



BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS NAVAJO REGION

Report to the 24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL



BIA Regional Director, Senator Ben R. Lujan, Navajo Nation Leadership Bridge Signing ceremony
Leupp, Arizona and Manuelito, New Mexico

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COMMENTS BY THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

The BIA, Navajo Regional Office (NRO) and agency staff have continued to provide necessary and critical services to the Navajo Nation (NN) despite the ongoing pandemic and lack of a permanent Regional Director. As the newly appointed Regional Director, I am committed to continuing and improving our delivery of services to the NN and its 409,000 citizens through responsiveness, transparency, and applying the necessary resources to address ongoing challenges faced by the NN.

The NRO staff continue to provide services to the NN through maximum telework to ensure the ongoing safety of themselves, their families, the NN representatives and their communities. As has always been, the NRO's ongoing priority is to ensure that we are available, productive, and responsive to the NN whenever a federal action is required to move a project forward. This dedication to service has resulted in the recent opening of two bridges that provide significant positive impact on the NN citizens who will no longer have to navigate precarious roads and washes to travel to and from their homes.

The NRO team has been active in its distribution of CARES Act and ARPA funds to ensure the needs of the NN people are met despite this time of pandemic. Through ongoing and cooperative interactions with NN staff, the NRO staff have also provided significant technical assistance in the management of PL-93-638 contracts, assisted in the processing of permits, business and homesite leases, and by early December will initiate an oil and gas lease sale for allotment owners to provide a source of badly needed income for NN citizens.

The NN has suffered the double-edged sword of unprecedented monsoon rains this summer and fall, resulting in damage to a number of roads critical to the citizens of the NN. Both the NN and the NRO staff stepped up each and every time to repair these roads to ensure safe travel and access to services by the NN citizens in the communities affected by impassible roads. Additionally, through active engagement with the NN, my staff have responded to requests for critical supplies including the delivery of water through ARPA funds to various chapters to ensure the availability of safe drinking water for NN citizens.

I and my team are committed to continuing to fulfill our trust responsibilities to the NN, its Chapters, and citizens, through collaboration, dedication, and hard work. We continue to be available to all tribal leaders to address all issues and concerns. I can be reached by email at gregory.mehojah@bia.gov and by cell phone at (505) 870-2972.

Sincerely,

**GREGORY
MEHOJAH**

Gregory C. Mehojah, Regional Director
Navajo Region, BIA

Digitally signed by
GREGORY MEHOJAH
Date: 2021.10.07
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OFFICE OF TRIBAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

The Office of Tribal Government Services (OTGS) continues to represent the Bureau of Indian Affairs at various governmental meetings including the Navajo Nation's Office of the President and Vice President, Navajo Nation Council meetings, Navajo Nation Council Delegate meetings, and Navajo Nation Council Committee meetings with Navajo Nation leadership as well as at specific Federal Agency project meetings such as BLM RMPA and IWMP EIS.

For the fall quarter, the BIA referred **102** requests to the Navajo Nation Office of Vital Records/Enrollment program regarding Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB) for prospective membership. The CIB requests range from individuals seeking scholarship and benefits to prison inmates seeking membership with the Navajo Nation. Based on enrolled agencies, see below on BIA referrals made this quarter:

Office/Agencies	Referrals
Eastern Navajo Agency	6
Chinle Agency	1
Fort Defiance Agency	2
Shiprock Agency	16
Tuba City Agency	7
Window Rock	70
Total:	102

In addition, the OTGS continues to provide updates to the Navajo Nation regarding national Tribal initiatives from the Office of the Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs, including transmittal of **13** "Dear Tribal Leaders" letters to the Navajo Nation. Copies of the "Dear Tribal Leaders" letters and transmittals are attached under Appendix A.

The Tribal Operations Specialist (TGS) serves as the Awarding Official Technical Representative (AOTR) for three P.L. 93-638 contracts. In coordination with the Awarding Official, Program Administrator, Navajo Nation. Please see page 27 for the AOTR reports.

FEDERAL INDIAN MINERALS OFFICE (FIMO)

The Federal Indian Minerals Office (FIMO) has been busy the last quarter addressing and servicing allottees with questions related to Probate. FIMO has been constant during the uncertainty of COVID-19, with rotational staff in the office and meeting with allottees. Outreaches are also available via phones to address questions from allottees. Although the way FIMO provides services may have changed, the staff are present in the office to service the allottees. The Oil and Gas Industry is rebounding, and activity has increased in the field. The prices of the commodity are also seeing an increase. FIMO continues to move forward with the new administrative directives.

Ongoing Projects:

- Lease Sale – FIMO was given the approval to conduct the Competitive Lease Sale for 40 Navajo Allotted lands encumbering 6,400 acres and encompassing over 2,000 individual interest owners. FIMO has scheduled the sale to take place on December 6, 2021. FIMO has completed the NEPA document, and it is currently being reviewed by Navajo Region. FIMO is scheduled to post the NEPA document for a 30-day public comment in mid-October 2021.
- Resource Management Plan Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement – The BLM/BIA co-lead project has been put on a “pause status” to allow for the Programmatic Agreement of Section 106 Consultation an opportunity to catch up with the management plan. The projected final Record of the Decision is tentatively scheduled for the spring 2022.

Accomplishments:

FIMO continues to do its due diligence in ensuring on the ground activities are uninterrupted. FIMO continues to strive to address the many questions received and service the allottees the best way possible. FIMO is working through many creative ways to continue business and stay in tune with the needs of the mineral owners.

- *Outreach* – Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, FIMO is utilizing creative means to continue with the Outreach Program. FIMO moved to conduct phone-in outreach to work with allottees. The last quarter of FY2021 allowed for FIMO to conduct 3 phone-in sessions, covering 16 Chapter areas, by mailing out 3,580 post cards. FIMO received 28 call-ins for all 3 phone-in sessions. FIMO also participated in 2 outreach session during the San Juan County Fair and Shiprock Farmers Market. In concluding for the year FIMO conducted 9 Phone-In sessions covering 80 Chapters by sending out 8,273 post cards for the fiscal year. FIMO also serviced allottees at the office and by phone calls. FIMO received and assisted with 309 calls/walk-ins for the 4th quarter. 62% of the 309 inquiries are related to Oil & Gas activities, 16% related to probate, 11% to non-O&G activities, 4% to Off-lease ROWs, and 7% to BTFA for address changes and death reports.
- *Inspection & Enforcement* – the BLM Inspection and Enforcement (I&E) completed 14 inspections on Navajo Indian Allotted wells for the 4th Quarter, completing 100% inspections for the fiscal year. There were 3 oil sale witnessed; 9 P&A wells witnessed, 1 Drilling witnessed, 50 written incident of noncompliance, and 139 records reviewed for this quarter.
- *Environmental Surface Inspection* – There were 65 wells identified for FY2021 for inspection related to 40 lease cancellations. FIMO/BLM has completed 90% of the inspection through the end of the fiscal year.
- *Leasing Assignments* – Operation in the field is holding steady. FIMO received and pending final approval for 11 Record Title transfer. FIMO also received and processed 13 change of Operating Rights Title for this quarter. FIMO has approved 38 assignment for the fiscal year.
- *Lease Termination/Cancellation* - FIMO terminated 13 leases for this quarter. FIMO is currently working on terminating 85 leases due to no production or the lease have expired on its own terms.

- *Application for permit to drill (APD)* – There were 3 notice of staking for proposed well pad installation and 5 Application for Permit to Drill (APD) submitted for the 4th Quarter. The 5 APDs are still pending for all NEPA compliance and Tribal Consultation. The submitted APD are within an existing Unit and communitization agreement.
- *Audit/Compliance Reviews* – FIMO auditor's work plan for FY 2021 included 24 identified cases, FIMO has closed out 5 cases for an additional royalty finding of \$12,089.74 for the 4th quarter. Auditors continue to work with the remaining cases.
- *Royalty Distribution* – There were approximately \$8,206,887 royalties distributed to mineral owners for the 4th quarter. A 26% increase from the 3rd quarter. A total of \$24,814,666 royalty was disbursed for the fiscal year. Prices are slowly increasing, and production is stabilizing as we finish out the fiscal year.

The 4th quarter showed great sign of rebounding of price, production, and activity in the field. FIMO continues to receive and address many allottees questions and concerns mainly topics surrounding probate activities.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

BRANCH OF ACQUISITION OPERATIONS

For this quarter, Branch of Acquisitions completed the following work:

- Contract No. 140A0921C0002 was awarded to Rock Gap Engineering in the amount of \$1,349,614.00 for the remediation of hazardous petroleum and asbestos for the motor operating units in Tuba City, AZ. A pre-work meeting will be scheduled by October 8, 2021.
- Purchase Order No. 140A0921P0090 was awarded to BRIC, LLC in the amount of \$344,162.00 for weed inventory, planning, and environmental assessment for Land Management District (LMD) #12 in the Shiprock Agency. A pre-work meeting will be scheduled by October 12, 2021.
- Purchase Order No. 140A0921P0084 was awarded to Sundance Consulting in the amount of \$388,452.96 for the remediation of the former Crownpoint Community School. A pre-work meeting will be scheduled soon.
- Purchase Order No. 140A0921P0076 was awarded to Tehama LLC for removal of the former Black Springs sheep dip vat site, Naschitti, NM. A pre-work meeting will be scheduled soon.
- Purchase Order No. 140A0921P0077 was awarded to Tehama LLC for removal of the former Toadlena sheep dip vat site, Toadlena, NM. A pre-work meeting will be scheduled soon.
- Purchase Order No. 140A0921P0086 was awarded to AMG Company, Inc. for the re-striping project for routes in the Ft. Defiance Agency. A pre-work meeting will be scheduled soon.

- Purchase Order No. 140A0921P0087 was awarded to AMG Company, Inc. for the re-striping project for routes in the Shiprock Agency. A pre-work meeting will be scheduled soon.
- Purchase Order No. 140A0921P0092 was awarded to BRIC, LLC in the amount of \$286,365.79 for the Paiute Creek Restoration Plan project. A pre-work meeting will be scheduled soon.
- Contract No. 140A0919F0063 was awarded to Barnhart-Taylor, Inc. in the amount of \$4,681,298.00 for the renovation of Government Quarters at Nazlini Community School. Construction has started and is ~90% complete. Material submittals are being sent in for review and approval.
- Contract No. 140A0919F0062 was awarded to Cherokee CRC in the amount of \$1,553,733.66 for the design and construction of a new sewer lagoon for Wide Ruins Community School. Construction has started and is ~98% complete. A final inspection will be held on October 7, 2021.
- Purchase Order No. 140A0920P0057 was awarded to Speedy Striping for striping of highways for various BIA routes within Chinle and Western Navajo Agency. Work has been completed for Western Navajo Agency and work has started for the Chinle Agency. Project is ~60% complete. The project will start up in October.
- Contracts for noxious weed projects have been awarded for Western Navajo Agency and Eastern Navajo Agency within the Navajo Region.
- Staff continues to monitor and administer on-going contracts that have been issued in previous fiscal years for construction and services.
- Staff has responded to data calls from Central Office regarding various acquisition requirements.
- A total of 213 purchase requests with a value of \$9,056,791.91 have been processed for Fiscal Year 2021.
- The work in progress for the school construction contracts is benefiting the members of the Navajo Nation by maintaining and upgrading the deteriorating BIE school conditions where many students of the Navajo Nation attend.
- BIA highways within the Navajo Reservation are being maintained and repaired for the traveling safety of the public which include members of the Navajo Nation and local bus routes to ensure the safety of the students

BRANCH OF PROPERTY

Branch of Property completed the Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Physical Inventory of Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) personal and real property. The annual inventory accounts and verifies existing property records and updates accordingly. This includes conducting physical inventories along with submissions of all supporting documentation for adjustments in the Financial Business Management System (FBMS).

Property staff were met with many challenges to conduct inventory, including COVID-19 pandemic restrictions in which many buildings and schools were locked or inaccessible. The BIA inventory completion rate was 45%, BIE inventory completion rate was 13%. Certification of the BIA and BIE inventories were August 3, 2021 and August 5, 2021, respectively.

The last of the large BIE computer purchase have been distributed to Kayenta Boarding School and T'sii Nazbah Community School. This purchase was for remote and distance learning tools for tribal community students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Currently, Property staff are in the process of updating personal and real property in FBMS in anticipation of the transfer of Property Management responsibilities from BIA to BIE by July 31, 2022. This is in support of the *Secretarial Order No. 3334 – Restructuring the Bureau of Indian Education* in which FY 2021 Service Line Agreement between Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) for Property Management was approved April 22, 2021.

BRANCH OF BUDGET MANAGEMENT

FY 2021 – Below is a summary of funds provided to the Navajo Nation under P.L. 93-638 contracts, as of September 30, 2021. The funding provided totals \$108,013,891.40 with \$6,744,362.00 available for drawn down. The funding provided includes base dollars as well as one-time program funding.

NAVAJO NATION P.L. 93-638 FUND STATUS as of September 30, 2021						
Fund	FA Budget Program	Funds Available	Not Drawn down	Total Expenditures	Distributed as of 09.30.2021	Available Funds
212A2100DD	A0H901010 : SOCIAL SERVICES-TPA	5,908,647.00	0.00	5,908,647.00	5,908,647.00	0.00
212A2100DD	A0H901040 : Domestic Violence	146,000.00	0.00	146,000.00	146,000.00	0.00
212A2100DD	A0H913030 : WELFARE ASSISTANCE-TPA	22,247,456.00	0.00	22,247,456.00	22,247,456.00	0.00
212A2100DD	A0H922020 : IND CHILD WELFARE ACT-TPA	1,472,225.00	0.00	1,472,225.00	1,472,225.00	0.00
21XA2100DD	A0H937070 : HOUSING IMPROV PROGRM-TP	1,435,244.00	0.00	1,435,244.00	1,435,244.00	0.00
212A2100DD	A0J304545 : Conservation Law Enforcem	47,000.00	0.00	47,000.00	47,000.00	0.00
212A2100DD	A0J908080 : TRIBAL COURTS PROGRMS-TPA	1,496,334.00	0.00	1,496,334.00	1,496,334.00	0.00
212A2100DD	A0N301010 : IRRIGATION, OPER & MAINT	5,500,000.00	0.00	5,500,000.00	5,500,000.00	0.00
212A2100DD	A0N330000 : COOP LANDSCAPE CONSERVA	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
212A2100DD	A0N341010 : PROGRAM MANAGEMENT	155,000.00	0.00	155,000.00	155,000.00	0.00
212A2100DD	A0N3C0000 : Inv Specs/Noxs Weed Eradi	88,954.00	0.00	88,954.00	88,954.00	0.00
212A2100DD	A0N3E1010 : FOREST DEVELOPMENT	100,000.00	0.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	0.00
212A2100DD	A0N3E2020 : FOREST MNGMT INVNTRS&PL	200,000.00	0.00	200,000.00	200,000.00	0.00
212A2100DD	A0N3E3030 : WOODLAND MANAGEMENT	165,000.00	0.00	165,000.00	165,000.00	0.00
212A2100DD	A0N3F1212 : FISH HATCHERY MAINTENANC	114,000.00	0.00	114,000.00	114,000.00	0.00
212A2100DD	A0N6A3031 : FOREST MARKETING ASSIST	25,993.00	0.00	25,993.00	25,993.00	0.00
212A2100DD	A0N9A0505 : NATURAL RESOURCES -TPA	609,951.40	4,315.00	605,636.40	609,951.40	0.00
212A2100DD	A0N9B1010 : AGRICULTURE PRGRM-TPA	1,295,340.00	0.00	1,295,340.00	1,295,340.00	0.00
212A2100DD	A0N9B1010 : AGRICULTURE PRGRM-TPA	336,266.00				336,266.00
212A2100DD	A0N9C3030 : FORESTRY PROGRAM -TPA	795,153.00	0.00	795,153.00	795,153.00	0.00
212A2100DD	A0N9D4040 : WATER RES PROGRAM -TPA	718,077.00	0.00	718,077.00	718,077.00	0.00
212A2100DD	A0N9E5050 : WILDLIFE&PARKS PRGRM-TP	564,145.00	0.00	564,145.00	564,145.00	0.00
212A2100DD	A0R312020 : WATR RIGHTS NGTN/LITIGATE	245,000.00				245,000.00
212A2100DD	A0R9D4040 : ENVRMNTL QLTY PRGRM-TPA	115,385.00	0.00	115,385.00	115,385.00	0.00
212A2100DD	A0T902020 : OTHER AID-TRBL GOV -TPA	982,315.00	0.00	982,315.00	982,315.00	0.00
21XA2301IG	A1163G000 : WIIN ACT IRRIG PROJ GEN	2,335,000.00	2,335,000.00		2,335,000.00	0.00
212A2240DD	A3T937070 : CSC CONTRACT SUPPORT TPA	25,083,352.00	3,821,471.00	16,985,618.00	20,807,089.00	4,276,263.00
212A2100DD	AEE904040 : JHNSN O'MALL A GR TPA BIA	4,427,971.00	583,576.00	3,844,395.00	4,427,971.00	0.00
212A2100DD	AEE931010 : TRIBAL SCHOLARSHI TPA BIA	13,495,397.00	0.00	13,495,397.00	13,495,397.00	0.00
21XA2100RA	ARH930000 : HOUSING PRGM ARPA POT 1	9,916,686.00	0.00	9,916,686.00	9,916,686.00	0.00
21XA2100RA	ART900000 : AID TO TRI GOV ARPA POT 2	8,000,000.00	0.00	8,000,000.00	8,000,000.00	0.00
TOTALS		108,031,891.40	6,744,362.00	96,430,000.40	103,174,362.40	4,857,529.00

FY 2022 has begun under a temporary funding measure known as a H.R. 5305, Extending Government Funding and Delivery Emergency Assistance Act, which was signed by the President on September 30, 2021. The Continuing Resolution (CR) covers the period of October 1, 2021 through December 3, 2021.

Under the CR period, the amounts available are subject to the same terms and conditions specified in the enacted appropriations act from the prior fiscal year 2021 funding levels. Please note that programs, projects, or activities may not be terminated under a CR but should be provided only the absolute minimum needed to continue operations. Programs should limit obligations and expenses to only those necessary to maintain current operations at the FY-2021 funding levels. No new programs may be initiated, and no major program actions or procurements should be undertaken until the regular appropriation is enacted.

TRUST SERVICES

BRANCH OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Branch of Natural Resources' Agency staff participated in the Navajo Nation drought tour during the week of July 12-16, 2021 and attended the Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources Drought and Climate Change Meeting on September 15, 2021.

The Soil Scientist is involved in the ongoing review of the Agricultural and Range Resources Management Plan-Navajo Partition Lands. The goal is to select projects that can be prioritized for planning efforts.

The Branch of Natural Resources staff participated in the weekly Teams meetings for the draft Integrated Weed Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement which will be presented to the Department of Interior review Team with Central Office on September 15, 2021.

This past quarter, four Conservation Plans (CP) and two Agriculture Land Use Permits (ALUP) were submitted for review. The Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for CPs and ALUPs has been consulted to see how closely they relate to ongoing Agency efforts in the Grazing permitting process. When the processes are closely aligned, a better understanding of working with individual Navajo land users is realized.

The work the Navajo Region Soil Scientist is involved in will help facilitate many potential project opportunities and cement the ongoing relationship with Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources and Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture, fulfilling many of our Trust and fiduciary responsibilities as it relates to natural resources. Any soils and range efforts that can be facilitated by the BIA will better serve the NN and the land users. Conservation and natural resource planning efforts have already been enhanced since acquiring a new soils and range effort.

Fort Defiance Agency

The Fort Defiance Agency has a commitment and mission to improve customer service through public interactions. Most inquiries are on pending applications for fencing, grazing and land use permits. Clients continue to request for updated certification of their grazing permits for hauling livestock and auctions.

Fort Defiance Agency sent letters notifying pending grazing permit holders of missing documents: original grazing permit, tally count, conservation plan, or state brand certificate. Without all the required documents, these grazing permits will not continue to be processed until all documents are received.

Fort Defiance Agency sent listings of grazing permit holders within six waterline projects for Indian Health Services. Indian Health Services receive the consent of the grazing permit holders to obtain a right-of-way for their waterline projects.

Ft Defiance Agency Branch of Natural Resource staff participated in the Drought Tour that included Resources & Development Committee.

The Ft Defiance Agency Branch of Natural Resource staff continue working on conservations plans for District 7, 14, 17 and 18 permit holders. The conservation Plans are written for each grazing permit that are transferred or probated.

A Range Management Unit in Lower Greasewood has been completed. Another Range Management Unit east of Greasewood Chapter was recommended and sent to Navajo Nation Fish and Wildlife to issue a Biological Resource Compliance Form (BRCF). Once all approvals are accomplished including CRCF (Cultural Resource Clearance Forms) the fence line construction will begin. We do not know when the BRCF will be completed. Fort Defiance Agency submitted 192 BRCF to be approved by Navajo Nation Fish and Wildlife.

Ft Defiance Agency Branch of Natural Resource staff assisted with the horse rescue operation (ERO) at the following locations:

- White Cone Chapter 6/30-7/1, July 14-15, 2021
- Wide Ruins on August 17-18, 2021
- Coyote Canyon on August 24-26, 2021
- White Cone on September 19-22, 2021

All livestock were hauled into Navajo Nation holding pens at Tse Bonito New Mexico.

Navajo Nation Fish and Wildlife has returned 13 Biological Resource Compliance Forms (BRCF) for District 14 Grazing Permits. These BRCFs have conditional approval with all 13 grazing permits recommended at a reduced number of sheep units from the original sheep units permitted. Seven of the grazing permits are recommended at less than 10 sheep units. The minimum sheep units allowed by Navajo Nation Grazing Regulation Handbook and Livestock Laws is at 10 sheep unit's year long. BIA will not be able to issue a grazing permit for less than 10 sheep units.

Chinle Agency

CNA provided an update report to District Grazing Committee Members (DGCM): Land Management District 4, Land Management District 10 & Land Management District 11 via virtual teleconferences and/or Zoom & Teams with reports provided, answer questions, and provide questions on the Grazing Permits, Agriculture Land Use Permits, and Probate transfer process. Range Management Unit (RMU) assessments are also included in the reports.

Noxious Weed Control & Treatment:

CNA Noxious Weed Treatment will take place into early and late Fall along four major BIA paved highways within the rights-of-way. Increasing noxious weeds and invasive plant species within CNA is having an impact on the economic, social, and cultural conditions that needs to be addressed and managed.

Noxious Weed Inventory completed with the CNA four (4) Highway Rights-of-Way covered 300+ acres and weeds that are the primarily concern to eradicate, control, mapping and monitor are Russian Knapweed, Russian Thistle, Musk Thistle, Cheatgrass, and Tamarisk along the roadsides. Treatment of Rights-of-Way (ROW) of Navajo Routes N4, N64, N59 and Indian Route-12 that totals 300+ acres are paved roads used by the residents, delivery of goods and services, emergency personnel, school buses, and many other services.

Many Farms Irrigation Project:

CNA participated in the Many Farms Lake & Diversion Dam Assessment. Navajo Region and Chinle Agency participated in the field assessment of the diversion dam site from the recent rains & flooding caused by the late season monsoons. Delegate Kee Allen Begay is requesting to upgrade the diversion for the Many Farms Dam. BIA NRO provided a response letter to Delegate Kee Allen Begay regarding this subject.

Resources & Development Committee (RDC) Drought Assessment:

CNA participated in this Navajo Nation drought assessment & tour with the RDC Members. Each Agency Manager met & toured with the group when they arrived at the respective agency. When RDC toured our Agency, we took RDC to the water monitoring sites at the mouth of Canyon De Chelly. Then we went to the Many Farms Lake to assess the lake. The group then went to Rough Rock Chapter. After a brief meeting the group went into Western Navajo Agency to tour the Tseyi Canyon Restoration projects with WNA BNR.

USDA-NASS: 2022 Census of Agriculture Report:

CNA provided livestock tally numbers by each chapter (10) within the Agency' Land Management Districts: LMD 4, LMD 10 & LMD 11 & permittee' mailing addresses information to the Arizona State NASS Office Statistician. Due to the ongoing pandemic not many livestock tallies were submitted by the respective DGCM.

