

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Division of Community Development Newsletter

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Did You Know...

Blanca Peak or *Sisnaajini* - Dawn or White Shell Mountain, is the Sacred Mountain of the East. It is east of Alamosa, Colorado in the Blanca Massif.

Events

- September 2: Labor Day
- September 6-8: Navajo Nation Fair - Window Rock, AZ
- September 23: Autumn Begins
- October 3-6: Northern Navajo Fair - Shiprock, NM
- October 10-13: Western Navajo Fair - Tuba City, AZ

Tsaile/Wheatfields Chapter Receives Award



BY PAULA S. BEGAY, CSC, TSAILE/WHEATFIELDS CHAPTER

On May 8, 2019, the Tsaile/Wheatfields Chapter received the Striving for Safety Award at the 2019 Navajo Nation Safety & Health Conference.

Nanilnishigi dóó nanináágo adaa'aholyá -- "To Achieve and Maintain a Healthy & Safe Environment a Team Must Plan, Communicate Work and Sustain to be in Harmony. Thank You for Striving for the Team."

Other Programs and Departments also received the awards.



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Chilchinbeto

Youth &



Elder Day



BY ROSE GILLIS, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, CHILCHINBETO CHAPTER

On August 21, 2019, the Division of Behavioral and Mental Health Services hosted a Youth & Elder Day for the Chilchinbeto Community at the Chilchinbeto Chapter House. The Chilchinbeto Community School brought some of their students who attended the session. Speakers talked about cyber-bullying and life (*iiná*) and activities included balance exercises.

RDC Work Session



BY Shirleen Jumbo-Rintila

The Resources and Development Committee recently had a work session with DCD/ASC, Office of the Auditor General, Department of Personnel Management, Office of Navajo Government Development, Office of the Controller, and sanctioned chapters.



The work session was held to address the issue of sanctioned chapters. Chapters are sanctioned when there are audit findings that are not addressed satisfactorily by the chapters within the timeframes established by the Office of the Auditor General.

The sanctioned chapters presented their strategies on how to approach their sanction findings with timelines, who will assist them including: ASC Senior Programs and Projects Specialists, chapter staff, chapter officials, etc., and what the chapters have completed to date on the findings.



Prohibition on Parade Candy for Healthy Alternatives Causes Tension

Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer issued a memorandum on August 5 that prohibits parade participants from giving out candy and other unhealthy food items during the upcoming Navajo Nation Fair Parade. The alternative was to hand out healthier food items such as fruits, traditional foods, and water. They noted the need to ban the unhealthy food items will ensure the health and wellness of people on the Navajo Nation because consumption of sugar-laden foods and drinks can contribute to diabetes and other health issues among children and adults.

These and other associated health issues such as tooth decay and toothaches from consuming too many sugary drinks and food could also contribute to lower academic achievement for Navajo children. According to a recent report by the Association of State & Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD), "When children have poor oral health, their ability to learn is affected. Students with toothaches are almost 4 times more likely to have a low grade point average." The report goes on to say "Dental problems (e.g., pain, infection and teeth missing due to tooth decay) can cause chewing problems. This can limit food choices and result in inadequate nutrition. Nutritional deficiencies also hinder children's school performance, reduce their ability to concentrate and perform complex tasks, and contribute to behavioral problems."

Online social media commentary by Navajos ranged from support to outright disbelief and anger. However, the majority of comments seem to recognize that this restriction was only for a short time during the parade and isn't as big a deal as it's made out to be. Furthermore, many commenters recognized that the move would be beneficial for the youth to see as a matter of principle -- leaders and role models taking a stand for eating healthier.

The Navajo Nation Legislative Branch's Office of the Chief Legislative Counsel issued an opinion that the memo did not apply to the Navajo Nation Council's ability to hand out candy. In the end, there were reports from parade spectators that candy was being given out as well as healthier options. Many people were glad that healthier options were available for their children.

SEPTEMBER 2019

DCD Meets with Legislative District Assistants

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On Thursday, August 15, DCD Executive Director Dr. Pearl Yellowman and DCD staff met with some of the Legislative District Assistants (LDAs) at the Karigan Professional Complex in St. Michaels. While only four LDAs showed up for this first meeting, it was a great start at beginning to build a working relationship.

The LDAs provided information on the projects they were working on and expressed a need to communicate more with the ASC and CPMD offices.

LDAs in attendance were Philandra Nelson, Arthur Hardy, Jr., Laris Manuelito, and Joann Dedman.



Bulletin Board

NAVAJO NATION TO SEEK PROSECUTION FOR ILLEGAL TRASH DUMPING

BLACK MESA, Ariz.- On Friday, the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency announced that its Criminal Enforcement Department is working to address a case of illegal trash dumping in the community of Black Mesa, Ariz., which is in violation of the Navajo Nation Solid Waste Act, and will seek prosecution of the perpetrators.

Navajo Nation EPA Executive Director Oliver Whaley stated that a report of illegal dumping was recently made to the EPA's Western Navajo Agency office by local residents, which was then investigated. The Navajo Nation EPA has since cleaned up the illegal dumping site, which consisted of household debris and garbage. While cleaning up the site, the officials were able to identify several alleged perpetrators using names found on the debris.

Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer commended the Navajo Nation EPA for addressing the situation and the community members for raising the concern with the EPA. They also cautioned that other similar offenses will be investigated to deter illegal trash dumping and to protect the environment. They also note that the Nez-Lizer Administration is working diligently to develop a landfill for the Navajo Nation to help address the issue of illegal dumping.

