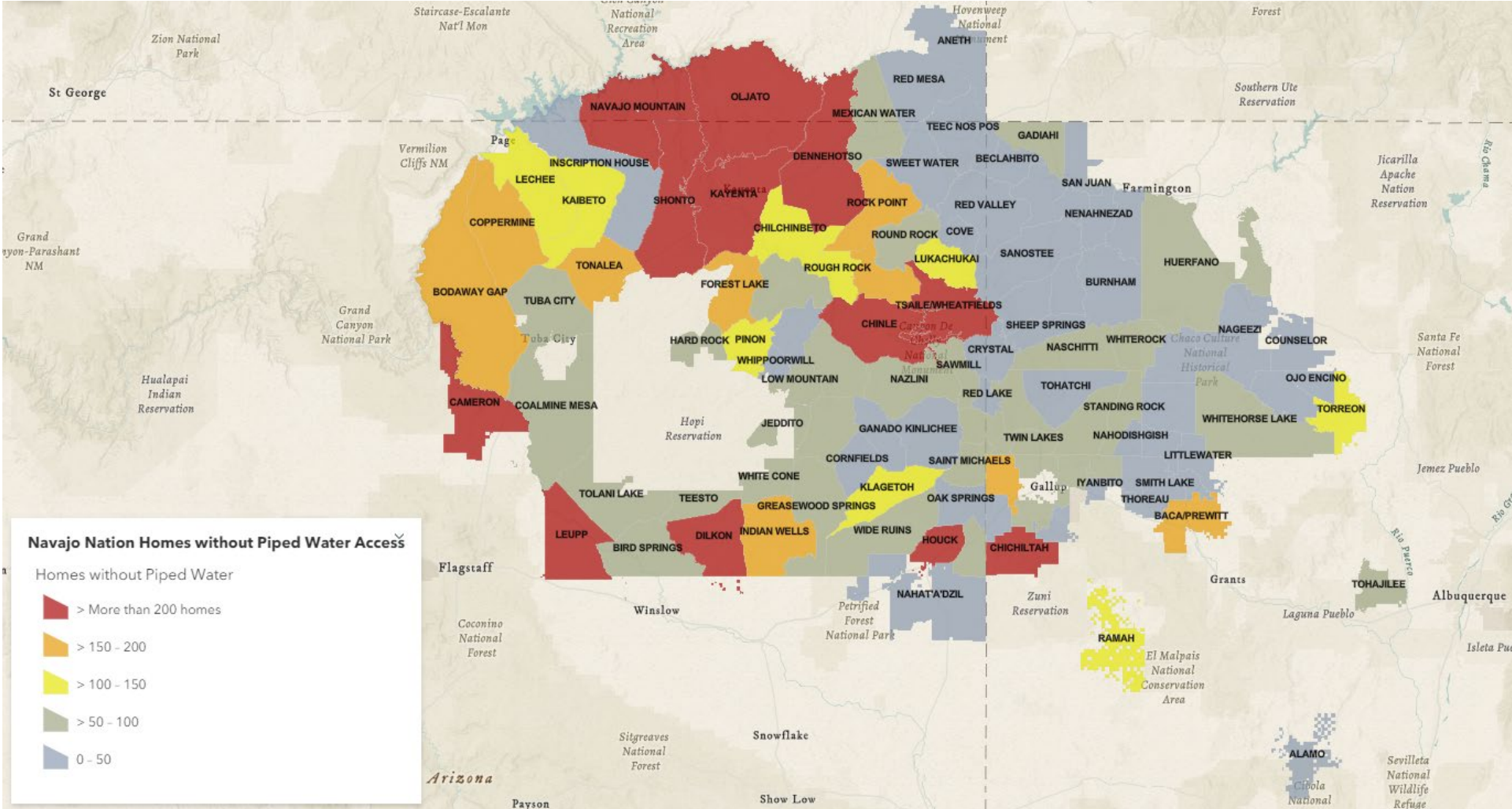


# Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act (NAIWRSA) of 2025

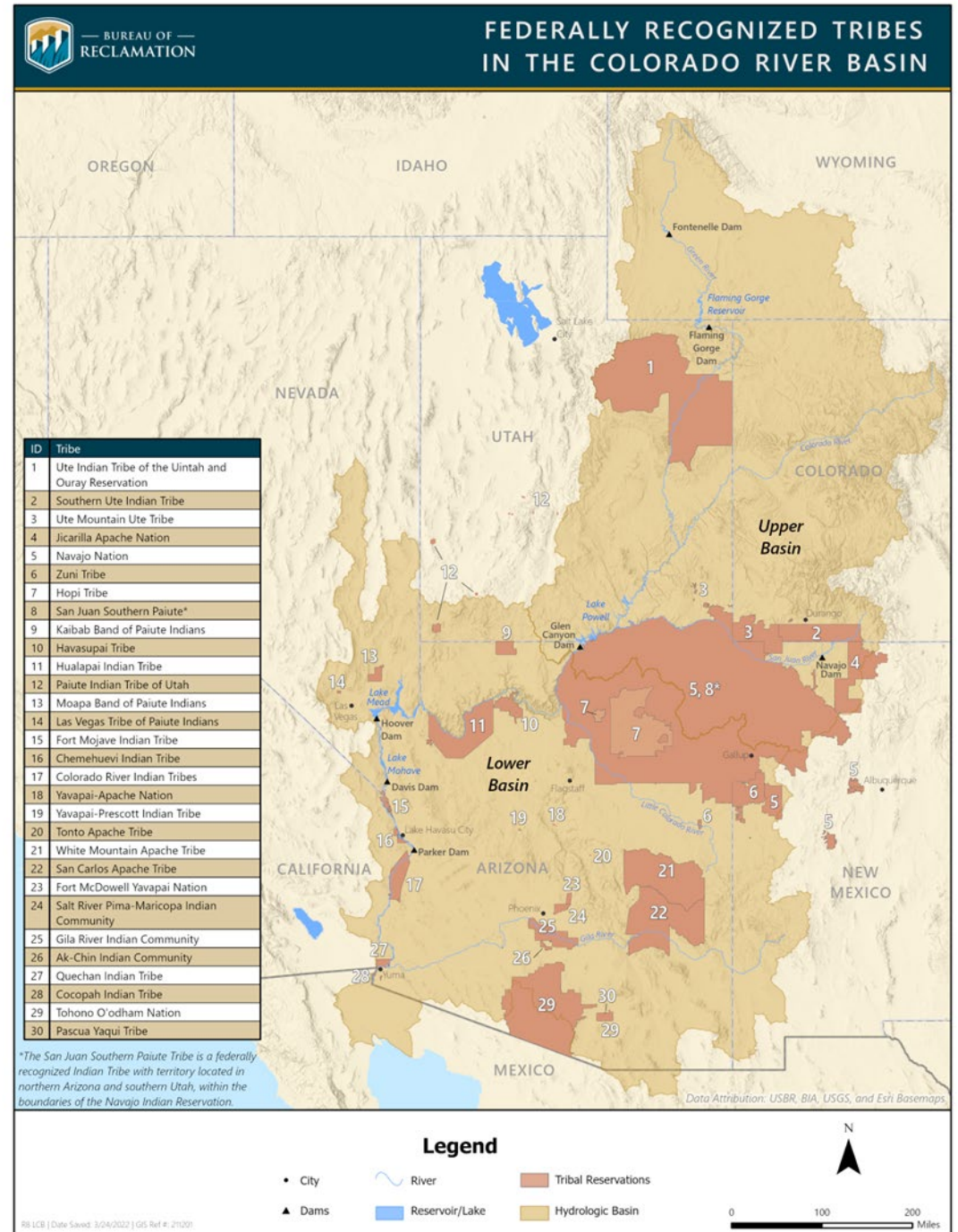
*S. 953, H.R. 2025*

# Navajo Nation Homes without piped water



# Colorado River Basin

- Binational water system in the USA and Mexico
- 1,450-mile river
- 7 Basin States (WY, UT, CO, NM, AZ, NV, & CA)
- 30 Basin Tribes
- 40 million people rely on the basin
- The system is managed through major infrastructure, including the Hoover and Glen Canyon Dams, and two major reservoirs: Lake Powell & Lake Mead



# Settlement is better for the Navajo Nation than Litigation

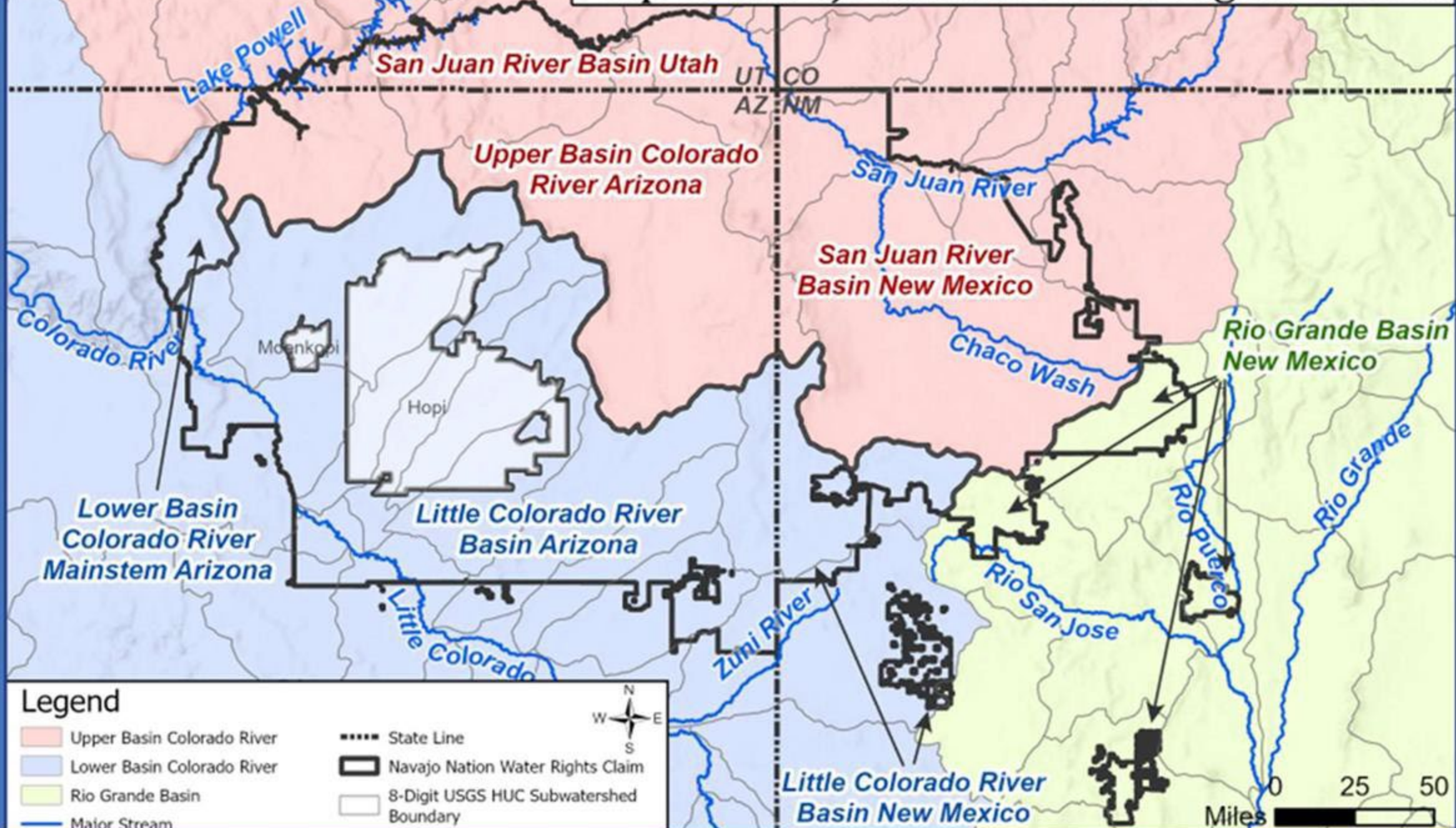
## LITIGATION

- Based on minimal need
- Paper decree only
- No funding for infrastructure
- Resources appurtenant to the reservation
- Adversarial
- Lengthy
- Costly

