

# 25th Navajo Nation Council 2025 Spring Session Report

## Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Region



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April 21, 2025

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Ya'at'eeh Honorable Madame Speaker Curley, Honorable Council Delegates of the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council, Honorable President Dr. Nygren, Madam Vice President Montoya, Tribal, State, County, and local leaders, Navajo Nation employees and Shik'éeí dóó Shi Dine'ée of our Great Navajo Nation.

I am pleased to present to you the Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Region's 2025 Spring Session Report to the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council. Our report summarizes our accomplishments for FY 2025 Second Quarter in carrying out our BIA mission operations to the Navajo Nation.

This second quarter, the BIA Navajo Region faced several Executive and Secretarial Orders from this New Administration which resulted in adaptation and changes. Accordingly, Navajo Region adapted to these changes proactively and with priority to remain mission focused and continue to uphold our trust responsibilities, land stewardship, and resiliency for the Navajo Nation.

I want to thank Navajo Nation leaders: President Nygren, Madame Speaker Curley, the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council Delegates, other federal, state, tribal, county and local community leaders as well as Navajo Tribal programs for your advocacy, leadership, kindness, respect, and compassion in voicing your support for the service we provide to the Navajo Nation. I am truly thankful to each of you for supporting our BIA Navajo Region workforce.

I continue to be thankful to my team for their unwavering public service and resilience during these difficult times. Regardless they have remained steadfast, supportive and dedicated to our mission – to serve the Navajo Nation. I know that together with the Navajo Nation by our side we will continue to make great strides for Our People and future generations.

Axhe'hee,

DEBORAH SHIRLEY

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Deborah Shirley  
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 January 1 to March 31, 2025, 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.**

**ADMINISTRATION:**

**Acquisitions** support 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. 61 Purchase Requisition's totaling \$411,719.85 were processed. These are for various projects and supplies and services. These include services for NIIP for technical assistance for water monitoring of the San Juan River, truck rentals for the branch of transportation to perform highway maintenance, archaeological services for the Bass Lake Sheep Dip Vat Project, boring testing services for the Chichiltah landfill remediation project, pest control services for Building 3 in Window Rock, AZ. All awards benefit the Navajo Nation.

**Budget:** BIA Navajo Region began Fiscal Year 2025 on a temporary funding measure known as a Continuing Resolution (CR), Public Law 118-83 (H.R. 9747), the Continuing Appropriations and Extension Act 2024 which was signed by President Biden on September 21, 2024. CR #1 provides funding through December 20, 2024, to federal programs at a rate for operation of 22.19% based on FY 2024 enacted amounts.

On December 21, 2024, Public Law 118-158 (H.R. 10545), American Relief Act 2025 was signed by President Biden which authorized CR #2 for FY 2025 to extend federal funding through March 14, 2025 (84 days), at a rate of 23.01% based on FY 2024 enacted amounts.

On December 27, 2024, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) requested an exception apportionment of 100% of FY 2025's allocation for both Fiscal Year and Calendar Year Tribes. The request was approved, and funds were received.

On Friday, March 14, 2025, the Senate advanced the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act 2025 (H.R. 1968), a continuing resolution (CR) that funds the federal government until Sept. 30, 2025. The House advanced the bill 217-213 and the Senate 54-46. President Trump signed the bill on March 15, 2025. Although federal appropriations were approved, the BIA Navajo Region awaits the distribution of apportionment by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Below is a summary of FY 2025 funds provided to the Navajo Nation under P.L. 93-638 contracts, as of April 7, 2025. Total funding provided is \$52,700,451.12 with \$93,124 available for drawdown.

NAVAJO NATION P.L. 93-638 FUND STATUS REPORT						
as of April 7, 2025						
Fund	FA Budget Program	Funds Available	To Be Awarded	Not Drawn Down	Distributed	Available Funds
256A2100DD	A0N301010 : IRRIGATION, OPER & MAINT	2,486,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,486,000.00	0.00
256A2100DD	A0N9B1010 : AGRICULTURE PRGRM-TPA	1,305,502.00	0.00	0.00	1,305,502.00	0.00
256A2100DD	A0H901010 : SOCIAL SERVICES-TPA	6,078,915.00	5,782,906.00	0.00	296,009.00	0.00
256A2100DD	A0H901040 : Domestic Violence	146,000.00	146,000.00			0.00
256A2100DD	A0H913030 : WELFARE ASSISTANCE-TPA	3,400,630.00	3,400,630.00			0.00
256A2100DD	A0J908080 : TRIBAL COURTS PROGRMS-TPA	1,859,673.00	0.00	0.00	1,859,673.00	0.00
256A2100DD	A0J908081 : TRIBAL COURTS(TPA) TIWAHE	227,419.00	0.00	0.00	227,419.00	0.00
256A2100DD	A0N330000 : COOP LANDSCAPE CONSERVATN	20,000.00				20,000.00
256A2100DD	A0N6A3031 : FOREST MARKETING ASSIST	11,545.00				11,545.00
256A2100DD	A0N9A0505 : NATURAL RESOURCES -TPA	4,315.00				4,315.00
256A2100DD	A0N9C3030 : FORESTRY PROGRAM -TPA	774,372.00	0.00	0.00	309,671.36	464,700.64
256A2100DD	A0N9D4040 : WATER RES PROGRAM -TPA	740,521.00	0.00	0.00	740,521.00	0.00
256A2100DD	A0N9E5050 : WILDLIFE&PARKS PRGRM-TPA	536,162.00	0.00	0.00	536,162.00	0.00
256A2100DD	A0R9D4040 : ENVRMNTL QLTY PRGRM-TPA	131,339.12	0.00	93,124.00	38,215.12	0.00
256A2100DD	A0T902020 : OTHER AID-TRBL GOV -TPA	1,015,435.00	0.00	0.00	1,015,435.00	0.00
256A2100DD	AEE904040 : JHNSN O'MALL A GR TPA BIA	1,010,340.00	0.00	0.00	1,010,340.00	0.00
256A2100DD	AEE931010 : TRIBAL SCHOLARSHI TPA BIA	13,580,558.00	0.00	0.00	13,580,558.00	0.00
256A2240DD	A3T937070 : CSC CONTRACT SUPPORT TPA	19,367,590.00				19,367,590.00
25XA2100DD	A0H937070 : HOUSING IMPROV PROGRM-TPA	4,135.00				4,135.00
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>52,700,451.12</b>	<b>9,329,536.00</b>	<b>93,124.00</b>	<b>23,405,505.48</b>	<b>19,872,285.64</b>

**Indian Self-Determination:** The BIA Navajo Region (NR) BISD continues to work with Navajo Nation’s (Nation) twenty-two non-construction Contracts, seven Subpart J Construction Contracts and six other Tribal Organizations (TO) under Public Law (P. L.) 93-638. This quarter three Public Law 93-638 SAFA proposals 90 days were extended to May and June 2025 in accordance with 25 CFR Part 900 to provide additional time for the Nation’s Division of Social Services to provide revised Scope of Works and Budgets for the services that remain under P.L. 93-638 Contracts for the Department of Family Services and Navajo Family Assistance Services Programs, as the services for Adult Care Services and Welfare Assistance transition to a P.L. 102-477 477 Plan Contract. The Nation was provided with the P.L. 93-638 Contract for its approved 477 Plan. In addition, this quarter BIA NR awarded all available FY2025 Continuing Resolution 2 funding at 23.1% of FY 2024 Rate of Operation to P. L. 93-638 Contracts. One-time FY2024 and 2025 funding was also awarded to some 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 2025 Scope of Work (SOW) and budgets. All funds awarded entirely benefit the Nation. President Trump’s Executive Order Temporary Paused all Bipartisan Instructure and Investment Recovery Act funding which including some funding for P.L. 93-638 Contracts.

**Table 1 -Public Law 93-638 Contracts Funding Allocations**

	<b>The Navajo Nation</b>	<b>Amount</b>
A21AV00001	Natural Heritage Program	\$ 221,110.00
A21AV00002	Fish & Wildlife Program	196,078.00
A21AV00003	Social Services-Department of Family Services Program	331,810.86
A21AV00140	Law Enforcement -Criminal Investigations	3,514,562.00
A21AV00186	Law Enforcement-Patrol Services	17,045,649.00
A21AV00148	Higher Education/Scholarships	16,040,867.00
A22AV00149	Environmental Archaeological Non-Roads	330,931.90
A22AV00151	Tribal Courts Program	1,674,431.00
A22AV00588	Housing Improvement Program	124,909.00
A23AV00265	Adult Detention Program	6,591,005.00
A23AV00267	Juvenile Correction Program	2,179,516.00
A23AV00366	Water Development Program	400,188.00
A23AV00367	Forestry Management Program	137,838.36
A24AV00177	Johnson O'Malley	1,010,340.00
A25AV00618	P.L. 102-477 Plan Division of Social Services	68,722,886.00
A25AV00489	Water Monitoring & Inventory	277,132.00
A25AV00568	Tribal Enrollment Program	1,015,435.00
A19AV00070	Subpart J Construction Conjunctive Groundwater Use Wells	399,430.38
	<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 120,214,119.50</b>
	<b>Tribal Organizations</b>	
A21AV00158	Navajo Agricultural Products Industry	\$ 3,829,934.00
A19AV00984	Dine Bi Olta School Board Association, Inc. (DBOSBA)	15,000.00
A24AV00800	DBOSBA	157,780.00
A23AV00905	Rock Point Community School (RPCS)	900,603.34
	<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,903,317.34</b>
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 125,117,436.84</b>

This quarter the BIA NR conducted on-site P. L. 93-638 Contract Monitoring for the following Contracts:

- A23AV00366, CY2024 Water Monitoring & Inventory Program, March 10, 2025

Awarding Officials continue to complete and submit P.L. 93-638 monitoring reports to the Nation’s Contracting Officer.

