25th Navajo Nation Council

2024 Third Quarter

Summer Session

Report

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Navajo Region

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ya'at'eeh Honorable Madam Speaker Curley, Honorable Council Delegates of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, Honorable President Dr. Nygren, Madam Vice President Montoya, Tribal, State, County, and local leaders, Navajo Nation employees and shik'éí dóó Dine'é of our Great Navajo Nation.

I am pleased to present to you the Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Region's 2024 Third Quarter Summer Session Report to the 25th Navajo Nation Council. Our report summarizes our accomplishments for this quarter in carrying out our BIA mission operations to the Navajo Nation.

OUR MISSION

To enhance the quality of life, promote economic opportunities, and to carry out the responsibilities entrusted to us to protect and improve the trust assets of the Navajo Nation.

OUR PROGRESS

The core values of our mission of service to the Navajo Nation supports Tribal selfdetermination and sovereignty through a commitment to uphold nation-to-nation relationships and strengthening Federal trust responsibilities.

This Quarter, I point out significant accomplishments in supporting the Navajo Nation's Efforts in Working Toward Sovereignty and Self Determination by the following:

- Over \$79 Million provided to the Navajo Nation through PL 93-638 Contracts
- Approving the Carrizo Sand and Gravel Pit in Teec Nos Pos, Arizona. A collaborative effort between the BIA Navajo Region, Navajo Nation, and Apache County that took 32+ years to complete.
- Working with the Navajo Nation and Navajo Tribal Utility Authority Grant Funding in the Amount of \$10 Million for Phase 1 Tribal Electrification Project.
- Working in a concerted effort to educate and provide scientific data to support conservation, preservation and protection of Navajo Nation land and natural resources.

On behalf of the BIA Navajo Region, I support continued collaboration with Tribes to make life healthier and safer for our Navajo people; strengthen Tribal sovereignty; revitalize Tribal languages, cultures, economies, and lands; and improve Tribal resilience to climate change.

I continue to be grateful and consider myself fortunate to work with my team for the good of the Navajo Nation.

'Axhe'hee,

DEBORAH SHIRLEY Digitally signed by DEBORAH SHIRLEY Date: 2024.07.01 21:56:35 -06'00'

Deborah Shirley, Acting Regional Director BIA Navajo Region

Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Region

Department of the Interior FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan Framework

For the performance period from April 1, 2024, to June 30, 2024, the BIA Navajo Region reports the following accomplishments:

STRATEGIC GOAL 1 - Promote Well-Being, Equity, and Justice for Tribes, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and Insular Communities.

Branch of Management and Budget - <u>Fiscal Year (FY) 2024</u> – Below is a summary of FY 2024 funds provided to the Navajo Nation under P.L. 93-638 contracts, as of June 21, 2024. **Total funding provided is \$79,055,348.00 with \$37,633,031.36 to be awarded.**

Available Awarded Funds 245A2100DD A0H901010 : SOCIAL SERVICES-TPA 6,078,915.00 6,078,915.00 6,078,915.00 245A2100DD 245A2100DD A0H901040 : Domestic Violence 146,000.00 146,000.00 146,000.00 146,000.00												
Fund		Funds		Distributed	Available Funds							
245A2100DD	A0H901010 : SOCIAL SERVICES-TPA	6,078,915.00	6,078,915.00	6,078,915.00	0.00							
245A2100DD	A0H901040 : Domestic Violence	146,000.00	146,000.00	146,000.00	0.00							
245A2100DD	A0H913030 : WELFARE ASSISTANCE-TPA	26,189,886.00	4,838,346.00	4,838,346.00	21,351,540.00							
245A2100DD	A0H922020 : IND CHILD WELFARE ACT-TPA	1,512,395.00	1,512,395.00	1,512,395.00	0.00							
24XA2100DD	A0H937070 : HOUSING IMPROV PROGRM-TPA	4,135.00			4,135.00							
245A2100DD	A0J908080 : TRIBAL COURTS PROGRMS-TPA	1,859,673.00	1,859,673.00	1,859,673.00	0.00							
245A2100DD	A0N301010 : IRRIGATION, OPER & MAINT	1,724,195.00	1,724,195.00	1,724,195.00	0.00							
245A2100DD	A0N6A3031 : FOREST MARKETING ASSIST	25,543.00			25,543.00							
245A2100DD	A0N9A0505 : NATURAL RESOURCES -TPA	4,315.00			4,315.00							
245A2100DD	A0N9B1010 : AGRICULTURE PRGRM-TPA	1,305,502.00	1,305,502.00	1,305,502.00	0.00							
245A2100DD	A0N9C3030 : FORESTRY PROGRAM -TPA	774,372.00	309,671.36	309,671.36	464,700.64							
245A2100DD	A0N9D4040 : WATER RES PROGRAM -TPA	740,521.00	740,521.00	740,521.00	0.00							
245A2100DD	A0N9E5050 : WILDLIFE&PARKS PRGRM-TPA	536,162.00	536,162.00	536,162.00	0.00							
245A2100DD	A0R9D4040 : ENVRMNTL QLTY PRGRM-TPA	119,681.00	119,681.00	119,681.00	0.00							
245A2100DD	A0T902020 : OTHER AID-TRBL GOV -TPA	1,015,435.00	1,015,435.00	1,015,435.00	0.00							
245A2240DD	A3T937070 : CSC CONTRACT SUPPORT TPA	19,572,083.00			19,572,083.00							
245A2100DD	AEE904040 : JHNSN O'MALL A GR TPA BIA	3,865,977.00	3,865,977.00	3,865,977.00	0.00							
245A2100DD	AEE931010 : TRIBAL SCHOLARSHI TPA BIA	13,580,558.00	13,580,558.00	13,580,558.00	0.00							
	TOTALS	79,055,348.00	37,633,031.36	37,633,031.36	41,422,316.64							

Federal Indian Minerals Office - The third quarter for FY2024 has been steady for the Federal Indian Minerals Office (FIMO). FIMO has implemented the return to office for the staff per guidance from the BIA NRO. FIMO continues to meet with allottees at the office, answer telephone inquiries and provide phone-in and in person outreaches to the communities in Eastern Navajo Agency. Activities continue to increase as FIMO identifies new projects being proposed. FIMO continues to service allottees and fulfill its trust responsibilities to meet BIA mission goals.

Leasing Assignments – No Assignments processed – one (1) Assignment of mining Lease pending review.

Lease Termination/Cancellation – Nine (9) Indian Allotted leases were cancelled for the SITTA and M&M wells.

Office of Tribal Government Services– For the summer quarter, the BIA sent forty-five referrals to the Navajo Nation Office of Vital Records/Enrollment program regarding Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB) for prospective tribal membership. The CIB requests range from individuals seeking scholarship and benefits to prison inmates seeking membership with the Navajo Nation. Based on enrolled agencies, the following chart depicts the number of referrals by BIA Agencies made this quarter:

Office/Agencies	Referrals
Eastern Navajo Agency	5
Chinle Agency	1
Fort Defiance Agency	3
Shiprock Agency	9
Tuba City Agency	0
Window Rock	27
Total:	45

The Tribal Operations Specialist (TGS) serves as the Awarding Official Technical Representative (AOTR) for three P.L. 93-638 contracts. In coordination with the BIA Awarding Official and the Navajo Nation Program Administrator, the following transactions were completed this quarter.

P.L. 93-638 Contractual Program, Tribal (Census) Enrollment (TE) program Contract, A16AV00151: On May 22, 2024, the AOTR received the completed Tribal Enrollment Data Collection form as requested by the Bureau of Indian Affairs through a Dear Tribal Leader letter dated February 22, 2024. The Nation's understanding is this information supports legislation for funding allocations and programs supported by annual appropriations.

On June 25, 2024, the AOTR reviewed the SF-425 report for Tribal enrollment program and found the report to be acceptable which was then submitted to the BIA Awarding Official for further processing.

P.L. 93-638 Contractual Program, Higher Education, Contract A17AV00096: On June 7, 2024, the AOTR completed the monitoring review report from the March 2024 site visit to Crownpoint, N.M. This report was submitted to the BIA Awarding Official for further processing. The AOTR identified no findings for the monitoring review for Calendar Year 2023-2024.

P.L. 93-638 Contractual Program, Tribal Courts, Contract No. A22AV0015:On June 21, 2023, the AOTR completed the review of CY 2023 Annual Narrative Reports period ending December 31, 2023. The review was sent to the BIA Awarding Official for further processing.

On May 22, 2024, the AOTR processed a Purchase Request in the amount of \$ 73,074.00. These funds are made available pursuant to H.R. 4366 Public Law 118-42 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024. (Mar. 9, 2024); 138 STAT 25. Funds are available through their period of availability. This is a one-time funding allocation for Public Safety and Justice funds.

Branch of Acquisitions Operations – Branch of Acquisitions supports the various programs in soliciting, awarding, and monitoring, contracts, and agreements for the Navajo Region and the five agencies within Navajo Region, to support their initiative in promoting well-being, equity, and justice for the Navajo Nation. All awards benefit the Navajo Nation with a total of \$933,370 was awarded to Native Owned companies for this quarter.

The work in progress for the school MI&R 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. Four contracts have been awarded totaling \$428,010.

