

DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Second Quarter Report 2025



***Central Agency Council Meeting
April 5, 2025***

Division of Natural Resources

**Central Agency Council Meeting Report – Many Farms Chapter
Second Quarter 2025**

January 1, 2025 to March 31, 2025

The Division of Natural Resources oversee Eleven (11) departments with over 300 employees to provide direct services to the Navajo people. DNR provides measures to the protection, restoration, conservation, management, and sustainable develop of the Navajo natural resources under the guidance and direction of the people of the Navajo Nation, the Navajo Nation Council, and Office of the President.

Further, ensure the highest quality of Natural Resources are available for the enjoyment and use of present and future generations of the Navajo people and to comprehensively manage the multiple use of Navajo natural resources and to preserve the Nations's culture resources.

I. Department of Agriculture

The Navajo Department of Agriculture continues to improve overall programmatic functions and operations to provide efficient and effective technical assistance, program improvement, and program services for all Navajo Farmers, Navajo Ranchers, and all elected officials throughout the Navajo Nation.

A. Administration – Department of Agriculture

- There are two vacant positions open. The Program and Project Specialist position was reclassified to a Chinle Agency Principal Extension Agent position to assist Grazing Districts, 4,10, 11 and the Tsaille/Wheatfields Farm Board Many Farms Farm Board, and all Chinle Agency Farmers and Ranchers. The GIS Technician has been advertised and closed on February 28, 2025. Interviews are being scheduled to select a GIS Technician.
- The Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren and Navajo Agriculture Industry Products (NAPI) CEO David Zeller have officially signed the \$5,550,000 for the USDA Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) Cooperative Agreement Grant Program MOA to provide 49,333 food boxes to families throughout the Navajo Nation beginning in April 2025. The number of food boxes distributed to all 110 chapters was determined by the 50/50 formula. Department of Agriculture is working with the Administrative Service Center Program, the Department of Health, and the Navajo Division for Children and Family Services to prioritize low-income households and those in need followed by other community members in each chapter. Chapter disbursement schedule will be sent to the Administrative Service Center for food box deliveries. The food boxes will include 25 lb. unbleached flour, 10 lb. blue corn meal, 10 lb. white or yellow corn meal, 20 lb. pinto beans, and 50 lb. potatoes valued at \$112.50. Contact Victoria Lee, Principal Planner for more information at victoria.lee@navajo-nsn.gov.
 - Navajo Nation Food Boxes Distribution Revised Schedule -The Local Food Purchasing Assistance (LFPA) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Department of Agriculture and Navajo Agricultural Products Industry (NAPI) has been approved and signed so we can begin food box deliveries to

your respective Chapters tentatively begin on March 25, 2025. However, due to the delay in the MOA approval process and the perishable food products, the remaining 2024 crop inventory will limit deliveries to 40 Chapters through June 16, 2025, or until food boxes are depleted. The remaining 70 Chapters will receive food box deliveries after the 2025 crop inventory is harvested on November 4, 2025, through May 3, 2026. Navajo Agricultural Products Industry (NAPI) will provide weekly food box deliveries per the LFPA agreement terms to each Chapter. Please refer to the schedule for delivery dates and locations.

Projected Delivery Date	Agency	Chapter Name	Food Boxes per Chapter
3/25/2025	Western	Birdsprings	383
3/27/2025	Western	Tolani Lake	332
3/29/2025	Shiprock	Upper Fruitland	634
4/1/2025	Western	Leupp	473
4/3/2025	Western	Cameron	398
4/5/2025	Shiprock	Nenahnezad	501
4/8/2025	Western	Bodaway/Gap	456
4/10/2025	Western	Coppermine	387
4/12/2025	Shiprock	San Juan	370
4/15/2025	Western	To Nanees Dizi (Tuba City)	894
4/17/2025	Western	Tonalea	503
4/19/2025	Shiprock	Tse Daa Kaan (Hogback)	482
4/22/2025	Western	Tsah Bii Kin (Inscription House)	385
4/24/2025	Western	Shonto	476
4/26/2025	Shiprock	Red Valley	409
4/29/2025	Western	Kaibeto	452
5/1/2025	Western	LeChee	442
5/3/2025	Shiprock	Cove	332
5/6/2025	Western	Coalmine Canyon	381
5/8/2025	Western	Navajo Mountain	338
5/10/2025	Western	Olijato	537
5/13/2025	Western	Chilchinbeto	401
5/15/2025	Shiprock	Tiss Tsoh Sikaad (Burnham)	330
5/17/2025	Western	Kayenta	751
5/20/2025	Western	Dennehotso	463
5/22/2025	Shiprock	Tse Alnaozti'I (Sanostee)	524
5/24/2025	Chinle	Hardrock	392
5/27/2025	Chinle	Tachee/Blue Gap	401
5/29/2025	Shiprock	Newcomb	341
5/31/2025	Chinle	Black Mesa	328
6/3/2025	Fort Defiance	Low Mountain	376
6/5/2025	Shiprock	Toohaltsooi (Sheep Springs)	361
6/7/2025	Chinle	Whippoorwill	407
6/10/2025	Chinle	Forest Lake	331
6/12/2025	Shiprock	Toadlena/Two Grey Hills	388
6/14/2025	Chinle	Pinon	564
6/17/2025	Chinle	Tselani/Cottonwood	463
6/19/2025	Shiprock	Gadilahi/Tokoi	336
6/21/2025	Chinle	Nazlini	404
6/24/2025	Chinle	Chinle	1,032
40 Chapters			18,136

B. Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Program

- AIF – What are your benefits? The presentation has been developed to begin providing presentations to community members during district-wide permittee meetings and farm board permittee meetings. Please contact your grazing official and/or farm board for meeting details.
- The Department of Agriculture is accepting AIF Livestock Management Incentive applications. Applications can be submitted at the Department of Agriculture office Monday through Friday from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.
- The AIF feed cost share program is still offering 125 lb sheep protein supplement tubs for \$20 each. This rancher feed supplement program is a cost-shared program provided with Agriculture Infrastructure Funds (AIF) funding.
- The Navajo Nation has received \$116,398,589 in Net PRF Benefits from 2017 to December 2024. The PRF benefits established a \$19,835,613 reserve set aside for annual PRF insurance premiums and \$96,562,976 has been made available for AIF projects.

C. Range and Farm Management Program – *Victoria Lee, Principal Planner, Kim Johnson Chinle & Fort Defiance Agency Extension Agent, Marilyn Yazzie, Chinle and Fort Defiance Agency Extension Agent.*

- The Grazing and Farm Management Program provided Orientation Training for all 143 elected officials. The District Grazing Committee Member Orientation was provided on February 24-25, 2025, at Diné College Tsaile Campus for 78 grazing officials. The Ethics and Rules Office, Diné College Land Grant Office, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Department of Resource Enforcement, JJ Clacs, General Land Development Department provided training on the DLB standard operating procedures, Ethics and Rules, Integrating grazing into chapter land use plans, importance of vaccinating/deworming cattle, tally count, AIF update, requesting equine rescue operations assistance, veterinary management services, and DLB verification/acknowledgment roles in ROW process and burials.
- The NPL Reviewing Committee has started interviewing Phase II NPL Grazing Permit Heirship applicants to recommend the reissuance of grazing permits for Precincts 1-3. There were 47 applicants interviewed for Precinct 1 (Teesto, Jeddito, Whitecone, Low Mountain, Tolani Lake), and 41 NPL phase II applicants were recommended to be re-issued a grazing permit. There are 53 NPL Phase II interviews scheduled for Precinct 3 (Tonalea, Shonto, Chilchinbeto, Kayenta) in April 2025. The Precinct 2 (Forest Lake, Whippoorwill, Black Mesa, Tachee/Blue Gap, Pinon, Hard Rock) NPL phase II heirship interviews will be scheduled from May – November 2025.

D. Tribal Ranches & Bull Leasing Program

- The Tribal Ranches Program submitted seven (7) ranch leases into the 164-review process to recommend renewal of lease agreements to the Resources and Development Committee from 2025-2035 for tribal ranchers. 2018 Competitive Bids are under review for vacant ranches.

- \$2,200,000 in Tribal Ranch lease payments was released to the Tribal Ranch Program to pay over \$800,000 in past due Arizona and New Mexico state land lease dues since 2018-2025. Tribal Ranch funds will assist the tribal ranch program to improve services. Repair infrastructure for ranchers and provide outreach education.
- The Tribal Ranch Program is collaborating with the Department of Water Resources in Pueblo Pintado and Crownpoint field offices to repair windmills through work orders for ranchers.
- Bull Leasing Program is collaborating with Animal RezQ and Midwestern University to provide Breeding Soundness Exam (BSE) Testing on 18 tribal bulls. Sixteen (16) bulls were determined to be fertile and sound for breeding.

E. Horse Management Program – vacant – Horse Management Program Supervisor

- The Horse Management Staff developed Standard Operating Procedures and Feral Equine Buyer Guidelines to include health inspection by the Navajo Nation Veterinarian to treat injured and incapacitated equine.
- Horse Management Crew and TRP attended the Deputy Livestock Inspector (DLI) Training on January 28 – 30, 2025 held at Fort Defiance Chapter. DLI will be required to receive 40 hours of on-the-job training inspections to be commissioned as a DLI.
- NNDA is accepting updated Resolutions from the District Grazing Officials and Eastern Land Board members for a request for Livestock Round-Up (Equine Rescue Operations).
- The charts below will indicate the Number of Equine that were rescued from the various communities on the Navajo Nation: **the total number of equines 742 were rescued to date.**
- There are three types of Horse Rescue Operations: Equine Rescue Operations (roundup), Entrapments, and Seizures.

ERO

Location	Date	# of Equine
Tohajilee	Nov 20,21, 2024	13
Houck	27-Nov-24	40
Houck	Dec 3 - 5, 2024	44
Wide Ruins	Dec 11 - 12, 2024	45
Winslow Tract	Jan 14 - 16, 2025	23
Crystal	Jan 22 - 23, 2025	75
Tohatchi	Feb 4 - 6, 2025	82
Oljato	Feb 12 - 13, 2025	77
Houck	Feb 25 - 27, 2025	53
Sheepsprings	Mar 4 - 6, 2025	80
Rock Point	Mar 18 - 20, 2025	75
Tohatchi	Mar 25 -27, 2025	92
699		Total from ERO

- Please send all requests for assistance from District Grazing Officials and the Department of Agriculture for livestock tally counts, round-ups, livestock transportation to auction yards, or other agricultural assistance.

