



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

(Authorizing Wildfire Mitigation Project Activity at Smith Cienega and Conditionally Revising Mitigation/Conservation Within the Bull Cienega Timber Management Unit)

- WHEREAS,** The Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe (“Tribe”) of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (“Reservation”) provides, at Article IV, Section 1(a) that the Tribal Council (“Council”) shall exercise the power, “[t]o represent the Tribe and act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe...” and at Article IV, Section 1(j), the power “[t]o accept grants and donations from any person, state, or the United States”; and
- WHEREAS,** Public Law 93-638, the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, provides for the full participation of Indian tribes in programs and services conducted by the Federal government for Indian tribes, allowing for greater autonomy and the opportunity for Indian tribes to assume the responsibility for programs and services administered to them through contractual agreements; and
- WHEREAS,** The Tribal Water Resources Program (“WRP”) was awarded BIA Climate Change funding and proposes to protect cultural and ecological water resources at Smith Cienega by thinning a 200-foot buffer zone outside of the wetland emphasis zone (“WEZ”); and
- WHEREAS,** To implement the grant, the Water Resources Program proposes revisions to Resolution No. 06-87-192 and No. 08-1987-268 to allow the WRP, along with other Tribal Natural Resource Program Departments/Programs, to perform wildfire mitigation activity at Smith Cienega, within the Bull Cienega Timber Management Unit, to protect wetlands and water resources; and
- WHEREAS,** The Tribal Water Resources Program is actively applying for other Tribal, state and federal funding, necessitating WRP’s request that the Tribal Council consider revising resolutions that restrict forest management to conditionally allow the implementation of forest management/conservation; and
- WHEREAS,** The Council finds that it is in the best interests of the Tribe and its members to authorize the WRP to execute a PL93-638 contract with the BIA to perform the water resource protection objectives at Smith Cienega, and conditionally with TPPR approval, within the Bull Cienega Timber Management Unit.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby supports and authorizes the Tribe’s Water Resources Program to execute the PL93-638 contract with the BIA, Fort Apache Agency, to perform the water resource protection objectives by thinning a 200-foot buffer zone outside of the wetland emphasis zone at Smith Cienega, within the Bull Cienega Timber Management Unit.

Resolution No. 04-2025-62

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 APRIL 02, 2025 duly adopted by a vote of SIX for, THREE 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).

<u>Kasey Velasquez</u>	<u>4.2.25</u>	<u>Vaneya Johnson</u>	<u>04/02/2025</u>
Kasey Velasquez, Chairman	Date	Vaneya Johnson, Tribal Secretary	Date