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 Indian Self-Determination - The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Navajo Region (NR) Branch of Indian Self-Determination (BISD) continues to work with Navajo Nation's (Nation) twentytwo non-construction Contracts, seven Subpart J Construction Contracts and five other Tribal Organizations (TO) under Public Law (P. L.) 93-638. This quarter, two tribal organization submitted one School Year 2024-2025 Successor Annual Funding Agreement proposal and one Contract Renewal proposal to continue contracting services under a P. L. 93-638 Contract. The BIA NR and Bureau of Indian Education reviewed the proposals in accordance with 25 CFR Part 900 and provided its review response to each TO. This quarter BIA NR awarded FY2024 funding, FY2023 one-time funding and remaining FY2023 Contract Support Cost Additional Need to the P. L. 93-638 Contracts. The funding distribution to the Nation and TO's P. L. 93-638 Contracts are shown in Table 1. All contractors continue providing services to communities and other contractual activities, in accordance with their approved 2024 Scope of Work (SOW) and budgets. All funds awarded entirely benefit the Nation.

The BIA NR conducted the P. L. 93-638 Contract Monitoring for Nation's Safety of Dams Program on April 30, 2024. The BIA NR and Office of Justice Services conducted annual P. L. 93-638 Contract Monitoring for Law Enforcement Patrol Services Program the week of June 3, 2024, and Criminal Investigation Program the week of May 13, 2024, both at the Dilkon and Window Rock Districts. The Adult Detention and Juvenile Correction Programs completed their program monitoring the week of June 24, 2024.

The BIA NR continue to review the Nation's submitted CY 2023 Annual Narrative and Federal Financial Reports (SF-425) for all its active P. L. 93-638 Contracts and prepare responses to the Nation.

Last quarter, the BIA NR reported, the Indian Affairs Division of Internal Evaluation and Assessment (DIEA) received Nation's FY 2022 Single Audit Report (SAR); and the Nation did not provide a response by February 1, 2024. Therefore, BIA NR issued its Management Decision (MD) with the Findings & Determination to DIEA on February 1, 2024. The BIA NR's February 1, 2024, MD give the Nation 45 days for a response, due by March 16, 2024. The BIA NR received the Nation's response on March 18, 2024. The BISD reviewed the Nation's response and determined, the Nation needs to provide

substantive evidence that it has resolve each finding and questioned costs. The BIA NR April 29, 2024, dated letter requested supporting documentation by May 17, 2024, for each finding and questioned cost of \$3,872,586. The Nation did not respond to the May 17, 2024 date; therefore, BIA NR issued a May 29, 2024 follow-up letter requesting again, the supporting documents by June 21, 2024. This documentation is to demonstrate that the findings are being or have been addressed and that the issuance of a Bill of Collection for the questioned cost of \$3,872,586 will not be necessary.

The BIA NR also received the FY 2023 SAR for Rock Point Community School (RPCS) and are working with school to resolve its one finding.

Contract	The Navajo Nation	Amount
A18AV00236	Juvenile Correction Program	\$3,420
A21AV00001	Natural Heritage Program	\$2,738
A21AV00002	Fish & Wildlife Program	\$14,988
A21AV00003	Social Services-(SS) Depart. Family Services	\$439
A21AV00140	Law Enforcement -Criminal Investigations	\$25,420
A21AV00186	Law Enforcement-Patrol Services	\$122,950
A21AV00384	SS-Navajo Family Assistance Services	\$25,000
A22AV00149	Environmental Archaeological Non-Roads	\$153,420
A22AV00151	Tribal Courts Program	\$73,074
A22AV00588	Housing Improvement Program	\$410,715
A23AV00265	Adult Detention Program	\$313,670
A23AV00267	Juvenile Correction Program	\$1,641
A24AV00177	Johnson O'Malley Program	\$7,500
	Sub-Total	\$1,154,975
	Tribal Organizations	Amount
A19AV00984	Dine Bi Olta School Board Association, Inc.	\$94,970
A23AV00006	Alamo Navajo School Board, Inc.	\$795
A23AV00905	Rock Point Community School	\$129,165
23AV00006	Sub-Total	\$224,930
	GRAND TOTAL	\$1,379,905

Table 1 - Public Law 93-638 Contracts Funding Allocations

Office of Home Improvement Program, Housing Services -Last quarter Navajo Nation's Housing Improvement Program (HIP) provided its Work Plan for 2024. The BIA Office of Indian Services, Division of Human Services Housing Improvement Program requested the Nation's HIP to submits its Fiscal Year 2024 (FY) Tier II for FY 24 Navajo Workplan for the Tier II amount of \$629,301 by Thursday June 20, 2024. Nation's HIP submitted its FY 2024 Tier II Navajo WorkPlan on June 20, 2024.

Branch of Human Services - Government Performance Results Act (GPRA): The Navajo Nation's consistent attainment of its 1,811 GPRA Measurement of 69% is a testament to its steadfast dedication to improving the quality of life, promoting equity, and ensuring justice for tribal members. By supporting individuals in reaching their self-defined milestones, the Department of Social Services plays a crucial role in fostering self-sufficiency and empowerment within the community. This achievement not only highlights effective program implementation and management but also underscores the Navajo Nation's commitment to upholding the principles of well-being among its members. As collaborative efforts continue to uphold these

standards, it reinforces its role in enhancing the overall welfare and resilience of the Navajo Nation communities.

Branch of Safety provides Tribal programs opportunities to address and improve safe and healthful working conditions in the building they occupy. Understanding interdisciplinary unique program mission in meeting their needs with communities to improve quality of life and service delivery.

Branch of Safety responsibilities to Tribal employees for health and safety are multifacted to collectively address variety of safety and health needs. These range from building inspections, safety training, reporting and mitigating safety hazards, participating in collaborative group meetings to discuss climate change's impacts with regards to heat stress, indoor air quality. Especially during inclement weather that affects health and environmental hazards.

Branch of Probate and Estate Services – The Branch of Probate and Estate Services in partnership with the Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) successfully adjudicated 87 cases this quarter. The Branch of Probate and Estate Services supports the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA) to process and disburse the trust assets. At the end of FY2024 3rd Quarter, The Branch of Probate and Estate Services reports there is a total of 9,224 active probate cases being processed at some level. Currently, there are 178 cases eligible for closure. Of those, 160 have completed the disbursement of the trust property (91.95%) and 134 have completed the disbursement of the trust personalty (90.54%).

Branch of Real Estate Services – Acquisition and Disposal Division is working with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and is near finalization of the Fort Wingate Legislation: Public Law 114-328: Section 2829F, for the Return of Certain Lands at Fort Wingate, New Mexico to the Original Inhabitants. The final Patent was issued on May 6, 2024, by BLM and recorded with the McKinley County Office of the County Clerk on May 24, 2024.

Branch of Real Estate Services – Acquisition and Disposal Division is working with the Office of Indian Gaming as well as the Navajo Land Department on their Fee-to-Trust application for the Lower Highway 89 AZ project. The Branch of Real Estate Services submitted a letter May 7, 2024, to the Navajo Nation confirming the mandatory acquisition the contingency of a final selection letter of parcels from Office of Navajo-Hopi Indian Relocation.

Branch of Fire Management – Branch of Fire Management – wildland fire activity within Navajo Region had been increasing significantly, with eighteen (18) human caused wildfires reported from June 13 to June 20; recent changes with increased precipitation, however, have diminished the number of new fires reported.

Branch of Natural Resources - The Branch of Natural Resources staff participated on various BIA Central Office, Washington, D.C. to discuss Supporting and Streamlining Agriculture/Conservation practices on Tribal Lands, reciprocity between agencies for cross-training professionals, and also discussions with BIA Central Office to further the President's Tribal Consultation initiatives in Indian Country where Agriculture is concerned operating

through FSA Farm Loan Program Legislative Proposals to eliminate waste and streamline federal program funding processes.

Branch of Natural Resources, Chinle Agency – The Chinle Agency, Branch of Natural Resources continues to work with the Navajo Chinle Chapter and the Army Corps of Engineers on the flooding mitigation project.

Eastern Navajo Agency- Real Estate Services (BRES)

On April 26, 2024 and May 16, 2024, BRES met with the Navajo Nation Land Department (NNLD) and Natural Resources General Counsel to discuss the Fee-to-Trust applications for Thoreau and Whitehorse Lake Chapters. The NNLD reviewed the preliminary information including the 3 applications and indicated that the NNLD is interested in completing two of the three submitted applications. The NNLD will forward these applications to the Resource Development Committee for further review and comments. The proposed applications will be processed as defined in *25 C.F.R. 151 Land Acquisitions* and the "2016 BIA Fee to Trust Handbook." The Fee-to-Trust process is a national priority for President Joe Biden's Administration.

In compliance with 25 C.F.R. 169 Rights of Way Over Indian Lands, BRES worked with DJR Operating, LLC to process the right-of-way (ROW) for a pipeline project over Navajo Tribal Trust Lands in the vicinity of Nageezi Chapter. On May 6, 2024, ENA approved the ROW and is for the construction, operation, and maintenance of 6" and 4" inch pipelines. The site is identified as the Betonnie Tsosie Wash Unit #305H pipelines. The easements have a total of 1.058 acres on tribal trust lands. The proposed projects are needed to access oil and gas well pads that will generate funding to Indian landowners within the community.

