



## UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

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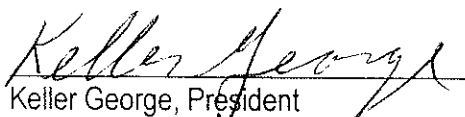
USET Resolution No. 2003:060


### SUPPORT FOR THE INCLUSION OF TRIBES IN THE USFWS LAND ACQUISITIONS PROCESS

- 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 represents the intentions of each member tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET tribes understand that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has been purchasing lands adjacent to tribal lands without the input from the proper tribal governments; and
- WHEREAS,** in some cases this has led to the complete exclusion of Tribes acquiring or having a voice in the purchase of the property or management criteria resulting in cases of tribal lands becoming land locked; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET member tribes strongly believe that on a government to government basis, Tribes should be included in all planning, coordination and purchase agreements and should be afforded first refusal rights on properties adjacent to, or of interest to the tribal government; and
- WHEREAS,** tribes possess the similar standards of protection, management, and stewardship of the lands as does the USFWS; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors strongly supports efforts for the inclusion of tribal governments into the Land Acquisition Process, specifically on adjacent lands and lands of interest to said tribal governments, based on the government-to-government relationship and fiduciary responsibility.

#### CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, Thursday, February 6, 2003.

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

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



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February 14, 2003

Honorable Gale Norton  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Norton:

I am writing on behalf of the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET) an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-four federally recognized tribes from twelve states. At the USET 2003 Impact Week Meeting held in Arlington, Virginia, February 3-6, 2003, the USET Board of Directors approved several resolutions on various areas of Indian affairs policy. Attached you will find four USET resolutions, pertaining directly to the Department of the Interior, presented for your consideration and advocacy on behalf of our member tribes.

2003:049 (BIA Re-Organization and Budget Issues)

2003:057 (Illegal Gaming by the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma in the State of New York)

2003:060 (Support for the Inclusion of Tribes in the USFWS Lands Acquisitions Process)

2003:061 (Support for Recurring Funding for DOI FWS Tribal Lands Incentive Program and the Tribal Wildlife Grants Program)

Each of these resolutions is a public expression of our member tribes' views and public stances on specific issues affecting Indian country. USET would like to thank you for your continued support of the Tribes and we look forward to working with you to carry out the intent of each resolution. If you have any questions about these resolutions, please call the USET office at (615) 872-7900.

Sincerely,

Tiffany D. Chevront  
Bureau Information Officer

*"Because there is strength in Unity"*