



FORT SILL - CHIRICAHUA - WARM SPRING - APACHE TRIBE

PHONE: (580) 588-2298 / 2314 • FAX: (580) 588-3133

TOLL FREE: 1-877-826-0726

43187 US Highway 281 • APACHE, OKLAHOMA 73006-8038

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2016

DOI/AS-IA/OFA
Washington, DC

March 11, 2016

Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs
Attn: Office of Federal Acknowledgment
Mailstop MS-34B-SIB
1951 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs:

This letter formally requests that the Fort Sill Apache Tribe ("Tribe") be granted "interested party" status as you review the acknowledgment petition for Petitioner # 005, Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribe of the Pueblo of San Juan Guadalupe ("Petitioner").

Title 25, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 83, Procedures for Establishing That an American Indian Group Exists as an Indian Tribe (25 CFR Part 83), states:

Interested party means any person, organization or other entity who can establish a legal, factual or property interest in an acknowledgment determination and who requests an opportunity to submit comments or evidence or to be kept informed of general actions regarding a specific petitioner. "Interested party" includes the governor and attorney general of the state in which a petitioner is located, and may include, but is not limited to, local governmental units, and any recognized Indian tribes and unrecognized Indian groups that might be affected by an acknowledgement determination.

25 CFR 83.22 (b)(2)(iv) requires that notice be provided to "[a]ny recognized tribe...that appears to have a historical or present relationship with the petitioner or that may otherwise be considered to have a potential interest in the acknowledgment determination." Based on this criteria, it appears your office sent notice of this petition to the Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo (Tigua Tribe), whose lands are located in El Paso, Texas and border Dona Ana County, New Mexico, the county where the Petitioner is headquartered. The Tribe's Reservation is also located in Luna County, New Mexico, and is adjacent to Dona Ana County. Therefore, as was the case with the Tigua Tribe, the Tribe's Reservation has a physical proximity to the lands claimed by the Petitioners and on that basis should have received proper notice under 25 CFR 83.22.

MOUNTAIN SPIRIT DANCER

Mountain Spirit Dancer represents the Mountain Spirit Ceremony which is used by the Chiricahua and Warm Springs Apache. It was given to the Apaches by the Mountain Spirits for blessings, protection, curing and warding off disease. Th Ceremony is stillused today.

#03-30

The Tribe also has a well established historical relationship with the Petitioner. The Tribe's aboriginal territory and former reservation lands are located in Las Cruces, New Mexico, which is also the headquarters of the Petitioner. The decisions of the U.S. Indian Claims Commission and U.S. Court of Claims in *Fort Sill Apache Tribe et. al. v. United States*, 19 Ind. Cl. Comm. 212; 25 Ind. Cl. Comm. 382; 26 Ind. Cl. Comm. 98; and *United States v. Fort Sill Apache et. al.*, 480 F.2d 819; and 533 F.2d 531 confirmed that the site of Petitioner's headquarters is in the Tribe's aboriginal and former Indian title lands. Given its well-established claim to the same lands claimed by the Petitioner, the Tribe has an "historical" and "present relationship" with the Petitioner and a "potential interest" in the acknowledgment determination.

Please notify me if we do not qualify for interested party status. Otherwise, add the following contact information to your files and send copies of documents describing general actions regarding this petitioner to:

Phillip E. Thompson
Thompson Associates
P.O. Box 467
Point of Rocks, MD 21777
301-535-0488
Fax: 202-905-0057
philliptho@me.com

Sincerely,



Jeff Haozous, Chairman
Fort Sill Apache Tribe

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DOI/AS-IA/OFA
Washington, DC

FAX TRANSMISSION

March 11, 2016

TO: Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs
Office of Federal Acknowledgment

Phone:

Fax: (202)-219-3008

From: Jeff Haozous Chairman, Fort Sill Apache Tribe
Phone: (580) 588-2298

Please see attached correspondence.

20308



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Fax: 202-905-0057
philliptho@me.com

Sincerely,



Jeff Haozous, Chairman
Fort Sill Apache Tribe

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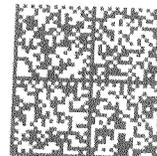
SNR DENTON US LLP

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大成 DENTONS

Dentons US LLP
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