




25th Navajo Nation Council 2024 Fall Session Report

By The
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Navajo Region



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October 21, 2024



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

On behalf of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Region, I am extremely pleased to present to you our 2024 Fourth Quarter Fall Session Report. Our report recapitulates our accomplishments in fulfilling and carrying out our BIA mission operations to the Navajo Nation.

First and foremost, I am pleased to report that in November 2024, I will have completed my one-year working for the BIA Navajo Region and the Navajo Nation. When I came to work and serve my Tribe and People, I made a commitment that the BIA Navajo Region programs and staff will be responsive, engaged, and accountable in fulfilling our mission to the Navajo Nation. As such, we have made great progress but there is still much work to do.

It is for this reason that I decided to apply and consequently, was selected as the permanent Regional Director for the BIA Navajo Region. My commitment and dedication are to not only meet mission operations; but to support Tribal self-determination and sovereignty through a commitment to uphold the nation-to-nation relationships and strengthening Federal trust responsibilities.

This quarter, our significant accomplishments in supporting the Navajo Nation's efforts in working toward Self-Determination are as follows:

- Over \$87,323,782 Million provided to the Navajo Nation through PL 93-638 Contracts
- Working with the Navajo Nation and Navajo Tribal Utility Authority to Expediently Award Funding in the Amount of \$10 Million for the Phase 1 Tribal Electrification Project.
- Hiring the Federal Indian Minerals Office (FIMO) Director to serve our Navajo Allottees and the Deputy Regional Director – Indian Services. We continue to recruit and hire talented individuals to support our mission to the Nation.

In closing, I want to express my appreciation to my BIA Navajo Region team for their continued support and dedication. We have an awesome team who collectively have thousands of years serving our Navajo people.

'Axhe'hee,

DEBORAH SHIRLEY Digitally signed by DEBORAH SHIRLEY
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Deborah Shirley, Regional Director
BIA Navajo Region

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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 July 1, 2024, to September 30, 2024, the BIA Navajo Region reports the following accomplishments:

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

Branch of Budget Management

Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 - Below is a summary of FY 2024 funds provided to the Navajo Nation under the Public Law (P.L.) 93-638 contracts, as of September 23, 2024. Total funding provided is \$87,323,782 with \$3,288,215 available for tribal draw down.

NAVAJO NATION P.L. 93-638 FUND STATUS as of September 23, 2023						
Fund	FA Budget Program	Funds Available	Not Drawn Down	Total Expenditures	Distributed as of 09.23.2024	Funds Available
245A2100DD	A0H901010 : SOCIAL SERVICES-TPA	6,078,915.00	0.00	6,078,915.00	6,078,915.00	0.00
245A2100DD	A0H901040 : Domestic Violence	146,000.00	0.00	146,000.00	146,000.00	0.00
245A2100DD	A0H913030 : WELFARE ASSISTANCE-TPA	26,189,886.00	0.00	26,189,886.00	26,189,886.00	0.00
245A2100DD	A0H922020 : IND CHILD WELFARE ACT-TPA	1,512,395.00	0.00	1,512,395.00	1,512,395.00	0.00
24XA2100DD	A0H937070 : HOUSING IMPROV PROGRAM-TPA	633,436.00	0.00	633,436.00	633,436.00	0.00
245A2100DD	A0J304545 : Conservation Law Enforcem	47,000.00	0.00	47,000.00	47,000.00	0.00
245A2100DD	A0J908080 : TRIBAL COURTS PROGRAMS-TPA	2,106,950.00	0.00	2,106,950.00	2,106,950.00	0.00
245A2100DD	A0J908082 : Tribal Crts (TPA) Fac O&M	8,928.00	0.00	8,928.00	8,928.00	0.00
245A2100DD	A0N301010 : IRRIGATION, OPER & MAINT	5,500,000.00	0.00	5,500,000.00	5,500,000.00	0.00
245A2100DD	A0N342020 : WATER MGMT, PLAN&PRE-DVLP	195,000.00	0.00	195,000.00	195,000.00	0.00
245A2100DD	A0N3A0000 : ENDANGERED SPECIES	51,475.00	0.00	51,475.00	51,475.00	0.00
245A2100DD	A0N3C0000 : Inv Spees/Noxs Weed Eradi	182,374.00	0.00	182,374.00	182,374.00	0.00
245A2100DD	A0N3F1010 : Fish Wildlife & Parks Pj	72,000.00	0.00	72,000.00	72,000.00	0.00
245A2100DD	A0N6A3031 : FOREST MARKETING ASSIST	25,543.00				25,543.00
245A2100DD	A0N9A0505 : NATURAL RESOURCES -TPA	523,589.00	523,589.00		523,589.00	0.00
245A2100DD	A0N9B1010 : AGRICULTURE PRGRM-TPA	1,305,502.00	0.00	1,305,502.00	1,305,502.00	0.00
245A2100DD	A0N9C3030 : FORESTRY PROGRAM -TPA	774,372.00	0.00	309,671.36	309,671.36	464,700.64
245A2100DD	A0N9D4040 : WATER RES PROGRAM -TPA	845,521.00	0.00	845,521.00	845,521.00	0.00
245A2100DD	A0N9E5050 : WILDLIFE&PARKS PRGRM-TPA	586,162.00	0.00	586,162.00	586,162.00	0.00
245A2100DD	A0R9D4040 : ENVRMNTL QLTY PRGRM-TPA	144,681.00	25,000.00	119,681.00	144,681.00	0.00
245A2100DD	A0T902020 : OTHER AID-TRBL GOV -TPA	1,040,435.00	25,000.00	1,015,435.00	1,040,435.00	0.00
24XA2301IR	A1163R000 : WIIN ACT IRRIG PROJ RECEI	2,335,000.00	116,750.00	2,218,250.00	2,335,000.00	0.00
245A2240DD	A3T937070 : CSC CONTRACT SUPPORT TPA	19,572,083.00	2,597,876.00	16,974,207.00	19,572,083.00	0.00
245A2100DD	AEE904040 : JHNSN O'MALL A GR TPA BIA	3,865,977.00	0.00	3,865,977.00	3,865,977.00	0.00
245A2100DD	AEE931010 : TRIBAL SCHOLARSHI TPA BIA	13,580,558.00	0.00	13,580,558.00	13,580,558.00	0.00
TOTALS		87,323,782.00	3,288,215.00	83,545,323.36	86,833,538.36	490,243.64

Office of Tribal Government Services

For the fall quarter, the BIA Navajo Region referred (50) requests to the Navajo Nation Office of Vital Records/Enrollment program regarding Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB) for prospective membership. The CIB requests range from individuals seeking scholarship and benefits to prison inmates seeking membership with the Navajo Nation.

Based on enrollment, verification requests, the following referrals were made this quarter:

Office/Agencies	Referrals
Eastern Navajo Agency	3
Chinle Agency	5
Fort Defiance Agency	7
Shiprock Agency	9
Tuba City Agency	1
Window Rock	25
Total:	50

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

AOTR Activities:

P.L. 93-638 Contractual Program, Tribal (Census) Enrollment (TE) program Contract, A16AV00151:

On September 10, 2024, the AOTR processed the Purchase Request in the amount of \$29,789.00. These funds are made available pursuant to H.R. 4366 Public Law 118-42 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024. (Mar. 9, 2024); 138 STAT 25. Funds are available through their period of availability. This is a one-time funding allocation.

The BIA Navajo Region in coordination with the Navajo Nation Tribal Enrollment (Census) Office, the annual monitoring review is scheduled for October 8, 2024.

On September 20, 2024, the AOTR processed the Purchase Request in the amount of \$25,000.00. These funds are made available pursuant to H.R. 4366 Public Law 118-42 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024. (Mar. 9, 2024); 138 STAT 25. Funds are available through their period of availability. This is a one-time funding allocation.

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

On August 22, 2024, the AOTR processed the Purchase Request in the amount of \$2,364,776.00. These funds are made available pursuant to H.R. 2617/Public Law 117-328

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023. (Dec. 29, 2022); 136 Stat 4459. Funds are available through their period of availability.

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

On September 17, 2024, the AOTR processed the Purchase Request in the amount of \$8,928.00. These funds are made available pursuant to H.R. 4366 Public Law 118-42 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024. (Mar. 9, 2024); 138 STAT 25. Funds are available through their period of availability. This is a one-time funding allocation.

On July 31, 2024, the AOTR processed the Purchase Request in the amount of \$247,277.00. These funds are made available pursuant to H.R. 4366 Public Law 118-42 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024. (Mar. 9, 2024); 138 STAT 25. Funds are available through their period of availability. This is a one-time funding allocation.

Eastern Navajo Agency- Real Estate Services (BRES)

The Branch of Real Estate Services (BRES) is working with the Eastern Regional Business Development Office (ERBDO), Division of Economic Development (DED) for a proposed project in ToHajiilee Chapter. ERBDO/DED in collaboration with Yukon, LLC is working to implement a Business Lease for a Convenience Store and Gas Station on Canoncito Band Land. BRES has drafted a proposed lease and provided to the potential Lessee with all mandatory provisions; NN DOJ has determined that ERBDO/DED can enter into a Band Land Business Site Lease and 3rd Party Agreements as it has aligned with applicable policies and laws for the Navajo Nation when seeking new commercial business opportunities.

BRES met with the ToHajiilee Chapter President and Vice President and a representative of Vertical Bridges, a telecommunication company, for a potential Business Lease for a 195-foot telecommunications tower to be located on Canoncito Band Land. ToHajiilee Chapter supports this proposal as it would provide more signal coverage needed for the community. BIA advised Vertical Bridges of the regulatory process under 25 C.F.R. 162 Permits and Leasing: advised on consent, appraisal, insurance/bonding and environmental/cultural surveys. The chapter has proposed four alternate locations including coverage for the north side of the community, which lacks cellular service.

BRES met with Alamo Navajo Chapter officials, Senior Programs and Projects Specialist from the Administrative Services Center (Baca/Gallup Office) and a representative of Western New Mexico Communications (WNMC), a telecommunications company located in Silver City, New Mexico. WNMC is proposing to construct four telecommunications towers in the Alamo Chapter. As it is WNMC first foray working on Indian lands, they were asking for guidance and regulations to process a Business Site Lease. BRES provided guidance to the company on 25 C.F.R. 162 Permits and Leases outlining requirements pertaining to Consent, Appraisal, Surveys, Environmental and Cultural assessments.

BRES met with the Rock Springs, LLC representative to discuss BIA's review of the draft lease that they had submitted so that the package is compliant with all the requirements under 25 C.F.R. 162, Subpart E, Wind and Solar Resources Leases. Technical assistance was provided as they are

completing the required steps for the project. Currently, the company is working on all required documents (i.e. consents, appraisals, insurance/bonding and environmental/cultural surveys) to show their commitment and energy to the project.

BRES met with the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) representatives at the Fort Defiance NTUA Headquarters to provide Right-of-Way (ROW) technical assistance and guidance. Staff provided guidance to the NTUA staff on how to obtain ROW and Service Line Agreements (SLA) within/on Tribal Trust and Indian Allotted Lands. In all, there were eight participants that attended the meeting with many questions on the process. BIA provided guidance based on 25 C.F.R. Part 169 Rights of Way Over Indian Lands.

The Superintendent and BRES staff met with the Honorable Council Delegate Danny Simpson and City of Farmington utility officials to discuss Service Line Agreements (SLA) for families living within the vicinity of Huerfano Chapter. Staff reviewed files for 25 applicants to determine if they had met the requirements to obtain an SLA; after review, it was determined that a ROW is required. The process of how to obtain ROW was outlined and provided to the City of Farmington utility. They hired Iina'ba Inc. as their consultant and a letter of introduction was provided to BIA. A meeting will be scheduled by BRES to review expired ROW, with technical assistance ongoing.

BRES met with Nahodishgish Chapter officials and the Engineer/Planner for the Navajo Nation Division of Transportation (NNDOT) regarding the road conditions for Navajo Route 52 (N52) located within the chapter. A short-term fix was developed in which the BIA Branch of Transportation (BOT) will take the lead to repair and/or recondition the N52 road for community use. NNDOT will collaborate with BOT by providing equipment support that include water trucks and coordinating with fixing the culverts. A long-term solution will require NNDOT assistance and guidance utilizing Tribal Authorization Access and resources which will be coordinated to assist the Nahodishgish community.

On September 19, 2024, the Superintendent and BRES staff participated in an update meeting with the BIA Navajo Region Safety of Dams (NRO SOD), BIA Safety of Dams – Central Office, Navajo Nation Safety of Dams, Lake Valley Chapter officials, and the Honorable Council Delegate Danny Simpson regarding the Kin Bineola Dam located in Lake Valley Chapter. BRES interpreted the presentation for NRO SOD in Navajo and with recommendations on the flood zone. The area in question floods during monsoon season which prevents community members from entering/leaving their residence.

Eastern Navajo Agency – Branch of Transportation (BOT)

For July 2024, BOT staff completed blading on earth routes N11 Mariano Lake, N46 Pueblo Pintado, and N474 Ojo Encino. BOT also completed routine fence maintenance on N474 Ojo Encino, N11 Pinedale, and N55 Alamo. BOT staff completed reconnaissance for possible washouts on N9(E) Whitehorse Lake, Pueblo Pintado, Tinian, N474 Ojo Encino, N48(N&S) Littlewater, Borrego Pass, Casamero Lake, N49-11 Smith Lake Mariano Lake, Pinedale, N7062 Breadsprings, N7044, ChiChilTah, N7046 Jones Ranch, N7140 Lupton, N55 Alamo, N56 ToHajiilee. BOT completed routine maintenance, fence repairs on N7044 Jones Ranch as well as check for erosions due to the recent rainfall. BOT completed an erosion backfill on a turnout on

N48(N), dirt was hauled to the site for backfill material then covered with millings. BOT completed blading on earth route N46 in Pueblo Pintado. BOT completed mowing along the highway on N55 Alamo and N56 ToHajiilee, as well as pothole patching on N55 Alamo. BOT completed routine blading on earth routes N7111, N492, N7113 Mariano Lake, N7054 Pinedale, N7135, N7008, N7013 Pueblo Pintado. BOT completed routine road maintenance repairing fencing on N55 Alamo, N49-11 Mariano Lake and Pinedale, N9 (E) Pueblo Pintado. BOT attended Pre-pavement meeting on N7054 Pinedale to discuss 7054 to paved beginning July 22,2024. BOT did road assessments for erosions on Route 7054 Pinedale and N55 Alamo due to rainfall road had erosion and needs to be addressed. BOT staff focused on backfilling two erosions on earth route N7054, both areas where the erosions were had a depth of +20 feet. Arrow Indian Contractors Inc. who are paving on the west end of N7054, helped BOT with dirt and boulder material to utilize for the backfill. Culvert pipes were added to existing pipe to make the road wider for travel. BOT completed mowing on N1042, N1048, N1043 in Crownpoint Metro and N9 (West) from SR371 to Standing Rock District Line. BOT staff completed ditch and bladed earth routes N481 Heart Butte and N7134 Pueblo Pintado.

For August 2024, BOT staff completed pothole patching on N49-11 Mariano Lake to Pinedale, N9 West, and N52 in Dalton Pass, BOT staff patched turnout and traveling lane. Fence repairs were completed on N9 West in Standing Rock, N9 East in Pueblo Pintado and N474 in Ojo Encino. Routine blading was completed on earth routes N7113 Littleboy Road, N482 Whiteridge, N483 and N489 Borrego Pass, N486 Casamero Lake. BOT had two Motor graders go down with mechanical issues, BOT had to work overtime to haul equipment back to the yard. BOT welcomed a newly hired Laborer this week, he began working with the crew, pothole patching and repairing fences. BOT staff participated in a road coordination meeting at the Nahodishgish Chapter House concerning Earth Route N52. The issue with N52 is flooding, and the proposed solution is collaborating with NDOT on the installation of new culvert pipes. Routine Blading was completed on Earth Routes N7128, N7129 and N46 in Pueblo Pintado. BOT completed cattleguard cleanings on N48 (N&S). BOT completed fence repair on N7140 in Lupton. BOT collaborated with Navajo Department of Transportation to install new culverts on earth route N52 in Nahodishgish Community. BOT replaced the existing culverts with new 20-foot pipes featuring a 32-inch radius at three locations along Route N52. At two sites, BOT installed two 20-foot pipes, each making a total length of 40 feet, extending slightly beyond the roadway's width. The previous culvert pipes were too short and became obstructed with mud and debris, preventing water from flowing properly and leading to flooding. BOT completed blading on earth route N46 in Pueblo Pintado. Routine road maintenance was completed, fence and sign repairs on N49 in Smith Lake to Mariano Lake and N9 West in Standing Rock. The BOT crew had Shiprock BOT assist with hauling BOT's Transport Semi Truck to Bruckner's in Farmington for repairs.

In September 2024, BOT staff completed bladed earth routes N46 and N474 Ojo Encino, N7004 Whitehorse, N7057, N7049, N7122, N7123, N7124 Standing Rock. BOT completed fence and sign repairs on N7140 Lupton, N7062 Breadsprings, N7046 Jones Ranch, N7044 ChiChilTah, N474 Ojo Encino, N48 Littlewater. ENA BOT staff attended New Mexico Department of Transportation Safety Summit in Albuquerque. The summit discussions were focused on strategies to eliminate traffic related fatalities on all public roadways and for all roadway users in New Mexico. BOT staff completed blading on N7004 Whitehorse and N7120, N7124, N7126 Standing Rock. BOT completed fence repair on N7140 Lupton, and sign repair on N49-11 Mariano Lake to

Pinedale. BOT starting mowing on N9(E), then had blown a front tire on the tractor so the tractor was loaded on the semi-truck and hauled back to the yard. BOT met the NRO Awarding Official for an onsite monitoring for the Public Law 93-638 contract with the Alamo School Board for road maintenance. BOT staff completed mowing on N9 (E) in Pueblo Pintado. The area was mowed with the skid steer and large vegetation were removed from behind the guardrails. Staff bladed N473, N7017 and N7130 in Whitehorse Lake chapter, and N46 in Pueblo Pintado. BOT completed cattleguard cleaning on N11 Pinedale and on N9 (E). BOT completed erosion repair and mowing on N705 Torreon School access road. Fence repair was completed on N9 (E). These activities support safe and reliable roads for the public, emergency vehicles, school buses and commerce. In coordination with the Navajo Nation Division of Transportation, the primary goal of BOT is to keep the roads open and safe to the traveling public within the eastern portion of the Navajo Nation. The staff coordinates and addresses emergencies and inclement weather that can impact roads, washouts, and bridges. The crew is on alert and, when necessary and possible, pretreat roads in the Eastern Navajo Agency. This ensures safer travel for the public and emergency vehicles.

Branch of Probate & Estate Services (BPES)

BPES staff submitted 52 cases that have accepted by the Office of Hearing and Appeals (OHA), comprising approximately \$526,662 in Individual Indian Money accounts, 308 allotments, and 137 probable heirs. BPES staff have completed the disbursements in and closeouts of 11 cases. The staff have also assisted approximately 672 clients in the office, on the field (during home visits), at one-on-one sessions with the Federal Indian Minerals Office, on the phone, and through email. The staff keep Indian allotment interest holders informed so they have a better understanding of what they have holdings in and what it means to them. The outreach activities are conducted in the Navajo language, which facilitates estate planning. These activities greatly benefit the Navajo Nation regarding land use planning because it makes it easier to obtain consent for infrastructure and commercial projects that involve Indian allotments.

BPES services requested by clients include but are not limited to printing Individual Tribal Interest reports and educating clients on how to read the reports, updating contact information, and explaining what documents are still needed for a case to be submitted to Office of Hearings and Appeals; conducting client interviews for probate cases; and educating the public about the federal probate process and estate planning. BPES work activities support tribal self-determination, self-governance, and sovereignty by ensuring that the titles to Indian allotments are kept accurate and updated.

Federal Indian Minerals Office

FY2024 4th Quarter has been steady for The Federal Indian Minerals Office (FIMO). FIMO has implemented the return to office for the staff per guidance from the BIA NRO. FIMO continues to meet with allottees at the office, answer telephone inquiries and provide phone-in and in person outreaches to the communities in Eastern Navajo Agency. Activities continue to increase as FIMO identifies new projects being proposed. FIMO continues to service allottees and fulfill its trust responsibilities to meet mission goals.