Equine Rescue Operation:

CNA actively assists the District Grazing Committee Members (DGCM) with authorized feral horse round ups. CNA assists with providing portable corral panels, trailering/hauling feral horses to Resource Enforcement Impoundment Yard and/or auction facility. Also has issues with free roaming horses, feral horses, and trespass of livestock. The CNA office has received

complaints of horses and cattle going into other people's corrals for water and feed, in a cooperated matter with Navajo Nation DOA, NN Department of Resources Enforcement, and grazing officials following through on a Chapter Resolution to conduct an Equine Rescue Operation the Equine Operation conducted in cooperated effort remove horses removed from the Range land. Observed during the operation there were people who penned up horses and review of their permits clearly exceeded their permitted livestock tallies.

Navajo Partitioned Lands

Customer service provided by phone, emails, faxes, and curb side service for safety measures with services provided is shown in Table.:

No.	Precinct	Client	Activity
1.	2	Livestock Producer, Blue Gap, RU 404	Inquiring on affidavit to transport Livestock. Reports of feral horses, inquiring on documents for Phase I Grazing Permits Reissuance procedures.
2.	1	Livestock Producer, Tolani Lake, RU 503	Assist with cattle transport (12 heads = 48 SUYL removed off rangeland) to Sun Valley Auction,
3.	3	Livestock Producer, Tonalea, RU 101	Provide recommendation not to install solar panels to windmill that windmills are government property.
4.	3	Livestock Producer, Hardrock RU 30	Assist with transport of 15 head of cattle to Sun Valley reducing the number of 60 SUYL
5.	2	Black Mesa DGC	Assist with xeroxing documents for road repairs
6.	2	Livestock Producer - Hardrock	Inquiring on Phase 2 process and procedures and report of unbranded horse to be removed
7.	2	Whippoorwill DGC	Request copy of vegetation study
8.	2	Livestock Producer – Whippoorwill	Inquiring on reissuance of permit application and advise to work with local DGC
9.	3	Livestock Producer - Chilchinbito	Complete and submit NPL referral for fence repair
10.	2	Livestock Producer- Pinon	Provide 25 CR 161 and RCDF 20-17, and NPL FAQ to review for upcoming orientation

Reports provided to Grazing District (District 1, District 2, District 4, District 7) and Joint NPL District Grazing Committee (DGC) via virtual teleconferences with reports provided, answer questions, and provide virtual training on NPL. Reports covered the status of grazing permits reissuance, status of the windmill contract, fence repairs and cattle guard clean outs, and that program continues to get calls regarding trespass of horses, cattle, and disputes over roads.

Reissuance of permits with Phase 1 (living) delegated to BIA, and Phase 2 and Phase 3 delegated to the Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture (DOA). BIA NPL has reissued 15 permits with 9 permits in Whitecone, 2 in Teesto, 2 in Forest Lake, 2 in Pinon, and 1 in Black Mesa and these livestock producers are in compliance with the 10 Sheep Units Year Long (SUYL). Training provided to newly elected officials of the Joint NPL DGC covered historical overview of the

1882 Executive Order, NPL and Hopi Partitioned Lands (HPL) designated areas, 25 CFR Part 161 Navajo Partitioned Lands Grazing Regulations, Resources and Development Committee Resolution (RDCF 20-17) Relating to Resources and Development: Amending IGRJN-110-10, the Navajo Eligibility Requirements to Qualify for Issuance of a Grazing Permit on the Navajo Partitioned Lands.

NPL has issues with free roaming horses, feral horses, and trespass of livestock. The NPL office has received complaints of horses and cattle going into other people's corrals for water and feed. The Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture, Department of Resources Enforcement, and grazing officials received Chapter Resolutions to conduct an Equine Rescue Operation. The Equine Operation conducted removed 40 horses (200 Sheep Unit Year Long).

Development of Hay Field in the Hardrock and Tonalea/Red Lake areas is on-going with continuation of historical information, data, and map research at the agencies and with the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources. Feasibility of the soil and water quality and quantity is the primary issue that will involve the local chapters and grazing officials

Treatment of Noxious Weed Treatment will take place into early and late Fall along four major BIA paved highways within the rights-of-way. Increasing noxious weeds and invasive plant species within Navajo Partitioned Lands is having an impact on the economic, social, and cultural conditions that needs to be addressed and managed. Weed Inventory completed with the NPL four (4) Highway Rights of Way covered 300 acres and weeds that are the primarily concern to eradicate, control, and monitor are Russian Knapweed, Russian Thistle, Musk Thistle, Cheatgrass, and Tamarisk along the roadsides. Treatment of Rights of Way of Navajo Routes N4, N6, N41 and N8066 that totals 300 acres are paved roads used by the residents, delivery of goods and services, emergency personnel, school buses, and many other services. Total cost of the treatment is \$20,000 for the purchase of Herbicide and consultation of treatment, safety measures, and reporting.

Shiprock Agency

The Agency completed twenty-one conservation plans. The conservation plans serve as guidance for the proper use of the Natural Resources on the Navajo Reservation. The conservation plans will be used as part of the permit transfer packet. The agency also prepared two Land Use Permits within the San Juan River Valley for transfer. The transfers were accomplished in accordance with the Navajo Region's Standard Operating procedures.

District 12 Weed Inventory Project:

The Shiprock Agency completed a Purchase Requisition to complete a Noxious weed inventory for the District 12 portion of the Navajo Reservation. The project will inventory Noxious weeds within the washes and drainages that flow into the San Juan River in Utah portion of Grazing District 12. The Agency is currently requesting funding from central office to complete the weed inventory using the BIA's non-based weed funding, the project currently is at BIA acquisitions.

McCracken Mesa Range Inventory:

The staff from the Shiprock agency Bureau of Natural Resources forwarded to the Navajo Region a Purchase Requisition to fund a Range Inventory study for the McCracken Mesa portion

of Aneth Chapter in grazing District 12. Currently the project is funded using funds from the Shiprock agency and FY 2020 carryover funds. The reason the project was initiated is that the agency needs the total carrying capacity to set the number of allowable livestock within the McCracken Mesa region of the Navajo reservation. The data will be used to issue grazing permits in the region by calculating the amount of usable forage in the area, then dividing the forage by the number of potential permittees in the area.

Utah Navajo Nation Boundary:

The Staff from the Shiprock agency Bureau of Natural Resources is collecting data for the possible funding of a fencing project in the Utah portion of the Navajo Reservation. The project will define the boundary between the Navajo Reservation, Indian Allotment and Public (BLM) land. The staff has been gathering data with personal from the Aneth Chapter and with the BIA/BLM legal surveyor. The reason this project was initiated was that there has been some discourse with both the Bureau of Land Management and the Ute Mountain nation concerning the Navajo Nation boundary.

District 13 Weed Inventory:

The Shiprock Agency commenced the weed inventory survey for the District 13 portion of the Navajo Reservation. The weed inventory project commenced in April 2021 and continues. The project will inventory all the Noxious weed species within the washes and drainages that flow into the San Juan River in Grazing District 13. The Agency is currently monitoring the contractor's progress in the commencement of the project. The contractor has completed about half of the project and is working in the Burnham Chapter region.

District 13 Weed Inventory Biological and Cultural resource surveys:

The Shiprock agency completed a Purchase Requisition to complete a Biological and Cultural resource survey to complement the current District 13 weed inventory project. The project will inventory all the Biological and Cultural resources along the path of the current weed inventory within the washes and drainages that flow into the San Juan River in District 13. The project will use carryover funds from the weed inventory project and will also utilize some funding from the Agency budget.

Other Activities for Shiprock Agency:

The Shiprock Agency Bureau of Natural Resources Staff continues to service the Navajo people by attending the Districts 9, 12 & 13 Grazing committee meetings and attending the Northern Navajo Farm board meetings. The staff also provides guidance on conservation plans and information on topics like conservation practice recommendations etc.

These projects benefit the Navajo people preserving the natural resources within the Shiprock agency. The control of invasive weeds aids in not only in the preservation of the natural vegetation also by providing more forage availability. The Utah Navajo boundary project is a project that was requested by the both the local land users and the Aneth chapter administration. This project benefits the Navajo People by locating and the boundary which will give the local population more control over their trust resources.

Western Navajo Agency

The Former Bennett Freeze Area Integrated Resource Management Plan: The Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) for the Former Bennett Freeze Area (FBFA) and the associated Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) have been completed. Preparations are being made to present the final documents to the Navajo Nation Council's Resource Development Committee. After presentation, the Finding of No Significant Impacts decision is made based on the Alternative selected. The BIA Branch of Natural Resources staff worked hard to ensure public participation during the development of the PEA and to make sure to achieve maximum public participation in the PEA process under the difficult circumstances caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Western Navajo Agency Projects.

FBFA Livestock Water Project: The Western Navajo Agency Branch of Natural Resources (WNA-BNR) continues to work with the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources (NNDWR) and the BIA Navajo Regional Office staff to work on water development projects for livestock and wildlife use. This includes the BIA providing funds to the Navajo Nation's Department of Water Resources to maintain and improve developed water sources, such as windmills and earthen tanks. In addition, plans have been prepared for the development of a livestock and agricultural water watering points for individuals who haul water for livestock and farming. Two watering points sites have been identified and funded. For the watering point in the Cameron Chapter area, the BIA has developed a statement of work for the design of and installation of a pipeline and standpipe. The BIA is currently in the acquisition process for hiring a contractor to design and install the waterline.

Land Management District (LMD) 3 and LMD 5 boundary fence reconstruction has been completed by the contractor. The project involved the removal of the old fence and rebuilding the fence with new materials. The project was to maintain the 22-mile LMD 3/5 fence line. Work is currently planned to install a new cattle guard on the fence where Navajo Route 6730 crosses the fence line. The 37-mile LMD 1 and LMD 3 boundary fence work was not completed by the contractor due to delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the contractor's inability to hire enough labor to complete the work.

LMD 1 and LMD 3 Range Management Plans – The LMD 3 Range Management Plan (RMP) and the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Plan have been completed in draft by the contractor and the BIA will complete the final steps of the EA to ensure a Finding of No Significant Impacts is issued. The project was developed to ensure it was aligned with the FBFA Integrated Resource Management Plan. The RMP for LMD 1 was on hold while the LMD 3 RMP was completed and the LMD 1 RMP is slated to be completed in 2022. The LMD 3 covers over 1.4 million acres, of mostly of FBFA, and effects 661 Grazing Permits and the LMD 1 covers 833,625 acres and effects 535 grazing Permits.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Western Navajo Agency has initiated the development of a Cropland Management Plan (CMP) for Land Management District (LMD) 3. The CMP is to provide documentation for the management of croplands for about 1,030 acres. The documentation will assess environmental impacts on the physical environment. This project is,

also, was on hold while the FBFA IRMP PEA is ongoing, but work has resumed on this project. This project is to be complete in 2022.

The implementation of the Tsegi Canyon portion of the “Grazing Management and Stream Restoration Plans for Tsegi and Nitsin Canyons” is in progress and the activities for the Keet Seel and Dowozhiebito canyons fence installations and stream restorations have been completed. The fences are used to keep livestock out of treated areas and restoration work includes installation of erosion control structures and reseeding and replanting. Currently work in Betatakin Canyon is ongoing and monitoring of the improvements at the other sites are ongoing.

It is the policy of BIA to manage Indian agricultural lands and related resources in participation with the beneficial owners of the land. Management activities are performed in a manner consistent with the trust responsibility of the Federal government, which includes protecting and conserving Indian agricultural resources, and promoting the sustained-yield use of Indian agricultural resources.

The Navajo Nation Executive Branch Departments and programs need to continue to actively participate as a Cooperating Agency and members of the Interdisciplinary Team (subject matter experts) for the development of the management plans. The plans are to guide the implementation of the conservation of Trust resources. All Navajo Nation entities need to participate in the management plans to realize the Navajo Nation’s vision for the redevelopment of its resources and includes planning for strategic resource management to restore, preserve and manage these resources for future generations.

BRANCH OF WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

The 2021 fire season was considered “above average” for the Navajo Region, Branch of Wildland Fire and Aviation Management (BWFAM) in addition, to the Western Fire Season. Fire occurrence consisted of 149 – human caused fires burning 921 acres and 34 – lightning caused fires burning 33 acres, the largest incident was the Salt Creek Wildland Incident at 422 acres. In total, there was 1,343 acres burned on Navajo Region. In addition to local suppression activity, Navajo resources were dispatched to various states to include Arizona, New Mexico, Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Colorado, and California. With the continued pandemic, the season ultimately proved to be safe with minor injuries and at least five positive cases of Covid-19 impacting crew operations.

All sections were successful in recruiting and hiring for the 2021 season, despite the effects of the continued pandemic; the Hotshot crew staffed with 18 – personnel; Aviation 8 – personnel; Engines, 6 – personnel. In addition, the Administratively Determined Emergency Hires, commonly referred to as the “Navajo Scouts” had a total of 40 wildland firefighters for the program. All resources received positive evaluations on assignments, with no major accidents or injuries. The Navajo Scouts generated a total earned income of \$409,785 with 22,709 hours worked on the fire-line.

The Navajo Region helitack module along with the Exclusive Use Helicopter (EUH) N950FS accumulated 248.1 flight hours for the 2021 fire season. The EUH contract started, May 1st,

2021. During the month of July, the EUH and module were assigned to the Bear Incident on the Apache Sitgreaves National Forest for fourteen days assisting the local Incident Management Team with air operation mission and having the initial attack responsibility for the district.

On July 14th, 2021 the EUH and module transitioned to the Pacific Northwest (Oregon and Washington) on a resource order to pre-position on the Warm Springs Agency in Oregon for a week. Shortly thereafter, the EUH and module received another resource order to assist with the Summit Trail Incident burning on the Colville Agency in Washington State. The EUH and module spent 77 days in the Pacific Northwest.

The largest wildland fire incident the EUH and module was assigned to the Summit Trail fire, which was 46,000 acres and only recently contained at 60 percent. The Summit Trail Incident has transitioned four Type 2 Incident Management Teams during the duration of the assignment. Forty-eight days were spent on the Summit Trail Incident, which included supporting the Colville Agency with initial attack and continued aerial firefighting support.

On September 27, 2021 the EUH ended its contract period which includes two contract extensions late in the fire season.

The Fuels Management Program completed a commercial permit request for the Regional Programmatic Pile Burn Plan and the Lupton and Hunters Point Projects that are sponsored by the Branch of Natural Resources. The requests were made through the Navajo Forestry Department and have been submitted to the Navajo Regional Office via the “638 contract” process. The permits will allow the fuels program to continue implementation of 5 Hazardous Fuel Reduction (HFR) projects within the Black Creek Wash, Ganado Wash, Lupton Community, White Rock Wash, and White Clay.

The Fuels Management Program is currently evaluating projects within the region for NEPA analysis. Three projects have been identified for future implementation of prescribed fire activities. The Scattered Willow Wash and The Fluted Rock 2 Prescribed Fire Units are located on the Defiance Plateau and include an approximate size of 8,000 acres. The Dezza Bluff Project is located on the Chuska Mountain Range and includes an approximate size of 4,500 acres. The NEPA analysis will include soliciting bids from contractors to complete Environmental Analysis for the projects to follow the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Amidst the national pandemic, 2021 proved to be another busy year for prevention activities. The primary goal of the fire prevention program is to lessen human-caused wildfires with fire investigations, promoting burn registrations and safe burning. With the continued COVID-19 Pandemic, outreach events were limited to in person contact or conference style (WebEx, Teams). Fire prevention implemented more messaging through social media on Facebook and radio messages. The BWFAM are required by policy to investigate all wildfires to determine specific cause and origin. The policy is referenced in the 53 IAM 7-H Forest Trespass Handbook. The following chart shows the total investigated human-caused fires and their categories for the fiscal year.

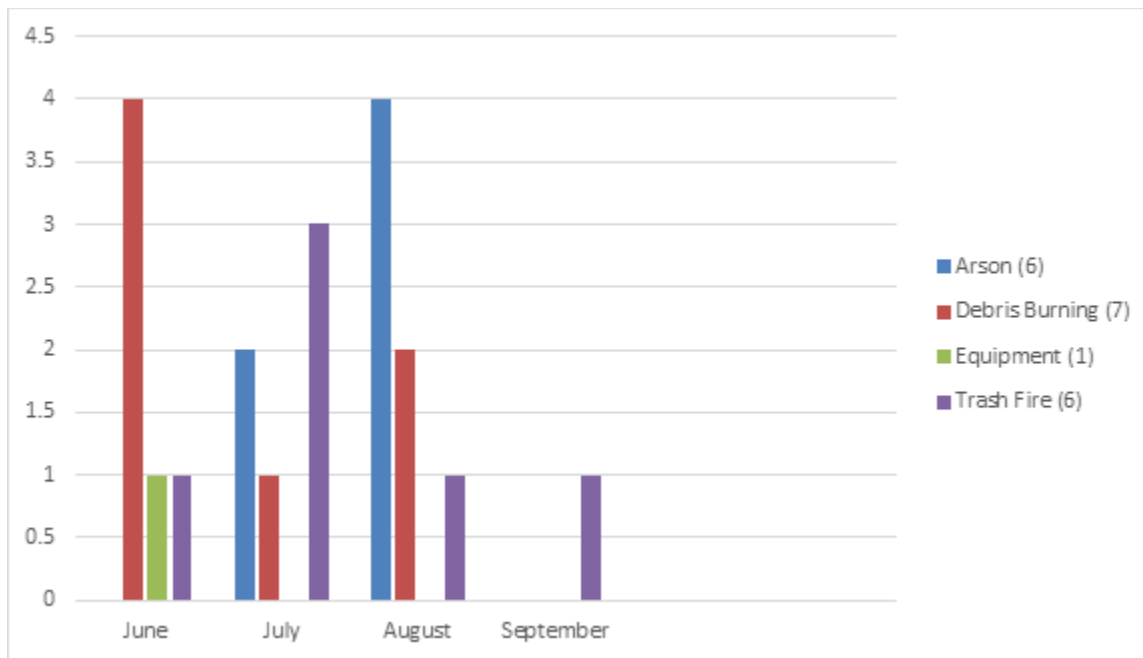


Figure 1. Fire Investigations completed for the months July 2021 to September 2021. Total number 20.

06/24/2021 to 09/13/2021- The Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency/ Air Quality Control and Operating Permit Programs Office provided these fire registration totals (Table 1):

Agricultural Field Burning	Cultural Traditional	Complaints
0	61	0

Table 1. Total burn registrations separated by types. Total 53.

May 14, 2021 to Current - Navajo Nation Executive Stage One Fire Restriction in implemented on May 14, 2021.

April 01, 2021 to 06/23/2021-Fire Prevention Specialist participates in NM Fire Prevention/information conference calls ad Northern Arizona Zone conference calls to stay informed on changes from neighboring agencies regarding fire restriction status and maintaining interagency correspondence on fire prevention changes in the southwest area. New Mexico and Northern Arizona have fire restrictions in place.

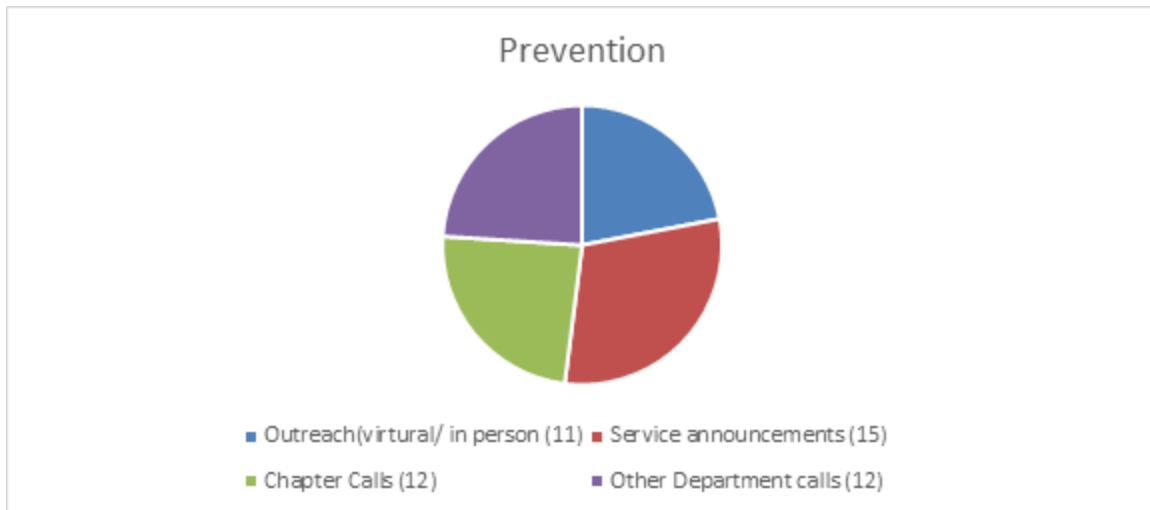


Figure 2. Fire Prevention Activities from July 2021 to September 2021

BRANCH OF ENGINEERING

Water Resources:

Water Monitoring/Water Rights Negotiation & Litigation

The Awarding Official Technical Representative (AOTR) completed a Purchase Requisition to release \$155,000 of FY2021 Water Management Planning and Pre-development N3420 funds to the Navajo Nation Water Management Branch to complete four projects: Black Mesa Navajo Aquifer Monitoring Program, \$50,000; Coconino Aquifer Monitoring Program, \$50,000; Monitoring for Telemetry for Nation Stream Gaging Phase II, \$30,000; and Chuska Mountain Watershed Planning Study, \$25,000

Branch of Engineering submitted four project proposals to BIA Central Office for FY2022 funding for water related activities for both Water Management, Planning, and Pre-Development N3420 and Water Rights, Negotiation and Litigation R3120 on behalf of the Navajo Nation.

PL 111-11 Navajo San Juan Water Settlement Projects

The continue rise of the new delta variant of COVID-19 has impacted all projects causing delays in planning, design, and construction for both the San Juan River Navajo Irrigation Rehabilitation (SJR) and Conjunctive Groundwater Use Wells (CGW) Projects. However, the availability of the vaccine allows projects to start preparation for one construction project to begin this year 2021.

San Juan River Navajo Irrigation Rehabilitation (SJRNIR)

The SJRNIR has two irrigation construction contracts that incorporate nine (9) projects under the Fruitland-Cambridge Irrigation, \$7.7M and the Hogback-Cudei Irrigation, \$15.4M. These projects surround the San Juan River. In addition to the construction contract, there is one monitoring (non-construction) contract. This contract incorporates the planning and

conceptual designs for the irrigation projects be completed prior to the start of construction such as legal surveyed permits, monitoring oversight, data collections, environmental assessments, and other tasks that are required by tribal, state, and federal regulations.

Fruitland-Cambridge Irrigation Projects

Under the PL 111-11, all appropriated funding amount, \$15.4M and the Cost Index amount, \$4.4M for the Fruitland-Cambridge Irrigation has been released to the Navajo Nation (NN). The NN elected to utilize this funding for the completion of the projects due to the rise of inflation from 2008 cost estimates where the cost increased for each project. The following is the update for each project under the Fruitland-Cambridge Irrigation Projects:

1. Fruitland Diversion, a project that includes the replacement of the canal headworks, construction of a new diversion dam, and the fish weir. Currently, the construction schedule has change from starting construction this year 2021 to begin in Fall 2022. This is due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic where cases are increasing in the surrounding areas of this project.
2. Bitsui Siphon, a design-build project to include demolition of existing pipeline and replace with a HDPE pipe and installation of a new trash rack. This project is substantially complete pending final closing documentation to submit to BIA for acceptance.
3. Yellowman Siphon, a project replacing the existing steel pipe and install an automated trash screen. The NN has scheduled a Pre-Construction Meeting with all stakeholders and contractor to start the preparation of the project.
4. Fruitland Canal Seepage, a design project to stabilize the collapsed canal embankment slope of the Fruitland Canal, is substantially complete. The NN is working on the final report to be submitted for acceptance.