On March 5, 2025, the Nation’s Office of the Controller submitted Nation’s P.L. 93-638 annual federal financial status reports (SF-425) on March 25, 2025, for 60 P.L. 93-638 Contracts with prior year available funding. 39 of these contracts have expired and not been officially extended. The Nation’s Contracting Officer’s has not provided a response to the questioned costs for its FY 2022 Single Audit Report (SAR). The Nation’s Contracting Officer has repeatedly assured a response is forthcoming, but nothing has been received. The Nation’s FY 2023 SAR was received by the Federal Clearing House on November 19, 2024. The BIA NR received the Nation’s FY2023 SAR on November 22, 2024, from the Indian Affairs Division of Internal Evaluation and Assessment (DIEA) to obtain and review sufficient appropriate evidence from the Nation and to confirm that the corrective action has been effectively implemented and will resolve the issues

identified and prevent the recurrence of similar finding in future audits. On January 8, 2025, the Awarding Official issued a letter to the Nation requesting evidence and supporting documents regarding the findings. The Nation's requested two extensions to submit documents and a response. The BIA NR granted the extensions; however, on March 14, 2025, the Awarding Official issued the Management Decision (MD) with Findings and Determination (F&D) to meet the DIEA established timeline. The MD with F&D sustained the questions cost for Nation's FY2023 SAR, as no supporting documents or adequate response was provided by the Nation.

**TRUST SERVICES: The Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Region Trust Service Programs include Environmental Services, Fire Management, Forestry, Geospatial Information Systems, Natural Resources, Probate & Estate Services, Real Estate Services, and the Federal Indian Minerals Office.**

**Eastern Navajo Agency (ENA) Real Estate Services: The ENA Real Estate Services worked on the following projects:**

**Eastern Navajo Agency (ENA) Real Estate Services** worked on the following projects:

**McKinley County & Navajo Division of Transportation Rights-of-Way (ROW) and Bridge** The funding for the top 10 bridge projects has not been obtained but is near approval. When the funding has been secured and allocated, construction will begin. Five (5) Right of Way applications have been prepared, four (4) applications have been completed, and one application is pending discussion before it can be submitted to the BIA. McKinley County has indicated that the Second & Third additional bridge listing still needs to be placed on the RDC Committee meeting list.

**Western Refining Pipeline, LLC, entitled the Tex New Mex pipeline** – Staff received, reviewed, processed and approved a ROW for an existing pipeline for crude oil for Western Refining Pipeline, LLC, entitled the Tex New Mex pipeline project. The easement was granted for continued operation and maintenance of the existing pipeline. The pipeline traverses over 46 Indian Allotted lands located in the Nageezi, Huerfano, Ojo Encino and Torreon Chapters.

**FAST-41 Project** – ENA BRES participated in 19 meetings facilitated by the Navajo Region on the FAST-41 Broadband Project together with other federal agencies. The meetings assisted in coordinating, permitting activities, environmental review and authorizations for review of the two (2) FAST- 41 covered projects. The coordination aligned agency processes and ensured agency teams work together efficiently and effectively. The team assisted in developing and implementing project specific timetables to keep the two (2) projects on track.

**South Compound Housing Subdivision** – The ENA BRES received a request for information from the Indian Health Service (IHS) for a temporary use permit for improvements on the existing South Compound Housing Subdivision located on Executive Order 1359 lands in Crownpoint, New Mexico. The housing compound is currently utilized by staff who provide medical services to the community of Crownpoint and surrounding areas. The ENA BRES provided instructions on how to obtain the temporary use permit.

**Mission Site Lease on Indian Allotted Lands** – The ENA BRES is working with the Borrego Pass Navajo Christian Church, Borrego Pass, New Mexico; and Gateway to Life Fellowship, Pueblo Pintado, New Mexico on obtaining a mission site lease on Indian Allotted lands. The ENA BRES reviewed information that was submitted from the Church and found that there was no Environmental Assessment with the application package to obtain a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). These documents are required to meet the NEPA requirements.

**Alama Chapter Broadband Project** – The ENA BRES is working with Western New Mexico Communications (WNMC) and Alamo Navajo Chapter to establish a business lease for a broadband project. The project proposes the construction of four (4) telecommunications towers to provide internet services on a wider scale to the community. WNMC submitted an appraisal to complete their application to the Appraisal Valuation Services Office (AVSO). An application is pending when the Lessees obtain all their required documentation.

**Business Enterprise Lease** – The ENA BRES is working with the Navajo Nation (NN) Division of Economic Development (DED) to secure a lease for the construction of a building to be used for a business enterprise on Canoncito Band Lands. The draft lease was submitted to the NN Regional Business Development Office (RBDO) which will be reviewed by the NN Department of Justice (DOJ). A meeting has been proposed by the NNDED to discuss certain provisions. All necessary guidance has been provided to the potential lessee.

**Thoreau Water Well Project** – The ENA BRES met with and provided information to Souder, Miller & Associates (SMA) regarding the Thoreau Water Well Project. The meeting included discussions on the acreage and length in the Tribal consent letter, NEPA, and calculating decimals and rounding errors. SMA were advised and provided an outline of the types of documents to complete an application package; and to address the BIA's review letter regarding items for correction.

**Jemez Mountain Electric Cooperative, Inc.** – The ENA BRES met with Jemez Mountain Electric Cooperative, Inc., regarding multiple ROW projects. An overview was provided on land status, consent process, survey staking, NEPA process & coordination/communication/outreach with ENA. The ENA BRES advised the Jemez Mountain Electric Cooperative, Inc. to request updated Title Status Reports, prepare consent forms for surveys, confirm route and arrange survey/staking work, and notify landowners before any field work begins for each project. It was advised that Jemez Mountain Electric Cooperative, Inc. coordinate with the Navajo Region Branch of Environmental to obtain instruction on the NEPA process.

**ENA Acquisition & Disposal (A&D) Section** – The ENA BRES A&D section provided services to individual landowners who were interested in conducting a gift deed transaction of their undivided interest on Indian Allotted lands. The A&D section provided one-on-one consultations to 26 landowners resulting in 13 applications received; 10 consultations were provided with the effects of completing a transaction in which they chose not to begin

the process. Three (3) applicants signed and submitted their gift deed transactions. As a result, three (3) applications for gift deeds were approved and three (3) are pending a final decision.

**ENA Leasing Section** – The ENA BRES Leasing section is continually working on processing residential leases requests and acceptance of applications on Indian Allotted lands. The ENA BRES Leasing section sent out 56 lease application packets to applicants to begin the leasing process. Thirty-nine (39) new residential leases, amendments and assignments were approved by the Superintendent. AVSO returned 24 completed appraisal requests defining the fair market annual rental rate. These cases with the appraisal information will be processed for a final decision.

**ENA Transportation completed the following projects:**

<b>Route</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Activities</b>
N9	Earth road	Blading
N9 East	Pueblo Pintado	Vegetation Control
N9 West	Standing Rock, Dalton Pass	Sign Repairs, erosion repair along and under the fence line
N9 West	Dalton Pass	Chevron Signs installed to indicate two (2) turns for the public's safety; Driveway clearing of sand due to winds
N11	Mariano Lake	Blading
N48	Borrego Pass; North Shoulder	Vegetation Control, blading, culvert cleanouts
N48 North	Littlewater; Borrego Pass	Sign Repairs, brush removal, fence repair, erosion repair with excessive dirt buildup
N48 South	Casamero Lake	Brush removal, installed Texas style gate at mile marker 6 on a turnout
N49	Smith Lake	Vegetation Control, sign installation, installed turnout with millings
N49	Mariano Lake	Cattle guard installation, installed turnout with millings
N49	Pinedale	Diagonal signs installed behind guardrails, completed six (6) locations
N49 to N11	Smith Lake to Pinedale	Sign Repairs, installed new guard rail chevron signs, fence repair
N52	Nahodishgish	Blading
N56	To'hajiice	Sign Repairs
N111	Mariano Lake	Ditch and Blade
N112	Red Willow	Blading
N473	Whitehorse	Blading
N474	Ojo Encino	Mowing, fence repair
N485	Casamero Lake Loop	Ditch and Blade
N493	Top Mesa	Blading



N7008	Pueblo Pintado	Ditch and Blade
N7009	Mulholland Wells	Ditch and Blade, Blading, fence repair
N7046	Jones Ranch	Sign Repairs, cattle guard installation and turnout with millings, fence repair
N7049	Standing Rock	Ditch and Blade
N7052	Mariano Lake	Blading
N7054	Top of Mesa - Pinedale	Ditch and Blade
N7062	Breadsprings	Fence repair, pothole patching
N7111	Mariano Lake Loop	Ditch and Blade
N7113	Mariano Lake	Blading
N7114	Littleboy Road; Becenti	Blading
N7136	Whitehorse	Blading
N7140	Lupton	Fence repair in multiple locations, pothole patching, V-ditch completed at mile marker 7 to prevent illegal trash dumping
11 (earth)	Rocky Canyon Pass	Removal of boulder that fell along the road
7057 (earth)	Standing Rock	Blading

**Equipment Transport** – Transportation staff transported equipment to Ojo Encino to start mowing along N474 and removal of two (2) cattle guards and route N7146 Jones Ranch to install millings to a turn out. All equipment utilized was mobilized to the work site daily with laborers following for safety, placement of warning signs, and traffic control for trucks turning and when equipment was on roadway.

