

## RESOLUTION NO. 12-003

### A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SAFFORD, GRAHAM COUNTY, ARIZONA IN SUPPORT OF THE "SAVE ARIZONA'S FOREST ENVIRONMENT" (SAFE) PLAN.

**WHEREAS**, Arizona's National Forests are an invaluable resource to the State and its citizens, offering recreational opportunities, timberlands, wildlife habitat and livestock forage; and,

**WHEREAS**, in recent years, burdensome rules and regulations, forest management practices and time-consuming, costly litigation have drastically reduced timber harvests, resulting in a 3.9 billion board-foot increase in forest fuel loads, which, in turn, has resulted in ever-larger and more destructive forest fires; and,

**WHEREAS**, recent "mega-fires" alone - notably, the Rodeo-Chediski Fire, Wallow Fire, Horseshoe Fire, Murphy Complex Fire, Monument Fire, Arlene Fire and the Bull Fire - have collectively burned in excess of 1,346,000 acres, destroying wildlife habitat, timberland, livestock forage, recreational lands and private property; and,

**WHEREAS**, in those Arizona counties where Forest Service lands are used for livestock production cattle populations have fallen from 300,000 in 1993 to 203,000 in 2010 with 55,000 of that decline estimated to have resulted from Forest Service regulatory policies and management practices; and,

**WHEREAS**, these losses have had dire economic consequences throughout the State of Arizona and, particularly, in those resource-based communities located in the vicinity of the National Forests; and,

**WHEREAS**, the decline of resource-based communities is leading to the deterioration, and potential extinction, of the vocational and physical infrastructure necessary for the future viability of resource-based businesses; and,

**WHEREAS**, it appears unlikely that these disturbing trends can be reversed without significant changes to current forest-management policies that **would expedite and expand** fuel reduction and forest restoration activities on the National Forest, streamline forest planning and minimize costly and time-consuming litigation; and,

**WHEREAS**, the "Save Arizona's Forest Environment" (SAFE) Plan as proposed by the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association identifies specific policy, regulatory and managerial changes which, if adopted, would promote forest health, restore viable levels of timber and livestock production and stimulate economic activity statewide in the resource-based communities; and,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAFFORD, GRAHAM COUNTY, ARIZONA AS FOLLOWS:**

That the City of Safford hereby supports the goals and objectives of the “**Save Arizona’s Forest Environment**” (SAFE) Plan as authored by the Arizona Cattle **Growers’** Association and urges prompt consideration and implementation of the specific proposals set forth in the Plan.

**PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED** by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Safford this 9th day of January, 2012.

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Wyn “Chris” Gibbs, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Georgia Luster, MMC  
City Clerk

William J. Sims  
Interim City Attorney

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 12-003 was duly passed and adopted by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Safford, Graham County, Arizona, at a regular meeting held January 9, 2012. A quorum of the Council was present at the meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

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Georgia Luster, MMC  
City Clerk