F. Veterinary Management Program - Dr. David Manuelito, NNVP Veterinarian

- Increased veterinary clientele and began offering more services to small and large animals.
- Provided presentations for Deputy Livestock Inspectors Training and Department of Agriculture Training for grazing officials and land board officials
- Paid remaining balances with veterinary medical supply distributors and began the process of establishing new accounts with distributors to begin the process of ordering medical supplies and procuring equipment quotes. Negotiated with Idexx for Blood Analyzer Machines and Radiograph Machines and with Covetrus software services to procure a program software to provide more services.
- Increase Veterinary clientele and begin offering more services to small and large animals.
- Filled open extension agents (Veterinary Technician) and office specialist positions.
- Provided Equine Services in Sanders, AZ area in conjunction with Valley High School AgriScience Program and Community Outreach Presentation with Cornfields Chapter.

G. Livestock Brand Office – Ervin Scott, Natural Resource Enforcement Officer/Randall Jim, Ranger Sargeant

- Deputy Livestock Inspection (DLI) recertification training was provided January 28-30, 2025, at Fort Defiance Chapter House. All elected officials and community volunteers serving as DLI will be suspended until further notice. The Navajo Department of Agriculture staff, Department of Resource Enforcement, and authorized elected officials will be providing inspection services reservation-wide. Background checks will be required for all Deputy Livestock Inspectors who are interested in continuing with the program. This is a corrective effort to improve livestock inspection services and safeguard Navajo livestock producers against theft.
- Collaborating with the Department of Resource Enforcement at inspection sites during the Livestock Auctions days in Indian Wells, Arizona, and Shiprock, NM.

II. **Navajo Abandoned Mine Linds/UMTRA Department**
Participation in Miss Navajo Nation STEM-station Event
Location: Rock Point Community School, Rock Point, AZ
Date: Thursday, March 27, 2025

- A. On March 27, 2025, the Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Department (NAMLRD) actively participated in the Miss Navajo Nation STEM-station Event hosted at Rock Point Community School. The event commenced at 8:00 AM and welcomed approximately 250 students and educators for a full day dedicated to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education and outreach.

1. NAMLRD was represented by the following staff:
2. Cory Dayish, Environmental Specialist (Shiprock AML)
3. Ernest Grayeyes, Civil Engineer II (Tuba City AML)
4. Benjamin Deans, Hydrologist
5. Devin Fatt, Office Specialist
6. Karen L. Bedonie, Department Manager III

The NAMLRD booth was stationed adjacent to BIA Forestry and Wildland Fire Management, District 18. Staff engaged with students by providing educational information about the department's mission and career opportunities in the field of environmental reclamation and engineering. To further encourage participation and interest, the booth offered promotional materials including pencil pouches, sunglasses, USB drives, and notebooks. Notably, Miss Navajo Nation Ranisha Begay (2024–2025), an alumna of Rock Point Community School, was present at the event, highlighting the school's continued impact and inspiration in the community. The event concluded at 3:00 PM, leaving attendees energized and more informed about career paths in STEM within the Navajo Nation.

III. Navajo Fish & Wildlife Department

- A. Fish Hatchery Modernization Construction contract approved for \$3.8 million dollars at Toadlena, New Mexico. Construction will begin April 1, 2025.

Wildlife Law Enforcement Statistics	Totals
Number of hunters/fishermen contacted	105
Number of critical wildlife habitat patrols completed	282
Number of natural resource user contacts	500
Number of decoy operations conducted	0
Number of hunt patrols	215
Number of wildlife check points	2
Number of violations investigated	18
Number of creel reports completed	307
Number of wildlife data sheets completed	33
Number of Hunter Education courses and Range Days	31
Number of education/outreach contacts	18
Number of wildlife depredation complaints responded	5

Biological Resources Compliance Forms (BRCF) and Homesite Biological Clearance Form (HBCR) Reviews	Total
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Project Reviews Total Filings	43
BRCF Issued (completed)	27
Under Review	0
Additional Information Needed (Sponsor notice sent to sponsor)	4
Homesite Lease Total Filing	77
HBCF Issued (completed)	44
Under Review	0
Payment Needed (Sponsor notice sent)	33
Site Visit	0

IV. Navajo Forestry Department

- A. The Department continues to coordinate with six (6) Chinle Agency Chapters and one (1) Senior Center in providing forest product permits to tribal members within the agency area. This process allows tribal members to obtain their forest product permits locally, saving them time and money. A total of 46 chapters, one (1) senior center and one (1) private business have been designated to provide forest product permits to those seeking permits.
- B. Infrastructure project permitting. The Department continues to work with the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) in providing power and water/wastewater tree cutting permits, to provide utility opportunities for tribal members. During this quarter, five (5) projects have been permitted, and two (2) other projects are currently having permits created. Once permits have been created for these two (2) projects, they will be signed and sent to BIA, Navajo Region for approval.
- C. Homesite moratorium. The Department will work with individuals on a case-by-case basis when addressing homesite leases within the forested area. The Department will review the proposed location and provide feedback to the applicant in determining the options available to obtain a lease. During this quarter, the Department reviewed four (4) proposed homesite lease areas. The field location determination is still being generated.
- D. The Navajo Forestry Department continues to receive updates from the forest carbon consultant regarding the forest carbon initiative. This initiative, when all processes are completed and approved, will provide some revenue to the Navajo Nation.
- E. The Navajo Forestry Department completed the development of two (2) silvicultural treatment prescriptions for project areas identified within the Central Agency area, more specifically the Wheatfields area. These thinning areas will reduce the dense forest stands and protect the infrastructure (i.e., homes, powerlines, etc.) from catastrophic wildland fire loss. The total acreage that will be thinned is 168 acres

V. General Land Development Department

Project Statistics	Approved/Totals
Projects Approved in 164:	
- Tribal Access Authorization (TAAs) = 14	27
- Telecom = 1	
- Right-of-way (ROW) = 1	
- Leases = 3	
- Land Withdrawals = 8	
- Temporary Construction Easement (TCEs) = 0	
- Application for Permit to Drill (APD) = 0	
Environment Compliance Determination (ECDs) for Service Line Agreement (SLAs)	45
ECDs for Homesites	30
ECDs for Projects	15
Grazing Consents Gathered	16
Records Request	20
In-Person Inquiries	150
Permission to Survey Requests	7
Land Status Verification/Review	21
Map Requests	17

VI. Heritage and Historic Preservation Department (HHPD)

- A. HHPD's Cultural Resources Compliance Section reviewed and issued cultural resources compliance ("archaeological clearance") for a total of 44 undertakings in the Central Navajo Agency subject to the Section 106 review process of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) or under the Navajo Nation Cultural Resources Protection Act of 1988 (NNCRPA). Clearances were issued for: 34 Homesite Leases, 6 utility (water, electricity, cell towers, etc.) projects, and 4 roads and other projects.
- B. HHPD Continues to collaborate with the NPS-Canyon de Chelly National Monument, the BIA-Navajo Regional Office, and other Navajo Nation programs to develop a Scope of Work for the proposed Canyon de Chelly Joint Management Plan. The three agencies (BIA, NN, and NPS) will work with the local chapters, and the residents of the Canyon to ensure their concerns are heard and are considered in the development of a joint management plan.

VII. Navajo Land Department

A. Accomplishment

Accomplishments	Dates	Nos.
Number of land Leases	Jan.-36; Feb. 39; & Mar.-11;	119
Approved	Jan.-6; Feb. 18; & Mar.-9	

HSL Application disseminations	Jan.114; Feb.-138; & Mar.-42; Jan.50; Feb.-30; & Mar.-35	409
Assisted Clients / Inquires	Jan. 295; Feb.-322; & Mar. 110 Jan. 150; Feb.-175; & Mar. 130	1909
Presentations	Chinle Justice Day – Chinle Judicial Complex & Huerfeno Chapter, NM	2

VIII. Minerals Department

A. Inspection Summary

Inspection Type	Count	Details
Bond Inspections	0	N/A
Reclamation Inspections	8	McKinley Mine (2), Navajo Mine (2), Pinabete Mine (2), Kayenta Mine (2)
Sand & Gravel	10	<p>Since January 2025, quarterly Sand and Gravel mine inspections were conducted, with BIA representatives Bertha Spenser and Lenora Tsosie accompanying the inspections.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaibeto Resources Pit – Inactive and undergoing reclamation. Seeding efforts have failed, and the company has been asked to re-seed and hire a contractor, though no updates on hiring have been provided. • Kaibeto Sealaska Pit – Awaiting approval from the Navajo Nation and BIA. Intended for Tonalea Day School construction but currently inactive. • NECA Wheatfield Pit – Inactive but reclaimed. Lease remains active for future projects. • Apache County Carrizo Pit – Active; crew preparing rock crusher and conveyor system, with production expected to begin in March 2025. • NECA Teec Nos Pos Pit – Active lease, but currently inactive due to lack of projects. • NECA S-Hill Pit (Shiprock) – Similar status; lease remains active, but no current projects. <p>Reclamation Efforts with USEPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Valley & Cove, AZ – Ongoing revegetation at Mitton Rock II Site, with seeding completed before winter. Mitton Rock I requires additional grading and drainage work before further re-seeding.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borrow Material for AUM – Inspected earthen dams as potential borrow sites. Approval from the local chapter and Navajo Nation Water Department is needed before use. • Mesa 1 Site – Significant road work completed. Plans are in place to drill and fill old underground mine workings with cement slurry starting in Spring 2025 when weather conditions improve.
Production and Record Review/Inspections	101	Hilcorp lease production inspections 4 gas wells (shut-in), Navajo Nation Oil and Gas Company (Tocito Dome) - 2 wells and 1 facility (1 well still in production), Vision Energy - 3 wells (3 shut-in, never produced), Elk Operating Services LLC 36 well inspections for Aneth Units, Navajo Nation Oil & Gas Company Ute Canyon 25 G-O (temporary abandonment noted for well), Aneth Unit C113 LDLV -1 water disposal well and 1 facility, Elk Operating Services LLC, 2 cases, 101 Wells, 1 facility, Vision Energy and Hilcorp leases visited for well operations review, Tour of gas plants at Aneth and McElmo Creek Units, Facility walkthroughs and measurements (e.g., Elk Operating Services LLC), Inspections of various AU locations in February (high priority).
Idle Wells and Record Review/Inspections	30	Ratherford Unit 5 idle wells confirmed shut-in, Ute Canyon 25 G-O confirmed no equipment (abandonment indicated), Elk Operating Services LLC, 30 Units.
Plug and Abandonment/ Inspections	2	A cement squeeze job was prepared and reviewed for Ratherford Unit 29-11 under Elk Operating Services LLC. Additionally, 2 wells at Ute Canyon 25 G-O were confirmed to have no equipment, indicating abandonment. The Plug and Abandonment (P&A) process for Ratherford Unit well 29-34 was also witnessed. During rework operations, the production casing unexpectedly sheared off, leaving no viable repair options, leading to the decision to plug the well.
Field Inspections		Included in Production and Record Review/Inspections above
Workover	1	Lan Mas workover rig and storage facility discussions, Squeeze job for Ratherford Unit 29-11 (also fits plug and abandonment), 1 well
Audits Completed	0	NN10-02 Chevron, NN 13-03 Peabody Western Coal
Audits In Progress	2	NN10-02 Chevron, NN 13-03 Peabody Western Coal
Compliance Reviews Completed	5	Resolute/Elk Operating Services (NN18-06, NN18-07, NN20-00, NN20-01, NN20-02)
Compliance Reviews in Progress	2	NN 19-03 Resource Strategies, NN 15-03 NNOGC

