



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2003:105

USDA FOREST SERVICE FUNDING

- 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 comprises delegates from the member tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the USDA Forest Service continues to assist tribal governments through the State Private Forestry programs and small grants. The Economic Action Program (EAP) funding provides small grants needed for capacity building and start-up of natural resources projects for economically distressed Tribal Communities; and
- WHEREAS,** in FY 2003, the Administration zeroed out the Forest Service EAP funding and has done the same for FY 2004. This is at a time when the downturn in the economy severely impacts Tribal communities. Those communities do not have many options for employment and income; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors requests that Congress and the Administration reinstate the Forest Service Economic Action Program funding for FY 2004 to a level of \$65 million, and include instructions in the appropriation bill to assist more Tribal Governments in the acquisition of funds.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Choctaw, MS, Thursday, June 5, 2003.

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

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