"We've heard directly from many of our own people regarding their concerns over illegal dumping in many communities and many have called for the prosecution of offenders. In every community, we have children that play outdoors and families that use our land for events, ceremonies, and many other purposes -it's important that we protect our lands and preserve them for these important uses," stated President Nez. "This is a community driven effort to keep our lands clean and safe."

Vice President Lizer said he is hopeful that the situation in Black Mesa will serve as a reminder to perpetrators that the Nation will pursue prosecution for illegal trash dumping.

"As leaders of the Nation, we also recognize that we have a responsibility to work with communities to develop waste disposal plans and options for residents, businesses, and others and that's why we have tasked several of our Division Directors to develop a plan and timeline to develop a landfill for the Nation's use," said Vice President Lizer.

Navajo Nation Division of Community Development Executive Director Dr. Pearl Yellowman, Division of General Services Executive Director Lomardo Aseret, and Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency Executive Director Oliver Whaley are working together to establish a landfill to properly dispose of solid waste and to promote recycling in communities on the Nation.

READ MORE AT: <http://bit.ly/32heEav>

NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL APPROVES FISCAL YEAR 2020 COMPREHENSIVE BUDGET

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. - Sept. 3, 2019 - The Navajo Nation Council passed the Navajo Nation Fiscal Year 2020 Comprehensive Budget Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2019, at the Navajo Nation Council Chamber in Window Rock.

"On behalf of the 24th Navajo Nation Council, I wish to thank the Navajo Nation Office of Management and Budget, Navajo Nation Council staff, Chapter officials, program managers, division directors, President Nez and Chief Justice Jayne for coming together to create a balanced budget," said 24th Navajo Nation Council Speaker Seth Damon. The Navajo Nation Fiscal Year 2020 Comprehensive Budget is the overall budget for the Navajo Nation government for the period beginning Oct. 1, 2019 through Sept. 30, 2020.

Budget and Finance Committee Vice Chair Raymond Smith, Jr., the sponsor of the legislation, stated that the fiscal year 2020 budget begins the process of tightening the belt for future years. Based on the Office of the Controller's projected changes in royalties, the budget also sets aside funding for fiscal year 2021 to better prepare for revenue shifts, said Vice Chair Smith. The budget legislation passed with recommendations from the Budget and Finance Committee and one amendment from Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr by a vote of 16 in favor and 4 opposed with Speaker not voting.

Before the adjustments by the Budget and Finance Committee, the approved budget appropriates \$1,253,069,202 as the operating budget for fiscal year 2020. Of that operating budget, \$163,200,000 are General Funds, \$22,500,000 is Indirect Cost Credit, \$12,400,000 is Higher Education set aside funds, \$6,948,207 is Personnel Savings, \$84,505,383 is Proprietary Fund, \$78,905,642 is Fiduciary Funds, \$43,767,992 is Special Revenue Internal Funds, \$3,800,000 is External Cash Match Funds, \$3,000,000 is Capital Outlay Match Funds and \$834,041,978 is Special Revenue External Funds. The approved budget includes an operating budget of \$16,586,333 for activities within the Legislative Branch. The Judicial Branch is appropriated \$19,857,398 for its operating budget. The Executive Branch approved operating budget is \$1,190,717,730. Navajo Nation Chapter Non-Administrative Costs were also included in the approved budget at an amount of \$11,998,969. The final amounts are pending required adjustment by the Office of Management and Budget. The Navajo Nation Council also approved a \$5 million carryover for the three branches.

The carryover allocates \$3 million to the Executive Branch with priority allocation of \$1 million to cover chapter meeting stipends. The Legislative Branch and the Judicial Branch are allocated \$1,500,000 and \$500,000, respectively. The final carryover amounts are subject to balances at the end of the current fiscal year. Under the approved budget, a total of \$2 million is allocated to Chapter official stipends for fiscal year 2020.

The Office of Management and Budget will deliver final calculations to the Office of Legislative Services, which will then deliver the budget to Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez for veto or approval.

The Office of Legislative Services expects to deliver the approved budget by Friday.

READ MORE AT: <http://bit.ly/2Q68ljC>

PERSONNEL NEWS

DCD OPEN POSITIONS

Capital Projects Management Department

POSITION TITLE	LOCATION	PAY RATE	CLOSING DATE
Project Manager(S)(2 Pos)	Window Rock, AZ	41,641.60	OUF

Administrative Service Centers

POSITION TITLE	LOCATION	PAY RATE	CLOSING DATE
Community Services Coordinator(S)	Hardrock, AZ	35,755.20	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist(S)	Rock Point, AZ	25,355.20	10/07/2019
Community Services Coordinator(S)	Iyanbito, NM	35,755.20	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist(S)	Alamo, NM	25,355.20	OUF
Community Services Coordinator(S)	Sanostee, NM	35,755.20	09/16/2019
Accounts Maintenance Specialist(S)	Red Mesa, AZ	25,355.20	09/27/2019
Community Services Coordinator(S)	Coalmine Mesa, AZ	35,755.20	OUF

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

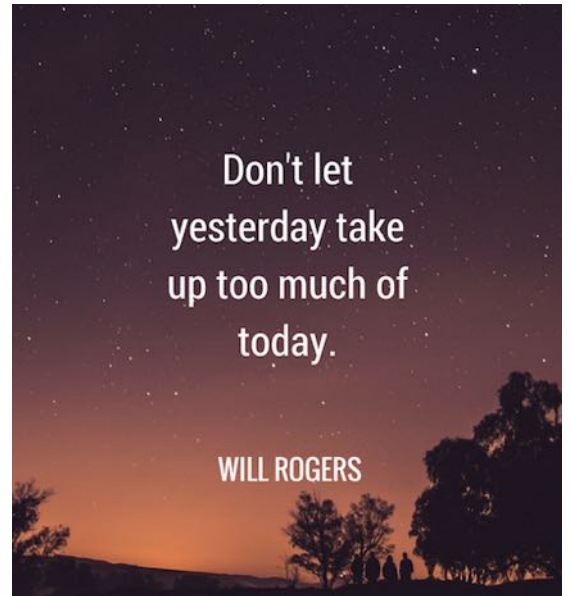


"The rest of us would appreciate it if you would leave the thermostat alone."

