Mescalero Apache Tribe

Ways of Seeing & Stewardship of Tribal Lands Into the Future
Mescalero Apache Reservation, ~460,000 Acres
View on the Border
Mescalero Reservation  Lincoln N.F.
Elevation ranges from 5,000’ Three Rivers area to 12,003’ Sierra Blanca peak
Many Changes in our Landscape...

Photos taken circa 1900, when the floodplains where the main town of Mescalero is now located were largely uninhabited.

Please take notice of the forest density on the slopes.
Village of Mescalero 100 Years Later

- Draining of wetlands & installation of tile drains in 1930’s Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) project
- Development into floodplains and wetlands
- Increased tree densities on slopes around Mescalero
- Introduction & proliferation of non-native species, such as Siberian Elm
Mescalero Red Hats – Legacy of “Fire Warriors”
Long History of Commercial Harvesting

Mescalero Forest Products
An Enterprise of the Mescalero Apache Tribe
More Recent History of Forest Restoration Work
Commercial Harvest as First Line Management Tool
Uneven Aged Management is the Preferred Treatment
Even-aged Management Used to Treat Dwarf Mistletoe Infection
Follow Up With Tribal Thinning Crew
And Prescribed Burning
We Have Our Share of Wildfires

Fire Start History

11/7/2019, 2:40:30 PM
Fire Starts 2016

- *Fire History*
- Secondary Roads

- Human
- Structure
- Reservation Boundary

Natural
MAR Roads
2012 Little Bear Fire, Occurred Along the Boundary with Lincoln Natl Forest

Total Fire Size - 44,330 acres, Only 357 acres on MAT lands
When the fire reached Tribal lands it dropped to the ground. Bucket fills at Eagle Lakes.
Ski Apache – Removal of Burned/Hazard Trees From Little Bear Fire

Ponsse Bear 8-wheeled Harvester on 65% slope
Soldier Canyon Fire, June 2018, Approximately 1,500 Acres Burned Within Main Community of Mescalero
Problems With Post-Fire Flooding
And Communities Located In Floodplain
Whitetail Fire March 2016, Cool Surface Fire
Ultimately, we want to restore historic fire regimes.

NAU research conducted in 2015:
- Mean fire interval 2-17 years
- Fire scars found in winter season 28% (Winter fire scars suggest human set fires; lightning in SW occurs primarily in the monsoon season.)
Development of Spatial Fire Mgt Plan
Coordination of Efforts
Surveys for T&E Species, MSO & Sacramento Mountain Salamander
Involving Youth Programs in Restoration
Rangeland Brush Management
Opening Up Historic Grasslands
Range Seeding After Treatments
Developing Rangeland Water Resources
One Rock Dams & Zuni Bowls
Feral Horse Management
Nonpoint Source Pollution Mgt Plan to Monitor and Protect Surface Waters
Refer to Source Water Protection Plan to Help Protect Drinking Water Sources
Tribal Water Quality Standards Approved in 2012

WHEREAS, the Mescalero Apache Tribe, an Indian Tribe organized under the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 476) and under its Revised Constitution of January 12, 1965 has full power to act for the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the Mescalero Apache Tribal Council has the power to act for the Tribe and to represent the Tribe in all matters under powers vested in it by Article XI, Section 1 (c) of the Revised Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Mescalero Apache Tribal Council has the power to protect and preserve the property and natural resources of the Tribe, and to regulate activities on the Reservation pursuant to the Article XI, Section 1 (d) of the Revised Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Mescalero Apache Tribal Council has the power to manage or provide for the management of Tribal lands, pursuant to Article XI, Section 1 (b) of the Revised Constitution, and

WHEREAS, the Mescalero Apache Tribal Council has determined that there is a need to protect the Tribe’s surface water sources from contamination; and

WHEREAS, the Mescalero Apache Tribal Council has determined that the best way to protect the surface water resources of the Tribe is by the enactment of water quality standards; and

WHEREAS, the Mescalero Apache Tribal Council has reviewed the Water Quality Standards, attached hereto as Exhibit “A,” and finds that it is in the best interests of the Mescalero Apache people to adopt such Standards.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORPDANED that the Mescalero Apache Tribe Water Quality Standards, attached hereto as Exhibit “A,” are hereby adopted.

BE IT FINALLY ORDERED, that any and all contrary provisions of the Tribal Code are hereby appealed.
So...What Do We Do or See Differently?

Prayers for Mother Earth,
NOT
Dominion Over Nature.
We Are a Matriarchal Society
Mescalero Puberty Rite Ceremony
All cultures have a story about being gifted FIRE. This is what makes us human. We should respect fire, not fear it.
“I cannot think we are useless or Usen would not have created us. He created all tribes of men and certainly had a righteous purpose in creating each. Once I moved about like the wind. Now I surrender to you and that is all.”

Geronimo
For more information, contact:
Thora Padilla, President
Mescalero Apache Tribe
P.O. Box 227
Mescalero, New Mexico 88340
575-464-4494
tpadilla@mescaleroapachetribe.com