a) **Completed Projects**

Project	Description
Clean Energy Grant Applications	The FRF Program submitted three grant applications under the MOU Clean Energy Initiative : the USDA Turnkey Grant (not awarded due to federal defunding), the DOE Clean Energy Planning and Development Grant for \$349,064 , and the USDA Grant Application for the Northern Farm Coalition requesting \$261,000 . Additionally, the office reviewed and finalized federal documentation for the REAP Grant and Northern Farms Coalition .
Termination of Jurisdiction (TOJ) Inspection Report	Completed TOJ Inspection Report for Old North Entrance Road (ONER) and Area 4 at McKinley Mine and submitted recommendation to OSMRE.
OSMRE Grant Performance Report/Close-out	Submitted Final Program Performance Report for Grant #S23AP00071 to OSMRE as per grant requirements and de-obligations. Officially closed FY23 Regulatory Award.
Black Mesa Review Board Meeting	Attended bi-monthly meeting and site visit with Black Mesa Review Board and PWCC on February 13, 2025.
PWCC Retention Meeting	Attended meeting with PWCC on February 12, 2025, to finalize retention of ponds/impoundments.
Coal Issue Resolution at Navajo Mine	Reviewed outstanding coal issue since 2006 at Yazzie Overlook of Navajo Mine and sent a release letter to OSMRE.
Grant Modification Summary Submission	Submitted Summary of Change for Grant #S23AP00071 to OMB, which was accepted and incorporated by NN-OMB.
Vehicle Purchase Approval	Received approval from the NN-Motor Vehicle Board to purchase two trucks and successfully completed and submitted the Request for Proposal (RFP) for acquiring two program vehicles.
CMI-Mod 24 Review	Reviewing/commenting on impoundments for Navajo Nation retention, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Permanent impoundment designs for impoundments 6-7, 6-8, and 3-7. - As-built certification for impoundment CDK. - As-built certification for channel constructed through reclaimed pond 12-2A.
AFMSS Data Entries & Updates	Continuous AFMSS updates for UTU68927A and UTU68930A, Entered data for McElmo Creek Unit Area 4 Battery and Aneth Unit Battery 21, Updated maintenance windows in AFMSS, Inspected 2 wells at the Blue and Brown Hogan lease, Ute Canyon 25 G-O for NNOGC found to have no equipment on location for the pumping unit and the facility that was entered in on AFMSS is no

	longer present on location, squeeze job for Ratherford Unit 29-11 into AFMSS, 92 additional AFMSS entries and updates.
Staff Training	Cybersecurity training (DOI Learn, Navajo Nation IT), Hydrogen Sulfide recertification, On-the-job training modules and PET certification (Johnnie Begaye Jr.), Final Technical Review (Farmington, NM), Met with Eian Tsosie, Isiah Smith-Sorrell, and Courtney Nelson to visit several oil and gas wells to explain the operation and how we inspect the wells.
Modular Trailer Procurement	The procurement process for the Clayton Homes modular trailer is nearing completion. The OR process has been finalized, and the trailer successfully passed New Mexico State Inspection. The final payment is pending, with the purchase order processed in FMIS to facilitate check issuance. Once payment is completed, the trailer key will be released to the Minerals Department. This acquisition was funded through JTF Grant funds .