In May 2024, in collaboration with the Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent, BRES provided training and orientation on the ROW process to the energy development companies and service entities regarding pipeline and utility requirements at San Juan College. The training included an oversight of 25 C.F.R. 169 Rights of Way Over Indian Lands, as well as consent gathering, regulatory requirements, and compensation. Training was provided because there has been significant development activity from energy companies. BRES also conducted twelve sessions to train local chapter members on the ROW process, so that they can assist the counties and electric companies to obtain ROW for roads and electricity for their communities.

The Pinedale Chapter is working with the BRES to obtain the ROW for Navajo Route 7054 (N7054) that has not yet been completed. The Navajo Department of Transportation (NDOT) has been notified that two allotments contained within the route do not have an easement. The road would cross two existing rights-of-way approved for a pipeline and a waterline. According to 25 CFR 169, NDOT is required to obtain a crossing permit from the current Grantees but has been unsuccessful. Realignment of the pipeline may be required to complete construction of N7054. Project discussions are ongoing as key personnel from the BIA Navajo Region and NDOT are working with the surveying company to complete the project survey.

BRES has been assisting the City of Gallup (City) to obtain an Amendment for McKinley County Reach 27.7B that was issued to the City on October 8, 2019. The amendment affects the Tribal Trust Land portion of the easement within Church Rock Chapter. The City was advised to apply to amend the ROW and obtain all the required documentation including Navajo Nation Tribal Consent, Biological Resource Compliance Form, and a survey plat.

BRES has been assisting the McKinley County Roads Department (MCRD) to secure or address ROW requirements to conduct improvements on existing bridges that have been deemed unsafe and a public hazard. The bridges are located within Breadsprings, Manuelito, Pinedale, Prewitt, Red Rock, and Rocksprings Chapters. The staff are providing technical support, land status information, and may assist in any consent drive at Manuelito Chapter. NDOT is securing funds for the Bridge Improvement Project for MCRD. Ten bridges have been identified; however, five of them do not have an existing ROW. MCRD is requesting BIA's assistance to gather allottee consent.

BRES met with 15 landowners who hold an interest in allotted lands within Eastern Navajo Agency. The landowners have applied to sell their interest as provided by 25 C.F.R. 152 Issuance of Patents in Fee, Certificates of Competency, Removal of Restrictions, and Sale of Certain Indian Lands; the Navajo Nation has the right of first refusal. The applications are currently pending appraisals with the Federal Appraisal Valuation Services Office. Upon receipt of the appraisals, an offer will be made to the Navajo Nation.

BRES processed numerous residential lease applications in support of the Navajo Nation's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) assistance. Due to the NEPA compliance, most of the applications are pending until the final determination document have been received by BIA ENA. Recommend the Navajo Nation review staffing levels at environmental compliance offices so documents are timely processed and not delay residential lease applications eligible for ARPA funding.

BRES participated in eight outreaches coordinated by the Farmington Indian Minerals Office providing education and information on the residential lease process to the local chapters, customers, and landowners. The staff also coordinated trainings to businesses working with the agency to obtain business leases. In all, BRES processed sixteen residential lease packets complying with regulations and approved by the Superintendent.

BRES conducted several meetings with NNLD: lease termination or mutual termination of approved homesite lease, modification to an approved homesite lease, assignment adding a name to an approved homesite lease, signature page, required of the BIA Eastern Navajo Agency's Superintendent (Amendment to an approved Homesite Lease; effective until BIA Eastern Navajo Agency's Superintendent signature) with reference to the 415(a) and 415(e) process.

Eastern Navajo Agency – Natural Resources (BNR)

BNR provided a formal response letter to the Office of Environmental Health and Engineering, Farmington Field Office with the permittee names, grazing communities, and range units for the following projects: Project NA-23-MC6, FFO Regular Scattered; Project NA-23-G54, FFO Housing Project 2023; and Project NA-23-G48, and Gallup South Scattered Housing 2023.

Eastern Navajo Agency – Transportation (BOT)

For April 2024, BOT completed several routine road maintenance works, which included replacing faded signs, damaged signs, or both with new signs along highway N9 West in Standing Rock and Dalton Pass N48 (N&S) in Little Water Borrego Pass, Casamero Lake, N49

in Smith Lake, and N7046 in Jones Ranch. BOT completed a fence repair request from McKinley County, where a vehicle was obstructing a fence line causing a concern for livestock accessing the ROW. Staff completed fence repairs on N9 East in Whitehorse and N7046 in Jones Ranch, along N49 at Smith Lake, N9 East in Pueblo Pintado, and N474 in Ojo Encino. BOT was also engaged in vegetation control and cleaned drainages along streets and sidewalks in the Crownpoint metro area. BOT completed pothole patching N104 in Crownpoint. BOT completed routine blading on earth routes N485 and N486 in Casamero Lake; N483 and N489 in Borrego Pass; N7009 Maholland wells; N98 and N52 Dalton Pass; N7013, N7135 and N7008 Pueblo Pintado; and blading on earth routes N7135, N7128, N7129, N7134, N7133 in Pueblo Pintado. BOT received a request to blade N50 in Mt. Powell, where it assessed the road and completed blading. BOT began cleaning cattleguards along N9 East in the Whitehorse Lake, completed four locations on N9 West, one location on N9 East, and one location on N56 in ToHajiilee. In addition, the ToHajiilee Chapter requested assistance on the fence line along N56, which was addressed. BOT staff repaired areas of fence and added new barbwire to low line areas. BOT also completed some patch work on N57 in ToHajiilee, the request for which was received via email for repair dip along the newly installed cattleguard. BOT also cleaned a cattleguard for a permittee of Whitehorse Lake Range Unit 10. BOT assisted in the request of the ToHajiilee Chapter to distribute cases of water to the community for the American Rescue Plan Act BIA water bottle project. BOT staff attended a roads meeting with Nageezi and Pueblo Pintado Chapter President and two Council Delegates to discuss CR7900 and BIA 7128. BOT crew had a site visit on N49 in Smith Lake to assess a proposed location of an applicant's driveway permit. The BOT crew attended Flagger's Training in Tse Bonito Navajo Department of Transportation complex.

For May 2024, BOT crew completed two major potholes patch work projects on N7062 in Breadsprings and N7044 in ChiChilTah using the universal patching material. BOT staff completed routine road maintenance by repairing signs and fence lines on N7044 in ChiChilTah, N9 East in Tinian, Pueblo Pintado, Whitehorse, N9 East in Tinian, N7062 in Breadsprings, N7044 in Jones Ranch, and N56 in ToHajiilee; also repaired old and damaged signs on N9 (East) in Pueblo Pintado and Whitehorse Lake. BOT completed wing brace repair on N11. BOT completed patch work on N7140 in Lupton using cold mix asphalt material. BOT staff completed a turnout repair on N7062 in Bread Springs using millings. BOT removed vegetation along sidewalks within the Crownpoint metro area and completed patch work on driveway turn out on N9 West entrance to Indian Health Services. BOT staff completed fence line repairs on N49/11 in Smith Lake and Pinedale. BOT crew completed blading on earth routes N11 in Rocky Canyon Pass and N50 in Mt. Powell, N7113 and N11 in Mariano Lake; N52, N98 in Dalton Pass and N7009 in Maholland Wells; and N481 in Heart Butte. BOT assisted BIE Facility Management by hauling a backhoe to and from Huerfano, NM. BOT staff removed a cattleguard from N48 North in Little Water and reinstalled it on N488 in Little Water.

In June 2024, BOT cleaned vegetation behind guardrails along N49, Smith Lake and Mariano Lake community and repaired signs along N9 East in Tinian. BOT completed fence and sign repairs on N56 in ToHajiilee where the staff added a new line of fence to the existing low fence. BOT staff completed blading on earth route N7057 in Standing Rock; N481 in Heart Butte; N482 in White Ridge; and N7057, N7049, N7120 and N7122 in the Standing Rock community. BOT met with a community member of Jones Ranch to assess an area at a residential turnout for cattleguard. BOT crew assisted BIE Facility Management with hauling a forklift back from

Albuquerque. These activities support safe and reliable roads for the public, emergency vehicles, school buses and commerce.

In coordination with the Navajo Nation Division of Transportation, the primary goal of BOT is to keep the roads open and safe to the traveling public within the eastern portion of the Navajo Nation. The staff coordinates and addresses emergencies and inclement weather that can impact roads, washouts, and bridges. The crew is on alert and, when necessary and possible, pretreat roads in the Eastern Navajo Agency. This ensures safer travel for the public and emergency vehicles.

Branch of Probate & Estate Services (BPES)

BPES staff submitted 58 cases that have accepted by the Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA), comprising approximately \$1,122,938 in Individual Indian Monies accounts, 133 allotments, and 79 probable heirs. BPES staff have completed the disbursement in and closeout of eight cases. The staff have also assisted approximately 598 clients in the office, on the field (during home visits), at one-on-one sessions with the Federal Indian Minerals Office (FIMO), on the phone, and through email. The staff keep Indian allotment interest holders informed so they have a better understanding of what they have holdings in and what it means to them. The outreach activities are conducted in the Navajo language, which facilities estate planning. These activities greatly benefit the Navajo Nation regarding land use planning because it makes it easier to obtain consent for infrastructure and commercial projects that involve Indian allotments.

BPES services requested by clients include but are not limited to printing Individual Tribal Interest reports and educating clients on how to read the reports, updating contact information, and 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. BPES work activities support tribal self-determination, self-governance, and sovereignty by ensuring that the titles to Indian allotments are kept accurate and updated.