Hogback-Cudei Irrigation Project

The PL111-11 appropriated funds of \$15.4M was appropriated to the NN through the P93-638 Contract. The NN is working with BIA NRO Branch of Engineering on the Cost Index funds, \$11.1M. The cost index calculation was accepted by the NN. The NN are currently working on an expenditure report to allocate the funds to add additional projects to the contract. Currently, the Hogback-Cudei Irrigation consists of the following five (5) projects:

1. Helium Lateral Siphon, a project to replace an existing 40-ft steel pipeline with HDPE. This project is substantially complete pending final closing documentation to submit to BIA for acceptance.
2. Hogback Canal Steel Siphons, a project to replace the old-elevated steel siphons and flume along the Hogback Canal and Helium Lateral. The NN advertised for construction to start in the Fall 2022. This is due to the impacts of the COVID-19 where the Navajo Nation procurement has been heavily affected.
3. Eagle Nest Siphon Cleaning and Inlet Safety, a project that cleans Eagle Nest Siphon and installs safety features on both the inlet and outlet of the siphon. In November 2020, the NN conducted a bid solicitation but no bids were received. The NN will re-advertise to have construction start in the Fall 2022.
4. Canal Lining Rehabilitation – Baker Wash Phase is a project to rehabilitate 7,200 ft. of Hogback Canal within the Baker Wash Siphon area. The NN asked to revise the project

to lift the restriction to areas pass the Baker Wash to reduce water seepage within the Hogback canal irrigation system.

5. Lateral Conversion is a project to purchase pipe material as a cost-shared project with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to complete the Colorado River Salinity Program Habitat Replacement (CRSPHR) Project. This project is substantially complete. The NN is working on the final report to be submitted for acceptance.

Conjunctive Groundwater Use Wells Project (CGWUWP)

Under the PL 111-11, the appropriation for the Conjunctive Groundwater Use Wells Project is \$30M. The NN elected to utilize a PL 93-638 contract for planning, design, and construction to rehabilitate water infrastructures such as water wells, waterline interties to main stem lines, and rehabilitate water tanks to assist Navajo communities. Table 1.1 shows complete projects that have been funded utilizing this fund. Currently, there are six (6) projects, and the following are the status of these projects:

1. AMI Meter Phase I, 90% complete. The NN is working with NTUA to complete the final reports with supporting documentation to submit to BIA NRO for close-out processing and acceptance.
2. Sanostee Well Replacement, substantially complete. This project is a cost-share project with the NN. The portion of this project utilizing this funding is complete. Indian Health Service is working on the final close-out documentation to submit on behalf of the NN for acceptance. This project provides sufficient potable water supply to serve 763 homes within the Sanostee community.
3. Tse Bonito WL Extension, COVID-19 delayed scheduling and the NN is working with I.H.S to continue forward.
4. Chichiltah-Vanderwagon Design, the 60% Design Review is in process.
5. Sheep Spring Connection – Phase I Project is in the process of planning and design.
6. Cutter Lateral Blending Study is substantially complete. NN is working to submit the final close-out documentation to submit to BIA for acceptance.

Table 1.1 Conjunctive Groundwater Use Well Completed Projects

Projects	Description
AMI Meters - Phase I	To purchase AMI Meters for forty-three NN Chapters by updating the meters to support an operational AMI Meter system that are currently outdated/malfunctional in-service manual meters for data collection of groundwater usage.
Naschiti to Sheep Springs W/L	Feasibility Study conducted by I.H.S: Archaeological Clearance/ROW Survey/Endangered Species Survey/Engineering Design
Buffalo Springs Intertie to Tohatchi	Feasibility Study conducted by I.H.S: Archaeological Clearance/ROW Survey/Endangered Species Survey/Engineering Design
Twin Lake System	Feasibility Study conducted by I.H.S: Archaeological Clearance/ROW Survey/Endangered Species Survey/Engineering Design

White Horse Lake Phase 3	Permission to Survey for Indian Allotment Lands/Agency Coordination for Revised FONSI/Right-of-Way for Indian Allotment Lands/Right-of-Way for BLM Lands
SCADA Upgrade Eastern Navajo Water Project	Preliminary Engineering Report/Survey Site Plan for Escrito Mesa Tower/EA for Escrito Mesa/EA/Communication Site Plan/Conceptual Design Modification
Mariano Lake System Improvement	Modification to Environmental Action Plan/Conceptual Design Drawing/Conceptual Design Spec's/WL Maintenance and Repair Radiation Safety Plan/ROW Survey/EA and Permits/NEPA Service Connection/ Planning & Conception Design Cost/ Agency Coordination/IHS Coordination
Purchasing materials Project: Naschitti to Sheep Spring Project.	A cost-shared project of construction of a water transmission line from Naschitti Tank to Sheep Spring Tank where material purchasing materials & equipment from the cost saving from previous projects.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

BIA-NRO Branch of Engineering (BOE) notified the Navajo Nation on April 27, 2021 regarding the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) fund for the potable water, \$3M. Currently, BOE is working with NN Division of Community Development (DCD), Dr. Pearl Yellowman in providing water bottles to the Navajo community. The first order was placed from NNDCCD in response to the emergency at Ramah Chapter of 15 pallets of water bottles that will provide potable drinking water to the Navajo people. BOE will continue to work with NNDCCD to provide water bottles to the Navajo communities.

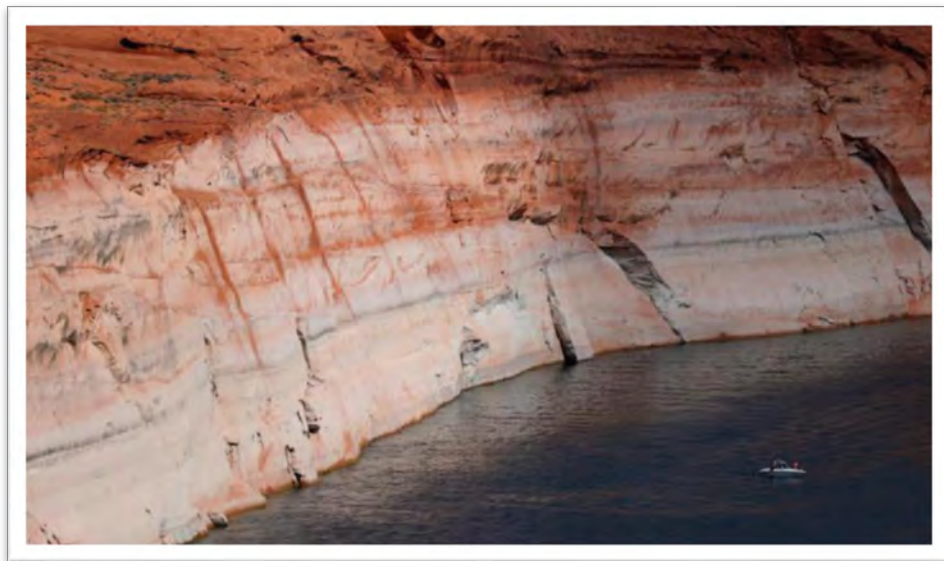
Navajo Indian Irrigation Project (NIIP)

Operations and Maintenance

The 2021 irrigation season is winding down. The head gate at Navajo Dam is scheduled to close on October 15, 2021 ending another successful farming season. The Navajo Indian Irrigation Project (NIIP) water delivery system successfully delivered irrigation water to approximately 74,000 farm acreage during the 2019 season. The successful delivery of water to the NAPI farm acreage provided a positive economic benefit for the Navajo Nation in crop revenue and jobs, as well as, contributing to the overall economy of the Southwest.

Drought

The Lake Powell's water surface elevation has dropped to a record low of 3,547 feet (31% capacity), which is 168 feet less than the maximum elevation. In response to the drought conditions in the Colorado River Basin, Bureau of Reclamation will be working with Tribes, States, Water Users, etc. in the coming months to implement a Drought Response Operations Plan. It is very likely the Drought Response Operations Plan will have an impact on NAPI's Calendar Year 2022 Irrigation Season.



Photos of Lake Powell in July 2021.

Safety of Dams

The Tohajiilee & Charley Day Spring Dams construction contracts have been awarded. The Charley Day Spring Dam work will begin October 4, 2021. The Tohajiilee Dam project has been delayed getting construction access permit.

The Navajo Nation (NN) Dams Early Warning System (EWS) upgrade work is ongoing at Asaayi Dam, Captain Tom Dam, Cutter Dam, Ganado Dam, Todacheene Dam, Tsaile Dam, Tsaile Dam, Wheatfields Dam, Red Lake Dam, and Window Rock Dam.

The monthly Lakewood Central Office, Region Safety of Dams and tribal staff Early Warning System Working Group meetings are ongoing. The purpose is to increase transparency among

Central Office, Region, Agency, and Tribal EWS staff, provide program updates and input from staff outside of Central Office. General topics covered were upcoming field work priorities, EWS Training needs such as online training on website, alarms, or any others, videos on training dashboard, future meeting agenda items, and future meetings scheduling.

The Lakewood Office Safety of Dams, Engineering consultant and Navajo Region Office Safety of Dams have ongoing biweekly meeting/call updates for the Navajo Nation Dams Emergency Action Plans and Tabletop Exercises. The projected completion is August 2022

BRANCH OF REAL ESTATE SERVICES (RES)

Oil and Gas: Real Estate Services (RES) staff have processed payments in June, July, and August 2021, for the 37½ State of Utah, Royalty and Royalty-In-Kind, for the Navajo Nation. Also processed the Water Usage payment for April thru June 2021, from Chevron to the Navajo Nation. Staff as well processed the Annual Rental payment for Navajo Nation Lease No. N0G-9904-1327 from XTO Energy, LLC., which is within the McCracken Mesa area.

We received six (6) proposed Assignments that have been reviewed and processed between Citation Oil & Gas Company and Tall Dunes Resources, LLC. We are also received Amendment No.1 on the Operating Agreement for Desert Creek, Lease No. N0G-1301-1775. Staff partook in a joint site inspection for the Beautiful Mountain leases 14-20-603-4157 and 4158, and one (1) Operating Agreement N0-G-8104-1117, with Bureau of Land Management and the Navajo Nation Minerals Department; inspections were also completed on nine (9) well locations which need corrections by the company before the lease can be terminated.

Staff participated in another joint onsite inspection for a proposed new well located on spilt Estate land which the Navajo Nation has the Surface rights in Lybrook, NM., included in the inspection were representatives from the Navajo Nation General Land Department, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Grazing and Chapter Officers.

Solid Mineral Leases: BLM inspections were conducted with BIA staff in September for Kaibeto Resources Inc, Kayenta Complex Mine, and for the Wheatfield Gravel Pit and Emma Brown Gravel Pit. We have also approved a Sand and Gravel lease for the Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority on the S-Hill site.

Surface Leases: Staff are continuing the research and entry of all lease approvals and lease modifications received. Staff are also researching the McCracken Mesa area pertaining to requests for homesite and grazing permit assistance. Staff have received 196 Navajo Nation homesite leases for recording with 106 completed and returned. We have also processed 2 homesite leases within Allotted trust land.

Work has been completed on 4 new Business Site Leases: Sacred East Bottle Company, Nabinachi Wozani Real Estate, Hill Enterprises Inc., and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9518 (Morgan & Singer). We also processed two (2) cancellations of the following Business Leases; Home for Women and Children, and Hill Enterprises d/b/a KFC. Additional Business Lease applications/packages are being reviewed for final determination.

Compliance letters have been issued on three (3) separate leases, these letters are to allow the Lessee time to either cure the default, appeal the alleged default, or request additional time to work with the interested parties.

Leasehold Mortgages: Staff received one (1) new mortgage for review and approval, once approved the mortgage was recorded and returned. Staff were also in receipt of twenty-two (22) status reports (TSRs) for the Fort Defiance Abandoned Homes Project. Research is ongoing on the abandoned homes located within subdivisions leased by Fort Defiance Housing Corporation. We have also processed an additional 7 Title Status Requests for various reasons.

Rights-of-Way: Staff received an Amendment application for the existing NTUA ROW W.O. No. 87-080-0011, (Bitahochee, AZ); NTUA is proposing to upgrade the existing 114kV to 115 kV and increase the ROW from 30 feet to 100 feet. We are currently working with the applicant to obtain all necessary approvals from the landowners to process the request. Staff has also provided technical assistance to NTUA with Right of Way legal descriptions for project numbers 18-170-0005, and 18-153-0034.

We are also working with ADOT on the Laguna Creek Bridge, Kayenta, AZ., As-Built Temporary Construction Easement, we are currently awaiting ADOT to resubmit their application.

We are assisting Arcadian Infracom Inc., by providing various reviews and comments to two (2) of three (3) large scale long-haul fiber optic line projects crossing the Navajo Nation and Indian Allotment lands, northeast Arizona, and northwest New Mexico; Submittal of Phase-1 ROW, is pending completion of NEPA report, compliances and FONSI; a courtesy review and comment have been completed for Phase –1 of the project.

An additional four (4) other right-of-way applications are currently being reviewed for completeness. Once a determination is made, the applications will be considered for approval or denial based on the information provided.

Acquisition and Disposal: Staff completed ten (10) Allotment land sale transaction reports for decision. The real property in these sale transactions have been identified as Indian Allotments (IA) whereby the Navajo Nation, Arizona, New Mexico and Utah, tribe negotiated acquisitions of the parcels of allotments from Original Allottees and/or their respective heirs. After a thorough and extensive reexamination of the transactions we processed the Final Decision Letters to the Navajo Nation. Upon receipt of the decision letters, the Navajo Nation filed nine (9) Notice of Appeal letters with IBIA; we have prepared and submitted the full Administrative Record on the nine (9) transactions pertinent to said Notice of Appeal.

Cadastral Survey & Unresolved Rights: AZ/NM/UT-Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Agreements & Modifications on Funding approved three (3) modifications for a total of \$425,000.000 for all three State Offices. Arizona (AZ): \$150,000, for two surveys on T32N, R27E, Canyon De Chelly North and T30N, R12E (east of Tuba City/Old Coal Mine Mesa). New Mexico (NM): \$135,000, to continue with T13N, R18W (Breadsprings, Subdivision of Section 9, T19N, R5W (Star Lake) and Townships 29 & 30 North, Ranges 17 & 18 West (Shiprock

Townsite). Utah (UT): \$140,000, for three surveys; on T39N, R22E, T42S, R15E (Oljato) and final review of two completed field surveys in Red Mesa area.

New priority lists are in draft, and BLM will continue with new field surveys, for FY21/22. AZ field/completed/approved surveys: T30N, R12.5E (Old Coalmine Mesa) - Field survey is completed & pending final review & approval; T30N, R12E (Old Coalmine Mesa) - Field survey will start in October 2021. UT field/completed/approved surveys: T43S, R25E: Field survey completed near Red Mesa, UT. NM field/completed/approved surveys: Most projects are still on hold until further notice due to COVID-19. T13N, R18W (Breadsprings) - About 20% field work completed and will resume in October/November 2021. One Allotment (Ojo Encino) - New survey cost estimate received for subdivision of Section 9, T19N, R5W, McKinley County, NM; due to a trespass determination of disturbed area.

School Impact Statements on Navajo Students: Received and completed the request by the Gallup McKinley County Schools, including the land status & verification inquiries across 34 Navajo Chapters within McKinley County on 5,589 Navajo students living on Navajo Tribal Trust, Allotted or BIA Administrative Reserve Areas. Also received and completed the request by the Red Mesa Unified School District #27, we are still awaiting the final letter of approval.

Special Projects: Staff provided information to Council Delegate Eugene Tso regarding the return of BIA Administration Lands to the tribe.

We have also provided updates to Honorable Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton regarding the former Shiprock Administrative Reserve and to the Honorable Delegate Amber Crotty and Sanostee Chapter Officials of the relinquishment of former Sanostee School site.

Staff members are working with the Office of Solicitor: Navajo Nation Claim of Mineral Properties, Hogback-Waterflow New Mexico; we are providing ongoing assistance with research of the surface and mineral properties claimed by various parties in a litigation case that is situated along or adjacent to the San Juan River. Ownership of the tracts were reconstructed to properly show ownership tract boundaries in accordance with the patents issued by deeds and/or Homestead Act and Executive Orders. Information was also provided to the Southwest Region Office of the Solicitor with research of permits issued within Township 32 North, Range 11 East, Section 20, Tuba City, Arizona.

BRANCH OF PROBATE

Deceased Navajo allotted landowners trust property is probated by the Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA), Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Navajo Region Division of Probate prepares cases by completing research for probable heirs of the decedent. Research is completed by contacting the family members of the decedent by means of home visits, searching internet, telephone interviews, writing letters and office visits. Division of Probate staff does majority of the family research work at the Navajo Nation Enrollment Office. Probates that are completed are for Allotted Individual Trust lands. It helps the Navajo landowners in updating Trust ownership records.

A total of ninety-six (96) cases were transferred to OHA for hearing to be scheduled, as follows: **49** by Fort Defiance Agency, **8** by Shiprock Agency, **33** by Eastern Navajo Agency, and **6** by Western Navajo Agency. It is an on-going process with death happening daily. At present time, the following is Navajo Region's case load by Agencies:

Agencies	Case Loads
Eastern Navajo Agency	2,986
Fort Defiance Agency	1118
Shiprock Agency	655
Tuba City Agency	29
Total # Cases for Navajo Region:	4,698

INDIAN SERVICES

BRANCH OF INDIAN SELF DETERMINATION

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Navajo Region (NR) Branch of Indian Self-Determination (ISD) continues to work with Navajo Nation's (Nation) twenty-three non-construction contracts, three Subpart J Construction contracts and five other tribal organizations under Public Law (Pub. Law) 93-638. All contractors provide services to communities and other contractual activities, in accordance with their Scope of Work (SOW) and budgets. All 2021 Annual Funding Agreements were reviewed and approved for 100% of all federal funds, upon receipt of the allocations appropriated by Congress including the Contract Support Cost (CSC). Each program was awarded available Direct CSC Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 which was calculated at 18 percent of salaries and the Indirect Cost (IDC) using the contractor's Negotiated and Approved Agreement rate. The NR continues to work with the Nation to complete virtual monitoring. All funds awarded entirely benefit the Nation. The following programs were awarded:

The Navajo Nation		Funds Awarded
A17AV00096	Higher Education (Scholarship)	773,173.00
A17AV00252	Tribal Courts (Judicial)	494,274.00
A17AV00262	Archaeological Services/Non-Roads	192,182.00
A18AV00235	Corrections/Adult Detention	3,218,227.00
A18AV00236	Corrections/Juvenile Detention	1,451,073.00
A18AV00262	Forestry Management Program	243,129.00
A18AV00338	Water Development	827,662.40
A19AV00373	Tribal Enrollment (Census)	1,430,469.00
A19AV00376	Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Program	576,807.00
A19AV00490	Safety of Dams Program	181,422.00
A20AV00003	Housing Improvement Program	11,672,689.00
A20AV00139	Water Monitoring & Inventory	228,838.00
A20AV00898	Many Farms Community School Subpart J	350,000.00
A21AV00001	Natural Heritage Program	580,962.13
A21AV00002	Fish and Wildlife Program	114,611.00
A21AV00003	Social Services-Department of Family Services	2,064,413.00
A21AV00004	Johnson O'Malley	1,627,663.00
A21AV00140	Law Enforcement-Criminal Investigations	1,405,019.00
A21AV00186	Law Enforcement-Patrol Services	6,742,753.00
A21AV00383	Social Services-Navajo Treatment Center for Children & Their Families	96,638.00
A21AV00384	Social Services-Navajo Family Assistance Services and Assistance Program	456,912.00
	Total	\$ 34,728,916.53
Other Tribal Programs		
A19AV00632	Navajo Technical University	1,476,725.00
A19AV00739	Alamo Navajo School Board	13,016.00
A19AV00984	Dine Bi Olta School Board Association	386,376.00
A21AV00046	Navajo Agricultural Products Industry Subpart J NIIP	2,335,000.00
A21AV00158	Navajo Agricultural Products Industry	1,923,404.00
A21AV00486	Rock Point Community School	100,088.00
	Total	6,234,609.00
	Grand Total	\$ 40,963,525.53

Awarding Official Technical Representative (AOTR) Activities:

Office of Tribal Government Services serves as the AOTR for the following three P.L. 93-638 contracts: Tribal Enrollment, Tribal Courts and Higher Education in coordination with the Awarding Official, Program Administrator and Navajo Nation; the following transactions were completed this quarter:

The following transactions were completed this quarter.

As courtesy to Navajo Nation 638 programs, on September 17, 2021, informed Program Manager of Regional Office closure due to pre-cautionary measures for COVID-19 during pandemic. AOTR mentioned CDC guidelines are being adhered to and NRO will reopen September 20, 2021.

Awarding Official Technical Representative (AOTR) Activities:

As courtesy to Navajo Nation 638 programs, on September 17, 2021, informed Program Manager of Regional Office closure due to pre-cautionary measures for COVID-19 during pandemic. AOTR mentioned CDC guidelines are being adhered to and NRO will reopen September 20, 2021.

P.L. 93-638 Contractual Program, Tribal (Census) Enrollment program Contract, A16AV00285:

Monitoring site visit for Calendar Year 2020 and 2021 is pending to be scheduled. A virtual meeting is being coordinated during this COVID-19 pandemic. Coordination is ongoing on the monitoring review date.

On July 22, 2021, AOTR received Program Manager inquiry regarding the status of the AIRR and its reopening. On July 26, 2021, RIMS provided a response noting *“The AIRR is still closed, but they are discussing reopening plans for the facility.”* Once more information is made available on the AIRR reopening information will be shared.

On July 22, 2021, AOTR received inquiry on when Federal buildings will be re-opened for tribal enrollment programs to operate within federal buildings. AOTR is checking on status with BIA Safety Management.

P.L. 93-638 Contractual Program, Tribal Courts program, Contract A17AV00252:

On September 27, 2021, AOTR continues to follow up and coordinate with the Administrative Director and Chief Justice on monitoring site visit for Calendar Year 2020/2021. A virtual meeting is being proposed during this pandemic, COVID-19.

P.L. 93-638 Contractual Program, Higher Education, Contract A17AV00096:

On August 30, 2021, AOTR, Regional Director BIA and Program Manager, Navajo Nation Higher Education program, Office of Management Budget held the virtual monitoring review for Chinle Agency. AOTR is working on the close out of the monitoring report. No significant findings were identified. AOTR continues to provide technical assistance as requested by the program.

Human Services, Navajo Nation Social Services:**Government Performance Results Act (GPRA):**

The GPRA Modernization Act was enacted in 1993, one of a series of laws designed to improve government performance management. The GPRA requires agencies to set goals, measuring results and reporting their progress. Each agency submits an annual performance plan with its strategic plan outlining its mission, long-term goals for its major functions, performance measure and reporting results.

The Navajo Nation Division of Social Services set its Annual GPRA Performance Measure for 1811 at 69% for this Fiscal Year, 2021. The Measurement for 1811 is the percentage of General Welfare Assistance recipients who are eligible for employment and have met their goals they set for themselves which are identified in their Individual Self Sufficiency Plans (ISP). These recipients are trying to become self-sufficient.

Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA):

The ICWA is a 43-year-old federal law protecting the well-being and best interests of Indian children and families by upholding family integrity and stability and keeping Indian children connected to their community and culture. ICWA also reaffirms the inherent rights of tribal nations to be involved in child welfare matters involving their members.

The Navajo Regional Office continues to respond to ICWA Notices received by the State(s). For this current fourth quarter, there were 59 ICWA Notices our office received and processed within the allotted timeframe of 15 days.

Other activities:

The prevalence of suicide deaths in the U.S. is astonishing, but together we can create positive changes. During the National Suicide and Prevention Month in September, help us spread the facts about suicide and educate others on how we help those who may be struggling. If you or someone you know is in an emergency, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-TALK (8255) or call 911 immediately.

The Office of the Branch of Human Services continue to remain available virtually during the Pandemic for Technical Assistance. All requests for technical assistance or training will be provided in accordance with the scope of work as contracted under Public Law 93-638 and as requested by the Navajo Nation.

Housing Services- Housing Improvement Program

Navajo Nation Housing Improvement Program (NNHIP), Contracts A16AV00407 and A20AV00003 Contract A16AV00407: Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 – 2018 NNHIP: This contract is expired and needs to be closed out.

Contract No. A20AV00003: FY2019 – FY 2021 – This contract is following reporting requirements. Due to COVID-19, construction activities have lagged. The contract ends 2/31/2021 and will need to be extended, to fully spend total contract funds of \$14,176,074.25.

