

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Division of Community Development Newsletter

April 2021

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Did You Know...

The Navajo terms for some common everyday objects were borrowed from Spanish. For example: **money**. In Spanish, it is **peso**. In Navajo, **bééso**

Events:

April: T'ááchil - "Growth of early plants"

April 30: Arbor Day

May: T'ááts'oh - "Growth of bigger leaf plants"

May 4: Star Wars Day

May 9: Mother's Day

May 14: Navajo Nation Police Officers Day

May 31: Memorial Day

June: Ya'iishyaashchili, which means Planting of Early Crops

June 1: Navajo Memorial Day

Longtime DCD Employees Retiring



Mr. Ed Preston, Registered Architect, and George Hubbard, Programs & Projects Specialist, both with the Capital Projects Management Department (CPMD) retired on April 30, 2021. They both worked for DCD under the former Design and Engineering Services Department prior to working at CPMD.

Ed has worked for the Navajo Nation for over 22 years. Before that, Ed ran his own company in Albuquerque, NM. He has been a small aircraft pilot and best of all, a paratrooper with the U.S. Army 101st Airborne Division. After retirement, Ed is looking forward to creating art projects including painting and sculpting.

George has worked for the Navajo Nation for over 20 years as a full time employee and 2 years as a temporary employee. Prior to that, George worked for 20 years as a Mechanical Electronic Engineer for EG&G where he worked on a reactor project at Idaho National Engineering Lab, Space Shuttle Program, Vandenberg A.F.B. for NASA and a classified project for the Department of Defense in Las Vegas, NV.

They each have overseen hundreds of development projects over the years and have contributed greatly to making sure the Navajo Nation's infrastructure and building needs were being addressed.

Thank you for all your contributions and good luck in your future endeavors Ed and George!



There was a small reception held on Friday, April 30, at the El Rancho in Gallup, NM, to honor Mr. Preston and Mr. Hubbard for their service. They were awarded plaques for their service as well as Pendleton blankets. Sonlatsa Jim-Martin, ASC Department Manager II, provided a speech on behalf of DCD Executive Director, Dr. Pearl Yellowman, to commend the service of the two retiring gentlemen. James Adakai also provided comments to honor the achievements of the two retirees. DCD staff followed responsible social distancing and other safety protocols during the short event.

Another longtime DCD employee, LaVerne Benally, also retired earlier this month on April 9. She had worked for DCD since 2003, first under the Navajo Housing Services Department and after the 2008 restructuring, under the newly formed Community Housing and Infrastructure Department (CHID). Laverne was the Program Manager for the federally funded Housing Improvement Program (HIP) overseen by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Before DCD, Laverne worked for the State of Arizona in Phoenix. She has also served as a chapter official for her chapter for many years.

**CONGRATULATIONS RETIREES FOR ACHIEVING THIS MILESTONE IN YOUR CAREERS AND
THANK YOU FOR ALL THE YEARS OF DEDICATION TO THE NAVAJO NATION, THE NAVAJO
CHAPTERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS!**

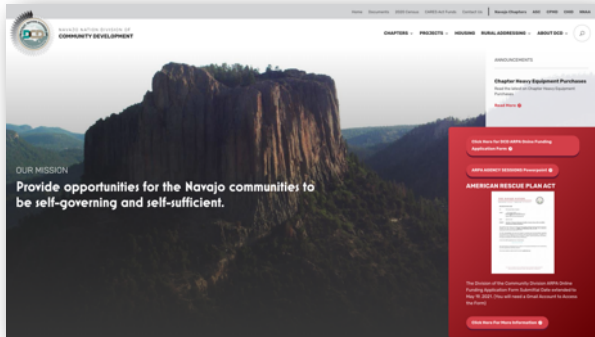


April 2021

DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Infrastructure and Powerline ARPA Mobilization Plan

The Division of Community Development (DCD) is currently working on a mobilization plan for the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) which was signed into law on March 11, 2021. ARPA is the latest funding established by Congress for recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and provides an unprecedented amount of funding to Native America tribes. Information on the funding to Native Americans is found in [TITLE XI - COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS](#).



On April 9, DCD set up an online ARPA Application Form to provide a way for Chapters to submit ARPA project proposals in accordance with the chapters' updated ICIP priority listings. The proposals that are being accepted by DCD include powerline, waterline, house wiring/solar, bathroom additions, warehouse and rural addressing projects. DCD will review and work with the chapters and ARPA partners to prepare a listing of feasible and achievable projects to expend ARPA funds before the ending date of December 31, 2024.

Navajo Nation ARPA Funding Application

Welcome to the ARP Funding Application. The application is divided into 8 Sections and an application for each proposed project is needed.

Section 1: ARP Funding Application (Email address and Project Priority)
Section 2: Register (Point of Contact)
Section 3: Declaration Section (Eligibility to Apply)
Section 4: Chapter/Organization & Proposed Project Information
Section 5: Proposed Project Description
Section 6: Proposed Project Readiness
Section 7: Matching/Leveraging Funds
Section 8: Supporting Documents

Please be prepared to fill the required fields for the entire application. The ARP Funding Application cannot be save while in process only at the end of Section 8. The application may take approximately 60 minutes or more to complete.

You will be emailed the ARP Funding Application that you submit and will be able to edit your application after you received the email.

Use your arpa@nndcd.org email or a Gmail account

The name and photo associated with your Google account will be recorded when you upload files and submit this form.

Not arpa@nndcd.org? [Switch account](#)

* Required

Email address *

Your email

Each Chapter/Organization may select three priority projects to be considered for funding. Please submit separate funding application for each priority project.

Choose

Dr. Pearl Yellowman presented the Mobilization Plan to the Navajo Nation Council at a Naabik'iyáti' Committee Work Session on April 12, 2021. On April 28, 29, and 30, 2021, the Offices of the President and Vice-President, Speaker, and Chief Justice, the Navajo Nation Washington Office, Division of Community Development, Division of Transportation, Division of Economic Division, and the Division of Natural Resource held ARPA Agency Sessions at each of the five agencies. These sessions were held to provide information on the upcoming funding, to work toward a unified approach for the use of the ARPA funding and to hear the concerns of the chapters.

The online ARPA application can be found on the DCD website at nndcd.org in the red section of the home page. This area has links to the [DCD ARPA application](#), the [ARPA Agency Sessions](#) and the [ARPA information site](#). The ARPA online application deadline is May 19, 2021.



If you need assistance you can email arpa@nndcd.org and get assistance on submitting the ARPA Application or updating the Navajo Nation ICIP in the DCD Technical Assistance Office Hours on Tuesday and Thursday Mornings meet.google.com/tpe-zkpi-fps.

Five Sihasin Powerline Projects

Black Mesa, Az- Powerline Project

Sihasin Funds
Year 1 @
\$1,472,929.52
Final Inspection /
8.13.2019
of Homes = 26



Teesto Scattered Powerline Project

Sihasin Funds / Year 2 @ \$332,273.00
Final Inspection - 05.23.2019
of homes = 4

Whitecone Powerline Project

Sihasin Funds
Year 1 & 3 @
\$234,333.49
Final Inspection -
4.22.2021
of Homes = 5

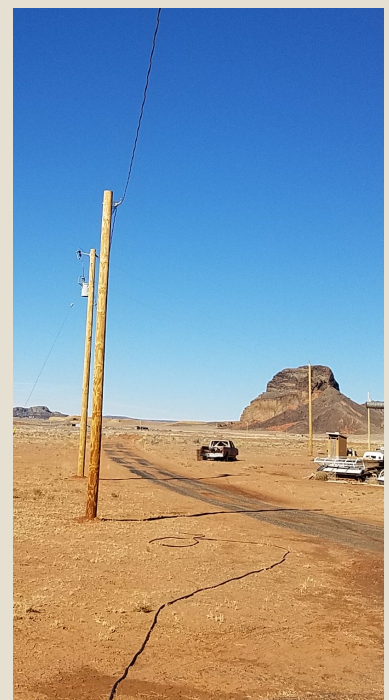


CPMD and NTUA completed five powerline projects that had been held up for several years due to various issues. The completed projects provide much needed electrical power to many households in the southwestern part of the Navajo Nation for the first time. Mr. Ben Cowboy was the project manager and Ms. Judith Willoughby conducted the field assessments and the final inspections. Congratulations to CPMD for this accomplishment!

Many Farms Scattered Phase II & III
Sihasin Funds / Year 1 & 2 @ \$265,000.00
Final Inspection - 4.20.2021
of Homes = 9



Indian Wells Scattered Powerline Project
Sihasin Funds / Year 1 @ \$400,000.00
Final Inspection - 12.10.2019
of Homes = 4



Community Development Reconnects to Public Health



The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) selected Sonlatsa Jim-Martin, Department Manager for the Administrative Service Centers (ASC), to present at the 2021 National Tribal Public Health Summit during the week of April 27-29. The summit was held as a virtual conference due to the pandemic. Sonlatsa's presentation topic was titled, "State of Emergency on the Navajo Nation: Lessons Learned from Connecting Community Development and Tribal Public Health."

The National Tribal Public Health Summit was a wonderful opportunity for guests of the annual summit to share their wide range of expertise in the field of Tribal public health. Mrs. Jim-Martin had a chance to share her knowledge, experience, and ideas as the participants all worked toward the goal of strengthening tribal public health policy and infrastructure. "It was an honor to represent the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development and it was a joy to rejoin the NIHB family virtually after a couple years," said Jim-Martin.

The presentation covered the importance of public health reconnecting to community development in all tribal nations. The Navajo Nation Division of Community Development made efforts to coordinate with the Navajo Department of Health Command Operations Center from the beginning of the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration. On March 13, 2020, the Navajo Nation declared a Public Health State of Emergency and locked down the Navajo Nation government including local community governance.

The Division of Community Development (DCD) is responsible for providing emergency management response support to 110 Navajo Chapter communities. The Administrative Service Centers (ASC) Department was established to provide technical assistance and support. "It was critical for public health to reconnect to community development on the Navajo Nation during this emergency response," states Jim-Martin. "Community development is tied to local government communities that we call chapters and they make an impact on health outcomes."

Traditional schools of thought classify community development only as infrastructure and capital projects or housing but building health equity with community development partnerships is a new approach which impacts health outcomes on the Navajo Nation. For example:

Healthcare Funding - The Navajo Area Indian Health Service, the primary health care provider for the Navajo people, receives funding that only meets about 54% of healthcare needs.

Access to Healthcare - Access to basic health service presents challenges for a majority of the Navajo people, due to isolation and remoteness of rural areas where families live.

Health Status - The Navajo Nation experiences a heavy disease burden.

Remoteness & Ruralness - The Navajo Nation is the largest land-based reservation covering nearly 27,000 square miles which is extremely rural and remote.

Infrastructure & Health Facilities - The Navajo Nation lacks major infrastructure to support a healthy and safe living environment.

Essential Service Gaps - Only 1/5 of the total 23,000 Navajo elderly population are receiving limited healthcare and other support services.

The connection between Tribal community development and the local public health system is more important now than ever before due to the COVID-19 Emergency on the Navajo Nation.

Division Director, Dr. Pearl Yellowman, and the ASC Department Manager activated an Emergency Incident Command System (ICS) and established the “DCD Chapter Branch” within the Health Command Operations Center (HCOC). Under the Planning Section, the DCD Chapter Branch established 8 service area emergency communications centers under the ASC Offices. The ASC Department Manager, Administrative Assistant, the SPPS staff, and several ASC employees have been on duty since March 2020 responding as essential workers.

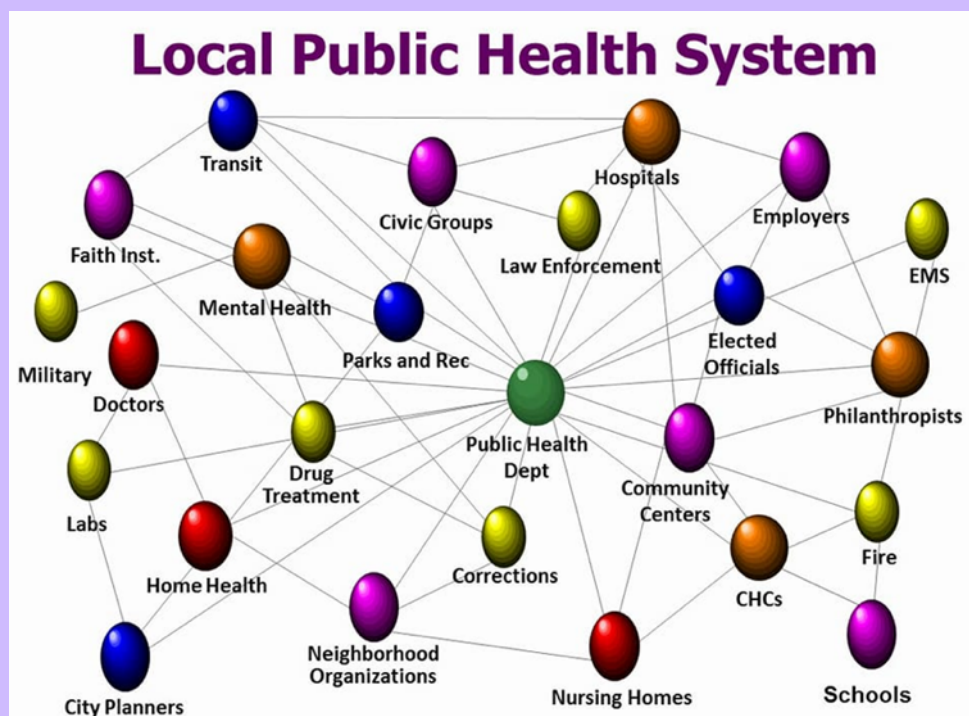
The DCD Chapter Branch activated 11 Staging Post or Points of Distribution (PODS) that were created with Incident Command Teams at 11 Chapters across the Navajo Nation. These Chapter teams volunteered to lead the distribution of supplies and community coordination efforts. We want to recognize and appreciate the following ASC teams as well as the Navajo Chapters that step up to lead volunteers during this public health emergency:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Gallup-Baca ASC | THOREAU CHAPTER, NM |
| 9. —————→ | ALAMO CHAPTER, NM |
| 10. —————→ | TO' HAJIILEE CHAPTER, NM |
| 11. —————→ | RAMAH CHAPTER, NM |
| 2. Crownpoint ASC | STANDING ROCK CHAPTER, NM |
| 3. Chinle ASC | CHINLE CHAPTER, AZ |
| 4. Dilkon ASC | WHITECONE CHAPTER, AZ |
| 5. Fort Defiance ASC | GANADO CHAPTER, AZ |
| 6. Kayenta ASC | DENNEHOTSO CHAPTER, AZ |
| 7. Tuba City ASC | TUBA CITY CHAPTER, AZ |
| 8. Shiprock ASC | SHEEPSPRINGS CHAPTER, NM |

Unfortunately, the Kayenta ASC team lost a co-worker to the COVID-19 virus. On April 23, 2020, ASC employee, Valentina Blackhorse, died from COVID-19 and we honor her memory and pay tribute to her dedication and services to the Navajo Nation.

Lessons learned from the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development COVID-19 Emergency Response:

- Community development and tribal public health must be coordinated in cross sector partnerships
- Local community chapters (neighborhoods) are critical in successful emergency response and health outcomes.
- Emergency management coordination and leadership from local communities impacts the local public health system.



Tsídii To'í celebrates SÍhásin Fund heavy equipment motor grader delivery under Nation-wide investment in local needs



TSÍDII TO'Í (BIRDSPRINGS), Ariz. — On Friday, Council Delegate Thomas Walker, Jr. (Birdsprings, Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake) of the 24th Navajo Nation Council joined community members to receive the delivery of a motor grader on behalf of the Tsídii To'í community.

The chapter's heavy equipment purchase was one of over 300 pieces of equipment supported by the Navajo Nation's approval of Resolution No. CJA-01-21, which includes the SÍhásin Fund Chapter Heavy Equipment Expenditure Plan.

"We are excited to equip the Tsídii To'í Chapter with this motor grader to be able to respond immediately when others cannot due to our community's remote location and weather," said Walker. "We are also looking forward to using this piece of equipment to build up our other chapter communities in this part of the southwest region of the Navajo Nation through collaborative partnerships."

Walker also thanked the local community members for their input on the purchase and the staff of the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development (DCD) for providing their expertise and guidance through the process of purchasing chapter heavy equipment.

The purchase will assist the chapter with maintenance and periodic improvement of Navajo Routes 71 and 2, which lead to the new Tsídii To'í school and Highway 60 to Winslow and are dirt roads. The chapter previously used donated road grader equipment that has since stopped working.

During discussions on the legislation, Council delegates noted the dangerous and sometimes impassable road conditions in many Navajo chapter communities that create barriers for public safety and emergency vehicles to respond to emergency calls.

The chapter's heavy equipment request was previously made under the Navajo Nation Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Fund chapter support appropriation. However, due to time constraints, heavy equipment purchases were not approved under the Navajo Nation CARES Fund.

The Council used the Navajo Nation SÍhásin Fund to address the need for chapter heavy equipment in response to the ongoing coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

James Adakai, Capital Projects Management Department (CPMD) manager, was also present and said, "I want to thank the Council's leadership in passing CJA-01-21 and for paying attention to the equipment needed at the chapter level and for implementing community-wide initiatives."

Adakai noted the delivery marks the halfway point for the department's 255+ deliveries of heavy equipment to all 110 chapters under the expenditure plan.

Heavy equipment company Caterpillar representative Greg Smith attended the distribution reception and expressed his confidence in the machine's ability to maintain the chapter's dirt roads. He described the motor grader's capabilities with its power-ripper and moldboard attachments included in the purchase.

Smith said: "[The motor grader] is freshly serviced and ready to do everything you need to do with fixing wash boards for the next 25-30 years. Some of these machines still work well up to 40 years."

Tsídii To'í Chapter Manager Marjorie Sangster applauded the coordination and advocacy of the Council and Walker to ensure the heavy equipment was available to meet the needs of the chapter's constituents.

Sangster said, recently, she has had to make decisions regarding water delivery to remote chapter residents. "I've had to tell the water truck driver 'do not take the water truck on these roads' because it breaks down every other day," said Sangster. A majority of chapter residents haul water regularly for domestic and livestock use, with some who have relied on the chapter's existing heavy equipment at greater rates during the pandemic.

"I want the new Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg to come out and drive some of these roads to see how our constituents manage without water and electricity," added Sangster.

Following the ceremony, Caterpillar representatives began operation and safety training for three Tsídii To'í Chapter staff who will be capable of operating the motor grader, as needed by the chapter and local residents.

In the district, other chapters will be receiving four backhoes, towing trailers and other equipment. A full list of approved chapter heavy equipment purchases is available as an exhibit to CJA-01-21 through the Diné Bibeeshaz'áanii Binaaltsoos (DiBB) online legislative tracking system at: <http://dibb.nnols.org/>.

Chapter heavy equipment deliveries also continued Friday with the delivery of a new back hoe to the Chilchinbeto Chapter.

READ MORE at <https://files.constantcontact.com/0401fa70801/f40e34d0-c9bf-400e-971c-c3e40e2cfa8f.pdf>

April 2021

Navajo Marine Leads COVID-19 Direct Relief Effort to Successful Completion



“Having gone out to some remote areas and seeing the situations our people are living in, I feel a lot better about what I’m doing and it keeps me pushing forward.”

For Navajo Marine Colin Tsosie, helping lead the Navajo & Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund’s Chinle distribution team was a way he could help protect his elders and those affected by the pandemic.

Since April 2020, Tsosie and his staff of ten have been working long hours, organizing staging areas for food distributions, receiving and packaging food and cleaning supplies, and conducting up to four distributions in one day across the Central Agency region of the Navajo Nation.

For all his effort, Tsosie said he feels rewarded by being able to help those in need.

“Personally, my crew, we’d do over 120 hours every two weeks. Some weeks were above that. We’ve been doing this for a year and it’s easy to get burned out,” Tsosie said. “But having gone out to some remote areas and seeing the situations our people are living in, I feel a lot better about what I’m doing and it keeps me pushing forward.”

Often, Tsosie and his crew would direct people to the distribution locations by sending texts. After the day’s distributions were done, he said the crew would receive text messages saying “thank you” and noting appreciation for the assistance.

Chinle Chapter Manager Walton Yazzie facilitated the initial partnership between the Chapter and the Relief Fund for food distributions. Serving as the first area lead, Yazzie took care of 16 chapters.

He said that Tsosie was an integral part of organizing the first food distributions.

“He took initiative. He caught on quick and was very motivated to help,” Yazzie said. “I realized that I needed help and asked if he would become the second lead. From there on he became the second contact for the area.”

Tsosie and his team led direct relief efforts that covered thirteen communities including Chinle, Blue Gap, Cottonwood Whippoorwill, Nazlini, Low Mountain, Tsaile, Lukachukai, Round Rock, Rock Point, Red Mesa, Mexican Water and Cove.

Distribution among these communities was organized in three-week cycles where the team started in Chinle for a solid week and then they would move on to the other communities that they grouped according to regional locations and distances.

At the height of distributions, Chinle alone required 800 food boxes per week. As distributions were conducted on a tri-weekly basis, the following week 800 food boxes were split between the communities of Nazlini, Cottonwood, Blue Gap, Whippoorwill, Low Mountain and Hard Rock.

During the last week of the distribution rotation, 800 food boxes were split between the communities of Tsaile, Lukachukai, Rock Point, Round Rock, Cove and Mexican Water.

With this vigorous schedule, 12 hour days were common.

“When the request numbers were at the highest, we’d start at 4 a.m. and finish around 9 p.m. Generally, we’d do this for three days in a row. Our fresh produce would arrive at 5 a.m. and we’d unload the truck by 6 a.m. The rest of the morning we’d spend preparing food boxes,” Tsosie said. “By the afternoon, we would be out in the communities conducting touch-free food distributions.”

Since the end of March 2021, with the numbers of COVID-19 positive cases declining across the Navajo and Hopi Nations coupled with the vaccine roll-out, Tsosie and his crew have tapered off the combined food and personal protective equipment (PPE) distributions but have continued with PPE-only distributions.

Relief Fund Deputy Director Cassandra Begay, who leads the PPE Distribution Program said that Yazzie and his team helped assemble and relay over 100,000 PPE kits across Navajo and Hopi communities.

Since November 2020, with Yazzie’s assistance the Relief Fund has been able to distribute over 100,000 adult PPE kits across the Navajo and Hopi Nations. These kits include 8 oz. bottles of sanitizer, clorox wipes, and 50 three-ply masks. The Relief Fund has also distributed approximately 8,000 kids PPE kits that include kids-sized masks, sanitizer and culturally relevant education material related to COVID-19.

Begay appreciates Yazzie’s exemplary leadership and said she feels honored to have worked side by side with the Marine.

“During this time of pain and adversity, Colin has stepped forward as a brave and fearless leader, a positive agent for change, and an inspiration to many by working tirelessly to protect our most vulnerable,” said Begay.

This transition of distribution services has ushered another change in Tsosie’s life path where he will return to serving his country in the Marine Reserves. Yet, his service to his people in providing food, sanitization supplies and security, in general, has been selfless and deserving of the utmost commemoration.

For the Marine, it’s all in a day’s work.

“It’s not just helping out my home community, it’s helping my elders. The situations our community members live in require these distributions,” he said. “Your donations to our GoFundMe really help. Even just donating one dollar to the Relief Fund can help supply a family with two weeks of food.”

Navajo & Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund would like to thank Tsosie for his hard work and dedication to the relief effort.

Relief Fund Interim Executive Director Ethel Branch said that Yazzie has proven himself to be a phenomenal young leader in his community.

“Colin truly embodies the best of what it means to be Diné. His hard work, discipline, dedication, professionalism, and deep love for his people will be greatly missed,” Branch said. “We wish him the very best in his new journey, and we hope he will bring the skills he refines in the Marines back home so he can further enrich our community.”

The Relief Fund also thanks the Chinle Chapter, Chapter Manager Walton Yazzie and the Chinle distribution team for their contributions to all the successful distributions.

READ MORE AT: <https://www.flagstaffbusinessnews.com/navajo-marine-leads-covid-19-direct-relief-effort-to-successful-completion/>



Navajo Nation solar project will cement San Juan County's position as exporter of renewable energy

The remote county in southeastern Utah has seen its share of oil and uranium booms. Will wind, solar and pump-hydro be next?

(Courtesy of the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President) Navajo Tribal Utility Authority officials and Miss Navajo Nation Shaandiin Parrish look on as Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez signs the lease agreement for the Red Mesa Tapaha Solar Generation Plant in Red Mesa, Ariz., on April 7, 2020. He was joined by Council Delegate Charlaine Tso (bottom, right) and Red Mesa Chapter officials, including Red Mesa Chapter Vice President Marilyn Holly (bottom, left) and President Herman Farley (bottom, second from left).

By Zak Podmore | April 19, 2021

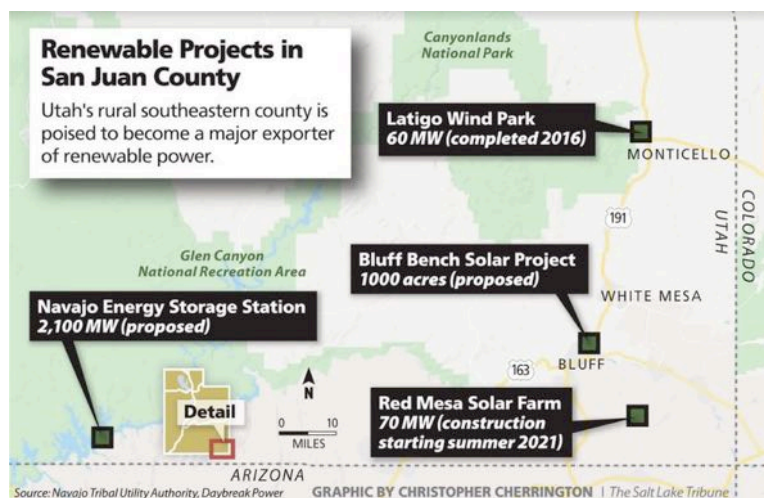
Bluff • Utah's sprawling, rural San Juan County has survived as an export economy since Texas and Colorado cattle companies fattened hundreds of thousands of livestock in its canyons in the 1890s before driving them north to the railroad near Green River.

Half a century later, the vanadium and uranium booms led to the construction of thousands of miles of roads throughout the county to transport the radioactive ore from mines and mills to government weapons facilities in New Mexico and elsewhere. And the discovery of Utah's Aneth Oil Field on the northern Navajo Nation in 1956 kicked off a frenzy of drilling that produced more crude oil than any other reserve in the state.

But now, as the uranium mines sit idle and the oil industry's heyday has long passed, a new resource is emerging that soon could become the county's leading export: renewable energy.

In 2016, Utah's largest wind farm at the time was completed near Monticello. The \$125 million, 60-megawatt Latigo Wind Park takes advantage of the frequent gusts that blow off the farmlands in southwestern Colorado toward the Abajo Mountains. On a breezy day, the facility is capable of producing more power than is consumed by the entire county of 15,500 residents.

Earlier this month, Navajo Nation officials signed leases for a new 600-acre, 70-megawatt solar project in far southern Utah near Red Mesa that will help power cities across Utah and generate revenue for the tribal government.



"Our communities were once heavily dependent on fossil fuel energy, but now we are seeing change happen," said Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez. "[The Red Mesa solar farm] is another milestone for the Navajo Nation as we continue to transition to clean, emissions-free renewable energy for our communities and in the open market."

The vast majority of power from the Monticello wind farm and the Navajo solar project — like the beef, uranium and oil produced in the region — is destined for use beyond the county line, and the industrial-scale renewable projects, while significant, barely touch the potential for carbon-free energy in southeastern Utah.

A far more massive proposed project, the \$3.6 billion Navajo Energy Storage Station, is slowly advancing through the regulatory process. It would tap solar power to pump water uphill from Lake Powell to a small, nearby reservoir. The water would in turn run through hydroelectric turbines back into larger as an on-demand source of power, even when the sun isn't shining.

If approved and constructed, the latter project — which wouldn't permanently divert water from the Colorado River like the controversial Lake Powell pipeline — would be capable of producing more power than all the wind and solar projects currently operating in Utah combined. The Navajo Energy Storage Station would be designed to turn out a whopping 2,100 megawatts of power, nearly twice the capacity of the Glen Canyon Dam and an output on par with the recently demolished Navajo Generating Station near Page, Ariz., which was the largest coal-fired plant in the West.

Renewables provide a new source of revenue

While the top property taxpayers in San Juan County remain oil, gas and pipeline companies, the Latigo Wind Park produced \$2.2 million in taxes for the county in its first two years, which led to an annual tax reduction of around \$100 for every county property owner with a home valued at \$150,000. But the taxable value of the wind farm has depreciated quickly and will continue to do so over its 20-year life span, producing less tax revenue every year it operates.



(Brian Maffly | Tribune file photo) Latigo Wind Park, a 27-turbine power-generating project outside Monticello went on line in 2016. The 62-megawatt project provides electricity to Rocky Mountain Power.

Even more of the revenue from the newly approved Red Mesa Tapaha Solar Generation Plant is expected to flow back into communities in both tax revenue to the Navajo Nation and in the form of residential water and power projects on the Utah Navajo strip, where hundreds of residents lack basic utilities.

The project will be majority owned by the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA), and a similar solar farm built just south of the Utah line near Kayenta, Ariz., several years ago is projected to send nearly \$8 million to the Navajo Nation over its lifetime, according to NTUA.

Navajo Tribal Council Delegate Charlaine Tso, whose district includes the Red Mesa Chapter in southeastern San Juan County, said the project will also provide critical employment opportunities in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

"With this pandemic, a lot of our constituents have been out of work — a lot are on furlough, a lot [have been] laid off," she said. "The unemployment rate reached nearly 50%."

Construction will begin this summer, and it is expected to provide \$6 million in wages for more than 200 employees, according to Nez's office. A hiring priority will be given to local tribal members, and NTUA said 90% of workers who built the Kayenta project were members of the Navajo Nation hired through area job fairs.

The construction work will also provide skills training, Tso said. "The best part about this project within NTUA is that not only does it provide income, but in many cases with these employees, it's extended into a long-term position with NTUA. ... It's the start of a career opportunity for many."



(Leah Hogsten | Tribune file photo) Marilyn Holly, Navajo Nation Red Mesa Chapter vice president and advocate for clean air, water and soil, poses in front of an Elk Petroleum oil pump jack not far from her home in Montezuma Creek, June 24, 2020.

"A lot of our young adults don't have jobs right now," said Red Mesa Chapter Vice President Marilyn Holly, who lives atop the Aneth Oil Field and adjacent to an area contaminated by multiple oil spills over decades of drilling activity. While oil and gas remain the dominant local employer, Holly said the solar project represents an important step forward for the region.

"It's a good thing," she said, noting that NTUA pledged to use some of the revenue from the project to keep utility bills low for Navajo customers. "We're trying to move into the future by having these kinds of [carbon]-saving energy projects."

Where the solar power will go

Four megawatts of power produced in Red Mesa will go to communities served by NTUA, and the remaining 66 megawatts will be purchased by 16 member cities of Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems (UAMPS), ranging from 142 kilowatts for Fairview to more than 18,000 kilowatts for St. George.

“This is a win-win project for UAMPS and NTUA customers,” NTUA General Manager Walter Haase said in a statement when the deal was announced last year. “UAMPS will have another low-cost clean energy product and NTUA will be able to extend electricity to families who have been living without for many, many years.”

Industrial-scale renewable projects have plummeted in price during the past decade. A 2019 report found that wind energy prices fell 70% between 2009 and 2019, and solar photovoltaics have plunged by 89% on average. The lower costs of renewable construction allows utility providers like UAMPS to diversify their power sources with more carbon-free electricity, while buying the solar power at competitive prices.

UAMPS will purchase power from Red Mesa at the rate of \$23.15 per megawatt hour plus 2% per year, a rate below the average cost of power from existing nuclear, coal and natural gas plants.

The abundant sunshine in San Juan County has attracted the interest of other solar developers as well. Last year, the Community Energy Solar LLC, which has offices in Colorado and Pennsylvania, leased nearly 1,000 acres of state trust lands just north of Bluff for a potential solar project despite opposition from the Bluff Town Council. The lease will remain active for 35 years. It’s unclear how quickly the company will move to develop the area, which could host a farm as large as the one in Red Mesa. Community Energy Solar did not respond to a request for comment.

Even with dropping prices for solar panels and wind turbines, only 2.1% of power produced in Utah last year came from wind and solar, according to American Clean Power. But once the Red Mesa solar farm is completed, San Juan County will be producing roughly 8% of the state’s current renewable power output from the Latigo and Red Mesa projects alone.

Could San Juan County be home to the country’s largest pump-hydro plant?

On a cool December morning last year, the three 775-foot concrete smokestacks of the Navajo Generating Station near Page were demolished, marking the end of a major source of local employment — and a perpetual source of environmental concerns — along the Utah-Arizona border on the Navajo Nation.

For 45 years, power from the coal-fired plant was sent to cities across the Southwest, and the plant provided 750 jobs to mostly Native American workers. The transmission lines remain in place, however, and Nez said last year the tribe is exploring ways to use them by building renewable projects nearby.

One such proposal, which has yet to be endorsed by the Navajo Nation government, is the Navajo Energy Storage Station near Lake Powell.

Jim Day, CEO of Daybreak Power, said his company picked the site for the proposed project — a remote canyon near Navajo Mountain — based on a study conducted by the Interior Department under then-President Barack Obama in 2014, which analyzed prime locations for pump-hydro storage throughout the country.



(Zak Podmore | Tribune file photo) The smokestacks on the Navajo Generating Station come down Dec. 18, 2020.

“I’m deeply concerned about climate change,” Day said, “and cutting greenhouse gas emissions and facilitating a transition to a clean energy economy.”

Renewable energy production contributes far less greenhouse gas emissions than fossil fuel-powered plants, but sunshine and wind are inconsistent. Pump-hydro seeks to address that problem by using solar power to run a looped hydroelectric system that could provide power at any time of the day or night by essentially functioning as a giant battery.

The project would likely be built alongside a massive solar farm, but the size of the system has yet to be determined, said Day, who is in early negotiations with the Navajo Nation. “I hope [the tribe] will want to come on as a full partner,” he said. “That’s what I’ve proposed.”

Pump-hydro systems on a similar scale are being built in China and India, Day added, but the Navajo project would be much larger than anything currently under consideration in the United States.

The earliest the project would be completed would be in 2030, and that involves an alignment of funding, engineering and permitting needs.

“We are going to start working through the various studies that we need to do to prove out the technical and commercial regulatory viability of this project,” Day said. “And if everything is looking good, probably about two years from now, we will file for the full license.”

For Holly, the chapter official in Red Mesa, the smaller solar plant that will see construction this summer in her chapter is a good first step for the region long dependent on nonrenewable resource extraction.

“Pretty soon,” she said, “we could maybe even have a place to plug in our cars.”

READ MORE AT: <https://www.sltrib.com/news/environment/2021/04/19/navajo-nation-solar/>



First lady Jill Biden starts 2-day visit to Navajo Nation

WINDOW ROCK, Arizona — First lady Jill Biden said her two-day visit to the Navajo Nation will help further the Biden administration's understanding of Indian Country and promote dialogue between federal and tribal officials.

Biden told this to Navajo leaders during an event to welcome her to the tribal land on April 22.

Her speech highlighted the work the Biden administration has done to help Indian Country since taking office in January, including the recent relaunch of the White House Council on Native American Affairs, which will "guide our work across the administration."

She added that the American Rescue Plan will invest billions to help tribes continue to combat COVID-19 and stabilize "safety net" programs.

Under the proposed American Jobs Plan, funding for "badly needed" infrastructure will boost projects such as water and broadband on Native lands, she said.

"This plan will provide good paying jobs, including right here in the Navajo Nation," she said.

She added that under the leadership of Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, who is a member of Laguna Pueblo, the U.S. Department of the Interior will be the steward of America's public lands "with a renewed commitment to our tribal trust and treaty responsibilities."

Biden also introduced recently named Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs Bryan Newland.

"Tribes will always have a voice in our administration and we're committed to honoring tribal sovereignty and strengthening our nation-to-nation relationship," Biden said.

Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez mentioned that the first lady saw the copy of the Treaty of 1868 at the Navajo Nation Museum.

"That establishes this nation-to-nation dialogue," Nez said about the treaty between the Navajo Nation and the United States government.

He added his administration looks forward to working with the Biden-Harris administration to assist the Navajo people, to build brighter futures and to invest in infrastructure.

In terms of the coronavirus pandemic, Biden mentioned the Navajo Nation having the highest infection rate per capita in the United States last May, resulting in more than 1,000 deaths.

"We feel their loss deeply every day," she said.

By working with the Indian Health Service, the Navajo Nation adapted to bring down new COVID-19 infections, she said.

"The Navajo Nation is a leading example of the COVID response in the United States," she said.

After arriving in Window Rock, Biden joined several female Navajo leaders for a roundtable discussion at the Navajo Nation Museum.

"I just met with a group of women, who I now call my sister warriors," Biden said.

Although she did not elaborate on what they talked about, Speaker Seth Damon said in his remarks that Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty advocated for reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

This is Biden's third visit to the Navajo Nation. She previously visited when she was second lady and gave the commencement speech in 2013 at Navajo Technical University in Crownpoint.

Her second trip was in 2019 to open the first cancer treatment center on the tribal land in Tuba City, Arizona.

"The reason why I think that you really keep coming back to the nation, is because you want to learn more from our Navajo people and you want to take that back to the White House," Damon said.



Temperatures cooled as the evening progressed and Biden sat with a tan Pendleton blanket wrapped around her to keep warm.

Damon explained the Pendleton was a gift from the 24th Navajo Nation Council and was given to her with the intent of protecting her as she travels.

"I want to say, from the blessing that you have been given to the blessing that you received, please spread those blessings everywhere that you go," Damon said.

Read more at: https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/politics/arizona/2021/04/22/dr-jill-biden-joins-navajo-nation-council-at-window-rock/7347461002/?utm_campaign=snd-autopilot&cid=twitter_azcentral

Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision delivers significant victory for the Navajo Nation

Decision related to Nation's 2003 lawsuit against the U.S. Department of the Interior, related to the Nation's water rights



On Wednesday, the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the decision of the District Court for the District of Arizona that previously dismissed the Navajo Nation's 2003 lawsuit against the U.S. Department of the Interior, related to the Nation's water rights.

In the 2003 lawsuit, the Navajo Nation asserted that the Secretary of Interior had taken various actions relating to the management of the Colorado River in breach of the federal government's trust obligations to protect the water resources of the Navajo Nation or to secure and protect water supplies from the Colorado River necessary for the needs of the Navajo Nation in Arizona.

"Water resources are becoming a greater concern for the southwest portion of the United States. Over 150 years after the signing of the Treaty of 1868 between the Navajo people and the United States, we are still having to fight for water allocations. Today's ruling is due to the hard work and commitment of the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, under Attorney General Doreen McPaul. I commend their team and offer my continued support for them," said Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez.

The U.S. District Court of Arizona previously dismissed the Navajo Nation's lawsuit on the grounds that the U.S. had not waived its sovereign immunity. The Navajo Nation appealed to the Ninth Circuit, and in 2017, the Court joined the majority of Circuits in holding that the Administrative Procedures Act waives the sovereign immunity of the U.S. for all causes of action not seeking monetary damages, reversing the decision of the district court and remanding the case to allow the Navajo Nation's breach of trust claim to proceed. On remand, however, the district court again dismissed the Navajo Nation's case on the grounds that the Nation had failed to identify an enforceable cause of action against the U.S.

The Navajo Nation Department of Justice's Water Rights Unit handled this effort on behalf of the Navajo Nation, led by then Assistant Attorney General Stanley Pollack. In October of 2020, now retired Navajo Nation Department of Justice Water Rights Attorney Kate Hoover, argued the case before the Ninth Circuit, on behalf of the Navajo Nation.

"This particular case has been a long hard-fought issue. My appreciation goes out to the many dedicated attorneys and staff who have laid their hands to this work in support of securing water for our Navajo people. As we move forward, the Nez-Lizer Administration will continue to support the Navajo Nation Department of Justice and advocate for more water resources," said Vice President Myron Lizer. In its reversal, the Ninth Circuit determined that the Navajo Nation had identified provisions in the Nation's treaties with the U.S. and related statutes and executive orders establishing the "Navajo reservation" that give rise to enforceable duty by the U.S. to protect the water resources of the Navajo Nation. The Court remanded the case back to the district court with instructions to permit the Navajo Nation to amend its complaint.

Navajo Nation Attorney General Doreen N. McPaul stated that most significant aspect of the Ninth Circuit's decision is its recognition that an enforceable trust duty arises from the implied reservation of water, recognized in *Winters*, to serve the permanent homeland needs of the Navajo Nation, as found and supported in the treaties establishing the "Navajo reservation" and setting the terms for the relationship between the Navajo Nation and the United States, the federal statutory and regulatory governance of the Colorado River and the Secretary's pervasive control of the river's management; the United States' prior actions in *Arizona v. California*; and very importantly, the impacts of COVID-19 on the Navajo people due in part to the lack of water.

The trust relationship is comprised of many elements, as carefully detailed in the Ninth Circuit's opinion. According to the Department of Justice, the broad spectrum serves not only as the guide to the parties on remand to the district court, but may also guide tribes in other litigation to protect their federal reserved rights.

Wednesday's decision of the Ninth Circuit represents the second significant victory for the Navajo Nation to protect its water rights in recent weeks. On March 28, the New Mexico Supreme Court dismissed all challenges to the Navajo Nation's water rights settlement with State of New Mexico concerning the San Juan River, a major tributary of the Colorado River, bringing an end to litigation that was initiated in 2009 after Congress approved the settlement.

READ MORE AT: <https://indiancountrytoday.com/the-press-pool/ninth-circuit-court-of-appeals-decision-delivers-significant-victory-for-the-navajo-nation>

Bulletin Board

On the Shelf: Navajo poet laureate highlights the value of sharing stories



NEW MEXICO (KRQE) – Author, educator and the Navajo Nation's Inaugural Poet Laureate Luci Tapahonso is paving the way for more Indigenous visibility in her writing. She has written many books which feature her poetry and stories, many of which center around her experiences and values as a Navajo woman.

Having been born and raised in Shiprock in the Navajo Nation reservation, Tapahonso said telling stories has been an integral part of her life for as long as she could remember. "In our culture, we're very much centered around storytelling. Our prayers, our songs, our rituals, and our stories are based in talking and singing," Tapahonso said.

When she was growing up, she recognized a distinct lack of representation in the written media that was made available to her. "I remember when I learned to read, I would read books but couldn't find anything that had any Navajo characters, or anything that was familiar to me. I replaced characters and locations with people and places I knew," Tapahonso said.

Read more at: <https://www.krqe.com/krqe-plus/community-reports/on-the-shelf-navajo-poet-laureate-highlights-the-value-of-sharing-stories/>

Navajo Nation BIE schools, Diné College, and NTU allocated nearly \$205 million through the American Rescue Plan Act

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The U.S. Office of the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs announced the Bureau of Indian Education's plan for disbursing \$850 million provided through the American Rescue Plan Act for COVID-19 relief, for BIE-funded K-12 schools and tribally controlled colleges and universities. Of this amount, the 68 Bureau of Indian Education K-12 schools on the Navajo Nation will receive approximately \$171 million combined, Diné College will receive \$16.8 million, and Navajo Technical University will receive \$16.9 million.

The Bureau of Indian Education is using the same set of allowable costs previously identified by the U.S. Department of Education for CARES Act funding, which are outlined on the Bureau of Indian Affairs website: <https://www.bia.gov/service/american-rescue-plan-act/bie-implementation-arp-funding>.

"The teachers, aides, administrators, and many others have done their best with limited resources to implement online learning and homeschooling for students since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. With the American Rescue Plan Act funding, we encourage all BIE schools to further implement measures that keep our students safe and healthy while allowing them to continue receiving a quality education. Last week, First Lady, Dr. Jill Biden, First Lady Phyllis Knebel, and I visited with educators, parents, and students to hear their personal experiences during the pandemic and we assured our students that they continue to be a priority. Our administration will continue to work together with BIE Director Tony Dearman and to provide support for BIE schools. We encourage school administrators to be very transparent with the implementation and use of the American Rescue Plan Act funds," said Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez.

The funds are separate from the \$20 billion that was approved through the American Rescue Plan Act for tribal nations. The U.S. Department of the Treasury has yet to announce a funding formula or distribution date for those funds.

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3aPIE46>

Navajo Department of Health cautions public about Hantavirus as first case of the year confirmed

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Navajo Department of Health, in coordination with the Navajo Epidemiology Center, issued a Health Advisory Notice on Monday regarding the Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS), which is a rare but potentially fatal disease spread by infected rodent droppings. The first case of Hantavirus this year was confirmed in McKinley County, within the Navajo Nation.

The health advisory states that "it is not known at this time where the individual contracted Hantavirus. HPS on the Navajo Nation can occur in all months of the year, but the greatest number of cases have been documented in the spring and summer months. There is evidence that periods of high rain and snowfall are associated with increased cases of HPS."

"During spring and summer, we urge Navajo citizens to continue practicing preventative measures to avoid any exposure to many illnesses and diseases. Individuals are usually exposed to Hantavirus around their homes, sheds, and poorly ventilated areas with mouse droppings. To avoid any outbreaks, consider preventative actions to stop the spread, such as cleaning around the home," said President Nez.

HPS is transmitted to people that come into contact with or breathe infected deer mice droppings, urine, or saliva. It is essential to take appropriate precautions when entering and cleaning sheds, garages, campers, cabins, barns, and other buildings. The illness is not spread from person to person.

Symptoms of HPS can be much like COVID-19 or the flu, and only a medical exam and laboratory tests can determine the difference. There is no vaccine or cure for HPS, but steps can be taken to reduce the risk of getting the disease.

"HPS, COVID-19, or any respiratory disease needs to be taken seriously. We encourage everyone to continue monitoring any flu-like symptoms. Please be cautious of any unclean surroundings that may have rodents and mouse droppings," said Vice President Myron Lizer.

To prevent HPS, public health officials recommend the following:

- Clean-up for mildly infested areas of rodent activity.
- Open all doors and windows for 30 minutes before cleaning.
- Do not stir up dust by vacuuming, sweeping, or any other means.
- When rodent droppings or nests are found, spray them with a household disinfectant and allow them to soak for at least 15 minutes. Disinfectant solution can be made by mixing 1 cup of bleach with one gallon of water.
- After disinfecting, wear rubber gloves and clean up the droppings with disposable materials such as paper towels, rags, or disposable mop heads.
- Seal all materials, droppings, or nests in double plastic bags and dispose of them in the trash.
- Prevent rodents from entering the home by plugging or sealing all holes and gaps to the outside greater than 1/4-inch in diameter.
- Eliminate or reduce rodent shelter around the home by removing outdoor junk and clutter and moving woodpiles, lumber, hay bales, etc.
- Do not make food readily available to rodents. Do not leave pet food in the dishes. Dispose of garbage in trash cans with tight-fitting lids.

For more information regarding HPS, call the Navajo Epidemiology Center at 928-871-6539 or visit <https://www.nec.navajo-nsn.gov/Projects/Infectious-Disease> and <https://www.cdc.gov/hantavirus>.

Read more at: https://www.navajo-nsn.gov/News%20Releases/OPVP/2021/Apr/FOR%20IMMEDIATE%20RELEASE%20-%20Navajo%20Department%20of%20Health%20cautions%20public%20about%20Hantavirus%20as%20first%20case%20of%20the%20year%20confirmed_HAN.pdf



April 2021

PERSONNEL NEWS -- DCD OPEN POSITIONS

POSITION TITLE	LOCATION	PAY RATE	CLOSING DATE
Administrative Service Centers			
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Red Lake, AZ	26,726.40	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Rock Springs, NM	37,709.28	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Sawmill, AZ	37,709.28	05/11/2021
Community Services Coordinator (S)	St. Michaels, AZ	37,709.28	05/11/2021
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Coyote Canyon, NM	37,709.28	05/11/2021
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Black Mesa, AZ	26,726.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Forest Lake, AZ	26,726.40	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Hardrock, AZ	37,709.28	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Alamo, NM	26,726.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Becenti, NM	26,726.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Nahodishgish, NM	26,726.40	05/11/2021
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Red Valley, AZ	37,709.28	05/11/2021
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Kaibeto, AZ	26,726.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Coalmine Mesa, AZ	26,726.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Navajo Mountain, AZ	26,726.40	OUF
Senior Programs & Projects Specialist (S)	Baca, NM	56,584.80	05/11/2021
Administrative Service Officer (S)	Tuba City, AZ	43,910.64	05/11/2021

(OUF) Open Until Filled

(S) Sensitive Position (subject to background check)

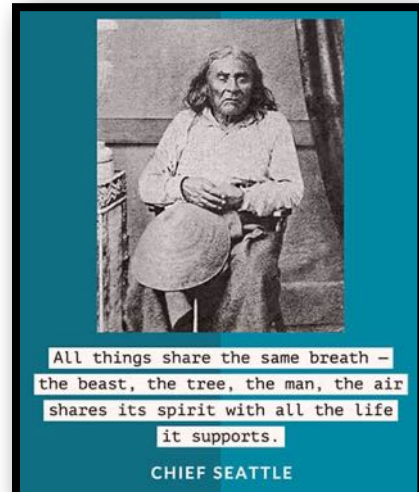
Closing Dates may change due temporary reduction in non-essential Navajo Nation government services

For the most up-to-date personnel info, please visit DPM's website at
<http://www.dpm.navajo-nsn.gov/jobs.html>

Comic of the Month



Inspirational Quote of the Month



Navajo Nation Census Information Center News

2020 Census Apportionment Results Delivered to the President

RELEASE NUMBER CB21-CN.30

APRIL 26, 2021 - The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that the 2020 Census shows the resident population of the United States on April 1, 2020, was 331,449,281.

The U.S. resident population represents the total number of people living in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The resident population increased by 22,703,743 or 7.4% from 308,745,538 in 2010.

"The American public deserves a big thank you for its overwhelming response to the 2020 Census," Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo said. "Despite many challenges, our nation completed a census for the 24th time. This act is fundamental to our democracy and a declaration of our growth and resilience. I also want to thank the team at the U.S. Census Bureau, who overcame unprecedented challenges to collect and produce high-quality data that will inform decision-making for years to come."

"We are proud to release these first results from the 2020 Census today. These results reflect the tireless commitment from the entire Census Bureau team to produce the highest-quality statistics that will continue to shape the future of our country," acting Census Bureau Director Ron Jarmin said. "And in a first for the Census Bureau, we are releasing data quality metrics on the same day we're making the resident population counts available to the public. We are confident that today's 2020 Census results meet our high data quality standards."

The new resident population statistics for the United States, each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico are available on [census.gov](https://www.census.gov).

- The most populous state was California (39,538,223); the least populous was Wyoming (576,851).
- The state that gained the most numerically since the 2010 Census was Texas (up 3,999,944 to 29,145,505).
- The fastest-growing state since the 2010 Census was Utah (up 18.4% to 3,271,616).
- Puerto Rico's resident population was 3,285,874, down 11.8% from 3,725,789 in the 2010 Census.

In addition to these newly released statistics, today Secretary Raimondo delivered to President Biden the population counts to be used for apportioning the seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. In accordance with Title 2 of the U.S. Code, a congressionally defined formula is applied to the apportionment population to distribute the 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives among the states.

The apportionment population consists of the resident population of the 50 states, plus the overseas military and federal civilian employees and their dependents living with them overseas who could be allocated to a home state. The populations of the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico are excluded from the apportionment population because they do not have voting seats in Congress. The counts of overseas federal employees (and their dependents) are used for apportionment purposes only.

- After the 1790 Census, each member of the House represented about 34,000 residents. Since then, the House has more than quadrupled in size (from 105 to 435 seats), and each member will represent an average of 761,169 people based on the 2020 Census.
- Texas will gain two seats in the House of Representatives, five states will gain one seat each (Colorado, Florida, Montana, North Carolina, and Oregon), seven states will lose one seat each (California, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia), and the remaining states' number of seats will not change based on the 2020 Census.

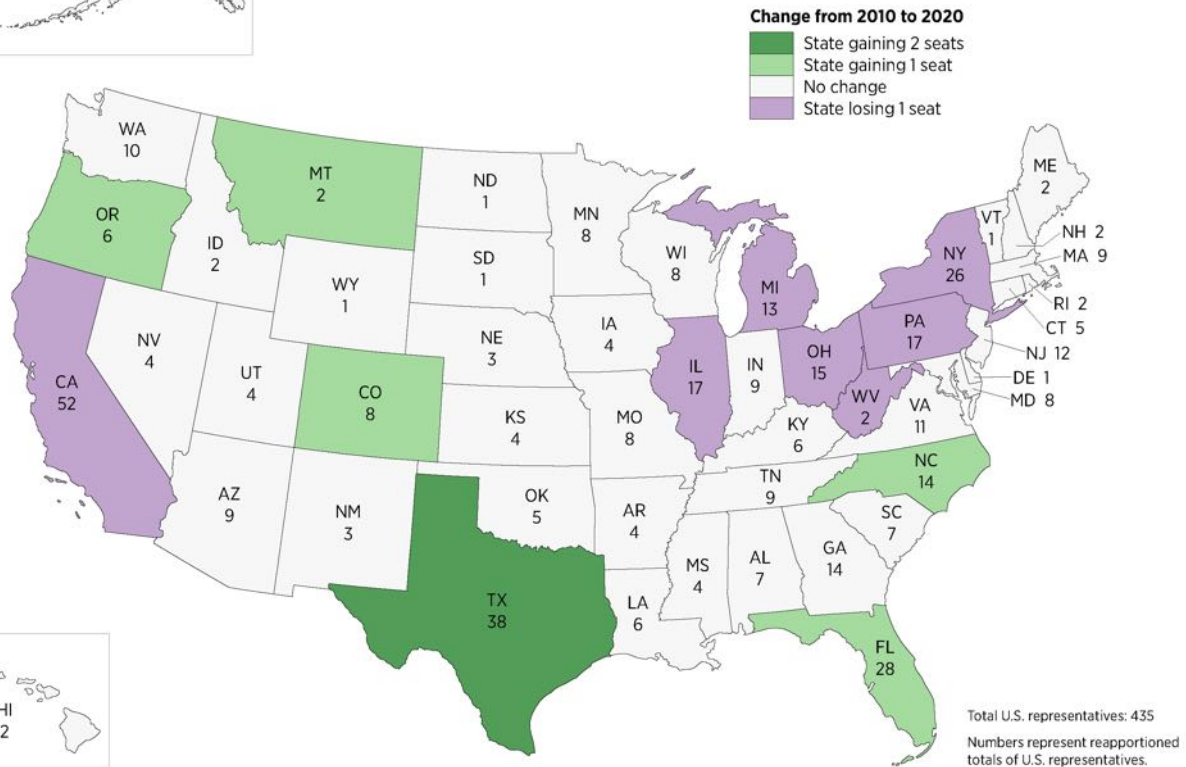
Upon receipt of the apportionment counts, the president will transmit them to the 117th Congress. The reapportioned Congress will be the 118th, which convenes in January 2023.

"Our work doesn't stop here," added acting Director Jarmin. "Now that the apportionment counts are delivered, we will begin the additional activities needed to create and deliver the redistricting data that were previously delayed due to COVID-19."

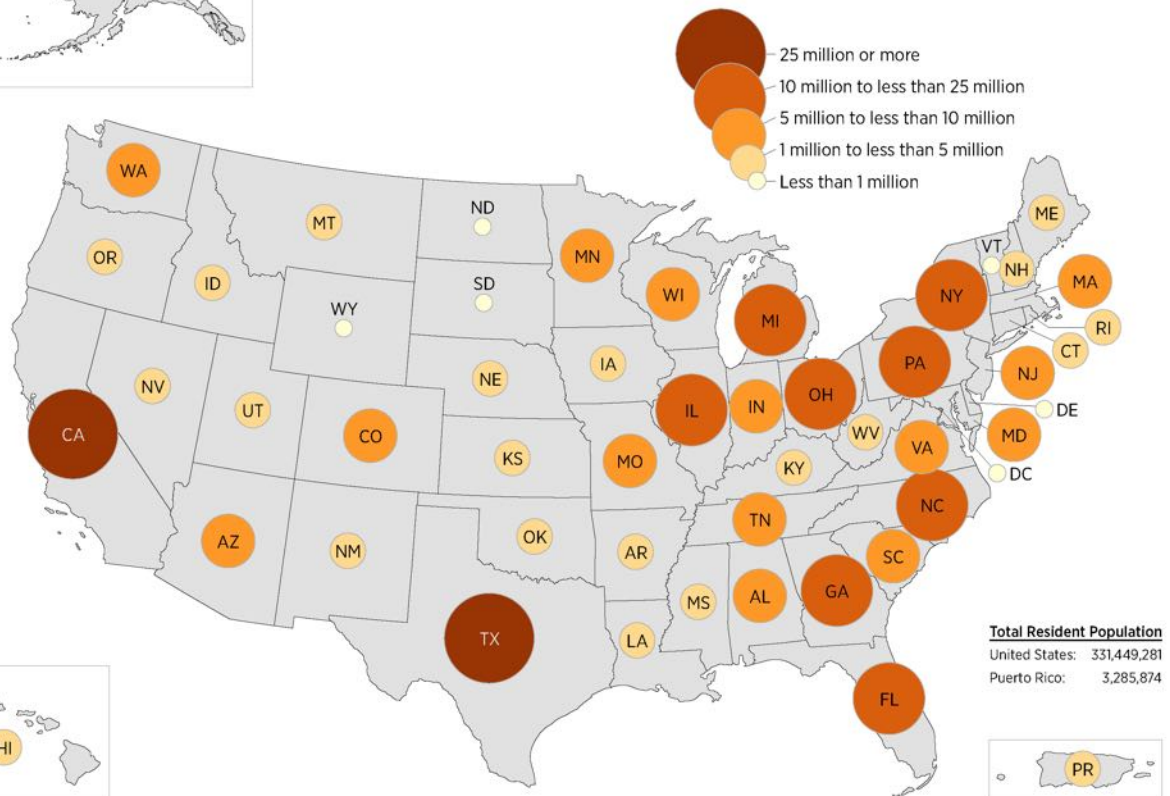
Redistricting data include the local area counts states need to redraw or "redistrict" legislative boundaries. Due to modifications to processing activities, COVID-19 data collections delays, and the Census Bureau's obligation to provide high-quality data, states are expected to receive redistricting data by August 16, and the full redistricting data with toolkits for ease of use will be delivered by September 30. The Census Bureau will notify the public prior to releasing the data.

READ MORE AT: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2021/2020-census-apportionment-results.html>

Apportionment of the U.S. House of Representatives Based on the 2020 Census



2020 Resident Population for the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico





Navajo Nation opposes Arizona bills that would suppress Navajo voters

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer strongly oppose Arizona Senate Bill 1713 and Senate Bill 1485, which would disenfranchise eligible Navajo voters in the state of Arizona in future elections. In the 2020 general election last November, Navajo voters came out in record numbers and changed the outcome of several elections in the state, but if these bills are passed and signed into law by Gov. Doug Ducey, those numbers will decrease.

“The power and impact of Navajo voters was displayed in the 2020 elections and now we have several bills being pushed through the Arizona legislative body, which would severely suppress Navajo voter participation. We have 22 tribal nations in the state of Arizona that were not consulted and did not have a seat at the table when these bills were crafted and moved through the legislative committees. Tribes are united in opposition to these measures and we demand that the State Senate vote down these measures, and if they do pass, Governor Ducey must veto these bills to protect the voting rights of all Native American people in the state of Arizona,” said President Nez.

Senate Bill 1713 would require individuals to provide a date of birth and driver’s license number or voter registration number in order to vote by mail. Many Navajo citizens, especially the elderly, have challenges obtaining a driver’s license. The law does not make any provision for Tribal Census or Tribal IDs, which are considered valid forms of identification for voting purposes in the state of Arizona. In addition, finding a person’s voter registration number is very difficult for most people. The proposed law would also require that ballots be thrown out if a number is not legible or written incorrectly.

Senate Bill 1485 would remove thousands of current registered voters from the permanent early voter list if they have not voted in two consecutive primary and general elections. This bill was voted down in the State Senate last week, but is likely to be reconsidered soon.

The bills are an unprecedented attack on our democracy and on Navajo citizen’s right to vote. If passed and signed into law, S.B. 1485 will remove approximately 150,000 current registered voters off the permanent early voter list. S.B. 1713 will work to deny Navajo voters the ability to vote by mail-in ballot.

President Nez pointed out that if S.B. 1713 is passed into law and signed by Gov. Ducey, it will have a disproportionate impact on Native American voters. In contrast to a majority of Arizona citizens, Navajo people live in extremely rural conditions. The population density on the Nation is 6.3 per square mile, as compared to the statewide density of 56.3. For Navajo voters, the physical vastness and rural settings of the Nation create unique challenges for Navajo citizens in casting their ballots in state and federal elections. This physical isolation coupled with lower income levels and language barriers makes voting a challenging task for many Navajo citizens. The requirement of adding additional identification that Navajo voters may not readily have on hand, adds a measure of difficulty to mail-in ballots.

