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NEWS RELEASE

## **Fort Sill Apache Tribe Supports President Obama's Department of the Interior Nomination**

*Tribe Backs Sally Jewell as New U.S. Secretary of the Interior Candidate*

**Akela, New Mexico (February 11, 2013)** — [The Fort Sill Apache Tribe](#) today applauded President Obama's nomination of businesswoman and environmental leader Sally Jewell as the new Secretary of the Interior for the U.S. Department of the Interior.

"The Fort Sill Apache Tribe supports President Obama's choice of Sally Jewell to succeed Secretary Ken Salazar in this important role. In welcoming the nomination, we are confident Mrs. Jewell will recognize and support the nation's relationship with Indian Country and our people's deep history with and connection to the natural environment," said Fort Sill Apache Tribal Chairman Jeff Haozous.

Chairman Haozous and the Fort Sill Apaches look forward to working with Mrs. Jewell on the Tribe's endeavors to return to its rightful home.

The Fort Sill Apache Tribe is the successor to the Chiricahua - Warm Springs Apache Tribe. In 1886, they were taken as Prisoners of War by the U.S. Army and removed from their homelands of southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona to Florida, Alabama and Oklahoma, where they were released in 1914. They organized as the Fort Sill Apache Tribe after a Federal Court affirmed their claim for the loss of over 14 million acres of their homeland. They have always maintained both their independence as Chiricahua - Warm Springs Apaches and their desire to return to their rightful home.

For more information and updates on the Tribe, please follow us on [Twitter](#) (@FortSillApache) and visit [www.footsillapachenewmexico.com](http://www.footsillapachenewmexico.com).

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