

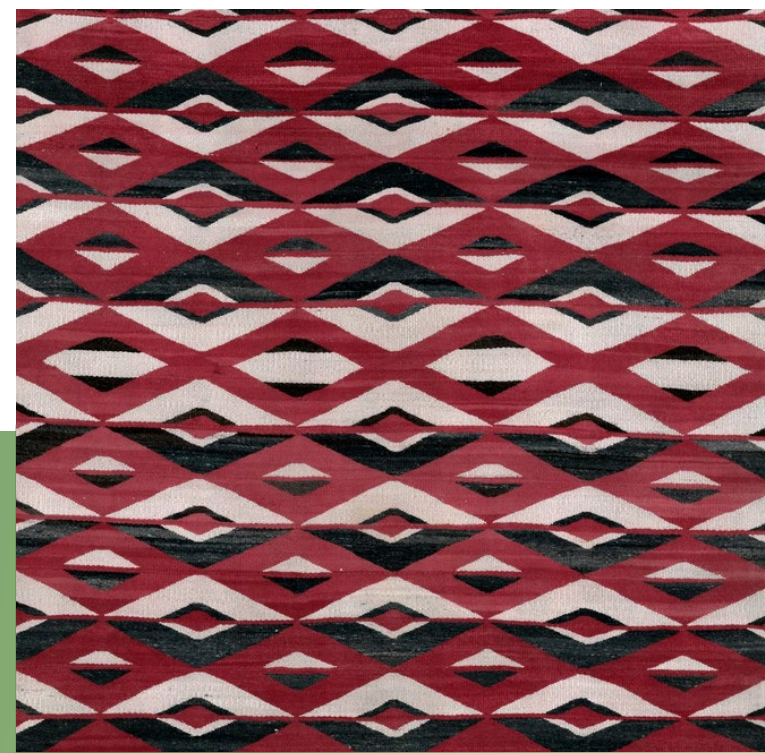
Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Department



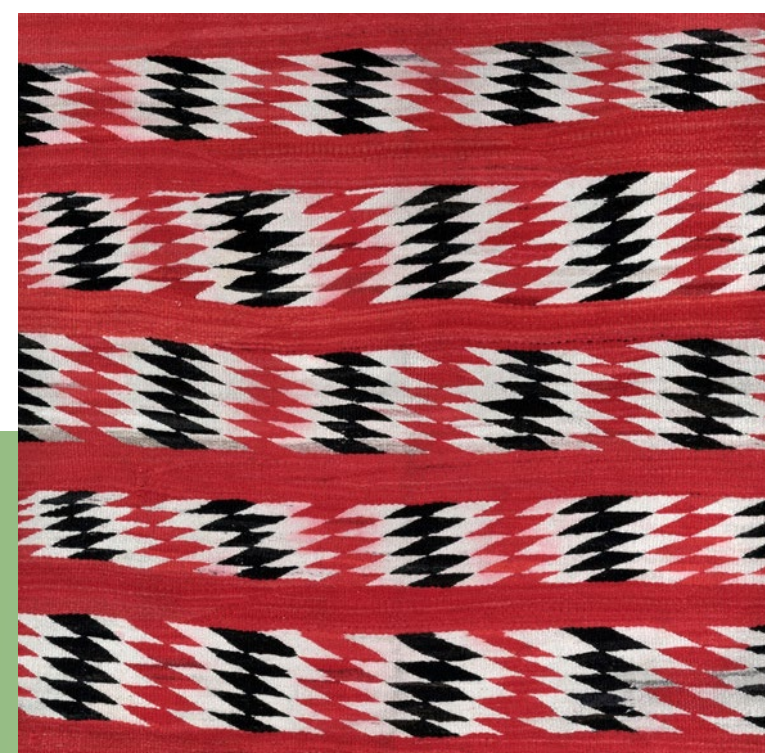
meet our team



Marietta Jensen
Benjamin Deans
Donovan Sam
Devin Fatt



Victoria Cecil
Albert Lee
Valerie Fowler
Benson Mitchell



Ernest Grayeyes
Natalya Robbins
Bertha Matchers
Victor Lee



Cory Dayish
Sherwin Becenti
Derrick Lee

about NAMLRD

Established in 1988, the department does:

- (1) Protect people and the environment.
- (2) Coordinates with federal and tribal agencies.
- (3) Implements Public Facilities Projects (PFP).



about NAMLRD

Visit our website! 😊



Why are you here?



Essentially, you are here for two reasons:

- (1) The DNR Expo 2026: *“Preservation of natural resources through innovation”*
- (2) Learn how your Navajo tribal departments assist and support you and the Navajo tribal government.



How does NAMLRD help?

“Addressing abandoned mines within the Navajo reservation by rendering them safe for public health and community safety. While mitigating physical safety with abandoned mines, NAMLRD supports and informs local indigenous communities for robust awareness.”

Bertha Matchers, NAMLRD Administrative Specialist



How does NAMLRD help?

“The Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Department collaborates, partners, and safeguards environmental health, public health, and tribal sovereignty associated with abandoned mine sites. This includes, but not limited to, technical assistance, cultural stewardship, economic support, and outreach with federal and tribal stakeholders.”