STRATEGIC GOAL 2 - Conserve, Protect, Manage, and Restore Natural and Cultural Resources in the Face of Climate Change and Other Stressors

Branch of Acquisitions supports the various (which programs?) programs in soliciting, awarding, and monitoring contracts and agreements for the Navajo Region and the five agencies within Navajo Region, to support their initiative in promoting well-being, equity, and justice for the Navajo Nation. All awards benefit the Navajo Nation.

Branch of Human Services Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA): The Navajo Regional Office maintains its commitment to handling ICWA Notices received from various sources, including state agencies, state courts, and legal representatives acting on behalf of families. During this quarter, we received 9 ICWA Notices where tribes were not initially notified. In these cases, our office promptly responded, provided guidance to the appropriate contact information, and identified the relevant region where the child is in protective state custody. For the remaining ICWA Notices, tribes were duly notified. Furthermore, ICWA information is integrated into a shared system used by BIA regions to facilitate efficient communication and coordination. By adhering to ICWA guidelines, we ensure the protection and well-being of our children while upholding the sustainability of ICWA principles.

Federal Indian Minerals Office continues to inspect all Navajo allotted oil and gas leased lands and enforce regulations pertaining to operational, surface, and environmental issues. These duties include: 1) the concurrence or approval of applications for permits to drill, gathering systems, and alternate measurement method; 2) physical inspections of oil and gas sale facilities; and 3) investigation of oil and gas discrepancies, and undesirable events. These duties are performed by BLM Farmington Field Office and FIMO's BIA Environmental Protection Specialist (EPS).

Inspection & Enforcement – the BLM Inspection and Enforcement (I&E) program has not provided an updated report to FIMO.

Environmental Surface Inspection – FIMO continues to conduct inspections on producing wells, drilling wells, pre-abandoned wells and notice of staking. FIMO EPS continues to contact operators to comply with terms and conditions of APD's and lease terms. There are four orphan wells that are under pending status and seeking funding to proceed with plugging by BLM. FIMO continues to improve its surface inspection program. FIMO works with landowners who report complaints of oil and gas issues and help solve the matters by coordinating with BLM and operators. 47 wells have been inspected by the BIA EPS.

Plugging and Reclamation – FIMO is working with New Mexico BLM Oil Conservation Division to plug and reclaim 10 wells Navajo allotted oil and gas leased lands. This collaborative and partnered effort between FIMO, BLM and the respective allottees.

Branch of Probate and Estate Services - During the FY2024 3rd Quarter, the Branch of Probate and Estate Services prepared and submitted 105 cases to OHA for adjudication. Of the 105 cases, 68 were completed by Eastern Navajo Agency, 25 by Fort Defiance Agency, and 12 by Shiprock Agency.

Branch of Probate and Estate Services – In the FY2024 3rd Quarter, there was a total of 218 new deaths reported, with all resulting in new cases being created to be researched. Many of these cases were reported by the Eastern Navajo Agency (96) and Fort Defiance Agency (62).

Branch of Real Estate Services – The Branch of Real Estate Services, Minerals Division continues to have monthly conference calls and or meetings with the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), Navajo Nation Solid Minerals, and BLM, on any updates or issues relating to the Navajo Mine (NTEC), Chevron (CMI) and Peabody Western Coal Company (PWCC) status of reclamation on inspections for these coal mines. The Branch of Real Estate Services, Minerals Division also performed inspections with BLM and the Navajo Nation, for status of reclamations for gravel pits on: Kaibeto Resources, Inc. June 24, PWCC June 25, and Nazlini and Wheatfield June 26, 2024.

Branch of Real Estate Services – The Branch of Real Estate Services, Minerals Division is assisting and attending schedule on-site inspections for new proposed wells for the Application of Permit Drill applications for Oil and Gas leases. The Branch of Real Estate Services continue to attend any inspections for Plug and Abandon wells with the BLM Farmington Office for clearances. The attendees are the companies, Navajo Nation, and the BIA.

Branch of Real Estate Services – The Right-of-Way (ROW) Division is assisting Frontier Communication, Enterprise Field Services, Navajo Power, Transwestern Pipeline Company, Tallgrass Energy Company, Emery Telecom and Arizona Public Service with information on applications for ROW, leases, joint use agreements, service line agreements, maps, and information network.

Branch of Real Estate Services Shiprock Agency delivered the Apache County District 1 Sand and Gravel lease with associated access road - Waiver of royalties was accepted by Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs Newland on May 21, 2024; with the lease approved on June 6, 2024.

Branch of Fire Management – Branch of Fire Management – wildland fire activity within Navajo Region had been increasing significantly, with eighteen (18) human caused wildfires reported from June 13 to June 20; recent changes with increased precipitation, however, have diminished the number of new fires reported.

Branch of Fire Management – The Fuels Section project planning continues for the Mariano Lake and Smith Lake communities. NEPA compliance is currently planned with the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department (NNHPD).

Branch of Engineering - The Navajo Nation verbally informed the Navajo Region Branch of Engineering that a request for modification to their Public Law 93-638 Subpart J Construction Contract will be submitted to start the construction of the Fruitland-Cambridge Irrigation Canal's Fish Weir project in November 2024. Accordingly, the Navajo Nation secured a contractor to initiate the construction of this project. In addition, the Fruitland-Cambridge Irrigation Canal's Diversion Dam section will be placed on hold so the Nation can secure resolution for additional funding in the amount of \$21M needed to complete the project. The Hogback Steel Siphon and Canal Lining Projects under the Hogback-Cudei Irrigation Canal Projects will begin construction in November 2024. In May 2024, Tohajiilee Chapter Bottled Water contract funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was approved for a no-cost extension to July 2024. This was due to the inclement weather during December 2023 and January 2024 that affected delivery by the contractor. Tohajiilee Chapter requested for assistance with distributing bottled water its community. Several BIA programs worked together with the distribution of water in April and June 2024; with the remaining nineteen pallets to be delivered on July 26, 2024. Lastly, the BIA, State of Utah, and the Navajo Nation Department of Justice held a public meeting to the Navajo Allottees for the Navajo-Utah Water Settlement in Aneth, Utah, and Monument Valley Welcome Center on June 11, 2024. This Public meeting provided updates and information on the water settlement adjudication process and reiterate the timelines of deadlines for any objections.

Branch of Engineering – The BIA Safety of Dams (SOD) staff participated in the BIA SOD-Early Warning System (EWS) and Dam Tender Training on April 2-4, 2024, in Gallup, NM. The BIA SOD staff participated in the field survey and classification process of two (2) potential dams in Tuba City and Dennehotso, Arizona. The BIA Central Office Division of Water and Power in Lakewood, Colorado will finalize the classification process for the two (2) potential dams. On April 3, 2024, the Captain Tom Dam Comprehensive Review Study was completed by the BIA Central Office. On May 7, 2024, the Todacheene Dam Comprehensive Review Study was completed by BIA Central Office. The Public Law 93-638 SOD contract with the Navajo Nation SOD Annual Contract Monitoring Visit was completed on April 30, 2024. Periodic Reviews for Tsaile, Wheatfields, and Red Lake Dams will be completed between June 17-28, 2024.

Branch of Engineering – The Navajo Indian Irrigation Program (NIIP) in collaboration with the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry (NAPI) and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Project Management Team (PMT) second quarter update meeting is scheduled for July 2024. The BIA NIIP Office successfully closed out the leased storage unit-Farmington Mini Storage on April 30, 2024. NAPI On-Farm Pinebete Substation: BIA, NAPI & BOR participated in the Transformer Inspection on April 5, 2024. At the end of April 2024, NAPI requested a cancelation of the NTUA Service Drop-Contract with BOR currently working on this request.

Branch of Environmental Management – The Shiprock Administrative Reserve (SAR) contract was issued with a period of performance from May 9 - December 30, 2024. The contractor, EQM's sub-contractor started work on June 10, 2024, by securing the entrance to site. Prior to this date, 13 buildings were burned down due to vandalism. The initial work was to abate and demolish 46 buildings, which included three (3) previously burned buildings along with the removal of two (2) sheds, leaving 28 buildings that will be removed, along with the burned building debris. The buildings that were burned will require sampling for potentially hazardous waste before they are removed to a certified landfill. The Branch of Environmental Management has requested 24/7 security for the next 60 days to deter the vandalism.

Branch of Environmental Management is revising the work for six (6) Chinle Land Parcels to be returned to the Navajo Nation. A revision of the work is required on five (5) of the land parcels, with the other remaining parcel to address next fiscal year. This parcel requires additional work by the Navajo Region, Branch of Real Estate Services as former federal government property has private residents, businesses, and appurtenances to be addressed before this land parcel is transferred back to the Navajo Nation. All the parcels are required to cleaned before it is return to the Navajo Nation for land re-use.

Branch of Environmental Management – The Branch of Environmental Management continues to work with 56 Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools to maintain environmental compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The Branch of Environmental Management follows the annual sampling requirements provided by the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA), Waste Regulatory Compliance Department and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region IX for drinking water.

