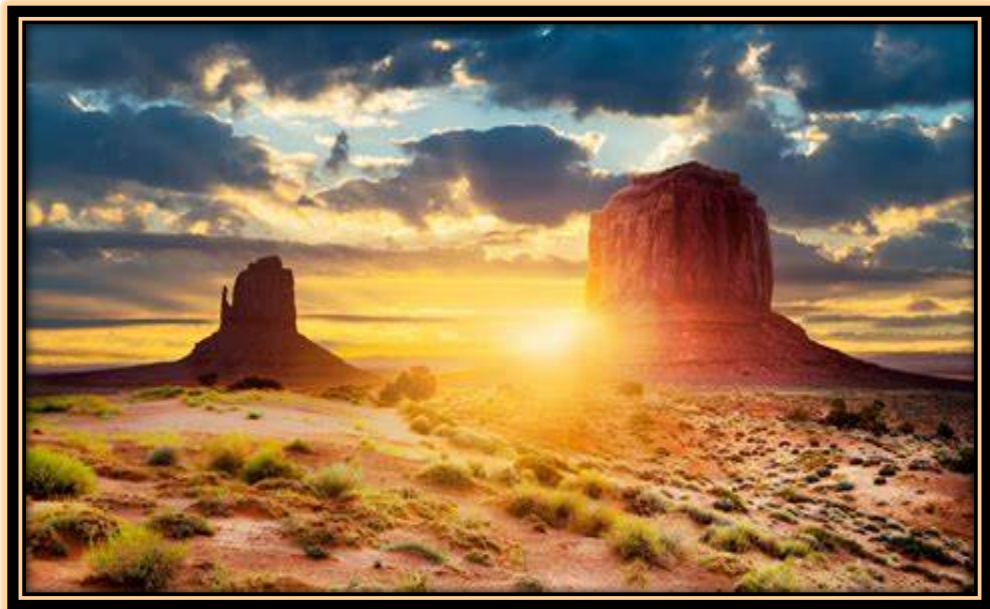




BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS NAVAJO REGION

Report to the 24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL



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October 21, 2019

The Fort Defiance Agency has executed the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) effective Monday, October 7, 2019. All Natural Resources and Real Estate Services personnel have been relocated to the BIA Regional Office in Gallup. Public announcements as well as signage with contact information has been posted.

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NAVAJO REGIONAL DIRECTOR COMMENTS

The employees of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Regional Office possess experience and professionalism with most having ten or more years of experience as stewards of the federal government in meeting the bureau's fiduciary trust responsibilities. More than 90% of these employees are also members of the Navajo Nation and bring forward a clear understanding of the needs of their family, friends and communities. I am fortunate to be able to lead such a group of professionals.

As a team the Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Regional Office has demonstrated an ability to apply comprehensive expertise in developing and managing programs to facilitate the federal functions required to meet the priorities of the Navajo Nation. I am proud of the commitment and dedication of our employees.

Under my leadership for over a year and as a team we have been able to redesign specific strategies to improve productivity, accountability and responsiveness to not only the Navajo Nation but our federal partners and other stakeholders as well. Management changes, developing standard operating procedures and putting into place a sense of ownership in the work we do has expedited results. We have been able to be more responsive to the Navajo Nation chapters, 24th, Navajo Nation Council Delegates, Division Directors and the leadership of the Navajo Nation as demonstrated in this report. As teams address issues and concerns brought forward we have been able to carve out amazing strategies that actually proved to be a catalyst for the team in achieving results.

We are pleased that Fiscal Year 2020, has begun under a temporary funding measure, H.R. 4378, Continuing Appropriation Act, 2020, which was signed by The President on September 27, 2019. The Continuing Resolution will fund federal programs from October 1, 2019 through November 21, 2019.

This report exhibits some of the specific activities that the Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Regional Office has made a priority. Our commitment to ever improving practice as well as the desire to achieve continues. The Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Regional Office is recognized as exemplary among all Bureau of Indian Affairs regions in accomplishing objectives and directives from Indian Affairs and it is because of the collaborative efforts, teamwork and accountability that we have achieved.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Regional Office remains committed to the work we do and my office continues to be available to all tribal leaders to address all issues and concerns. I can be reached by email at Bartholomew.stevens@bia.gov or by cell phone at (505) 870-0011.

