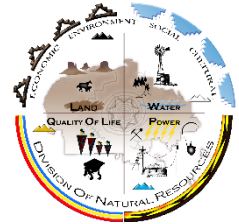


DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) EXPO 2026

HENDERSON FINE ARTS PERFORMANCE HALL AT SAN JUAN COLLEGE

AGENDA

JUNE 30, 2026 – JULY 1, 2026



Monday June 29, 2026

3:00 – 5:00 pm Early Registration

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

7:30 am POSTING OF COLORS
DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES STAFF

Miss Northern Navajo, DaeShondria Dee
Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem

INVOCATION

7:45 – 8:00 am OPENING OF THE “DNR EXPO 2026”
W. Mike Halona, Executive Division Director
DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

8:05 – 8:30 am WELCOME ADDRESS
Dr. Buu Nygren, Navajo Nation President

8:30 – 9:55 am Navajo Parks and Recreation Department (1:25)
Enforcement at all Navajo Nation Tribal Parks



Presenter: Alvina Arviso, Department Manager III & Sergeant Travis Fuller
Abstract: Navajo Parks and Recreation Department has several park locations across the Navajo Nation including Bowl Canyon/Asaayi Lake, Four Corners Monument, Lake Powell Navajo Tribal Park, Little Colorado River, Monument Valley, Tseyi' Dine Campground-Cottonwood Campground, Tse Bonito Tribal Park, Navajo Nation Museum and Window Rock Veterans Park. Each location has a number of Tour Operators and Vendors who contribute to the cultural experience at each park location. Due to the number of visitors during our peak season, May – October, there has been an increased need to address enforcement in all facets of our day to day operation. The department will provide an overview of Navajo Nation Codes and Navajo Nation Regulations with which our department operates.

10:00 – 11:25 am Department of Agriculture (1:25)
Navajo Nation Grazing Regulations



Presenters: Raymond Castillo, Principal Extension Agent & Charmaine Hosteen, Principal Extension Agent
Abstract: This presentation provides an overview of grazing regulations within the Navajo Nation, focusing on the federal and tribal systems that govern grazing

Turquoise Sponsors



T-MOBILE
FOR GOVERNMENT



Coral Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



permits. Grazing permits are officially recognized authorizations that allow Navajo individuals to use specific range units and land management districts for grazing. It examines the legal foundation of these permits, including relevant federal laws, regulations, and elements of common law, along with the unique eligibility requirements specific to the Navajo Nation. Clarifies the role of permit holders, emphasizing that all permittees must be enrolled Navajo individuals. By explaining these regulatory frameworks, the presentation aims to improve understanding of how grazing activities are managed and overseen.

New World Screwworm: Preparedness, Prevention, and Response for the Navajo Nation

Presenter: Sean McCartney, DVM New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB)

Abstract: The Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture will present an overview of New World Screwworm (NWS). Although NWS has not been detected within the Navajo Nation, its reemergence in areas closer to the United States underscores the importance of preparedness and early detection. This presentation will discuss the biology, transmission, and signs of infestation, as well as prevention strategies, biosecurity measures, and reporting procedures for livestock owners. It will also highlight the Department's preparedness efforts, including the development of an Incident Action Plan and collaboration with the Navajo Nation Department of Health, the Navajo Nation Department of Emergency Management, the Navajo Nation Veterinary Program, state Departments of Agriculture, and USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS). Through education, outreach, and interagency coordination, the Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture aims to strengthen the Nation's ability to prevent, detect, and respond to emerging animal health threats while protecting livestock resources, agricultural livelihoods, and the cultural importance of livestock throughout the Navajo Nation.

11:30 to 12:30

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN – (1 hour)

Student Center (Mary's Kitchen)

12:45 – 1:30

Minerals Department (45 minutes)



Minerals Audit Program: Managing Revenues and Royalties (10 minutes)

Presenter: Sebastian Chaco, Minerals Royalty & Audit Manager, Minerals Audit Program

Abstract: The Minerals Audit Program will provide an overview of its role in protecting Navajo Nation revenues through royalty compliance, audits, and compliance reviews of oil, gas, and coal activity on Navajo Nation Trust lands. The presentation will highlight how the program helps prevent revenue leakage, supports accurate revenue reporting, and strengthens accountability for mineral development. This session will also discuss how royalty oversight benefits the Navajo Nation General Fund, local communities, schools, chapters, and future generations.