**Inclement Weather Conditions** – The ENA BOT staff prepared for the winter weather by getting SaltDogg machine and heavy equipment ready for snow removal. Snow and ice removal was conducted for the following routes: N9 (West) Standing Rock to N9 (East) Pueblo Pintado, 48 (North) Littlewater and 48 (North) south Casamero Lake, and N49 Smith Lake to N49 Mariano Lake. After snow was removed on all routes, cinder was applied to roadway at all hills, curves, and intersections/turnouts. Winter weather conditions were reported on N48 North Little Water / south Casamero Lake, N49 Smith Lake, Pinedale, Breadsprings, Jones Ranch, Chichiltah and Lupton on March 7 and 14, 2025.

**Road Maintenance Meetings** – The ENA BOT staff attended the NDOT and Socorro Management Meeting in Alamo to discuss the road maintenance of route N55. The staff attended the Ojo Encino Chapter Meeting to discuss road maintenance.

**Coordination with NDOT** - In coordination with the NDOT, the ENA BOT’s primary goal is to keep roads open and safe to the traveling public within the eastern portion of the Navajo Nation. The staff must coordinate and address emergencies and inclement weather that can impact roads, washouts, and bridges. Staff remain alert and, when necessary and

possible, pretreat roads in the Eastern Navajo Agency thus ensures safer travel for public and emergency vehicles.

**Other Road Maintenance** – The ENA BOT staff installed safety barriers around water break near roadway in To’hajiilee. These activities support safe and reliable roads for the public, emergency vehicles, school buses and commerce.

**ENA Probate and Estate Services (BPES)** staff submitted 60 cases, of which 46 were accepted by OHA. These cases support a distribution of \$3,525,707.73 into Individual Indian Money accounts, 532 allotments, and 254 probable heirs. Staff also completed nine (9) disbursements and closings. Staff assisted 770 clients through various channels, including in-office visits, home visits, telephone calls, emails and in-person sessions with FIMO and chapters.

**Probate Outreach** - Staff keeps Indian allotment interest holders informed about their holdings and their implications. The outreach activities, conducted in Navajo, support estate planning and land use planning. These activities benefit the Navajo Nation by facilitating consent for infrastructure and commercial projects involving Indian allotments.

**Client Services** - The ENA 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. The ENA BPES work activities support tribal self-determination, self-governance, and sovereignty by ensuring that the titles to Indian allotments are kept accurate and updated.

**ENA Natural Resources (BNR)** accomplished numerous objectives and goals in support of range management decisions for the best interest of the landowners, making it possible for them to receive income from the use of their land and natural resources are managed properly.

**2025 Grazing Renewal Permits** - The ENA BNR addressed 378 range units regarding requirements and compliance to renew grazing permits in 2025 for Land Management Districts (LMDs) 16, 19, and 20, Authority to Grant livestock grazing, range unit field assessment, conservation plans, range improvements, low carrying capacity range units, outstanding invoices, ineligible to renew grazing permit, issues related to access and ceremonial grounds, requests to add available range units and/or individual Indian Allotment land; and questions related to Authority to Grant livestock grazing letter, form, location map, and name of permittee(s). ENA BNR continues to make this a priority with a projected completion date of May 2025.

**Natural Resources Navajo Partitioned Lands** staff will continue to implement 25 CFR Part 161 Navajo Partitioned Lands (NPL) Grazing Permits Regulation in cooperation with the Resource and Development Committee (RDC) of the Navajo Nation Council and Joint NPL District Grazing Committee with the priority to reissue grazing permits. Navajo Partitioned Lands (NPL) office has reissued 50 grazing permits with twenty-eight (28) individuals picking up their grazing permit

under Phase 1. NPL continues to assist the Navajo Department of Agriculture with review of Phase II and Phase III Heirship applicants. In addition, NPL will be assessing all 85 windmills beginning in April 2025 to identify those in need of repairs with a scope of work (SOW) to be developed to do the repairs.

**Western Navajo Agency Natural Resources** staff continues to implement the Former Bennett Freeze (FBFA) Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP). The IRMP supports future management plans for areas impacted by the FBFA. Under the implementation of the IRMP, the WNA BNR has accomplished the following: A) Work on the Land Management District (LMD) 3 Cropland Management Plan (CMP) and the associated Programmatic Environmental Assessment. The CMP is specific to LMD 3 communities of Coal Mine Canyon, To'Nanees'Dizi, Bodaway/Gap and Cameron; and B) The LMD 1 Resource Management Plan (RMP) and is currently completing the Programmatic Environmental Assessment for the LMD 1 RMP. The RMP covers both the rangeland and cropland areas of LMD 1. The LMD 1 consists of the WNA communities of Tonalea, Kaibeto, LeChee and Coppermine.

**Chinle Agency Natural Resources** Range Technician assists walk in clients and attends District Grazing Meetings to assist clients with transfers and probates. Staff meet monthly with the Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture and Resources Enforcement to discuss ongoing cases and to share information and data. Staff also provide information on the permit verification process with every client that comes into the office by verifying the permittee's identity and original permit. In District 10, there are 936 Grazing Permits, 597 Permits of these grazing permits are verified either through in person verification or through annual livestock inventories.

**Regional Real Estate Services** Acquisition and Disposal Division continues to work with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on the 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. Funding has been provided for Parcels 4B, 5B, 8, 10A1, 14B and 25A for official survey by BLM.

**Probate and Estate Services**, in partnership with the Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) successfully adjudicated 28 cases this quarter. BPES supports the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA) to process and disburse trust funds and assets. At the start of FY2025 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, the Branch of Probate and Estate Services reports there is a total of 8,679 active probate cases being processed at some level. Currently, there are 175 cases eligible for closure. Of those, 163 have completed the disbursement of the trust property (94.22%) and 131 have completed the disbursement of the trust personalty (83.44%).

**Environmental Management:** For this Quarter, Environmental Management worked on the following environmental clean-up projects:

**Toadlena Sheep Dip Vat (SDV)** - The remediation of the sheep dip vat located in the Chuska Mountains has been completed. BEM provided a draft final report to the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA) for review and comments. The period of performance was extended to April 30, 2025, for the pending deliverables.

**Chichiltah School Landfill** - BEM is awaiting additional funding from the BIA Division of Facilities and Construction Management (DFMC) to complete the cleanup of the site. During the cleanup work, additional contamination was discovered which halted the on-going project as additional funding was needed. The pending work requires excavation of asbestos-containing material and to remove general waste in the northern area of the site. BEM is working with DFMC to ensure the project remains active with all parties involved, aware this will delay the construction of the new school.

**Chinle Land Transfer** - The project entails the relinquishment of approximately 7.608 acres to return to the Navajo Nation. A contract has been awarded to remediate the three (3) parcels (B-1, G-1, and P-1) and is currently in review for archaeological and biological clearance.

**Shiprock Administration Reserve (SAR)** - The abatement and demolition at the SAR were completed at the end of February 2025. A memorandum of the status of the project was submitted to Council Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton on March 13, 2025. BEM received a draft of the closure report on April 1, 2025, which is currently under review.

**Bass Lake Sheep Dip Vat** - On March 10-11, 2025, BEM contractor, Wichita completed the onsite soil sampling efforts from (24) designated sampling locations. All collected samples were shipped to a certified analytical laboratory to be analyzed. BEM is awaiting the sampling results for future work. BEM and NEPA staff on Bass Lake Sheep Vat clean up located in Twin Lakes Chapter, New Mexico. The purpose of this meeting was to ensure that the testing plan and activities adhere to the Navajo Nation's Cultural Resource Compliance Form stipulations.

**Safe Drinking Water Act** - BEM received, reviewed and reported the analytical results for the January, December and March Bacteriological results from both Microbiology and Navajo Tribal Utility Authority Laboratory. All data and supporting documents were sent to Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA), Public Water System Supervision Program (PWSSP) and US Environmental Protection Agency.

**Federal Indian Minerals Office:** The first quarter for FY2025 has been steady for the Federal Indian Minerals Office (FIMO). FIMO implemented the return to the 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 fulfills its trust responsibilities to meet mission goals.

**Leasing Assignments** – No Assignments processed.

**Lease Termination/Cancellation** – No Lease Termination/Cancellation.

**New Leases** – No New Leases.

**Competitive Lease Sale Planned for Fall of 2025**

**Fire Management** - There have been twenty-three (23) human caused wildland fires that Branch of Fire Management (BFM) personnel have responded to within the Second Quarter (Q2). The total number of acres burned in Q2 is approximately (198) acres.

**NTUA** - BFM are approved to assist with Navajo Tribal Utilities Authority (NTUA) with falling complexity trees along a right of way that NTUA is clearing to install fiber-optic lines through the Defiance Plateau. The collaborative effort will give BFM an opportunity to train new sawyers with BFM, NTUA and Navajo Nation Forestry.

**Eaton and Hughes Fires in California** - BFM Navajo Region, mobilized a Type-2 Initial Attack crew for the fires in California in January 2025. The crew provided outstanding work for the Eaton and Hughes fires.

**Spider Fire** - BFM Navajo Region, assisted with fire response on neighboring Hopi Agency. The 1,700-acre Spider fire threatened Navajo Trust Lands at the initial start of incident; however, resources from adjoining agencies were able to stop progress once fire activity diminished.