No.	EOR	Project Description	Project Type	Waived	Consideration Amount
1	24023	NTUA TAA Phillip Sells Distribution Line Rough Rock	Powerline/Fiber Optics	Y	\$156,029.37
2	24007	NTUA TAA Alexander Capitan Distribution Line with Fiber Optic	Powerline/Fiber Optics	Y	\$308,338.43
3	24050	NAIHS TAA NA-21-G23 Shiprock E Scatter	Waterline extension	Y	\$28,419.16
4	23995	NTUA TAA Bitahochee to Dilkon 115kV Dist Line FOC – Fee	Transmission line with Fiber Optic	Y	\$2,727.93
5	24022	NTUA TAA Bitahochee to Dilkon 115kV Dist Line FOC – Trust	Transmission line with Fiber Optic	Y	\$997,047.65
6	23618	Tacitus-NTEC APD N11A Helium Well	Application for Permit to Drill	Y	\$-
7	23619	Tacitus-NTEC APD U24-A Helium Well	Application for Permit to Drill	Y	\$-

8	24000	NNDWR TCE Fruitland_FishWeir	Temporary Construction Easement for Diversion Dam & Fish Weir	Y	\$31,606.86
9	24047	BIA TCE Tuba City Dump Remediation	Temporary Construction Easement for Dump Remediation	N	\$3,863.82
10	23567	NAIHS TAA NA-23-G54 FFO Housing Waterline	Waterline extension	Y	\$2,659.68
11	23998	NTUA TAA Leupp Chapter South Distribution Line	Powerline/Fiber Optics	Y	\$1,386,049.88
12	24001	NTUA TAA Gwendolyn Clark Distribution Line	Powerline/Fiber Optics	Y	\$204,327.99
13	23617	Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project – Reach 2 Pumping Plant 1	Land TCE - pump plant construction	Y	\$17,162.48
14	23616	Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project – Reach 2 Pumping Plant 1	Land ROW - pump plant construction	Y	\$100,863.40
15	24289	NTUA Distribution Line TAA- Diversion Dam	Powerline/Fiber Optics	Y	\$ 55,794.14
16	24277	NDOT Road Project-ROW	Land ROW- road construction	Y	\$ 124,117.80

Total Consideration Amount: \$3,419,008.59

b) Ongoing Projects

Project	Description
RedStreak LLC Energy Office Consulting Contract	The FRF Program secured Procurement Clearance for RedStreak LLC's service contract to serve as the consultant for establishing the Energy Office , ensuring compliance with purchasing requirements. Additionally, a Risk Management Request for Insurance clearance was completed to facilitate contract execution. The \$275,000.00 contract, funded through TEDC Grant funds , is expected to commence in April .
Critical Minerals Issues	A meeting was held to discuss critical minerals on the Navajo Nation, particularly in relation to the U.S. Critical Minerals List of 2022 and ongoing efforts by the

	<p>U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to identify critical mineral sources in abandoned mine lands.</p> <p>The Minerals Department reviewed past studies conducted in partnership with New Mexico Technical University, which analyzed coal ash piles, humates, and mining waste. The findings indicated trace amounts of critical minerals, though not in economically viable quantities at current market prices.</p> <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain a map of the proposed sampling locations. • Secure access to the sites. • Determine the entity responsible for sampling, with Navajo Technical University as the preferred option if they have the necessary equipment. • Establish a sampling procedure.
Assessment of Lost Oil & Gas Wells	<p>The Minerals Department participated in a field study to assess undocumented oil and gas wells on the Navajo Nation using airborne and ground-based sensing technologies. This effort is part of the Department of Energy's Consortium for Advancing Technology for Assessment of Lost Oil & Gas Wells (CATALOG) program, in collaboration with LANL, SNL, LBNL, LLNL, NETL, and the DOE.</p> <p>The CATALOG initiative focuses on identifying and characterizing orphan wells (UOWs) across various regions, including the Navajo Nation, Oklahoma, and West Virginia. As part of this study, drones equipped with magnetometers and methane sensors were deployed over old oil and gas fields to detect abandoned wells and methane leaks. The data collected will help evaluate the efficiency and scalability of different detection methods and compare findings across different geographic and climatic conditions.</p> <p>Current Status: The project is ongoing, with continued analysis of results to refine best practices for orphan well identification.</p>
Bond Release Reviews	Reviewed and commented on Phase III Bond Release for Kayenta Mine (J-19 & J-21). Reviewed Phase I & II Bond Release for N-09 and Phase III Bond Release for N-14 & J-16.
SMP Web Page Update	Updating portions of the SMP web page for the Minerals Department, including collecting photos of Navajo/Pinabete Mine, Kayenta/Black Mesa Mine, and McKinley Mine.
Re-vegetation & Seed-Mix Presentation	Developing information regarding re-vegetation and seed-mix at Kayenta Mine.