Oil and Gas Inspection and Enforcement Program: Supporting Responsible Energy Development (20 minutes)

Presenter: Valjean Uentillie, Senior Petroleum Technician & Johnnie Begaye Jr., Petroleum Technician, Oil and Gas Inspection and Enforcement Program

Abstract: The Oil and Gas Inspection and Enforcement Program will present its role in ensuring oil and gas operations on Navajo Nation lands comply with applicable laws, regulations, and approved permits. The presentation will cover inspections throughout the life of oil and gas operations, including drilling, production, production accountability, and plugging and abandonment. The program will also

Turquoise Sponsors



T-MOBILE
FOR GOVERNMENT



Coral Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



highlight how inspections and enforcement help protect surface and subsurface resources, public health and safety, accurate production reporting, and responsible energy development.

Surface Mining Program: Reclamation and Land Stewardship (15 minutes)

Presenter: Travis Begaye, Senior Reclamation Specialist, Surface Mining Program

Abstract: The Surface Mining Program will provide an overview of its role in protecting Navajo Nation lands through surface mining oversight, reclamation, and environmental stewardship. The presentation will highlight how the program monitors mining-related activities, supports responsible land use, and works to ensure that disturbed lands are properly reclaimed for the benefit of Navajo communities. This session will connect reclamation efforts to the broader responsibility of protecting natural resources while supporting accountable mineral development.

1:35 – 3:00 pm

The Navajo Nation Strategic Energy Economy (1:25)

Presenters: Sam Woods, Consultant, Red Streak, LLC

Abstract: A look at the crucial turning point of the energy- and economy-impacted pathways that transitioned the Navajo Nation from a resource-dependent economy to a diversified, tribal sovereign-wealth nation, backed by investments and trends. Plus, a dive into a prospective strategic plan supported by resource valuations, a roadmap of the economic pillars, targeted strategies, and the establishment of the energy office.

3:05 – 4:30 pm



Navajo AML / UMTRA (1:25)

NAMLRD processes, innovation, application, and collaboration in hazardous waste management, environmental health, and economic impact.

Presenter: Marietta L. Jensen, Department Manager III

Abstract: This presentation outlines the Navajo AML Reclamation Department's approach to coal mine land reclamation and site management using AML, AMLER and IJA. AML/IJA supports accelerated coal reclamation, while AMLER advances economic development by supporting coal-impacted communities through job creation, infrastructure improvements, and sustainable land reuse. Separate from coal reclamation, UMTRA provides technical oversight of four uranium tailings sites, and DRUM addresses unreclaimed defense-related uranium mine features under a no-responsible-party framework. Efforts focus on site assessment, design, and implementation, resulting in improved stability, hazard reduction, and opportunities for beneficial land use.

4:35-5:30 pm



Public-Private Partnerships in Navajo Energy: From Residential Innovation to Utility-Scale Development

Presenter: Brett Isaac, CEO & Founder, Navajo Power PBC & Executive Chair, Navajo Power Home, PBC

Abstract: Dovetailing with the macroeconomic energy opportunities discussed earlier in the afternoon, this one-hour session explores the critical role of private startups and public-private partnerships in accelerating energy deployment on the Navajo Nation. The speaker will highlight strategies used to overcome regulatory and

leasing hurdles, leverage innovative financing structures, and deploy technology to bring power to residential homes rapidly.

The discussion will then bridge these local, community-driven strategies to utility-

Turquoise Sponsors



T-MOBILE
FOR GOVERNMENT



Coral Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



scale economic development. Topics will address navigating complex tribal policies, leveraging private sector capital to protect limited tribal resources, and managing the logistical benefits of a centralized regulatory approach-such as an energy office-to create predictable and efficient project pipelines.

This session underscores how locally grown, private enterprise can bring fresh resources to the Nation's energy landscape while protecting and advancing the economic interests of Navajo communities.

5:30 pm

RECESS

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm Round Table Discussion: – Please join us for the Round Table Discussion to continue the conversation.

“Ice Cream Social”

Interact with Division of Natural Resources Managers and staff to receive information about your respective chapter's initiatives.