Thank you,



Bartholomew Stevens, Regional Director
Navajo Region, BIA

FEDERAL INDIAN MINERALS OFFICE (FIMO)

The Federal Indian Minerals Office (FIMO) in continuing its mission to preserve, protect, and develop oil and gas resources on Navajo Allotted lands is exploring a competitive lease sale for unleased allotments. We are committed to serving the Navajo allottees through our daily activities on inspection, outreaches, leasing and audits.

Ongoing Projects:

- Lease Sale – FIMO is moving forward with a competitive oil and gas lease sale. FIMO is working to offer a January 2020 lease sale. FIMO proposes 43 allotments covering 6,882.04 acres encumbering approximately 3,153 interest owners.
- Resource Management Plan Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement-The BLM/BIA co-lead project has had challenges, however, both federal entities in collaboration with tribal entities are working through the cultural concerns surrounding the Chaco Culture Historical National Park.

Accomplishments:

- Outreach – the FIMO office has been assisting with Land Buy Back inquiries as walk in clients and at scheduled outreaches. FIMO continues to provide outreach services to the Navajo Nation Chapters impacted by the oil and gas activities in the San Juan and Aneth Basin. FIMO conducted 20 outreach presentations to six Chapter Houses and conducted land buy back outreach opportunities around the local areas. FIMO logged in approximately 35 inquiries from over 370 individual allottees. In addition to our outreach sessions, FIMO assisted 439 clients for this quarter.
- Inspection and Enforcement – the BLM Inspection and Enforcement (I&E) completed 218 inspections on Navajo Indian Allotted wells for the fourth quarter. There were 39 wells witnessed for oil sales; 60 written incident of noncompliance, and eight plugged and abandon wells were witnessed. There were ten wells witnessed for drilling operations.
- Environmental Inspection – FIMO inspected six plugged and abandonment wells and no final abandonment locations. There were three onsite inspections conducted for oil and gas Application for Permit to drill.
- Audit/Compliance Reviews – FIMO auditors are completing three full scope compliance reviews, opening two new full scope compliance, continuing to work through four full scope compliance reviews and one company audit through this quarter.
- Leasing Assignments – FIMO realty specialist processed and completed 29 assignments this quarter; three record title; and 27 operating rights. We are working through 43 proposed allotments for oil and gas competitive lease sale tentatively scheduled for January 2020.
- Units – FIMO continues to work with BLM-State Office to process two units for Enduring Resources. One unit encompasses 18 Navajo allotted leases and the other unit has two Navajo allotted leases.
- Lease termination/cancellation – FIMO is working on five leases expiring on their own terms for this quarter.
- Application for permit to drill (APD) – There were no notice of staking and no APDs were received/approved for this quarter.
- Royalty Distribution – There were approximately \$8,429,086 distributed to Navajo individual mineral owners for this quarter.

FIMO continuously work to uphold its trust responsibility through its accountability to the Navajo Indian Allottees by providing revenues and other opportunities as a result of oil and gas development on Navajo Indian allotment lands.

TRUST SERVICES

BRANCH OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Navajo Regional Office

In an effort to support the Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) mission to apply the best range management practices and implement an Agriculture Resource Management Plan (ARMP) and a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS), the BIA Branch of Natural Resources (BNR) Branch Chief had two coordination meetings with the Navajo Nation (NN) Division of Natural Resources Director on the \$2,618,330.68 recently received from BIA Central Office to implement an Agricultural Resource Management Plan (ARMP) on the Navajo Nation reservation wide. The NN Fish and Wildlife Department amended the BIA 93-638 contract for the development of a Navajo Nation ARMP PEIS. This is a significant milestone as it sets the foundation to have the appropriate environmental planning documents in place for the entire reservation and thereby achieve environmental compliance with NEPA requirements and the American Indian Agricultural Resources Act.

