



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

(Approving a Five-Year Cooperative Agreement between the White Mountain Apache Tribe and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2, for the Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery Program)

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe (“Tribe”) of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation provides, at Article IV, Section 1(b) that the Tribal Council (“Council”) shall exercise the power, “To negotiate, make and perform contracts and agreements of every description, not inconsistent with federal law or this constitution, with... the United States”; and

WHEREAS, On August 12, 1998, via Resolution No. 08-98-184, the Tribe approved the development of a Mexican Gray Wolf Cooperative Management Program on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (“Reservation”) to be administered by the Tribe and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”); and

WHEREAS, On February 14, 2002, via Resolution No. 02-2002-23, the Tribe approved the first five-year cooperative agreement with USFWS for the co-management of the Mexican Gray Wolf on the Reservation, which agreement has been subsequently renewed every 5 years, with successive funding increases; and

WHEREAS, USFWS and the Tribe’s Game and Fish Department have been negotiating a new draft Cooperative Agreement (“Draft Agreement”) (attached and incorporated herein by reference) with a funding increase, which they present, this day, to Council for approval; and

WHEREAS, The Draft Agreement maintains the material terms of the past agreement, while increasing the funding to as much as \$1,687,320.00 for the Agreement’s 5-year term, of which \$375,000 is currently available for the period beginning October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, The Council finds that approving the Draft Agreement will allow the Tribe to obtain funds to continue its cooperative efforts with USFWS to manage the endangered Mexican Gray Wolf population on the Reservation, and is in the best interests of the Tribe and its members.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the attached Cooperative Agreement between the Tribe and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the co-management of the endangered Mexican Gray Wolf species on the Reservation is hereby approved.

Resolution No. 05-2023-105

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event this Resolution directly conflicts with the Tribal Constitution, Tribal Ordinances, or any material facts concerning the issues presented are later found to be false, this Resolution shall be deemed null and void and have no legal effect.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event that this Resolution conflicts with a prior Resolution or Policy, this Resolution shall supersede and govern over the conflicting subject matter.

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

The foregoing resolution was on **MAY 1, 2023** duly adopted by a vote of **SIX** for, **FOUR** against, and **ZERO** abstentions by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it under the enumerated powers listed in Article IV, Section 1 of the WMAT Constitution, so ratified on November 10, 2021, and federally recognized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

Kasey Velasquez
Kasey Velasquez, Chairman

Date

Vaneysa Johnson 5/2/2023
Vaneysa Johnson, Tribal Secretary Date