Mine Closure Asset Evaluation	Assessing potential retention of mine closure assets: - PWCC Kayenta Mine (N8 operations building, HRC demolition site, roads, ponds, and utilities infrastructure). - J-3 Airport AWOS Acquisition: LOI submitted by NDOT on March 25, 2025, regarding AWOS, tower, sensors, and monitoring system; NDOT Roads Dept. may request airport building & parking lot retention. - CMI McKinley Mine: NTUA submitted LOI for CMI assets, including roads, 115 KV transmission line, water infrastructure (Sections 17, 23, 27, & 33).				
SMP Computer Server Upgrade	SMP is working on upgrading and repairing its computer server, with work already in progress.				
Design Reviews	Reviewing and commenting on Revision 2501 for Area 3 Dixon Ramp 3 and Area 3 Pond 301 Design at Navajo Mine.				
OSMRE FY2027 Budget	Preparing budget proposal for OSMRE FY2027.				
Potential Sand and Gravel Pits for Future Inspection	Greasewood – Location TBD Blue Canyon – Location TBD				
MSHA Training Participation	Coal			0	
	Metal/Non-Metal			0	
	Construction			0	
	Other – currently not working or unemployed			12	
	Total			12	
Royalties Reported	Month	AZ	NM	UT	Grand Total
	Jan	\$163,245.49	\$61,180.04	\$2,620,516.18	\$2,844,941.71
	Feb	\$143,329.15	\$25,562.90	\$2,387,329.06	\$2,556,221.11
	Mar	Not Reported Yet	Not Reported Yet	\$9,907.10	\$9,907.10
	Grand Total	\$306,574.64	\$86,742.94	\$5,017,752.34	\$5,411,069.92
Uploads of Oil & Gas Lease Data	The FRF Program successfully uploaded 612 oil and gas files into the Prism System , bringing the total number of files uploaded into the Navajo Nation System to 2,436 . There are 295 oil and gas files remaining, which are scheduled for completion in the next quarter.				

ARPA Infrastructure Compliance and EOR Monitoring	Comprehensive reviews and approvals were conducted for multiple EOR projects, covering ROW, TAA, TCE, and RLUP considerations , with finalized Tier 1 reviews to maintain compliance and support ongoing infrastructure initiatives. The total consideration amount reviewed and processed is \$3,419,008.59 .
Pipeline ROW	Kinder Morgan – In Process
Pipeline ROW	NTUA – MOA In Process
Transmission ROW	GreenView – Completed
Transmission ROW	TEP – In Process
Transmission ROWs	APS – Beginning
Plant Lease	NTEC – Beginning
Oil & Gas Lease	NNOGC – On Hold
Helium Lease	NNOGC – On Hold
Oil & Gas Lease	Griffin – In Process

IX. Parks & Recreation Department

- A. The Four Corners Monument condemned Restroom Building was demolished due to unstable foundation causing cracks that would be hazardous for public use. In its place a contract was signed to an Engineering Firm to renovate an existing office trailer to water-based restrooms. The engineering company will also conduct geotechnical studies to locate a permanent restroom building location.
- B. Several chapters have requested the Shiprock Pinnacle be designated as a park of some kind which could be a tribal, regional or local park. A feasibility study was conducted several years ago by New Mexico State Parks that determined that a park would be necessary to protect the pinnacle and to provide visitor services such as contact station, dry campground and parking. Shiprock Pinnacle is already designated as a National Natural Landmark by the National Park Service.

Challenges

- A. The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe is claiming ownership of the Colorado portion of the Four Corners Monument with the request for ¼ of all park entry revenue collected from visitors. The UMUT does not contribute to any operational expenses at the monument except to providing vending opportunities in their portion. The surrounding chapters claim that the UMUT reservation is across the San Juan River.

- B. Various contracts to improve and provide visitor services such as sanitation are delayed due to internal bureaucratic requirements from the Purchasing Department. An example is cleaning and servicing of restrooms which create an adverse image of the Navajo Nation.
- C. Due to the remote location the employees have to commute daily to the worksite which can be hardship on their finances and the low pay also hampers hiring of workers.

X. Resources Enforcement Department

- A. Investigations: Officer Scott has been tasked with the investigations of livestock thefts. Officer Scott has been diligently working on investigating the reported livestock thefts. Officer Scott is collaborating with Navajo Nation Prosecutors office, in the process of filing the theft cases. Officer Scott has been getting all the pertinent information and tightening up loose ends to ensure a prosecution is obtained.
- B. Livestock/Equine seizures: Central District Natural Resource Enforcement Officers are assisting Deputy Livestock Inspectors with the livestock inspection site Indian Wells. NRE officers are ensuring the inspection requirements are being met with every producer that brings livestock to be inspected to be sold at any livestock auction. NRE Officers are ensuring all required documents are presented from the legal owners. Required documents are a valid grazing permit or state brand certificate, if grazing permit are in probate have probate decree and a certified letter from BIA Natural Resources indicating a one time sale of livestock, if legal owner is not in transport of the livestock but delegated another person a written letter of authorization from the legal owner indicating the shipper has permission to sell and transport the livestock. Seizure occurs when the Deputy Livestock Inspector questions ownership of the livestock. Questionable ownership could be fresh branded livestock, freshly branded livestock after 6 months of age which all livestock shall be branded at 6 months of age, brands that are not decipherable or blotched, and no brand livestock. 16 cattle were seized due to being freshly branded and freshly branded over the age of 6 months. The collaboration with the Deputy Livestock Inspectors will deter livestock thefts and get producers in compliance with inspection requirements.
- C. Citations: Central District Officers have been conducting regulatory checks while on daily patrols. Officers check fishing lakes, known area of firewood sale areas, woodland and forest areas, and livestock haulers. Officers check to see if people follow permit standards. In most contacts, the individuals have their required permits. In the incidents where someone fails to provide a permit, it is at the Officer's discretion on the type of citation that should be issued. This could be a verbal warning, a written warning, or District Court citation. Central District Officers have issued 6 citations. 4 citations have been filed with the respective district courts. 2 citations were warnings.