## SETTLEMENT

- Certainty
- Funding for wet water development
- Better tools for water management
- Authorizations for water diversions & movement between states and basins
- Negotiated

# Map of Navajo Nation Water Rights Claims



## Legend

- Upper Basin Colorado River
- Lower Basin Colorado River
- Rio Grande Basin
- Major Stream
- State Line
- Navajo Nation Water Rights Claim
- 8-Digit USGS HUC Subwatershed Boundary

# 39 Settling Parties to the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Agreement, including:

1. Navajo Nation
2. Hopi Tribe
3. San Juan Southern Paiute
4. Department of the Interior
5. State of Arizona
6. Arizona Department of Water Resources
7. Arizona State Land Department
8. Salt River Project
9. City of Flagstaff
10. Little Colorado River Coalition

# Navajo Nation Water Sources Claims

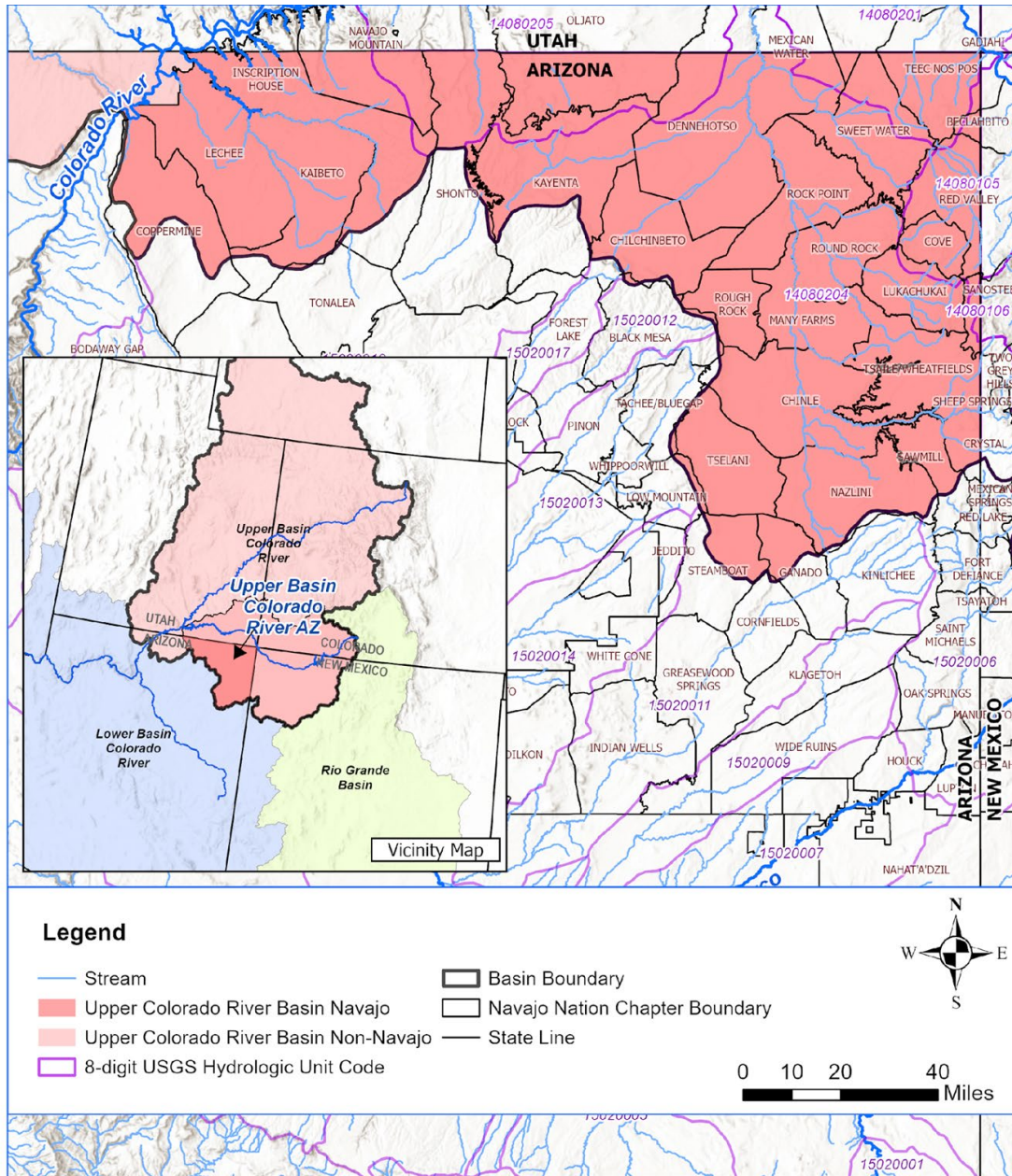


Grand Falls

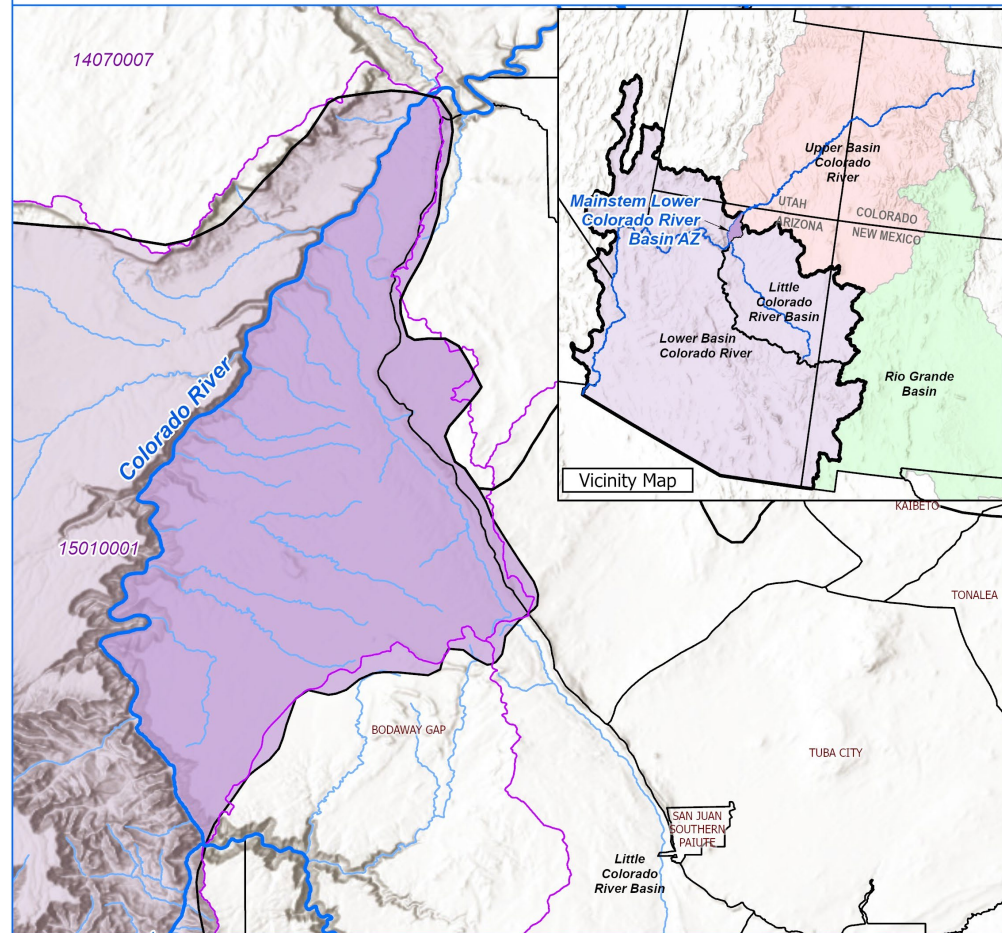
- Upper Basin Colorado River water
- Little Colorado River mainstream and tributary water
- 4th priority Lower Basin Colorado River water
- Cibola Lower Basin Colorado River water
- Groundwater
- Effluent
- Big Boquillas Ranch

# Upper Colorado River Basin

- 44,700 AFY (acre-feet per year) of the Arizona Upper Basin allocation



## MAINSTEM LOWER COLORADO RIVER BASIN ARIZONA MAP



### Legend

- Stream
- Mainstem Lower Colorado River Basin Navajo
- Mainstem Lower Colorado River Basin AZ Non-Navajo
- 8-Digit USGS Hydrologic Unit Code
- Basin Boundary
- Navajo Nation Chapter Boundary
- State Line