**Forestry:** On November 26, 2024, the BIA provided comments and recommendations, in a letter to address their Statement of Work (SOW) for their Calendar Year (CY) 2025 Successor Annual Funding Agreement (SAFA). BIA Navajo Region recommended: 1) clarification on the SOW as it is unclear what the Tribe specifically proposes to conduct under the Timber Management section of the SOW; 2) change the language for “Attachment C – Government Performance and Results Act”; 3) change the language for “Attachment D – Program Specific Report”; and 4) amend the CY 2025 SOW to request full forestry funding available for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Tribal Priority Allocation (TPA).

**Fire Management:** There have been eight (8) human caused wildland fires that Branch of Fire Management (BFM) personnel have responded to within the First Quarter (Q1). The total number of acres burned in Q1 is approximately ten (10) acres. The BFM is in discussion with NTUA to assist with the falling of high complexity trees along a right-of-way that NTUA is clearing to install fiber-optic lines along the Defiance Plateau.

**Farmington Indian Minerals Office (FIMO):** FY 2025 First Quarter has been steady for FIMO program. FIMO has implemented the 100% Return to Office for the staff per guidance from the BIA Navajo Region. FIMO continues to meet with allottees at the office, answer telephone inquiries and provide phone-in and in person outreaches to the communities in ENA. Activities continue to increase as FIMO identifies new projects being proposed. FIMO continues to service allottees and fulfills its trust responsibilities to meet 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 at SITTA Wells and M&M wells. These wells have been plugged.

**Leases reinstated** – Fifteen (15) leases for the Lone Mesa (Fruitland) Unit were reinstated

**INDIAN SERVICES: The Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Region Indian Services include Facilities Management, Housing Improvement Program, Property Management, Safety Management and Tribal Government.**

**Human Services:** Staff provided the following services on behalf of the Navajo Nation:

**Government Performance Results Act (GPRA):** The Navajo Nation Division for Children & Family Services was approved to implement their PL 102- 477 Plan for their General Assistance, Burial Assistance, Adult Services, and Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Program. Consequently, the BIA Navajo Region will not be required to report the 1811 GRPA Measurements.

**Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA):** In the second quarter, Human Services staff addressed six (6) ICWA notices where Navajo Nation was not initially informed. Staff work diligently and cooperatively with other BIA Regions (if applicable) to secure protective custody services for clients. Human Services staff worked in partnership with the Navajo Nation to properly inform and refer to twelve (12) ICWA notices received. Additionally, ICWA information is integrated into a share system utilized by BIA Regions to enhance communication and coordination. By following ICWA guidelines, BIA Navajo Region Human Services continues to ensure the protection and well-being of children while reinforcing the sustainability of ICWA principles.

**Individual Indian Money (IIM):** Human Services works collaboratively with the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration to aid in the oversight and management of IIM trust funds accounts for Navajo beneficiaries. Staff conduct assessments and aid in the distribution of trust funds to meet the daily and financial needs of clients and beneficiaries. Nine (9) assessments were conducted through a face-to-face meeting in the accountholder's environment. Staff completed six (6) distribution plans this quarter.

**Tribal Government Services (TGS):** On January 06, 2025, the AOTR worked with the AO on the coordination and support for a continuity of tribal operations for Tribal Enrollment and Higher Education programs at BIA buildings in Shiprock, Western and Chinle. These tribal programs were impacted by a federal holiday declared on January 9, 2025, ordered by then President Biden in observation of a National Day of Mourning after the death of former President Jimmy Carter.

**Tribal Enrollment** – Staff referred forty-nine (49) requests to the Navajo Nation Office of Vital Records/Enrollment program as follows: ENA 7; Chinle 1; Fort Defiance 1; Shiprock 4; Western 4; and Window Rock 32 for potential tribal membership or verification.

**AOTR Activities** – (TGS) serves as the AOTR for three (3) P. L. 93-638 contracts: Tribal Enrollment, Tribal Scholarship; and Tribal Courts. The BIA Navajo Region Awarding Official and AOTR coordinated with the Navajo Nation on the following transactions this quarter:

**P.L. 93-638 Contractual Program, Tribal (Census) Enrollment (TE) program Contract, A16AV00151:** On February 4, 2025, the AOTR met with the AO on the check

list for the Tribal Enrollment program contract renewal proposal review regarding the Nation's CY2025 contract renewal proposal. On February 25, 2025, BIA AOTR met with the Awarding Official on the funding proposal review and provided a response to the Funding Proposal Review, Contract Renewal, and CY 2025 Annual Funding Agreement.

On February 12, 2025, the AOTR processed the Purchase Request in the amount of \$790,110.00 pursuant P.L. 118-158 – American Relief Act, 2025 Dec. 21, 2024); Division A §101(1) (138 STAT 1722) and Division A §101(7) (138 STAT 1525) and §106(3) (138 STAT 1526).

On March 13, 2025, the AOTR provided the updated Form BIA 4432, Verification of Indian Preference for Employment in the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Service to the Navajo Nation Tribal Enrollment Program Manager and noted its expiration date of April 30, 2025. The BIA will provide the updated form when it is made available.

For the month of March 2025, BIA staff from Tribal Government, Self Determination, Facilities Management and Property have been reviewing a request from the Nation regarding a IT network pole installation for BIA Shiprock Agency. On March 4, 2025, the BIA requested clarification on the pole installation which the Nation's Tribal Enrollment program responded to on March 6, 2025. BIA Safety and BIE Facility Management are still reviewing the request with a follow-up meeting scheduled for April 4, 2025.

On March 13, 2025, the AOTR provided the updated Form 4432 to the TE Program Manager and noted its expiration date of April 30, 2025. The BIA will provide new information as it is made available.

On April 1, 2025, the AOTR worked with the Program Manager, on TE question on the certificate of Indian Birth form and its revision.

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

On January 16, 2025, the AOTR processed the Purchase Request in the amount of \$3,013,526.00. These funds are made available pursuant P.L. 118-158 – continuing appropriations and extensions Act, 2025 Sept. 26, 2024); Division A §101(7) (138 STAT 1525) and §106(3) (138 STAT 1526).

On March 6, 2025, the AOTR processed the Purchase Request in the amount of \$10,567,032.00. These funds are made pursuant to P.L. 118-158 – American Relief Act, 2025 Dec. 21, 2024); Division A §101(1) (138 STAT 1722) and Division A §101(7) (138 STAT 1525) and §106(3) (138 STAT 1526).

Then on March 14, 2025, AOTR processed the Purchase Request in the amount of \$2,460,309.00. These funds are made available pursuant to H.R. 4366 / Public Law 118-42 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Mar. 9, 2024); 138 STAT 25.

**P.L. 93-638 Contractual Program, Tribal Courts, Contract No. A22AV00151:**

On February 12, 2025, the AOTR processed the Purchase Request in the amount of \$1,447,012.00. Then on March 14, 2025, the AOTR processed the Purchase Request in the amount of \$227,419.00. Pursuant to the Navajo Nation Tribal Court, this one-time funding will be used for staffing a Judicial Hearing Officer (\$84042); Fringe (\$31,373); Judicial Hearing Officer (\$81,558); and Fringe (\$30,446).

**Housing Improvement Program** reports the following:

1. On January 6, 2025, the Nation submitted its Public Law 93-638 Contract Renewal Proposal with Calendar Year 2025 Annual Funding Agreement to continue contracting HIP. On February 18, 2025, the BIA NR declined the Nation's HIP Contract Renewal Proposal as there is no funding for HIP. If funding becomes available, the Nation will be informed to re-submit their proposal. Currently, the Housing Services Officer position continues to remain vacant.

**Safety:** Staff have made significant progress in advancing workplace safety and promoting employee well-being across the BIA Navajo Region. With a comprehensive annual inspection program covering 26 BIA sites and 3 Office of Justice Services (OJS) sites, staff have successfully completed 85% of the safety inspection reports for BIA sites and 67% for OJS sites. Overall, 60% of the combined inspection reports for 29 sites have been finalized, and 45% of the corresponding abatement plans are complete. This collaborative effort during safety walkthroughs has not only facilitated the identification of root causes of existing hazards but has also fostered a culture of safety and accountability among employees. Our commitment to enhancing workplace safety is further demonstrated through continuous improvement initiatives, such as organizing both virtual and in-person training sessions and disseminating educational safety messages aimed at preventing workplace injuries and illnesses. By minimizing risks to our workforce's physical, mental, and emotional well-being, we align our efforts with the Branch of Safety's strategic objectives, ensuring a safe and conducive work environment across the Navajo Nation.

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

**TRUST SERVICES:**

**Natural Resources Navajo Partitioned Lands:** The Navajo Region Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has recognized the effect of noxious weeds and the importance of controlling the spread throughout tribal range lands. The Navajo Nation Integrated Weed Management Plan (BIA 2022) describes target noxious weed species, mapping methodologies, important considerations, as well as the best-known practices to prevent expansion and even eradication of certain species. The treatment of noxious weed and invasive species will focus on range land to be coordinated with active permittees and respective grazing officials. These types of information are shared with the Navajo Department of Agriculture and grazing officials with an in-depth orientation with the newly elected grazing officials and permittees.

**Shiprock Agency Natural Resources:** Shiprock Agency has approximately 2,186 Irrigation and Miscellaneous farm permits and covers 24,844 acres along the San Juan River. In addition, Shiprock Agency provides oversight and management of 2,005 grazing permits.



During this reporting period, the Range Technician helped a total of 62 Navajo clients. Assistance including identification of grazing area locations, permit histories, maps of grazing areas, re-survey of farm plots, provide conservation plan templates (farm/grazing) and physical resource data for certain grazing areas. If coordinates are provided, find locations of corals, homesites, proposed project areas such as solar panel projects, hydrogen lines, etc., for identification of affected land-users. Shiprock Agency also provided technical assistance to new permit holders who want to sell their livestock, those that recently acquired permits through transfer agreements or by court order as their grazing permit are still pending.

With the new grazing and farm board officials, 16 requests were received to include a permittee list and maps for their chapters. In addition, Shiprock Agency received two requests from legal advisers for permit information. Shiprock Agency also responded to five (5) FOIA requests. Staff provide information to Navajo Tribal Brand Inspectors and Navajo Department of Agriculture on brand identification.

Range Technician was appointed as a Contracting Officer Representative (COR) for three (3) contracts which focus on preserving rangeland and agricultural resources for farmers in the Shiprock Agency.

**Hidden Waters** – this contract is responsible for carrying out Noxious Weed Survey for Cove and Sanostee Wash. Environmental, Biological and Archeological assessments were completed. Shiprock Agency is waiting for the final report.

**Hidden Waters** - Collins Range Management Unit contract identifies the need for biological and environmental assessments, cultural surveys, and a rangeland inventory. Fencing the RMU is also projected. This contract is ongoing with projections for finalizing it in December 2025.

**BRIC** – this contract focuses on creating and updating a resources inventory and ArcGIS Shapefiles on the San Juan Irrigation Project farmland. This contract began in February 2025 with a period of performance of 1 year.

**Natural Resources Fort Defiance Agency** staff worked on the following projects:

**Proposed Range Management Fencing** - There is one proposed Range Management Unit (RMU) within Kinlichee Chapter. The proposed RMU consists of 1,700 acres. The adjacent grazing permit holders are objecting to the size of proposed RMU and has been deferred to by the District 17 Grazing Committee.

**Noxious Weed Projects** - The Chuska Lake Stand Exam and Silvicultural Prescription has been contracted to Hidden Waters. The field work will begin in April 2025. The Environmental Assessment is awaiting final review by the Navajo Region Environmental Quality Act Compliance Review. A Finding of No Significant Impact is anticipated. The District 7 Noxious Weed Inventory has been completed. The contractor, BRIC LLC, has submitted the final report and has been received by Fort Defiance Agency Branch of Natural Resources.

**Vegetation Survey Projects** - Ft. Defiance Agency has contracted BRIC LLC to complete the District 18 Range Inventory. A balance between stocking rate and range utilization is necessary for the effective conversion of range forage to animal production, whether it is domestic animal or wildlife. A forage balance is essential in maintaining future ecosystem function. To achieve this balance the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Navajo Nation need information on current forage (rangeland) condition. The Range inventory will begin June/July during the vegetation growing season.

**Grazing Permit Conservation Plans** - Fort Defiance Agency has contracted BRIC LLC., to complete the 286 grazing permit conservation plans. The contractor shall (1) 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. (2) Research and collect data information (from existing records and/or on-site field assessments). (3) Conduct a range unit and or grazing area visit to determine range condition and existing infrastructure. (4) 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. The contract is on-going.

**Violation Letters** - FDA mailed 76 letters of violation to grazing permit holders and non-grazing permit holders through certified mail. These letters of violation are for permit holders who are excess of their permitted sheep units, are grazing within the wrong district, and for individuals grazing without a grazing permit.

**Grazing Permit Information** - The Navajo Nation Land Department, Indian Health Service, Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, and the Federal Aviation Administration sought valid grazing permit information within project areas so that they may seek consent from permit holders for use of the right of ways. A total of 10 requests were submitted to Fort Defiance Agency.

**Natural Resources Chinle Agency staff report the following accomplishments:** Chinle Agency received the 2024 Livestock Inventories which are now being verified and encoded into a data system for data on permit status, livestock population and trespass numbers. Staff are also in the process of preparing violation letters for trespass producers which are sent to individuals who are in violation of 25 CFR and Navajo Nation Title 3 Code. To monitor range depletion, staff are developing a Range Monitoring Plan that will be implemented this spring. Monitoring efforts started in Fall of 2024 by staff. A total of Twenty- Six (26) range cages were placed in RMUs. The location of these cages was selected using range inventory transect data, taking distance to water and terrain into consideration. In District 10 range assessments show that 53% of the completed assessment was severely used. With an overall use of 90%. District 4 was funded for range inventory beginning Summer 2025, the results of this data will be used to update the carrying capacity for Blue Gap and Black Mesa areas.

**Real Estate Services Minerals Division:** 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 OSMRE inspector provides updated information and status of the reclamation on their inspection for each of the coal mines. Quarterly inspections conducted for this quarter:

**Kaibeto Resources Inc** – On February 5, 2025, discussion was made of the reclamation of the gravel pit; Nazlini (Emma Brown) – Navajo Nation has stated that the lease can be released and to release the NECA bond. The lease naturally expired on April 7, 2024; BIA has requested clearance from Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR).

**Wheatfield Gravel Pit** – On February 6, 2025, there is no activity on the lease, we are continuing to monitor reclamation status; Teec Nos Pos gravel pit - The gravel pit is undisturbed. The application was approved to NTEC; Apache County's Carrizo Pit sand & Gravel at Teec Nos Pos, AZ - The company is planning to set up a rock crusher and weight scale which projects to be in operation by mid-March 2025.

**Branch of Probate and Estate Services:** During the FY 2025 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, the Branch of Probate and Estate Services prepared and submitted 126 cases to OHA for adjudication. Of the 126 cases, 68 were submitted by Eastern Navajo Agency and 58 submitted by both Fort Defiance and Shiprock Agencies.

**Eastern Navajo Agency (ENA) Branch of Real Estate Services (BRES):** ENA BRES is working with the Navajo Region Branch of Fire Management to continue planning for the fuel projects within the communities of Smith Lake, Mariano Lake and Pinedale Chapters located in Eastern Navajo Agency. A meeting has been scheduled to obtain updates from the Branch of Fire Management (BFM), Navajo Region. BFM was tasked to obtain a survey plan, prescription plan of the woodland area and the number of residential areas that will be affected. The ENA BRES will request a Categorical Exclusion once all the information has been obtained.

**Federal Indian Minerals Office:** FIMO 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) 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.

**Inspection & Enforcement** – the BLM Inspection and Enforcement (I&E) has not provided their 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 the 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. 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. 25 wells have been inspected by the BIA EPS.

**Branch of Engineering:** Staff awarded two Navajo Nation Public Law (P.L.) 93-638 Contracts: for one-time funding for Water Monitoring Contract # A20AV00139 in the amount of \$15,209; and the Water Development Contract # A23AV00366 in the amount of \$27,791.

**Contract Monitoring** – Staff completed the NN’s P.L. 93-638 contract annual onsite monitoring site visits for the following programs: Water Monitoring, Water Rights, Water Development, Fruitland-Cambridge (F-C), Hogback-Cudei (H-C) Irrigation Rehabilitation projects, and the Conjunctive Groundwater Use Wells project.

**Conjunctive Groundwater Use Wells Projects** are still on pause until the NN’s project for the Area Regional Water Source is completed. Once finished, the NN will submit a modification to the current P.L. 93-638 Sub-part J contract Work Order #1 Chilchiltah Vanderwagon Water System to modify the Scope of Work to complete the work not accomplished under the NN’s ARPA and the New Mexico Tribal Infrastructure work. The Conjunctive Groundwater Use Wells Project Work Order #3 was awarded an additional \$399,430.38 from BIA for continued technical assistance work to the NN from their contractor (WSP Consultants).

**F-C Irrigation Canal’s Diversion Dam** construction project will remain on hold until the Fish Weir construction project is complete, and the NN finds a resolution for the additional funds needed of \$21M to complete the project. The Navajo Nation Technical Construction Operation Branch procured their construction contractor (Meridan Construction Company) for the F-C Irrigation Canal’s Fish Weir project in December 2025. The F-C Irrigation Canal’s Fish Weir construction began in January 2025 with Phase one of the project, establishing the groundwork for the Fish Return from the Fish Weir back to the San Juan River, this construction halted at the end of March 2025. Phase two of this project will start back up in October 2025 and complete the construction of the Fish Weir and the Fish Return by March 2026, during the off-irrigation season.

**H-C Irrigation Canal Rehabilitation Projects** - The NN procured a construction contractor (Meridian Construction Company) for the H-C Irrigation Canal Rehabilitation projects: Helium Lateral Flume, Jim Canyon Siphon, and Salt Creek Siphon in September 2025. The Helium Lateral Flume, Jim Canyon Siphon, and the Salt Creek Siphon are scheduled to be completed by the end of April 2025. Furthermore, Navajo procured the Weeminuche Construction Authority (contractor) for the H-C Irrigation Rehabilitation Canal Lining project in November 2024. Phase One of the construction work began early December 2024 with completion in January 2025. The second phase will begin in October 2025 and complete the project in April 2026.

**Safety of Dams (SOD) Program** will complete the annual onsite monitoring visit with the NN Safety of Dams (NN-SOD) Program in May 2025. The BIA Division of Water and Power-Safety of Dams Office worked with the BIA SOD Program and the NN-SOD

Program to adjust Dam elevations from NAVD-29 to NAVD-88 for eight dams on the NN, this effort was completed in February 2025.

**Kin Bineola Dam** in Lake Valley, NM will be rehabilitated back to its original form before the dam was breached, with funds coming from the BIA Division of Water and Power Office. The BIA SOD Program worked with the Lake Valley Chapter to locate contact information of the homeowner recently, and now we plan to meet with a homeowner that currently resides in the flooding area to discuss options to remain in the flooding area or possibly move. Coordination will include the BIA Eastern Navajo Agency Office as well.