Navajo Partitioned Land (NPL) - The NPL grazing permits that were canceled as part of the Navajo Hopi Land Dispute in 1973, currently has many non-permitted livestock on the range. Now that we are formally issuing grazing permits pursuant to 25 CFR 161 those that are receiving permits and have been ranging livestock unpermitted are being asked to reduce current stocking to the approved levels and remove their unpermitted livestock from the range. Hence a delicate situation exist to which BIA BNR staff are actively engaging with the NN. BIA Navajo Region personnel have been meeting regularly with the NN Department of Agriculture and the NPL Joint District Grazing Committee (DGC). The BNR staff have and continue to provide outreach and public education information to the involved NPL Chapters and community on the issuance of NPL grazing permits. The issuance of grazing permits will allow for the best management practices in planning conservation practices, including grazing control and range restoration activities.

Navajo Nation Feral Horse Management BIA funding

The BIA, through the National Invasive Species Funding, awarded the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife (NNFW) a total amount of \$499,440.00. The proposals consisted of two projects:

- FY 2018: Navajo Nation Feral Horse Management Strategy in the amount of \$250,000.00.
 - o \$125,000.00 was given to the Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture (NNDA) Equine Reward Program. This program made payments to Navajo tribal members that removed horses from Navajo rangelands and turned them over to NNDA.
 - o \$125,000.00 was to be utilized by the NNFW for an aerial round up contract. Instead, this amount was utilized for the Seeds of Change Program.

- FY 2019: Horse Management Plan in the amount of \$249,440.00.
 - o Removal of wild horses across backcountry wild game units using helicopters. The Navajo Nation no longer intended to conduct any horse management actions across backcountry wild game units as described in their proposals. The basis for the Navajo Nations' selection in FY 18 and FY 19 funding was to benefit wild game populations in backcountry areas of the Navajo Reservation where horses compete with wildlife for food sources and habitat. The BIA disapproved the Navajo Nations' request to amend the project and all remaining FY 18 funds (\$125,000.00) and all FY 19 funding (\$249,440.00), totaling \$374,440.00, for Navajo horse management, was returned to BIA, Central Office.

Fort Defiance Agency

Non-Compliance Letters:

Non-compliance letters have been mailed to grazing permit holders who are in non-compliance, which includes; over permitted numbers, expired state brands, grazing within the wrong district/unit, and using a deceased individuals grazing permit. Non-compliance letters were also mailed to individuals who do not have a grazing permit but allow their livestock to graze. Non-permit holders were advised that they must confine their animals 24/7.

District 14-1 and 14-2 Boundary Fence Line:

The Cultural Resource Compliance Form (CRCF) was received from Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation on March 18, 2019. Fort Defiance Agency has requested the Navajo Nation Fish and Wildlife for a Biological Resource Compliance Form (BRCF). Once the BRCF is complete, Fort Defiance Agency will begin construction of a 9.4-mile fence line between District Unit 14-1 and District Unit 14-2. Defining the two grazing units through the fence line will help to prevent inter District Unit livestock trespassing and improve control of the resources and range management. The project is pending an environmental assessment (EA) that will begin within the next couple days.

Horse Roundup/Voluntary Horse Sale

Fort Defiance Agency assisted the Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture with their voluntary horse sales with personal, equipment and verification of ownership of branded horses. Fort Defiance Agency will continue to assist the Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture with upcoming horse roundups and voluntary horse sales.

Range Management/Grazing Permits:

Range Technician completed Environmental Assessment Scope of Work for District 14 and has sent it to the Navajo Regional Office for review.

The Southwest Conservation Corp continues the noxious weed inventory for the Commercial Forest and is involved with the removal of invasive species of Russian Olives and Tamarisk along Black Creek Wash.

Chinle Agency

Range Management Units:

There are twenty-nine (29) established Range Management Units (RMUs) that are approved and recognized within the (3) three Land Management Districts (LMD) in Chinle Agency. The following is a brief summary:

- LMD 4 consists of 2 (two) RMUs totaling 11,185 acres of tribal trust land.
- LMD 10 consists of 13 (thirteen) RMUs totaling 48,994 acres of tribal trust land.
- LMD 11 consists 14 (fourteen) RMUs totaling 43,645 acres of tribal trust land.

A total of 103,284 acres of tribal trust land is managed under RMUs. Chinle Agency is in the process of updating records. The majority of RMUs were established in the 1970s. Records need to be updated as some of the original permittees have since deceased and their grazing permits have not been probated or transferred.

Commercial Forest Range Inventory:

The commercial forest range inventory was conducted within LMD 10 (45,287 ac.) and LMD 11 (126,794 ac.) with the total inventoried acres of 172,794 acres. Furthermore, 384 transects were established to determine range utilization & production, which were in turn established the carrying capacity/stocking rates to update grazing permit adjustment. The range inventory was completed and finalized in August 2019.

Canyon De Chelly Grazing & Agricultural Land Use Permit Inventory:

This project addresses the need to determine where all grazing & agricultural land use permits exist and determine where they are actually being used within the administrative boundaries of Canyon De Chelly National Park, including Canyon Del Muerto.

A balance between stocking rates and range utilization is necessary for the effective management of forage & dry land farming plots within the canyon. To achieve this balance, the BIA and Navajo Nation will need information on where these permits are actively being utilized.

The primary objective of the Chinle agency' grazing & agricultural land use permit GPS project is to locate by GPS data collection a central point for each grazing permit area of use and to develop a polygon for each farm plot permitted or unpermitted and upload into Agency' GIS system.

To date, there are 40 grazing permits and 200 agricultural land use permits utilized within and around Canyon De Chelly and Canyon Del Muerto.

Navajo Partitioned Lands

Permits:

On November 21, 2018, the Resources and Development Committee passed resolution RDCN-89-18, concurring with the Joint NPL DGC, Resolution #NPLDGPP1,2,3 – 11.13.2018, recommending a list of people to the RDC for the granting of grazing permits according to the eligibility and priority criteria in §161.400.

Since then, 50 recommended names of those currently living and who have met the eligibility criteria have been published in the following local news outlets: Navajo Times, Gallup Independent, Arizona Daily Sun, and Navajo Hopi Observer.

Enforcement of livestock and permit compliance as identified in the 25 CFR 161 will need to be further analyzed and implemented. This includes implementing the ten (10) Sheep Units Year Long (SUYL). The adverse impacts would need addressing prior to the issuing of permits.

NPL Public Education and Training:

The following discussion on historical overview, eligibility criteria, range conditions, issuance of permits, management of new permits, removal of livestock in trespass, Federal and Navajo Nation Legislations regarding eligibility, and 10 SUYL. Each public education and training took place at the following location and dates: Shonto, Low Mountain, Chilchinbeto, Pinon, Whippoorwill, Tuesday, and Black Mesa, Teesto Chapter and White Cone Chapter.

Shiprock Agency

The District 13 boundary fence line has been completed which includes 20 miles of fencing. The establishment of the boundary fence line has given more control to the permittees along the boundary and has reduced livestock trespass and a reduction of feral horses in the area. The livestock and feral horse control measure has made more water available for local stock.

The Shiprock Agency is working towards obtaining a Biological Resource Compliance Form (BRCF) for Phase II of the District 13 boundary fence. A BRCF is the only document needed to begin construction of the fence line. The SA will need to have a coordination meeting with Navajo Fish and Wildlife to help obtain a BRCF for Phase II of the District 13 fence line.

The Burnham Chapter Land Use Planning Committee may take the lead on the continuation of the District 13 boundary fence project.

Western Navajo Agency

The Former Bennett Freeze Area Integrated Resource Management Plan:

Updates and revisions to the Former Bennett Freeze Area (FBFA) Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) have been completed. The Western Navajo Agency Branch of Natural Resource (WNA-BNR) and the contractor Ecosphere Environmental Services completed the technical edits. However, after the revisions and updates and current Central Office guidance on National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the project is being reviewed as whether or not a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement is warranted. It is possible that a Programmatic Environmental Assessment may be written for the Integrated Resource Management Plan. The completed document will be forwarded to the Navajo Nation for review and approval. After approval, the Navajo Regional Office (NRO) will be ready to move forward on the issuance of the NEPA compliance. The NEPA compliance document will analyze the environmental and human impacts of the IRMP. This includes insuring all NEPA requirements for developments and actions identified in the IRMP are met and to ensure all the necessary steps are completed. The locations of five (5) Public Scoping locations have been identified and will be held at the following Arizona locations: Flagstaff, Window Rock, Tuba City, and Cameron. Once the notice of public scoping is announced, we will urge all concerned community members and Navajo Nation Officials to attend and participate in the Public Scoping process.