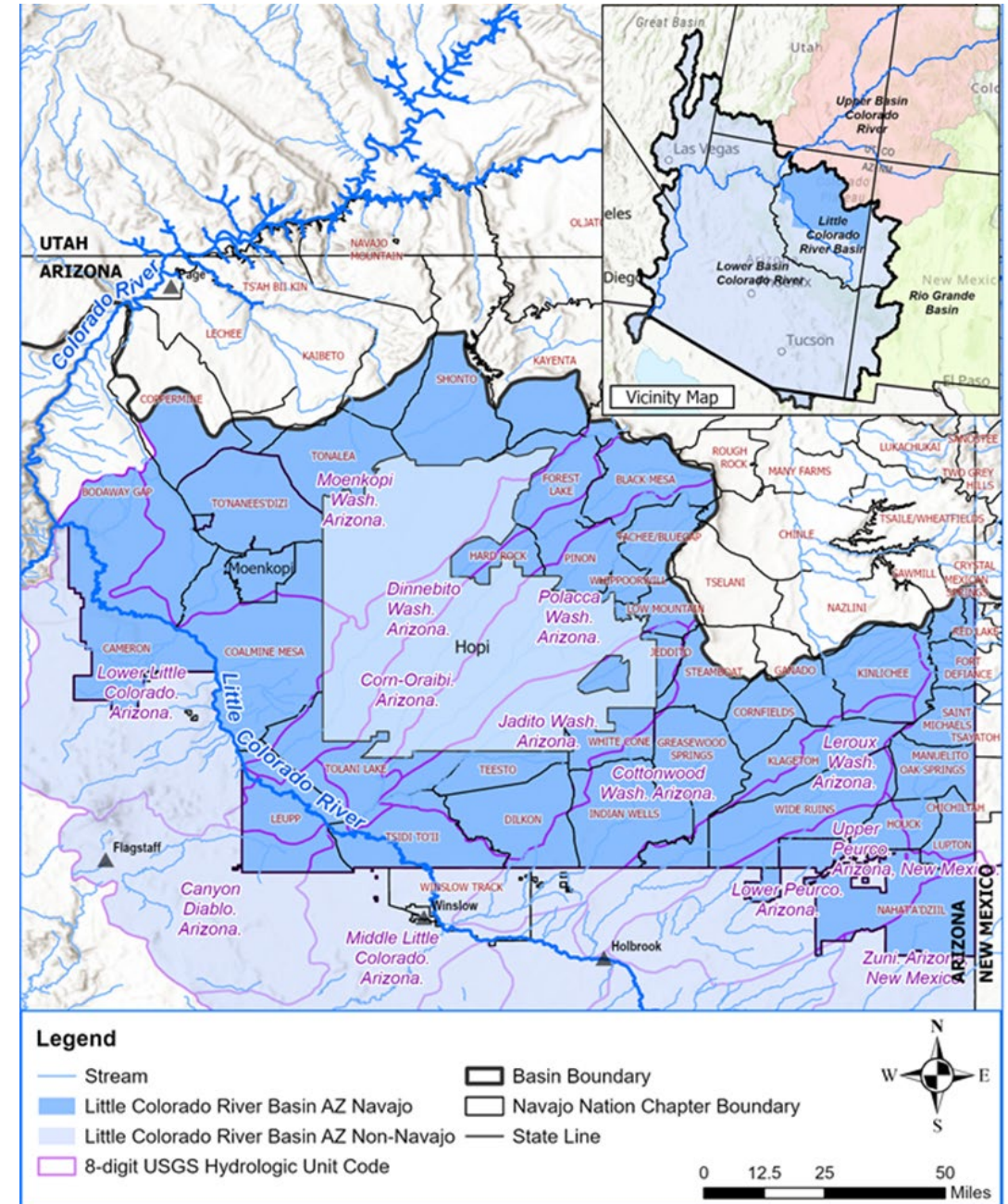
0 3.75 7.5 15 Miles

# Mainstem Lower Colorado River Basin

- 4th priority Lower Basin Colorado River Water
- 3,600 AFY (including 100 AFY of Cibola Lower Basin Water)

# Little Colorado River

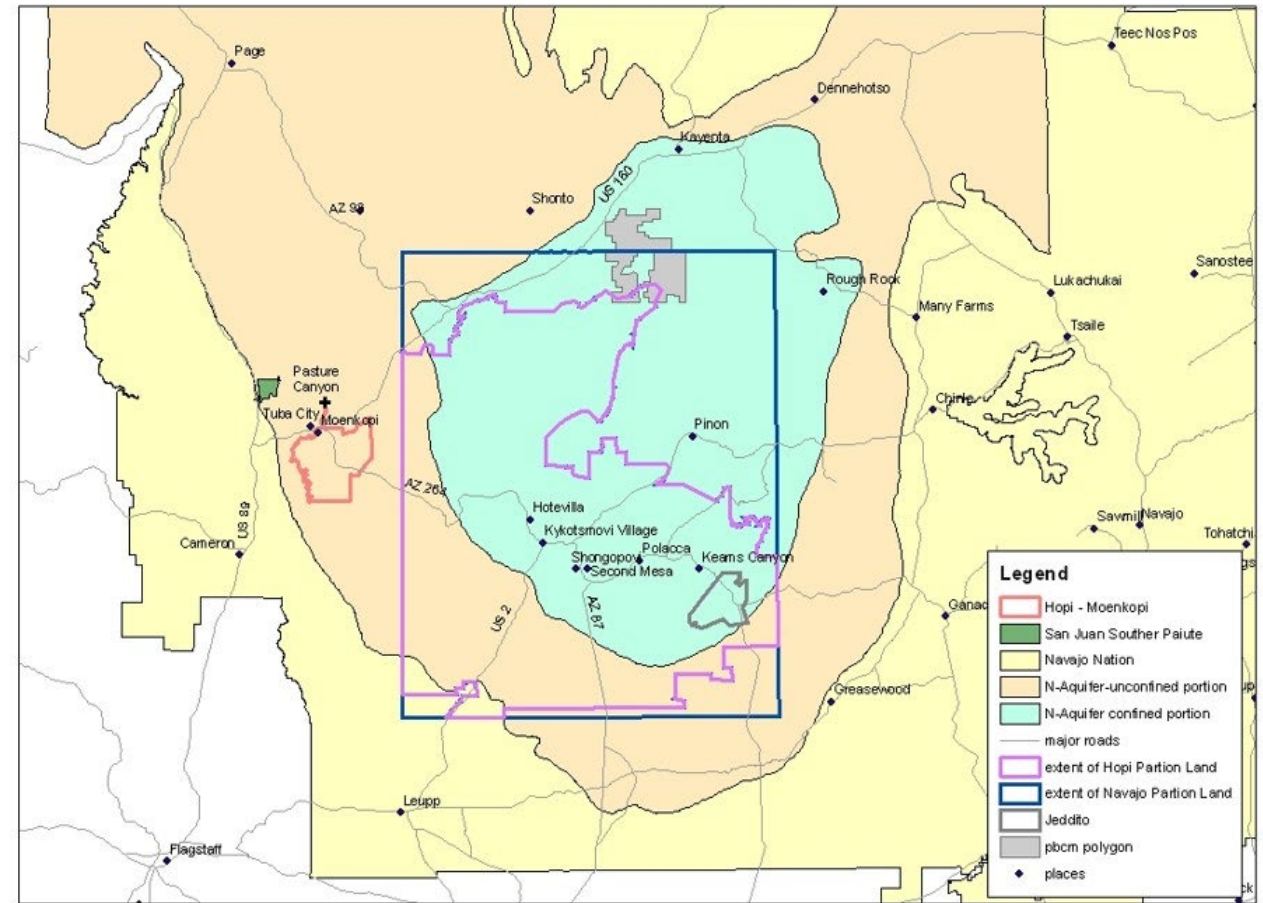
- Little Colorado River Mainstem Water:
- All the Little Colorado River mainstem water that reaches the Navajo Reservation
- (historic flows are estimated to be 122,000 AFY). Includes quantified amounts and priority dates for specific historic Navajo irrigation projects
- Little Colorado River Tributary Water: All tributary water that reaches the Navajo Reservation



# Groundwater

## Navajo Aquifer

- All that underlies the Navajo Reservation subject to an agreement between the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe
- Limits Navajo pumping to 8,400 AFY (2,000 AFY may be used for industrial purposes)
- Limits Hopi pumping to 5,600 AFY (2,000 AFY may be used for industrial purposes)



file://edgewater/public/data/gis\_files/n\_aquifer\_info.mxd

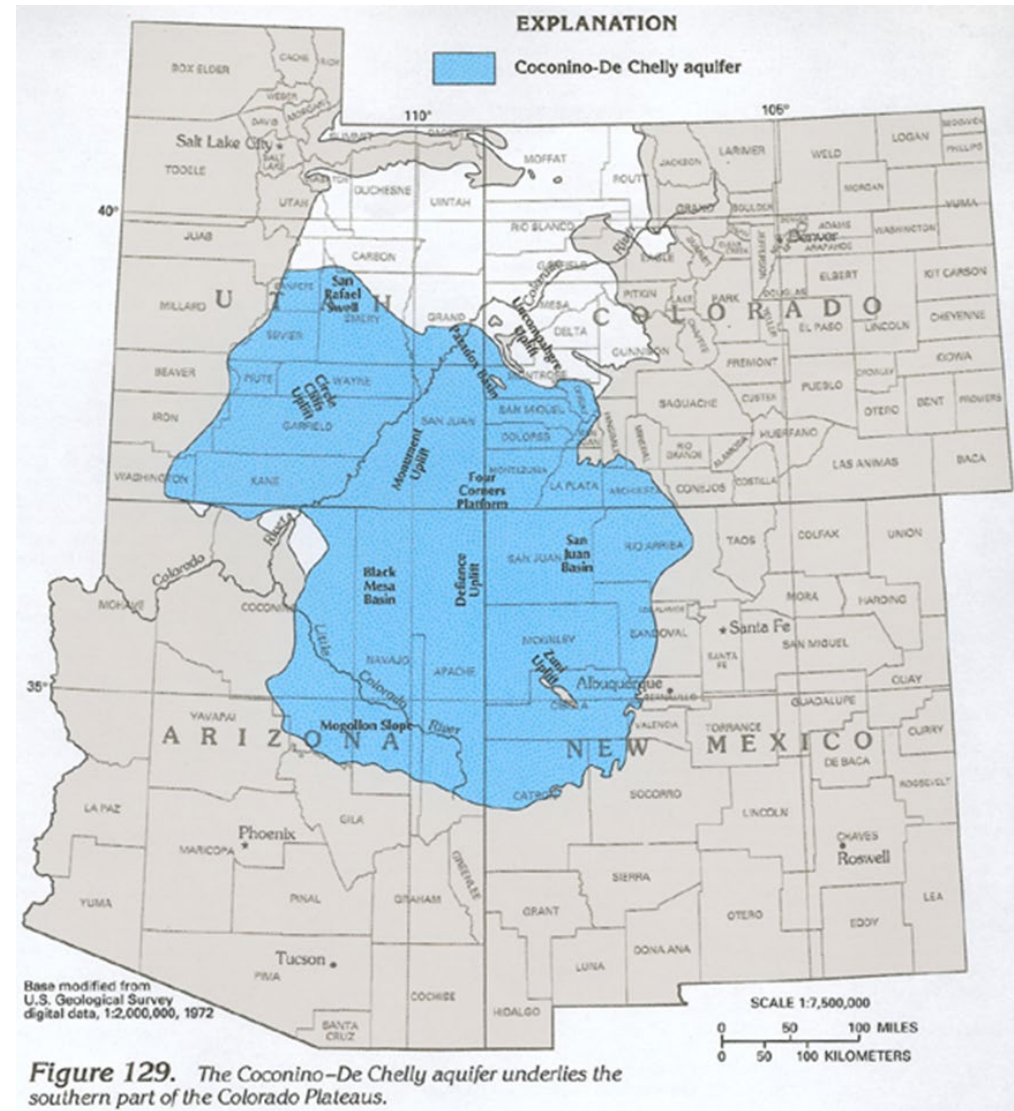
N-Aquifer Information Map

Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources  
Water Management Branch (April 6th, 2006)

# Groundwater

## Coconino Aquifer

- All that underlies the Navajo Reservation
- Established protection zones and pumping limitations with:
  - Hopi
  - Arizona State Land Department
  - Bar T Bar



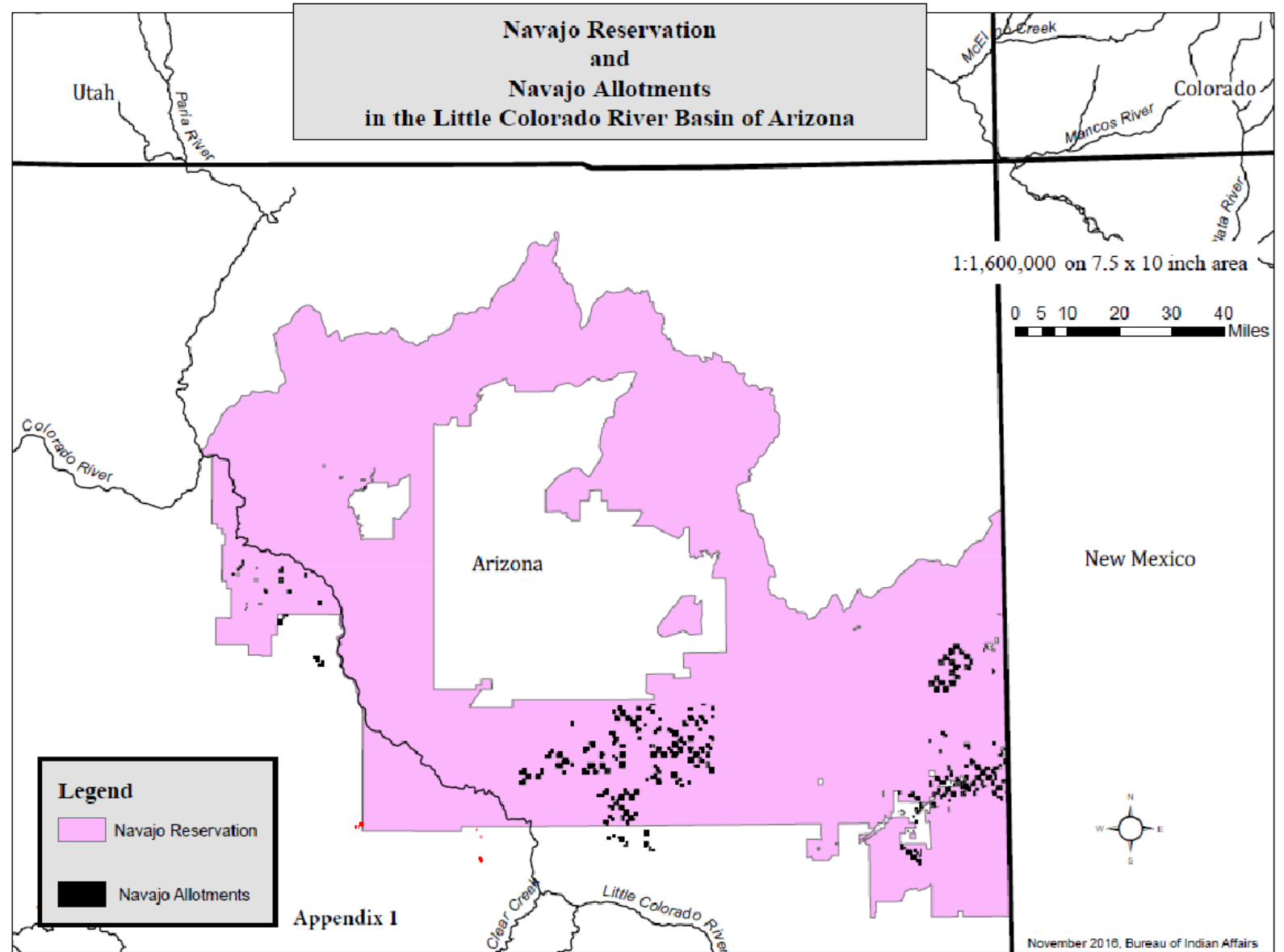


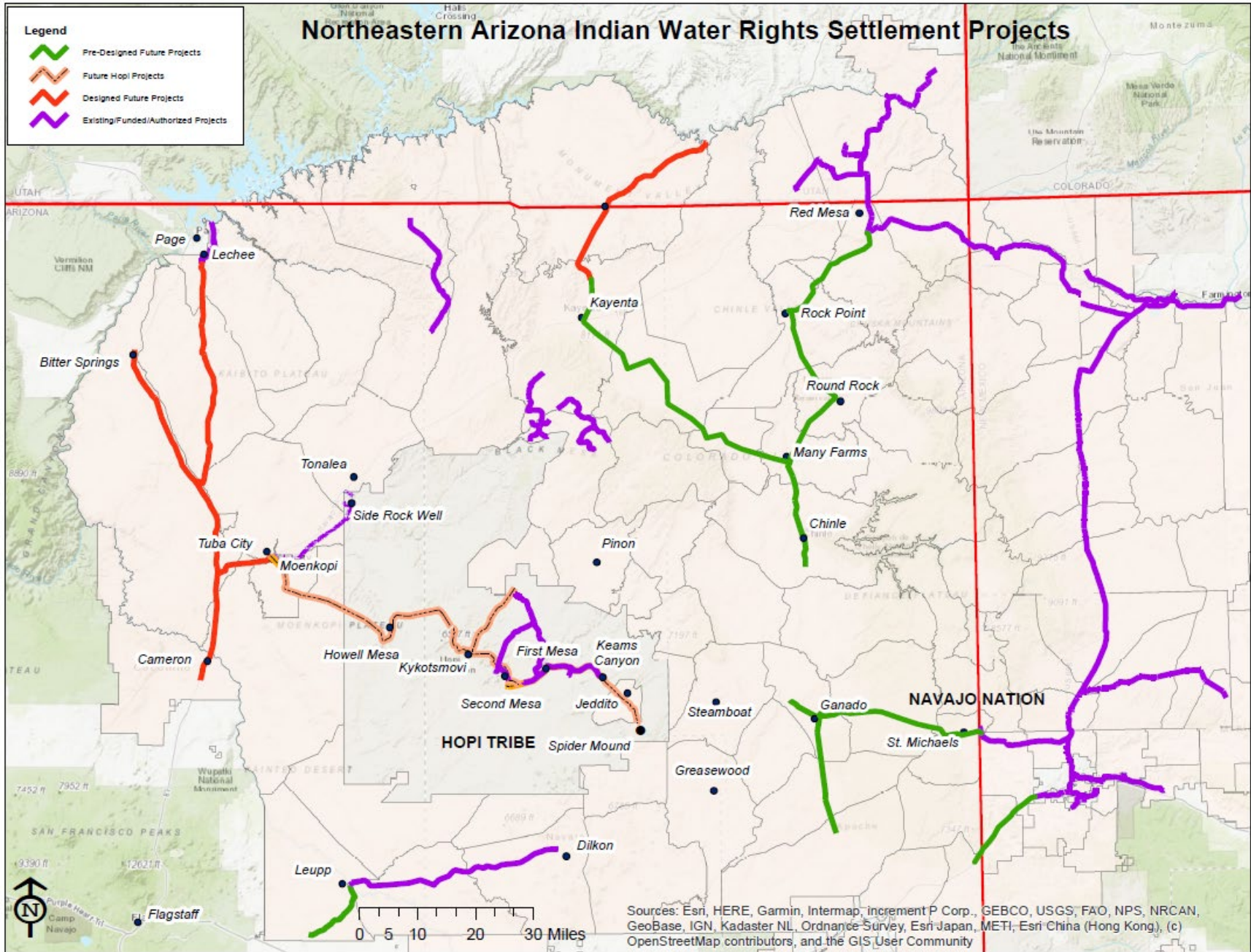
# Allotments

## Navajo Section 1 Allotments

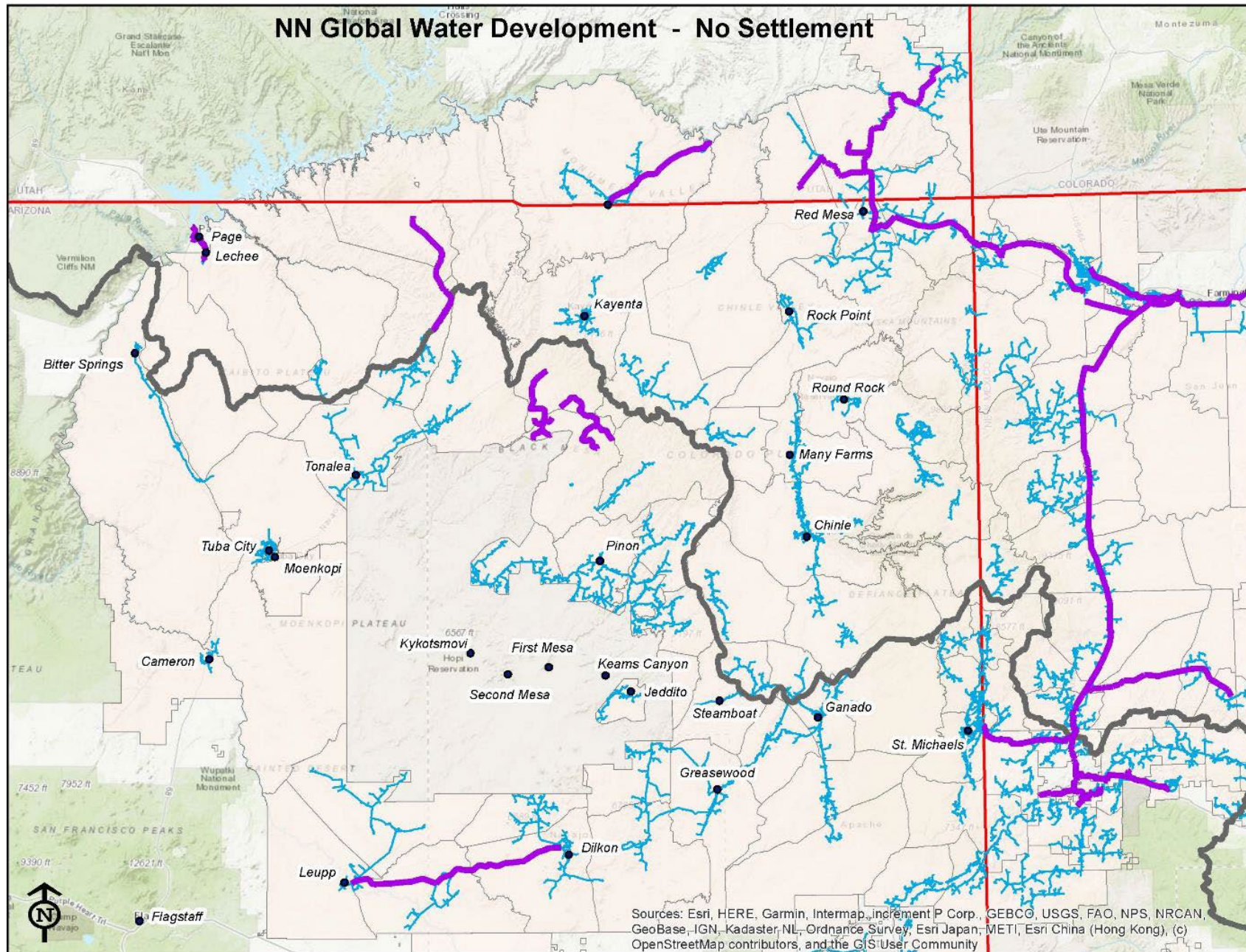
### On-Reservation

The United States will settle these claims. Navajo Section 1 Allottees will be served with Navajo Nation water.