Funding breakdown is as follows:

- FY2019: \$ 1,009,177.25
- FY2020: \$ 1,494,208.00
- FY 2021: \$ 1,756,003.00
- FY21 ARPA: \$ 9,916,686.00
- Contract Total: \$14,176,074.25

FY2019 – A revised Construction Schedule is being developed by the NNHIP.

FY2020 – An updated Construction Schedule is also being developed.

FY2021 – Final funding was awarded via contract modification. The top applicants were submitted to BIA Branch of Environmental for National Environmental Policy Act review and Categorical Exclusion determination.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Funding in the amount of \$9,916,686 was awarded to the Nation via contract modification. The Nation’s Community Housing and Infrastructure Development Office submitted a revised SOW and Budget.

NNHIP Administration: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NR BIA Housing Improvement Program Officer and Nation’s Housing Program Manager communicated via email and telephone regarding FY2019, 2020, 2021, ARPA funding and program matters. The NRO BIA Housing Officer serves as the NR’s Freedom of Information Act Office (FOIA) Coordinator. There were thirteen requests during this reporting cycle and no requests on the Backlog Report.

P.L. 93-638 Contractual Program, CY 2020, Federal Financial Report, Fish & Wildlife Program Contract No. A16AV00335 and Natural Heritage Contract No. A16AV00368

The Natural Heritage Program - Contract No. A16AV00368 and Fish & Wildlife Management Program - Contract No. A16AV00335, submitted their Annual Narrative Reports on CY 2020 Annual Funding (AFA) by the Navajo Nation P.L. 93-638 Contracted Programs date April 30, 2021.

After reviewing the Narrative Report, the Branch of Natural Resources finds the reports acceptable despite the Navajo Nation Executive Branch Shutdown of the Navajo Nation government from March 16, 2020 to August 16, 2020.

P.L. 93-638 Contract No. A21AV00001 Natural Heritage Program

Modification No. 5 for the Navajo Nation’s Natural Heritage Program, Public Law 93-638 Contract No. A21AV00001. The modification increased the contract amount by \$461,521.13, which represents one-time non-reoccurring funds for Biological Services. The funds are obligated and available for draw down through the Automated Standard Application for Payment (ASAP) system.

The Natural Heritage Program - Contract No. A21AV00001 requested additions funds for personnel cost. The Natural Heritage Program within the past four years received approximately \$265,995.00 on an annual basis for six employees. Non-based funds can be utilized to cover any additional personal cost.

The AOTR will conduct a virtual meeting with the Navajo Nation Fish & Wildlife to get updates regarding the \$6.7 million for the Development of the Agriculture Resource Management Plan for the Navajo Nation.

Public Law (PL) 93-638 Water Monitoring Contract

An Annual Monitoring Meeting was held September 27, 2021 for the Water Monitoring & Inventory Contract for FY2021 virtually between BIA NRO and Navajo Nation Water Management Branch.

Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) Compliance Activities: The BIA Regional Archeologist worked with the Navajo Nation Heritage/Historic Preservation Department (NNHHPD), the BIA Western Region Archeologist along with the cultural resource contractor to map the impacts on two archaeological sites. These two sites were impacted due to construction activities by the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) in the Houck, Arizona area. The damage occurred when NTUA construction crews failed to review the Compliance Resource Cultural Forms that provides information on the locations of archeological sites. These sites were bladed two archaeological sites that was servicing a new house. The NNHHPD is the lead agency in conducting the assessment with the assistance from BIA Navajo Region and Western Region staff. The assessment will result in providing remedies or penalties for the NTUA regarding this violation. This effort between federal agencies and the NNHHPD is coordinated effort to protect Navajo Nation archaeological sites and ensure that violations to those sites will be addressed and violators will be held accountable.

National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106, Compliance Activities: The BEQACR staff has processed 431 Section 106 Reviews since January 2021 through September 2021. BEQACR Regional Archeologist traveled to Navajo Nation Bear Ears Monument to meet with the Navajo Nation Heritage Historic Preservation Department (NNHHPD) and their consultants to assist them in developing a management plan for this area. Regional Archeologist provided technical assistance to the NNHHPD and addressed the concerns of local Navajos on the management plan for the Navajo Nation Bear Ears Monument. Technical guidance was provided to the attendees in submitting their recommendations to the management plan for the Navajo Nation Bear Ears Monument to protect cultural resources.

BEQACR received an EA for the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) US 64 Highway Alignment Study. The study is to identify corridor deficiencies, prioritize smaller construction projects within the study limits, and identify any right-of-way (ROW) easement needs from the Navajo Nation for the US Highway 64 (US 64) Alignment Study Project from US Highway 160 at Teec Nos Pos, Arizona, to US 491 in Shiprock, New Mexico. This project will be making the US 64 Highway a safer highway for the Navajo Nation members to travel for work, school and other essential travel needs.

BEQACR is prioritizing communications and reviews of environmental documents for the Navajo Nation American Rescue Plan Act projects such as waterlines, electrical lines, and other types of infrastructure development. Since January 2021, the BEQACR office has processed approximately 215 ARPA Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act reviews for ARPA projects on the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Nation tribal members will benefit from these infrastructures to improve Navajo Nation communities.

BRANCH OF ENVIRONMENTAL

Branch of Environmental Management

The Branch of Environmental Management (BEM) and the Branch of Environmental Quality Act Compliance (BEQACR) staff continue to work on environmental projects for the Navajo Nation.

Shiprock Administrative Reserve (SAR): For this Quarter, the contractor for BEM completed the American Society for Testing & Materials (ASTM) Environmental Site Assessment (ESA)

Phase II Sampling for the remaining 47 buildings located at the SAR. The tested results identified the location, type, and quantity of the hazardous materials present within these buildings and exterior area. The hazardous materials within the buildings and exterior areas requires abatement before demolition occurs. BEM staff are entering the request for funding for abatement and demolition for each building in the Facility Management database.

Sanostee Chapter Land Relinquishment: The Sanostee Chapter requested from the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the relinquishment of 91.3 acres of land area that was once used by the former Sanostee Boarding School. The school is demolished, and the Chapter expressed an interest in re-using the land for their community. BEM provided funds to complete ASTM ESA Phase I which was awarded in mid-September 2021. The contract requires the ASTM Phase I to be completed within 30-days. If ASTM ESA Phase I indicates potential environmental hazards the next step is to initiate the ASTM Phase II to sample the potential hazards.

Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Highlights: The SDWA staff continue to provide technical support to fifty-seven (57) Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools and their educational resource centers on weekly, monthly, and quarterly basis. All the monthly bacteriological samples are submitted by each school to Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) for testing. The monthly and quarterly chemical analysis are monitored and sampled for testing. This Quarter majority of the drinking water sampling for the BIE schools have been completed. BEM is awaiting the test results and this information is submitted to the primacy agencies, the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency-Public Water System Supervision Program (NNEPA-PWSSP) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region IX (USEPA). The chemical constituents that require annual monitoring and others that are considered scheduled monitoring that vary from year-to-year. The NNEPA-PWSSP and USEPA Region IX have primacy for the drinking water and have oversight of the sampling and reporting of water quality. The sampling, testing, and reporting program runs January 1 through December 3, 2021.

BEM staff completed the fifty-seven (57) Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR) for BIE which includes the educational resource centers. The CCR is an annual water quality report the SDWA requires for a community water system (CWS) to provide to its customers. The CCR report lists the regulated contaminants found in the drinking water, as well as. health effects information related to violation of the drinking water standards.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)-Wastewater: BEM staff completed the required NPDES Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) data requested by the USEPA Region IX, Enforcement Division/Information Management Section database (NetDMR) for BIE schools. The sampling, monitoring, and reports maintain environmental compliance for BIE schools with the regulatory agencies.

Branch of Environmental Quality Act Compliance Review

Navajo Integrated Weed Management Plan (IWMP) Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): For this Quarter, the BEQACR staff is working with the Department of Interior (DOI) to schedule the review for the IWMP draft EIS. DOI scheduled the meeting for October 15, 2021. The DOI Review will allow the BIA to proceed with publishing the Notice of

Availability and the Public Scoping for the draft EIS to occur in November 2021. The Record of Decision (ROD) to proceed with the project is tentatively scheduled for March 2022. The draft IWMP EIS once completed will be used to provide guidance for addressing invasive weed species on the Navajo Nation. This is beneficial for maintaining the health and vigor of the ecosystem. The BIA requests the continued support and participation of the Navajo Division of Natural Resources programs to complete IWMP.

Arcadia Fiber Optics Project: BEQACR staff is working with project proponents, Arcadia to ensure their Environmental Assessment (EA) complies with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements for the future installation of the fiber optic line(s). The Endangered Species Section 7 and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 compliance process is pending with the Navajo Nation. BEQACR staff will continue to work with Arcadia to assist with the progression of much needed broadband communication access to Navajo Nation tribal members, communities, schools, and health care facilities. Arcadia submitted their public participation plan to BEQACR for their review.

Farmington Mancos Gallup Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA): The BEQACR Regional Archeologist continues to work on the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA). Due to the pandemic the RMPA EIS is on hold pending the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement (PA). The RMPA EIS is in the final stages to draft the Record of Decision (ROD) which is scheduled for June 2022. The Programmatic Agreement (PA) is approximately 70% completed, however the consulting parties, mainly the tribal governments requested holding off on the meeting with BIA and BLM until the PA is finalized citing two recommendations. First, due to the pandemic a meeting should not be schedule for the health and safety of the attendees. Second, FY2020, Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs (ASIA) allocated one million dollars to have the tribes conduct an ethnographic study surrounding the Chaco Canyon region which is part of the decision area for the RMPA EIS. Although the ethnographic study is a separate project from the RMPA EIS, the tribes contend this information is needed to ensure the PA is sufficient in addressing their cultural concerns. The Navajo Nation has commented on the PA and developed on the Section 106 process for Tribal and Allotted lands. The Navajo Nation was also awarded over \$400K and the Navajo Nation (NN) Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) to conduct an independent study of the cultural resources for the NN. The next steps are to establish a ZOOM meeting or teleconference call for project updates and provide PA for review with the consulting parties. The goal is to meet with the consulting parties before the November 2021 as the Pueblo Tribes have ceremonial activities that start in November that continue into February 2022. It would also be good for the PA be signed by BLM, BIA, Navajo Nation, NM State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and Advisory Council on Historic Places to make is a valid PA. All the consulting parties can sign the PA as Consulting Parties.

BRANCH OF SAFETY

Branch of Safety (BOS) continues to provide latest Covid-19 guidance to BIA staff regarding updated U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Department of Interior Covid-19 guidance. BOS also provides Covid-19 guidance to Navajo Nation employees who occupy Government Agency buildings. As new Covid-19 delta variant studies become available, information is provided by BOS staff.

BOS staff continues to implement the Indian Affairs Safety and Occupational Safety and Health Program (OSHP) such as, by processing claims under the Loss Compensation Program. Extensive research is required from Safety staff to ensure claims are submitted to the Regional Solicitor's Office for review and determination. BOS staff work extensively with the Navajo Nation Department of Justice regarding Public Law 93-638 Tribal Programs to retrieve relevant documents for legal review of certain claims.

BOS staff continue to provide technical assistance regarding the Emergency Assistance Plan to the Facility Management staff at Chinle Agency. Ongoing technical assistance also affects Navajo Nation staff who occupy office space within the Chinle Agency building. Safety staff stays in frequent contact with Tribal staff regarding any changes in general Safety guidelines and Covid-19 guidelines. BOS staff also coordinated site visits such as at the Jeehdeeza Elementary School where at the request of BIE staff, BOS responded to an incident of structural building compliance. BOS continues to provide technical assistance at various Schools regarding other structural compliance issues and general safety related issues.

BOS staff completed twenty-nine (29) BIA annual safety inspections which were assigned to Safety Officers by the Division of Safety & Risk Management (DSRM), which were all completed by August 2021. Three (3) Agency headquarter buildings are occupied by multi-agencies the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Nation (Public Law 93-638 programs) and Bureau of Indian Education offices. Inspections are conducted in accordance with the Indian Affairs adopted codes as outlined in the Fire, Safety, Health and Accessibility Inspection/Evaluation Guidelines. The key element and purpose for inspection is to ensure employees and the public at these Agency facilities are provided a safe environment. Safety works closely with BIE Facility Management as they correlate Abatement Plans to abate recognized hazardous and unsafe conditions in timely manner. BOS upholds BIA's fiduciary trust responsibilities in accordance with Indian Affairs OSHP by inspecting the following: fire alarms, fire sprinklers, and any eminent danger to life, health, property, or infrastructure that requires correction or hazard controlled to a lower level of risk through protocols and emergency action plans to enhance the quality of life through optimization of the organization's existing resources.

BOS staff provided extensive trainings for various BIE Schools on the Navajo Nation including but not limited to the following: Naatsis'aan Community School, Rocky Ridge Boarding School, Kaibeto Boarding School, Tonalea Day School, and Tuba City Community School, Kayenta Community School and Dennehotso School. Trainings were conducted for School staff and the following trainings were provided by BOS Staff: CPR/First-aid, AED Bloodborne/Airborne Pathogens, Defensive Driving, Fire Safety, and Safety and Occupational Health.

BOS's goals are to minimize liability, injury, or property damage by creating a Safety culture through awareness and by conducting periodic annual health and safety inspections. The safety program also conducts safety trainings for building occupants to ensure appropriate responses are made in emergency situations.

The Navajo Nation Government is encouraged to ensure all Tribal programs occupying BIA Agency facilities participate and cooperate in BIA initiated fire drills, closure or lock down

procedures and adhere to safety guidelines to minimize exposure to the Covid 19 virus. BOS also highly recommends all tribal staff occupying BIA facilities to clean and sanitize their workstations to help create a safe work environment.

BRANCH OF FACILITY MANAGEMENT

Quarters Improvement and Repair (QI&R) Employee Housing

A project to refurbish (correct code deficiencies and modernize) two houses, five duplex apartments and one 5-unit apartment building is in progress at Nazlini Community School, Nazlini, Arizona. Installation of buried utility (sewer, water & gas) in the housing area is 100% completed. Roof replacement on all project buildings, concrete curb and gutter installation and concrete landings and sidewalks are 100% completed. The Contractor is presently paving the new streets. Interior renovation and installation of plumbing and electrical wiring and painting drywall and floor tile installation is complete in most buildings. The entire project is 74.2% completed and the estimated completion date is September 30, 2021. The Contractor and his subcontractors were delayed due to material and lumber shortage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Contractor continues with compliance requirements with COVID-19 as required by CDC guidelines at the project site. *Description of attached photos at Nazlini project site are: Top photo:* Completed street pavement and in the background, NTUA crew removed and installed new power pole in its place within the school compound. *Bottom photo:* Completed street pavement up even with concrete curb and gutter in front of fire station and part of the housing area.

Minor Improvement and Repair (MI&R) School Locations

Manages the construction projects which consist of projects ranging from upgrade/improvement of sewage lagoons and underground utilities, repairing and painting of elevated water storage tanks, roof replacement, installation of new playground equipment and HVAC system upgrades in facilities at the following locations: Wide Ruins Community School, Wide Ruins, Arizona, Flagstaff Dorm, Flagstaff, Arizona, Pine Springs Day School, Pine Springs, Arizona, and Shiprock Agency Headquarters, Shiprock, New Mexico. Manages the Architecture and Engineering service to conduct the facility condition assessment at the following location: Jeehdeez'a Academy School, Low Mountain, Arizona,



BRANCH OF TRANSPORTATION

Road Maintenance:

The Agency Road Maintenance Program continues to perform routine maintenance activities on BIA system roads, bridges, and transportation facilities on the Navajo Nation through direct service. Below are some of the road maintenance accomplishments, our Agency Road Maintenance program performed during the 4th quarter.

Farmington Field Office (Formerly NIIP Roads):

The Farmington Road Maintenance field staff performed a cut and fill operation on Route N3003, wherein they milled out 4 inches of roadway and repaved it for a smoother surface for the safety of the traveling public. They also conducted surface patching on various routes which involved placing Unique Pavement Material (UPM) in potholes created by semi-tractor trailers and prairie dogs. Another maintenance activity that was conducted during this reporting period was the repair/replacement of roadway delineators, signs, posts, and hardware on various routes.

The Farmington Road Maintenance field staff have assisted Shiprock Agency with grading of earth roads that were damaged by the monsoon rainstorms for approximately three (3) weeks and assisted with their mowing operation on Route N36 and N13. In addition, they assisted Shiprock Agency with surface pavement repair on Route N13.

Other activities

include road assessments, shop building maintenance, preventative equipment service & maintenance, daily reports, safety meeting, etc.



DURING – Route N3003: Pavement Repair: Milling.



AFTER – Repaved the milled areas.

New Lands Field Office (Nahata Dziil):

The New Lands Road Maintenance field office performed pavement surface patching on various routes utilizing UPM to fill potholes and longitudinal cracks after cleaned and prepped for placement.

The New Lands Road Maintenance field office assisted the Chinle Agency with mowing operations on routes N4, N41, N8066 and N64 to address vegetation control. They also assisted the Ft. Defiance Agency Road Maintenance with erosion repair work on earth roads due to the monsoon rainstorms. Other maintenance activities conducted were vegetation removal, fence

repair, blading, channel cleaning, roadway assessments and routine & preventative maintenance on various equipment.



BEFORE – New Lands Road: Vegetation Removal.



AFTER – Vegetation removal for improving visibility.



BEFORE – Assist Ft. Defiance repairing earth roads.



DURING – Washout repair in progress.

Shiprock Agency:

The Shiprock Agency Road Maintenance installed a concrete valley gutters on Route N569 to improve the drainage and protect the roadway surface. In addition to installing the valley gutters, permanent roadway signs were installed in coordination with the local utility company. The monsoon rainstorms caused havoc and resulted in major washouts in the region. With the assistance of the Apache County Roads Department, they were able to respond to the more severe conditions within the first week and well into the weekend. In a joint effort with Navajo Division of Transportation (NDOT), Apache County, BIA-Farmington Road Maintenance, and our road maintenance crew, we repaired several washouts that were severely damaged and made

our earth roads passable for emergency vehicles and local community members. We coordinated and maintained contact to continue to address washouts and routine maintenance. The Shiprock Agency Road Maintenance conducted a mill and fill operation on Route N3003 near Gallegos Wash Bridge, N801. The work included milling the top 3 inches, 11 feet wide and 250 feet in length, which resulted in 100 tons of new hot asphaltic concrete pavement (HACP) and a smooth road surface for the safety of the traveling public.

A representative from Liberty Oil Field Trucks provided signs, posts, and hardware to install on Route N5 at the Junction of NM371 and US491 to keep their truck-drivers off the roadway since truck loads exceeded the weight limit. Also, a BUMP sign was installed going east bound at the request of Honorable Council Delegate Daniel Tso, 24th Navajo Nation Council.

A striping contract will be forth coming for various paved routes within the Shiprock Agency such as Rock Point, Montezuma Creek, Aneth and Beclabito. Also, the Shiprock Agency Road Maintenance office moved to 304 N Auburn Ave, Farmington.



BEFORE – New Lands Road: Pavement Surface Damaged AFTER – Roadway surface repaired using UPM.



Monsoon 2021 – Shiprock Agency Roads: High flows carried debris and sediment onto our roadways.



Monsoon 2021 – Shiprock Agency Roads: Major runoffs caused the roads to be undermined and washed-out earth roads.



DURING – N3003: Mill and Fill Operation. Milled area. HACP.



DURING – N3003: Compacting and finishing the new



AFTER – N5: Signs were installed per Liberty Oil Fields Representative and Honorable Council Delegate Daniel Tso, 24th NNC

Western Navajo Agency:

The Western Navajo Agency Road Maintenance repaired several emergency roadway washouts and severe erosions from the monsoon rainstorms. Repairs were conducted due to the severity of the washouts and these earth roads were made passable for the safety of the traveling public. Several culvert pipes were replaced during the repair work on various routes in Tuba City, Chilchinbito and Leupp, Arizona.

The following routine maintenance activities were performed during the 4th quarter and they are as follows:

- Removing sand drifts off the roadway on Route N59,
- Replaced damaged and missing regulatory and warning signs within Western Navajo Agency on BIA paved routes,
- Repaired fences on several routes within the Western Navajo Agency,
- The fences were either damaged from vehicles accidents or the local people cutting the fence lines,
- Performed routine blading services on several routes within Western Navajo Agency, bus routes and high-volume roads.



Monsoon 2021 – Western Navajo Agency Earth Roads: Major runoffs caused the earth roads to be washed out.



Monsoon 2021 – Western Navajo Agency Earth Roads: The rainstorms caused major flooding and earth roads impassable.



Monsoon 2021 – Western Navajo Agency Earth Road Repair: Install new pipe culverts.

Chinle Agency:

The Chinle Agency Road Maintenance performed roadway repairs according to their road assessments, community member's request, chapters, NDOT and other agencies in collaboration with NDOT, Navajo County, Apache County, other Agencies, and the Chapters. The Navajo Partition Land (NPL) office in Pinon, Arizona requested for assistance in mowing routes N4 and N41, so NPL officials can spray herbicide on the obnoxious weeds along the roads.

The monsoon rainstorms caused washouts on the primary roads, earth roads, overtopped various roadways, transported sediment/debris onto the roads and caused major erosions along these roads. The high runoffs in Black Mesa have caused a cattleguard to be undermined and had to be removed temporarily for the safety of the residents and the traveling public. Hence, the repair consisted of filling in the void with natural soil, so the residence can access their driveway. Other areas in the region required the earth roads to be repaired such as removing silt and debris off the paved roads and blading the earth roads, which were passable after the repairs.

The following routine maintenance activities were performed during the 4th quarter and they are as follows:

- Clean the bridge decks of silt for proper drainage and along the guardrails for better sight distance as part of bridge maintenance on Route N13 and N7,
- Clean out cattleguards on Route N27 and N64,
- Mowing/Cut overgrown shrubs on Route N4, N41, N27, N7, N102, N64, N12 and N13,
- Install new signs on Route N41,
- Culvert pipe cleanout on Routes N4 and N41,
- Repaired fences on Route N4, N41, N8066, N59, N7, N64 and N13,
- The fences were either damaged from vehicles accidents or the local people cutting the fence lines,
- Performed routine blading services on several routes within Chinle Agency, bus routes and high-volume roads are priority.

A striping contract is in place for various paved roads to be striped this Fall. This has been awarded and waiting for contractor to arrive on site in the month of October 2021.



BEFORE – Route N8066: Cattleguard Undermined.



AFTER – Cattleguard removed and passable.



BEFORE – Route N25: Major erosion.



AFTER – Route N25: Erosion areas repaired.



BEFORE – Route N12 Mowing



AFTER – Route N12 Mowing



BEFORE – Route N59: Pipe Cleaning



AFTER – Route N59: Exposed and Cleaned Pipe

Ft. Defiance Agency:

The Ft. Defiance Agency Road Maintenance worked on BIA paved routes to address potholes and deteriorated asphalt pavement which were in dire need of repair. The work consisted an extensive number of pothole repair. The pavement failure was reported at numerous locations that posed a safety issue for the traveling public and local community. Many of the areas showed signs of stress and deterioration, which will require constant pothole patching repair work. These roads require pavement rehabilitation such as an overlay of new hot asphalt or reconstruction, which is beyond BIA's road maintenance scope of work.

We have spent a tremendous amount of time and effort repairing road washouts and severe erosion damages to our earth and paved road system, which involved removing debris/silt off the roadway surface, pipe replacement, and earth road grading, etc. Some of our roads were overtopped by storm water runoff and undermined due to major flooding. In a joint effort with Navajo Division of Transportation (NDOT), Apache County, Navajo County, BIA-New Lands Field Office, and our road maintenance crew repaired several washouts that were severely damaged and made our earth roads passable for the emergency vehicles and the community members.

Routes N12, N100, N110, N54 and N7 were striped by a contractor. The local community was very appreciative of the pavement marking for the safety of the travel public specifically to delineate the roadway at night or during rainstorms where visibility is low. Other maintenance activities conducted were cattleguard clean-outs, sidewalk repair, fence repair, vegetation removal, road grading, channel cleaning, roadway assessments and routine & preventative maintenance on various equipment.



BEFORE – Route N12: Failed section of roadway.



AFTER – Route N12: Pothole patching using UPM.



Monsoon 2021 – Ft. Defiance Agency Roads: The rainstorms caused major flooding and undermining of roads.