Cory Dayish, NAMLRD Environmental Specialist

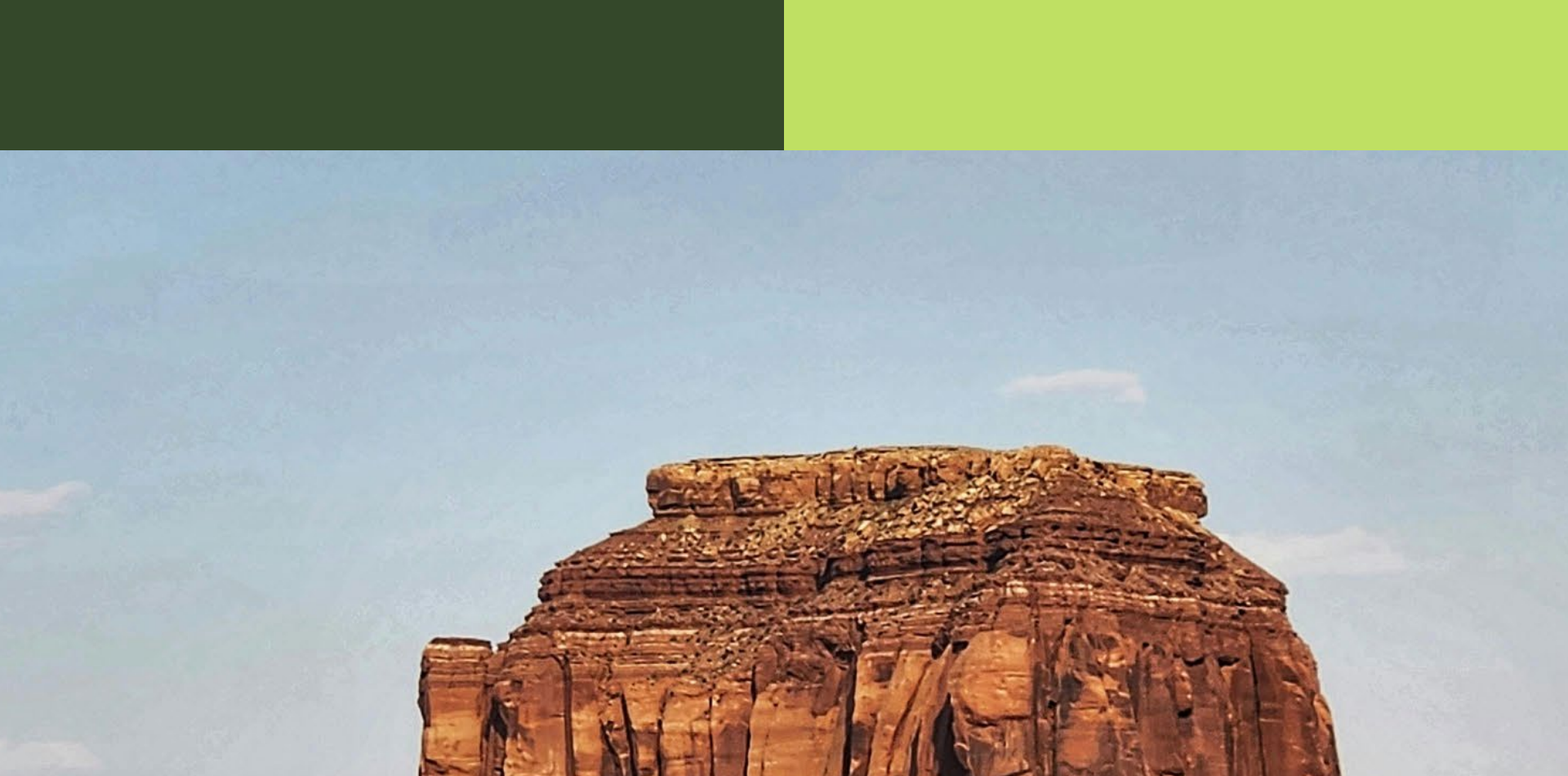


How does NAMLRD help?

“

- To help the people.
- Abate past and current coal and non-coal abandoned mine sites where NAMLRD is the "first responders" to address physical hazards associated with those mines. This includes closing portals and shafts. Reclamation efforts are the original scope where clean-up and remediation are not a part of the scope.
- NAMLRD created a map using internal database inventory. This map was the first-of-its-kind for AML sites for the Navajo nation. This map is for the Navajo people to help understand where mines are located that would be relevant for development on the Navajo nation.
- NAMLRD = A bridge for stakeholders = A nexus for trust for all governments.
- NAMLRD conveyed PFP projects for affected coal-mine communities that was a form of economic revitalization.
- NAMLRD provides technical assistance and support for tribal and federal stakeholders continuing safeguarding and erosion monitoring.
- NAMLRD encourages public outreach to inform the Navajo public to assist and support people's questions because it is common that some mine sites are not commercial scale but residential scale (personal). ”





our mission



01

Science:
Protect, restore, and reclaim abandoned mine sites.

02

Safety:
Facilitate environmental monitoring compliance with tribal and federal statutes and regulations.

03

Public:
Community Infrastructure development and public outreach for the benefit of the Navajo people and their lands.



our vision

01

Management:
Manage mine sites, funding opportunities,
and compliance with tribal and federal
statutes.

02

Monitor:
Survey, assess, and strategize reclaimed mine
sites.

03

Maintenance:
Address inventoried, reclaimed mine sites for
public health and environmental health.



our 
service

Navajo Nation President's Priorities

1

Education

Nygren administration aims to improve Navajo education, support student's well-being, preserve culture, and expand access to higher education.



