



## UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

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Resolution No. USET 2002:004

### USDA FOREST SERVICE SPECIAL FOREST PRODUCTS POLICY

**WHEREAS**, United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-four (24) federally recognized tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors is comprised of delegates from the member tribes' leadership; and

**WHEREAS**, the USDA, Forest Service Region VI (Pacific Northwest) has created a "Special Forest Products, Tribal Uses and Forest Service Management" Policy that recognizes the unique needs of tribes in regard to special forest products (in this case firewood), and the unique rights of Tribes to access and acquire those resources without fees or occupancy restrictions; and

**WHEREAS**, in a letter directed to Tribal leaders earlier this year, the Chief of the Forest Service has publicly reaffirmed the agency's American Indian policy (FSM 1563), including a government-to-government relationship, fulfillment of trust responsibilities, sensitivity to Tribal values, and a commitment to improving access to agency programs that can assist Tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, each Forest Service Region has stewardship of precious and unique resources that have special value to the Indian people whose lands, both current and aboriginal, they now administer; and

**WHEREAS**, these resources play a critical role in the preservation of the cultural heritage of all American Indian Tribes; therefore, be it

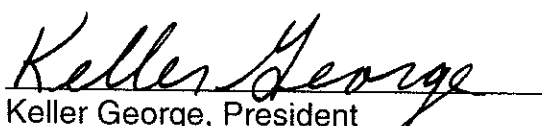
**RESOLVED** that a national policy, based on this free-use model and incorporating specific Tribal values and special needs, be established; and, be it further

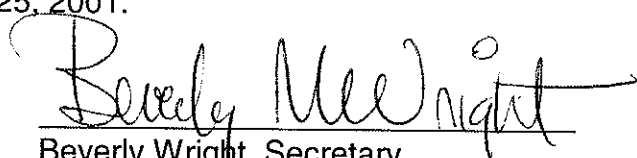
**RESOLVED** that the consultation process envisioned in Executive Order 13175 be employed on a tribe-by-tribe basis in order to fulfill the commitment made by the Forest Service Chief; and, be it further

**RESOLVED** that Forest Service Chief, Dale N. Bosworth, meet with a delegation from USET during Impact Week, in Washington, DC, in January 2002 to discuss this and other pertinent issues.

### CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Miami, FL, on Thursday, October 25, 2001.

  
Keller George, President  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

  
Beverly Wright, Secretary  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

*"Because there is strength in Unity"*