



USET Resolution No. 2009:057

PARTNERSHIPS TO PRESERVE SACRED CEREMONIAL LANDSCAPES

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-five (25) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** USET Resolution 2003:022 on October 31, 2002 acknowledged an initial eight (8) town "sacred landscape which is of particular cultural value to certain USET member Tribes;" and
- WHEREAS,** for thousands of years before the immigration of Europeans, the *Pau Waus* and medicine people of today's New England region used sacred ceremonial landscapes to sustain the people's reliance on Mother Earth and the spirit energies of balance and harmony; and
- WHEREAS,** the properties which comprise these sacred landscapes are threatened by the encroachments of imminent development; and
- WHEREAS,** these sacred sites of our past ceremonial practices are no longer hidden by their remote locations, but many now stand in desirable development land without local ordinances to protect them; and
- WHEREAS,** since 2002, Tribal preservation authorities and non-Tribal field researchers have, now, documented the presence of ceremonial landscape locales from the Atlantic coast states to states beyond the Mississippi River; and
- WHEREAS,** on December 11, 2008, the Keeper of the National Register signed a Determination of Eligibility for the Turners Falls Sacred Ceremonial Hill Site; and
- WHEREAS,** this sacred ceremonial landscape, which features ceremonial stone structures, is the first in the eastern United States to be officially affirmed and determined eligible; and
- WHEREAS,** in order to protect all these sacred ceremonial landscapes from desecrations and destruction by blind development or wanton vandalism, local and regional preservation partnerships should be fostered to encourage the crafting and implementation of local and regional protective ordinances and preservation accords; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors supports those member Tribes who wish to partner with individual landholders, agencies, towns, counties, and states that have stewardship of these properties, in order to create historic preservation initiatives that will support the permanent protection of such sacred landscapes.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Hollywood, FL, on Thursday, October 29, 2009.

Brian Patterson, President
United South and Eastern Tribe, Inc.

Robert McGhee, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.