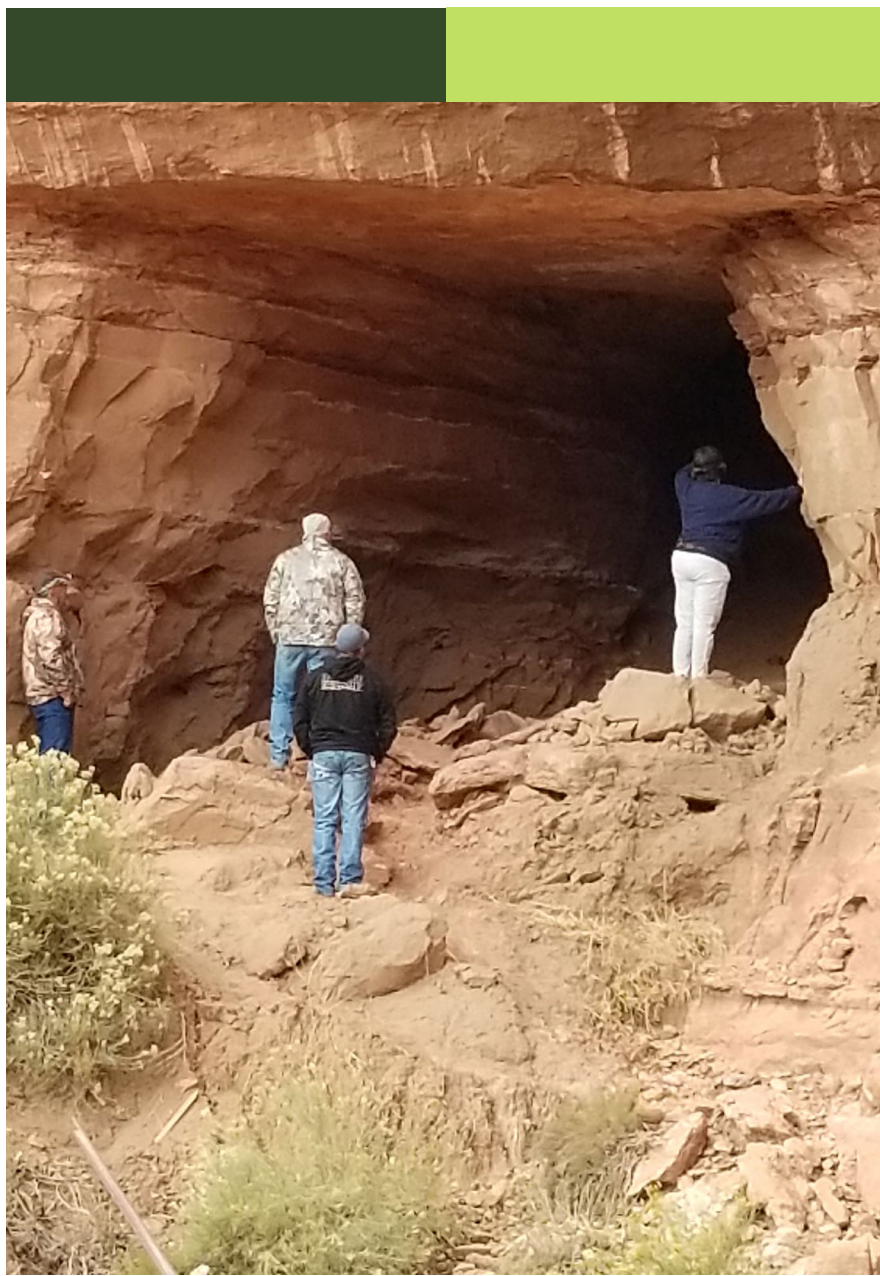
our 
service

Navajo Nation President's Priorities

2

Government

Empowering local chapters, improving government efficiency, protecting sovereignty, and supporting wages, land rights, and voting access.



our 
service

Navajo Nation President's Priorities

3

Environment

Protecting Navajo air, water, and land by fighting climate change, ending illegal dumping, and ensuring community-led, culturally sensitive solutions.



our 
service

Navajo Division of Natural Resources Priorities

1

Government

[...]provides measures to the protection, restoration, conservation, management, and sustainable development 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 and Vice President.