During the week of May 6-10, 2024, USEPA, Drinking Water Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division (ECAD) conducted inspections of several public water systems owned and/or operated by BIE and the BIA. The NNEPA staff attended each of the inspections as the primary regulatory authority for these BIE school public water systems on Navajo Nation. USEPA retains oversight authority to support Navajo Nation or initiate its own federal drinking water inspections. Eight (8) BIE schools were inspected by the regulatory authorities. **Branch of Environmental Quality Act Compliance Review (BEQACR)** – The BEQACR receives incoming Categorical Exclusions (CEs), Environmental Assessments (EAs) or Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) for review and actions. For this Quarter, BEQACR completed the review of BIA Western Navajo Agency, Branch of Natural Resources who is proposing to treat noxious weeds in riparian areas along Ba,azh chini (Piute Creek) and its tributaries and streams within the Ba,azh chini (Piute Creek) HUC 10 Watershed. The proposed project area is in San Juan County, Utah, Navajo County, and Coconino County, Arizona within the Navajo Mountain community of the Land Management District (LMD) 2-1, Shonto community LMD 2-2, and Inscription House/Tsah Bi Kin community LMD 2-3.

Branch of Environmental Quality Act Compliance Review (BEQACR) – The Elk Petroleum Company (Elk) is proposing the MCU O-20Y & O-20Z Flowlines Project. The Proposed Action includes the installation of three (3) flowlines within a 2,537.60 foot-long by 40-foot-wide right-of-way (ROW) resulting in 2.330 acres of new ground disturbance. The flowlines would provide service from the currently proposed MCU O-20Y and O-20Z wells to an existing tie-in location. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide Elk with reasonable access to transport production fluids from wells on a federal oil and gas lease to existing flowlines.

Branch of Environmental Quality Act Compliance Review (BEQACR) – The BIA Navajo Region is proposing a fencing project in Grazing District 14 (District 14) of the Navajo Nation in northwest New Mexico for the purpose of controlling grazing and conserving rangeland resources. Under the Proposed Action, District 14 Range Grazing Units 1-5 will be fenced to separate the units to encourage effective and sustainable range management. The project will utilize natural boundaries in addition to existing fences. Most of the outer boundaries of District 14 have been fenced including the northern, eastern, and southern boundaries.

Branch of Environmental Quality Act Compliance Review (BEQACR) – Elk Petroleum Company (Elk) Permit to Drill (APDs) application is for five (5) wells. The proposed project is located within the BLM Farmington Field Office (FFO) management area on Navajo Tribal Trust surface with minerals administered by the Navajo Nation and BIA. The project areas are approximately 4 to 7 miles north and east of Montezuma Creek, Utah and approximately 70 miles northwest of Farmington, New Mexico. The Proposed Action is located within the Aneth Chapter, Shiprock Agency that includes the expansion of three existing well pads and an associated pipeline corridor. This will allow Elk reasonable access to Tribal lands to develop their valid, existing federal mineral leases, administered by Navajo Nation and BIA, while protecting surface resource to the maximum extent possible.

Branch of Environmental Quality Act Compliance Review (BEQACR) – The BEQACR processed forty-nine (49) Categorical Exclusions for housing needs and utility installation. These NEPA documents are critical for allowing the approval of home sites and the installation of utility lines for Navajo tribal members.

Branch of Environmental Quality Act Compliance Review (BEQACR) – The BEQACR continues to process incoming (how many?) Cultural Resources Compliance Forms for the Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation Department. These NEPA documents are critical for allowing the approval of home sites and the installation of utility lines for Navajo tribal members.

Branch of Natural Resources – The Branch of Natural Resources staff focused on completing the Grazing and Agricultural Management handbook of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). The benefit to the Navajo Nation can only be measured by the ongoing permit renewal process that has brought about completion of current range inventories and utilization studies needed to move permit renewal activities forward. The Navajo Region SOP will guide the BIA through the ongoing permit renewal process facilitating an understanding between the BIA and the Navajo Nation to complete the permit renewals utilizing science.

Branch of Natural Resources – *Monitoring*: As March starts the field season for most field going professionals to monitor grazing activity and permits, the regional staff provided field monitoring demonstrations The staff has attended many meetings involving drought management, weed management on the Navajo Nation, climate change, resiliency in Agriculture and Range Management practices, and the Navajo Nation and their current project the Agriculture Resource Management Plan (ARMP).

Branch of Natural Resources – Staff collaborates with representatives from the Navajo Nation, Navajo Utah, and USGS to discuss proposals focused on establishing weather monitoring stations to set up grazing monitoring based on the weather station data that will collect information to determine baseline grazing potential. The BIA has been working to strengthen relationships with the grazing officials in each of the chapters predominately residing in Utah. Staff continue to review and provide technical assistance on matters pertaining to grazing, agricultural land use, conservation planning, and the Navajo ARMP. As the Nation continues to address grazing permits, overgrazing, and drought conditions, BIA Natural Resources assists with educating tribal leadership, programs, and grazing permit holders.

Branch of Natural Resources – Staff continue to meet with the NRCS to seek what opportunities for assistance exist for 2024 by continuing to work through the existing MOA/MOU enabling the Nation to complete and update critical soils information that will support in future planning efforts for both grazing and agriculture.

Branch of Natural Resources Staff participated in the National Tribal Horse Coalition (NTHC) meetings where discussions on the most recent Farm Bill and other programs are being acted upon in Washington D.C. Updates were also provided on a briefing paper being prepared for Congress which stresses the importance of having updated horse data. Those attending discussed the participation of several tribes in USGS aerial surveys for feral horses, funding, and potential market opportunities, challenges faced with managing horses and potential solutions, as well as funding sources for horse management, including invasive species funds and range improvement projects. Discussion supports the Nation's efforts to provide critical assistance to tribal members with ranching, agriculture, tribal programs, and facilitating protecting and improving natural resources.

Branch of Natural Resources Western Navajo Agency – The Western Navajo Agency, Branch of Natural Resources attended and participated in the Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation Department (NNPRD) Cameron Community Meeting with the ASU Advisory Team. The Advisory Team presented the Stewardship Planning of Diné Western Parks with focus on the stewardship planning process, review of past meetings, and welcoming community input and feedback. The NRM provided an overview on the Former Bennett Freeze Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) and the Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) impacts future management plans for the Navajo Nation western parks encompassing the Former Bennett Freeze Area. IRMP Overview included goals and objectives that are specific to the NNPRD like water resources, fish, and wildlife, grazing and cultural resources that would affect the land managed. In the PEA Land Management Area, recommendations developed under the Balanced Growth Emphasis Alternative, identifying Conservation Areas, Development Focus Areas, Restricted Development Areas, and Agricultural Areas, the Stewardship Management planning could take advantage of the IRMP and PEA.

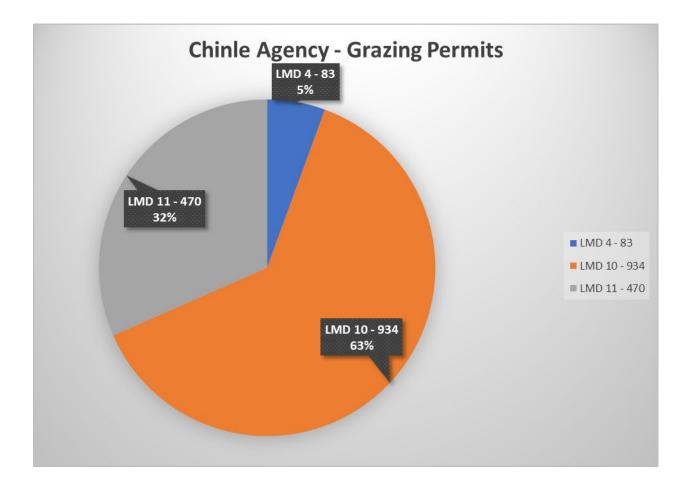
Branch of Natural Resources Western Navajo Agency – The Western Navajo Agency Branch of Natural Resources in partnership with the Dine College Land Grant Office hosted four (4) one-day workshops on assisting Grazing Permit grantees on the Permittee Conservation Plan Questionnaire focusing on monitoring grazing lands and conservation practices to improve rangeland resources. Dine College staff assisted with presenting topics on herd health and management, breeding practices and basic rangeland monitoring practices. Successful partnerships and collaborative efforts between the BNR WNA and Dine College aid the Nation in conservation, preservation, and protection of natural resources.

Branch of Natural Resources Chinle Agency – The Chinle Agency, Branch of Natural Resources mailed **111** trespass letters via certified mail for three (3) LMDs, submitted three (3) range inventory proposals, 13 grazing permit transfers for Biological Resources Compliance Forms (BRCF) have been submitted to Navajo Nation Fish and Wildlife.

Branch of Natural Resources Chinle Agency – The Chinle Agency, Branch of Natural Resources is currently installing 100 range monitoring cages within the three (3) LMDs, 29 recognized and approved Range Management Units (RMU). The range monitoring cages were installed in two (2) RMU(s), Blue Gap & Black Mesa both of which are located within LMD 4. Range monitoring cages aids in assessing rangeland conditions for monitoring forage by livestock and wildlife.

Branch of Natural Resources, Chinle Agency – The Chinle Agency, Branch of Natural Resources recently hosted an Agency DGCM Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Training & Certification for all 14 District Grazing Committees within Chinle Agency.

Branch of Natural Resources, Chinle Agency – The Chinle Agency, Branch of Natural Resources has been assisting the Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture staff with their Equine Rescue Operation (ERO); thus far, a total of 243 heads of feral horses were successfully removed from Chinle Agency Rangelands.