AFTER – New

Pavement Markings: Striping complete on various routes within Ft. Defiance Agency.

Eastern Navajo Agency

Branch of Transportation

For the month of July 2021, BOT staff bladed the Standing Rock area on all unpaved routes. Mowing was completed for N49/11 Pinedale, Mariano Lake and Smith lake areas. Staff mobilized equipment (JD 310 SG backhoe and Cat 950 loader) to Breadsprings N7062: clean cattle guard, repair the turnout, fix the wing braces, and fence line. BOT staff responded to the hazardous road conditions in Tohajiilee, where the area roads were completely washed out on all routes. This required BOT to haul heavy equipment to Tohajiilee for the washed-out roads that needed erosion repair and they bladed the following routes N57, N58, N7070, N7075, N7030, N36, N7071, N7072, N592, N59 and N7074. BOT staff also bladed N55 Phase I on the milled-out area of the pavement, including the removal of flooding debris from the pavement, reconnaissance for erosions and mowing. All downed road signs on Route N55 in Alamo were reinstalled, and fencing repaired on N7049, Jones Ranch road.

There were also more flooding reports in Dalton Pass on Routes N52 and N98, which BOT quickly responded. Staff also responded to the emergency efforts on N7046 in Standing Rock, where they utilized the backhoe to remove all debris from the road. BOT staff also mobilized heavy equipment for the cattle guard cleaning on N7046 and N7044 in the community of Jones Ranch, and mobilized equipment to Pinedale, where they removed 104' of the highway guardrail on N49/11 to accommodate the requested new turn out near mile post 6. BOT staff removed 1/3 of the highway guardrail but left 2/3 of the highway guardrail intact due to 72" Corrugated Metal Pipe (CMP) and a high drop-off over the highway guardrail. They replaced a damaged 26' section of a highway guardrail by resetting the flared-out rail away from approaching traffic on the east bound lane. BOT staff completed improvements: placed three loads of belly-dump trailer millings, repaired potholes, installed new wing braces, and repaired fencing near the green water tank turnout.

Staff reestablished the drainage ditch line, cleaned out CMP's, cleared out large brush, reshaped the back slopes and shoulders that run along the fencing near the right of way route. They completed the mowing of vegetation on Jones Ranch N7046, Chichiltah N7044 and Bread springs N7062. Staff bladed and completed ditch and surface work on Routes N7049, N7124, N7123 and N7122 in Standing Rock area. BOT assisted Navajo Division of Transportation (NDOT) with hauling equipment from Tinian to Coyote Canyon, and mobilized equipment to Lupton N7140 to remove mud and debris from the pavement and conduct culvert cleaning/ removal of sand and debris buildup on inlet and outlet sides. They re-established the ditch line and reshaped back sloping and cleared debris and sand buildup on ROW fencing. Staff assisted NDOT with hauling a Cat 950 K loader from Coyote Canyon to White Rock for washouts on N7057 north of Chapter House. BOT staff conducted reconnaissance for washout in Ojo Encino, Torreon, and Pueblo Pintado East, completed blading, removed rocks and debris off from N11 and N7052. BOT staff completed blading surface work on Casamero Lake Loop N485, removed

mud that washed out onto the pavement on Little Water N48(North) towards County Road 19. These activities support safe and reliable roads for the public, emergency vehicles, school buses, and commerce.

For the month of August 2021, BOT staff completed the backfilling of erosion by mile post 4.6 on N11 Pinedale on the south side of the highway, hauled approximately 954 cubic yards of fill dirt. They continued with erosion repair by mile post 1.6 on N11 Pinedale at the north end of the highway; erosion was undercutting the culvert pipe and metal headwall, requiring staff to haul approximately 1470 cubic yards of fill dirt. They repaired all the erosion equipment utilized, such as two front-end loaders, two belly-dump trailers, a grader and a sheepsfoot roller. BOT staff reinstalled right -of-way fencing on both sites and completed cattleguard cleaning on N52 Dalton Pass road. They mobilized six pieces of equipment to Alamo, NM for erosion repairs and mowing, and mowed N55 on all three phases. Staff started erosion repair by mile post 2.4 by hauling dirt to fill and repair erosion onsite due to flooding that damaged the shoulder, where water had started to undercut the pavement.

Staff's next project is to begin backfilling at mile post 7 on Phase I over the super span pipes; this will require a lot of filling of dirt due to the recent heavy rain that caused water to go over the pavement. BOT staff continued erosion repair work on N55 Alamo Road. On August 14, 2021, they received notification from a Pueblo Pintado community member regarding a washed-out road located on N7008. Please see below before and after photos. Staff hauled the 310SK Backhoe to N7008 in Pueblo Pintado to provide a one-lane passage through damaged road. This road is used by several community members. BOT staff returned to N55 Alamo Road to continue erosion repairs along the pavement due to excessive water crossing from recent heavy rainfall. They completed the erosion repair at Alamo N55 Phase I in two places and then mobilized equipment back to the Crownpoint yard. Staff assisted the Branch of Natural Resources with mounting new trailer tires on two of their trailers for an upcoming horse roundup and assisted the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) Facilities Management with the mobilizing of their dump truck, backhoe, and bobcat skid steer with backhoe attachment back to Crownpoint from Ojo Encino and Pueblo Pintado. Staff conducted reconnaissance N56 Tohajiilee for a downed sign and a broken fence. These activities support safe and reliable roads for the public, emergency vehicles, school buses, and commerce.



For the month of September 2021, BOT staff assessed N483 and N489 for flooding and washouts in the Star Pond area. They bladed N7054, repaired a minor washout in the Pinedale

community. BOT staff began mowing the streets of Crownpoint, and mobilized equipment back to Crownpoint from Alamo N55. They also assisted BIE Facility Management with hauling a John Deere 310SG backhoe from Crownpoint to Nageezi to address a water break at a local school. BOT staff assisted BIE Crownpoint Facility Management in hauling their JD 310 SG backhoe to and from Nageezi School. BOT staff bladed and completed surface work on N11. BOT staff bladed N50 - Mount Powell, Mariano Lake area, as well as Hosta Butte N492 and N493. Staff completed reconnaissance for signs and fencing on N9E, N49/11, N48 North and South. BOT staff repaired a stop sign at 2nd canyon road turn out. Staff also repaired fencing on N49/11 in three places in the Mariano Lake area due to erosion. BOT staff began mowing N9E from junction N9 and NM State Road 371 towards Tinian. Staff repaired and replaced a collapsed fence and damaged signs on N7046 in Jones Ranch, N7044 in Chichiltah, and on N7062 in Breadsprings. BOT staff conducted sign repair on N9E, N9W, N48 (N) and fence repair on N9E and N9W. Staff also continued with mowing on N9E as well as repair a damaged guardrail on N9E at mile post 48.

The primary goal of the BOT is to keep roads open and safe to the traveling public within the eastern portion of the Navajo Reservation, in coordination with Navajo Department of Transportation. BOT crew must deal with emergencies that can block roads, washouts, and bridges. Our crew are on alert and, when necessary and possible, pretreat roads in the Eastern Navajo Agency. This ensures safer travel for the public and emergency vehicles.

Eastern Navajo Agency Branch of Real Estate Services (BRES):

BRES met with the Thoreau Chapter on County Road 51 to discuss update and procedures for a right-of-way for the road. McKinley County road department maintains the road but has taken the position that there must be an approved right-of-way for their county roads before making any improvements. This is McKinley County road department policy for roads within Eastern Navajo communities. The process and documentation were explained to the attendees and other questions answered. Another meeting was scheduled for a more detailed discussion. The right-of-way would allow the county to make improvements on the road for the community and make it a safer to access for school buses and emergency vehicles. The chapter would probably need to be the right -of-way agent for the county.

BRES received an application for a land use permit for the Whitehorse Lake Chapter for a community water station on Public Land Order 2198. The environmental document for the permit was submitted, but no final clearance document has been received. It is recommended that chapters follow up and track all documents when submitting applications to BRES. The water station will allow delivery of water to the community members in the area for domestic use as mitigation for the spread of COVID-19.

BRES completed the review of a sublease for a telecommunication tower in Alamo, New Mexico, between the Alamo Band of Navajos and Comnet, for the purpose of providing coverage for the first nationwide broadband network for emergency first responders. The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) is an independent authority within the U.S. Department of Commerce. Its mission is to develop, build and operate a nationwide, broadband network that equips first responders to save lives and protect U.S. communities. This network will be dedicated to America's police, firefighters, and emergency medical services. The FirstNet

network will cover all 50 states, 5 U.S. territories and the District of Columbia, including rural communities and tribal lands in those states and territories. The sublease is to be revised by CommNet and submitted for signatures and approval. The Alamo Community will receive better telecommunication services from this sublease due to the equipment improvements to the tower.

BRES has arranged to begin the interviews and preparation of gift deed for pending requests from the landowners in the modular building located east of the main office building. All CDC guidelines for COVID-19 prevention will be followed. This is being done to allow landowners to make plans and prepare their trust estate for the future. With new increase in the delta virus spread and 36 reported Navajo chapters that have uncontrolled spread, the plans might need to be modified for the gift deed services without direct public contact. This is a necessary service because of the uncertainty of life due to the COVID-19 virus.

BRES investigated two family disputes and determined the issues as non-trust involving physical and verbal harassments, physical altercations, and verbal abuse; Navajo Nation has civil jurisdiction. BRES investigated trust-related issues of the disputes and provided formal notification to the involved parties. Because of mixed jurisdiction issues, BIA and Navajo Nation should probably meet to better educate stakeholders on the Navajo Nation jurisdiction over allotted and band lands so the Navajo Police and courts can address the civil issues.

BRES met with Jemez Mountain Electric Cooperative (JMEC) on existing powerlines without rights-of-way within the chapters. BRES explained the “streamlined process” in place for processing rights-of-way for utility projects. JMEC will work with one chapter as an exercise to establish a best practice. The completion of these projects will resolve the issue of power lines without rights-of-way and allow further legal extension of the power lines to new customers.

BRES participated in a meeting with Thoreau Chapter on Secretarial Order Number 3400, which is a delegation of approval for off-reservation fee-to-trust acquisition. Navajo Region delegated this authority to the Eastern Navajo Agency Superintendent. Thoreau Chapter has some parcels of fee lands they want to develop for economic purposes. BRES will be scheduling a workshop on the fee-to-trust process. The chapters will need to work with the Navajo tribal leadership and offices to process fee-to-trust applications, because the application must be from the tribe and not the chapters.

BRES participated in a teleconference with the Navajo Nation Regional Business Development Office (RBDO) and the Eastern Navajo Land Commission (ENLC) on the status of the Fort Wingate Army Depot land transfer, particularly parcels 15 and 17. BRES updated the participants that the Secretary of the Defense has not notified the Secretary of the Interior on completion of the mitigation of the parcels for administrative transfer. Once this is completed, the Secretary of the Interior, through the Regional Director, will notify the Navajo Nation as to what status the patents would be issued, either trust or restricted fee. According to the information received, this has not been completed. The group requested possible dates of when this could be completed and the status of the state road going from I-40 to the Ft. Wingate School area. BRES will research the information and provide to RBDO and ENLC soon. The completion of the land transfer would allow the Navajo Nation to develop and use the tracts of land for economic and other purposes without BIA approval, per Congressional

legislation. This also establishes a reservation status of the lands as to location of a reservation boundary and resolves the complex land ownership pattern along Interstate 40 around Fort Wingate. It is recommended that the Navajo Nation tracks the conveyances and assures the timelines of the transfer of the parcels are met as outlined in the legislation.

Eastern Navajo Agency Branch of Natural Resources (BNR):

The Branch of Natural Resources supports range management decisions in the best interest of the landowners, making it possible for landowners to receive income from the use of their land and natural resources and ensuring they are managed properly. From June 2021 to September 2021, BNR accomplished numerous activities. BNR continued to inform permittees about the Grazing Environmental Assessment Finding of No Significant Impact and grazing permit requirements through postal services, telephone, and/or email during the COVID-19 pandemic. BNR oriented permittees of 49 range units; completed 111 conservation plans involving 180,792 acres; approved 60 grazing permits through the office of the Superintendent; conducted 186 range unit compliance work involving record reviews and mailed compliance letters; completed chronology for eight District 15 grazing permits for quality assurance; completed 21 range unit field assessments involving 33,708 acres; and collected about \$701.00 in annual grazing fees and transferred it to the Navajo Nation escrow account. The Navajo escrow account has a balance of about \$973,957.94.

For the Hunter's Point Road wash noxious weed management activities and stream restoration project, the contractor, Horizon Environmental Services, completed foliar treatment of an additional eight acres of resprouts in the Leo Canyon near Manuelito Chapter House. Horizon also planted willows at the confluence of Hunter's Point Wash and the Puerco River; all the other previously planted willows were washed away from flash flooding during monsoon weather.

For the Alamo/ Canoncito noxious weed and invasive plant project, the contract was awarded to Hidden Waters for \$125,988.00 to complete an inventory and environmental assessment to determine the method of control and identify environmental impacts.

For the Land Management District 14/15/16 boundary fence project, goals include to protect, manage, and improve trust rangeland resources and prevent interdistrict trespass. The Contractor (VHJ Construction) completed about 15 miles of fencing overall. The project halted on March 15, 2021 due the migratory bird breeding season. During this period, birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and a preconstruction survey was required to continue the fencing. The fencing began again on August 16, 2021.

BNR assisted the Tse Li Ahi Chapter and the Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture on the equine removal rescue efforts on August 24-26, 2021 but were canceled, so efforts continued in the Coyote Canyon area. BNR assisted with a portable corral and panels, stock trailer and manpower. A total of 16 equines were captured (14 horses and 2 donkeys).

BNR continues to coordinate and support with the District Land Boards and Eastern Agency Joint Land Board with technical assistance via teleconferences on grazing permit transactions, field assessments, livestock grazing deferment, and advertisement of available range units. BNR provided verbal reports on the memorandum of understanding (2003) among the

Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Navajo Nation for the Grazing Administration of the Eastern Navajo Agency administration area; authority to grant for individual Indian allotments; the grazing permittee list; and the Navajo escrow account. The grazing permittee list provided to the District Land Boards provided details including range units with low carrying capacity. Land Management District 16 has about 309 range units and 22% of these have low carrying capacities. The boards and/or the permittees are advised to add more land to increase the carrying capacity and are informed of canceled range units and available individual Indian allotments located adjacent to the range units. The BNR will review these range units and carrying capacities in more detail for the upcoming 2024 grazing permit renewal.

Eastern Navajo Agency Branch of Probate & Estate Services (BPES):

For the third quarter of fiscal year 2021, BPES staff received reports of 89 deaths; 35 cases have been submitted to and accepted by the Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) which consisted of approximately \$296,625.66 in Individual Indian monies accounts, 307 allotments, and 216 probable heirs, and completed the disbursement and close-out of 88 cases. Staff members have also assisted approximately 439 clients on the phone or through email. BPES staff assist Indian allotment interest holders be informed, so they have a better understanding of what they have holdings in and what it means to them. Many of the activities are conducted in the Navajo language, which helps set the stage for estate planning. These activities greatly benefit the Navajo Nation when it comes to land use planning because they can make it easier to get consent for infrastructure and commercial projects that involve Indian allotments.

The types of service requested by the clients involve, but are not limited to, printing and mailing out Individual Tribal Interest reports; updating contact information; explaining what documents are still needed for a case to be submitted to OHA, conducting client interviews for probate cases, and educating the public about the Federal Probate process and estate planning. In addition, all activities conducted by staff support tribal self-determination, self-governance, and sovereignty by ensuring that titles to Indian allotments is kept accurate and updated. This allows timely disbursement of funds to heirs who are tribal members and to the Navajo Nation.

Appendix A –

Dear Tribal Leader Letter (DTLL) to Navajo Nation

July 2021

- DTLL - Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, Bryan Newland through Acting Regional Director Tsosie regarding the 2021 Child Tax Credit that President Biden included under the American Rescue Plan.
- DTLL - On June 30, 2021, the United States Department of Treasury released a Dear Tribal Leader Letter (DTLL) announcing the opening of the Employment Allocation and establishment of a minimum allocation for all eligible Tribal governments.

August 2021

- DTLL - the Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks through Acting Regional Director Tsosie on regarding the Native Graves Protection and Repatriation regulations at 43 C.F.R. part 10 within the National Park Service.
- DTLL- the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs through Acting Regional Director Tsosie on Congress enactment of the Not Invisible Act of 2019 (Act) and increasing intergovernmental coordination.
- DTLL - the Director, Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) announcing Listening Sessions for the BIE Strategic Direction 2018-2021: Year 4 and 5 Implementation.
 - BIE document available upon request, content size is large.
- DTLL - the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, Bryan Newland through Acting Regional Director Tsosie regarding the 105(l) lease requirements and payments, with a goal toward consistent and transparent 105(l) lease administration.
- DTLL - Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, regarding the implementation of the Not Invisible Act of 2019 (Act).

September 2021

- DTLL – Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs regarding the implementation of the Indian Boarding School Initiative.
- DTLL- Department, Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs Restoration of Tribal homelands and how important it is to protect and restore.

- DTLL- Department, Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs a series Government-to-government Tribal consultation sessions to help inform the development of the Department's Fiscal Year 2022-2026 Strategic Plan (Strategic Plan).
- DTLL- Department, Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA) formerly Office of Special Trust (OST) for American Indians.
- DTLL- the Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary regarding the American Rescue Plan and the resources being offered in various federal agencies.
- DTLL - the Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Policy, Management, and Budget regarding the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act. P.L. 116-152 (GAO).

June 30, 2021

Dear Tribal Leader,

The U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) would like to thank Tribal leaders for working so closely with our team in requesting your first Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund payment and for your patience as we assisted Tribes who had difficulty accessing the Treasury Submission Portal due to natural disasters and connectivity issues. The deadline for the first payment has closed and we are excited to announce that more than \$13.1 billion has been distributed to Tribes to assist in mitigating the effects of the pandemic and to jumpstart economic recovery.

The second phase of distributions is funded from the remaining 35% (or \$6.65 billion) of the \$19 billion reserved for Tribal governments that will be distributed based on Tribal employment (Employment Allocation). Treasury has determined that the Employment Allocation will include a \$1,000,000 minimum employment payment. The minimum allocation will provide a meaningful portion of the Employment Allocation to every Tribe regardless of its primary employment structure to allow each Tribe to address the pandemic's effect in its Tribal community. Treasury believes stabilizing and expanding Tribal employment opportunities is critical to an equitable and strong economic recovery for Tribal communities. The [Tribal Government Allocation Methodology](#) has been updated to reflect the \$1,000,000 minimum employment payment.

To open up the second phase of distributions to Tribal governments, Treasury will notify all points of contact in the Treasury Submission Portal today to re-enter the portal to confirm or amend 2019 employment numbers as described in the Tribal Government Allocations Methodology. Treasury has transferred 2019 employment numbers submitted under the Coronavirus Relief Fund into individual Tribal government profiles in the Treasury Submission Portal to ease in the employment confirmation process. To receive an Employment Allocation, including the minimum employment payment, Tribal governments must confirm or amend their 2019 employment numbers by the deadline which has been extended from July 9, 2021 to July 16, 2021 11:59 PST.

Treasury will host a 30 min. briefing for Tribal leaders on the opening of the second stage of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund program today, June 30th, from 4:00pm-4:30pm EDT. You may attend this briefing via this [Zoom link](#), or you may dial in at 669-254-5252, meeting ID: 1619571434#.

Treasury will be hosting an information session on July 2, 2021 at 12:00 pm ET to demonstrate the process for confirming 2019 employment numbers in the Treasury Submissions Portal and to answer Tribal leader questions. Please register for the information session [here](#).

For additional information regarding the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds program for Tribal governments, please visit the Tribal government-specific webpage at www.treasury.gov/SLFRPTribal.

If you have questions about Treasury Submission Portal or for technical support, please email covidreliefsupport@treasury.gov. If you have general questions about the Coronavirus State and Local

Fiscal Recovery Funds please email SLFRP@treasury.gov or call 844-529-9527. Please reach out to Treasury Tribal Affairs at Tribal.Consult@treasury.gov should you have any other questions.

We look forward to continuing to support Tribal governments with the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds program. Thank you for making this program a success in Indian Country.

Sincerely,

Nancy Montoya
Treasury Tribal Affairs Program Coordinator
Point of Contact for Tribal Consultation



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Navajo Regional Office
P.O. Box 1060
Gallup, New Mexico 87305

July 13, 2021

Honorable Jonathan Nez
100 Parkway
Post Office Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear President Nez:

Enclosed is a letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, Bryan Newland regarding the 2021 Child Tax Credit that President Biden included under the American Rescue Plan. Please see the enclosed for additional information.

Please help on spreading the word on the 2021 Child Tax Credit to families with children in the Navajo community. Enclosed is a flyer for your use and information to share. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our office directly and if we can be of assistance in facilitating information sharing. I can be reached at (505) 713-9188 (cell).

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by LESTER
TSOSIE
Date: 2021.07.14 09:10:29
-06'00'

Lester K. Tsosie
Acting Regional Director, Navajo

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Myron Lizer, Vice President, Office of the President, Vice President
Mr. Paulson Chaco, Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Vice President
Mr. Milton Bluehouse, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Vice President
Ms. Santee Lewis, NNWO
Mr. Levon Henry, Legal Counsel, Office of the President, Vice President
Mr. JT Willie, Director, Economic Development Office, Navajo Nation



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

JUL 12 2021

Dear Tribal Leader:

I need your help to spread awareness in American Indian and Alaska Native communities about the 2021 Child Tax Credit that President Biden included under the American Rescue Plan, which provides historic relief for hard working families raising their children.

President Biden's new Child Tax Credit is a groundbreaking tax benefit aimed to provide financial assistance to families who have children. The American Rescue Plan raises the 2021 Child Tax Credit from \$2,000 to \$3,600 for each child under 6, and from \$2,000 to \$3,000 for each child aged 6 or older. It also raises the eligible age limit to 17 years old.

In an effort to get relief to families sooner, the IRS will distribute half of each family's 2021 Child Tax Credit amount in monthly payments from July 15 to December 15. These payments may total up to \$300 for each child under 6 and up to \$250 for each child aged 6 to 17 years old. Tax benefits like this will go a long way to relieving the financial strain brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and assist families when it matters the most.

Getting the 2021 Child Tax Credit is simple. Eligible families that filed a tax return in 2020 will automatically receive payments starting July 15. Families that did not file returns for 2019 or 2020 can sign up by registering with the IRS's Non-Filer Sign-Up Tool at: **www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/child-tax-credit-non-filer-sign-up-tool**. Additional information and resources are available at: **childtaxcredit.gov**.

To help spread the word about the 2021 Child Tax Credit to families with children in your community, enclosed is a flyer that you may post in your offices, schools, and community centers, or shared with other groups in your area.

I am grateful for any effort you can make in helping reach those who could most benefit from the immediate benefit offered by President Biden's 2021 Child Tax Credit.

Sincerely,

Bryan Newland
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Enclosure

Help Is Here

Monthly payments for families with kids

Raising kids can be expensive, and the Child Tax Credit is here to help. President Biden's American Rescue Plan increased the amount of the 2021 Child Tax Credit to support families with children.

The full benefit of the Child Tax Credit is now \$300 per month per child under age 6 and \$250 for each child age 6 to 17.

Did you file taxes in the last 2 years? Then you don't have to do anything to get the money you're already owed!

If you filed your 2020 taxes this year or filed your 2019 taxes last year, or used the IRS "Non-Filer Portal" to get a stimulus check last year, you don't need to do anything. The IRS will automatically send you a monthly payment by direct deposit or check starting on July 15, 2021.

The Child Tax Credit is \$3,000 to \$3,600 per child with advanced monthly payments.

In order to get money to families quickly, the IRS will pay half of the credit as monthly payments now and the other half when you file your taxes next year. In total, you'll receive a total of \$3,600 for each child under 6 and \$3,000 for each child between 6 and 17.

Didn't file taxes in the last 2 years? There's 1 easy step to start getting your Child Tax Credit payments.

Just fill out a simple form to begin receiving your monthly Child Tax Credit payments. You can access it by going to childtaxcredit.gov

All you'll need to apply are:

- A reliable mailing address
- E-mail address
- Your children's Social Security Numbers
- Your Social Security Number (or ITIN)
- Your bank account information (if you want to receive your payment by direct deposit)

Eligibility: Most families, even those with little to no income, can receive the full amount. If you are a single parent making less than \$112,500 or a married couple making less than \$150,000—and have children under age 18 who will live with you for more than half of 2021—you are likely eligible for the full benefit. These benefits do not affect your eligibility for other federal benefits like SNAP.

Learn more and check out resources to help you fill out your form at **ChildTaxCredit.gov**



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Navajo Regional Office

P.O. Box 1060

Gallup, New Mexico 87305

August 2, 2021

Honorable Jonathan Nez
100 Parkway
Post Office Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Enclosed is a letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, Bryan Newland regarding the implementation of the Not Invisible Act of 2019 (Act). The Act aims to increase intergovernmental coordination to identify and combat violent crime on Indian lands and against Indians.

The questions enclosed with this letter will be presented to Tribal governments to facilitate discussion during consultation. The Department will conduct four webinar consultation sessions and will accept both oral and written comments. Written comments may be provided to consultaton@bia.gov by Friday, September 17, 2021. The consultation dates will be as follows:

- August 31, 2021, (2:00 – 4:00 p.m.), EST.
- September 2nd, 8th, 10th, 2021 (2:00 – 4:00 p.m.), EST.

Please registrar in advance for each session and see enclosed for additional information. If you have any questions, please contact Heidi Todacheene, Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs at heidi_todacheene@ios.doi.gov or (202) 208-7163.

Sincerely,

Lester K. Tsosie
Acting Regional Director

Digitally signed by LESTER
TSOSIE
Date: 2021.08.02 14:34:45
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cc: Mr. Myron Lizer, Vice President, Office of the President, Vice President
Mr. Paulson Chaco, Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Vice President
Mr. Milton Bluehouse, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Vice President
Ms. Santee Lewis, NNWO
Mr. Levon Henry, Legal Counsel, Office of the President, Vice President
Honorable Delegate Amber K. Crotty, 24th Navajo Nation Council



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Washington, DC 20240

JUL 30 2021

Dear Tribal Leader:

The U.S. Department of the Interior (Department), in coordination with the U.S. Department of Justice, is seeking Tribal and stakeholder input related to the implementation of the Not Invisible Act of 2019 (Act). The Act aims to increase intergovernmental coordination to identify and combat violent crime on Indian lands and against Indians. *See* Pub. L. No. 116-166, 134 Stat. 766 (2020).¹ Section 4 of the Act requires the Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the Attorney General, to establish a joint Commission on reducing violent crime against Indians.

The Department wishes to consult with Tribal governments to solicit input on the formation of the Commission and what the Commission should consider when developing recommendations that will have lasting impacts on Indian Country and further address the missing and murdered Indigenous people crisis. Consultation will increase transparency of the Commission's work, solicit information from Tribal stakeholders and provide direction to the Commission as it addresses additional issues identified in the Not Invisible Act in an effort to combat the missing and murdered indigenous people crisis.

The questions enclosed with this letter will be presented to Tribal governments to facilitate discussion during consultation.

The Department will conduct four webinar consultation sessions and will accept both oral and written comments. Please register in advance for any consultation session you plan on attending. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. A public meeting will be held immediately following each consultation session. The consultation schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, August 31, 2021

2 p.m. – 4 p.m. ET

Please register in advance at:

https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItcOivrzouG3KN7DL5sPE_iJO2nDEFQo0

Thursday, September 2, 2021

2 p.m. – 4 p.m. ET

Please register in advance at:

https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsdeyqrD8uEueD_SSCIfVmlRIfExnwsY

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

2 p.m. – 4 p.m. ET

Please register in advance at:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlftu-tqzMtGO5RBgQX5yNVpOXBsdtHhc4>

¹ <https://www.congress.gov/116/plaws/publ166/PLAW-116publ166.pdf>.

Friday, September 10, 2021

2 p.m. – 4 p.m. ET

Please register in advance at:

https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlscuuuqD4pGto5l8YHNrNA3zifJ__Q6Gg

You may provide your written input to consultation@bia.gov by Friday, September 17, 2021. I look forward to speaking with you. If you have any questions regarding this effort, please feel free to contact Heidi Todacheene, Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs at heidi_todacheene@ios.doi.gov or (202) 208-7163.

Sincerely,



Bryan Newland

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Enclosure

Questions for Tribal Consultation on the Not Invisible Act of 2019

- 1) The Act identifies recommendations that the Commission should provide to the Secretary and the Attorney General on actions the Federal Government can take to help combat violent crime against Indians and within Indian lands. *See* Sec. 4(c)(2)(A) of the Act.
 - a. What, from these topics, is a priority that would most benefit your Tribe and/or community?
 - b. Are there other topics related to the Commission's objectives that you wish the Commission to consider?
- 2) Implementation of the Act requires that the Commission include representation from and coordination across several federal agencies.²
 - a. Are there agencies, bureaus, offices, or programs you believe should be represented on the Commission that are not listed in the Act?
 - b. Are there agencies, bureaus, offices, or programs that may not be represented on the Commission but that you believe the Commission should otherwise coordinate with or obtain input from?
 - c. If so, please identify these agency, bureaus, offices, or programs.
- 3) The Act lists categories of individuals from outside the Federal Government to be represented on the Commission.³
 - a. Are there other categories of individuals you believe should be represented on the Commission that are not listed in the Act?
 - b. Do you have any recommendations on how best to identify and reach out to individuals from any of the listed categories?

² The Act lists the following federal agencies and offices: the U.S. Department of the Interior (including the Office of Justice Services of the Bureau of Indian Affairs), the U.S. Department of Justice (including the Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit, the Office of Violence Against Women, the Office of Victims of Crime, a U.S. attorney's office with related experience, and the National Institute of Justice), the Victim Services Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Department of Health and Human Services (including the Administration for Native Americans of the Office of the Administration for Children & Families, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and the Indian Health Service). *See* Section 4(b)(2)(B), (D)-(J), (R)-(S) of the Act.

³ The Act lists the following categories of individuals from outside the Federal Government: Tribal law enforcement; a Tribal judge with experience in cases related to missing persons, murder, or trafficking; not fewer than 3 national, regional, or urban Indian organizations focused on violence against women and children on Indian lands or against Indians; at least 2 Indian survivors of human trafficking; at least 2 family members of missing Indian people; and at least 2 family members of murdered Indian people. *See* Section 4(b)(2)(A),(K), (N)-(Q) of the Act. (Remaining categories will be selected based on Tribal nominations in accordance with the Act.)

- 4) What are the unique challenges that your community wants the Commission to consider in prevention efforts, grants, and programs of federal agencies related to murder of, trafficking of, and missing Indians?
- 5) The Commission may hold hearings and take testimony to assist in carrying out their duties. Do you have specific recommendations on how this interaction will best work to learn the unique challenges in combating violent crime against Indians and within Indian lands?
- 6) What suggestions do you have about how the Commission's recommendations can be most impactful? What other questions or comments do you wish to raise regarding implementation of the Not Invisible Act?



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Navajo Regional Office

P.O. Box 1060

Gallup, New Mexico 87305

August 10, 2021

Honorable Jonathan Nez
100 Parkway
Post Office Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear President Nez:

Enclosed is a letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs (IA), and Indian Health Service (IHS) regarding the 105(l) lease requirements and payments, with a goal toward consistent and transparent 105(l) lease administration.

The IA and IHS would like your input on the following topics and questions, in addition to any other feedback you have regarding 105(l) leases.

We invite you to join the following consultation session to discuss the above:

Date	Time	Please Register In Advance at:
Friday, August 27, 2021	1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time	https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsdeCgrjsvHi4aSWg3V726LCrsX6PxsSk After registering, you will receive an e-mail confirmation containing information about joining the meeting.

Please see the enclosed for additional information. We look forward to discussing this topic with you and welcome your written input by September 13, 2021, to consultation@bia.gov and consultation@ihs.gov. If you have any questions, please email at consultation@bia.gov or consultation@ihs.gov.

Sincerely,

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TSOSIE
Date: 2021.08.10 12:07:31
-06'00'

Lester K. Tsosie
Acting Regional Director

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Myron Lizer, Vice President, Office of the President, Vice President
Mr. Paulson Chaco, Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Vice President
Mr. Milton Bluehouse, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Vice President
Ms. Santee Lewis, NNWO
Mr. Levon Henry, Legal Counsel, Office of the President, Vice President



Dear Tribal Leader:

The Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs (IA) and the Indian Health Service (IHS) invite you to consult on 105(l) lease requirements and payments, with a goal toward consistent and transparent 105(l) lease administration.

Background on 105(l) Leases

Section 105(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. § 5324(l)) provides that Tribes and Tribal Organizations (T/TOs) carrying out Federal functions under a self-determination contract or self-governance compact may enter into a lease agreement with IA or the IHS for the tribally owned or rented facility used to carry out those functions. The 105(l) leases are facility cost agreements to compensate the T/TO owner for facility operational expenses associated with using the facility to administer or deliver the contracted or compacted services.

The FY 2021 Omnibus appropriations included General Provision language for the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding administration of 105(l) leases. This language included direction to conduct Tribal consultations on how to implement a consistent and transparent process for payment of 105(l) leases as follows:

SEC. 431.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the case of any lease under section 105(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5324(l)), the initial lease term shall commence no earlier than the date of receipt of the lease proposal.

(b) The Secretaries of the Interior and Health and Human Services shall, jointly or separately, during fiscal year 2021 consult with tribes and tribal organizations through public solicitation and other means regarding the requirements for leases under section 105(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5324(l)) on how to implement a consistent and transparent process for the payment of such lease.

Given Congress's direction and the Administration's interest in improving implementation of the 105(l) program, IA and the IHS are seeking to establish as consistent and transparent an approach as possible in their administration of 105(l) leases. To help achieve that goal, IA and the IHS would like your input on the following topics and questions, in addition to any other feedback you may have regarding 105(l) leases.

Questions for Consultation

1. Process. Congress directed that a consistent and transparent process be implemented for 105(l) leases.
 - a. How could IA improve Part 80, Chapter 7 of the Indian Affairs Manual (80 IAM 7), which addresses the processing of 105(l) leases?
 - b. What suggestions could be made for the form of any IHS guidelines?
 - c. What constitutes a “lease proposal” as stated in the FY 2021 Omnibus appropriations General Provisions language for DOI and HHS in Section 431 “...the initial lease term shall commence no earlier than the date of receipt of lease proposal.”
2. Facility Size. Facility size is the biggest driver of 105(l) lease cost. IA and the IHS therefore seek a consistent and transparent method for determining a reasonable facility size for carrying out federal programs.
 - a. If IA and the IHS were to establish facility-size guidelines for 105(l) leases, how could those guidelines consistently account for a wide variety of programs, services, functions, and activities (PSFAs), for example, law enforcement, schools, and administrative functions?
 - b. What criteria should IA and the IHS use in determining square footage (SF) guidelines for each type of facility participating in the 105(l) lease program?
 - c. What criteria should IA and the IHS use in determining reasonable lease compensation appropriate for IA and IHS programs?
 - d. What, if any, considerations beyond facility-type and capacity should IA and the IHS include in guidelines?
 - e. How can IA and the IHS best support Tribal sovereignty through the use of consistent guidelines?

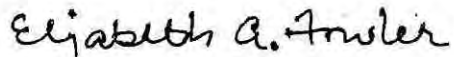
We invite you to join the following consultation session to discuss the above:

Date	Time	Please Register In Advance at:
Friday, August 27, 2021	1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time	https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsdeCgrjsvHi4aSWg3V726LCrsX6PxsSk After registering, you will receive an e-mail confirmation containing information about joining the meeting.

Page 3 – Tribal Leader

We look forward to discussing this topic with you and welcome your written input by September 13, 2021, to consultation@bia.gov and consultation@ihs.gov. If you have any questions about the consultation please contact us at consultation@bia.gov or consultation@ihs.gov.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth A. Fowler
Acting Director, Indian Health Service



Bryan Newland
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Navajo Regional Office

P.O. Box 1060

Gallup, New Mexico 87305

August 9, 2021

Honorable Jonathan Nez
100 Parkway
Post Office Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear President Nez:

Please find the enclosed letter from the Director, Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) announcing Listening Sessions for the BIE Strategic Direction 2018-2021: Year 4 and 5 Implementation.

The BIE would like your input regarding the potential need to make changes to the Direction for an opportunity to shape the remaining years of the BIE's implementation efforts.

We invite you to join the following Listening Sessions:

Listening Session:	Date:	Time:
Mission Area: Comprehensive Strategic Direction Overview	August 24, 2021	10am-11am CST
Goal 01 – High Quality, Early Childhood Education	August 24, 2021	12pm-1:30pm CST
Goal 02 – Wellness, Behavioral Health, and Safety	August 25, 2021	9am-10:30am CST
Goal 03 – K-12 Instruction and High Academic Standards	August 25, 2021	11am-12:30pm CST
Goal 04 – Postsecondary and Career Readiness	August 25, 2021	2pm-3:30pm CST
Goal 05 – Self- Determination	August 26, 2021	9am-10:30am CST
Goal 06 – Performance Management	August 26, 2021	2pm-3:30pm CST

Please see the enclosed letter for additional Listening Session information. We look forward to discussing this topic with you. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Chelsea Wilson with BIE at (703) 581-3064 or email Chelsea.Wilson@bie.gov.

Sincerely,



Digitally signed by
LESTER TSOSIE
Date: 2021.08.10
12:09:31 -06'00'

Lester K. Tsosie
Acting Regional Director

Enclosure(s)

cc:

Mr. Myron Lizer, Vice President, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation
Mr. Paulson Chaco, Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation
Mr. Milton Bluehouse, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation
Ms. Santee Lewis, Washington Office, Navajo Nation
Mr. Levon Henry, Legal Counsel, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation
Ms. Patricia Gonnie, Department of Diné Education, Navajo Nation



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Listening Sessions on BIE Strategic Direction 2018-2023: Years 4 and 5
Implementation

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) is currently in its third year of implementing its Strategic Direction (“Direction”) for 2018-2023. The BIE developed the Direction through formal timely and meaningful consultation from Tribal leaders and stakeholders, such as school boards, union members, educators, and families of Native students. During the original Tribal consultation and listening sessions, the BIE stated it would provide a mid-cycle review to report implementation progress and receive input regarding the potential need to make substantive changes to the Direction. Given the unforeseen impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the need to provide Tribes and other stakeholders with a meaningful opportunity to shape the remaining years of the BIE’s implementation efforts is especially important.

To obtain your input regarding years 4 and 5 of the Direction, the BIE Performance Office designated separate listening sessions to focus input on each of the Direction’s six mission areas and goals. Information on each of the goals is attached. The listening sessions are scheduled as follows:

Mission Area: Comprehensive Strategic Direction Overview
August 24, 2021

10 a.m. – 11 a.m. CST

<https://doilearn2.webex.com/doilearn2/onstage/g.php?MTID=e97f55ec4f62e7837bddd0e5824c48cfe>

Goal 01 – High-Quality, Early Childhood Education

August 24, 2021

12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. CST

<https://doilearn2.webex.com/doilearn2/onstage/g.php?MTID=e923a6532db9ab220265e3d7c7dda71c0>

Goal 02 – Wellness, Behavioral Health, and Safety

August 25, 2021

9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. CST

<https://doilearn2.webex.com/doilearn2/onstage/g.php?MTID=ece4c91a0085438908204c810753e3062>

Goal 03 – K-12 Instruction and High Academic Standards

August 25, 2021

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CST

<https://doilearn2.webex.com/doilearn2/onstage/g.php?MTID=ee71e40e9d2ac48dc4149533cc5f816c5>

Goal 04 – Postsecondary and Career Readiness

August 25, 2021

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. CST

<https://doilearn2.webex.com/doilearn2/onstage/g.php?MTID=e4529f0e4b103765d2c388655afd99f34>

Goal 05 – Self-Determination

August 26, 2021

9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. CST

<https://doilearn2.webex.com/doilearn2/onstage/g.php?MTID=e37e49195a2325aa3629746186cc08222>

Goal 06 – Performance Management

August 26, 2021

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. CST

<https://doilearn2.webex.com/doilearn2/onstage/g.php?MTID=e8c10ad0d0bab896669a0e7e6f885f770>

Similar to BIE's initial Tribal consultation held prior to the Direction's implementation, comments received during the mid-cycle listening sessions will be recorded for consideration. To submit formal written comments, please send your feedback to Chelsea.Wilson@bie.edu by Friday, September 3, 2021, to ensure timely consideration.

If you have any questions, please contact Chelsea Wilson, at (703) 581-3064 or Chelsea.Wilson@bie.edu. I look forward to your input.

Sincerely,



Tony L. Dearman

Director – Bureau of Indian Education



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Navajo Regional Office

P.O. Box 1060

Gallup, New Mexico 87305

August 10, 2021

Honorable Jonathan Nez
100 Parkway
Post Office Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear President Nez:

Please find the enclosed letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs on Congress enactment of the Not Invisible Act of 2019 (Act) and increasing intergovernmental coordination.

Nominations are welcomed and being accepted. The nomination package requirements for each nominee and process is further described enclosed. Nomination packages, and written comments can be submitted to consultation@bia.gov no later than September 20, 2021 as described in the attached Federal Register notice.

Please see the enclosed for more information. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Heidi Todacheene, Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs at Heidi_Todacheene@ios.doi.gov.

Sincerely,

Lester K. Tsosie
Acting Regional Director

Enclosure(s)

cc:

Mr. Myron Lizer, Vice President, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation
Mr. Paulson Chaco, Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation
Mr. Milton Bluehouse, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation
Ms. Santee Lewis, Washington Office, Navajo Nation
Mr. Levon Henry, Legal Counsel, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation
Honorable Delegate, Amber K. Crotty, 24th Navajo Nation Council, Navajo Nation



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

AUG 04 2021

Dear Tribal Leader:

Congress enacted the *Not Invisible Act of 2019* (Act)¹ to increase intergovernmental coordination to identify and combat violent crime within Indian lands and against Indians. Section 4 of the Act requires that the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary), in coordination with the United States Attorney General, establish and appoint non-Federal members to a Joint Commission on Reducing Violent Crime Against Indians (Commission). The Commission will develop recommendations on actions the Federal Government can take to identify, coordinate, and combat violent crime, within Indian lands and of Indians, as required under the Act.

The Secretary is seeking non-Federal nominations for representatives to serve on the Commission. The Commission will be composed of a minimum of 27 qualified Federal and non-Federal members. The Secretary will consider nominations for non-Federal representatives. Nominees should represent diverse experiences, backgrounds, geography, and Tribes of diverse sizes who are able to provide balanced points of view on the duties of the Commission. Section III of the enclosed Federal Register notice outlines the Commission membership, responsibilities, and criteria.

In accordance with the Act, the Commission is exempt from the Federal Advisory Committee Act requirements. The Commission's work is expected to occur over the course of 18 months to hold hearings, take testimony, and receive evidence. Members must be able to attend all meetings, hearings, participate in work groups, and consult with their constituencies. The Department commits to pay the reasonable travel and per diem expenses of Commission members, if appropriate, to attend in-person meetings and hearings. Due to the significant time commitments for this Commission, nominees should not be a current member of an existing Commission, Task Force, or Advisory Group on a similar or related topic.

The Secretary will consider only those nomination packages that are complete. A complete nomination package includes all the following information about each nominee:

1. The nominee's name, contact information, geographic location, and Tribal affiliation.
2. A resume that describes the nominee's qualifications for specific membership category(ies). Please refer to the membership criteria stated in the enclosed Federal Register notice.
3. A personal statement of the reasons why the nominee wants to serve on the Commission, including examples of things they have done on the ground at the local, Tribal, or urban community level, and/or regionally, nationally.
4. A statement from the nominee committing to the time to contribute meaningfully to Commission deliberations including work groups.

¹Pub. L. No. 116-166, 134 Stat. 766 (2020), available at: <https://www.congress.gov/116/plaws/publ166/PLAW-116publ166.pdf>.

5. Any additional comments, including the nominee's culturally relevant skills or personal experience, that could help contribute to the Commission's deliberations.
6. Where specified in the membership criteria, one or more letters of recommendation.

The Secretary welcomes comments on the nomination process, work of the Commission, or nomination criteria. Nomination packages and written comments can be submitted to consultation@bia.gov by the date listed in the enclosed Federal Register notice.

For more information, please see <https://www.bia.gov/as-ia/nia>. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Heidi Todacheene, Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs at Heidi_Todacheene@ios.doi.gov; and please include in the subject line **“Inquiry re NIAC fr [add org/tribe/name here]”**.

Sincerely,



Bryan Newland
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Enclosure

1653–0043 in the body of the correspondence, the agency name and Docket ID ICEB–2009–0005. All comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided.

(1) *Online*. Submit comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal website at <http://www.regulations.gov> under e-Docket ID number ICEB–2009–0005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions related to this collection, call or email Kajuana Edwards, Obligation Management Branch, (214) 915–6029, email kajuana.edwards@ice.dhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comment

Written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information should address one or more of the following four points:

(1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Overview of This Information Collection

(1) *Type of Information Collection:* Extension, Without Change, of a Currently Approved Collection.

(2) *Title of the Form/Collection:* Electronic Funds Transfer Waiver Request.

(3) *Agency form number, if any, and the applicable component of the Department of Homeland Security sponsoring the collection:* Form 10–002; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

(4) *Affected public who will be asked or required to respond, as well as a brief abstract:* Primary: State, Local, or Tribal Government. Section 404(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8

U.S.C. 1101 note) provides for the reimbursement to States and localities for assistance provided in meeting an immigration emergency. This collection of information allows for State or local governments to request reimbursement.

(5) *An estimate of the total number of respondents and the amount of time estimated for an average respondent to respond:* 650 responses at 30 minutes (.50 hours) per response.

(6) *An estimate of the total public burden (in hours) associated with the collection:* 350 annual burden hours.

Dated: August 2, 2021.

Scott Elmore,

PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2021–16750 Filed 8–4–21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9111–28–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

**[212A2100DD/AAKC001030/
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Not Invisible Act Joint Commission on Reducing Violent Crime Against Indians

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of call for nominations and request for comments for non-Federal Commission members.

SUMMARY: This notice requests public nominations for the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)'s Joint Commission on Reducing Violent Crime Against Indians (Commission) as outlined in Section 4 of the Not Invisible Act of 2019. The Commission will develop recommendations for the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) and the Attorney General on actions the Federal Government can take to increase intergovernmental coordination to identify and combat violent crime on Indian lands and against Indians. The DOI is soliciting comments and nominations for qualified individuals to serve as non-Federal Commission members.

DATES: Comments and nominations for non-Federal Commission members must be submitted no later than September 20, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments and nominations to Regina Gilbert, by any of the following methods:

- *Preferred method Email to:* consultation@bia.gov;
- *Mail, hand-carry or use an overnight courier service to:* Attn. Jason O'Neal, Director, Office of Justice Services U.S. Department of the Interior,

Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1849 C Street NW, MS–3662–MIB, Washington, DC 20240.

Information is also available at www.bia.gov/as-ia/nia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Please email inquiries to Heidi.Todacheene@ios.doi.gov; and please add the following language in the subject line: “Inquiry re NIAC fr [add org/tribe/name here]”.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Congress enacted the *Not Invisible Act of 2019* (Act), Public Law 116–166, 134 Stat. 766 (2020), to increase intergovernmental coordination to identify and combat violent crime within Indian lands and against Indians. Section 4 of the Act requires that the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary), in coordination with the United States Attorney General, establish and appoint commission members (both Federal and non-Federal) to a Joint Commission on Reducing Violent Crime Against Indians (Commission) to develop recommendations on actions the Federal Government can take to identify, coordinate, and combat violent crime on Indian lands and against Indians.

There are many Federal programs tasked with addressing violent crime. However, the agencies that operate these programs do not have an overarching strategy to properly deploy these resources in Indian Country and urban Indian communities. Program implementation often takes place without considering the unique needs of Native communities in this context. The Act addresses these concerns by providing an opportunity for the Federal Government to improve its efforts to combat the growing crisis of murder, trafficking, and the disappearance of Indigenous men and women.