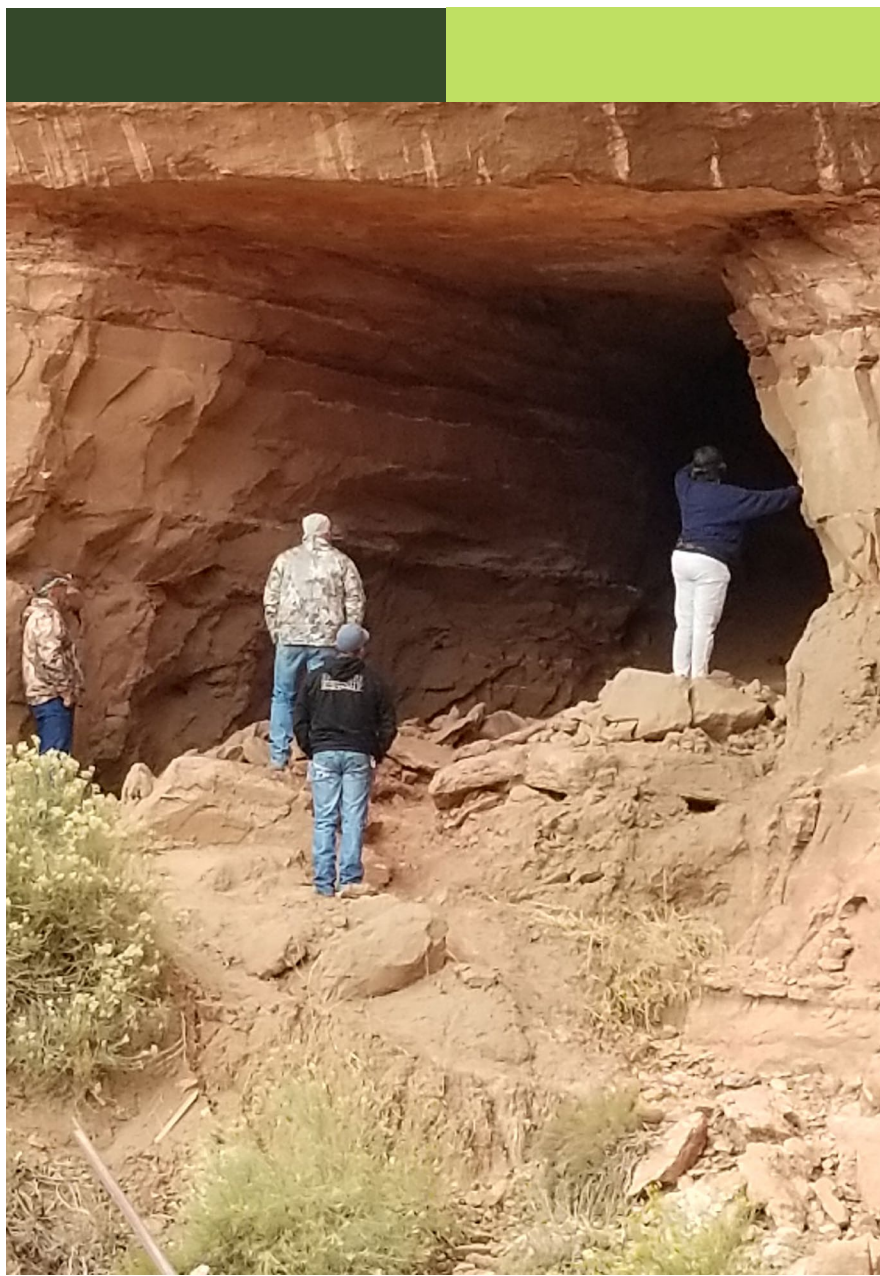
our 
service

Navajo Division of Natural Resources Priorities

2

Sustainability

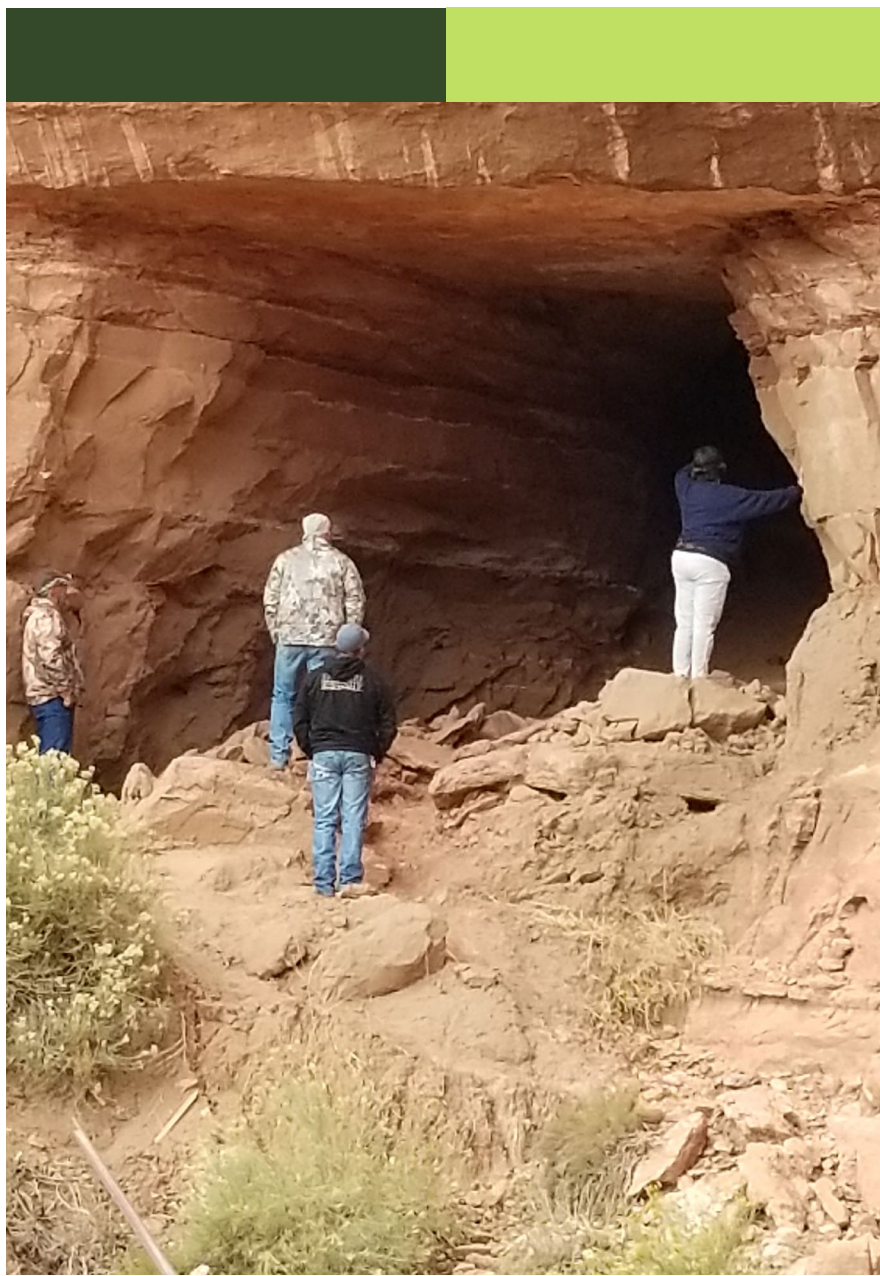
Further ensuring the highest quality of Natural Resources are available for the enjoyment and use of present and future generations of the Navajo people through comprehensive management of Navajo natural resources while preserving the Nations's culture resources.



our 
service

1. *“To manage reclamation of abandoned coal and non-coal mines for the protection of public health, safety, general welfare, and property from extreme danger and other adverse effects from past coal and non-coal mining practices.”*
2. *“To conduct repairs, renovations and construction of public Infrastructure such as senior citizens centers, chapter buildings, utilities, roads, recreation facilities in communities adversely affected by coal and non-coal mining practices.”*

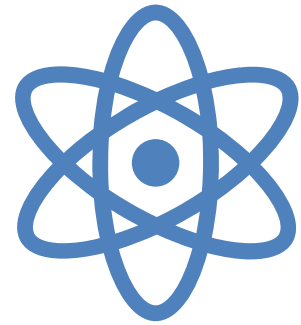
Cite: NAML RD Website



our[🌱]
service



Environment



Education



Government

what do you know about Reclamation?