# NN Global Water Development - No Settlement



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

# NAIW RSA Settlement Funding

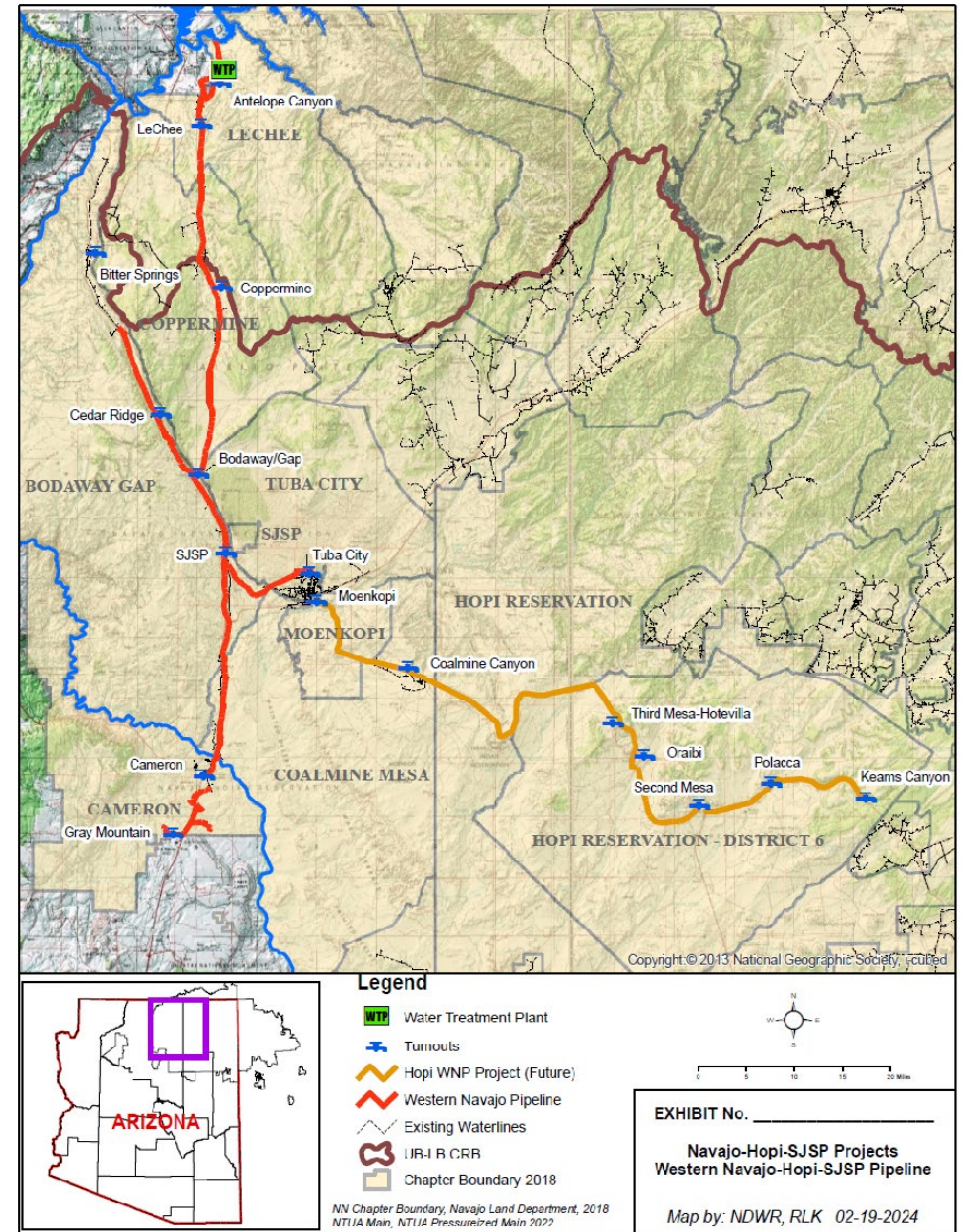
- iiná bá – paa tuwaqat'si pipeline Implementation Fund (\$1.715 billion)
- Navajo Nation Water Settlement Trust Fund, the Hopi Tribe Water Settlement Trust Fund, and the San Juan Southern Paiute Settlement Trust Fund (\$3.285 billion)

# NAVAJO NATION WATER SETTLEMENT TRUST FUND (\$2,876,416,400)

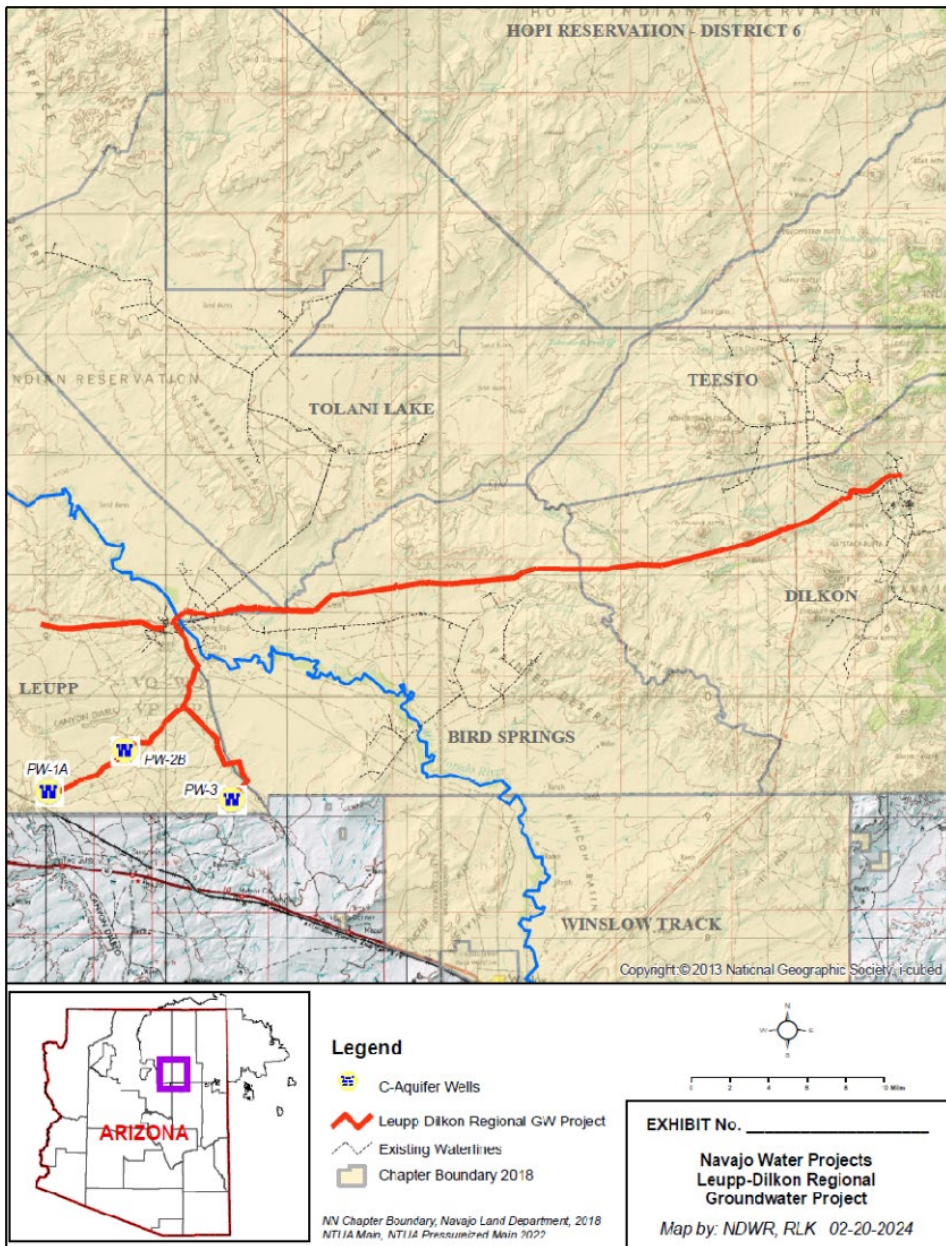
- Navajo Nation Water Settlement Trust Fund (\$2,369,200,000)
- Navajo Nation OM&R Trust Fund (\$229,500,000)
- Navajo Nation Agricultural Conservation Trust Fund (\$80,000,000)
- Navajo Nation Renewable Energy Trust Fund (\$40,000,000)
- Navajo Nation Lower Basin Colorado River Water Acquisition Trust Fund (\$28,000,000)
- Navajo Nation System Conservation Trust Fund (\$129,716,400)

# liná bá – Paa tuwaqat’si Pipeline

- The pipeline will deliver a portion of the Nation’s Upper Basin Colorado River allocation and a portion of the Nation’s Lower Basin Colorado River allocation from Lake Powell to the Navajo Chapters of Cameron, Bodaway/Gap, Tuba City, Coppermine, Bitter Springs, Cedar Ridge, Coal Mine Mesa, Grey Mountain, and Lechee and to the San Juan Southern Paiute Reservation. It will also deliver water from Lake Powell to Hopi Villages at Moenkopi, First Mesa, Second Mesa, Third Mesa, Howell Mesa, and Keams Canyon.