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Don't let yesterday take up too much of today.

WILL ROGERS



NEW DCD EMPLOYEES

Holly Barton joins the Capital Projects Management Department (CPMD) as a Planner.

Holly is *Mą'ii deeshgiizhinii*, born for *Tábaqhá*. Her maternal grandparent is *Táchii'nii* and her paternal grandparent is *Tódich'ii'nii*. She is the daughter of Margie Barton from White Cone, AZ and Robert Barton from Dilkon, AZ.

Ms. Barton recently received her Master of Science in Planning from the University of Arizona. She also has a Bachelor of Science in Sustainability with a Minor in Urban Planning from Arizona State University. She supplements her education with professional experiences that include working as an Ecologist for the Tohono O'odham Nation and as a Tribal Climate Science Liaison for the American Indian Higher Education Consortium.

When she is not working, her interests include: traveling, hiking, playing volleyball, reading, going on adventures with her fur baby, Josie, and watching football. Her favorite football teams are Real Madrid, Tottenham, AS Roma, Seattle Sounders, and FC Tucson.



Kent Grantsen joins the Capital Projects Management Department (CPMD) as an Engineering Technician.

Kent is from Coyote Canyon. *Tódich'ii'nii níj' dóó Tó'aheedlínii yáashchíín. Naakai dine'é dabicheii dóó Ta'neezahnii dabinalí. Ákót'éego diné níj'.* He has served in various capacities in working with Navajo Nation chapters in New Mexico. He is a lifelong learner, who enjoys hikes and blue corn mush.

CPMD Department Manager James Adakai said, "We encourage younger Navajos to apply for professional positions within the department and give something back to the Navajo Nation with their education, skills and talent.. We are fortunate to hire additional staff to offset the workload for the record number of projects the department is undertaking..." CPMD is currently advertising a Project Manager position.

NEW DCD EMPLOYEES - Continued

Sage Cambridge joins the Administrative Service Center in Shiprock, NM, as an Office Specialist.

Sage is *Ashjiihí* (Salt People) born for *Tsenaabihii* (Sleeping Rock People). I am the daughter of Anita Yazzie from Tohatchi, NM and Lorenzo Billy from Lake Valley, NM. She has a 6 year old son named Tryan Billy-Cryer in the first grade.

Mrs. Cambridge has an Administrative Office Specialist Certificate from Navajo Technical University which she received May 2017.

Things Sage likes to do when not working: Going on road trips with her husband Steven Cambridge and her son Tryan, bike riding, photography, hiking, baking and cooking meals at home for the family.



Clairice Begay joined the DCD- ASC-Kayenta office back in June 2019 as an Administrative Services Officer. Clairice is *Ta'neeszahnii*, born for *Tábaqahá*. Her maternal grandparent is *Bit'ahnii* and her paternal grandparent is *Ashjiihí*. She is from Rock Point, Arizona.

Ms. Begay received her Bachelors of Science in Accountancy from Northern Arizona University with a minor in Anthropology. Her professional experiences include working for a grant program under the Native American Cancer Prevention Program with Northern Arizona University, the Facilities Management Department with Maricopa County, and also worked in the private sector with Albertsons Companies during the merger process with Safeway.

Clairice loves to spend time with family and watching her favorite teams play-- AZ Cardinals, AZ Diamondbacks, and ASU Sun Devils.

Other new ASC staff include:

Eunice Begay (started 5-27-19) Dilkon SPPS

Robert Jumbo (started 5-27-19) Chinle ASO

Milford Maloney (started 6-10-19) Tuba City SPPS

Casey Begay (started 8-19-19) Baca Prewitt SPPS

Want to Join the Gig Economy? Join Census

Census is Hiring 500,000 Part-Time and Temporary Workers for 2020 Census

AMERICA COUNTS STAFF • AUGUST 5, 2019

From driving for a ride-sharing company to selling homemade crafts online, people in the United States are increasingly earning extra income in new and creative ways.

These side jobs — or so-called gigs — are fueled by new opportunities triggered by technology and a trend by companies to hire more part-time or contract workers.

The U.S. Census Bureau is on the verge of becoming the largest gig employer next year.

And now, the U.S. Census Bureau is on the verge of becoming the largest gig employer next year.

More than 500,000 temporary and part-time jobs are available as the Census Bureau ramps up hiring to conduct the 2020 Census next year.

Hiring has begun for a variety of jobs including census takers who visit homes and office workers who check home addresses among other things. Pay ranges from \$13 to \$30 an hour, depending on where you live.

High-Tech Census

The job of census taker, or enumerator, is going high-tech for the 2020 Census.

Gone are the days of lugging around big bags of forms, manuals and maps and boxes of documents. Now, enumerators will use smartphones and laptops to update addresses and help people respond to the census.

Mapping software developed by the Census Bureau will devise the best times to call on people at their homes and best routes to reach them.