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

Lease Termination/Cancellation – Nine (9) Indian Allotted leases were cancelled for the SITTA Wells and M&M Wells which are on the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division’s list to be plugged.

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

Branch of Acquisitions

Branch of Acquisitions supports the various programs in soliciting, awarding, 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. A total of 236 actions totaling \$11,613,807.66 were awarded this fiscal year which benefit the Navajo Nation.

The Branch of Acquisitions awarded 4 contracts totaling \$211,869.51 for the BIE Schools projects. The projects included a roof repair project for Tiis Nas Bas Community School, mold remediation for Red Rock Day School, water hauling for the water tank at Cove Day School, and water analytical testing for the BIE schools across the Navajo Nation. The contracts are benefiting the members of the Navajo Nation by maintaining and upgrading the deteriorating BIE school conditions where many students of the Navajo Nation attend.

BIA highways within the Navajo Reservation are being maintained and repaired for the traveling safety of the public which include members of the Navajo Nation and local bus routes to ensure the safety of the students.

Branch of Natural Resources

BIA Navajo Region Branch of Natural Resources met with Council Delegate for District 14 to discuss grazing unit boundaries back on April 9, 2024. Thereafter, on August 27, 2024, the Navajo Nation Council’s Resources and Development Committee Chairperson requested additional information pertaining to the trespass concerns within District 14. The issue of grazing permit holders crossing unit boundaries is a violation of their grazing permit and a violation of the Code of Federal Regulations and Navajo Nation Grazing Regulations pursuant to NNC Title 3, Navajo Nation Code, Chapter 5, Sub Chapter 1, Section 710: Trespass; Section 1371; and Section 1372.

Chinle Agency

The Branch of Natural Resources (BNR) Program is working with the Navajo Nation, Chinle Chapter, and the Army Corps of Engineers on the flooding mitigation project and Canyon De Chelly National Park’ Joint Management Plan. BNR provided funding for the completion of the Canyon De Chelly Strategic Agreement (Agreement). The Agreement is between the Navajo Nation, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Region. The purpose of this Agreement is to clarify responsibilities, and describe current roles among the Navajo Nation, the National Park Service (NPS), and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for the

conservation management of Canyon de Chelly National Monument and to further commit our mutual cooperation and shared stewardship as the Parties move forward with joint management planning. Furthermore, this Agreement is a commitment to uphold the collaborative ideals articulated through the Vision statement which emphasizes to respectfully share the stewardship of Canyon values and to protect and preserve its beauty, resources, and culture for the future, Hózhó Dooleeí.”

Shiprock Agency

The Branch of Natural Resources Program provided information to approximately 278 people regarding the transfer of grazing permits, conservation plans, ALUP’s and maps. BIA staff attended District Grazing Committee and Farm Board meetings as well as the San Juan River Irrigation Farm Board meetings on the following dates:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| August 1 in Beclabito, AZ | August 5 in Mexican Water, Ut |
| August 6 in Aneth, Ut | August 7 in San Juan, NM |
| August 8 in Hogback, NM | August 20 in San Juan, NM |
| September 3 in Cudei, AZ | September 3 in Red Mesa, Ut |
| September 5 in Sheepsprings, NM | September 11 in Nenahnzad, NM |
| September 12 in Teec Nos Pos, AZ | September 17 in Hogback, NM |

Fort Defiance Agency

Fort Defiance Agency staff provided information on pending applications for fencing, grazing and land use permits, updated certification of their grazing permits for hauling livestock, auctions, and supplemental funding through the Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture. Fort Defiance Agency continues to work with clients in Global Positioning System (GPS) farm plots, proposed Range Management Units, and district fence lines. Technical assistance is given to permit holders in developing conservation plans for grazing and land use permits. In addition, Fort Defiance Agency staff provided technical assistance to grazing committee members at the district grazing committee and farm board meetings. The Fort Defiance Agency staff attended 16 meetings and completed the following tasks:

17 Grazing Permit Transfers,
33 Letters of Recommendation,
28 Grazing Permit Probates,
30 Farm Board Meetings,
4 Land Use Permit Transfers,
4 Land Probates,
7 New LUP Applications, and
6 Range Management Unit Applications.

As of September 2024, the Fort Defiance Agency received a total of 832 Livestock Tally Counts which includes the verification process.

Navajo Partitioned Lands

Navajo Partitioned Lands (NPL) continues to maintain 85 windmills that provides water for livestock, wildlife and use by some people for domestic purposes. During our annual assessment of the 85 windmills, 38 windmills were identified as needing maintenance and or repaired. Navajo Region provided funds to maintain the 38 windmills and completed the maintenance of 12 windmills as of October 9, 2024. NPL staff completed the scope of work and monitors construction and its contract for the installation of two 30,000-gallon steel water storage tanks in Low Mountain and Whippoorwill, Arizona.



Two 30,000-gallon steel water storage tanks in Low Mountain, Windmill # 409-2 and Whippoorwill, AZ Windmill #: 407-1.

NPL's priority is to reissue grazing permits that were cancelled due to the Navajo Hopi Land Dispute in the early 1970s and follow the rules mandated by 25 CFR Part 161 Navajo Partitioned Lands Grazing Permit Regulations. The NPL has issued 50 grazing permits under Phase One of the NPL reissuance of grazing permit process. Out of the 50 permits approved for the living, 28 were reissued and picked up and 4 individuals decided not to pick up their grazing permits at 10 sheep units. Under Phase One, 18 of these grazing permits were referred to the Heirship process as the individuals were deceased before picking up their NPL grazing permits.

Branch of Safety

The quarterly report(s) should contain information which describes the following:

Employers have a crucial responsibility to ensure a safe and healthy workplace for their employees. According to OSHA. Employers must provide a workplace free from serious recognized hazards and comply with standards, rules and regulations. This includes examining workplace conditions to ensure they conform to applicable OSHA standards and correcting any safety and health deficiency or problems. Branch of Safety's strategic efforts in addressing workplace health and safety issues, complying with safety standards and resolving hazards are paramount in maintaining a safe working environment. Ensuring building inspections are completed quarterly and any deficiencies are reported and corrected to ensure compliance. These tasks are vital in improving safe and healthful working conditions especially in environments where Tribal employees are tenants in Interior buildings. Safety also encourages BIA and Tribal employees to report safety hazards, issues, concerns, ideas to their respective Safety representative(s) and to report unsafe working conditions and to request an OSHA inspection if needed.

Office of Home Improvement Program, Housing Services

Public Law 93-638 A22AV00588: on July 2, 2024, the BIA Navajo Region received the Navajo Nation's Housing Improvement Program's (HIP) Government Performance Results Act for Calendar Year 2023 Quarter 3 Reports on Form 1830 Summary, GPRA Performance Report, Job status Inquiry Reports Business Units K230777, K230778 and HIP Summary Expenditure Report.

On August 7, 2024, BIA Navajo Region received Fiscal Year 2024 Funding Amount of \$629,301.00 and notified the Navajo Nation Housing Improvement Program to submit their Successor Annual Funding Agreement (SAFA). Thereafter, on September 4, 2024, the BIA Navajo Region awarded the Fiscal Year 2024 SAFA to the Navajo Nation Housing Improvement Program.

On August 9, 2024, the BIA Navajo Region approved eight (8) Categorical Exclusion (Cat Ex) Applicants for Calendar Year 2022 Housing Projects.

On September 19, 2024, the BIA Navajo Region awarded Modification 7 to increase the Contract amount by \$20,735.00, which represented the distribution of Fiscal Year 2024 Contract Support Cost Need at 90.8% for Direct Contract Support Cost, in the amount of \$9,009.00, calculated using 18% of Direct Salaries and Indirect Cost, in the amount of \$11,726.00, calculated using the Navajo Nation's current negotiated Indirect Cost Rate of 15.90%.

Branch of Human Services

Government Performance Results Act (GPRA): The Navajo Nation's steady attainment of 69% rating on its 1811 GPRA Measurement continues to reflect its unwavering commitment to enhancing quality of life, promoting equity, and ensuring justice for all its tribal members. The Department of Social Services plays a pivotal role in empowering recipients to reach their self-defined goals, fostering self-sufficiency and strengthening the community. This accomplishment

not only showcases effective program implementation and management, but also emphasizes the Nation's dedication to the well-being of its tribal members. The ongoing collaborative efforts to maintain these standards further enhance the overall welfare and resiliency of their tribal communities.

Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA): The Navajo Nation is dedicated to managing ICWA Notices received from diverse sources that includes state agencies, state courts and legal counsel for families. In the past quarter, our office addressed 12 ICWA Notices where Navajo Nation was not initially informed. In these instances, our office act swiftly, offering guidance on the appropriate contact information and identifying the relevant BIA Region where the child is in protective custody. For the remaining ICWA Notices received, the Nation was properly informed. Additionally, ICWA Information is integrated into a share system utilized by BIA Regions to enhance communication and coordination. By following ICWA guidelines, our office ensures the protection and well-being of children while reinforcing the sustainability of ICWA principles.

Individual Indian Money (IIM): The Navajo Regional Office offers direct support to federally recognized tribal members living on the Navajo Nation who benefit from IIM accounts managed by our office. The BIA Navajo Region Human Services staff oversees and managed over fifty cases, ensuring compliance with federal regulations governing these supervised accounts. In the spirit of responsible stewardship, accountholders are encouraged to explore alternative resources before considering the use of their IIM funds. To provide this thorough and personalized guidance, assessments are conducted through a face-to-face meeting in the accountholder's environment. This approach ensures that decisions regarding any fund utilization are informed and align with the individual best interests and long-term financial well-being.

Other Activities: The Branch of Human Services at the Navajo Regional Office is committed to accessibility and responsiveness by providing Technical Assistance (TA) upon request from the Nation. For this quarter, the Region provided TA on three occasions to the Nation. Twice with assistance on the reporting of GPRA and once with the 477 Plan the Nation is implementing. This commitment is grounded in our mission to uphold public trust and honor the values of the great Navajo Nation. Our collaborative approach ensures that our efforts are comprehensive and effectively address the various needs of those we serve.