Wednesday, July 1, 2026

8:00 am

RECAP

8:10 – 9:35 am

Historic & Heritage Preservation Department (1:25)

Permits and the Cultural Resource Compliance Process on the Navajo Nation

Presenters: Rolf Nabahe, Sr. Archaeologist & Olsen John, Archaeologist Richard M. Begay, Department Manager, and Olsen John, Archaeologist

Abstract: HHPD oversees the management of cultural resources on Navajo Nation lands, including the Section 106 process for “archaeological clearance” for homesites, business and other development activities. The presentation will provide an overview of the compliance process by navigating the requirements for Federal and Navajo laws and policies. Finally, the presenters will discuss the purpose and need for cultural resource investigations and what to expect when you hire an archaeologist.

Length of presentation: 15 minutes; Navajo and English

What is NAGPRA and How does it Protect Navajo Cultural Lifeways?

Presenters: Timothy Begay, Anthropologist & Erik Stanfield, Sr. Anthropologist

Abstract: The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA, 1992) provides a mechanism for Indian Tribes to reclaim human remains and ceremonial items from collections across the country. We will provide an overview of the HHPD's repatriation activities since the inception of the act. We will also touch upon Navajo items in international collections.

Protecting Navajo History and Resources in the General Southwest

Presenters: Cassidy Morgan, Program and Project Specialist & Erik Stanfield, Sr. Anthropologist

Abstract: HHPD works with various federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) outside the Navajo reservation to protect important places in the maintain the cultural lifeways of the Navajo People. The Navajo Nation HHPD

Turquoise Sponsors



T-MOBILE
FOR GOVERNMENT



Coral Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



has worked at Bears Ears National Monument (BENM), the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM), and the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kuveni-Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument (BNIK). The presentation will end with a 12-minute film on the Grand Canyon.

Cultural Resources along the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project (NGWSP)

Presenter: Rolf Nabahe, Sr. Archaeologist

Abstract: HHPD has been involved in the NGWSP project from the beginning. Through a Programmatic Agreement (PA) HHPD has overseen the survey, recordation of sites including sacred places, and mitigation (excavation), and reburial of artifacts and human remains. HHPD continues to be involved in meetings and consultations along all reaches of the project. HHPD will provide an general overview of the cultural resource aspects of the project.

9:40 – 10:30 am



Navajo Land Department (1:25)

Homesite Lease Process

Presenters: Tonia Sam, Program Manager I & Byron Bitsoie, Sr., Department Manager III

Abstract: Navajo Land Department (NLD) has Five Agency Offices on the Navajo Nation who assist clients in obtaining a one-acre residential lease for 75 years that provides an opportunity for families to build or mortgage a home. Lessee has an option to renew, assign, or terminate the lease. Before obtaining HSL, the Lessee must comply with all Federal and Navajo Environmental Laws to obtain clearances to build a home on the Navajo Nation.



General Land Development Department

Tribal Authorization Access, Rights-of-Ways, and Service Line Agreement on the Navajo Nation.

Presenters: Daryl Lorenzo Jr., Environmental Specialist & Byron Bitsoie Sr., Delegated Department Manager III

Abstract: The Navajo Nation General Land Development Department (GLDD) oversees and regulates land-based development activities across approximately 17 million acres of Navajo Trust and Fee Lands in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. The department manages the review and authorization of Tribal Authorization Access (TAA), Rights-of-Way (ROW), and Service Line Agreements (SLA) for tribal and non-tribal entities, including Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA), Navajo Aresa Indian Health Service (NAIHS), and Navajo Division of Transportation (NDOT). GLDD's workflow encompasses document intake, internal and external technical review, compliance verification, and issuance of Notices to Proceed. The department also addresses procedural and coordination challenges that arise during project evaluation, working closely with applicants to maintain efficiency and reduce delays. Ongoing improvements to GLDD's review framework support faster, more consistent movement of TAAs, ROWs, and SLAs through the approval pipeline.

