

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: 0184-26

SPONSOR: Casey Allen Johnson

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Resources and Development and Naabik'iyáti' Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Approving Three State of Arizona Grazing Leases (Big Boquillas Ranch Lease, The Winslow Tract – Hahn Ranch Lease, and the Winslow Tract – Standing Horse Ranch Lease) and the Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity Contained in Those Leases

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0184-26

DATE: July 22, 2026

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; APPROVING THREE STATE OF ARIZONA GRAZING LEASES (BIG BOQUILLAS RANCH LEASE, THE WINSLOW TRACT—HAHN RANCH LEASE, AND THE WINSLOW TRACT—STANDING HORSE RANCH LEASE) AND THE LIMITED WAIVER OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY CONTAINED IN THOSE LEASES

PURPOSE: The purpose of this legislation is to approve three State of Arizona Grazing Leases—the Big Boquillas Ranch, the Winslow Tract/Hahn Ranch, and the Winslow Tract/Standing Horse Ranch—and to approve the limited waiver of sovereign immunity contained in the three leases.

FINAL AUTHORITY: Navajo Nation Council

VOTE REQUIRED: 2/3 vote of full membership of the Navajo Nation Council

This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: Johnson
Website Posting Time/Date: _____
Posting End Date: 07-28-26
Eligible for Action: 07-29-26

Resources & Development Committee
Thence
Naabik'iyáti' Committee
Thence
Navajo Nation Council

PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION
25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- Fourth Year, 2026

Introduced By:


(Prime Sponsor)

Tracking No. 0184-26

AN ACTION

RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT AND
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL;
APPROVING THREE STATE OF ARIZONA GRAZING LEASES (BIG
BOQUILLAS RANCH LEASE, THE WINSLOW TRACT—HAHN RANCH
LEASE, AND THE WINSLOW TRACT—STANDING HORSE RANCH LEASE)
AND THE LIMITED WAIVER OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY CONTAINED IN
THOSE LEASES

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Resources and Development Committee was established as a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council with oversight over land, grazing, and livestock and empowered to review and make recommendations to the Navajo Nation Council for final approval resolutions requiring Navajo Nation Council approval to accomplish the Committee's purposes. 2 N.N.C. §§ 500(A), 500(C)(3), 501(B)(4).
- B. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'iyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee. 2 N.N.C. § 700(A). Any proposed legislation

1 requiring Navajo Nation Council approval shall be assigned to the Naabik'iyáti'
2 Committee. 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(9).

3 C. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing of body of the Navajo Nation. 2
4 N.N.C. § 102(A).

5 D. The Navajo Nation Council is authorized to approve a limited waiver of the Navajo
6 Nation's sovereign immunity by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the full membership of
7 the Navajo Nation Council. 1 N.N.C. § 554.

8 9 **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

10 A. The Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture, through the Tribal Ranch Program,
11 administers Arizona State Land Department Lease Agreements No. 05-000132 for
12 the Big Boquillas Ranch, **Exhibit 1**; No. 05-000361 (Winslow Tract – Hahn Ranch)
13 **Exhibit 2**; and No. 05-099669 (Winslow Tract – Standing Horse Ranch), **Exhibit**
14 **3**. These lease agreements provide grazing lands that support livestock production,
15 sustainable rangeland management, and agricultural development for the Navajo
16 Nation.

17 B. The Big Boquillas Ranch, referenced in **Exhibit 1**, was acquired pursuant
18 to Navajo Nation Resolution CAP-25-87 and consists of approximately 491,432.16
19 acres with an authorized carrying capacity of 10,000 Animal Unit Months (AUMs).
20 The ranch is currently leased to Cholla Livestock, LLC, generating a minimum
21 annual lease revenue of \$672,000.

22 C. The Winslow Tract acquired pursuant to Navajo Nation Resolution CJY-41-
23 86 through the Navajo-Hopi Land Settlement, includes the Hahn Ranch, referenced
24 in **Exhibit 2**, and Standing Horse Ranch, referenced in **Exhibit 3**. The Winslow
25 Tract—Hahn Ranch Lease, **Exhibit 2**, consists of approximately 29,419 acres with
26 a carrying capacity of 105 Animal Unit Months (AUMs), while the Winslow
27 Tract—Standing Horse Ranch Lease, **Exhibit 3**, consists of approximately 34,052
28 acres with a carrying capacity of 168 Animal Unit Months (AUMs).

29 D. The Hahn Ranch and Standing Horse Ranch are currently unleased due to
30 deteriorated water developments, inadequate fencing infrastructure, poor

1 vegetation conditions, and the absence of qualified lessees. As a result, these
2 properties are not generating lease revenue and remain underutilized.

3 E. Continued administration, maintenance, and improvement of these Arizona State
4 Land lease agreements are necessary to protect the Navajo Nation's agricultural
5 interests, improve grazing opportunities for Navajo livestock producers, promote
6 responsible stewardship of rangeland resources, and support the long-term
7 sustainability of the Tribal Ranch Program.

8 F. The Navajo Nation Council has been asked to approve a limited waiver of sovereign
9 immunity, 1 N.N.C. §§ 551-553, to enter into the three State of Arizona Grazing
10 Leases, attached as **Exhibit 1, 2, and 3**, for the limited and sole purpose of
11 enforcement of those leases in the Superior Court of Arizona in and for Maricopa
12 County and any appeal processes. The Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity is
13 specified in ARTICLE 25 of Exhibits 1, 2, and 3, which states in part: *"25.1 For*
14 *purposes of this Lease, and subject to the terms of this section, the Nation consents*
15 *and agrees to a limited waiver of its sovereign immunity from suit and consents to*
16 *the enforcement of this Lease pursuant to the administrative procedures and*
17 *appeals process required by the Arizona Revised Statutes and in the Superior Court*
18 *of Arizona in and for Maricopa County, including but not limited to any claims for*
19 *declaratory relief, injunctive relief or money damages that may arise pursuant to*
20 *the enforcement of this Grazing Lease."*

21 G. The Executive Official Review Document No. 026927 is attached hereto as **Exhibit**
22 **4.**

23 H. The Navajo Nation finds that the approval of the three State of Arizona Grazing
24 Leases attached as Big Boquillas Ranch Lease, **Exhibit 1**, the Winslow Tract—
25 Hahn Ranch Lease, **Exhibit 2** and the Winslow Tract—Standing Horse Ranch
26 Lease, **Exhibit 3**, will provide additional grazing land which is much needed for
27 the grazing of Navajo citizens' livestock.

28
29 **SECTION THREE. APPROVAL THREE STATE OF ARIZONA GRAZING**
30 **LEASES (BIG BOQUILLAS RANCH LEASE, THE WINSLOW TRACT—HAHN**

1 **RANCH LEASE, AND THE WINSLOW TRACT—STANDING HORSE RANCH**
2 **LEASE) AND THE LIMITED WAIVER OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY**
3 **CONTAINED IN THOSE LEASES**

4 A. The Navajo Nation Council hereby approves the three State of Arizona Grazing
5 Leases for the Big Boquillas Ranch, **Exhibit 1**, the Winslow Tract—Hahn Ranch,
6 **Exhibit 2** and the Winslow Tract—Standing Horse Ranch, **Exhibit 3**.

7 B. The Navajo Nation Council hereby approves a limited waiver of sovereign
8 immunity as stated in **Exhibits 1, 2, and 3** in ARTICLE 25 LIMITED WAIVER
9 OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY.