SLIDES: White Mountain Apache

Paul DeClay, Jr.
White Mountain Apache

Paul DeClay
Tribal Forest Manager

June 17, 2005

FORT APACHE INDIAN RESERVATION
Fort Apache Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Ownership & Management

Fort Apache Indian Reservation
(Tribal Lands of the White Mountain Apache)

- Lands Held in Trust (1.6 million acres)
- BIA Trust Management (combined approach – agency staff & 638 contracts to tribe)
- Tribal Population: (about 13,000 members)
- Tribal Government: (Tribal Council; four political districts)
- Outdoor Recreation: (Fishing, hunting, skiing, camping, hiking)
- Enterprises: (Lumber mill, gaming, outdoor recreation, trophy hunting)
History of Fort Apache Indian Reservation

- Establish one large Apache reservation, September, 1871
- Executive order split reservation in San Carlos and White Mountain reservations, June 1887
Apaches hold their lands very sacred!

- Lands are held sacred
- Animals are held sacred
- Plants are held sacred
- Water is sacred
- Fire is to be respected

Forest management needs to respect local traditions.
Aerial View of Hondah – Apache Dawn Project

untreated

treated
Logging
Thinning
Prescribed burning
Grazing
Outdoor Recreation
Fire Facts...

• Pulsing plume dominated AND wind driven
• June 19 @ 1730
  Collapsing column causes fire to cover 10,244 acres in 15 minutes
• Flame lengths nearly 1,000 feet

• 5,660 acres/hour—
or 100 acres/minute
• 7 miles in 3 hours
Fire Highlights

- Rodeo Fire – June 18, 2002
- Chediski Fire – June 20, 2002
- Fires Merged – June 23, 2002
- 467,000 Total Acres Burned
- 280,000 Acres on the FAIR (61%)
- Over 30,000 People Evacuated
- Over 5,000 Fire Personnel
- Cost Estimated at $80.0 Million
- No Fatalities!
EVACUATION: Towns of Heber–Overgaard, Aripine, Clay Springs, Linden, Show Low, Pinetop–Lakeside, Hondah Homesites, McNary & Forestdale (about 70 miles long)

STRUCTURES LOST: 468 homes
Fire Effects And Forest Management

North of Chuckbox

- Prescribed burning (within a few years)
- Pre-commercial thinning (within the past decade)