DOE Definition

“Typical activities associated with mined land reclamation include regrading waste rock piles; closing open portals, shafts, and vents; and revegetating disturbed areas. Successful reclamation, which is the process of creating stable landforms and establishing desirable vegetative communities, has been mostly successful, especially considering the harsh environment in which the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) uranium lease tracts are located. Uranium Leasing Program personnel have learned that successful reclamation usually takes at least three years to achieve. Particularly, arid sites may take five years for desired vegetation to become well established thus allowing a mine to be considered successfully reclaimed. In reclamation, patience is a critical virtue.”

OSMRE Definition

“...the process of restoring mined lands, either during active mining or from past operations, to a productive and stable condition, returning them to a beneficial end -use like wildlife habitat, agriculture, or development, while controlling adverse environmental impacts like pollution and instability, all guided by the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA).”

NAMLRD Definition

“that restore lands and water adversely affected by past mineral mining; projects involving the protection, repair, replacement, construction, or enhancement of utilities (such as those relating to water supply, roads, and such other facilities serving the public adversely affected by mineral mining and processing practices); and the construction of public facilities in communities impacted by coal and other mineral mining and processing practices (30 CFR 875.15(a))”

Citation: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2001/07/31/01-19015/navajo-abandoned-mine-land-reclamation-plan>



our 
portfolio

Mine site inventory

How many 
coal sites
Inventoried?

2


3

7

How many 
copper sites
Inventoried?

3

3

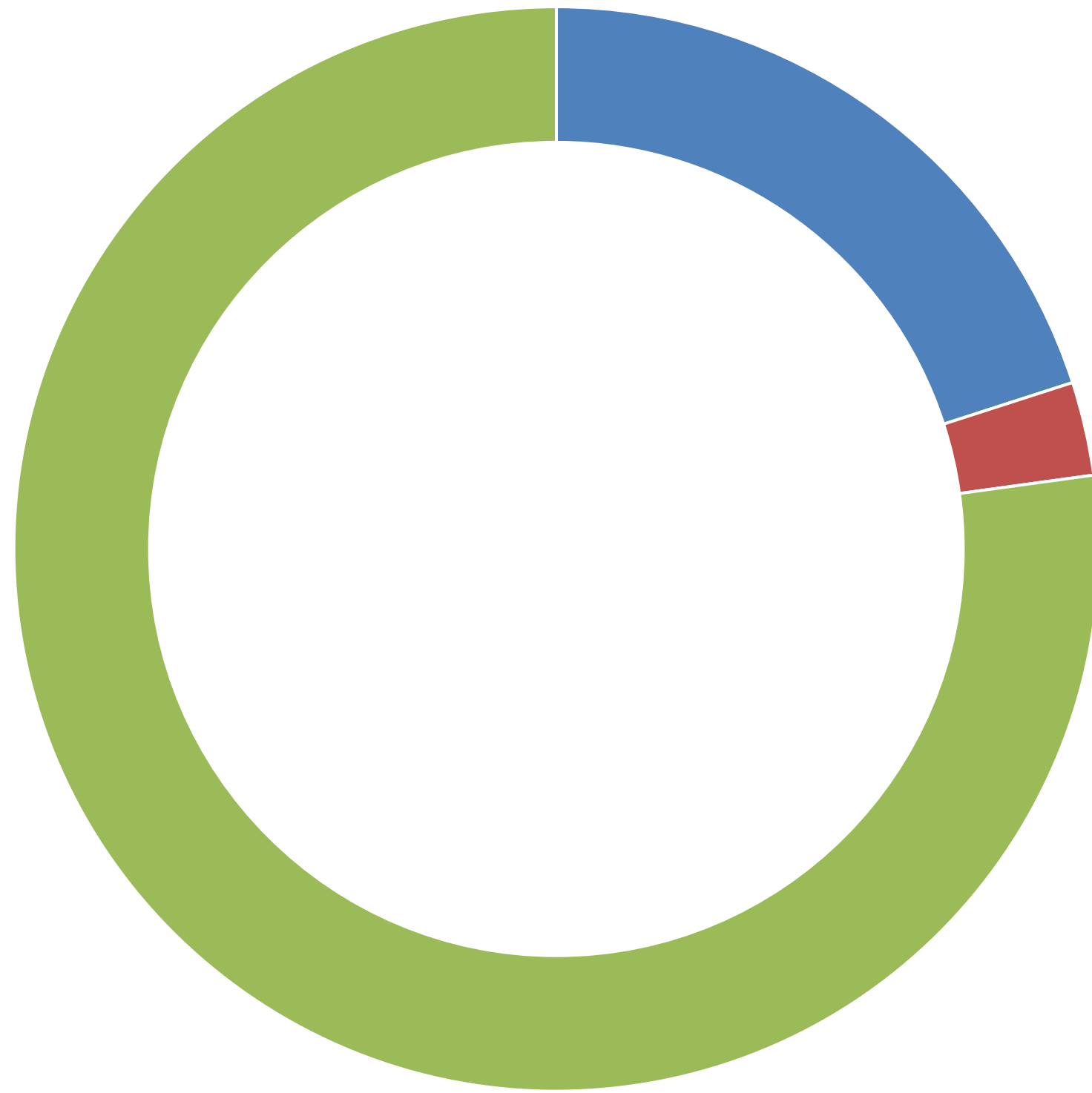
How many 
Uranium sites
Inventoried?

