



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Council Delegates assess emergency flooding damage in Dennehotso and Birdsprings Chapters



Dennehotso and Birdsprings Chapters have experienced severe flooding that has caused extensive structural damage and infrastructure failures. Pictured above is a flooded roadway near the Dennehotso Chapter.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — In response to severe flooding caused by recent tropical systems and monsoonal rainstorms across the Navajo Nation, Council Delegates Shaandiin Parrish and Casey Allen Johnson have been actively assessing residential damage and community impacts in their respective chapters.

Delegate Shaandiin Parrish visited families in the Dennehotso Chapter, where flooding has caused extensive structural damage and infrastructure failures. Her efforts have focused on ensuring that impacted residents receive timely assistance and that emergency support is prioritized.

“My community of Dennehotso has been hit hard. Roads are damaged, dams are failing, and families are isolated in their homes,” said Delegate Parrish. “I’m here to make sure our people are not forgotten and that we’re getting the help we need. This is about protecting lives and restoring stability.”

Meanwhile, Delegate Casey Allen Johnson conducted home assessments and met directly with residents in the Birdsprings, Leupp, and Tolani Lake Chapters. In Birdsprings, flooding from the Little Colorado River overwhelmed culverts, submerging large areas and forcing families to evacuate. Some sought temporary shelter at the Birdsprings Chapter House.

"I've spoken directly with families who had to walk through water just to get basic supplies or check on their neighbors," said Delegate Johnson. "In every chapter—Birdsprings, Leupp, and Tolani Lake—leaders and residents are stepping up, but they need support. These are not just temporary inconveniences. Children can't get to school. Parents can't get to work. Some elders are isolated. I'm committed to securing the emergency materials, road repairs, and services our communities deserve."

On Tuesday, Oct. 14, the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management approved a localized state of emergency for the Dennehotso and Birdsprings Chapters due to the extensive flooding caused by Hurricane Priscilla, Hurricane Raymond, and continued monsoonal rains.

This emergency declaration is a vital step toward securing resources for families in crisis and for affected chapters that have reported significant infrastructure damage, including washed-out roads, failed culverts, overflowing dams, and impassable washes.

Once finalized, the emergency declaration will grant the impacted chapters access to critical state and federal resources. Delegates Parrish and Johnson thank the Commission on Emergency Management for rapidly acting to assist impacted chapters and families.

Although the Commission on Emergency Management approved the emergency declaration on Tuesday, Oct. 14, it still awaits final authorization from President Buu Nygren.

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