Branch of Indian Self-Determination

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Navajo Region (NR) Branch of Indian Self-Determination (BISD) continues to work with Navajo Nation's (Nation) 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, four tribal organizations submitted their SY or FY 2024-2025 Successor Annual Funding Agreement proposals and Contract Renewal proposals to continue contracting services under a P. L. 93-638 Contract. The BIA NR and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) reviewed the proposals in accordance with 25 CFR Part 900 and approved two Contract Renewals, one SAFA proposal and one new Subpart J Construction Contract. This quarter, BIA NR awarded all available FY2024 funding, FY2023 and FY 2024 one-time funding and FY2024 Contract Support Cost need to the P. L. 93-638 Contracts. The funding distribution to the Nation and TO's P. L. 93-638 Contracts are shown in Table 1. All contractors continue providing services

to communities and other contractual activities, in accordance with their approved 2024 Scope of Work (SOW) and budgets. All funds awarded entirely benefit the Nation.

Table 1 -Public Law 93-638 Contracts Funding Allocations

	The Navajo Nation	Amount
A20AV00139	Water Monitoring and Inventory Program	333,434.00
A21AV00001	Natural Heritage Program	160,487.00
A21AV00002	Fish & Wildlife Program	1,053,900.84
A21AV00003	Social Services-(SS) Depart. Family Services	17,483,956.00
A21AV00140	Law Enforcement -Criminal Investigations	1,239,304.00
A21AV00186	Law Enforcement-Patrol Services	6,034,326.00
A21AV00383	SS-Navajo Treatment Center for Children and Their Families	81,461.00
A21AV00384	SS-Navajo Family Assistance Services	5,655,860.00
A22AV00148	Higher Education	3,041,962.00
A22AV00149	Environmental Archaeological Non-Roads	461,463.00
A22AV00150	Tribal Enrollment	325,784.00
A22AV00151	Tribal Courts Program	739,551.00
A22AV00381	Safety of Dams	150,835.00
A22AV00588	Housing Improvement Program	654,171.00
A23AV00265	Adult Detention Program	2,825,260.00
A23AV00267	Juvenile Correction Program	779,513.00
A23AV00366	Water Development Program	772,490.00
A23AV00367	Forestry Management Program	84,145.00
A23AV00368	Indian Child Welfare Act Program	350,108.00
A24AV00177	Johnson O'Malley Program	179,116.00
A16AV00710	Subpart J Contract Fruitland-Cambridge Irrigation Projects	975,990.18
A23AV00611	Subpart J Contract Fish Hatchery Modernization Project	437,788.00
	Sub-Total	43,820,905.02
	Tribal Organizations	Amount
A19AV00984	Dine Bi Olta School Board Association, Inc. (DBOSBA)	182,472.00
A24AV00800	DBOSBA	83,000.00
A21AV00158	Navajo Agricultural Products Industry (NAPI)	2,253,838.00
A21AV00046	Subpart J Construction NAPI – WIIN Projects	2,335,000.00
A23AV00006	Alamo Navajo School Board, Inc. (ANSBI)	14,884.00
A23AV00007	Navajo Technical University	6,536,820.00
A23AV00905	Rock Point Community School (RPCS)	6,625,626.18
A24AV00878	Subpart J Construction Navajo Tribal Utility Authority - TEP	10,000,000.00
	Sub-Total	28,031,640.18
	GRAND TOTAL	71,852,545.20

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

- A23AV00265, Adult Detention Program June 24-29, 2024, July 1-2, 2024, with BIA Office of Justice Services (OJS), District IV
- A23AV00006, Alamo Navajo School Board, Inc. Road Maintenance Program on September 6, 2024.

- A23AV00267, Juvenile Corrections on September 9-14 and 16, 2024, with BIA OJS District IV.

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

The BIA NR will issue a Bill of Collection for questioned costs for the Nation's FY 2023 Single Audit Report (SAR). The Nation's FY 2024 SAR was due on June 30, 2024. This is now 90 days past due. The BIA NR received NAPI's FY 2024 SAR with no findings or questioned costs. BIA NR Awarding Official worked with RPCS to resolve its FY 2023 SAR's one finding, determined the finding resolved and audit closed. The BIA and the BIE received Certification for FY 2023 Single Audit Report Not Required for DBOSBA. The certification was sent to the Division of Internal Evaluation and Assessment.

The BIA NR provided Pub. L. 93-638 Law and Regulations in August 6-8, 2024, and OMB Circular training September 3-5, 2024, for the Navajo Nation 638 Programs, OMB Contracts and Grants Section and Office of the Controller.

Branch of Fire Management – The Branch of Fire Management has been provided authorization from the National Interagency Fire Center – Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), to extend temporary seasonal employees six (6) additional pay periods.

Along with recruitment, Branch of Fire Management's Prevention program continued to work with communities at the Central Agency Navajo Fair, Navajo Nation Fair, Dine College Career Day, Navajo Nation Museum and Kerigan school to promote wildland fire prevention with presentations and appearances of Smokey Bear. The Branch of Fire Management's Prevention program placed a fire danger sign adjacent to Mariano Lake chapter house.

Branch of Probate and Estate Services - The Branch of Probate and Estate Services in partnership with the Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) successfully adjudicated 87 cases this quarter. BPES supports the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA) to process and disburse the trust assets. At the end of FY2024 4th Quarter, BPES reports there is a total of 9,550 active probate cases being processed at some level. Currently, there are 203 cases eligible for closure. Of those, 202 have completed the disbursement of the trust property (99.51%) and 188 have completed the disbursement of the trust personalty (92.61%).

Branch of Real Estate Services – Acquisition and Disposal Division is working with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and is near finalization of the Fort Wingate Legislation: Public Law 114-328: Section 2829F, for the Return of Certain Lands at Fort Wingate, New Mexico to the Original Inhabitants. Parcels 15 and 17 were conveyed by Patent in August 2024, with the official survey recorded in the Federal Register.

Branch of Real Estate Services – Acquisition and Disposal Division is working with the Office of Indian Gaming as well as the Navajo Land Department on their Fee-to-Trust application for the Lower Highway 89 AZ project in Flagstaff, Az. The Branch of Real Estate Services is collaborating with the Office of Indian Gaming (OIG) in processing the application. Preliminary

steps of the Fee-to-Trust process have been completed. On July 31, 2024, the Finding of Fact, Index, along with supporting documentation were sent to (OIG), where the application is currently under review by the Department.

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

Eastern Navajo Agency – Branch Natural Resources (BNR)

BNR addressed 187 range units regarding required documents to renew grazing permits for 2025, amend conservation plans, permittee orientation on regulations and acquired signature for the Permittee Responsibility Agreement, outstanding invoices for annual grazing rental payments for trust lands, and conducted range unit field assessments for grazing permit transactions and/or range improvement projects, livestock trespass, grazing permit transactions.

For the Request for Appraisal to determine market value for ENA livestock grazing for individual Indian Allotments, tribal trust, Band, and government lands, the Appraisal and Valuation Services Office completed the report on June 2024. The report was provided to BNR for further renewal work.

For the Alamo/Canoncito Noxious Weed Project, 140A0924Q0036 (period of performance: August 20, 2024, to September 30, 2025), on September 8, 2024, the contractor completed the stand exam work and initiated the silviculture prescription to complete in October 2024, with approval by the Navajo Nation in November 2024. The Navajo Region Branch of Forestry will provide formal notifications to the individual Indian landowners in January 2025 of the treatment and locations. BNR is working with the contractor on the aerial herbicide application in August 2025.

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) the concurrence or approval of applications for permits to drill, gathering systems, and alternate measurement method; 2) physical inspections of oil and gas sale facilities; and 3) investigation of oil and gas discrepancies, and undesirable events. These duties are performed by BLM Farmington Field Office and FIMO's BIA Environmental Protection Specialist.

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 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. 63 wells have been inspected by the BIA EPS.

Plugging and Reclamation – FIMO is working with New Mexico Oil Conservation Division to plug and reclaim 10 wells Navajo allotted oil and gas leased lands.

Branch of Acquisitions

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

Branch of Natural Resources

The BIA Navajo Region Range Management Specialist (RMS) attended the National Tribal Horse Coalition (NTHC) teams meeting throughout the year and this last quarter was no exception. BIA Navajo Region has the largest known population of feral horses amongst all BIA Regions. The NTHC challenges its member group to come up with solutions to Navajo Nation horse problems that will create minimal impacts to the environment, politically speaking, while working to improve natural resources and landscapes.

The RMS performed training and outreach on September 19, 2024, to the BIA Branch of Natural Resources and Navajo Department of Agriculture staff a total of 18 individuals participated in conducting range analysis and monitoring on an NRCS EQIP funded ranch. Basic monitoring range industry standard protocols were performed as indicated through BIA Navajo Region Monitoring Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). All hard copy data forms were completed to industry standards and further evaluation as a demonstration site will occur in the future. The Navajo Department of Agriculture and Extension services benefitted from this training as it gives the Navajo Nation the ability to assess their natural resources, grazing, and their grazing permits. Without monitoring, many protocols in the performance of natural resources assessments are never realized, as the benefits outweigh the management performance. The outreach facilitated the assistance to 4 BIA Navajo Region agencies this quarter with range administration and conservation matters along with completing the review for one Conservation Plan.

BIA Chinle Agency solicited for bidding the retreatment of N-4/N-64 ROW (Rights-Of-Way), which is to commence this fall. Phase II of the N-59 & IR-12 ROW Noxious Weed Control is pending BRCF approval from the Navajo Nation. Chinle Agency submitted three (3) range inventory proposals for LMD 4, 10 and 11, which is still pending funding approval via Central Office. All three (3) LMD are approaching the 10-Year period from previous range inventory to determine the latest carrying capacities and recommended livestock adjustment. Furthermore, thirteen (13) grazing permit transfers for Nazlini Chapter are pending approval of the BRCF, which have been submitted to Navajo Nation Fish and Wildlife. One (1) Agricultural Land Use Permit (ALUP) was approved and returned to BNR for client's use.

BIA Chinle Agency installed eight (8) range monitoring cages within the three (3) LMD Range Management Units (RMU). Range monitoring cages were installed in two (2) RMU in Blue Gap & Black Mesa both of which are located within LMD 4. LMD 10 four (4) range monitoring cages, and two (2) in LMD 11.