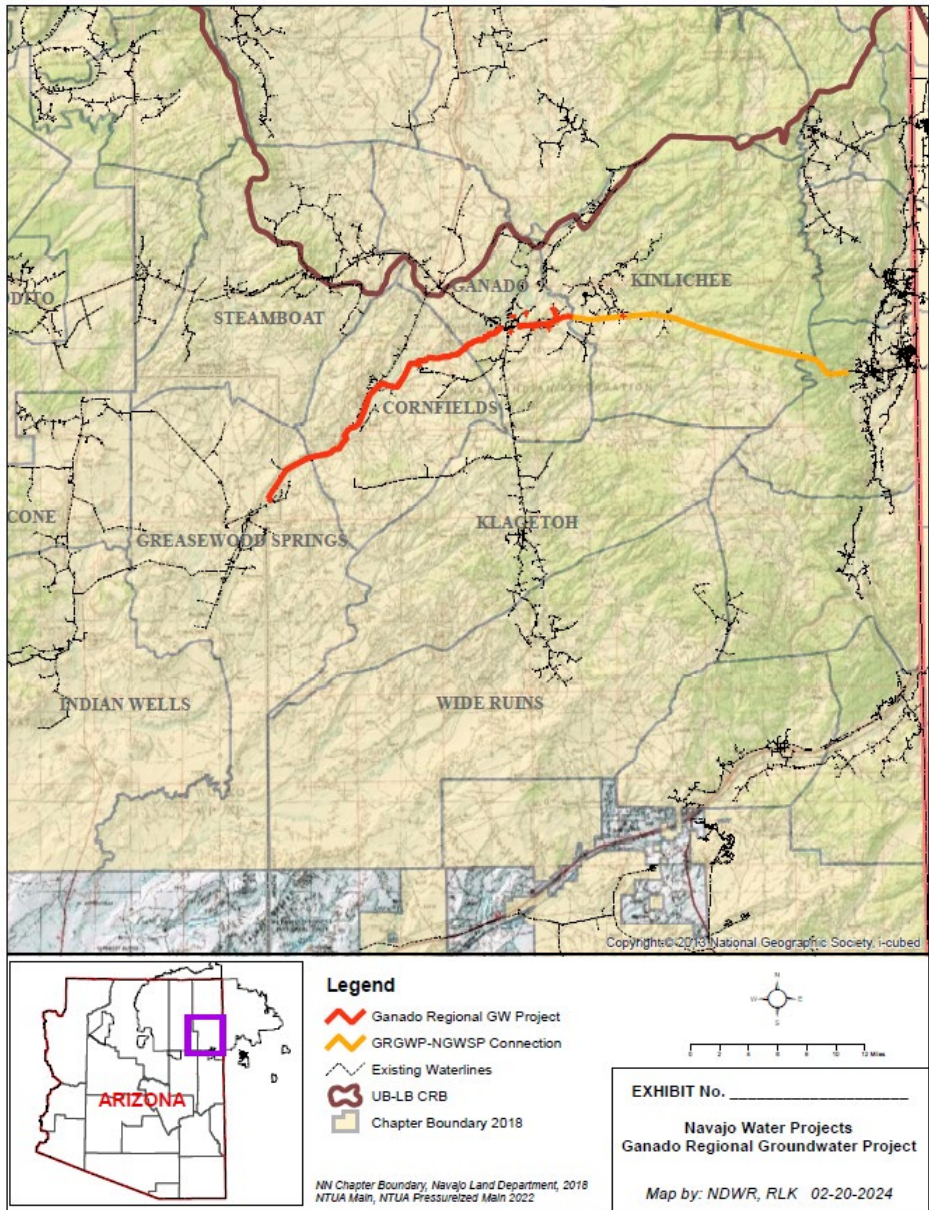


# Navajo Nation Water Settlement Trust Fund



# Southwest Navajo Regional Groundwater Project

- The Southwest Navajo Regional Groundwater Project will extend the Leupp-Dilkon Project to deliver potable water to Leupp, Birdsprings, Tolani Lake, Teesto, Dilkon, and Indian Wells.

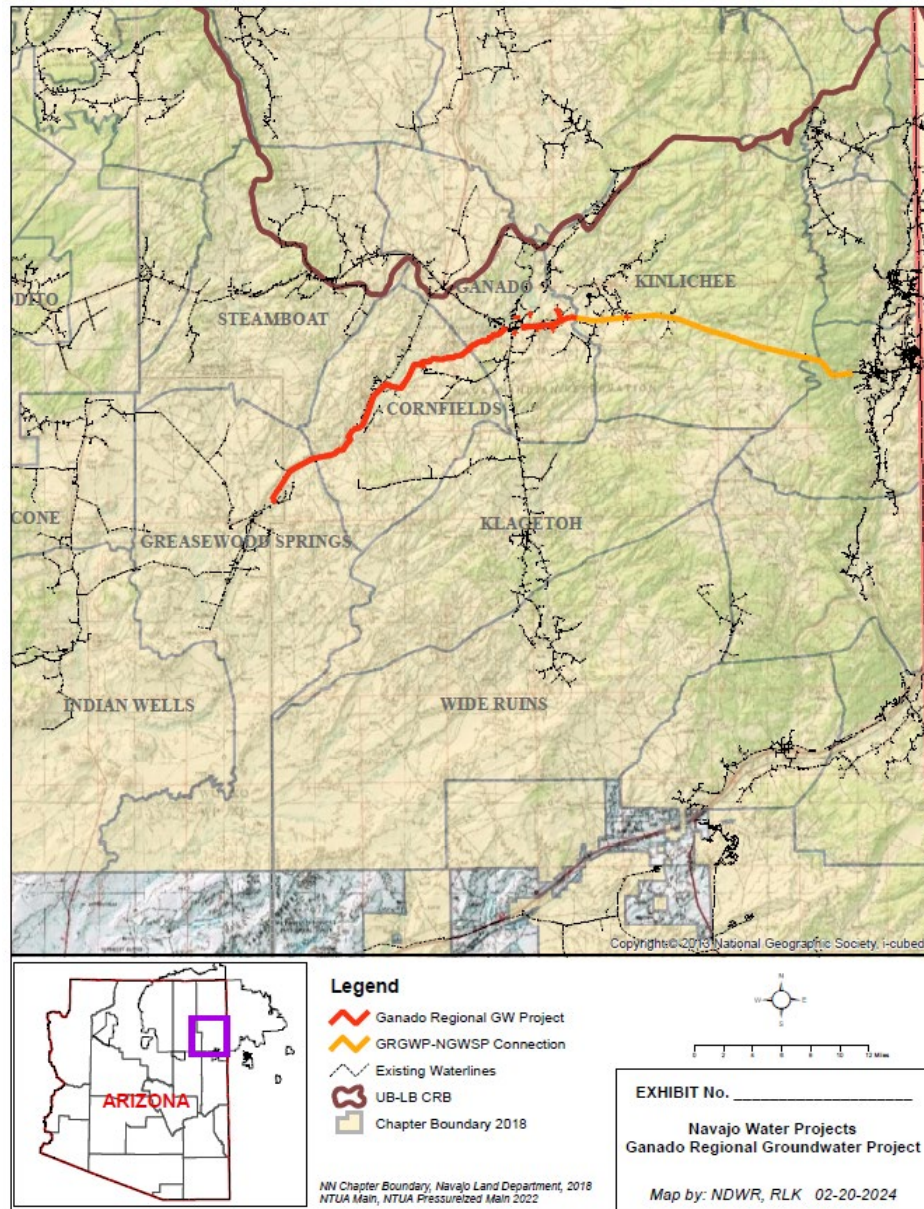


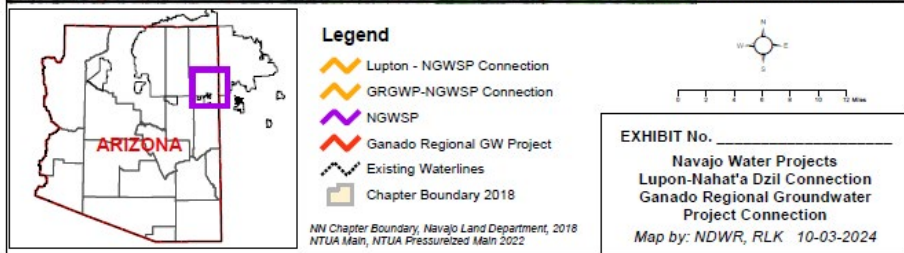
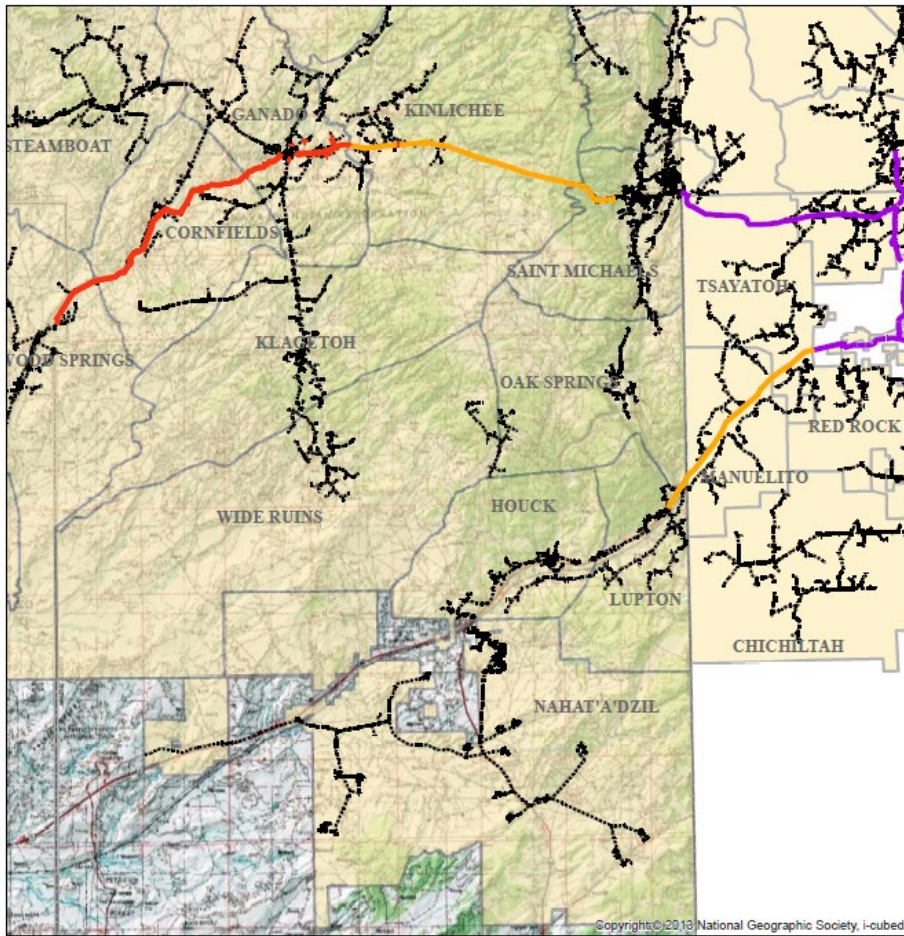
# Code Talker Lateral

- The Code Talker Lateral that will extend the Code Talker Lateral waterline and expand public water systems to deliver potable water to Fort Defiance, Red Lake, and Saint Michaels, with an intertie to the Ganado Area Project.