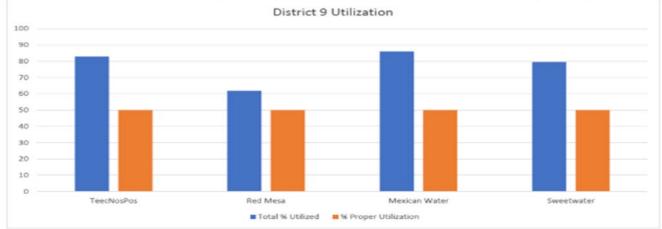


Branch of Natural Resources, Shiprock Agency – Customer service was provided to approximately 252 people regarding disputes, transfer of grazing permits, agricultural land use permits (ALUP) and maps. 2 ALUP's were issued to farmers along the San Juan River Irrigation Project. 10 range monitoring cages were established. Range monitoring cages aids in assessing rangeland conditions for monitoring forage by livestock and wildlife.

Branch of Natural Resources, Shiprock Agency – The Shiprock Agency, Branch of Natural Resources received the Final EA for the District 13 Weed Inventory. The Shiprock Agency conducted spring utilization surveys for Districts 9 and 12 (see results below.) Additionally, BNR Shiprock Agency supported the Navajo Department of Agriculture Equine Rescue crew and local grazing official with a horse round up in Sheep Springs, New Mexico. A total of 100 heads of equine were humanely captured and transported to Window Rock, Arizona.

District 9

Date	Transect I	Location		ACHY- Indian Ricegrass %	SPCR- Sporobolus cryptandrus %	Sporobolus	BOGR2- Bouteloua gracilis %	Total % Utilized	% Proper Utilization
5/15/2024	15	TeecNosPos	77.7	88.1				82.9	50
5/15/2024	14	Red Mesa	81.25	42.5				61.875	50
5/16/2024	17	Mexican Water		86				86	50
5/16/2024	18	Sweetwater	79.5					79.5	50



All utilization transects were conducted near range monitoring cages Over all severely over grazed and dominated by snakeweed

District 12

Date	Transect ID	Location	PLIA- Galleta %	ACHY- Indian		SPAI- Sporobolus airoides %	BOGR2- Bouteloua gracilis %	Total % Utilized	% Proper Use
5/7/2024	1	Sanostee 1	55.7	61.8	38			51.83333	50
5/7/2024	13	Sanostee 13	49.1	74.4	53.9			59.13333	50
5/7/2024	12	Sanostee 12		50.75		62.9		56.825	50
5/9/2024	13	Two Grey Hills	66.8				82	74.4	50
5/9/2024	3	Sheepsprings 3	63			78.36		70.68	50
5/9/2024	2	Sheepsprings 2	80					80	50
5/16/2024	16	Beclabito	83					83	50



All utilization transects were conducted near the range monitoring cage

Branch of Natural Resources Fort Defiance Agency – Grazing Committee Meetings and Farm Board Meetings – This quarter, the Fort Defiance Agency continues to improve customer service through interactions grazing permittees. 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, auctions, and supplemental funding through the Navajo Department of Agriculture. The Fort Defiance Agency continues to work with clients in GPSing farm plots, proposed Range Management Units, and district fence lines. The Fort Defiance Agency provides technical assistance to permit holders in developing conservation plans for grazing permits and land use permits. In addition, we provide technical assistance to grazing committee members on filling out information on a form at duly called meetings.

Branch of Natural Resources Fort Defiance Agency –The Fort Defiance Agency has contracted ETD Inc. to complete the District 14 Environmental Assessment. The proposed action is to fence the district and district units. The EA is awaiting the FONSI to be issued.

Branch of Natural Resources Fort Defiance Agency –The Fort Defiance Agency mailed 16 non-compliance letters to permit holders and non-permit holders. These non-compliance letters are based off the tally counts submitted by the district grazing officials. Non-compliance includes sheep units over the permitted number, grazing without a grazing permit, incorrect brand/no brand recorded on the grazing permit, trespass, etc. Copies of the non-compliance letters and tally counts were provided to Navajo Department of Agriculture and Navajo Resource Enforcement to support tribal enforcement laws.

Branch of Natural Resources Fort Defiance Agency – Noxious Weed Projects - Fort Defiance Agency staff continues to perform Contracting Officer Representative duties for the Chuska Lake Environmental Assessment project field work. The contractor, BRIC LLC, has been assigned to the project with support to extend the contract period of performance to December 31, 2024. The Cultural Resource Inventory Report has been completed and submitted to NNHPD for review and concurrence.

The Fort Defiance Agency contracted BRIC LLC to complete District 7 Noxious Weed Inventory so a baseline of existing invasive species within the district can be established. Work began June 17, 2024.

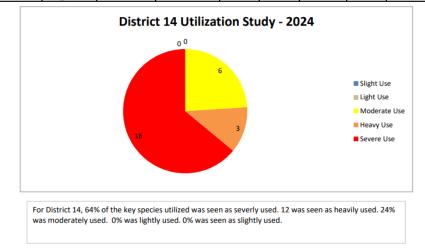
Branch of Natural Resources Fort Defiance Agency – Vegetation Survey Projects – A proposal is awaiting to be awarded to conduct a Range Inventory Fort Defiance Agency District 18. Proposal focuses on the balance between stocking rate and range utilization for effective conversion of range forage to animal production whether if its domestic animal or wildlife. A forage balance is essential in maintaining future ecosystem function which both the BIA and Nation need to achieve on current forage (rangeland) condition.

Branch of Natural Resources, Fort Defiance Agency – Grazing Permit Verification – Under the authority of the 25 CFR §167.7, the Branch of Natural Resources Fort Defiance Agency is requesting permittees to update and verify their permit information. All Grazing and Agricultural Land Use Permits within the Fort Defiance Agency are going through an Annual Permit Verification process. This activity will assist the Fort Defiance Agency in validating the Grazing and Agricultural Land Use Permits for the annual permit renewal. This process includes updating contact information; verifying identification; verifying permit use area or location; and supplying the most recent livestock inventory or crop inventory through self-tally, livestock tally count or crop report.

Branch of Natural Resources, Fort Defiance Agency – Grazing Permit Conservation Plans – The Fort Defiance Agency has contracted BRIC LLC., to complete the 286 grazing permit conservation plans. The contractor will use the current and past vegetative inventory information to identify productivity, potential stocking rate, and potential carrying capacity correlating with Soil Survey information for relevant inference to Ecological Site Descriptions for each range unit and or grazing area; research and collect data information (from existing records and/or on-site field assessments); conduct a range unit and or grazing area visit to determine range condition and existing infrastructure and interview permittee(s) on their goals and objectives, type of operation, plans, and relevant historical data. A conservation plan is required for approval of a grazing permit.

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Transect #	District-Unit	Trans Name	GPS Coordinates			Key Specie)	% Utilized			
			LAT	LONG	Bogr	Galleta	W. Wheat	Hija	Pasm	TOTAL	
1	Mexican Springs	0302_MS	-108.790317	35.798245						69.80%	Heavy
2	Twin Lakes	1020_TL	-108.876416	35.663969						41.37%	Moderate
3	Tohatchi	0454_T	-108.647152	35.869989						55.33%	Moderate
4	Tohatchi	0362_T	-108.795641	35.828992						47.88%	Moderate
5	Twin Lakes	0065_TL	-108.734726	35.694089						83.58%	Severe
6	Coyote Canyon	0167_CC	-108.669737	35.737375						89.20%	Severe
7	Coyote Canyon	0268_CC	-108.574661	35.780105						50.75%	Moderate
8	Coyote Canyon	0377_CC	-108.522302	35.824095						89.60%	Severe
9	Tohatchi	0610_T	-108.488256	35.932443						80.80%	Severe
10	Mexican Springs	0270_MS	-108.730578	35.783512						59.00%	Moderate
11	Naschitti	0781_N	-108.649036	36.018326						89.60%	Severe
12	Naschitti	0782_N	-108.535160	36.017385						90.00%	Severe
13	Naschitti	0908_N	-108.584306	36.094160						90.00%	Severe
14	Naschitti	0993_N	-108.639202	36.149971						89.60%	Severe
15	Naschitti	0900_N	-108.713055	36.091847						89.80%	Severe
16	Mexican Springs	0649_MS	-108.986858	35.961408						89.60%	Severe
17	Coyote Canyon	0452_CC	-108.426667	35.863434						83.20%	Severe
18	Coyote Canyon	0357_CC	-108.525364	35.819556						89.00%	Severe
19	Tohatchi	0385_T	-108.660189	35.837821						68.85%	Heavy
20	Mexican Springs	0560_MS	-108.964087	35.921859						85.40%	Severe
21	Twin Lakes	0024_TL	-108.811594	35.671393						84.40%	Severe
22	Tohatchi	0623_T	-108.631074	35.942111						81.80%	Severe
23	Mexican Springs	0254_MS	-108.800063	35.777978						43.60%	Moderat
24	Twin Lakes	0155_TL	-108.746700	35.733922						87.60%	Severe
25	Twin Lakes	0032 TL	-108.776754	35.698901						71.00%	Heavy



Branch of Forestry - The Forest Development and Harvest of Forest Product programs were assessed in Fiscal Year 2024 (FY2024). The Navajo Nation was provided with the Internal Control Review (ICR) assessment forms provided by the BIA Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management (DOF). These ICR forms, "FY2024 Field Test Form, Forest Development" and "FY2024 Field Test Form, Harvest of Forest Product" were provided to the Navajo Forestry Management Program (FMP) via letter from the Navajo Regional Office, Branch of Indian Self Determination, dated March 28, 2024. In letter dated April 29, 2024, the Navajo Nation provided completed ICR forms entitled "FY2024 Field Test Form Forest Development - NFD Responses 04.22.2024" and "FY2024 Field Test Form - Harvest of Forest Products - NFD Responses 04.22.2024". The ICR forms serve as the record for the completion of the FY2024 A-123 assessment of the Forest Development and the Harvest of Forest Products programs. The forms were certified by the Regional Director and forwarded to the Chief, DOF under memo dated June 7, 2024.

