



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

Resolution No. USET 2000:33

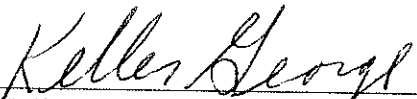
USET DEMANDS BIA BASE NOXIOUS WEEDS PROGRAM FUNDING ON NEED INSTEAD OF A CRITERIA SCORING AND RANKING SYSTEM.


- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprising twenty-three (23) 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 Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has a trust responsibility, to provide natural resources protection, and work with the Tribes on a Government-to-Government basis; and
- WHEREAS,** the BIA has a Noxious Weeds Control program that provides resources to American Indian Tribes to combat noxious weeds on their reservation lands; and
- WHEREAS,** the BIA formed a workgroup to determine how best to disseminate the Noxious Weeds Program funds and the workgroup determined that Tribes who currently receive program funding will continue to receive such funding in FY 2000, but at a level of 50 percent of the program funds they received in FY 1999; and
- WHEREAS,** the workgroup developed a ranking system which completely ignores the needs of the USET member tribes by including noxious weeds found in the western United States which do not appear on the Federal Noxious Weeds list as criteria while the noxious weeds found on USET member tribes' reservation lands are on the Federal Noxious Weeds list but not included as criteria; and
- WHEREAS,** the system has a scoring method that the workgroup uses to rank tribes according to how well they score on the criteria; which could result in those tribes who accurately state their needs receiving a disproportionately smaller percent of funding than tribes who overstate their needs; therefore be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors hereby demands that the Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Indian Affairs eliminate the ranking criteria used to score Noxious Weeds Programs; be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors demands that existing Noxious Weed Programs receive the total amount of funds received in prior years; be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors demands that the need for new programs be determined based upon the need to control noxious weeds that appear on the Federal Noxious Weeds list and not by the criteria scoring system developed by the workgroup.

“Because there is strength in Unity”

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Washington, DC, Thursday, February 3, 2000.


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


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