“The Navajo Nation opposes these bills because it suppresses voting, especially Native American voting. Native Americans already face steep obstacles when it comes to voting and the passage of these bills would only exacerbate the problem. On the Navajo Nation, thousands of our citizens drive many miles to vote during each election and their voting rights should be protected and the state of Arizona should be doing more to encourage voter participation,” said Vice President Lizer.

He added, “The Navajo Nation challenges the Arizona State Legislators to visit the rural Native American communities, to understand how this bill could potentially impact voters. We cannot expect to be in agreement, unless first-hand experience from state legislators is reported back to the Capitol. We appreciate the state legislators for providing a bill that can protect legitimate elections to reduce fraudulent votes, but we welcome them to consult with Tribal Leadership.”

President Nez also noted that Navajo voters already face significant barriers to vote-by-mail including the lack of home mail delivery service. Navajo voters living on the Nation do not receive mail at their homes. Instead, they must rely on post office boxes to receive their mail. Post office boxes on the Nation are limited in number and are often shared by multiple individuals. The Arizona portion of the Nation has 11 post offices and 15 postal providers. These offices are responsible for delivering coverage to 18,000 square miles of land. Post office boxes can be located a great distance from the voter’s rural residence.

The Nez-Lizer Administration continues to work together with state lawmakers and to advocate for voting rights of all Native Americans throughout the state of Arizona.

READ MORE AT: <https://www.navajo-nsn.gov/News%20Releases/OPVP/2021/Apr/Navajo%20Nation%20opposes%20Arizona%20bills%20that%20would%20suppress%20Navajo%20voters>.



Navajo Nation Dikos Ntsaaígíí-19 (COVID-19)



Last Updated: April 29, 2021

Navajo Nation Residents

Total Confirmed Cases¹

30,491

New Cases from Last Update: 6

Total Recovered

16,570

Total Confirmed Deaths

1,276

New Death(s) Reported: 3

Total Tests Completed²

265,029

Total Positive Tests³

38,907

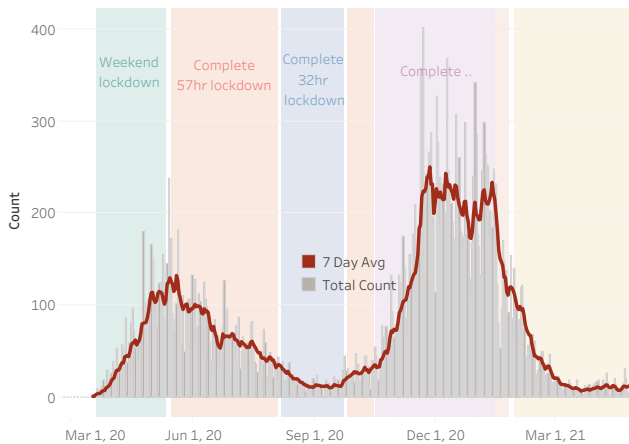
Total Negative Tests

214,444

Service Area Confirmed Cases

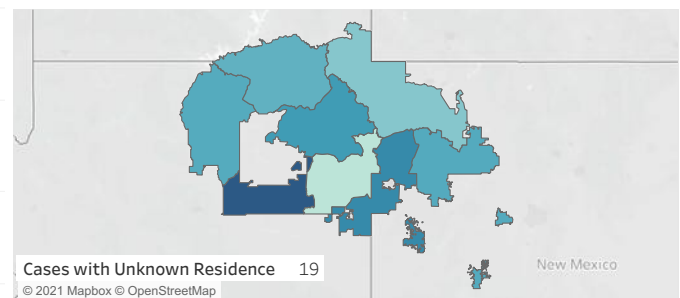
Bordertown	Chinle	Crownpoint	Fort Defiance	Gallup	Kayenta	Shiprock	Tuba City	Winslow
8,470	5,580	2,936	3,627	4,835	2,709	5,114	3,696	1,975

Daily Confirmed Cases on Navajo Nation in All



Navajo Nation Service Area Rates per 10,000 population

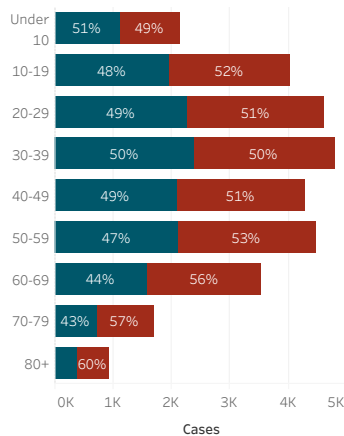
1,555.5 2,448.9



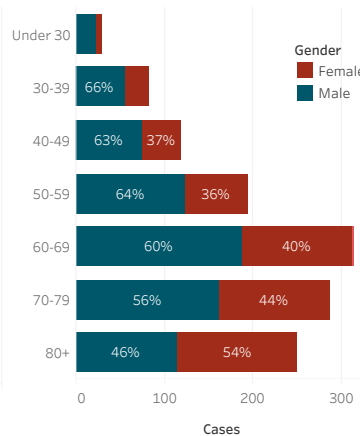
**Map reflects estimates on the total number of cases by population area since March 2020, NOT the number of cases in the past 7 or 14 days as presented in Gating Criteria. This map does not reflect current risk levels.

*Click on service area to display more information. Click outside service area to display Navajo Nation information. Ramah is included with Gallup service area and Alamo, Tohajiilee are included with Crownpoint service area.

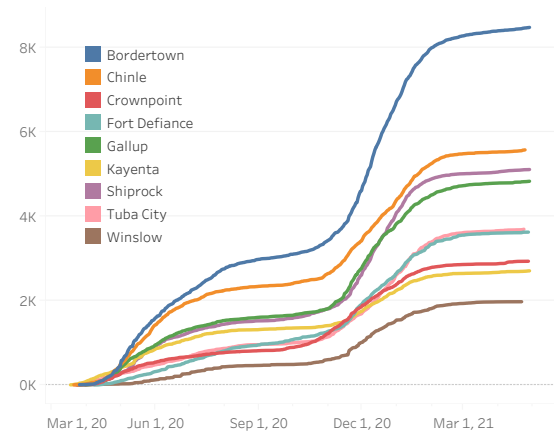
COVID-19 by Age Groups



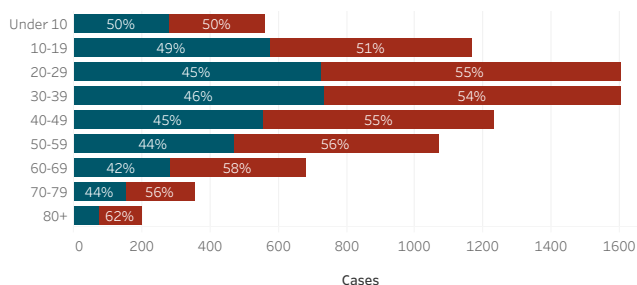
COVID-19 Deaths by Age Groups



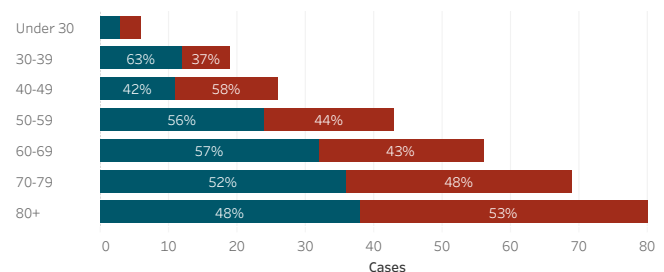
Total Count of Cases since March



Bordertown COVID-19 by Age Groups



Bordertown COVID- 19 Deaths by Ages Groups



WHY A FACEMASK?

FOR PREVENTING COVID-19 TRANSMISSION

Navajo Nation Public Health Emergency
Order 2020-007 (Effective April 17, 2020)

Requiring all individuals (2 years old and older) on the Navajo Nation to wear protective masks in public to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Mask is a covering designed to filter one's breathing through both the nose and mouth. A mask must snugly cover the face and around the nose and mouth to prevent the wearer from breathing unfiltered air. Mask can be commercially-made or a homemade cloth face covering.

- Remember to stay 6 feet apart from others in public.
- Public means any area outside your home.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds/or sanitize your hands.
- Avoid touching high-touch surfaces in public.
- Wear gloves/use tissue/use t-shirt sleeves to cover your hands or fingers if you touch something.
- Clean and disinfect purchased food and household items.
- Clean and disinfect your home and vehicles to remove germs.
- Only one person in the household should make a trip for food/household necessities.



Very
High



High



Low



Very
Low



STAY HOME



Navajo Health Command Operation Center
Phone: 928.871.7014
Info Email: coronavirus.info@nndoh.org

www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19

#DineDabidziil

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