Branch of Forestry – The Branch of Forestry continues to assist the Branch of Environmental Management, Shiprock Administrative Reserve (SAR) project in terms of inventorying trees to be cut and processing a timber cutting permit. The Branch of Environmental Management has been tasked with remediation and demolition of the buildings on the SAR property so that the BIA can transfer the land to the Navajo Nation for economic development opportunities. An EA, dated December 2023, and Finding of No Significant Impact, dated April 11, 2024, are in place. Outstanding items include a pesticide use permit and providing the finalized the timber cutting permit, which has been signed by the permittee to the Navajo Nation for their review and signature. Once the Navajo Nation signs the timber cutting permit and returns it to the BIA Navajo Regional Office, it will be routed to the Acting Navajo Regional Director for review and signature. Payment for the forest products will be submitted to the Navajo Nation by the permittee and once payment confirmation is received by the BIA Navajo Regional Office, the permittee will be cleared to operate.

Branch of Forestry – In a letter dated May 28, 2024, from the Navajo Nation, the Branch of Indian Self Determination provided the Branch of Forestry documents for the Wheatfields Road Project. The documents included permit FY20240027, the special provision for the permit, project map, and the legal description for the forest products inventoried within the project area. The Branch of Forestry reviewed the documents and discovered revisions that need to be made to the permit. In a memo dated June 17, 2024, the Branch of Forestry informed Branch of Indian Self Determination to request for revisions to the permit from the FMP to account for the merchantable timber forest products that are listed within the documents. Upon the Branch of Forestry receiving the revised permit documents, they will be reviewed and if appropriate, forwarded for approval.

Eastern Navajo Agency – Natural Resources (BNR)

BNR processed six grazing permits and approved by the Office of the Superintendent, completed seven conservation plans and six permittee orientations on regulations and acquired signature for the Permittee Responsibility Agreement, conducted 102 grazing permit compliance work involving record reviews, outstanding invoices for annual grazing rental payments for trust lands, and conducted one range unit field assessments for grazing permit transactions and/or range improvement projects. BNR received one report of livestock trespass, one request to add a name, informed of the grazing permit process and required documents. BNR received \$83,951.03 in 2024 in annual grazing fee payments for 484 range units for trust lands and \$725.00 in late fees. BNR is working on securing the Fair Market Value for the 2025 Grazing Permit Renewal and completed the appraisal request for individual Indian Allotments, tribal trust, Band, and government administrative lands. The Appraisal and Valuation Services Office plans to complete the appraisal in July 2024. BNR is working with Navajo Regional Office Branch of Acquisitions to award the Alamo/Canoncito Noxious Weed Project and the Eastern Navajo Agency Rangeland Inventory Project.

STRATEGIC GOAL 3 - Sustainably Balance the Use of Resources While Supporting Communities and the Economy

Branch of Acquisitions - complies with the Buy Indian Act, 25 USC 47, and supports native owned businesses by setting aside requirements for ISBEE (Indian Small Business Economic Enterprises) and IEE (Indian Economic Enterprises) firms. Native owned companies benefit from the awards issued to them and at the same time the supplies and services provided benefit the communities within the Navajo Nation. Branch of Acquisitions has 153 purchase request actions with a value of \$7,585,165.91 which have been awarded or are in process.

Branch of Human Services -Individual Indian Money (IIM): The Navajo Regional Office provides direct assistance to federally recognized tribal members residing on the Navajo Nation who are beneficiaries of IIM accounts managed by the region. Currently, the oversight and management of forty-five active cases are entrusted to a skilled social worker who possesses deep knowledge of the federal regulations governing these accounts. In line with responsible stewardship, accountholders are encouraged to explore alternative resources before considering tapping into their IIM funds. To ensure a thorough and personalized guidance, assessments are conducted through face-to-face interactions in the accountholder's home or preferred environment. This approach ensures that decisions regarding fund utilization are well-informed and align with the individual's best interests and long-term financial health.

Federal Indian Minerals Office - Application for permit to drill (APD) – There were no new notices of staking for proposed well pad installation submitted and no Application for Permit to Drill (APD) submitted for this quarter.

Royalty Distribution – BTFA-prepare and review withdrawal/transfer vouchers, submit for approval to appropriate authorizing official and submits for processing, verify availability of funds, prepare work tickets, when necessary, provide technical assistance to other agencies as necessary, maintain logs of daily activities in service manager, provide outstanding customer service to all beneficiaries who contact our office.

Federal Indian Minerals Office - Ongoing Projects:

Carson Unit- FIMO received a copy of a resolution on the approval of the Carson Unit for DJR Operating. We are preparing the unit files and working with the Acting Regional Director and BLM to ensure we respond appropriately after BLM State Office makes a final response to the NN Land Commission Department.

Lone Mesa Unit- There were 16 IA Mineral leases that have expired in this unit and FIMO is working diligently on these. Enduring appealed the expiration of leases to the Navajo (Acting) Regional Director. The Acting Regional Director's decision directed that these leases be reactivated. We are currently waiting for the Decision appeal period to expire (July 1, 2024) then we will re-activate the leases.

FIMO will be meeting with Enduring to discuss Lone Mesa Unit Communitization Agreement. A Communitization Agreement is in the best interest of Indian Allottees as it focuses on combining small tracts, of which one or more Indian lands, for the purpose of committing enough acreage to form spacing/proration unit necessary to comply with conservation requirements and to provide for the development of these separate tracts which cannot be independently developed in conformity with conservation requirements.

FIMO will be meeting with Enduring to discuss the Alamos Canyon Unit Proposal.

Branch of Real Estate Services – Leasing Division is working with the Navajo Nation on Lease Compliance for Lease Nos. CH-97-104 and TC-03-208 addressing non-compliance with lease provisions including rent due to the Navajo Nation. The Branch of Real Estate Services also continues to provide technical assistance to Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation by researching and providing copies of approved leases, as well as provide land status Chapter Grazing Officials for Lupton, Houck, Indian Wells for proposed homesite locations.

Branch of Real Estate Services – The Branch of Real Estate Services continues to support communities and clientele, by providing needed information relating to requested Title Status Reports for individual lenders and lot owners, to businesses conducting discovery for ROW, leases, joint use agreements, service line agreements, Tribal Broadband projects, maps, network information, land descriptions, researching for resolutions and leasing information.

Branch of Fire Management – Resource allocation to fires has been effective so far.

Branch of Natural Resources, Western Navajo Agency – The Western Navajo Agency Branch of Natural Resources completed an EA for the Cameron Waterline Project. The EA covers the proposed Cameron Water line project and proposed watering point facility in Cameron Arizona. The proposed water line will begin in the Little Colorado River Valley and transverse a rugged sandstone outcrop landscape, in a general SW direction, to a pipe-stand location just east of U.S. Highway 89. The construction of this project will to be used to benefit the local community and their socioeconomic development needs with respect to livestock and range operations. Lastly, dependent on the BIA Navajo Region Branch of Environmental Quality Act Compliance Review's determination, the project is ready to be implemented.

Branch of Forestry – The Branch of Forestry continues to process multiple timber cutting permits that are received from the Navajo Nation's FMP. The primary requests received are for permits associated with infrastructure projects being conducted within the Navajo Nation. As of the last quarterly report, 10 permit packets were reviewed and approved by the BIA. The approved permits have been forwarded to the FMP, via the Branch of Indian Self Determination, to administer.

Eastern Navajo Agency – Natural Resources (BNR)

BNR is coordinating with the Navajo Sustainable Agriculture (NSA) and New Mexico State University College of Agriculture, Consumer, and Environmental Science. On March 28, 2024, BNR made a Zoom presentation on the Bonding Requirement, which was attended by 83 individuals. BNR is working with NSA to complete 11 conservation plans; completed seven conservation plans approved by the Superintendent.

BNR is coordinating with the Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture (NNDA) and the Eastern Agency Joint Land Board (EAJLB). During the June 2024 EAJLB meeting, BNR

provided the draft Permittee Responsibility Agreement for their review and comment and the outreach schedule (July 9 to August 29, 2024) for their review and input. The second outreach schedule has one orientation per day, so attendees have enough time to have their questions answered. BNR and the Office of the Superintendent teleconferenced with the NNDA to discuss the bonding requirement for the 2025 Grazing Permit Renewal. BNR also provided equipment and personnel to assist with the feral horse rescue operation in Nageezi Chapter area where 278 horses and 44 horses from the Whiterock Chapter were rescued due to the lack of water.

