mexican wolves on the Reservation; and
- WHEREAS,** the White Mountain Apache Tribe's Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Department has received a proposal from graduate student and Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Sarah Rinkevich to estimate the wolf population on the Reservation and to study diets of wolves and three other large carnivores (coyote, black bear, and mountain lion) from scat samples collected throughout the Reservation; and
- WHEREAS,** ethnographic interviews about the wolf's cultural role will also be incorporated into the study; and
- WHEREAS,** the White Mountain Apache Tribe will benefit from this study by (1) having Tribal members hired as biological technicians in data collection, (2) having the information about the estimated number of wolves on the Reservation, (3) having information about diet patterns of wolves and three other large carnivores, and (4) having information about the wolf's cultural role in Apache society; and

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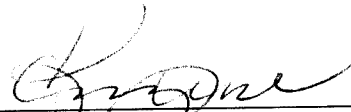
WHEREAS, an agreement will be developed with the Tribe's legal and cultural departments that recognize Tribal sovereignty with regard to data collection including photographs as well as sacred sites on the Reservation being off limits to scat sampling.

BE IT RESOLVED that this research study was designed based on questions and concerns about Mexican gray wolves on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation by the Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Department and Tribal Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the White Mountain Apache Tribe hereby approves the wolf research project developed by Sarah Rinkevich to investigate population, prey selection patterns, and cultural significance of Mexican gray on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice Chairwoman, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was on April 10, 2008, duly adopted by a vote of EIGHT for and ZERO against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to the authority vested in it by Article IV, Section 1 (a), (f), (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