**Comprehensive Review DSAT** - The BIA SOD Program and the BIA Division of Water and Power-Safety of Dams Office completed the Comprehensive Review DSAT for the Ganado Dam in January 2025. And Comprehensive Review DSAT for the Todacheene Dam was completed in February 2025. The BIA SOD Program is working with NN-SOD Program to rename three new dam locations on the NN, the renaming effort will be complete in April 2025.

**Navajo Indian Irrigation Project (NIIP) Project Management Team (PMT)** quarterly meeting is scheduled to occur April 2025 with the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry (NAPI) and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). The internal BIA NIIP Coordination follow-up meetings continue bi-monthly, to discuss policies and procedures for the Block 9 Stage 2 development at NAPI. BIA NIIP is continuing efforts to establish a BIA Policy Team to include the NN, NAPI, and the BOR to provide updates of NIIP's current developments and discussions on NIIP's future development plans. This BIA Policy Team will also provide clarity for directives and action items, if needed, from all parties to continue the overall development of the NIIP Project. The BIA NIIP Office is continuing efforts to implement an Interagency Agreement between BIA and the BOR Four Corners Construction Office (BOR/FCCO). This Interagency Agreement will allow BOR/FCCO to provide staff technical support for assistance and operations training of the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) facilities at NAPI. The BIA NIIP Office is working on a new contractor solicitation for an Environmental Assessment for Fiscal Year 2025. This Environmental Assessment will consider the environmental impacts of NIIP's current and future developments. Starting December 2024, BIA NIIP and NAPI provided a Drainage Investigation to address drainage issues affecting the Upper Fruitland Community and Residents. BIA NIIP and its contractor in collaboration with the Nation attended the Upper Fruitland CLUP-C meeting on February 06, 2025, to present the current data collected by BIA NIIP's contractor at the Ojo-Amarillo Drainage and other additional water monitoring sites near the affected areas. The Upper Fruitland Chapter will provide information to the affected residence and schedule a time for BIA NIIP's contractor to visit for a concluding investigation. FY25 Irrigation Season began on February 14, 2025, releasing water at NAPI Headworks. On January 17, 2025, a leak was identified and monitored at the Monolithic Largo Siphon near Cutter Reservoir, NAPI O&M successfully repaired the leak to continue the FY25 Irrigation Season. The BIA awarded the following funds to NAPI: FY25 NAPI Agriculture Program Tribal Priority Allocations funds for CR#1 and CR#2 (Combined Total: \$1,305,502), FY 25 NAPI O&M Funds for CR#1 and #2 (Combined Total: \$2,486,000), and FY25 NAPI-NIIP Water Quality Funds (\$38,432).

**Environmental Quality Assurance** BEQACR staff has been providing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) technical guidance on the FAST 41 meetings two broadband projects, benefiting the McKinley County Schools E-Rate Project and the Navajo Nation Department of Education E-Rate Project. Each of these projects enhances the Navajo Nation's access to broadband capabilities. These meetings are continuous to maintain the progress of the projects.

**Poncho House** - The BEQACR staff continues to provide technical assistance with the BIA Central to discuss the Poncho House along with six (6) room archaeology site located on the Navajo Nation. BEQACR is working with the Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation Department (NNHPD) in response to Council Delegate Yanito's request for the protection on the Poncho house and cultural resources sites.

**Regional Natural Resources:** Staff continue to carry out monitoring range resources, disseminating education and information through various project reports, funding opportunities, sharing information to Navajo Nation staff and programs. Staff also reviewed and posted rankings for 6 Navajo Nation projects to Central Office/DC Tribal funding initiative for FY 2025.

**Potential Horse Rescue Program Funding** – On February 11, 2025, the Navajo Nation was informed of an opportunity for horse rescue program funding through the National Tribal Horse Coalition (NTHC). This funding opportunity was shared amongst Tribes who participated in this meeting and voiced that they have feral horse issues on their respective reservation lands.

The **Branch of Natural Resource** staff continue to participate in a national sub-committee of resource professionals helping to develop the program's narrative and position. Staff shared information on a proposal to serve as a delegate on the Tribe's Horse Rescue Program.

### **Branch of Environmental Management and Environmental Quality Act Compliance Review (NEPA)**

BIA Navajo Region's NEPA program processed one hundred eighty-one (180) Categorical Exclusions for housing needs and utility installation. Staff also processed forty-three (43) Cultural Resources Compliance Forms for the Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation Department. Staff also processed a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) determination for the following projects/activities:

**Continental Divide Electrical Cooperative (CDEC)** of Grants, New Mexico is preparing an Endangered Species Act (ESA) evaluation to document for a proposed Tohajiilee Reroute Distribution Line with Fiber Optic Cable Project right-of-way in Tohajiilee, New Mexico. The proposed distribution line/fiber optic cable reroute would be located north of the Canoncito Day School in Canoncito, New Mexico.

**Tohatchi Bridge** - Navajo Nation Division of Transportation (NDOT) proposes to replace an existing, 47-year-old Tohatchi Bridge that connects Navajo Route 108 (N108) over the Red Willow Wash to the IHS health care center located in Tohatchi, New Mexico. This project improves community ingress/egress via the Tohatchi Bridge, which crosses Red

Willow Wash near Tohatchi Chapter. The bridge is currently used by the Tohatchi Chapter and other regional residents to access the Tohatchi Indian Health Center.

**McElmo-Wasson CO2 pipeline** - The McElmo-Wasson CO2 pipeline is an existing 500-mile carbon dioxide (CO2) 30-inch diameter pipeline that transports CO2 from southwestern Colorado to the Wasson Oil Field near Denver City, Texas. Cortez Pipeline Company operates the pipeline and associated facilities. The pipeline system can transport up to 1.5 billion cubic feet of CO2 per day. Cortez Pipeline Company is requesting a new grant of easement for 14 segments of the McElmo Wasson CO2 pipeline that are located on 43 Navajo Tribal Trust and allotted parcels in San Juan, McKinley, and Sandoval Counties, New Mexico.

**Navajo Tribal Helium Gas Wells** - Tacitus, LLC (Tacitus), a wholly owned subsidiary of Navajo Transitional Energy Company (NTEC), proposes to develop four (4) helium gas wells on Navajo Nation tribal trust land in San Juan County, New Mexico. Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs) were submitted to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Farmington Field Office (FFO) to obtain access to the Navajo Tribal leases.

**Dan Martinez Electrical Service Line with Fiber Optic Broad Band Cable ROW Project** - Continental Divide Electric Cooperative (CDEC) of Grants, New Mexico proposes to acquire a right of way for the Dan Martinez Electrical Service Line with Fiber Optic Broad Band Cable (PL/FOBBC) project in Baca/Prewitt Chapter, New Mexico. The PL/FOBBC line would provide service to the existing Dan Martinez home site. The proposed rights of way would serve local families with electricity to their homes. BEQACR reviewed the Environmental Assessment and determined a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSIs) on the human or environmental impacts. The issuance of FONSIs allows the projects to proceed on the trust or allotted lands for needed infrastructure and development to benefit Navajo Nation.

NEPA staff also reviewed and analyzed IHS NEPA documents for three (3) Water Supply and Waste Disposal Facility Projects. The NEPA analysis supports the Indian Health Service request for BIA Right-of-Way approval to construct domestic water facilities for Navajo Nation tribal member homes. In addition, the tribal members will also benefit by having wastewater facilities provided as well.

**Fire Management** - Fire Management's Fuels section awarded contracts to conduct silvicultural assessments on two (2) Rx Prescribed burns in the Chuska Mountains. Staff are also working collaboratively with Eastern Navajo Agency on a project for residence in the community of Mariano Lake and Smith Lake. The project assists in creating a "defensible space" around homes that are near woodlands areas.

**Fuels Data Collection and Management Fire Management** – Fire Management staff in collaboration with GIS staff to assist with data collection and management with fuels data such as Wildland Urban Interface activities, fuels data collected in the field, and calculated to be reported to various consumers. Both teams worked closely together to identify dataflows and workflows

from field operations to dashboards for leadership to understand fire management and incident responses.

**Geospatial Information Services** - To date, there are 330 Navajo Nation GIS users of BIA's Enterprise License Agreement (ELA) with ESRI™. GIS also developed the BIA Navajo Region Geospatial Strategic Plan which covers FY 2024 to 2026 with planning and assessments activities in Phase 1 which started with the Natural Resources program. The draft plan is currently going through an internal review by BIA GIS users and staff. GIS plans to share this plan with the Nation soon.

**Building Tribal capacity in Geospatial and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)** – Staff is planning for additional resources to support building tribal capacity in geospatial and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) by acquiring training and working with USGS data assets. Our goal is to deliver these resources and increase collaboration. Additional information will be forthcoming.

**BIA Introduction to ArcGIS Pro training for Navajo Nation tribal GIS users** – Staff is working with BIA Western and Southwestern Regions to bring an in-person introductory training to Albuquerque, New Mexico. This training is tailored to tribal audiences to gain experience and knowledge in using ArcGIS Pro® (ESRI's GIS Desktop software) and ArcGIS Online and Portal (cloud technology), and to provide additional information of BIA and other federal agency data assets for tribes. Three Navajo Nation departments have expressed interest in attending this training.

**Technical Assistance** – On January 7, 2025, staff provided technical assistance to a Navajo Nation GIS user to install GIS software.

