



2024 Midyear Convention Canyonville, Oregon

RESOLUTION #24 – 20

“URGE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR TO ADDRESS CHRONIC UNDERFUNDING OF TRIBAL FOREST MANAGEMENT.”

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties, Executive Orders and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and tribes in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of ATNI; and

WHEREAS, Tribal forests cover about one-third of all Indian trust lands and serve as the economic and cultural backbone for many Indian reservations, providing a renewable resource that supports nearly 20,000 jobs and generates income for tribal governments and individuals, and countless other benefits, such as fuel, foods, medicines, water, and wildlife to tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, the National Indian Forest Resources Management Act (Public Law 101-630) mandates the Secretary of the Interior to undertake a national, independent assessment of Indian forests and forest management every ten years; and

WHEREAS, the fourth Indian Forest Management Assessment Team (“IFMAT”) report was presented to Congress and the Department of the Interior in June 2023, and included the following findings:

- There is significant and persistent inequity of federal funding for Indian forest management versus other federal forests, such as the U.S. Forest Service and BLM
- On a per-acre basis, BIA forestry funding, in real terms, has declined by almost 36% over the last 30 years
- Reduced funding to BIA for forest management resulted in \$400 million in foregone timber revenue to tribes between 2010-2019
- Budget parity between BIA-responsible forests, National Forest System and BLM forests would require an additional \$96 million per year for BIA Forestry and \$42 million in additional wildfire funding; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) advocates on behalf of Indian peoples throughout the United States; now

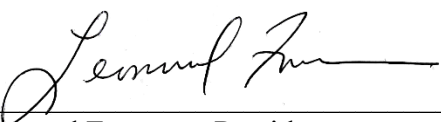
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI requests that NCAI pass a resolution urging the Secretary of the Interior to address the issues brought forth in this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI urges the National Congress of American Indians, the United States Congress and the Department of the Interior to address the chronic underfunding of Indian forest management and to take heed of the many other recommendations contained in the IFMAT report to improve the management of Indian forests held in trust by the United States; and

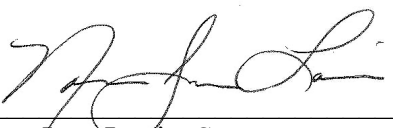
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2024 Midyear Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Seven Feathers Casino, Canyonville, Oregon, May 19 - May 23, 2024, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary