

The Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE JUNE 6, 2025

CONTACT: Marcarlo Roanhorse marcarloroanhorse@navajo-nsn.gov

Commission on Emergency Management Unanimously Declares 2025 Drought Emergency

WINDOW ROCK, NAVAJO NATION — On May 30, 2025, the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management (CEM) unanimously passed Resolution No. 25-005, declaring a State of Emergency due to escalating and prolonged drought conditions across the Navajo Nation. All six commissioners voted in favor of the resolution.

Resolution 25-005 responds to critically low precipitation levels, deteriorating rangeland and water infrastructure, and increased fire threats. The declaration urges livestock owners to reduce headcounts, directs Grazing Officials to conduct updated tally counts, and advises farmers to transition to drought-tolerant crops. It also limits irrigation usage in response to declining lake and reservoir levels.

"Our Nation is facing a dangerous convergence of water scarcity, degraded rangeland, and climate-driven threats," said Commission Chair Marcarlo Roanhorse. "This declaration gives us the authority to respond with urgency, coordination, and resources. We cannot wait—our communities are already feeling the strain."

The resolution authorizes the allocation of \$6,553,730 from the Agricultural Infrastructure Fund (AIF) to support windmill repairs and water storage installations throughout drought-impacted chapters. Additionally, it suspends all prior drought declarations and establishes this as the current standing declaration through September 31, 2025, unless extended by the Commission.

"This declaration reflects our commitment to protect our land, water, and livestock for future generations," said Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren. "We must work together—across all levels of government—to ensure that no Navajo household is left behind during this drought."

The declaration also cites the May 22, 2025 State of Emergency issued by New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, emphasizing the need for regional coordination amid shared environmental threats.