



Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

375 River Street
Manistee, MI 49660
(231) 723-8288

Resolution No. #02-0724-03

**Opposing Transfer of Management of Areas Designated as U.S. Forest Service to
the State of Michigan**

WHEREAS, the Tribe's status as a federally-recognized Indian tribe was reaffirmed and restored by Congress pursuant to Public Law 103-324, 108 Stat. 2156 (25 U.S.C. §1300k et seq.); and

WHEREAS, the Tribe adopted a new Constitution, pursuant to a vote of the membership on May 27, 1998, which Constitution became effective upon its approval by the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs on July 10, 1998; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council is authorized under Article IV, Section 7(a) to provide for the public health, peace, morals, education and general welfare of the Little River Band and its members; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe has been made aware of the State of Michigan's potential request to have U.S. Forest Service lands within the state transferred to its management and control; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe has an inherent interest in those U.S. forests within the 1836 and 1855 Treaty areas as a tribal resource; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe has an inherent interest in those U.S. forests within the 1836 and 1855 Treaty areas in being appropriately returned to the Tribe under the terms of those treaties and under the terms of Public Law 103-324, Section 6(b) which requires the Secretary of the Interior to obtain lands to be placed in trust for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians specifically in Manistee and Mason Counties, and in the Tribe's Reservation and service area; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. forest lands lie within Manistee and Mason Counties, as well as within the Tribe's Reservation and service area and the Tribe objects to transfer of that land and natural resource to the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe maintains a Natural Resource Commission, Natural Resource Department, and Conservation Department which are charged with monitoring, maintaining, and regulating the use of the Tribe's hunting, trapping, fishing, and gathering rights, as well as monitoring, maintaining and regulating the Tribe's natural resources for the benefit of all; and

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WHEREAS, the Tribe has the technical expertise on staff, or can retain the appropriate technical expertise where such may be absent, to manage U.S. forest within should it be determined that a transfer of authority and/or responsibility is necessary or in the best interests of the United States; and

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED THAT the Tribal Council of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians hereby expresses its strong objection to the transfer of U.S. forest lands to the State of Michigan, particularly in regard to those areas that are more appropriately placed under the jurisdiction of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Tribal Council hereby requests the U.S. Forest Service to consider placing U.S. forest lands within Tribal jurisdiction throughout the State of Michigan within the authority and jurisdiction of Tribes, and specifically that those U.S. forest lands within the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Reservation and service area, and the 1836 and 1855 Treaty area, to be placed within the jurisdiction of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly presented and adopted by the Tribal Council with 8 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 ABSTAINING, and 1 ABSENT, at a Regular Session of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Council held on July 24, 2002, at the Little River Band's Community Center in Manistee, Michigan, with a quorum being present for such vote.

Janine M. Sam, Council Recorder

Stephen Parsons, Council Speaker

Attest:

Distribution: Council Records
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