FBFA Livestock Water Project:

The WNA-BNR has been working with the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources (NNDWR) to assist the Cameron Chapter to set up a livestock water stand pipe for individuals who haul water for livestock and farming. This is to help mitigate the effects of droughts in the future. The land survey for the right of way for the waterline has been completed, as well as the biological assessment and has been sent to Navajo Nation Fish and Wildlife for review. The Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Region provided \$759,505.34 towards this Project through Modification No. 14 - Contract Number A18AV00338.

Land Management District (LMD) 3 and LMD 5 boundary fence reconstruction and LMD 1 and LMD 3 Boundary Fence Project:

The Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) fencing crew is tasked to remove the old fence and rebuild the fence with new fencing material. This project will start backup in spring of 2020. The project involves the 22-mile LMD 3 and 5 fence line and the 37-mile LMD 1 and 3 fence.

Kerley Valley Irrigation Canal and Access Road Right-of-Way Activity and Kerley Valley Irrigation Access Road Bridge Design and Repair:

Currently, the BIA Navajo Regional Office (NRO) Branch of Natural Resources (BNR) is working with NRO Real Estate Services to prepare documents for appraisal of proposed Right of Way (ROW).

LMD 3 Range Management Plan:

The LMD 3 covers over 1.4 million acres in the central portion of FBFA of Navajo Nation and this affects 661 Grazing Permits (40,601 Sheep Units Year Long).

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Western Navajo Agency has initiated the development of a Cropland Management Plan (CMP) for Land Management District (LMD) 3 and is currently on hold while we complete the NEPA compliance for the FBFA IRMP. The objective of this project is to provide documentation that assesses the impacts of the proposed CMP on LMD3 throughout approximately 1,030 acres. The documentation will assess environmental impacts on the physical environment (including natural resources, cultural resources, geological resources, water resources, etc.).

Littlefield's Spring-fed Irrigation Project:

The WNA-BNR has been working with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) with implementation of a plan through Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) contracts with permittees. The project involved maintaining and improving the irrigation system from the source spring to the Agricultural Land Use Permit areas.

Permits:

The agency staff is in the process of completing 3 environmental assessments for new Agricultural Land Use Permits and will complete the NEPA compliance for the 23 transfers.

Horse Management:

The agency staff assisted the Navajo Nation in the removal of 49 horses and participated in the Navajo Feral Horse-Foal Survey.

National/Legislative Updates: Federal Registrar

The Navajo Regional Office is awaiting the Navajo Nation Integrated Weed Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Notice of Availability (NOA) to be published in the Federal Register.

BRANCH OF WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

The 2019 fire season was considered a “below average” for the Navajo Region, Branch of Wildland Fire and Aviation Management (BWFAM). Fire occurrence consisted of the following:

1. 77 reported as human caused fires burning 182 acres
2. 41 reported as lightning caused fires burning 66 acres

The largest fire on Navajo Nation was the Fluted Rock Incident at (44 acres). In addition to suppression activity locally, Navajo resources were dispatched to Colorado, Utah, Montana, Idaho, Northern California, Oklahoma, Washington, and Oregon.

All sections within the Fire Program were successful in recruiting and hiring for the 2019 season, the Hotshot crew hired 21 personnel, Aviation 10 personnel, and engines 8 personnel. In addition, the Administratively Determined Emergency hires, commonly referred to as the “Navajo Scouts” returned 64 personnel for a total of 103 wildland firefighters for the program. All resources received positive evaluations on all assignments, with no major accidents or injuries. The Navajo Scouts generated a total earned income of \$883,682 with 34,198 hours worked on the fire-line.