# Ganado Regional Groundwater Project

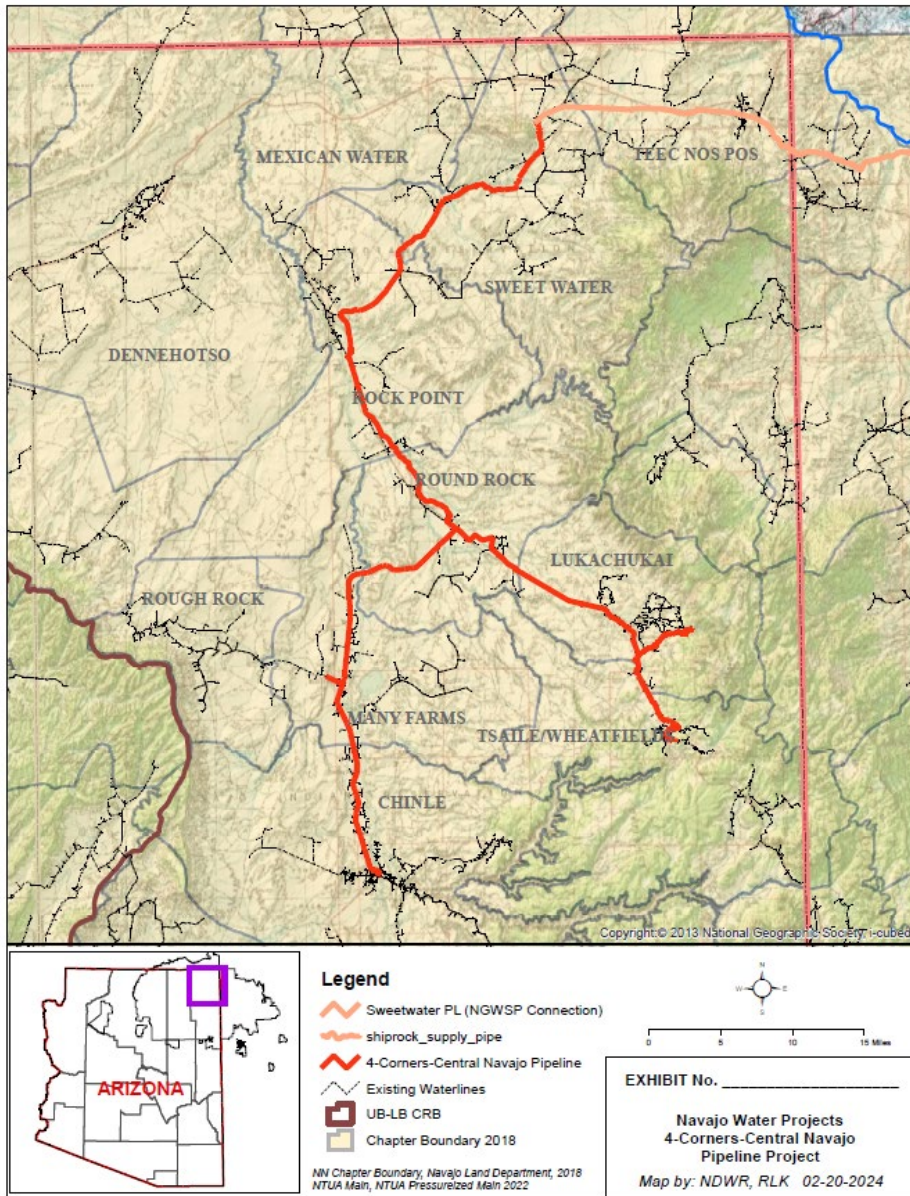
- The Ganado Regional Groundwater Project that will develop and expand public water systems to deliver potable water to Kinlichee, Ganado, Cornfields, Lower Greasewood, Jeddito, and Steamboat.





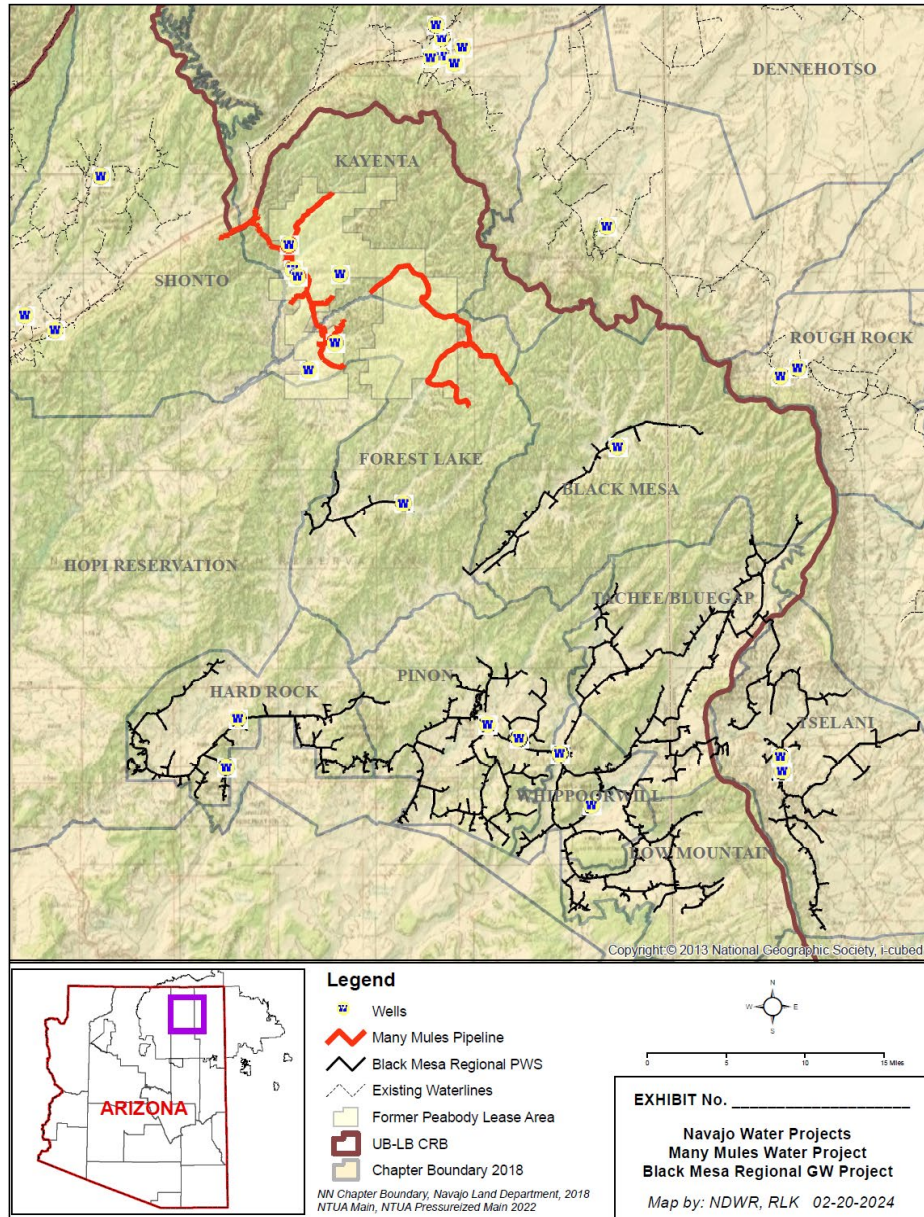
# Lupton Area Project

- The Lupton Area Project that will develop and expand public water systems to deliver potable water to Houck, Lupton, and Nahata'Dziil.



# Four-Corners Project

- The Four-Corners Project that will develop and expand public water systems to deliver potable water to Chinle, Many Farms, Rock Point, Round Rock, Sweetwater, Teec Nos Pos, and Tsaiile/Wheatfields/Blackrock.

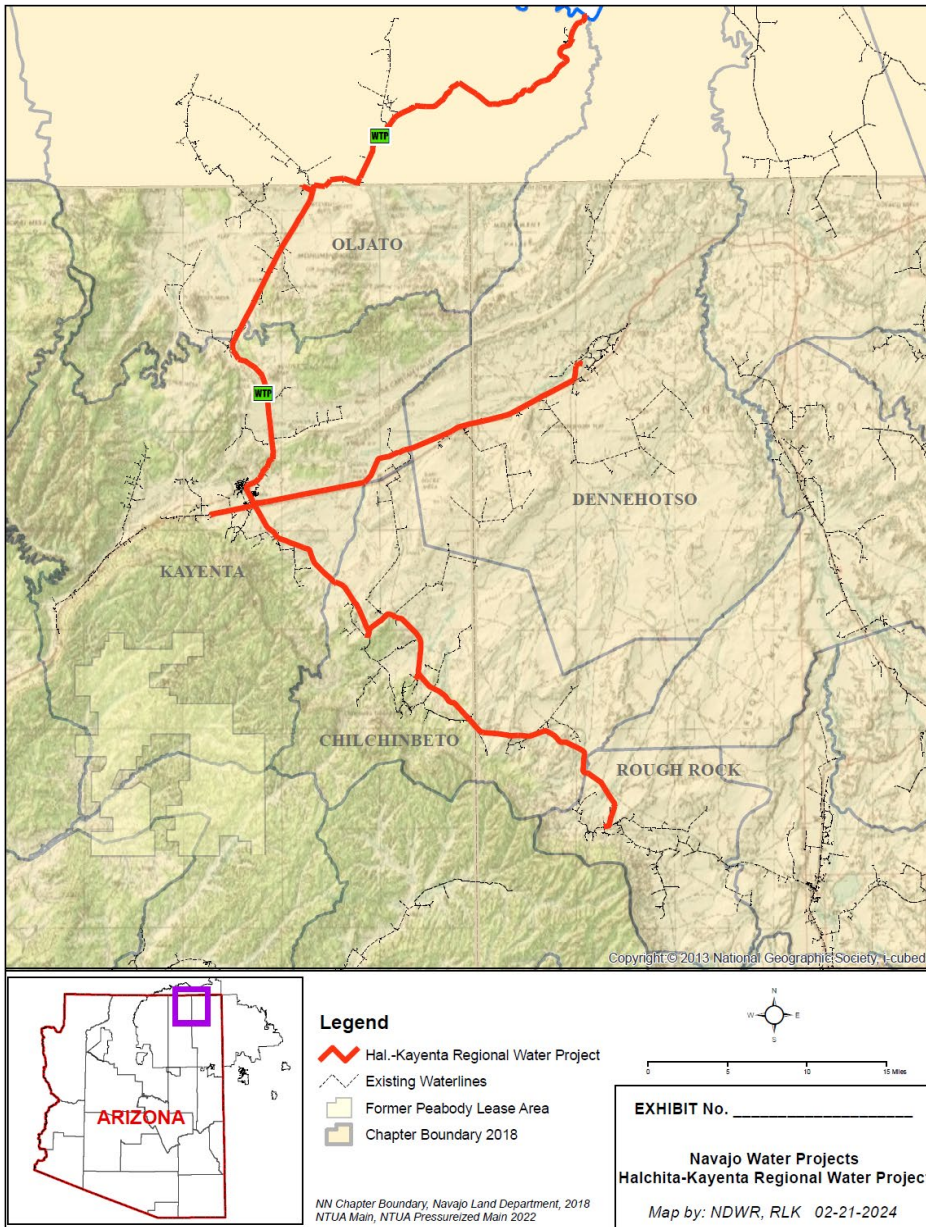


# Black Mesa Project

- The Black Mesa Project that will develop and expand public water systems to deliver potable water to Black Mesa, Forest Lake, Pinon, and Shonto.

