

## **Appendix H – What to do if you find your loved one**

Finding your loved one is an emotional time, as well as to make sure law enforcement and anyone else helping in the search is informed. During this process, make sure to take care of yourself and to provide support to others on your search team, if possible.

If you find your loved one...

- Check if they need medical attention. If you have a first aid kit with you, you can provide basic medical attention. If injuries are serious, call 911 or take your loved one to the hospital if you are able to safely move them. If on Navajo Nation, please utilize this contact list for emergency numbers.
- Contact law enforcement to inform them the person has been found. This is especially important if the police are also searching.
- Inform the others in your search party that the person has been found. (Add something about walkie talkies/ 2-way radios)
- Even if they are not injured, make sure they have access to water and light snacks as soon as possible. If they have not had food or water in a while, it is important to pace it out so they do not get sick.
- Depending on weather, try to bring weather appropriate items. For example, blankets in the winter or an umbrella in the summer to provide shade.
- If our loved one left on bad terms, you may need to prepare if they have an emotional response

If you find your loved one, but they are deceased:

- Do not touch their body unless you are unsure if they are deceased. If you need to check, have one medically trained person take their pulse. This is important because if foul play was involved, law enforcement will need to be able to collect evidence.
- Do not disturb the area around their body. This is so that evidence will not be disturbed when law enforcement needs to investigate.
- Call law enforcement and inform them of the situation. Inform them of the location, do not try to move your loved ones body.
- Inform the others in your search party, and do not be afraid to seek support from them.
- This process will bring up a lot of emotions. It is important to have a support network during this time. This may include staying with friends or family for a few nights if possible. This way you'll have support and be able to provide support to others affected by this.