A total of 37 national fire assignments for all Navajo Region resources, this included:

- 20 – Type II Initial Attack, Camp Crew and Overhead assignments
- 5 – Type I Interagency Hotshot crew assignments
- 2 – Engine assignments
- 6 – Aviation (helicopter/helitack) assignments
- 4 – Camp Crew assignments

The Navajo Interagency Hotshot crew dispatched to 9 wildfire incidents within the geographical area, and 3 were sent out of geographical area incidents, including a mobilization to Hurricane Dorian. Wildland fire assignments consisted of the following: Crevasse wildfire 10 acres, AZNAA Squirrel Springs, NM. Tees Toh 2 wildfire 10 acres, AZNAA Tees Toh, AZ, Woodbury wildfire 400,000 acres Globe, AZ, Slate wildfire 15 acres Sunflower, AZ, Gap wildfire 2,000 acres San

Carlos, AZ, Anchor wildfire 25 acres San Carlos, Bear Tank wildfire 150 acres Conelo, AZ, Hunt Canyon wildfire 3 acres Sierra Vista, AZ, Cellar Fire wildfire 4,400 acres Prescott Valley, AZ, Nethker wildfire 2,600 acres Mc Call, ID, Hurricane Dorian Support Charlotte, NC, and Amole wildfire 1,500 acres Taos, NM. They ended a safe and productive season on September 20, 2019.

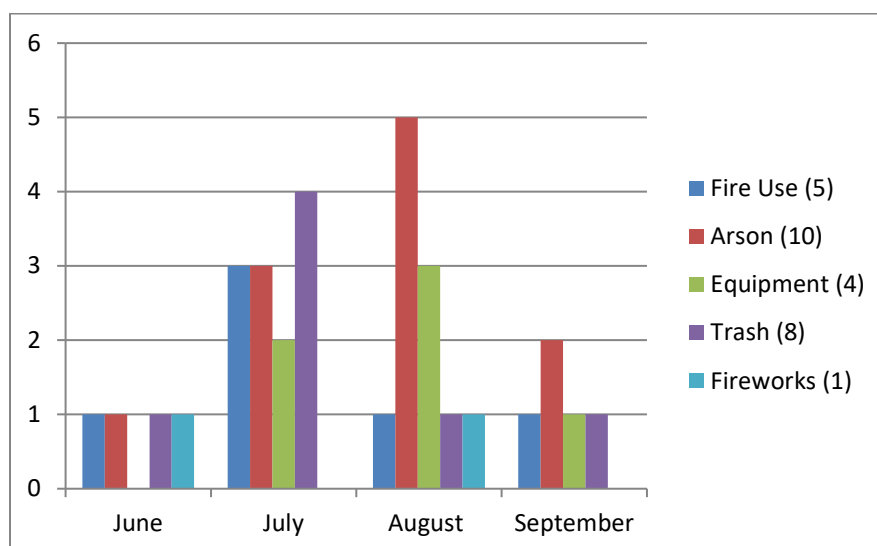
The Navajo Helitack crew along with the exclusive use helicopter (N7HE) supported the National Interagency Large Fire Support on the Tonto National Forest, AZ, Coconino National Forest, AZ, Helena National Forest, MT, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, CA, and Ouray and Uintah Agency UT. The helicopter and crew were out on assignment for a period of 43 days. The Navajo Helitack crew ended a safe and productive season on September 27, 2019.

The Administratively Determined, Emergency Firefighter Workforce, commonly referred to as the “Navajo Scouts,” had a total of 64 active wildland fire qualified personnel for the 2019 fire season. They generated a total earned income of \$541,602 with 24,798.0 estimated hours worked.

The Fuels Management Program implemented 5 Hazardous Fuel Reduction (HFR) projects within the Black Creek Wash, Ganado Wash, Lupton Community, White Rock Wash, and White Clay. The treatments for each project included a combination of thinning, hand piling, machine piling, chipping, broadcast burning, and pile burning. The intent of the projects is to create a break in the continuity of ground fuels to minimize wildland fire effects to the communities of Window Rock, Fort Defiance, Saint Michaels, Ganado, Corn Fields, Sawmill, Nazlini, White Clay, Navajo, Red Lake, and Lupton.

	Black Creek Wash	Ganado Wash	Lupton Community	White Rock Wash	White Clay
Thinning	200	150	100		
Hand Piling			100	50	50
Machine Piling	200	150			
Chipping	25		20		
Broad Cast Burn				100	50
Pile Burn	200	150	100	40	50
Total Acres	625	450	320	190	150

The fire prevention program had a busy 2019 season, the primary goal is to lessen human-caused wildfires with outreach, fire investigations, promoting burn registrations, and safe burning. The BWFAM are required by policy to investigate all wildfires to determine specific cause and origin. The policy is referenced in the 53 IAM 7-H Forest Trespass Handbook. The following chart shows the total investigated human-caused fires and their categories for the fiscal year.



Fire Investigations completed for the months June to September.

Burn Registrations: In the following table, the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA) has provided the following information:

Agricultural/ Field Burning	Cultural Traditional	Complaints
258	122	7

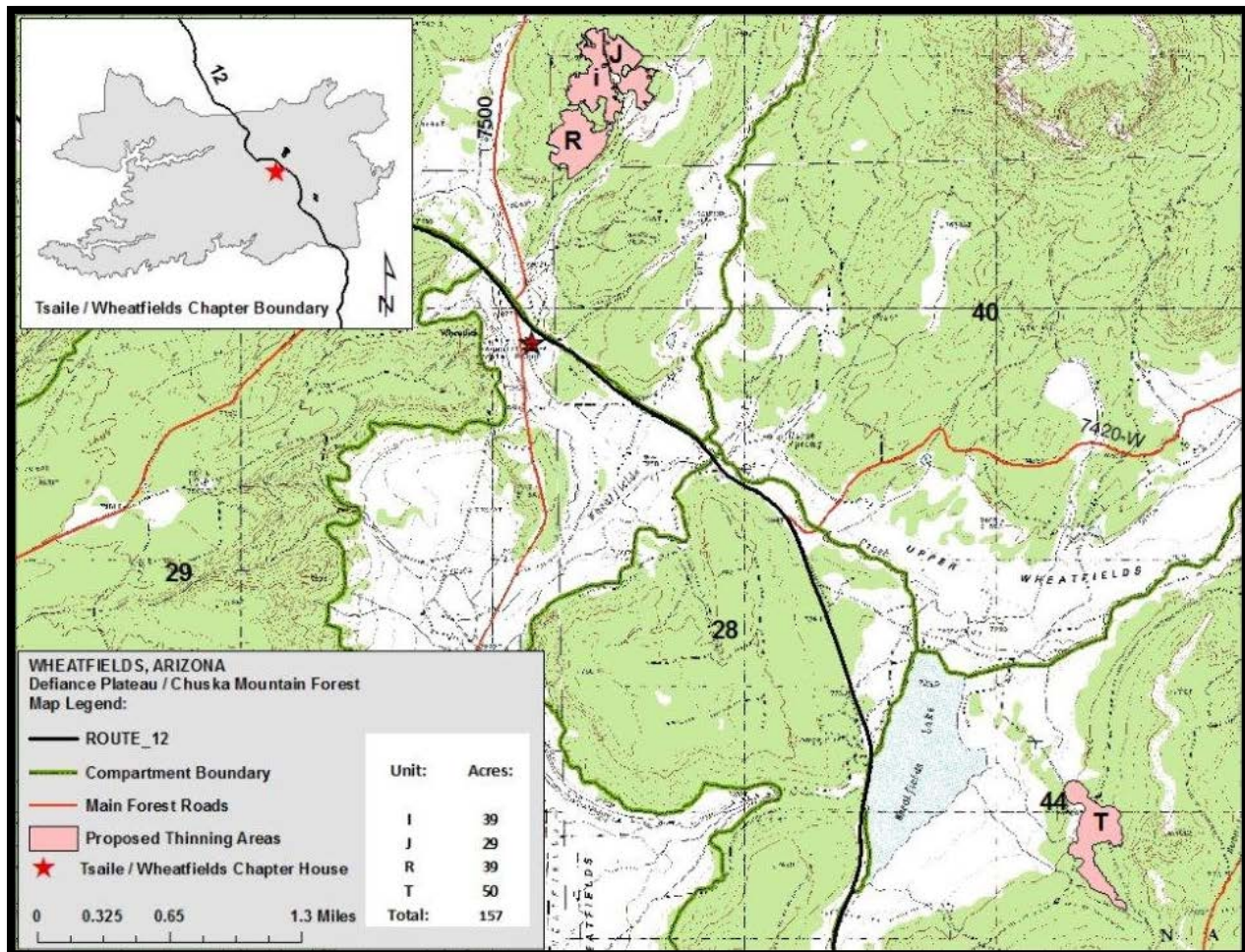
The total number of Burn Registrations submitted to Navajo Nation EPA from January 3, 2019 to September 13, 2019.

