



## UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

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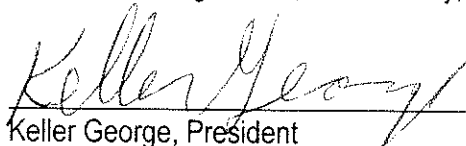
USET Resolution 2005:031

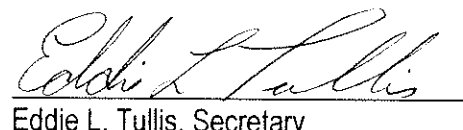
### GRAND PRAIRIE IRRIGATION RESERVOIRS CONSULTATION

- 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 Grand Prairie of Arkansas served for thousands of years as a buffalo hunting ground, as a place of residence, ceremony and burial for southern tribes including the Choctaw and Quapaw; and
- WHEREAS,** in the four counties of Arkansas, Lonoke, Monroe and Prairie, the Memphis District of the Army Corps of Engineers (COE) and the Natural Resource Conservation Service – Arkansas (NRCS) are cooperatively developing approximately 400-500 rice farming reservoirs of approximately forty acres in size in an area of potential effects of 363,000 acres; and
- WHEREAS,** over the past seven years, both the COE and the NRCS have engaged in independent archaeological surveys without tribal consultation and their models for archaeological survey have been found unacceptable by the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Office and the tribes and such surveys are in need of independent review; and
- WHEREAS,** the traditional cultural properties of the Choctaw and Quapaw Tribes, will continue to be threatened and destroyed if project excavation does not halt until proper government-to-government consultation can commence, such consultation will thereby put the project on a path that is protective of tribal traditional cultural properties as prescribed in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act; and
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors requests that the Memphis District of the Army Corps of Engineers (COE) and the Natural Resource Conservation Service – Arkansas (NRCS) temporarily halt all archaeological testing and ground disturbing activities associated with the Grand Prairie Irrigation Reservoir Project and engage in emergency negotiation of a programmatic agreement, archaeological plan and scope of work with the tribes who attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties that may be affected by this project.

### CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 10, 2005.

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

  
Eddie L. Tullis, Secretary  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

*“Because there is strength in Unity”*