“Everything used to be on paper,” said Burton Reist, assistant director for communications at the Census Bureau. “We had boxes and boxes of paper. Now it’s all mapped out on the phone.”

A Great Second Job or Part-time Gig

For the first time, people can apply online (<https://2020census.gov/en/jobs/job-details.html>) to work for the 2020 Census.

“These jobs can be a great second job, and we’re pitching them to students, bus drivers, teachers and others,” said Jeff Behler, regional director of the Census Bureau’s New York Regional Office. “You can work your 40-hour-per-week job and work for us on the weekends and be successful.”

Behler even recruits taxi and ride-sharing drivers, noting they can work for the 2020 Census during their off hours.

“We’re always recruiting,” he said.

Census Hiring Schedule

The 2020 Census is a count of every person living in the United States on April 1, 2020, the official Census Day. It asks a few simple questions, including age and number of people living in the home. It not only counts people but also where they are living on Census Day.

The Census Bureau is set to launch its nationwide address canvassing operation in August to update maps and address lists across the country.

About 50,000 temporary census workers will check more than 50 million addresses throughout the nation over a six-week period to see if any new residences (or addresses) were added. The Census Bureau wants to make sure that every address in the nation receives an invitation in March 2020 to respond to the census.

In early 2020, the Census Bureau will begin hiring census takers to visit individual homes to help residents complete their forms if they haven’t already responded online, by phone or through a paper questionnaire.

These door-to-door jobs are usually done in the evenings and on weekends. Positions also will be available at regional and local offices during more traditional daytime hours.

Until now, hiring was all done via paper applications and in-person testing sessions. Now, it’s online. If selected, people will provide fingerprints and undergo a background check before they can begin working.

Speak a Second Language? The Census Bureau Wants You

Despite low unemployment rates in much of the nation, the Census Bureau expects to fill all available jobs, said Timothy Olson, the Census Bureau’s associate director for field operations.

The Census Bureau is looking for people who speak non-English languages, and those who live in neighborhoods with large immigrant populations so that “our census takers look like the neighborhood we’re counting,” Behler said.

He said that people who work as census takers seem to love the job and making a difference in their communities.

“It’s crazy how this gets in your blood and you see the same people coming back decade after decade,” he said. “It’s an amazing experience.”

READ MORE AT: <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2019/08/want-to-join-gig-economy-join-census.html>

THE DESERT SOUTHWEST

March 2019

The Desert Southwest

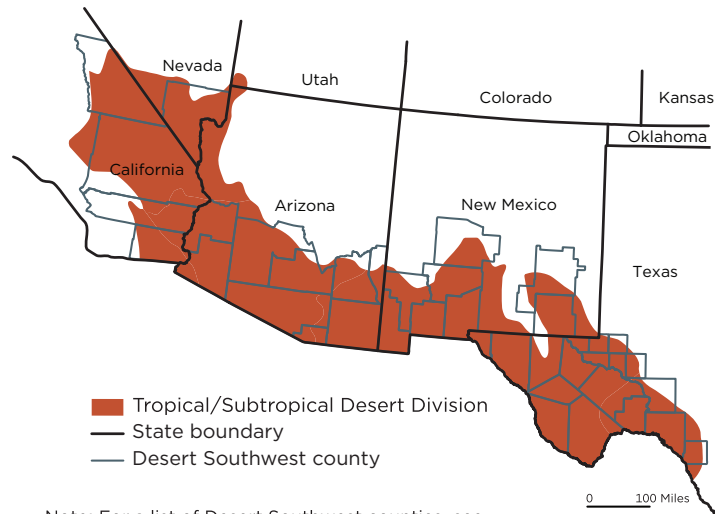
This infographic illustrates population change as well as demographic and economic characteristics of the Desert Southwest, a region of about 14.6 million people in 2016 that was delineated using a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service ecoregion classification.



Geographic Extent

The region is defined here to be generally consistent with the Forest Service's Tropical/Subtropical Desert Division that hugs the U.S. border with Mexico. A county is classified as being within the Desert Southwest if its geographic center falls within the Tropical/Subtropical Desert Division. Forty counties in five states make up the Desert Southwest.

Ecological Classification of the Desert Southwest

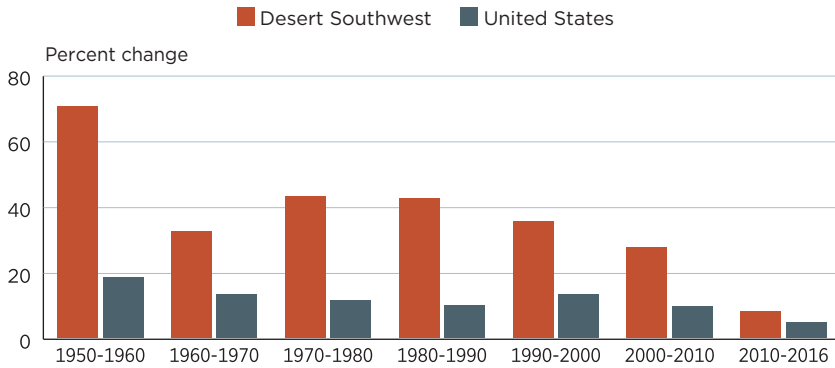


Note: For a list of Desert Southwest counties, see <https://www2.census.gov/library/stories/2019/02/desert-southwest-counties.xlsx?#>.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau; USDA Forest Service.

