**San Carlos Apache Tribe**

**Wallow Fire Resource Concerns Meeting**

**June 22, 2011**

**Personnel in Attendance**: April Howard, Sr. Biologist; Duane Chapman, FMO; Dee Randall, Forest Manager; Seth Pilsk, Ethnobotanist; Teresa Goseyun, Range Technician; Millie Titla, NRCS DC; Dan Pitterle, Fire Management; Victoria Wesley, Supervisory Forester; Paul Buck, Soil Conservation

Multiple natural resource managers met this afternoon to discuss and record major issues of concern as it pertains to BAER Emergency Stabilization along with future Rehabilitation. The managers in San Carlos ask that any photos/video from aerial tours both on and off the reservation be shared for a more comprehensive look at forest canopy damage along with exposed soils and runoff issues in the Bear Wallow and Black River watersheds. All plans given to the team such as Forest and Fire Management plans need to be deleted/given back to San Carlos after the BAER operations are complete to avoid any and all FOIA acts in the future.

The following are major concerns/comments by category discussed in San Carlos:

Watershed Health

* Steep terrain stabilization of soils and debris
* Treatment/removal of hazard trees
* Buck up logs of downed trees for disease and pest control

Forest Health

* Currently, there is not enough intelligence available to our Foresters to make any judgments on what forest health issues may arise

Noxious Weeds

* If applicable, reseeding needs to be completed as soon as possible
* Vehicle washing and checking for foreign materials needs to continue throughout all emergency stabilization and rehabilitation efforts
* Cattle need to be out of the burned area if at all possible
* Any and all mulching must be weed-free or sterile
* Don’t use mulch/straw unless absolutely necessary to avoid any native plant germination competition

Hydrology and Soils

* Stabilization of steep terrain is imperative both on and off of the Reservation
* There are concerns with debris flows from the slopes into the waters of the Black River and Bear Wallow Creek
* Sedimentation and siltation (turbidity) are a concern for water quality
* Protection of stock tanks from increased sedimentation (ie: McDonald Tank) need to be considered
  + Possible silt traps installed above any and all water tanks

Wildlife and T&E Species

* Water quality for game animals is an issues to be addressed
* There are currently no wildlife guzzlers in the burned area
* There are currently no T&E plant species in the burned area
* Fish barriers in Bear Wallow Creek blew out years ago
* Flooding could impact Bald Eagle nesting downstream in the Black River
* Questions arose about monitoring Mexican Spotted Owl habitat

Range and Cattle

* Cattle management needs to be addressed during ES and Rehabilitation phases
* If native seed mixes are to be used, please consider the following species:
  + Muhlenbergia Montana Mountain muhly
  + Muhlenbergia virescens Screwbean muhly
  + Muhlenbergia longiligula Longtongue muhly
  + Blepharoneuron tricholepis Pine drop-seed
  + Poa fendleriana Mutton grass

Roads and Safety

* Road number signs, closure signs and specific danger area signs need to be addressed
* Safety to motorists and employees is a high priority