STRATEGIC GOAL 4 - Serve and Honor the Public Trust

Branch of Human Services- Other Activities: The Branch of Human Services at the Navajo Regional Office maintains its commitment to accessibility and responsiveness by offering Technical Assistance upon request from the Nation. This dedication is rooted in our mission to uphold the public trust and honor the values of the Navajo Nation. The collaborative approach ensures that our efforts are comprehensive and effective in meeting the diverse needs of those we serve.

Branch of Acquisitions - Branch of Acquisitions supports the various programs in soliciting, awarding, and monitoring, contracts, and agreements for the Navajo Region and the five agencies within Navajo Region, to support their initiative in promoting well-being, equity, and justice for the Navajo Nation. All awards benefit the Navajo Nation. Branch of Acquisitions staff are engaged and committed to support the various BIA Navajo Region programs with their requirements for contracts which benefit the Navajo Nation.

Branch of Safety provides Tribal programs opportunities to address and improve safe and healthful working conditions in federal space they occupy.

Branch of Safety responsibilities to Tribal employees for health and safety are multifacted to collectively address variety of safety and health needs. These range from building inspections, safety training, reporting and mitigating safety hazards, participating in collaborative group meetings to discuss climate change's impacts with regards to heat stress, indoor air quality. Especially during inclement weather that affects health and environmental hazards.

Branch of Property conducted the Annual Inventory of Personal and Real Property. The Annual Inventory is to verify assets against the official record. This will assist programs in identifying assets that may not be in use or may better benefit the Navajo Nation. Property and Program staff have identified some assets to transfer to the Nation and are working with the Indian Self Determination staff and Navajo Nation Water Resources in the donation process.

Central Office has conducted a Property Management Review for the Navajo Region and has reported that the program is within the intent of statutes, regulations, and policies. The Review did provide some recommendations to implement which should help to expedite the identification of equipment which may be underutilized by BIA but may be beneficial to the Nation. Staff is currently reviewing the recommendations and planning on the implementation and training of programs. **Branch of Transportation (NRBOT)** continues to strive and fulfill its mission to manage the intermodal transportation facilities by maintaining the existing infrastructure for dependability and safety that serves the Navajo Nation and the traveling public. BIA DOT accomplishes this by providing transportation related technical assistance and service, working directly with the Navajo Nation's Division of Transportation (Navajo DOT), as they pursue self-sufficiency and discretion in the administration and operation of the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP).

Road Maintenance: The Agency Road Maintenance Programs 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 our Agency Road Maintenance Programs' accomplishments performed during the 3rd quarter while operating on a Continuing Resolution.

		ROUTINE ROAD MAINTENANCE															
AGENCY	Road Assessments	Blading	Fence Repair	Sign Repair	Delineator Maintenance	Pothole Patching	Mowing	Guardrail Repair	Crack Sealing	Cattleguard Cleanout	Culvert Pipe Cleanout	Drainage/Erosion Repairs	Sidewalk Cleaning/Repair	Bridge Repair *	Snow/Ice Removal	Blow Sand Removal	Shop Building Maintenance
Fort Defiance	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark		\checkmark		\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Chinle									\checkmark		\checkmark				\checkmark		
Western	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark				\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Shiprock				\checkmark				\checkmark							\checkmark	\checkmark	
Farmington	\checkmark			\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark									\checkmark
New Lands				\checkmark	\checkmark			\checkmark									
* <u>Bridge N613</u> : E	1		-			•		l under	neath	the pay	vement	. The	cavity	caused	l the ro	ad to	collaps
	and red	quired t	o be fil	led wit	h backf	ill mate	erial.										
Shiprock and Chin	nle Age	ency co	ontinue	ed to pe	erform	ed sno	w and i	ice ren	ioval o	n rout	e N13 d	luring	the we	ek of A	April 1	4, 2024	4.

Branch of Roads Maintenance Fort Defiance Agency continues to address routine road maintenance by awarding a striping contract to apply permanent pavement markings (thermoplastic with glass beads) on BIA Routes N12 and N110, which included all traffic markings (Crosswalk, Stop Bar, Arrow, etc.) at the traffic signal intersections on BIA Route N12, N100, N110, N7. This is near completion.

Branch of Road Maintenance Program Chinle Agency (CA-BORM) partnered with Dine College on repairing route N8077, N8078, and the parking lot in front of the main administration building. Repairs included crack sealing and fog sealing, and installation of speed humps and application of roadway striping. The crack sealing operation has been completed by CA-BORM and the fog seal operation is in progress. The speed humps will be purchased and installed by CA-BORM. The new permanent pavement markings will be performed by a contractor hired by CA-BORM.

The Western Navajo Agency - Branch of Road Maintenance Program (WNA-BORM) performed 6 miles of large transverse cracks repair work on BIA Route N15 within Coconino County,

Leupp, Arizona. In addition, the WNA-DOT contracted repair work for the traffic light on route N1017 in Tuba City, AZ. The traffic light was damaged by a semi-truck running into the traffic light post. It removed the buttons, the signs for the crosswalk controller and knocked off the visor for the lights.



BEFORE: Damaged Controller



AFTER: New Controller and visor

The Shiprock Agency – Branch of Road Maintenance Program (SA-BORM) removed the permanent roadway signs labeled "Rough Road Ahead" and 35 MPH on route N36 since contractors repaved the rough locations. On Route N12, major shoulder erosion was repaired which required pothole patching and section of guardrail being repaired due to anecdotal damages. Significant amount of blow sand had to be removed within the right of way.

Farmington and New Lands Branch of Roads Maintenance Program personnel continue with conducting all daily routine road maintenance activities within their respective jurisdiction as scheduled. There were no major road maintenance activities performed during this reporting period.

The Agency Road Maintenance Programs continue to perform other activities during this period such as preventative equipment maintenance service and general operations (daily reports, vehicle & equipment reports, online trainings, safety meetings, inventory of materials, etc.). Each agency continues to work together, coordinate and collaborate in the spirit of partnership with Navajo DOT (NDOT), Chapters, Apache County, Navajo County, Coconino County and Hopi DOT (HDOT) to complete their scheduled task(s) for the safety of the local communities, emergency vehicles, and the traveling public.

Branch of Facilities continues to provide technical services as requested. There are some future facility projects that consist of repair work. BIA Navajo Region projects to have some of these projects in construction by Fiscal Year End 2024. BIA NR also developed and provided detailed drawings, statements of work, and independent government estimates for upcoming projects of existing BIA Facilities. Below are some of the projects:

Minor Improvement and Repair (MI&R) BIA Facility Locations:

- 1. BIA successfully completed the installation of 3 playground shades at the Nenahnezad Community School's April 2024.
- 2. Window Rock Building No. 3 requires the removal and disposal of an existing sidewalk due to a safety issue. BIA NR plans to construct a new sidewalk and handicap parking spaces in front of building for better access.
- 3. Fort Defiance demolition of some old BIA facilities located where old hospital was demolished years ago. This project is in the preliminary stage, which requires archaeological clearances, statement of work, independent government estimate, and abatement of hazardous materials.
- 4. Chinle Agency Facility Management Office building roof needs a portion of the area to be re-roofed. This project requires a statement of work, and an independent government estimate.
- 5. Wingate High School housing (quarters) need improvement and renovating for staff. We are currently working on the statement of work and independent government estimate before we initiate a work order and request for funding.

Branch of Probate and Estate Services – The Branch of Probate and Estate Services prepares cases for individual Indians that hold trust assets by completing the family history of the decedent and compiling all documents required by the OHA. Research is completed by contacting the family members of the decedent by means of home visits, searching the internet, telephone interviews, writing letters and office visits. The majority of family research work is in conjunction with the Navajo Nation Vital Records Office. The BIA Navajo Region Branch of Probate and Estate Services staff also assist in Tribal Wills Clinics and outreaches at various Chapter Houses.

Branch Real Estate Services – The Branch Real Estate Services is processing Royalty-In-Kind payments for the State of Utah. Ensured Water Usage payments to the Navajo Nation from Chevron on Navajo Nation Lease No. 14-20-0603-8669. Processing a new Interagency Agreement with AZ BLM for BLM Cadastral Surveys. The Branch Real Estate Services completed the Gallup McKinley County School District Impact Aid Statement for 5,990 Navajo students. Currently, the Branch Real Estate Services working on the Red Mesa Unified School District #27 for 200 Navajo students.

Branch of Fire Management – The Branch of Fire Management continues to develop working relationships with cooperative agencies within and surrounding areas of the Navajo Nation which includes logistical and operational support that reciprocated to the Bureau of Indian Affairs resources as well.

Eastern Navajo Agency – Natural Resources (BNR)

BNR completed 22 "2025 Grazing Permit Renewal Project" outreaches at Eastern Navajo Chapters Houses from April 16 to May 8, 2024. Overall, 562 individuals attended the outreaches. Staff provide the presentations on the following information: the requirements and criteria to renew grazing permits, authority to grant, carrying capacity and stocking rate, 2019 BIA ENA Livestock Grazing and Findings of No Significant impact, mitigation measures to protect threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, water resources, canceled grazing permits, non-compliance, low carrying capacity, bonding requirement, and conservation plan compliance implementation. BNR intends to provide another round of outreaches at 12 Eastern Agency Chapter locations, beginning from July 9 to August 29, 2024. Presentation includes requirements and criteria to renew grazing permits, authority to grant, rangeland inventory, carrying capacity and stocking rate, canceled grazing permits, non-compliance, low carrying capacity, bonding requirement, and the recommended annual grazing rental rate based on the appraisal.