

RESOLUTION
OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
OF THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

Recommending and Requesting that Each Community Designate
Trust Land for Community Cemeteries

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §§ 691 and 693, the Resources Committee is established as a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council for the purposes of ensuring the optimum utilization of all resources of the Navajo Nation and to protect the rights, and interests and freedoms of the Navajo Nation and people to such resources; and
2. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 695 (B) (14), the Resources Committee of the Navajo Nation Council serves as the legislative oversight committee for the Division of Natural Resources, District Grazing Committee, Eastern Navajo Land Board and Navajo Nation Farm Boards and overall matters affecting Navajo resources; and
3. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 695 (B) (5) and (6), the Resources Committee is authorized to give final approval of all land withdrawals for residential subdivisions, rights-of-way, including all surface easements and other clearances related but not limited to powerline, waterline and sewer line extensions; and to oversee and regulate all activities within Navajo Nation lands, including actions which may involve disposition or acquisition of resources, surface disturbance, or alteration of the natural state of the resource; and
4. The District Grazing Committee has been dealing with issues involving burials. There is a prevalence of people burying their deceased loved ones out on rangelands, within farm plots and within or near their homesite leases. Land use controversies arise when other land users find a burial that interferes with their use of range or farm lands. During the funeral and burial planning process, controversies and disputes arise when a grazing permittee or land use permittee finds out that the burial is being planned on open rangelands or within or near a farm plot or homesite lease area. The District Grazing officials are being requested to handle or mediate these disputes on burials; and
5. To address these issues and to avoid any further controversies, the District Grazing Committee by resolutions, have requested that each community designate and withdraw lands in accordance with 13 N.N.C. § 1951 and 2 N.N.C. § 695 (B) (5) and (6). These resolutions of the District Grazing Committees are attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit "A"; and

6. The Resources Committee is also aware that there are communities where their community cemeteries have reached their maximum use allowances and may have to withdraw more lands to handle the additional needs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Resources Committee of the Navajo Nation Council hereby requests that each community of the Navajo Nation designate lands for community cemeteries in accordance with Title 13, Navajo Nation Code, Chapter 11, Burials, Subchapter 1. Generally and Subchapter 3, Cemeteries, including 13 N.N.C. § 1951 and 2 N.N.C. § 695 (B) (5) and (6). Chapter resolutions recommending such land withdrawals shall be submitted to the Division of Natural Resources for consideration by the Resources Committee.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Resources Committee of the Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting at Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstained, this 9th day of December, 1999.



Robert B. Whitehorse
Vice Chairperson
Resources Committee

Motion: Jack Colorado
Second: Herman Daniels