Change Over Time

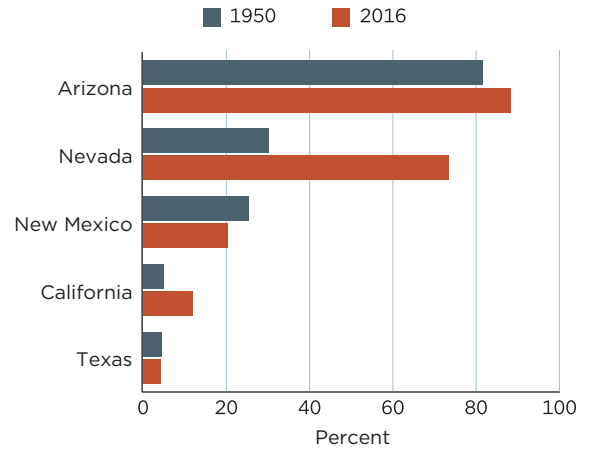
The population of the Desert Southwest grew rapidly between 1950 and 2016. For each decade between 1950 and 2010, the growth rate of the region was at least twice that of the United States as a whole. The region's growth rate was more than three times the U.S. growth rate during 3 decades: 1950 to 1960, 1970 to 1980, and 1980 to 1990. In 2016, roughly three-quarters of Nevadans lived in the Desert Southwest—up from roughly 3 in 10 Nevadans in 1950.

Population Growth Rate in the Desert Southwest and United States by Decade



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1950 through 2010 Censuses; V.2016 Population Estimates.

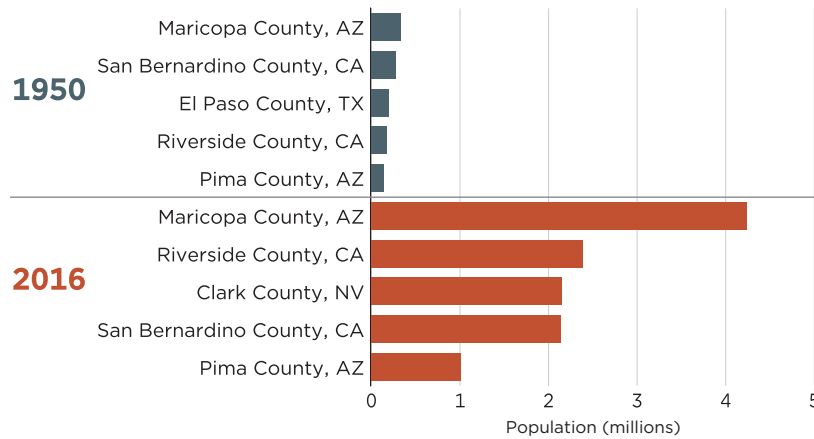
Percentage of State Populations Within the Desert Southwest



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1950 Census; V.2016 Population Estimates.

Despite the dynamic growth of the region, four of the five counties with the largest populations in 1950 remained among the five most populous in 2016. The largest county in both years—Maricopa County, Arizona—grew from a population under 350,000 in 1950 to over 4.0 million in 2016.

Five Most Populous Counties in the Desert Southwest: 1950 and 2016

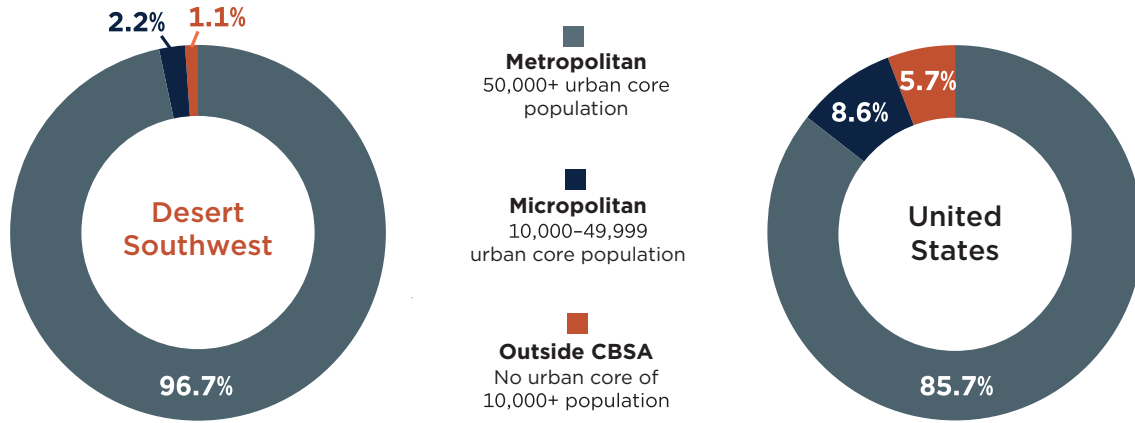


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1950 Census; V.2016 Population Estimates.

Settlement Structure

The Desert Southwest is more metropolitan than the United States as a whole, and less of the region's population falls within micropolitan statistical areas or outside of core based statistical areas (CBSAs).

Population of the Desert Southwest and United States by Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area Status: 2016

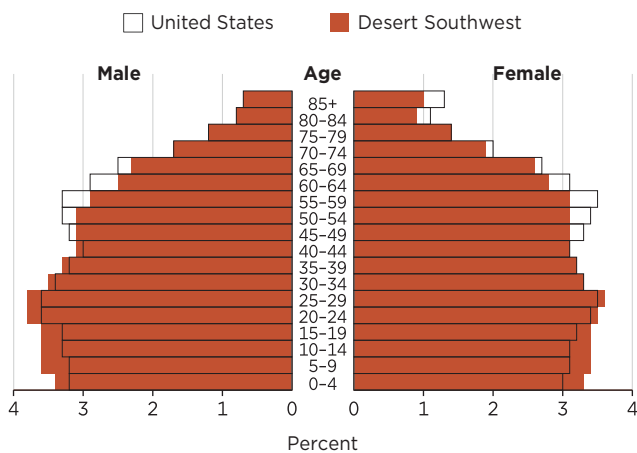


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, V.2016 Population Estimates; 2015 Office of Management and Budget statistical area delineations.