**Forestry** - In a letter dated January 8, 2025, Forestry staff reinitiated efforts to provide technical assistance to the Navajo Nation's Forestry Management Program (FMP) regarding the Nation's Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI). Navajo Forestry was informed that the BIA secured technical assistance from BIA Central Office Forest Inventory and Planning (FIP) and Timber Teams to be onsite from February 3 - 14, 2025. This team would assist with CFI data collection training and review quality control checks on CFI plots that were completed. Per the request of FIP, the FMP provided Geographic Information System (GIS) CFI plot access road data, GIS plot location data for all plot locations, confirmed the total number of CFI plots completed by the Nation's FMP, confirmed FMP staff availability for training, and assisted in revising the Navajo Nation's CFI field manual. Due to federal Executive and Secretarial Orders, this activity was cancelled; however, there is a proposal to reschedule for September 8 -19, 2025.

**FY 2025 A-123 Self-assessment of Forestry Management Inventory and Planning (FMI&P) Program** – Staff provided information on the FY 2025 OMB A-123 Self-Assessment to the Navajo Nation regarding their PL 93-638 Contracted services for Forestry Management Inventory and Planning Program. This internal self-assessment is in accordance with OMB Circular compliance requirements. The Division of Forestry developed an Internal Control Review (ICR) assessment form entitled "5\_FY2025 Program ICR Field Test Form, FMI&P" that shall be used for the internal assessment. BIA



Navajo Region's Indian Self Determination Officer forwarded this letter dated April 1, 2025, to the Navajo Nation. Within the letter, the Branch of Forestry requested for the **ICR assessment form to be completed by the Forestry Management Program and returned to the BIA NRO Branch of Forestry by April 18, 2025.**

Collaboration on Fuels Project in Eastern Navajo Agency – BIA Forestry staff in collaboration with Eastern Navajo Agency and Wildland Fire and Aviation teams met on March 28, 2025, in Crownpoint, NM to discuss efforts for developing Prescribed Fire Plans for two communities: Mariano and Smith Lake communities. Forestry staff provided guidance on forest land management activities including fuels management on allotted and unallotted trust lands. Next steps included gathering a list of allottee landowners, maps, and draft documents for review during the next proposed meeting in April 2025.

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

#### **TRUST SERVICES:**

##### **Navajo Partitional Lands**

Monthly Drought information and the Navajo Nation Drought Contingency Plan of 2003 is shared with the Tribe, grazing officials helps with implementing the recommended livestock carrying capacity and stocking rates. Additional coordination with the appropriate Tribal Department of Agriculture, Archeology, Fish and Wildlife, and Water Resources will continue to address the issues, concerns, and develop and implement recommend best management practices. Bi-weekly livestock sales continue to be held locally to assist those with adequate means to transport their livestock to sale and auction yards.

##### **Western Navajo Agency- BNR**

With the Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI) for the Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Cameron Waterline Project, the WNA-BNR is set to begin the planned installation of the waterline, which will include a watering point facility in Cameron, Arizona. The waterline will start at a well in the Little Colorado River gorge and traverse rugged terrain in a southwest direction to a pipe-stand location just east of U.S. Highway 89. Once completed, this project will greatly benefit the local community and support their socioeconomic development needs related to livestock and agricultural operations. In the meantime, the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources has installed a temporary waterline and tanks to provide water for livestock and agricultural needs while the WNA BNR finalized the EA for the project.

##### **Chinle Agency BNR**

Chinle Agency is evaluating all the Agriculture Land Use Permits (ALUP) and their status. 80%+ of the ALUPs are not being used for farming, a total of five ALUPs have been relinquished. CA works with the Permittees, the Navajo Nation Land Department and Grazing Committee in this process. A majority of the producers do not understand the Sheep Units Year Long and how the ratio changes with every species of livestock. With the high cattle prices and increase in enforcement producers are willingly decreasing their livestock.

**Eastern Navajo Agency (ENA) Branch of Natural Resources (BNR):** Staff are in coordination with the Navajo Sustainable Agriculture (NSA) and New Mexico State University (NMSU) College of Agriculture, Consumer, and Environmental Science (NMSU). The ENA BNR continues to work with NSA to complete conservation plans.

**Real Estate Services – Leasing:** Real Estate Services Leasing staff are working with the Navajo Nation regarding the Black Rock Acres, Rio Puerco Acres, and Fort Defiance Residential Unit A under the Fort Defiance Housing Corporation d/b/a Sandstone. Fort Defiance Chapter is requesting assistance to address abandoned and/or burned homes, and vacant lots within the subdivisions as they are a safety hazard to the community, i.e. vagrants, drug users, fires, graffiti, etc. Research is ongoing for each respective subdivision. In addition, Navajo Land Department is requesting assistance to address issues created by the master leases for approximately one hundred and six listed owners for these associated housing subdivisions by the Lessee, Fort Defiance Housing Corporation, doing business like Sandstone Housing or Sandstone Housing Corporation, etc.

**Regional Real Estate Services –** Staff reviewed and certified Federal Programs Impact Aid Source Check Certification for children who reside on eligible trust or restricted Indian Lands for the Gallup McKinley County School District and the Ganado Unified School District No. 20.

**Right of Way Projects –** Staff are currently working with numerous entities proposing to establish Right-of-Way on the Navajo Nation. The following are currently working with the Indian landowners to obtain consent: Frontier Communication, Navajo Power, Transwestern Pipeline Company, Tallgrass Energy Company, Tucson Electric Company, Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, Clariant Corporation, Emery Telecom and the Navajo Nation Department of Transportation. Arizona Public Service was granted a 25-year term easement for the renewal of an existing 500kV transmission electrical line. Utah Department of Transportation was granted an easement for SR162 Montezuma Creek to Aneth, Utah on January 30, 2025, and on February 6, 2025, Bureau of Reclamation was approved for the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project – Reach 3 San Juan Lateral Water Treatment Plant.

**Federal Indian Minerals Office:** Staff report on the 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 –** FIMO works in partnership with the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration to prepare and review withdrawal/transfer vouchers, submit for approval to appropriate authorizing official and submits for processing, verify availability of trust 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.

**Ongoing FIMO Unit Projects –** Staff are actively involved in the following drilling units: For the Carson Unit, staff received Eastern Navajo Land Commission’s resolution on the approval of the Carson Unit for DJR Operating. Next steps including moving forward with a Communitization Agreement with DJR Operating planning to begin drilling sometime

this year. For the Lone Mesa Unit Communitization Agreement, staff will be meeting with Enduring shortly to discuss the newly developed Communitization Agreement process. For the Alamos Canyon Unit Proposal, staff will be meeting with Enduring and BLM shortly to continue to discuss this issue. For the Ponderosa Unit, staff continue to support planning efforts. For Navajo Indian Allottees, staff are preparing Communitization Agreements for the following Units: Bobby B Unit; and Ridge Units.

**Forestry:** Staff are working with the Navajo Nation Forestry Program in reviewing thirty-two (32) timber cutting permit packets. Permits were reviewed and approved by BIA and routed back through Indian Self Determination Office for forwarding back to the Nation.

**Proposed Timber Sales** – Forestry staff responded to Central Office’s request for a proposed a plan on how to increase the ability in reaching the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) within the region. Staff responded with a plan that lists remedies and issues.

**Tribal Forest Data Call** – Staff responded to a March 25, 2025, data call on tribal forest enterprises, i.e. sawmills, and performed functions.

## **INDIAN SERVICES:**

**Property:** Annual Physical Inventory started on January 6, 2025, which consists of personal and real property to be verified against the official receiving records. The goal is to account for personal and real properties as well as supporting efforts for excessing or disposing of properties.

**Tuba City Demolition Project** - Staff are collaborating with the BIA Central Office Division of Facilities Construction and Maintenance (DFMC) and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) with the demolition project of twenty-three (23) buildings/structures in Tuba City, Arizona in support of the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA).

**Facilities:** Staff continue to collaborate with the Navajo Nation (Nation) to develop and implement future projects aligned with BIA Navajo’s mission. These projects aim to provide technical services and facility management support for BIA-owned buildings that house Navajo Nation programs or other facilities operated and maintained by the BIA. Current Development Projects include BIA Building 3 which houses Navajo Nation Office of Justice Services. BIA NRO is developing a Scope of Work for painting services to repair cracks and damage of the facility. In addition, staff are in the process of acquiring janitorial services to support this program for one year. This will help maintain cleanliness and prevent rodent entry into the facility. BIA Building 1 which houses the Navajo Nation President and Vice President Offices. On March 28, 2025, staff conducted an assessment in collaboration with the Navajo Nation programs to evaluate the building’s plumbing, mechanical systems, flooring, structure integrity and roofing. This assessment was conducted at the request of President Buu Nygren. Chinle Youth Detention Center – staff are working in partnership with Navajo Department of Correction and the BIA Indian Self-Determination Office to provide technical assistance with the operation and maintenance of the facility. Navajo Nation Heritage & Historic Preservation Department, Division of Natural Resources – staff continues to coordinate with this department to develop improvement projects

for BIA-owned facilities that house Nation's programs with a focus on maintaining a safe and secure environment.

**Acquisitions:** Staff ensures compliance 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. Acquisitions staff completed 56 purchase request actions with a value of \$389,547.78. There are 13 purchase request actions pending with a value of \$4,203,668.82. Total of the actions is 69 with a value of \$4,593,216.60.