# Kayenta Area Project

- The Kayenta Area Project that will develop and expand public water systems to deliver potable water to Chilchinbeto, Kayenta, Dennehotso, Mexican Water, and Oljato.



# Local Upper Basin Water Projects

- The Local Upper Basin Water Projects, small local projects in the Upper Basin, that will develop and expand public water systems to deliver additional water to local communities.

# Navajo Nation Operation, Maintenance & Replacement Trust Fund

- Navajo Nation OM&R Trust Fund Account may only be used to pay OM&R costs of the Navajo Water projects

# Navajo Nation Agricultural Conservation Trust Fund



- used to pay the costs of improvements to reduce water shortages on the historically irrigated land of the Navajo Nation, including sprinklers, drip or other efficient irrigation systems, land leveling, wells, pipelines, pumps and storage, stream bank stabilization and restoration, pasture seeding and management, fencing, wind breaks, and alluvial wells.

# Navajo Nation Renewable Energy Trust Fund



- Used to pay the cost of planning, designing, and constructing renewable energy facilities to support the costs of operating the Navajo Nation Water projects and the iiná bá – paa tuwaqat’si pipeline.

# Navajo Nation Lower Basin Colorado River Water Acquisition Trust Fund



- Amounts in the Navajo Nation Lower Basin Colorado River Water Acquisition Trust Fund Account may only be used to purchase land within the State and associated Arizona Lower Basin Colorado River Water Rights

# Navajo Nation System Conservation Trust Fund

- Amounts in the Navajo Nation System Conservation Trust Fund Account may only be used to compensate the Navajo Nation for the storage of System Conservation Eligible Water at Lake Powell.





## ▶ LEGISLATIVE HEARING, OVERSIGHT HEARING

# Oversight Hearing on “Examining Federal Policies Governing Indian Water Rights Settlements,” and Legislative Hearing to receive testimony on S. 953, Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act of 2025

**Date:** March 11, 2026

**Time:** 2:30 PM

**Location:** Dirksen

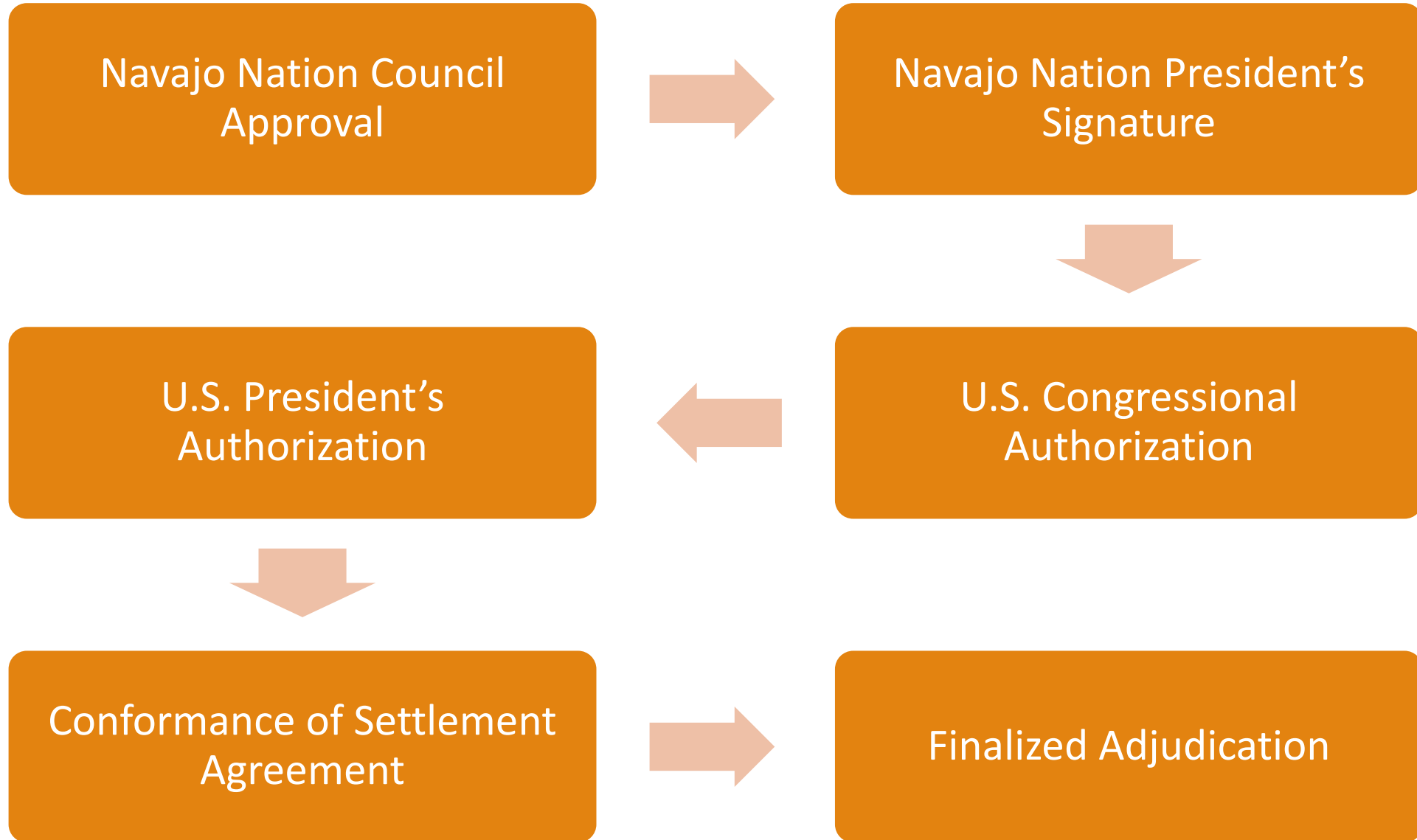
**Room:** 628

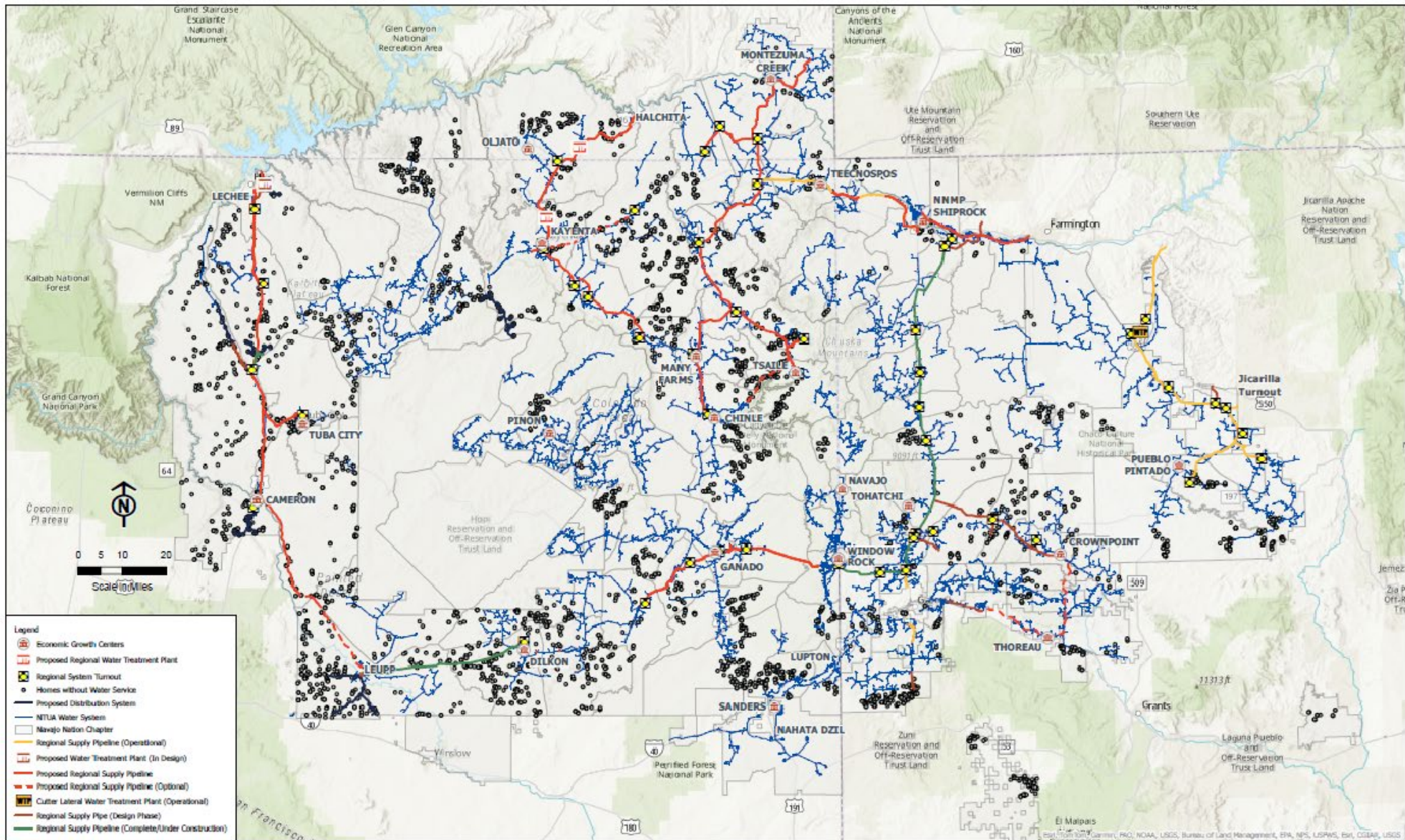
**Agenda:**

- S. 953, Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act of 2025



# Timeline





Last update: March 4, 2024

## Navajo Tribal Utility Authority Global Water Map

Homes without Water Services on the Navajo Nation



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NAVAJO NATION  
WATER RIGHTS COMMISSION



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