Demographic Characteristics

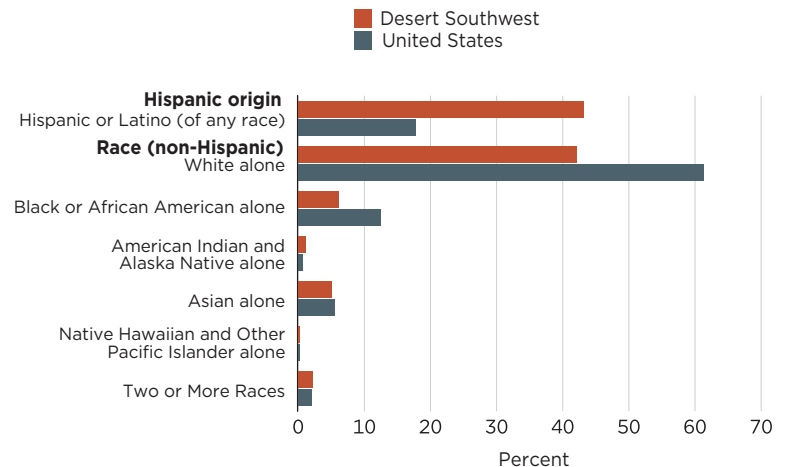
The Desert Southwest is commonly considered a popular destination for retirees. However, the region actually has a younger overall age structure than the United States as a whole, with generally higher than U.S. shares in the ages below 45 through 49 and lower shares in most older ages. In addition, more than 40 percent of the region's population in 2016 was Hispanic or Latino, compared to about 18 percent for the United States overall.

Percentage of Total Population of Desert Southwest and United States by Age and Sex: 2016



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, V.2016 Population Estimates.

Percentage of Desert Southwest and U.S. Population by Hispanic Origin and Race: 2016



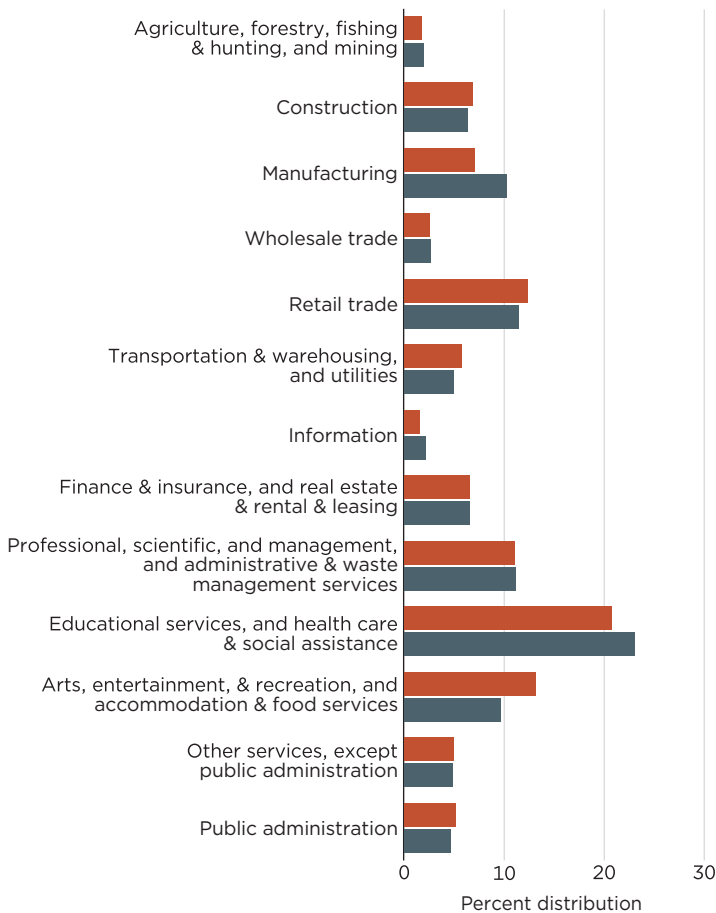
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, V.2016 Population Estimates.

Industry and Occupation Characteristics

In terms of industrial concentration, compared to the United States as a whole, the region had a higher percentage of its employment in categories such as (1) arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services, (2) retail trade, and (3) transportation and warehousing, and utilities. On the other hand, the region's employment had a lower percentage than the United States as a whole in categories such as (4) educational services, and health care and social assistance and (5) manufacturing. In terms of occupational concentration, compared to the United States as a whole, the Desert Southwest had a higher percentage of its employment in the categories (1) service, (2) sales and office, and (3) natural resources, construction, and maintenance, but a correspondingly lower percentage of employment than the United States in the (4) management, business, science, and arts category, and the (5) production, transportation, and material moving category.