II. Work of the Commission

Section 4(c)(2)(A) of the Act requires the Commission to develop recommendations on actions the Federal Government can take to help combat violent crime and within Indian lands and of Indians, including recommendations for:

- (i) Identifying, reporting, and responding to instances of missing persons, murder, and human trafficking on Indian lands and of Indians;
- (ii) legislative and administrative changes necessary to use programs, properties, or other resources funded or operated by the DOI and Department of Justice to combat the crisis of missing or murdered Indians and human trafficking on Indian lands and of Indians;

(iii) tracking and reporting data on instances of missing persons, murder, and human trafficking on Indian lands and of Indians;

(iv) addressing staff shortages and open positions within relevant law enforcement agencies, including issues related to the hiring and retention of law enforcement officers;

(v) coordinating Tribal, State, and Federal resources to increase prosecution of murder and human trafficking offenses on Indian lands and of Indians; and

(vi) increasing information sharing with Tribal governments on violent crime investigations and prosecutions in Indian lands that were terminated or declined.

The Act requires the Commission to submit all recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior, the Attorney General, the Senate Committees on the Judiciary and on Indian Affairs, the House Committees on the Judiciary and on Natural Resources and make their recommendations publicly available. For more information see <https://www.bia.gov/as-ia/nia>.

III. Commission Membership, Responsibilities and Criteria

A. Commission Membership

In accordance with the Act, the Commission is exempt from the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) requirements.

The Secretary will coordinate with the Attorney General to establish the Commission and appoint members. The Commission must be composed of a minimum of 27 qualified Federal and non-Federal members who represent diverse experiences, backgrounds, geography, and Tribes of diverse sizes who are able to provide balanced points of view on the duties of the Commission. The Secretary is seeking non-Federal nominations for

representatives to serve on the Commission who represent one or more of the interests in Section C and who fulfill the additional skills and expertise listed in the same section.

In making membership decisions, the Secretary will consider whether the interest represented by a nominee will be affected significantly by the final products of the Commission, which may include report(s) and/or proposed recommendations; whether that interest is already adequately represented by other nominees; and whether the potential addition would adequately represent that interest.

Federally registered lobbyists are ineligible to serve on all FACA and non-FACA boards, committees, or councils in an individual capacity. The term “individual capacity” refers to individuals who are appointed to exercise their own individual best judgment on behalf of the government, such as when they are designated Special Government Employees, rather than being appointed to represent a particular interest.

B. Commission Member Responsibilities

The Commission is expected to meet approximately 3–5 times and each meeting is expected to last multiple hours for a consecutive 2–3 days each. The initial meeting may be held by teleconference and/or web conference; later meetings may be held either virtually or in person, or a mixture of both. Between meetings, Commission members are expected to participate in work group or subcommittee work via conference call, email and/or virtually. The Commission’s work is expected to occur over the course of 18 months as identified in the Act. The Commission may hold hearings, meet and act at times and places, take testimony, and receive evidence as the Commission

considers to be advisable to carry out its duties.

Because of the scope and complexity of the tasks at hand, Commission members must be able to invest considerable time and effort in the process. Commission members must be able to attend all Commission meetings, hearings, work on Commission work groups, consult with their constituencies between Commission meetings, and negotiate in good faith toward a consensus on issues before the Commission. Because of the complexity of the issues under consideration, as well as the need for continuity, the Secretary reserves the right to replace any member who is unable to participate in the Commission’s meetings, hearings, and work group meetings with an alternate member.

The DOI commits to pay the reasonable travel and per diem expenses of Commission members, if appropriate, to attend in-person meetings and hearings.

C. Membership Criteria

Prospective members need to have a strong capacity for teamwork, tracking relevant Federal Government programs and policy making procedures, and coordinating with and acting on behalf of the entity they represent. Prospective members should demonstrate relevant expertise, and a commitment and motivation to address the issues related to missing, murdered and human trafficking of Indians, especially at the local level. Because of the significant time commitment for this Commission, nominees should not be a current member of an existing Commission, Task Force, or Advisory Group on a similar or related topic.

Non-Federal members of the Commission are comprised of the categories below. Specific criteria for each category are provided.

Category	Criteria
Tribal law enforcement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work for a Tribe that has experience in missing, murdered or human trafficking with or without a Tribal resolution.• Demonstrated understanding of the procedural requirements to investigate missing and murder [cases] e.g., how and when to interview, and report writing.• Demonstrated experience in gathering and preserving evidence in missing persons cases.• Demonstrated experience working with FBI or local law enforcement on missing persons cases.
State and local law enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In close proximity to Indian lands.• A letter of recommendation from a local Indian Tribe.• Be from State, county, or local law enforcement with cross-deputization experience working with local Tribe(s).• Nominees in this category should represent a mix of people from P.L. 280 states and from non-P.L. 280 states.
Tribal judge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experience in cases related to missing persons, murder, or trafficking.• Experience working with culturally relevant wellness and/or family courts and/or victim services.

Category	Criteria
Not fewer than 3 Indian Tribes including 1 Indian Tribe in Alaska.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate thought processes that explore the implications of their decisions on the families and/or reflect the cultural relevance and complexity of the issues before ruling. • Diverse geographic locations. Including urban and rural representation (including Alaska).
Not fewer than 2 health care and mental health practitioners with experience working with Indian survivors of trafficking and sexual assault..	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selected from nominations submitted by the Indian Tribe. • Demonstrated substantive expertise in the issues. • Nominees in this category should be a mix of elected tribal leadership, council members, social services, victim services, wellness and/or family courts. • Letter of recommendation from a local Tribal chair or Tribal law enforcement officer.
Not fewer than 3 national, regional, or urban Indian organizations focused on violence against women and children on Indian lands or against Indians.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of cultural relevancy. • Demonstrate an understanding of the Indian Health Service, or clinical health services on tribal lands. • National, regional, or urban organization.
At least 2 Indian survivors of human trafficking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have established track record with a history of funding <i>e.g.</i>, existed for 10 years or longer. • A letter from an individual or entity who can validate they are survivors. • A letter from a federally recognized Tribe is a plus but not required. • Nominees in this category should be geographically diverse including urban/rural diversity. • A letter from an individual or entity who can validate they have a missing family member.
At least 2 family members of missing Indian people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter from a federally recognized Tribe is a plus but not required. • Nominees in this category should be geographically diverse including urban/rural diversity. • A letter from an individual or entity who can validate they have a murdered family member.
At least 2 family members of murdered Indian people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter from a federally recognized Tribe is a plus but not required. • Nominees in this category should be geographically diverse including urban/rural diversity.

IV. Call for Non-Federal Commission Member Nominations

Under Section 4, the Act requires that the Commission be comprised of only Federal and non-Federal representatives. Specifically, nominations for non-Federal primary members who can fulfill the obligations of membership that are listed above are requested. Qualified alternate members will be identified from this pool of nominees.

The Secretary, in coordination with the Attorney General, will consider non-Federal employee nominations for representatives only if they are nominated through the process identified in this notice. The Secretary will not consider any nominations that are received in any other manner. The Secretary will not consider nominations for Federal representatives; only the Secretary, in coordination with the Attorney General, may appoint Federal employees to the Commission.

Nominations must include the following information about each nominee:

1. The nominee's name, contact information, geographic location, and Tribal affiliation.
2. A resume that describes the nominees' qualifications for specific membership category(ies). Please refer to the membership criteria stated in this notice.

3. A personal statement of the reasons why the nominee wants to serve on the Commission including examples of work or professional experience at the local, Tribal or urban community level, and/or regionally, nationally.

4. A statement committing to the time to contribute meaningfully to Commission deliberations including work groups.

5. Any additional comments, including culturally relevant skills and personal experience, that could help contribute to the Commission's deliberations.

6. Where specified in the membership criteria, one or more letters of recommendation.

To be considered, nominations must be received by the close of business on the date listed in the **DATES** section, at the location indicated in the **ADDRESSES** section.

V. Comments

You may submit your comments by any one of the methods listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask the Department in

your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public view, the Department cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Bryan Newland,

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2021-16699 Filed 8-4-21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4337-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

[212A2100DD/AAKC001030/
A0A501010.999900 253G]

Rate Adjustments for Indian Irrigation Projects

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) owns or has an interest in irrigation projects located on or associated with various Indian reservations throughout the United States. We are required to establish irrigation assessment rates to recover the costs to administer, operate, maintain, and rehabilitate these projects. We are notifying you that we have adjusted the irrigation assessment rates at several of our irrigation projects and facilities to



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Navajo Regional Office
P.O. Box 1060
Gallup, New Mexico 87305

August 19, 2021

Honorable Jonathan Nez
100 Parkway
Post Office Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear President Nez:

Enclosed is a letter dated August 18, 2021 from the Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks regarding the Native Graves Protection and Repatriation regulations at 43 C.F.R. part 10 within the National Park Service. The consultation session has been extended to September 30, 2021.

For additional information please refer to the enclosed letter.

Sincerely,



Lester K. Tsosie
Acting Regional Director

cc:

Mr. Myron Lizer, Vice President, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation
Mr. Paulson Chaco, Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation
Mr. Milton Bluehouse, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Vice President,
Navajo Nation
Ms. Santee Lewis, Washington Office, Navajo Nation
Mr. Levon Henry, Legal Counsel, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

AUG 18 2021

Dear Tribal Leader:

On July 8, 2021, the Department of the Interior (Department) invited you to consult on its draft updates to its Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) regulations at 43 C.F.R. part 10, as well as the current organizational placement of the NAGPRA program within the National Park Service.

In response to requests received at the consultation sessions for an extended comment deadline, we now request that you provide any written comments by September 30, 2021 (extended from the original August 31, 2021 deadline). We appreciate all the input you have provided to date and look forward to your additional input.

Please provide written comments to nagpra_info@nps.gov by September 30, 2021, 11:59 p.m. ET.

Should you have questions about the consultation sessions or draft updates, you may contact Melanie O'Brien, National NAGPRA Program, at (202) 354-2204. The Department looks forward to hearing your Tribe's comments on the NAGPRA regulations.

Sincerely,

SHANNON
ESTENOZ

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SHANNON ESTENOZ
Date: 2021.08.17
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Shannon Estenoz
Assistant Secretary for
Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Bryan Newland
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary,
Indian Affairs



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Navajo Regional Office

P.O. Box 1060

Gallup, New Mexico 87305

September 23, 2021

Honorable Jonathan Nez
100 Parkway
Post Office Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear President Nez:

Please find the enclosed letter from the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Policy, Management, and Budget regarding the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act. P.L. 116-152 (GAO) which authorized \$900 million annually in permanent funding of Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

The listening session has been scheduled on October 5, 2021, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET and October 25, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. ET. Please see the enclosed for the registration link and additional information. Please contact LWCFund@ios.doi.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

GREGORY
MEHOJAH

Digitally signed by
GREGORY MEHOJAH

Date: 2021.09.23
17:38:45 -06'00'

Gregory Mehojah
Regional Director

Enclosure

cc:

Mr. Myron Lizer, Vice President, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation
Mr. Paulson Chaco, Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation
Mr. Milton Bluehouse, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation
Ms. Santee Lewis, Washington Office, Navajo Nation
Mr. Levon Henry, Legal Counsel, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation

Department of the Interior

Land and Water Conservation Fund

Overview

What is the Land and Water Conservation Fund?

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was established by Congress in 1964 to fulfill a bipartisan commitment to safeguard natural areas, water resources and cultural heritage, and to provide recreation opportunities to all Americans. The fund invests earnings from offshore oil and gas leasing to help strengthen communities, preserve history and protect the national endowment of lands and waters. On August 4, 2020, the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) was signed into law, which authorized \$900 million annually in permanent funding for LWCF. Prior to the passage of GAOA, funding for LWCF was reliant on annual Congressional appropriations.

Where does the money come from?

The primary source of revenue for the LWCF is from Federal oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf. The LWCF is based on a simple concept: take revenues from the depletion of resources –offshore oil and gas – and use them to conserve other resources: parks, wildlife refuges, forests, open spaces, trails and wildlife habitat.

Where does the money go?

Money from the LWCF goes to a variety of programs that support a nationwide legacy of high-quality recreation and conservation areas. A summary of currently funded Department of the Interior (DOI) programs at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Park Service (NPS) is provided below. Some of the funds are invested by agencies to protect Federal lands for public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment – including National Parks, National Forests, and National Recreation Areas. Agencies also partner with landowners to support voluntary conservation activities on private lands. Some of the funds are distributed directly to States and local communities through grant programs. Tribes can work with States through the grant programs to secure LWCF funding for recreation and conservation projects. These grants can be used for a range of projects from establishing baseball fields and community green spaces; to providing public access to rivers, lakes and other water resources; to protecting historic and cultural sites; and conserving natural landscapes.

DOI LWCF Programs

Grant Programs

American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP)

ABPP Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants (BLAG), as authorized by 54 U.S.C. §308103 and 54 U.S.C. §200305, are available to States and local governments to acquire and preserve eligible American Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War battlefield lands. Tribes must partner with States or local governments on grant applications.

Battlefield Interpretation Grants are awarded for projects that deploy technology to modernize and enhance battlefield interpretation and education at BLAG-eligible Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War battlefield sites. These grants support critical stewardship functions by expanding access and engagement to these nationally significant sites and open spaces through more inclusive narratives and technologies. Tribes can apply directly for grants.

Battlefield Restoration Grants are awarded for restoration and resource management projects at BLAG-eligible Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War battlefield sites. These grants support sustainable, community-led efforts to preserve and protect natural and cultural resources at nationally significant sites. Tribes can apply directly for grants.

National Park Service State and Local Assistance Programs

The State-side of the LWCF provides 50:50 matching grants to States and through the States to local units of government for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities consistent with a required 5-year statewide plan articulating priority needs. Since 1965 the LWCF has provided more than \$5.2 billion through more than 44,000 grants for a wide variety of projects such as parks, sports and playfields, swimming and boating areas, trails, campgrounds, and similar. The Stateside LWCF program is comprised of two programs.

LWCF State-side formula grants are apportioned to each State, Territory, and DC based on a formula in the Act. Each State is responsible for administering competitions, selecting projects, and then submitting project applications to NPS for review and final decision on award. Tribes are eligible and apply through the State application process.

The Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program is also funded through LWCF and is a separate and complementary grant program to the State-side formula grants

program. Although funding similar kinds of activities, projects should target improving recreation opportunities for economically-disadvantaged communities in larger urbanized areas that are under-served in terms of parks and other outdoor recreation resources.

Eligibility: To be eligible, a jurisdiction must have a population of at least 50,000 people and be located within an Urbanized Area as designated from the 2010 Census. Tribes who meet the jurisdiction requirement are eligible and must partner with States on grant applications.

[Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund \(CESCF\) Land Acquisition Grants](#)

CESCF Grants provide funds to States and Territories to work with private landowners, conservation organizations, and other non-Federal partners to protect and conserve Federally listed threatened and endangered species. LWCF funds two CESCF grant programs: 1.) Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grants; and 2.) Recovery Land Acquisition Grants.

Eligibility: To be eligible for funding, State and Territorial agencies must have entered into a cooperative agreement with the FWS pursuant to section 6(c) of the Endangered Species Act. There is a minimum non-Federal cost share requirement of 25% of total project costs which is reduced to 10% for multi-State/Territory applications. Tribes must partner with States and Territories on grant applications.

[Highlands Conservation Act Grant Program](#)

In 2004, the U.S. Congress passed the Highlands Conservation Act, authorizing DOI, through FWS, to provide grant funding to eligible State agencies in the Highlands region (CT, NJ, NY, PA) to purchase and conserve land from willing sellers. This funding is appropriated annually under LWCF, and each grant is matched dollar for dollar by the recipient. The State Agency is the applicant and is the holder of the land or conservation easement. Tribes must partner with States on grant applications.

Federal Land Acquisition Programs

The BLM, NPS, and FWS use LWCF money to support individual land and water acquisition projects from willing sellers. Each bureau has a defined project selection process and criteria. Tribes can collaborate with agencies to support Federal land acquisition projects funded by LWCF.

Bureau of Land Management

The BLM receives LWCF funding to acquire lands that support specific conservation, recreation, and related projects that enhance management of and public access to existing public land and resources.

National Park Service

The Federal portion of LWCF is used to acquire lands, waters, and interests therein necessary to achieve the natural, cultural, wildlife, and recreation management objectives of NPS. LWCF monies appropriated for use by the Land Resources Program of the NPS may only be used to acquire lands within the boundaries of National Park System units.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FWS receives LWCF funds to acquire lands and waters that meet the following conservation priorities: 1.) recovery of the threatened and endangered species where land acquisition is required by the recovery plan; 2.) implementing the North American Waterfowl Management Plan; and 3.) conserving migratory birds of conservation concern. Lands acquired by FWS through this program become part of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) or National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS).



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

SEP 15 2021

Dear Tribal Leader:

The passage of the [Great American Outdoors Act, P.L. 116-152 \(GAOA\)](#), which authorized \$900 million annually in permanent funding of Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), presents a number of exciting opportunities for conservation efforts and partnerships through the Department of the Interior (DOI).

The LWCF was established by Congress in 1964 to fulfill a bipartisan commitment to safeguard our natural areas, water resources, and cultural heritage, and to provide recreation opportunities to all Americans. The LWCF invests earnings from offshore oil and gas leasing to help strengthen communities, preserve our history, and protect our national endowment of lands and waters. The Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service all have programs that are funded through LWCF as well as the U.S. Forest Service at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Please see the attached fact sheet for additional information on the LWCF and the Bureau programs.

We are scheduling the following *listening sessions* to create an opportunity for sharing and dialogue about these programs and to learn what Tribes see as important opportunities. In addition to hearing from you about opportunities, we would also like your input on the following questions:

1. What opportunities do you foresee for the LWCF program? Particularly in the areas of biodiversity, climate change, and access to public lands and equities in recreation?
2. What is important to highlight across the programs in Interior to show the benefits of LWCF to Tribes?
3. How do we encourage more Tribally led participation and access to the programs?
4. What ideas do you have that could maximize partnerships?
5. What topics should we have for future sessions?

Tribal Listening Sessions

Tuesday, October 5, 2021
1 p.m. to 4 p.m. ET

Please register in advance at:

https://blm.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_UKGmmNTfS1edWc8rwHllmQ

Monday, October 25, 2021

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. ET

Please register in advance at:

https://blm.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_Xmz_Sbs5RGGc6n_eJbVNuA

We envision these first sessions as a starting point that informs future sessions and engagement. We anticipate hosting similar listening sessions every year. Please contact LWCFund@ios.doi.gov if you have any questions about the listening sessions.

Sincerely,



Bryan Newland
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

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Rachael S. Taylor
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary –
Policy, Management, and Budget

Enclosure



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Navajo Regional Office

P.O. Box 1060

Gallup, New Mexico 87305

September 24, 2021

Honorable Jonathan Nez
100 Parkway
Post Office Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear President Nez:

Please find the enclosed letter from the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs regarding the Biden Administration's commitment to tribal governments support to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The American Rescue Plan provides direct economic assistance, including the historic 31.2 billion to Tribal communities.

Please see the enclosure for more details on the grant opportunities.

Sincerely,

GREGORY
MEHOJAH

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GREGORY MEHOJAH
Date: 2021.09.24
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Gregory Mehojah
Regional Director

Enclosure(s)

cc:

Mr. Myron Lizer, Vice President, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation
Mr. Paulson Chaco, Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation
Mr. Milton Bluehouse, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation
Ms. Santee Lewis, Washington Office, Navajo Nation
Mr. Levon Henry, Legal Counsel, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

SEP 14 2021

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Biden Administration is committed to ensuring Tribal governments are supported as communities recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The American Rescue Plan provides fast and direct economic assistance, including a historic \$31.2 billion to Tribal communities. I am writing to share several immediate grant opportunities through various Federal agencies that could provide meaningful resources to your communities.

We encourage all Tribal governments to review the enclosed list and take action on these opportunities. If you have any questions about a grant, please reach out to contact listed on the enclosed document.

Sincerely,

Bryan Newland
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Enclosure

American Rescue Plan Resources for Tribal Communities

Indian Community Development Block Grant – American Rescue Plan (Department of Housing and Urban Development)

- Description: The Indian Community Development Block Grant – American Rescue Plan (ICDBG-ARP) provides \$280 million in funding to carry out projects and activities that prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19, for emergencies that constitute imminent threats to health and safety. This includes housing, public facilities and infrastructure, public services, and economic development, if demonstrated to pertain to preventing, preparing for, or responding to the COVID-19 health emergency. These funds may also be used to provide emergency payments for low- and middle-income families impacted by COVID-19 for items such as food, medicine, clothing, rental assistance, and utility payment assistance.
- Deadline: Phase Two application period started on September 3, 2021 at 3PM EDT. HUD is still accepting applications from Tribes.
- ICDBG-ARP Notice: <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/PIH2021-22.pdf>
- Website: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/ih/ONAP-ARP_Act_2021
- Contact: Office of Native American Programs, codetalk@hud.gov

Indian Housing Block Grant – American Rescue Plan (Department of Housing and Urban Development)

- Description: The Indian Housing Block Grant – American Rescue Plan (IHBG-ARP) provides \$450 million for the IHBG program to be used by Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities to carry out affordable housing activities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus
- These funds may be used to carry out a wide range of affordable housing activities including new housing construction, housing rehabilitation, rental and utility assistance, foreclosure prevention assistance, homelessness assistance, and more.
- Deadline: Ongoing. Tribes and TDHEs must submit an Abbreviated Indian Housing Plan to HUD before receiving their grant funding.
- Website: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/ih/ONAP-ARP_Act_2021
- IHBG-ARP Notice: <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/OCHCO/documents/2021-11pihn.pdf>
- Contact: Office of Native American Programs, codetalk@hud.gov

Homeowner's Assistance (Treasury)

- Description: The purpose of the Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) is to prevent mortgage delinquencies and defaults, foreclosures, loss of utilities or home energy services, and displacement of homeowners experiencing financial hardship after January 21, 2020. Funds from the HAF may be used for assistance with mortgage payments, homeowner's insurance, utility

payments, and other specified purposes. The law prioritizes funds for homeowners who have experienced the greatest hardships, leveraging local and national income indicators to maximize the impact.

- Deadline: September 30, 2021
- Website: <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/homeowner-assistance-fund>
- Contact: HAF_Tribal@treasury.gov

Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program (National Telecommunications and Information Administration)

- Description: The Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program provides new federal funding for a Tribal College or University to expand broadband internet access, connectivity, and digital inclusion, including to purchase broadband internet access service or equipment, hire and train IT personnel, facilitate educational instruction and learning, including through remote instruction, or to operate a minority business enterprise or 501(c)(3).
- Deadline: December 1, 2021
- Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=335076>
- Contact: Scott Woods, 202-482-1713

SSBCI (Treasury)

- Description: SSBCI provides Eligible Jurisdictions funding for: (1) small business financing programs, which includes capital access programs, loan participations, loan guarantees, collateral support, and venture equity programs; and (2) technical assistance to small businesses applying for SSBCI and other government programs.
- Deadline:
 - Notice of Intent Due September 16, 2021;
 - Application Due December 11, 2021
- Website: <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/small-business-programs/state-small-business-credit-initiative-ssbci>
- Contact: ssbci_information@treasury.gov

Indigenous Communities Challenge (Economic Development Administration)

- Description: Through the Indigenous Communities program, EDA is allocating \$100 million in American Rescue Plan funding specifically for Indigenous communities, which were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. This program is designed to support the needs of Tribal Governments and Indigenous communities. EDA will support these important partners to develop and execute economic development projects that they need to recover from the pandemic and build economies for the future. A wide range of technical, planning, workforce development, entrepreneurship, and public works and infrastructure projects are eligible for funding under this program. *Indigenous communities are also eligible and encouraged to apply under all of EDA's other programs, including EDA's five other American Rescue Plan programs.*

- Deadline: March 15, 2022 is the suggested application submission date, though applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.
- Website: <https://eda.gov/arpa/indigenous/>
- Contact: Indigenous@eda.gov

Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (Treasury)

- Description: The Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (the Fund) provides \$100 million in payments to Tribal governments and the State of Hawaii to carry out critical capital projects directly enabling work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options, in response to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). The Fund will help ensure that all communities have access to the high-quality, modern infrastructure needed to thrive, including internet access.
- Deadline: TBD.
- Website: <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/capital-projects-fund>
- Contact: Sign up for updates [HERE](#).