9

1

3

Inventory 

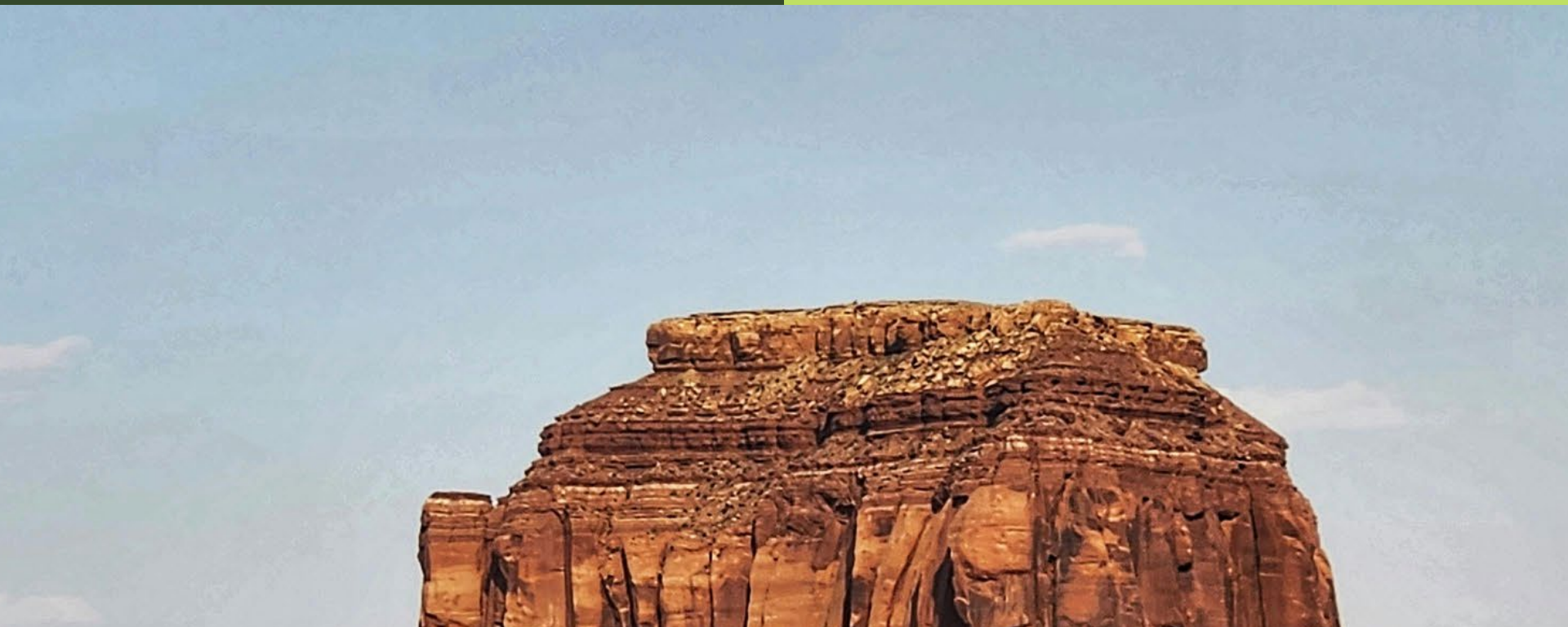


■ Coal 237 ■ Copper 33 ■ Uranium 913



our 
portfolio

Environmental
Management and
Compliance (Federal)



our priorities



01

Maintain & monitor reclamation sites while improving internal process reporting mechanisms.

02

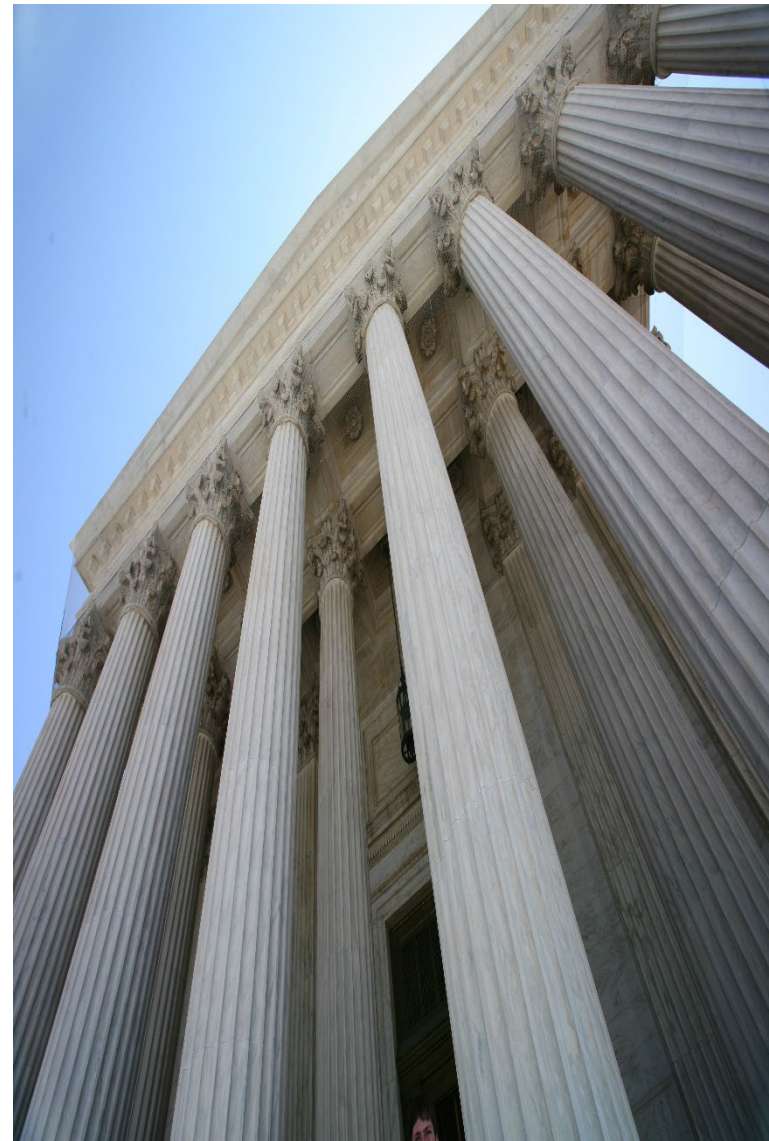
Advance AMLER projects

03

Strengthen UMTRA coordination

What is...