BIA Chinle Agency received the FONSI from the Navajo Region Director for the District 12 Weed Inventory with an Environmental Assessment (EA). This project is shovel ready and is slated to begin in 2025. Six (6) rangeland monitoring cages were established in District 13. Sixty-five (65) head of equine were humanely captured in Newcomb, New Mexico and transported to the Navajo Nation Department Agriculture facilities in Window Rock, Arizona.

BIA Western Navajo Agency (WNA) 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.

BIA Western Navajo Agency continues to work on the Land Management District (LMD) 3 Cropland Management Plan (CMP). The CMP is proposed to be completed in November 2024. The CMP is specific to LMD 3 within the boundary of the Navajo Nation (NN). The CMP is a planning effort intended to protect trust land for agricultural purposes. The CMP, when developed, will call for a clear, step-by-step permitting process that relies on collaborative oversight between the BIA, Navajo Nation, and farmers/farm associations. Adoption of the CMP will provide improved administration, monitoring, and management for existing permitted agricultural lands and future permitted agricultural lands. The CMP recognizes several overlapping areas of responsibility for land use and land management between the BIA and the Navajo Nation. The BIA continues to seek recommendations from the Nation on the draft CMP.

BIA Western Navajo Agency staff continue to assist the LMD Grazing Committee Members for their respective areas with humanely removing feral horses. This year, so far, a total of 477 (equivalent to 2,385 SUYL) horses have been removed from the WNA rangelands, with 216 unpermitted horses removed from LMD 1 (Tonalea/Redlake, Kaibeto, LeChee and Coppermine), 8 horses removed from LMD 2 (Navajo Mountain), 155 horses removed from LMD 3 (Cameron/Gray Mountain and Tuba City), and 98 horses removed from LMD 5 (Leupp). Due to recent precipitation events and earthen tanks which are currently holding water, the feral horse removal projects are temporarily paused. With impending plans to remove unpermitted horses, more forage and water resources will be available for Grazing Permit Holders' permitted animals.

BIA Western Navajo Agency hosted five one-day workshops on assisting Grazing Permit grantees on the developing a Conservation Plan and additional information on monitoring grazing lands and conservation practices to improve rangeland resources was provided. The workshops are a partnership between Dine College Land Grant Office (LGO) and the WNA BNR. The Dine College staff assisted with presenting topics on herd health, herd management, breeding practices and basic rangeland monitoring practices as part of the workshop. BIA Western Navajo Agency appreciates the partnership and collaboration with Dine College's Land Grant Office for sharing their knowledge and resources to the 75 participants in the workshop. Two more workshops are scheduled for October 2024.

Proposed Range Management Fencing

The **Fort Defiance Agency** District 17 Proposed Range Management Unit for Kinlichee Chapter has been surveyed for a total area of 2,133 acres. The District 17 Grazing Official contacted the adjacent land user to be present at the Klagehoh Chapter on October 7, 2024, to

further discuss the proposed RMU. In addition, one (1) Proposed Range Management Unit will also be discussed from Steamboat Chapter. BIA Fort Defiance Agency BNR will be surveying/GPS and mapping the proposed Range Management fencing boundaries with the permit holder, BIA Fort Defiance Agency, and grazing official.

District 14 Environmental Assessment

The proposed action for the District 14 EA was for fencing of the district and the district units. The final FONSI received for this project was on September 26, 2024.

Noxious Weed Projects

BIA Fort Defiance Agency staff continue to perform Contracting Officer Representative (COR) duties for Chuska Lake. The contractor, BRIC, LLC, Subsidiary of Diné Development Corporation, has been assigned to the project. The Cultural Resource Inventory Report has been completed and has been submitted to NNHPPD for review and concurrence.

Fort Defiance Agency has contracted BRIC LLC to complete the District 7 Noxious Weed Inventory. The primary objective of District 7 is to establish a baseline of existing invasive species within District 7. The contractor rescheduled to start in October 2024.

Vegetation Survey Projects

This project addresses the need to conduct a Range Inventory in District 18 of Fort Defiance Agency. A balance between stocking rate and range utilization is necessary for the effective conversion of range forage to animal production, whether if it is domestic animal or wildlife. A forage balance is essential in maintaining future ecosystem function. To achieve this balance the BIA and the Navajo Nation need information on current forage (rangeland) condition.

BIA Navajo Partitioned Land staff assisted the Indian Health Services' Office of Environmental Health and Engineering (OEHE) and the Whippoorwill/Pinon Grazing Official with completing the field clearance checklist for a new water Well NA-16-T0.

BIA Navajo Partitioned Land staff continues to collaborate with the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife and local Grazing Official regarding a field assessment conducted in the Tonalea/Red Lake/Cow Springs area to assess unhealthy trees and an infestation of grasshoppers. Because the local pond in Cow Springs has dried up, the infestation of grasshoppers is eating the Russian olive and salt cedar trees in the area. BIA Navajo Region, in consultation with Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation Department (HHPD), under a P.L. 93-638 contract, completed the cultural resource survey of the 1882 Executive Order Fenceline repairs.

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

The Shiprock Administrative Reserve (SAR) contract to abate and demo the 41 buildings is projected to be completed by December 31, 2024. From the 41 buildings contracted, 13 buildings were burned due to vandalism. To date, the remaining 28 buildings were abated for asbestos containing materials in June 2024, which does not include the 13 buildings that were burned. The burned buildings debris will be disposed as hazardous waste pending later this month. The abatement also included encapsulating the lead-based paint components of the remaining buildings in July 2024. The abatement is required before demolition occurs for the protection of the community and environment. To date, nine (9) buildings onsite have been removed and disposed of. The removal of the foundations is in progress for these 9 buildings. Other work accomplished onsite is the isolation and capping of water lines and the natural gas lines by the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA), throughout the site. The abandoned utility poles that were identified and marked by NTUA will be removed in November 2024. Trees interfering with the work onsite have been identified and marked for removal which will be conducted during the demolition. On September 30, 2024, the Above Ground Storage tank (AST) located in for the former Transportation yard was removed and disposed of. The Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA) and BEM provided oversight of the AST removal by the contractor. BEM also provided additional funds to support the weekly 24-hour security service to deter vandalism and ensuring the safety of the workers and community. To date, security continues to experience issues with trespassing, but no major incidents have been reported.

The former Sanostee Boarding School site has been sampled and a final report provides recommendations for cleanup. BEM requested funds to remove 200 buried concrete piers, the solid waste debris and to begin the planning phase to remediate the asbestos containing material debris scattered throughout the property. Before the land is transferred back to the Navajo Nation and for the community to re-use requires the cleanup of the site.

The Chinle Land Transfer project was funded this year with three (3) parcels: B-1, G-1, and P-1 which will be cleaned up by a selected contractor this calendar year. The remaining two (2) parcels A-1-1 and A-2 require further evaluation of the boundary areas, as there are residences and businesses within the area to be transferred back to the Navajo Nation. BEM is working with BIA Branches of Realty, Property, NNEPA and the NTUA. Additional funds are required to complete the work on the remaining two (2) parcels.

The Toadlena Sheep Dip Vat project, Toadlena, New Mexico is 80 percent complete with the removal of toxaphene contamination in soils. In October 2024, the BEM contractor will be removing contaminated soils from the former toxaphene discharge area which has been characterized and sampled. BEM is working with NNEPA Superfund Program for technical assistance and oversight.

BEM Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) program receives annual sampling schedule from NNEPA, Public Water System Supervision Program (PWSSP) and US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Water Section, regulatory agencies to follow to maintain compliance with the SDWA requirements. For this quarter, BEM SDWA completed the review to report the

monthly Bacteriological analytical data for (56) Bureau's water systems to the regulatory agencies. All data were absent of total coliform and absent E. coli except for Rock Point Community School and Kinlichee Community School and Housing. The data results from the laboratory were provided to these schools that tested positive with instructions to re-test from BEM SDWA. BEM continues to work with the NTUA laboratory and NNEPA PWSSP, the regulatory agency on behalf of the BIE schools in providing technical assistance and guidance for testing drinking water. As required under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) drinking water is tested to eliminate bacteria, the BIE water operators at each of the schools are required to submit monthly drinking water samples. If drinking water sampling results are positive, this is reported to the schools, BIE Facility Managers, BIE Environmental Program, the NNEPA PWSSP and USEPA. For this Quarter, BEM completed the required sampling for Disinfection By-Product (DBP) for 11 (eleven) BIE schools within Navajo Region. BEM receives the sampling data, reviews and reports DBP to the schools and the regulatory agencies.

BEM received a list of twenty-six (26) BIE schools that require new or updates to the site sampling plans for water sampling within their schools. This is regulatory requirement for BIE water systems to update or modify their site sampling plans which was issued in 2011. If these plans are not modified or submitted to the regulatory agencies, the schools will be issued an Administrative Non-Compliance Order. BEM drafted the site sample plans for the following schools: Former Pueblo Pintado School, Hunter's Point Boarding School, Low Mountain Boarding School, Many Farms High School, and Tuba City Boarding School. BEM sent electronic notifications on the status of the school's site sample plan on September 12, 2024, to the BIE Water Operators, BIE Facility Managers, BIE Environmental Program and the regulatory agencies.

BIA Navajo Region's Regional Archaeologist reviewed Cultural Resource Inventory Reports and recommended approval for 44 Cultural Resource Compliance Forms (CRCF) to the Acting Regional Director.

BIA Navajo Region's Regional Archaeologist reviewed one (1) Archaeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA) Permit for data recovery and testing for a project on the Navajo Nation.

BIA Navajo Region's Regional Archaeologist reviewed 3 Environmental Assessments and drafted two (2) Finding of No Significance (FONSI) for the following projects: District 14 Range Management Fencing Project for BIA Fort Defiance Agency, the Cameron Waterline Project for BIA Western Navajo Agency, and the Bodaway Gap Tuba City Health Care Center Clinic in Gap, Arizona.

BIA Navajo Region's Regional Archaeologist provided 2 National Environmental Policy Act trainings: Navajo Power on August 19-22, 2024, at San Juan College, Farmington, New Mexico; and Kinder Morgan, Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources, Navajo Nation General Leasing Department, Navajo Nation Minerals Department, and Cortez Pipeline on September 11-12, 2024, in Gallup, New Mexico.