COVID-19 Testing, Vaccines, and Mobile Health Units Access Supplemental Funding (HHS/ACF/FVPSA)

- Description: The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) Program received a historic investment of \$550 million to assist states, territories, and tribes with providing access to COVID-19 testing, vaccines, and mobile health units for domestic violence shelters, domestic violence programs, tribes, rural communities, culturally specific programs, and underserved communities. The purpose of these supplemental funds are to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 with an intentional focus of increasing access to COVID-19 testing, vaccines, and mobile health units to mitigate the spread of this virus and increase supports for domestic violence survivors.
- Deadline: TBD
- Website: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/programs/family-violence-prevention-services>
- Contact: Shawndell Dawson, Shawndell.Dawson@acf.hhs.gov



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Navajo Regional Office

P.O. Box 1060

Gallup, New Mexico 87305

September 24, 2021

Honorable Jonathan Nez
100 Parkway
Post Office Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear President Nez:

Please find the enclosed letter from the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs regarding the restoration of Tribal homelands and how important it is to protect and restore. The Department is seeking your input into the Department's top priorities.

Please see the enclosed for additional information on the upcoming virtual sessions and details on the grant opportunities. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Elizabeth K. Appel, Director, Office of Regulatory Affairs & Collaborative Action, at (202) 738-6065 or at Elizabeth.appel@bia.gov.

Sincerely,

GREGORY
MEHOJAH

Digitally signed by
GREGORY MEHOJAH

Date: 2021.09.24
17:25:40 -06'00'

Gregory Mehojah
Regional Director

Enclosure(s)

cc:

Mr. Myron Lizer, Vice President, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation
Mr. Paulson Chaco, Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation
Mr. Milton Bluehouse, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation
Ms. Santee Lewis, Washington Office, Navajo Nation
Mr. Levon Henry, Legal Counsel, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

SEP 10 2021

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am honored to serve as the new Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs. As I undertake the solemn duties of this position, I am making it a priority to reach out and garner input from Tribal leaders on several topics. The ability to protect and restore Tribal homelands is an important issue that the Department of the Interior (Department) will strive to improve and expand upon. As part of our process to undertake these efforts, we are seeking your input as to what the Department's top priorities should be with regard to several topics related to the protection and restoration of Tribal homelands. Please find enclosed a framing paper laying out topics and questions for your consideration.

To best accommodate your locations and ensure everyone's safety, we will be holding virtual sessions scheduled by time zone. If you are unable to make the session reserved for the time zone in which your Tribe is located, please feel free to join an alternate session. I look forward to speaking with you at one or more of the following sessions:

Alaska Time Zone

Monday, October 18, 2021

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ADT

Please register in advance at:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItc-yopjqoHFybM7shIc8K5hb8oa0FJB4>

Eastern and Central Time Zones

Thursday, October 21, 2021

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. EDT / 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. CDT

Please register in advance at:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlscO6hpzwoHyTxxS4siXAZfsSB5ZixZRI>

Mountain Daylight Time Zone

Monday, October 25, 2021

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. MDT

Please register in advance at:

https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlSduiuqjgsH74MwjdZpgw9uaCJVD_Uu_Y

Pacific and Mountain Standard Time Zones

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. PDT

Please register in advance at:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltd-qvqT4rGagVja9wUUoFds41BDPgMYc>

In addition to joining one of the consultation sessions listed above, please submit any written comments to consultation@bia.gov by 11:59 p.m. ET on Friday, November 5, 2021.

I look forward to speaking with you. If you have any questions regarding this effort in the meantime, please feel free to contact Ms. Elizabeth K. Appel, Director, Office of Regulatory Affairs & Collaborative Action, at (202) 738-6065 or elizabeth.appel@bia.gov.

Sincerely,



Bryan Newland
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Enclosure

Framing Paper

Tribal Consultation on Protection and Restoration of Tribal Homelands

Protecting and restoring Tribal homelands is a key priority of the Department. While the importance of Tribal homelands undoubtedly touches upon many facets critical to Tribal sovereignty and self-determination, the consultation will focus on three specific topics: the land-into-trust process; leasing and rights-of-way; and sacred sites and treaty rights. As a starting point to facilitate discussion, the Department poses the questions stated below and organized by topic. Indian Affairs also welcomes additional comments and suggestions from Tribes beyond the questions listed.

Land-Into-Trust Process

1. Does the Department's land-into-trust process adequately allow Tribes to consolidate landholdings in or near existing reservations?
2. Does the Department's land-into-trust process adequately allow Tribes to establish homelands for landless Tribes?
3. How can the Department improve its land-into-trust process to facilitate protection of sacred sites, conservation, and the exercise of civil and criminal jurisdiction?
4. For Tribes in Alaska, how should the Department approach the land-into-trust process to adequately account for factors that are unique to Alaska?

Leasing and Rights-of-Way

5. Are the Department's existing regulations governing agricultural leasing on Indian lands adequate to protect the interests of Tribes and Indian landowners?
6. Are any changes needed to the Department's leasing and rights-of-way procedures to clarify taxing jurisdiction in Indian country and to promote economic development in Indian country?

Sacred Sites and Treaty Rights

7. What steps can the Department take to ensure that Tribes have the ability to protect their sacred places and access those sites to exercise religious rights?
8. What steps can the Department take to protect the exercise of off-reservation treaty rights, including habitat for treaty resources?
9. What actions can the Department take in relation to other agencies to ensure the protection of sacred sites and treaty rights?

Overall

10. What is the most pressing need for protection and restoration of Tribal homelands that the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs can help address?

Directions for Submitting Written Comments

Please submit any written comments in relation to these questions to: consultation@bia.gov by 11:59 Eastern Time on Friday, November 5, 2021.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Navajo Regional Office

P.O. Box 1060

Gallup, New Mexico 87305

September 24, 2021

Honorable Jonathan Nez
100 Parkway
Post Office Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear President Nez:

Please find the enclosed letter from the Assistant Secretary – for Policy and Environmental Management hosting a series Government-to-government Tribal consultation sessions to help inform the development of the Department’s Fiscal Year 2022-2026 Strategic Plan (Strategic Plan).

Your input is requested to the Department’s Strategic Plan framework. Please see the enclosed for the sessions that will be offered. Your input to the Strategic Plan is available to November 19, 2021 by emailing DOI_Strategic_Plan@ios.doi.gov. For any questions, please contact Mark Oliver at DOI_Strategic_Plan@ios.doi.gov or by calling (202) 573-4376.

Please see the enclosure for more details on this initiative.

Sincerely,

GREGORY
MEHOJAH

Digitally signed by
GREGORY MEHOJAH
Date: 2021.09.24
17:24:57 -06'00'

Gregory Mehojah
Regional Director

Enclosure(s)

cc:

Mr. Myron Lizer, Vice President, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation
Mr. Paulson Chaco, Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation
Mr. Milton Bluehouse, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation
Ms. Santee Lewis, Washington Office, Navajo Nation
Mr. Levon Henry, Legal Counsel, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Tribal Leader:

In October 2021, the U.S. Department of the Interior (Department or DOI) will host a series of Government-to-Government Tribal consultation sessions to help inform the development of the Department's Fiscal Year 2022-2026 Strategic Plan (Strategic Plan). The DOI Strategic Plan will outline the goals and objectives of the Secretary of the Interior, strategies to accomplish those goals, and performance measures to track the progress of the plan. The strategic plan will also identify key risks, establish plans to mitigate risks, and build evidence to help achieve the Department's goals. Previous strategic plans can be view by visiting [DOI Strategic Plans](#).

Your input is requested on the Department's Strategic Plan framework, which addresses the strategic priorities of the Biden-Harris Administration and Secretary Haaland. The framework is structured around four overarching mission goals for the Department:

- Promote well-being, equity, and justice for Tribes, Native Americans, and Alaska Natives
- Conserve, protect, and restore natural and cultural resources
- Sustainably balance the use of resources while supporting communities and the economy
- Serve and honor the public trust

By February 2022, DOI will have incorporated all stakeholder feedback into the plan and develop performance measures that set near term outcomes (approximately 5 years). The Department will routinely track, assess, and report on the progress of these performance measures.

The Department would appreciate your input on the strategic plan framework, including responsive implementation strategies and performance goals that honor our trust responsibilities. In addition to influencing the strategic plan, your feedback will also inform the Department's Risk Profile for the next 4 years.

In conjunction with bureaus throughout the Department, the Office of Planning and Performance Management will lead the consultation sessions. The sessions, listed below, will be held via recorded Zoom calls and supported by conference call capabilities.

Date	Time	Location
October 12, 2021	4:00 p.m. (Pacific)	Zoom link for October 12 session Meeting ID: 160 210 2616 Passcode: 247397 833 568 8864 US Toll-free
October 14, 2021	10:00 a.m. (Alaskan)	Zoom link for October 14 session Meeting ID: 161 311 0280 Passcode: 292683 833 568 8864 US Toll-free
October 19, 2021	10:00 a.m. (Eastern)	Zoom link for October 19 session Meeting ID: 160 502 5240 Passcode: 112047 833 568 8864 US Toll-free

Feedback on the proposed Strategic Plan framework can be provided during the sessions, and up to November 19, by emailing comments to [DOI Strategic Plan@ios.doi.gov](mailto:DOI_Strategic_Plan@ios.doi.gov). Feedback and comments will be considered as we finalize the Department's Strategic Plan, as well as in the development of annual performance plans, strategic reviews and other related efforts. The final Strategic Plan will be published on the Department's website in early 2022.

For questions regarding the upcoming sessions, please contact Mark Oliver at [DOI Strategic Plan@ios.doi.gov](mailto:DOI_Strategic_Plan@ios.doi.gov) or by calling 202-573-4376.

Sincerely,



Eric Werwa
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Environmental Management

The Department of the Interior proposed FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan framework

Strategic Goal 1

Promote well-being, equity, and justice for Tribes, Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Insular communities

Strategic Objective 1.1

Native American students have the education necessary for future success

Strategic Objective 1.2

Native Americans and Insular Area communities are safe, healthy, and their rights and cultures are respected

Strategic Objective 1.3

Native American and Insular Areas have economic security and growth to support their communities

Strategic Goal 2

Conserve, protect, manage, and restore natural and cultural resources

Strategic Objective 2.1

Lands, waters, and heritage are preserved and available for present and future generations

Strategic Objective 2.2

Species, habitats, and ecosystems are protected, sustained, and healthy

Strategic Objective 2.3

Plans, facilities, and operations are resilient and responsive to complexities of climate, environment, and society

Strategic Goal 3

Sustainably balance the use of resources while supporting communities and the economy

Strategic Objective 3.1

Future energy needs will be increasingly met through renewable and sustainable sources

Strategic Objective 3.2

Current energy needs are met through balanced resource use

Strategic Objective 3.3

Land, water, and mineral resources support the diverse needs of communities

Strategic Goal 4

Serve and honor the public trust

Strategic Objective 4.1

People find enjoyment and take pride in our lands and heritage

Strategic Objective 4.2

Communities and organizations have the data, science, and information they need

Strategic Objective 4.3

Access to opportunities, services, and resources is equitable

Strategic Objective 4.4

The DOI workforce is diverse, safe, engaged, and committed to the DOI mission

Strategic Objective 4.5

There is trust, confidence, and satisfaction in the Department of the Interior



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Navajo Regional Office

P.O. Box 1060

Gallup, New Mexico 87305

September 24, 2021

Honorable Jonathan Nez
100 Parkway
Post Office Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear President Nez:

Please find the enclosed letter from the Assistant Secretary –Indian Affairs regarding the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA) formerly Office of Special Trust (OST) for American Indians.

The Department would like your input to the consultation session to discuss how BTFA can carry out their duties and customer service. Please see the enclosure for more details on the consultation sessions in November 2021 and the tribal consultation framing paper.

Sincerely,

GREGORY
MEHOJAH

Digitally signed by
GREGORY MEHOJAH
Date: 2021.09.24
17:29:20 -06'00'

Greg Mehojah
Regional Director

Enclosure(s)

cc:

Mr. Myron Lizer, Vice President, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation
Mr. Paulson Chaco, Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation
Mr. Milton Bluehouse, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation
Ms. Santee Lewis, Washington Office, Navajo Nation
Mr. Levon Henry, Legal Counsel, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

SEP 23 2021

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Department of the Interior continually strives to excel in its accounting and investing of Indian financial trust assets. For over a year now, the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA) has been performing all the operational duties related to this function. The issuance of Secretary's Order 3384 on September 1, 2020, formally moved the functions and personnel of the Office of Special Trust for American Indians (OST) to BTFA.

Please join me at one or both of the following consultation sessions to discuss how BTFA can carry out its duties most effectively and improve customer service. Please find enclosed a framing paper with some questions for discussion.

Monday, November 1, 2021

10 a.m. to 12 p.m. ET

Please register in advance at:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlscOCuqDsiHXJZPMYvqQYeMFum2M4ApmI>

Thursday, November 4, 2021

2 p.m. to 4 p.m. ET

Please register in advance at:

https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltdOurqT0sEl8P3BsMG7uF_ufewTfc8p4

I also welcome you to submit any written comments to consultation@btfa.gov by 11:59 p.m. ET on Friday, November 12, 2021.

I look forward to speaking with you. If you have any questions regarding this effort in the meantime, please feel free to contact Mr. Lee Frazier – Congressional Liaison, by phone at (202) 368-5104 or by email at lee-frazier@btfa.gov.

Sincerely,

Bryan Newland
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Enclosure

Tribal Consultation Framing Paper

The Future of BTFA and OST: Plans for Future Operations

The Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA) has been performing all the operational duties related to the accounting and investing of Indian financial trust assets since September 2020, when a Secretary's Order transferred those Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) functions to BTFA.¹ The Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs seeks Tribal input through formal Tribal consultation on the future of both BTFA and OST. As a starting point for discussions, the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs poses the following questions to Tribes:

Question 1: In addition to its day-to-day duties of trust funds management, what (if any) roles do you envision for BTFA in the future?

- Should BTFA do more to promote financial literacy?
- Are there other roles BTFA should fulfill related to trust funds management?

Question 2: What are your thoughts on proposed BTFA modernization efforts?

- BTFA is considering innovations to make accessing trust accounts more convenient (online access to trust accounts; kiosks providing access to trust accounts) and to make storing trust records more efficient and cost-effective (digitization of trust records now stored at the AIRR facility). What are your thoughts on these potential innovations?
- What other innovations would you like to see BTFA implement to improve customer service to Tribal and individual Indian beneficiaries?
- What other innovations would you like to see to make storage and maintenance of trust records more efficient and cost-effective?

Question 3: Is there a future trust reform role for OST?

- The 1994 Act that created OST also provides for the termination of the office after “all reforms identified in the strategic plan have been implemented to the satisfaction of the Special Trustee.” But the law also provides that the Special Trustee may recommend the continuation, or the permanent establishment, of OST if he or she concludes that continuation or permanent establishment is necessary for the efficient discharge of the Secretary's trust responsibilities. Most major trust reforms mandated by the 1994 Act are either completed or nearing completion, so BTFA (instead of OST) is now performing the ongoing daily operations related to the management of Indian financial trust assets. Is there a useful role for OST to play in overseeing future trust reforms?

Directions for Submitting Comments

Please submit any comments you have for BTFA's plan to: consultation@btfa.gov by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on November 12, 2021.

¹ On September 1, 2020, Secretary's Order No. 3384 formally moved the functions and personnel of the Office of Special Trust for American Indians (OST) to BTFA. OST still exists nominally, but it has no personnel and is not responsible for any functions.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Navajo Regional Office

P.O. Box 1060

Gallup, New Mexico 87305

September 30, 2021

Honorable Jonathan Nez
100 Parkway
Post Office Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear President Nez:

Please find the enclosed letter from the Assistant Secretary –Indian Affairs (ASIA) regarding the implementation of the Indian Boarding School Initiative (Initiative) that was announced by Secretary Haaland in June 2021. As part of consultation with tribal governments, Alaska Native Corporations, and Native Hawaiian Organizations, your input oral or written is requested by December 17, 2021. The consultations will be held in November 2021.

Please see the enclosure for more details on the consultation session. If you have any questions, please contact Heidi Todacheene, Senior Advisor to the AS-IA at Heidi_Todacheene@ios.doi.gov or at (202) 208-7163.

Sincerely,

GREGORY
MEHOJAH

Digitally signed by
GREGORY MEHOJAH
Date: 2021.09.30
12:19:46 -06'00'

Greg Mehojah
Regional Director

Enclosure

cc:

Mr. Myron Lizer, Vice President, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation
Mr. Paulson Chaco, Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation
Mr. Milton Bluehouse, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation
Ms. Santee Lewis, Washington Office, Navajo Nation
Mr. Levon Henry, Legal Counsel, Office of the President, Vice President, Navajo Nation
Ms. Patricia Gonnie, Navajo Nation, Department of Diné Education



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

SEP 28 2021

Dear Tribal Leader:

The U.S. Department of the Interior (Department) seeks Tribal and stakeholder input regarding the implementation of the Indian Boarding School Initiative (Initiative) that Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland announced in June 2021.¹ The Initiative's purpose is an initial collection and review of Department documents and records, and compilation of its existing data. These are first steps in addressing Indian boarding school policies and their effects as part of the Department's report due to the Secretary by April 1, 2022.

For over a century, the Bureau of Indian Affairs was involved in the operation and oversight of Indian boarding schools in the United States. As a result, the Department is uniquely positioned to assist in the effort to recover the histories of Federal Indian boarding schools.

The Department seeks to consult with Tribal governments, Alaska Native Corporations, and Native Hawaiian Organizations on key issues for inclusion in the Department's Initiative report and help lay the foundation for future sitework to protect potential burial sites and other sensitive information. To facilitate discussion during the consultations, participants are requested to address the following topics:

- Appropriate protocols on handling sensitive information in existing records;
- Ways to address cultural concerns and handling of information generated from existing records or from potential sitework activities;
- Potential repatriation of human remains, including cultural concerns and compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act;
- Future policy and procedure implementation to protect burial sites, locations, confidential information, and culturally sensitive information;
- Management of sites of former boarding schools;
- Privacy issues or cultural concerns to be identified as part of the Initiative; and
- Other issues the Department should address in its review.

The Department will conduct the webinar consultation sessions listed below and will accept oral and written comments. Please register in advance for any consultation session you plan on attending. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Please note that these Tribal consultations will be closed to the press and the public to protect confidential information that may be discussed during the sessions.

¹ "Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative," Memorandum from the Secretary of the Interior to Assistant Secretaries, et al. (Jun. 22, 2021).

The consultation schedule is:

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET

Please register in advance at:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltdOutpzsoGAeuPCEBeNPj2mFoIDfdEz0>

Tuesday, November 16

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET

Please register in advance at:

https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltd-itpkjGXFeP95IZrzuJJ24_RkLyPE

Thursday, November 18

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET

Please register in advance at:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltd-utqjltG1E6KndFBZq0y9Dmh81TLY4>

You may provide written input by Friday, December 17, 2021 to consultation@bia.gov. I look forward to speaking with you. If you have questions regarding this effort, please contact Heidi Todacheene, Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs, by email at Heidi_Todacheene@ios.doi.gov or by phone at (202) 208-7163.

Sincerely,



Bryan Newland
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Appendix B – News Release

<https://www.bia.gov/press-releases>

September 2021

PRESS RELEASE

BIA Announces Indian Child Welfare Act Title II Grant Awards Totaling Approximately \$2 Million

Funds Will Support Child and Family Service Programs for Off-Reservation Indian Organizations.

Date: 09/29/2021

PRESS RELEASE

BIA Announces Tribal Climate Resilience Grants Totaling \$13.84 Million Awarded For FY 2021

Funds Will Aid Tribes, Tribal Orgs in Enhancing Preparedness, Resilience, Ocean and Coastal Management and Planning Response to Climate Change.

Date: 09/23/2021

PRESS RELEASE

Indian Affairs Announces \$500,000 in NABDI 2021 Grants Awarded to 10 Federally Recognized Tribes

Funding will enable Tribal leaders to better evaluate, identify viable economic opportunities for their communities.

Date: 09/16/2021

PRESS RELEASE

Buy-Back Program Sends Offers to Landowners with Fractional Interests at the Winnebago Reservation

Interested sellers have 45 days to respond to offers. Landowners who received offers have until October 22, 2021, to consider and return accepted offers in the pre-paid postage envelopes provided.

Date: 09/07/2021

PRESS RELEASE

Buy-Back Program Sends Offers to Landowners with Fractional Interests at the Lake Traverse Reservation

Interested sellers have until Sept. 27, 2021, to respond to offers.

Date: 09/07/2021

PRESS RELEASE

Buy-Back Program Sends Offers to Landowners with Fractional Interests at the Umatilla Reservation

Interested sellers have until Sept. 24, 2021, to respond to offers.

Date: 09/07/2021

PRESS RELEASE

Indian Affairs Announces HEARTH Act Approval for Three Tribes

Adds to growing list of Tribal nations with restored authority to regulate leasing of their trust, restricted fee lands.

Date: 09/01/2021

August 2021

PRESS RELEASE

Bureau of Indian Affairs Announces Land Records Regulations

Updates comport with HEARTH Act and TERAs, reflect 21st century approach to managing Indian trust and restricted fee land records.

Date: 08/18/2021

DEAR TRIBAL LEADER LETTER

Dear Tribal Leader Letter - Non-Federal Membership Nominations

Dear Tribal Leader:

Congress enacted the Not Invisible Act of 2019 (Act) 1 to increase intergovernmental coordination to identify and combat violent crime within Indian lands and against Indians. Section 4 of the Act requires that the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary), in coordination with the United States Attorney General, establish and appoint non-Federal members to a Joint Commission on Reducing Violent Crime Against Indians (Commission). The Commission will develop recommendations on actions the Federal Government can take to identify, coordinate, and combat violent crime, within Indian lands and of Indians, as required under the Act

Date: 08/04/2021

PRESS RELEASE

Buy-Back Program Sends Offers to Landowners with Fractional Interests at the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians Reservation

Interested sellers have until Sept. 10 to respond to offers.

Date: 08/04/2021

PRESS RELEASE

Interior and Justice Department Takes Next Steps in Implementation of Not Invisible Act

Announce Call For Nominations For Commission Members and Upcoming Tribal Consultations.

Date: 08/04/2021

DEAR TRIBAL LEADER LETTER

Dear Tribal Leader Letter: Not Invisible Act Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Tribal Leader:

The U.S. Department of the Interior (Department), in coordination with the U.S. Department of Justice is seeking Tribal and stakeholder input related to the implementation of the Not Invisible Act of 2019 (Act). The Act aims to increase intergovernmental coordination to identify and combat violent crime on Indian lands and against Indians. See Pub. L. No. 116-166, 134 Stat. 766 (2020).¹ Section 4 of the Act requires the Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the Attorney General, to establish a joint Commission on reducing violent crime against Indians.

Date: 08/02/2021

PRESS RELEASE

Bureau of Indian Affairs Announces Land Records Regulations

Updates comport with HEARTH Act and TERAs, reflect 21st century approach to managing Indian trust and restricted fee land records.

Date: 08/18/2021

DEAR TRIBAL LEADER LETTER

Dear Tribal Leader Letter - Non-Federal Membership Nominations

Dear Tribal Leader:

Congress enacted the Not Invisible Act of 2019 (Act) to increase intergovernmental coordination to identify and combat violent crime within Indian lands and against Indians. Section 4 of the Act requires that the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary), in coordination with the United States Attorney General, establish and appoint non-Federal members to a Joint Commission on Reducing Violent Crime Against Indians (Commission). The Commission will develop recommendations on actions the Federal Government can take to identify, coordinate, and combat violent crime, within Indian lands and of Indians, as required under the Act

Date: 08/04/2021

July 2021

PRESS RELEASE

Statement on the Ninth Anniversary of the Signing of the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership (HEARTH) Act

WASHINGTON – On the ninth anniversary of the signing of the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership (HEARTH) Act of 2012, Department of the Interior Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Bryan Newland noted the legislation’s importance to Indian Country’s development.

Date: 07/30/2021

PRESS RELEASE

Indian Affairs Announces FY 2021 Tribal Tourism Grants Availability

Applications can include how Tribal tourism businesses recover and adapt to challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic

Date: 07/15/2021