



*White Mountain Apache
Division of Health Programs*

Donna Vigil, Executive Director

July 09, 2005



Julie Gerberding, MD, MPH
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Director
1600 Clifton Road, N.E.
Atlanta, Ga 30333

Dear Dr. Gerberding,

I would like to thank you on behalf of the White Mountain Apache Tribe for the tremendous volunteer effort provided by the Watsonian Society. During the past few years, our tribe has experienced an outbreak of Rocky Mountain spotted fever that has claimed the lives of two children and lead to the hospitalization of several others living on our reservation

In response to this outbreak, groups from the Watsonian Society visited our reservation during two weeks in May of 2005 to provide volunteer assistance. During their two weeks here, the Watsonian volunteers participated in a massive community clean-up campaign aimed at removing favorable tick habitat from the community. Working side-by-side with tribal volunteers, this amazing group of volunteers labored countless hours each day hauling load after load of debris and solid waste from homes throughout the reservation to the tribal landfill. Members of the Watsonian team also aided other CDC and state personnel in conducting tick population assessments. This volunteer support has made a tremendous difference in our effort to reduce Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever as well as to beautify our tribal lands. Again, I thank you for the efforts of this wonderful group associated with your organization.

Sincerely,

Donna Vigil, Executive Director
Division of Health Programs

Recd
cc: Watsonian
Society
(Phil Talbot)