Family Burial Plots & Land Withdrawal Process

Presenters: Norvina J. Charleston, Sr. Environmental Specialist & Byron Bitsoie, Sr., Department Manager III

Abstract: The Navajo Nation has adopted new Burial and Cemetery Regulations to guide safe, respectful, and culturally appropriate burials. Chapters are encouraged to set aside land for community cemeteries to avoid land-use conflicts. To begin a

Turquoise Sponsors



T-MOBILE
FOR GOVERNMENT



Coral Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



land withdrawal, communities must submit a brief project summary, GPS coordinates or survey, a chapter resolution, and grazing-permittee consent. These items reserve the land for up to five years, but no construction can start until the required environmental clearances: Biological Resource Compliance Form (BRCF) and Cultural Resource Compliance Form (CRCF) are approved.

10:35 – 11:20 am



Navajo Department of Fish and Wildlife (1:25)

Biological Resources Compliance Form (BRCF) and New Online Procedures

Presenter: Rachel Livingston, Wildlife Biologist, Natural Heritage Program.

Abstract: The Navajo Natural Heritage Program conducts biological clearance reviews to ensure that homesites and other development activities comply with Navajo Nation policies protecting endangered and sensitive species. In the past year, the program has implemented operational improvements to increase efficiency and accessibility, including a new online payment system and streamlined application procedures. These updates are intended to reduce processing time, improve transparency for applicants, and support timely development while maintaining strong environmental review standards.

FERAL HORSES ON THE NAVAJO NATION: WHAT WE LEARNED FROM THE 2025 POPULATION SURVEY

Presenter: Jessica Fort, Wildlife Biologist & Jeffrey Cole, Wildlife Manager

Abstract: Free-ranging horses are an important part of the Navajo landscape and culture, but they also influence the health of rangelands, water sources, wildlife habitat, and livestock operations across the Navajo Nation. To better understand the current status of the horse population, the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife partnered with Eagle Environmental, Inc. to conduct a nation-wide aerial survey of free-ranging horses in 2025 and compare the results to the first survey completed in 2016. Using fixed-wing aircraft and modern wildlife survey techniques, researchers surveyed more than 67,000 square kilometers of Navajo Nation lands and estimated that approximately 36,291 free-ranging horses currently occur across the reservation. While the population was estimated to be slightly lower than in 2016, the difference was not statistically significant, suggesting that horse numbers have remained relatively stable over the past decade.

This presentation will discuss what management strategies Navajo Nation has implemented that have impacted horse numbers and what these findings may mean for hunters, livestock permittees, wildlife managers, and Navajo communities. Topics will include the relationship between horse numbers and available forage, the effects of drought on rangelands, potential impacts on wildlife and livestock, and how population monitoring can help support future management decisions. Understanding where horses occur, how many are present, and how populations change over time is an important first step toward balancing the needs of horses, wildlife, livestock, and the people who depend on Navajo lands and natural resources.

Animal Control Program: Laws and Regulations

Presenter: Joe Begay, Jr. Program Manager, Animal Control Program

Abstract: Navajo Nation Animal Control enforces Navajo Nation Tribal Code Title 13

NN Animal Control Ordinance. TOPICS: Obey the animal control laws Animal Bite (Title 13 and Title 17), Livestock Damage, Restrain and Confine, Vaccinate and micro-chip. Information on the unwanted drop-off at the Navajo Nation Animal Shelter: Ft. Defiance, Shiprock, Many Farms and Tuba City.

Navajo Nation Zoo, Eagle Aviary and Feather Distribution.

Turquoise Sponsors



T-MOBILE
FOR GOVERNMENT



Coral Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Presenter: Brennon Kee, Senior Zookeeper, Navajo Nation Zoo

Abstract: *The Navajo Nation Zoo manages the Eagle Aviary and the eagle feather distribution program. The presentation will review federal permit requirements and the application process for the eagle feather distribution program.*

11:20– 12:20 pm

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN – (1 hour)

Student Center (Mary's Kitchen)

12:35 – 2:00 pm



Water Resources (1:25)

Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project and Connections to Communities.