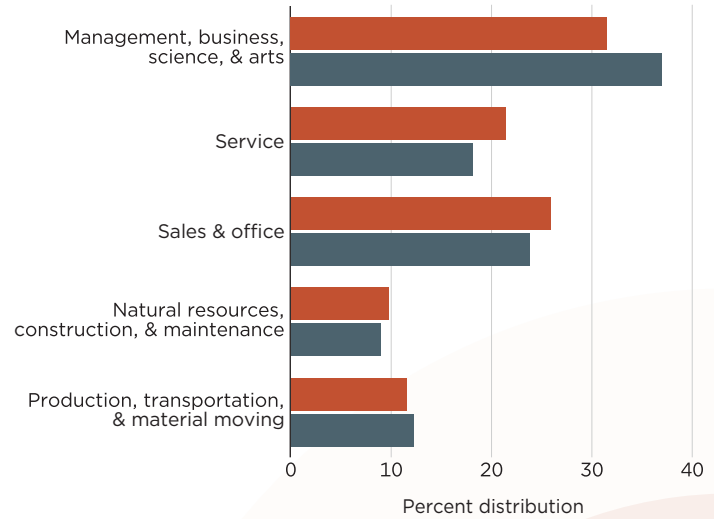
Industry Concentration

■ Desert Southwest ■ United States



Occupation Concentration

■ Desert Southwest ■ United States



Note: For industry concentration and occupation concentration—percent distribution of the civilian-employed population aged 16 and older. Data based on a sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <www.census.gov/acs/www>. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012–2016 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates.

What is the Navajo clan system? What it means to introduce yourself in Navajo.



EACH CLAN COMES FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE NAVAJO NATION, WITH THEIR OWN MEANING AND A STORY BEHIND THEM. (PHOTO: GRANDRIVER/GETTY IMAGES)

Shondiin Silversmith, Arizona Republic

For the Navajo people, introducing yourself is about more than just telling someone your name, it's about sharing where you come from.

Where you "come from" isn't just the location of where you live, but more what defines you. For the Navajo people that comes from their clans.

The Navajo people's way of life revolves around kinship or K'é, which arises from familial and clan relationships.

"K'é is a unifying thought process among the Navajo people," said Evangeline Parsons Yazzie, author of "*Diné Bizaad Bínáhoo'áah: Rediscovering The Navajo Language*" and Professor Emerita of Navajo from Northern Arizona University.

"It began with the people. It was a gift to them by their deities," she added.

Navajo clans

In Navajo culture, Changing Woman, a revered Navajo deity, created the Navajo people. When she was about to leave on her journey back to the West, she gifted them with four clans.

The four original clans of the Navajo people are *Kinyaa'áanii* (The Towering House clan), *Honágháahnii* (One-walks-around clan), *Tódich'ii'nii* (Bitter Water clan) and *Hasht'i'ishnii* (Mud clan).

The clan system was Changing Woman's way of telling the Navajo people that this will allow you to be who you are, said Grace Tracy, cultural liaison for Tséhootsooí Medical Center in Fort Defiance, Arizona.

"The clan is really important for us to identify ourselves," she added.

Today, there are more than 100 clans among the Navajo people. Tracy said each clan comes from different parts of the Navajo Nation, with their own meaning and a story behind them.

How the clans are used

The Navajo people are a matrilineal and matrilocal society, with each person belonging to four different clans. The first clan is from the mother, second is the father, third is the maternal grandfather and the fourth is the paternal grandfather.

"The way this clan system is structured results in the mother's clan being carried forward always, whereas the father's clan cycles out after two generations," according to NavajoWOTD.com.

The Navajo people are discouraged from dating or marrying someone with matching maternal and paternal clans.

Traditionally, Yazzie said, when a child is born and presented to its mother, the mother greets the newborn by telling them their maternal clan, followed by the paternal clan.

"The mother concludes with, 'In this way, you are my baby,'" Yazzie said. "That's what we're supposed to do when our baby is born."

K'é and clanship unify the Navajo people, Yazzie said, giving a sense of belonging.

When a Navajo person introduces themselves to another Navajo person who happens to have one or more of the same clans they do, those two become related through clan.

"You develop familial relationships," Yazzie said.

Those relationships help the Navajo people, especially when they are away from the Navajo Nation.

"You want to establish your sense of belonging among those people you're introducing yourself to. Also, you are telling them that you are Navajo," she said.

Introducing yourself in Navajo

When a Navajo person introduces themselves it usually starts off with a greeting.

Yá'át'ééh (Hello).

Then they move into their name.

Shí éí (name) *yinishyé* (I am called ...)

Following the name, they introduce their four clans.

Mother's clan *nishj́*

Father's clan *bashishchiin*

Maternal grandfather's clan *dashicheii*

Paternal grandfather's clan *dashinalí*

An English translation would be "I am (mother's clan), born for (father's clan), my maternal grandfather is (maternal grandfather's clan), my paternal grandfather's clan is (paternal grandfather's clan).

If someone also comes from another heritage not part of the Navajo clan system, it's common practice to substitute out the clan for a word indicating that heritage.

The introduction is usually closed off with *Ahéhee'*, which translates to thank you or I am grateful.

REPORTER SHONDIIN SILVERSMITH COVERS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES IN ARIZONA. REACH HER AT [SSILVERSMI@ARIZONAREPUBLIC.COM](mailto:ssilversmi@arizonarepublic.com) AND FOLLOW HER TWITTER @DIINSILVERSMITH.

READ MORE AT: <https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona/2019/08/29/what-means-introduce-yourself-navajo-clan-system/2131456001/>

Basic Broadband for "Homes" on Tribal Lands

One Rural Telco's Uphill Battle to Provide Basic Broadband Services to Tribal Communities in Need

“The sprawling reservation, which touches parts of rural Arizona, New Mexico and Utah, is by any measure one of the poorest places in America. Studies have found more than 30,000 families need new homes to live by modern standards.”