OSMRE?



The Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation Enforcement

“To ensure that coal mines are operated in a manner that protects citizens and the environment during mining and assures that the land is restored to beneficial use following mining, and to mitigate the effects of past mining by aggressively pursuing reclamation of abandoned coal mines.”

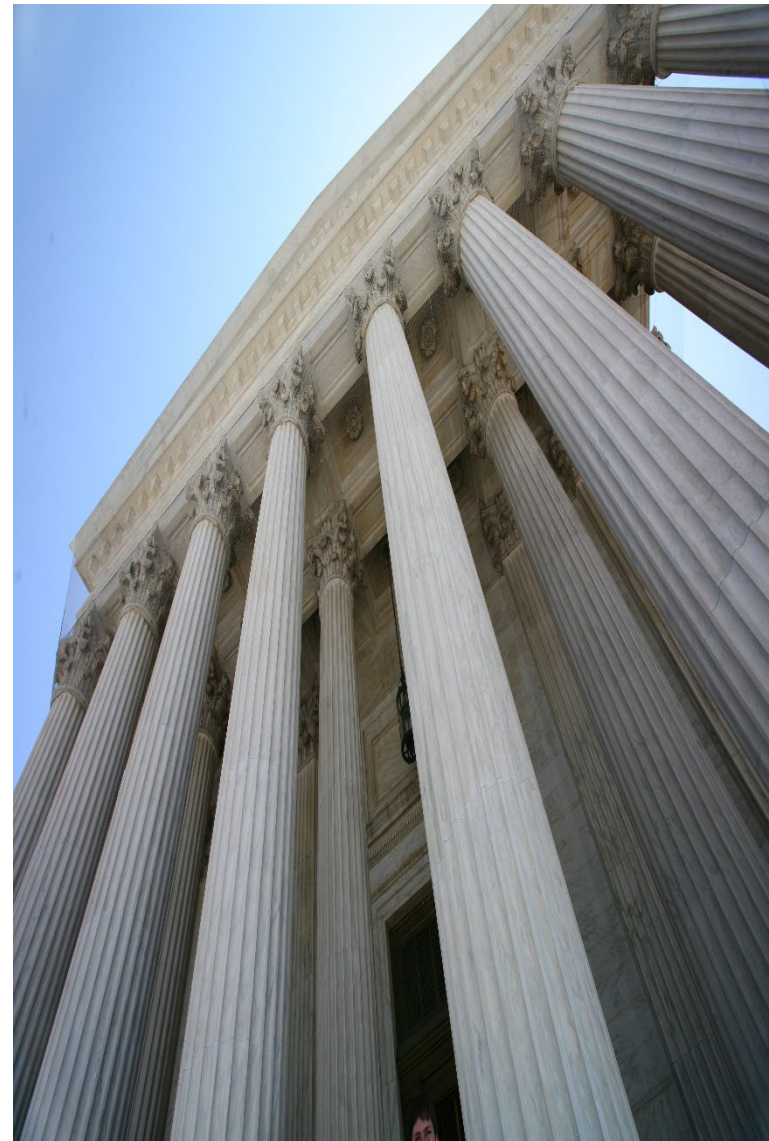
Congressional approval through the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMRCA). Works with states and Tribes.

The Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation Enforcement



1

Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation



- Reclamation on coal mines pre-1977 = Title IV designation
- Tribes that are coal-certified expands the scope to:
 - Non-coal sites (sand & gravel, copper, AUMs*)
- Current primary focus: (1) Maintenance, (2) Surveillance, (3) Site assessments
- Public Facility Projects (2001 – 2014) = Economy-driven and development
- Abandoned Mine Lands Economic Revitalization (2018 – current): (1) Land and economy revitalization, (2) Community development, (3) Infrastructure investment and sustainability.

What is...

DOE (LM)?

U.S. Department of Energy – Legacy Management

“...to safeguard human health, environments, and public properties bound to the nation’s post-closure responsibilities at former atomic defense sites. DOE has taken environmental cleanup steps, and we are protecting the outcome of that work with long-term stewardship.”



2

Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Program (UMTRA)

- DOE is the lead federal agency in the uranium mill cleanup program.
- Focus on processing sites (tailings).
- Department role includes: (1) Site monitoring, (2) Environmental surveillance, and (3) Regulatory compliance.
- Purpose is to provide a long-term stewardship of the land and environment in U.S. jurisdictions.



What is...

DOE - DRUM?



U.S. Department of Energy – Defense-related Uranium Mines

“The U.S. Department of Energy Defense-related Uranium Mines program is a partnership between DOE, federal land management agencies, state abandoned mine lands (AML) program, and tribal governments to verify and validate the condition of a unique set of abandoned uranium mines.”

3

Defense-related Uranium Mines (DRUM)



- Verify and validate abandoned uranium mines tied to defense activities.
- Department role: (1) Site assessments, (2) Risk prioritization, (3) Federal partner coordination.
- Focus: Reducing community exposure risks and inventory.
- Update: DOE's DRUM program is sunseting this year by October 2026. U.S. Congress approved the program 8 years ago and has reached its terminus date. At the discretion of Congress, DRUM can evolve into a new program.