#### **STRATEGIC GOAL 4 - Serve and Honor the Public Trust**

##### **TRUST SERVICES:**

**Natural Resources Navajo Partitioned Lands:** Staff provided customer service to approximately 80 people through walk ins, telephone call, referrals, including providing information to the grazing officials. Staff continue to address vandalism and damages to rangeland infrastructure such as windmills, water tanks, and fences for the safety of people, livestock, and wildlife with assurances that Navajo Nation Agricultural programs are informed and involved.

**Western Navajo Agency Natural Resources:** Staff utilize a publicly available online tool called Stock Smart to enhance its service to the grazing permittees as part of conservation planning. This tool utilizes the Rangeland Production Monitoring Service, a spatially explicit database that automatically updates annual data on aboveground annual net primary productivity for rangelands based on remote-sensed Normalized Difference Vegetation Index data. Stock Smart is specifically designed to assist in calculating stocking rates for cattle, horses, and sheep across various landscapes in the Western Navajo Agency area. By visualizing livestock terrain use and analyzing animal distribution in relation to water sources and slope, staff can make more informed and sustainable grazing decisions. This approach supports the monitoring of large land areas and helps in recommending adjustments to stocking rates, along with ground truthing.

**Chinle Agency Natural Resources:** Staff provided a series of educational training for the public in collaboration with Dine College, University of Arizona Extension Program, NN Animal Control, NNDA and NN Department of Resource Enforcement. Staff offered trainings open to all producers some of those trainings include the following: 1) Sheep/Cattle Replacement Selection, 2) Sheep/Cattle Herd Health & Record Keeping, 3) Calving/Lambing, 4) Cattle/ Sheep Management 5) Range Management, 6) Understanding Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs), 7) Beef Quality Assurance, 8) Permittee roles and responsibilities, 9) Conservation Plan Development, 10) Range Inventory Data. As a result, staff noted an increase in assistance in herd assessments and numerous producers are changing their operational goals and moving towards quality. Two (2) producers in Chinle have sold out entirely and purchased bred cows to speed up their quality improvements. With continued education to the public on the importance of range and livestock management we hope to see improvements in the coming years.

**Probate and Estate Services:** Staff prepared 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. Staff also assist in Tribal Wills Clinics and outreaches at various Chapter Houses.

**Eastern Navajo Agency (ENA) Natural Resources (BNR):** Staff report the following accomplishments:

**Grazing Permit Renewal Project** – For the 2025 Grazing Permit Renewal Project, the ENA BNR has approximately 471 Trust Asset Accounting Management System (TAAMS) Range Contracts for review and approval, 144 contracts were reviewed and corrected, 111 grazing permits are ready to print, and 24 grazing permits were printed for issuance. Staff approved 18 TAAMS Range Contracts to process invoices and oriented 19 permittees and once payments are received, the grazing permits will be issued. Staff are not issuing grazing permits for individuals who did not comply with the requirements to have a grazing permit which may include any outstanding invoices. Overall, there are 148 outstanding invoices (2015-2024) for 63 range units. All grazing permits are issued at 75% of their current carrying capacity.

**Alamo/Canoncito Noxious Weed Project** – The Alamo/Canoncito Noxious Weed Project began on August 20, 2024, with an ending of September 30, 2025. This project involves controlling noxious weeds and invasive plants using aerial application of herbicide of 1,112 acres and 373 acres using cut-stump and/or foliar spray in the Canada de Los Apaches, Canda de Ojo, Arroyo Gigante, Rio Salado, Alamocita Creek, and Jaraloca Creek. On September 8, 2024, Hidden Waters Incorporated (contractor) completed the stand exam work and initiated the Silviculture Prescription. The draft Silviculture Prescription is nearly complete and is going through the final review. On March 28, 2025, the Eastern Navajo Joint Land Board approved resolution no. ENJLB-03-2025-001 supporting the ENA BNR to implement Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Control Projects throughout the Eastern Navajo Agency. Beginning January 2025, the Navajo Region Branch of Forestry began formal notification to individual Indian landowners on the control mechanisms and locations.

**Rangeland Inventory Project** – For the Rangeland Inventory Project, the ENA BNR contracted the work to Eastern Shawnee Professional Services to end December 31, 2025. On March 18, 2025, the ENA BNR delivered the GIS data to the Contractor for review and to prepare for the field work to begin on May 12, 2025.

**Regional Real Estate Services:** Staff are processing Royalty-In-Kind payments for the State of Utah with ensured Water Usage payments to the Navajo Nation from Chevron on Navajo Nation Lease No. 14-20-0603-8669.

**Land Surveying Projects** - Bureau Indian Land Surveyor (BILS) continues to work with the 3 BLM State Offices (Arizona, New Mexico & Utah) and the Navajo Nation Land Department on all on-going, pending and scheduled survey projects. This quarter we

approved 3 surveys, did 5 final field inspections and completed 2 cases, with 1 field survey complete and is pending final approval.

**Lease Compliance** – Staff is working closely with the Regional Business Development Offices (RBDO) on several lease compliance issues of back rent. A meeting was held on March 28, 2025, to discuss the process of ensuring lease compliance on all business leases administered by BIA with direct communication with RBDO.

**Federal Indian Minerals Office:** Staff made great strides in continuing responsibilities with the on the ground activities in responding to inquiries and carrying out service to Navajo allottees

**Outreach** – Staff conducted 16 total in-person outreaches with a combined total of 550 mineral owners in attendance. One location, San Juan College School of Energy, was cancelled due to inclement weather. Locations included: Nageezi, Huerfano, Pueblo Pintado, Ojo Encino, Shiprock, Nenahnezad Chapter Houses, and Torreon/Starlake Chapter House. Outreach notices were mailed to mineral owners residing in these locations as well as surrounding communities and towns.

**Fire Management:** Staff from the Fire Prevention Section continue to assist with providing public outreach with various schools, chapters and community events within the Navajo Nation. Staff also continue to develop working relationships with cooperative agencies within and surrounding areas of the Navajo Nation. This includes logistical and operational support that is reciprocated to the Bureau of Indian Affairs resources as well.

**Forestry:** Staff continue to serve and uphold the public trust by continuing to provide oversight and technical assistance to the Navajo Nation's P.L. 93-638 Forestry Management Program Contract Number A23AV00367. The Navajo Nation's Forestry Management Program has contracted all aspects associated with the Forestry Program and has the responsibility to carry out these functions in relation to forestry.

## **INDIAN SERVICES:**

**BIA Transportation:** Staff continue to strive and fulfill their 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 Transportation supports by providing transportation related technical assistance and service, working directly with the NDOT, as they pursue self-sufficiency and discretion in the administration and operation of the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP).

**Road Maintenance:** Each Field Office/Agency Road Maintenance Programs, respectively, continue 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' maintenance activities performed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.

AGENCY	ROUTINE ROAD MAINTENANCE																
	Road Assessments	Blading	Fence Repair	Sign Repair	Delineator Maintenance	Pothole Patching	Mowing	Guardrail Repair	Crack Sealing	Cattleguard Cleanout	Pipe Cleanout	Drainage/Erosion Repair	Sidewalk Cleaning/Repair	Bridge Repair	Snow/Ice Removal	Blow Sand Removal	Shop Building Maintenance
<b>Fort Defiance</b>	√	√	√	√		√		√		√		√		√	√	√	√
<b>Chinle</b>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√			√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
<b>Western</b>	√	√	√	√	√	√		√			√	√		√	√	√	√
<b>Shiprock</b>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√			√	√	√
<b>Farmington</b>	√			√		√			√						√		√
<b>New Lands</b>	√			√	√	√									√		√

**Ft. Defiance Agency-** Branch of Road Maintenance performed the following:

- Replaced damaged, missing & graffitied signs: N6, N9, N12 & N15.
- Repaired roadway shoulder and side slopes (~1,000 ft): N9, N12, N112 & N30.
- Repaired guardrail damages & replaced reflective chevron sheets: N9101 & N12.
- Cleaned out cattleguards & repaired wing braces, steel grates: N9, N12, N15 & N112.

**Chinle Agency-** Branch of Road Maintenance performed the following:

- Replaced damaged, missing & graffitied signs: N4, N59, N12, N13, N64 & N8031.
- Regrade drainage ditches, fence repair, shrub removal & mowing: N8031.
- Install new signs at Lukachukai Community School: N12 (School Zone).
- Cleaned out cattleguards & repaired wing braces, steel grates: N59, N8066 & N8031.

**Western Navajo Agency –** Branch of Road Maintenance performed the following:

- Replaced four damaged culvert metal pipes & delineators: N6221, N23 & N600.
- Repaired severe erosions: N23 & N6270.
- Repaired three guardrail damages: N16 & N71.
- Removed sand drifts: N59 (paved), N6820 (earth) & N6465 (earth).

**Shiprock Agency –** Branch of Road Maintenance performed the following:

- Re-installed 66” culvert metal pipe due to flood damages & erosion: N5043.
- Repaired guardrail damages (~300 ft) from semi-tractor trailer: N5.
- Removed sand drifts (~500 ft): N5018.
- Repaired major erosions & replaced damaged culverts: N5020.

**Farmington & New Lands Field Offices -** Roads Maintenance crew continue with daily routine road maintenance activities as shown in the table (above) and continue to assist other agencies with various road maintenance activities when requested to ensure a safe traveling route for the public.

Each Agency Road Maintenance Programs continues to perform washout repairs within the Navajo Nation. Other activities during this quarter consist of preventive equipment maintenance/service and general operations (daily reports, vehicle & equipment reports, online training, 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, Hopi DOT (HDOT) and the schools to complete their scheduled task(s) for the safety of the local communities, emergency vehicles, and the traveling public.