BY John Badal

Sacred Wind Communications was founded on the premise of “serving the unserved,” given the technological void that envelopes so many tribal communities in New Mexico. While the company continues to expand its broadband deployment initiatives among tribal communities in New Mexico, it still faces an uphill battle when trying to balance high infrastructure buildout costs with high consumer demand, particularly in remote Navajo communities. The following points specifically elucidate how difficult it is for a small, rural telco whose mission is to serve tribal communities that want and need broadband services, but still do not have basic access:

1. Operating costs and infrastructure deployment costs are much higher on remote tribal lands than those in other rural and urban areas.
2. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), using U.S. Census Bureau data and its own Form 477 data, designating a carrier's served households, misses many unserved tribal homes in its calculation of broadband support needed by the carrier.
3. A major part of the undercounting of tribal homes is the failure to recognize certain structures as domiciles, inhabitable by Western standards.

As part of the FCC's recent Alternative Connect America Cost Model (A-CAM) support order, Sacred Wind Communications took the opportunity to identify all locations – structures that might be served by broadband and voice telecommunications services – within its study areas' census blocks declared by the FCC eligible for A-CAM support, and found that the FCC undercounted the locations in those census blocks by over 4,000 locations. Those undercounted homes represented a loss of nearly \$4 million annually in funding needed to provide broadband to those locations. The exclusion of those locations from the A-CAM support program has rendered them invisible to the FCC for purposes of bridging the digital divide in rural and Tribal areas. Had Sacred Wind accepted the FCC's A-CAM offer of support, the company could have met its obligations of providing broadband at 25 Mbps download to 100% of the locations in the FCC's database, without ever having to deploy to a single one of these excluded locations, ignoring nearly 40% of the households.

OPEX and CAPEX Costs are Higher on Rural Tribal Lands

Operating in a study area 1½ times the size of Delaware where three-fourths of the population live remotely or in small clusters of homes, separated in many areas by miles of desert or mountainous terrain, Sacred Wind's per household outside plant costs exceed the norm. The company's number of vehicles, vehicle miles travelled, and outside plant technicians are higher than those for more concentrated study areas. The cost of construction of communications towers and equipment shelters and installation of broadband carrier cabinets on remote sites, and the cost of rights-of-way for every project, whether landline or microwave, elevate Sacred Wind's per customer operating costs.

Basic Broadband - Continued

The Federal Government Undercounts Many Homes on Rural Tribal Lands

Like other carriers serving Tribal Lands, Sacred Wind serves many low-income customers who reside in extremely rural, remote areas. The average annual individual income in Navajo, New Mexico, is \$6,176, which is 75 percent below the statewide average (\$25,257) and 80 percent below the national average (\$31,177).[1] Over 42.9 percent of Navajos live under the national poverty level, the highest poverty rate in the country, even among American Indians.[2] Sacred Wind calculates that, among the yet-unserved households in the more remote areas of its territory, even higher poverty levels exist. Almost 75% of Sacred Wind's customers participate in the FCC's Tribal Lifeline program.

The Navajo People reside in basically three classifications of tribally occupied federal lands: 1) Homesites under a lease with the Tribe, 2) Allotment Lands assigned and managed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and 3) in HUD or Navajo Housing Authority (NHA) housing.

A Navajo Homesite Lease, a parcel of land assigned by the Navajo Nation to a family or individual of up to one acre, is acquired by a member of the Tribe who then would build a house or move a trailer home on the parcel. The Homesite Lease allows up to three residential locations occupied by relatives of the applicant.

A BIA Allotment, a U.S. Department of Interior BIA-managed parcel, can be from 2.5 acres to 160 acres and is allotted to a Tribal family wherein multiple locations occupied by members of the same family can reside, as authorized by the majority of all family members.

With multiple households occupying a family's Homesite Lease or BIA Allotment, some legitimately and others as "squatters," it is apparent that many households have been omitted by census takers.

Many Navajo Homes Are Not Recognized as Domiciles

According to the NHA, over 30,000 Navajo families are on a waiting list for NHA homes. (Reference to that statistic can be found in a news article in the link provided below and cited here: "The sprawling reservation, which touches parts of rural Arizona, New Mexico and Utah, is by any measure one of the poorest places in America. Studies have found more than 30,000 families need new homes to live by modern standards.") [3] Those families are not the primary occupants of a homesite lease nor of an allotment. Those primary homes have been built by the primary owners/occupants and are mortgage/lease-free. They are family members of homesite leases and allotment occupants who live in substandard dwellings on those homesite and allotment parcels that are probably not recognized by the US Census and the FCC as living quarters. Sacred Wind has delivered voice and broadband services to a number of these locations using its fixed-wireless technology and, in some cases where electric service is unavailable in the area, the company has installed small solar power units to power up its customer's communication equipment.

Many of these residences are accessible by dirt roads and truck pathways and therefore lack street addresses. Others may be unrecognizable as an inhabitable structure to those outside of the Tribe.

Census blockHere is a detailed example and close-up of a census block (350319436002056) with location discrepancies. FCC data listed three eligible locations for this area, whereas Sacred Wind counted seventeen eligible locations.



The total location discrepancy for Sacred Wind is staggering and may stem from flawed U.S. Census housing unit data. As recently reported by the L.A. Times, a U.S. Census Bureau audit found that in the 2010 Census, nearly 1 in 7 Native Americans living on a reservation was missed, amounting to 82,000 people overlooked and uncounted — "equal to skipping the entire city of Santa Fe, New Mexico's capital." [4]

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SEPTEMBER 2019



The DCD Newsletter, "Community Info", is produced monthly by the Division of Community Development and is a resource for division staff and chapters.

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