BIA Navajo Region's Regional Archaeologist responded to Council Delegate Yanito concerns on the Poncho House locate south of Bluff, Utah. Council Delegate Yanito informed the BIA Navajo Region of trespassing and the need to protect and preserve the Poncho House area. BIA NEPA met with the Navajo Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office (NNTHPO) on Council Delegate

Yanito's concern. The NNTHPO, Navajo Parks and Recreation Program, Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources and BIA Navajo Region are coordinating a meeting date to discuss enforcement, preservation and protection of this area.

Branch of Fire Management – wildland fire activity within the Navajo Nation was moderate at the start of fourth quarter; however, subsided in early September. Navajo Nation Stage 1 Fire Restrictions was lifted September 3, 2024.

Branch of Fire Management – Fuels Section initiated a collaborative cutting project with Navajo Nation Department of Forestry for the El Paso Pipeline area located southwest of Window Rock, Arizona. The project is anticipated to start on September 30, 2024.

Branch of Probate and Estate Services - During the FY2024 4th Quarter, the Branch of Probate and Estate Services prepared and submitted 85 cases to OHA for adjudication. Of the 85 cases, 46 were completed by Eastern Navajo Agency, 22 by Fort Defiance Agency, and 17 by Shiprock Agency.

Branch of Real Estate Services – The Branch of Real Estate Services, Minerals Division continues to have monthly conference calls and or meetings with the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), Navajo Nation Solid Minerals, and BLM, on any updates or issues relating to the Navajo Mine (NTEC), Chevron (CMI) and Peabody Western Coal Company (PWCC) status of reclamation on inspections for these coal mines. The Branch of Real Estate Services, Minerals Division also performed inspections with BLM and the Navajo Nation, for status of reclamations for gravel pits on: PWCC July 24, PWCC June 25, and Teec Nos Pos, Apache County Carrizo Pit Sand & Gravel as well as the Wheatfield Gravel Pit on August 28, 2024.

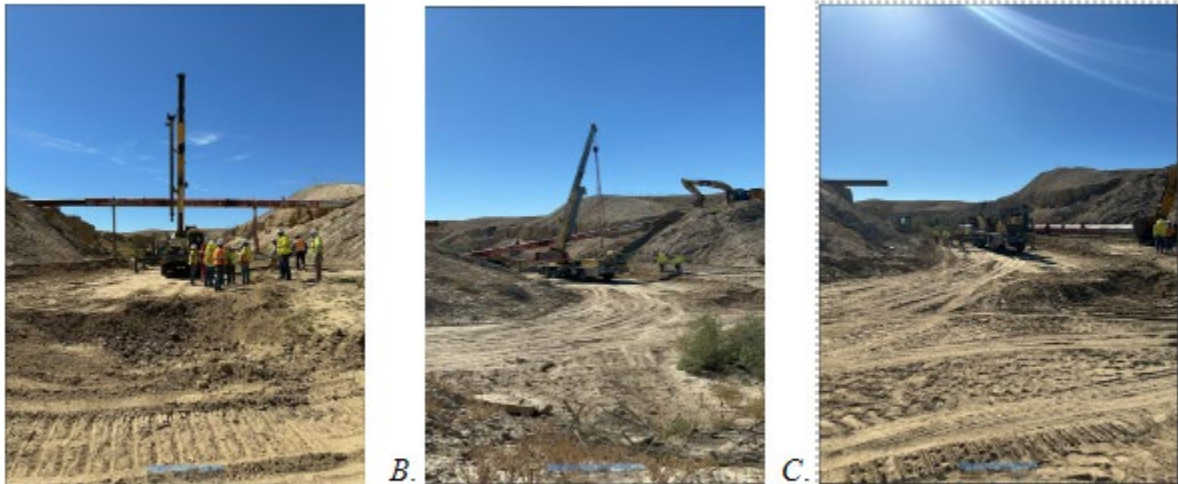
Branch of Real Estate Services – The Branch of Real Estate Services, Minerals Division is assisting and attending scheduled on-site inspections for new proposed wells for the Application of Permit Drill applications for Oil and Gas leases. Received five (5) Application to Permit Drill (APD) applications from Bureau Land Management (BLM) for ELK Operating Services, LLC for 5 locations up in Aneth Extension area. Submitted the packages on May 28, 2024, to Navajo Nation for concurrence and approval of the 5 APD's. Our office has not received any response back from Navajo Nation. The projects are pending over 30 days. On August 27, 2024, the Division received one Application to Permit Drill (APD) application from BLM for Tacitus E & P Tocito LLC, for a proposed Helium well No. Navajo Tribal 16 A2-D. The package was sent to Navajo Nation on August 30, 2024. The Branch of Real Estate Services, Minerals Division continue to attend any inspections for Plug and Abandon wells with the BLM Farmington Office for clearances. The attendees are the companies, Navajo Nation and the BIA.

Branch of Real Estate Services – Right-of-way (ROW) Division provided two training sessions to outside entities on the process of applying for a ROW once on August 20-22, 2024, to Navajo Power Inc. For the Solar Farm Lease and ROW at the San Juan College in Farmington, New Mexico on for 11 attendees, and on September 10-12, 2024, to Kinder Morgan Inc., for a petroleum pipeline ROW renewal (600 miles) at the Hilton Garden Inn in Gallup, New Mexico with 20 attendees. Application/amendment packages have been received for Enterprise Field Services,

Frontier Communication, Navajo Power, Transwestern Pipeline Company, Tallgrass Energy Company, Emery Telecom, Arizona Public Service, Tucson Electric Company, El Paso Natural Gas Pipeline (Kinder Morgan inc.), and Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA).

Branch of Real Estate Services On February 2, 2024, the Fort Defiance Agency received ROW application/amendment packages for: NTUA on the Bitahochee to Dilkon 115kV transmission line that we are currently awaiting consent and environmental documents; the Teesto distribution line and Dilkon Sub-Station.

Branch of Engineering – On September 23, 2024, the Navajo Nation (NN) was informed by the BIA’s Secretary Indian Water Rights Office the Public Law (P.L.) 111-11’s deadline date for Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project (NGWSP), Fruitland-Cambridge, and the Hogback-Cudei Irrigation Projects have been approved to extend the deadline date to December 31, 2029. With the deadline extension, the BIA Navajo Region Branch of Engineering will modify all P.L. 93-638 Contracts for Fruitland-Cambridge, Hogback-Cudei and Conjunctive Groundwater Use Wells to extend-the new expiration date to December 31, 2029. The NN and their subcontractor requested to add a new paving project for the NN’s Shiprock Irrigation Office to the current Hogback-Cudei Irrigation Project’s P.L. 93-638 Subpart J Contract to store material and equipment for the Hogback-Cudei Irrigation Systems for rehabilitation and maintenance operations. The Fruitland-Cambridge Irrigation Canal’s Fish Weir project modification to the current P.L. 93-638 Subpart J Construction Contract is complete, and construction will begin in November 2024, pending Navajo Nation procuring a construction contractor before November 2024. In addition, the Fruitland-Cambridge Irrigation Canal’s Diversion Dam section continues to be placed on hold for the NN to find resolution of the additional funds of \$21M needed to complete the project. The Naschitti-Sheep Spring Interagency Agreement with the Indian Health Service under the Conjunctive Groundwater Use Wells P.L. 93-638 contract was approved to extend to September 30, 2025. The American Rescue Plan Project (ARPA) contract for Ramah-Navajo will be complete in October 2024. The Hogback Siphon Project under the Hogback-Cudei Irrigation Canal Projects began demolition of the old Helium Lateral Flume (See Photos below).



A. Crane arrived on site. B. Crane lifted Helium Siphon Flume from the original placement C. Removal completed.

Branch of Engineering – The Branch of Engineering, Branch Manager and the BIA Central Office Division of Water and Power-Safety of Dams Engineer, Lakewood, CO provided a presentation of the Kin Bineola Dam to the Lake Valley Chapter Officials, Community, and Council Delegate Danny Simpson. The presentation was held in-person on September 19, 2024, at the Lake Valley Chapter House. The Kin Bineola Dam will be rehabilitated with funds coming from the BIA Division of Water and Power and completed within Calendar Year 2025. The BOE requested the Navajo Nation to provide an option decision for the Kin Bineola Dam rehabilitation project effort. Either funding the project through the BIA Navajo Regional Office’s P.L. 93-638 contracting process to the NN, or the BIA Central Office Division of Water and Power to procure an Indian Small Business Economic Enterprise (ISBEE) construction contractor to perform the rehabilitation work. A Comprehensive Review (CR) Workshop for the Tohajiilee Dam was held on July 22-24, 2024. The CR Workshop was hosted by the BIA Central Office Division of Water and Power Office. Also, a Periodic Review (PR) field dam inspection was completed in June 2024 for the Tsaile Dam, the Wheatfields Dam, and the Red Lake Dam. This PR was completed by the BIA Central Office Division of Water and Power and the NN Safety of Dams. The Branch of Engineering, Branch Manager attended the BIA Central Office Safety of Dams Homecoming week meetings in Lakewood, CO from September 10-13, 2024.

Branch of Engineering – The Navajo Indian Irrigation Project (NIIP) Project Management Team (PMT) second quarter meeting took place in July 2024. The next quarterly meeting will take place in October 2024 with the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry (NAPI) and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). The internal BIA NIIP Coordination follow-up meetings continue monthly, to discuss policies and procedures for the Block 9 Stage 2 development. BIA NIIP is making continuous efforts to establish a BIA Policy Team to include the NN and 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: BIA, Navajo Nation and NAPI to continue the overall development of the NIIP Project. The NIIP Office is working on a new Interagency Agreement for Fiscal Year 2025 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. BOR/FCCO will also provide technical services/support in transitioning the O&M of transferred facilities to NAPI and if needed, over-time labor for maintenance of the transferred facilities, emergency repairs and major rehabilitation of BIA Facilities on NIIP and training of NAPI personnel. The NIIP Office is also working on a new solicitation for an Environmental Assessment for Fiscal Year 2025. This Environmental Assessment will consider the environmental impacts of NIIP's current and future developments. It will also support BIA's authority to provide permits for utility crossings, BIA Roads Maintenance, and provide support for NAPI to obtain the NN Agricultural Lease. The NIIP Office, NAPI, and BOR participated in a Transformer Inspection for the Pinebete Substation on April 5, 2024. At the end of April 2024, NAPI requested a cancelation of the NTUA Service Drop-Contract, thus BOR is currently working on this request. NAPI's contractor ORCOM/Nowlin Contractors assisted/repaired the G7.5L HVAC in July 2024.

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

Eastern Navajo Agency – Branch Natural Resources (BNR)

In coordination with the Navajo Sustainable Agriculture (NSA) and New Mexico State University (NMSU) College of Agriculture, Consumer, and Environmental Science (NMSU), BNR is completing 18 conservation plans; Superintendent reviewed and approved four (4) conservation plans.

BNR has ongoing coordination with the Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture (NNDA) and the Eastern Navajo Joint Land Board (ENJLB). BNR and the Office of the Superintendent completed routine collaborative calls regarding the 2025 Grazing Permit Renewal Project. This project entails various formal processes including establishing the grazing rental rate and possible formal negotiation with the Navajo Nation and implementing the bonding requirement with possible formal waiver of the bond requirement. The process also includes the Authority to Grant livestock grazing where the individual Indian landowners are formally notified to request consent or nonconsent to livestock grazing and $\geq 50\%$ of their interest ownership is required to use the Indian Allotment land for livestock grazing. On guidance from the Superintendent, on September 26 and October 1, 2024, BNR has scheduled an extensive work session with the Navajo Nation on the grazing rental rate determination, the bonding requirement, and review of the regulations and requirements to renew grazing permits. Numerous other topics will also be covered at the work session.

Federal Indian Minerals Office

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

Royalty Distribution – BTFA-prepared and reviewed withdrawal/transfer vouchers, submitted for approval to appropriate authorizing official and submitted for processing, verify availability of funds, prepare work tickets, when necessary, provide technical assistance to other agencies as

necessary, maintain logs of daily activities in service manager, provide outstanding customer service to all beneficiaries who contact our office.

Ongoing Projects:

- Carson Unit- FIMO received a copy of a resolution on the approval of the Carson Unit for DJR Operating. FIMO staff are preparing the unit files and working with the Acting Regional Director and BLM to ensure we respond appropriately after BLM State Office makes a final response to the NN Land Commission Department.
- Lone Mesa Unit Communitation Agreement – FIMO staff will be meeting with Enduring shortly to discuss the newly developed Communitation Agreement process.
- Sandstone Land, LLC – Company expressed interested in leasing allotments. The FIMO Director recently reached out to contact Terry Moores (Landman). He stated that they were in the process of researching other sites other than just FIMO Indian Allotments and would get back when they are ready for a pre-leasing meeting with FIMO. The FIMO Director will be reaching out to Mr. Moores again next week to follow-up.
- Alamos Canyon Unit Proposal – FIMO staff will be meeting with Enduring and BLM shortly to continue to discuss this issue.

Branch of Acquisitions

Branch of Acquisitions complies with the Buy Indian Act, 25 USC 47, and supports native owned businesses by setting aside requirements for ISBEE (Indian Small Business Economic Enterprises) and IEE (Indian Economic Enterprises) firms. Native owned companies benefit from the awards issued to them and at the same time the supplies and services provided benefit the communities within the Navajo Nation. Branch of Acquisitions completed 236 purchase request actions with a value of \$11,613,807 which were awarded for Fiscal Year 2024. \$8,415,896 of this amount was awarded to Native Owned Companies.

BIA Chinle Agency BNR -Sustainably Balance the Use of Resources While Supporting Communities and the Economy: 6 Agricultural Land Use Permits were issued to farmers along the San Juan River Irrigation Project.

The **WNA BNR** EA for the Cameron Waterline Project and has received the Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI) on September 10, 2024. The EA covers the proposed Cameron Waterline project and proposed watering point facility in Cameron, Arizona. The proposed water line will begin in the Little Colorado River Valley and transverse a rugged topography, in a general SW direction, to a pipe-stand location just east of U.S. Highway 89. The completed project will be beneficial to the local community and their socioeconomic development needs with respect to livestock and agricultural operations. With the FONSI received, the project is ready to be implemented, and the waterline construction will commence in November of 2024. While the project was awaiting the FONSI, the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources' Technical Construction and Operations Branch installed a temporary waterline and has pumped water to two storage tanks and made water available for livestock and other agricultural purposes.

Fort Defiance Agency, BNR

Grazing Permit Verification

Pursuant to 25 CFR §167.7, BIA Fort Defiance Agency Branch of Natural Resources continues to request Permittees to make an appointment to update and verify their permit information. Permit holders are provided information at the chapter permittee meetings and district meetings. A total of 3,620 Grazing permits within the Fort Defiance Agency are going through an Annual Permit Verification process. This activity will assist the Fort Defiance Agency in validating the Grazing and ALUP for the annual permit renewal.

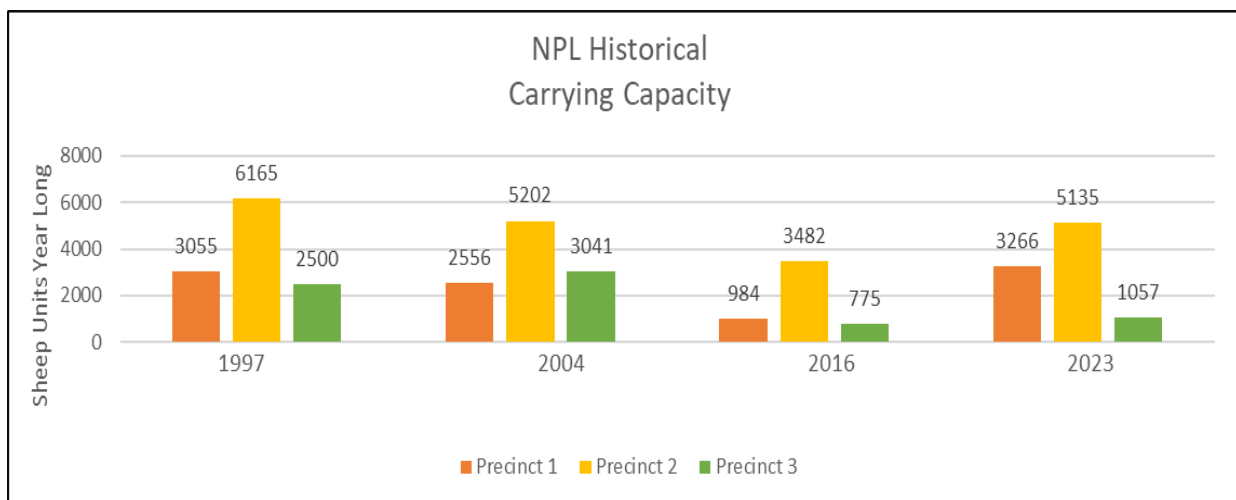
The Process includes:

- Updating contact information
- Providing identification verification
- Providing the permit use area or location verification
- Providing the most recent livestock inventory or crop inventory through self-tally, livestock tally count or crop report.

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 contractor visited 20 homes for GPS location and observing the area.

The NPL completed the 2023 range inventory of 1093 transects covering 907,00 acres, three Precincts within the 15 Range Units of available forage to obtain the livestock carrying capacity and stocking rates.



The 2023 inventory does show an increase of carrying capacity relative to previous years.

Increases in livestock carrying capacity may be a result of above annual normal precipitation and voluntary livestock reduction. Final report of the 2024 NPL Noxious Weed and Invasive Species Inventory of the major washes (Moenkopi, Dinnebito, Oraibi, Wepo, Burnt Corn, Polacca, Jeddito) is available for dissemination. The report will assist with development of a treatment plan funding request through the Noxious Weed funds received from Central Office. The recommendation for monitoring and utilization of rangeland health is part of the NPL Range Management Plans and annual utilization measurement recommended as goals. Rangeland monitoring and utilization of biomass or cover removed does determine the grazing impact on rangeland conditions and wildlife habitat value.

Branch of Fire Management - Resource allocation to local fires has been effective this quarter. The Branch of Fire Management initial attack resources including two (2) Type-6 engines, and 5-10 person modules were able to manage and suppress fires within the Navajo Nation.

Branch of Real Estate Services - Leasing Division is working with the Navajo Nation on Lease Compliance for Lease Nos. CH-97-104 and CH-97-104A addressing non-compliance with lease provisions including rent due to the Navajo Nation. On September 20, 2024, a meeting was held with Office of the Solicitor, BIA, Navajo Nation Department of Justice and Chinle Regional Business Development. The discussion held on proposed action on sublease to issue cease and desist order; the novation process from a 415(a) lease to a 415(e) lease; and rent owned to the Navajo Nation. BIA will issue cease and desist order to sublease and provide response to David Gomez (Baldwin Attorney).

Branch of Real Estate Services - Leasing Division is 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. BIA is researching and organizing lease files for each respective subdivision. A meeting was held on September 18, 2024, with Council Delegate Dr. Andy Nez and the Branch of Real Estate Services staff regarding status of project. To date the Branch of Real Estate Services has updated 177 individual lots.

STRATEGIC GOAL 4 - Serve and Honor the Public Trust:

Eastern Navajo Agency – Branch Natural Resources (BNR)

BNR completed the second round of the 2025 Grazing Permit Renewal Project outreach at (11) Eastern Navajo Chapter Houses and one at the Navajo Technical University, Crownpoint, New Mexico, from July 11 through August 29. A total of 467 individuals attended. The outreach presentations included the requirements to renew grazing permits, Authority-to-Grant livestock grazing, rangeland inventory results and carrying capacity, grazing rental rate determination and bonding requirement.

Federal Indian Minerals Office

FIMO has made great strides in continuing the BIA's responsibility with the on the ground activities. FIMO staff continues to strive to address the many questions received and service the allottees daily. FIMO has worked to adjust and find creative ways to assist the needs of the Navajo allottees.

- Outreach – FIMO 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.

Branch of Acquisitions

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

Branch of Acquisitions staff are engaged and committed to support the various BIA Navajo Region programs with their requirements for contracts which benefit the Navajo Nation.

The **Shiprock Agency, BNR** - Serve and Honor the Public Trust: Public scoping and comments were made available for the Cove and Sanostee Wash Weed Inventories. No comments were received. Rangeland utilization surveys have begun and will continue throughout the fall.

NPL completed the 2024 Windmill assessment of 85 windmills, which identified 38 windmills for major repairs and those needing minor repairs such as replacement of stop n waste valves.



Standing water had to be drained, pipes and stop n waste value replaced at Windmill No. 513-1 in Whitecone Chapter.

Vandalism and damage to rangeland infrastructure are repaired by the staff including welding of bullet holes on windmill water tanks and cattle guard cleanouts.

NPL continues to assist with feral horse management in collaboration with Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture and the respective chapter requesting roundup or entrapment through a community approved chapter resolution.

NPL continues to assist and transport livestock for those people without means to transport to sale or auction yards and assists local grazing officials and chapters with transport of feral horses that were roundup and penned.

In collaboration with local grazing officials and Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture conduct annual livestock tally counts as a way of keeping in compliance with recommended sheep units yearlong (SUYL). Technical assistance provided to permittees with active permits with annual permit renewal, transfers, and provide orientation of the developed Range Management Plans (RMP) that includes recommendations from the NPL Agriculture Resources and Rangeland Management Plan (ARRMP) with goals and strategies. Participate in the monthly Districts Grazing (D4, D7, D5, D1, D2, and D8), Joint NPL District Grazing Committee, Agency meetings, and other meetings with chapters to provide a report and update on project activities.

Branch of Safety

Branch of Safety, which focuses on promoting well-being, equity, and justice, has successfully completed 100% of building inspections by mid-third quarter. This achievement underscored the importance of employers' responsibilities in maintaining safe workplaces. The safety staff ensured compliance with OSHA regulations, ensuring that notifications of worker rights and protections were prominently displayed in all workplace breakrooms and bulletin boards. Increased employee participation in safety walkthroughs helped inspectors identify the root causes of existing hazards. Additionally, the branch completed building inspections in less than 30 days, allowing Facility Management to develop timely Abatement Plans to address deficiencies. Collaborative discussions about climate change impacts, including heat stress and

indoor air quality, were conducted, fostering a supportive environment for BIA and Tribal employees. Importantly, the reports reaffirmed that employees could report unsafe conditions to the Occupational Health and Safety Bureau or their employer without fear of retaliation, thus honoring their rights.

Branch of Safety emphasizes serving and honoring the public trust and has provided continuous training and information on various topics, including emergency procedures, fire prevention, and health awareness. The branch remained committed to fulfilling its trust responsibilities, ensuring Tribal programs could make decisions that best served their interests while avoiding conflicts that could affect their missions. Empowering employees in the decision-making process was a key aspect of maintaining a safe and effective work environment, particularly as conditions continue to evolve. Branch of Safety's accomplishments reflect a strong alignment with the Department's strategic goals, demonstrating a proactive approach to safety, employee rights, and public trust.

Branch of Property

Branch of Property has completed the Annual Inventory and submitted for approval. In conducting the annual inventory, it has been noted that there are some assets which are able to be excessed. There are a few items that have been identified that may be beneficial and could possibly be donated to the Navajo Nation.

Property staff were able to work with the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) to allow for a waterline to cross the Window Rock Administrative Area. This waterline is to serve sixty (60) new apartments being constructed by the Navajo Housing Authority (NHA).

Property staff continues to work in finalizing a Use Permit or Ground Lease for the Crownpoint Post Office. The Post Office is owned by a contractor for the United States Postal Service and sits on BIA Administrative Land. Staff are working with the contractor on agreeable terms for the permit or lease to continue providing Postal Services for the Crownpoint residents and surrounding areas. It is anticipated that the issuance of a lease or permit will occur before December 31, 2024.

Branch of Facilities

The Branch of Facilities continues to provide technical services as requested. There are some future facility projects that consist of repair work. The Facilities team are hoping to have some of these projects in construction by the end of the FY2024. The Facilities team also developed and provided detailed drawings, statements of work, and independent government estimates for upcoming projects of existing BIA Facilities. Below are some of the projects:

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

1. Window Rock Building No. 3 requires the removal and disposal of an existing sidewalk due to a safety issue. The plan is to construct a new sidewalk and handicap parking spaces in front of building for better access.
2. In addition to item No. 1 above, the Facility team is planning to hire a vendor to exterminate rodents and pests in Window Rock's Building No. 3. The statement of work is 100% complete and the independent government estimate is about 30% complete, which

would require placing office staff under Department of Justice and Bureau of Indian Education on telework for the safety of the employees.

3. Fort Defiance demolition of some old BIA facilities located where old hospital was demolished years ago. This project is in the preliminary stage, which requires archaeological clearances, statement of work, independent government estimate, and abatement of hazardous materials.
4. Chinle Agency Facility Management Office building roof needs a portion of the area to be re-roofed. This project requires a statement of work, and an independent government estimate.
5. Facility Management staff are in the process of upgrading the HVAC system out at Western Navajo Agency Building. The Facilities team is currently in the process of developing the statement of work, independent government estimate, which will be a design build project as soon as funding is available.
6. The Facilities Team is also in the process of upgrading the HVAC system out at Fort Defiance Agency Building No. 40. The Facilities team is currently in the process of developing the statement of work, independent government estimate, which will be a design build project as soon as we request for funding. These two HVAC system upgrades might go into construction in Fall of 2025.

Branch of Transportation

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) - Navajo Region Branch of Transportation (NRBOT) continues to strive and fulfill its mission to manage the intermodal transportation facilities by maintaining the existing infrastructure for dependability and safety that serves the Navajo Nation and the traveling public. The Transportation team accomplishes this by providing transportation related technical assistance and service, working directly with the Navajo Nation's Division of Transportation (Navajo DOT), as they pursue self-sufficiency and discretion in the administration and operation of the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP).

Road Maintenance:

The Agency Road Maintenance Programs, 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' accomplishments performed during the 4th quarter. The BIA Road Maintenance program is coordinating with Navajo DOT concerning road condition for the winter season's snow and ice control activities to provide adequate coverage as it relates to BIA's paved road system.

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

Ft. Defiance Agency

The re-striping of routes N12, N100, N110 & N7 were completed per the striping contract utilizing thermoplastic with glass beads. Other major repairs include repairing Bridge N682 erosions on route N15 near Indian Wells, Arizona, which is still in progress and replacing drainage pipes in various locations within Fort Defiance Agency (FDA). Some blade patching was performed on various paved roads, approximately 300 ft., such as on route N12 near Oaksprings, Arizona and Navajo, New Mexico along with route N15 in Sunrise, Arizona. The FDA Road Maintenance continues to perform routine road maintenance daily.

Chinle Agency

The Chinle Agency is waiting for a striping contract for routes N8077, N8078, Dine College Circle Drive, the parking lot in front of the main administrative building, N7, N59 and N8066. The Chinle Agency office is collaborating and coordinating with the Southland Contracting, Inc. with removing the silt sand build up along our roadways, which is being hauled to the new Chinle Lagoon Project. The Chinle Agency is coordinating with Navajo Division of Transportation (NDOT) on a “Cut & Fill” operation on route N41 and N29.

Western Navajo Agency

The Western Navajo Agency (WNA) continues to repair washouts and rockslides from this past year’s monsoon. One major landslide consists of large boulders bigger than passenger trucks blocking the road down Paiute Canyon in Navajo Mountain, Utah. The WNA crew had to break up these large boulders to remove them off the roadway. The road was closed during the duration of the rock removal. Heavy down pours during the monsoon caused flooding on various BIA routes within the WNA.

The BIA Western Navajo Agency’s Branch of Road Maintenance received accolades and recognition for a job well done grading N1012 Moenave Road and N23 in Tuba City, Arizona.

Thanking the BIA Road Maintenance crew for their hard work, dedication and commitment ensuring they remain mission-focused and oriented. Keep up the great work.

Shiprock Agency

The Shiprock Agency replaced culvert pipes due to damaged inlet caused by homeowner on route N551. The culvert pipe did not function as intended and was partly cause of a major flood in a localized area in Shiprock, NM. The monsoon caused washouts and erosions are currently being repaired within the Shiprock Agency.

Farmington & New Lands Field Offices

The Farmington and New Lands crew with the assistance from Shiprock Agency personnel cut out and repaired 400 x 24 feet (2-lanes) of pavement surface on route N3003 (mile post 12). The work was challenging & dangerous due to this stretch of N3003 having high-volume truck traffic and required careful placement of flaggers and temporary traffic control devices during the operation.



BEFORE: Cracked surface on paved road.



AFTER: New surface on paved road.

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

Branch of Fire Management continues 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.

Branch of Probate and Estate Services – The Branch of Probate and Estate Services prepares cases for individual Indians that hold trust assets by completing the family history of the decedent and compiling all documents required by the OHA. Research is completed by contacting the family members of the decedent by means of home visits, searching the internet, telephone interviews,

writing letters and office visits. The majority of family research work is in conjunction with the Navajo Nation Vital Records Office. BIA Navajo Region Branch of Probate and Estate Services staff also assist in Tribal Wills Clinics and outreaches at various Chapter Houses.

Branch Real Estate Services – The Branch Real Estate Services is processing Royalty-In-Kind payments for the State of Utah. Ensured Water Usage payments to the Navajo Nation from Chevron on Navajo Nation Lease No. 14-20-0603-8669. Processing a new Interagency Agreement with AZ BLM for BLM Cadastral Surveys.

The **Navajo Partitioned Lands** completed the 2024 Windmill assessment of 85 windmills, which identified 38 windmills for major repairs and those needing minor repairs such as replacement of stop n waste valves.



Standing water had to be drained, pipes and stop n waste value replaced at Windmill No. 513-1 in Whitecone Chapter.

NPL continues to assist with feral horse management in collaboration with Navajo Nation DOA and Resource Enforcement.

In collaboration with local grazing officials and Navajo Nation DOA conduct annual livestock tally counts as a way of keeping in compliance with recommended sheep units yearlong (SUYL). Technical assistance provided to permittees with active permits with annual permit renewal, transfers, and provide orientation of the developed Range Management Plans (RMP) that includes recommendations from the NPL Agriculture Resources and Rangeland Management Plan (ARRMP) with goals and strategies. Participate in the monthly Districts Grazing (D4, D7, D5, D1, D2, and D8), Joint NPL District Grazing Committee, Agency meetings, and other meetings with chapters to provide a report and update on project activities.