Issues:

- A. Investigations: In most cases reported livestock theft occurred days, months or years ago. When the reporting person asked why they never reported before, a

consistence response is we have been. When NRE officers request Central Dispatch if the reporting person has reported the theft before. Central Dispatch will say a report was never made by the reporting person. Other instances the reported theft does not meet the element of the crime. There is no witnesses to the theft just allegations with no evidence of the accused stealing livestock. Another issue NRE officers will request the victim to give a written statement of the theft incident. The victim will not want to write the statement but only request the NRE Officer to go over to the suspect to tell them not to steal from them or they will press charges on the next theft incident.

- B. Livestock/Equine seizure: Most challenging part about the seizures is Deputy Livestock Officers hesitated to seize livestock from the owners. When they question ownership, DLI's do not follow through with the inspection requirements as to livestock being seized. DLI's is a huge responsibility, they are clearing livestock to be sold to livestock auction.

Resources Enforcement Statistics	Totals
Livestock/Equine Seizures	1
Dogs killing livestock	2
Removal of injured or dead animals	1
Livestock Trespass Investigation:	3
Land Dispute Investigation	5
Livestock Death Investigation:	0
Forests and Woodland Violation Investigation:	5
Livestock Theft Investigation	0
Predator Damage Investigations	4
Citations	0
Animal Health Requirements	0
Spay/Neuter Incentive Project: Dogs & Cats	0

XI. Department Water Resources

- A. Arizona Congressional Senators and Representatives reintroduced the proposed Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Agreement (S. 953) to ratify and fund the settlement agreement between the Arizona, Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe and the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe and other Arizona parties.
- B. 81,000 acre-feet of Navajo Nation water rights has been entered into the court in Utah as part of the Navajo Nation Water Rights Settlement Agreement with Utah. Next step is for U.S. Secretary of Interior to publish a Notice of Findings for the Navajo Nation to begin gaining access to the Settlement funding of over \$200 million.
- C. The Department continues to oversee the subrecipient agreement that has provided funding to Navajo Tribal Utility Authority for the construction of wastewater treatment plants at Chinle. NTUA is utilizing WSP for engineering and Oscar Renda and their subcontractors for construction.

- D. The Department continues to provide technical assistance to Chinle and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the development of an Emergency Action Plan by USACE. There may be a delay in this project due to delays within the federal government staffing and budget.
- E. Snowpack and runoff: There is currently very little to no snow in the mountains that feed water into Chinle Wash. There is likely to be limited to no runoff from snowmelt in March and April of 2025. A significant rise in temperature may result in a short period of increased flows as the limited amount of snow melts quickly.
- F. Livestock and Irrigation Systems

Water Projects Repaired Statistics	Total
Windmills Repaired	38
Wells Rehabilitations	1
Livestock Earthen Dams	4
Storage Water Tanks	2
Irrigation water system	2
Water Permits	6
Drilling Permit	1

- G. Rehabilitation of Livestock/Other Activities
- Rehabilitation of livestock earthen dams in ongoing in Many Farms. Four (4) have been completed.
 - Completed a new 700 feet deep livestock water well in Tselani/Cottonwood Chapter area. This is to replace the old abandoned well number 10R-16.
 - Account number has been allocated for expenditure of \$104,075 to begin rehabilitation of Chinle Valley Pump Users well number 10T-500. The rehabilitation of this well is to enhance irrigation activities in the Chinle Valley.
 - Work is underway to repair Round Rock diversion structure/gate to divert water to Round Rock Dam for irrigation purposes and enhance irrigation activities.
 - Pre-Irrigation activities to start the irrigation season in the first week of May 2025 by using Many Farms Reservoir are in progress. We are ensuring that the Irrigation water supply system is in good condition including Many Farms Diversion, canals, flume, ditches, gates, outlets, air valves, etc. at the initiation of the irrigation season. Last two years, the farmers had good irrigation seasons.
 - Because of the last 2 good irrigation seasons, our irrigation office and the Many Farms Farm Board are planning to irrigate more land this season. Land prep for additional six (6) farmers at approximately 40 acres are in works including minor prep work on 2024 farmers that have already farmed. Land prep for overall 85 acres have been completed for the coming 2025 irrigation season.
 - Culvert repair work on County Road crossing the irrigation canal has been completed in coordination with the Apache County Roads Department.
 - Many Farms Reservoir Gate Exercise has been successfully completed to ensure proper functioning of the gate.

- Currently, the work is underway with the Artesian Well Farmers to address the freeze damage of 12-inch irrigation system involving a replacement of approximately 60 yards of PVC pipe and 2 gate valves and to install a flush out to prevent any future freeze.

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