Presenters: Navajo Department of Water Resources and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Abstract: *The Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project was authorized for construction through Public Law 111-11 as part of the Navajo Nation's San Juan Basin water rights settlement agreement in New Mexico. The presentations will highlight the current status of construction funded through the settlement agreement and status of the connections to communities through additional funding sources including funds from New Mexico, Navajo Nation and American Rescue Plan Act.*

2:05 – 3:30 pm



Navajo Forestry Department (1:25)

Forest Product Permitting

Presenter: Michael Yazzie, Principal Forest Technician

Abstract: *This presentation will provide information regarding the Navajo Nation Forest and Woodland Regulations, RCMA-48-01, that includes forest products use or transportation through permit authorization. Permit requirements, types of permits, permit availability and cost for forest products will be presented.*

Capital Improvement Project Planning

Presenter: Jayme L. Yazzie, Forest Maintenance Worker

Abstract: *With ARPA, the construction of various capital improvement projects has increased on the Navajo Nation, such as powerlines, water and wastewater lines and road improvement projects. This presentation will provide information on requirements on how to obtain a tree harvesting permit for capital improvement projects, where tree removal may be necessary for a clear zone of varying widths and lengths as part of construction plans.*

Navajo Forestlands Integrated Resource Management Plan

Presenter: Frankie Thompson, Program Manager II

Abstract: *This presentation will provide information regarding the Navajo Forestlands Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP), RDCD-110-18, which comprises five areas on the Navajo Nation. Information presented will include the process in which the plan was developed important issues determined by the public, and present a management approach for guidance and address the need for a more active management of natural resources within these areas.*

3:35 – 5:00 pm

Department of Resource Enforcement (1:25)

Natural Resource Investigations



Presenter: Darryl Billy, Officer & Ervin Scott, Criminal Investigator

Abstract: *Department Resource Enforcement investigates numerous Natural Resource incidents and challenges to complete a thorough investigation by providing the elements of crime. What can we do to better assist law enforcement officers to compile information and preserve crime scene? What latest technology can the public consider and how to use it for their benefit?*

Turquoise Sponsors



T-MOBILE
FOR GOVERNMENT



Coral Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Livestock Issues

Abstract: *Livestock has been and will continue to be the livelihood of the Navajo People. What recommendations and methods to maintain their valuable livelihood.*

Current Activities

Abstract: *A look at what the Department of Resource Enforcement accomplishment over the past years.*

5:00 pm

Closing Remarks

5:05 pm

RETIRING OF COLORS

.....

Turquoise Sponsors



**T-MOBILE
FOR GOVERNMENT**



Coral Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

W. Mike Halona, Division Director

Phone: 928-871-6592/6593

Email: w.mike.halona@navajo-nsn.gov

Immanuel H. Charley, Deputy Division Director

Phone: 928-871-6592/6593

Email: harlan.charley@navajo-nsn.gov

CONTACT INFORMATION

	PHONE	EMAIL
Jesse Jim <i>Department Manager</i> Department of Agriculture	P: (928) 871-6605 C: (928) 270-2256	jesse.jim@navajo-nsn.gov
Marietta Jensen <i>Department Manager</i> Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Department & Uranium Mills Tailings Remedial Action Program	P: (928) 871-6982	mjensen@navajo-nsn.gov
Sam Diswood <i>Department Manager</i> Department of Fish & Wildlife	P: (928) 871-6450 C: (505) 290-1443	sdiswood@nndfw.org
Alexious Becenti <i>Department Manager</i> Navajo Forestry Department	P: (928) 729-4007	acbecenti@navajo-nsn.gov
Richard M. Begay <i>Department Manager</i> Heritage & Historic Preservation Department	P: (928) 357-6300	r.begay@navajo-nsn.gov
Byron Bitsoie, Sr. <i>Department Manager</i> Navajo Land Department & General Land Development Department	P: (928) 357-6965 C: (505) 422-1013 P: (928) 357-6969	bbitsoie@nnld.org
Bryan Benally <i>Delegated Department Manager</i> Minerals Department	P: (928) 871-7094	bryan.benally@navajo-nsn.gov
Alvina Arviso <i>Department Manager</i> Navajo Parks & Recreation Department	P: (928) 871-7754	aarviso@navajo-nsn.gov
Hope Wilson <i>Natural Resource Enforcement Manager</i> Department of Resource Enforcement	P: (928) 871-7336	hopewilson@navajo-nsn.gov
Jason John <i>Department Manager</i> Department of Water Resources	P: (928) 729-4003 C: (928) 349-1198	jasonjohn@navajo-nsn.gov

Turquoise Sponsors



T-MOBILE
FOR GOVERNMENT



Coral Sponsors



Silver Sponsors