AML

1. GY'2023 – Maintenance, Surveillance, Assessment (MSAT) for previous coal reclamation sites.
2. GY'2024 – MSAT for the following:
 1. NA-0008 Montezuma Chair
 2. NA-0009 Blue Gap
 3. NA-0002 Jack Johns
3. GY'2025 – MSAT for the following:
 1. NA-0007 Blackgoat Mine
 2. NA-0006 Tseya Mine
 3. NA-0010 Sweathouse Mine
4. E-AMLIS
5. Database

AMLER

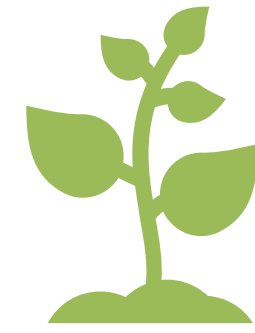
1. Kayenta Industrial Park-completed
2. Shonto LaQuinta Hotel-completed
3. NNHP new complex building
 1. Professional Design/Build Contract in Navajo Nation 164B Review.
4. Chilchinbitoh Convenient Store
 1. Currently in Design services
5. Ft. Defiance solar lighting
 1. ATP issued by OSMRE.
 2. Prepare MOA between NAML and Fort Defiance Chapter

IIJA

1. Tuba City Modular Field Office Building
 1. Issue: Expiration of funding source is imminent in a few months.
 2. Conclusion: Pre-bid meeting, advertisement is in progress. Need bidders and award bid to begin improvements.
2. Coalmine Canyon AML Coal Subsidence.
 1. Issue: Funding source and determine adequacy of funds.
 2. Conclusion: In progress and fence maintenance for new and growing subsidence.
3. Burnham AML Coal Fire
 1. Issue: Funding source and determine adequacy of funds.
 2. Issue: Previous GIS data on computer that is locked and need access.
 3. Conclusion: In progress.

UMTRA

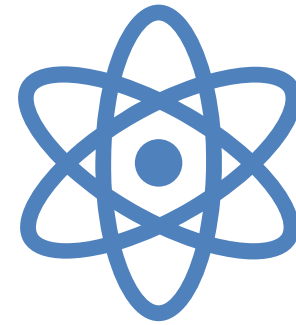
1. Tuba City UMTRA Disposal Cell:
 1. Issue: Groundwater plume contamination
 2. Issue: Obsolete technology for groundwater contamination abatement
 3. Conclusion: Nurture and engage in tribal and federal compliances and regulations with DOE for LTSP and management strategies.
2. Monument Valley/Cane Valley site:
 1. Issue: Nitrate plume expanding northbound.
 2. Conclusion: Nurture and engage in tribal and federal engineering alternatives with DOE to mitigate SUN contamination plume.
3. Mexican Hat UMTRA Disposal Cell:
 1. Issue: Erosional issues like piping affecting integrity of disposal cell from poor engineering construction methods during construction of cell.
 2. Conclusion: Continue monitoring erosion features and integrity of disposal cell. DOE strategizing best methods of corrective actions and implementation.
4. Shiprock UMTRA Disposal Cell:
 1. Issue: EVAP Ponds obsolete and WTU pools, EC, and RO systems as new technology part of DOEs ITP.



(1) Implementation of AMLER-funded projects.

(1) Ongoing UMTRA site monitoring.

(2) Continued monitoring of reclaimed AML sites.



(1) Strengthened federal and tribal coordination.

(2) DRUM coordination with federal partners.



Key Accomplishments



5-Year[🌱] Plan

01

Continue reclamation.

02

Increase economic revitalization efforts.

03

Improve data tracking systems.

04

Strengthen partnerships.

05

Workforce development investment.



Our Agenda

DNR Expo 2026

Twin Arrows, AZ

April 29, 2026

Cory Dayish, NAMLRD

Agenda

Theme:

Preservation of natural resources through innovation

Agenda

	Processes	Innovation	Application	Collaboration
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Environmental Health	Technical reviews; Brainstorming; Indigenous knowledge; Consultation v. consent	Evapotranspiration; Engineering methods; Cultural concepts; Top-cover enhancements; Aesthetics	National Environmental Policy Act; Biological Resource Compliance Form; Cultural Resources Compliance Form; Finding of No Significant Findings; Categorical Exclusion; Right-of-way; Easements	Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation Enforcement; US EPA; Local communities; Navajo Fish & Wildlife; Navajo Historic Preservation Department; Navajo Minerals Department
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Environmental Health	Technical reviews; Brainstorming; Indigenous knowledge; Consultation v. consent	Evapotranspiration; Engineering methods; Cultural concepts; Top-cover enhancements; Aesthetics	National Environmental Policy Act; Biological Resource Compliance Form; Cultural Resources Compliance Form; Finding of No Significant Findings; Categorical Exclusion; Right-of-way; Easements	Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation Enforcement; US EPA; Local communities; Navajo Fish & Wildlife; Navajo Historic Preservation Department; Navajo Minerals Department
Economic Impact	Navajo Department of Economic Development; Federal stakeholders; Chapter resolutions; tribal stakeholders; Grant applications; Navajo Office of Management & Budget; Office of the Controller; Office of the President & Vice President	Navajo Hotels; Convenient Stores; Infrastructure Improvements; Navajo new-builds	Grants; Community engagement; Outreach	Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation Enforcement; Abandoned Mine Lands Economic Revitalization; Local communities; General Land Development Department; Department of Transportation; Bureau of Indian Affairs; Navajo Department of Justice

Agenda

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contact



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Thank 
you