BRANCH OF FORESTRY

The U.S. Forest Service sponsored a field trip to the Zuni Mountains located within the Cibola National Forest on July 22, 2019, for Navajo Regional Office (NRO), Navajo Forestry Department (NFD), and other neighboring Tribal staff from the area. The purpose was to view post-project areas where ecological restoration principles, namely silvicultural prescription treatments, were applied. This was very beneficial to NRO and NFD staff as there are silvicultural prescriptions currently in the process of being developed for scheduled projects within the Navajo Nations' forest lands. Upon completion and approval of the silvicultural prescription, treatments similar to those done by the Forest Service may be implemented on the projects that are scheduled for the Navajo Nation. A total of three project areas were visited. Each had its own unique management objectives. On average, the areas treated cost the U.S. Forest Service approximately \$850 per acre. (See Photo's 1-4 below)

Site visit by the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) was conducted on September 12, 2019 for the Wheatfields #1 Thinning Project (Figure 5). The purpose was to assess the treatment progress within the project area, which is just over 150 acres in size, and to gain feedback from other resource professionals regarding the treatments' impacts to the other resources, if any. The overall goal of the treatment, as written in the silvicultural prescription, is to reduce the current number of trees per acre (stocking) in order to restore ecosystem productivity, integrity and sustainability of the stands. While the goal is being attained, there were concerns raised by members of the IDT as many of them had not seen an active commercial forest stand improvement area before. Some of the concerns raised by the IDT include; erosion control, establishment of roads, and the high volume of dried and untreated slash throughout the units (Photo's 6-9 below). The IDT will reconvene to identify solutions for the issues raised during this site visit to assure these issues are not repeated in future commercial forest stand improvement projects such as Wheatfields #2.

Figure 5. Map of Wheatfields #1 Thinning Project



BRANCH OF ENGINEERING

Water Management

The Navajo Nation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Region Office (BIA NRO) submitted fourteen (14) proposals totaling \$451,200 for both Water Planning and Pre-Development Projects and Water Rights Negotiation/Litigation Projects on September 14, 2019 for the FY2020 competitive funds. FY2020 proposals will support projects of long-term program goals of the Navajo Nation and BIA in developing water resource management, establishing water rights, and settlement water right claims through litigation, negotiation and adjudication.

SAN JUAN SETTLEMENT IRRIGATION PROJECTS

Fruitland Cambridge Project

A modification to extend the Contract, A12AV01296, from September 30, 2019 to December 31, 2023 has been executed with revisions to all the project's schedules to meet the Public Law 111-11's deadline. In addition, the Navajo Nation submitted a request to add the Cost Index Amount, \$4.4M to the contract to complete all four projects: Fruitland Diversion, Canal Seepage, Bitsui Siphon, and Yellowman Siphon and BIA is in process of reviewing and approval the request.

Hogback-Cudei Irrigation Project

- A modification to extend the Subpart J Construction Contract, A17AV0018 from June 30, 2019 to December 31, 2022 to complete all the projects by the Public Law deadline extension has been executed.

- Helium Lateral Siphon Project is to begin construction on October 10, 2019 to be completed by June 30, 2019.

Conjunctive Groundwater Use Wells Projects (CGWUWP)

- Naschitti to Sheep Spring Interagency Agreement, \$790K – BIA executed an agreement with Indian Health Service Navajo Area per the request of the Navajo Nation to construct 3.3 miles of 6-inch waterline that will provide adequate water supply and install a new water storage tank to serve 806 homes to the communities of Naschitti and Sheep Springs on the Navajo Nation.
- NTUA Tank Re-coating Project, \$1.2K – BIA executed a contract between BIA and NTUA per the request of the Navajo Nation to rehabilitate five (5) Water Drinking Storage Tanks per the Safe Drinking Act for the Sheep Springs, Smithlake/Casamero, Mexican Springs and Coyote Canyon communities in the Navajo Nation.
- The BIA will issue a Notice to Proceed to the Navajo Nation for the construction of Helium Lateral Project under the Hogback-Cudei Irrigation Subpart J Construction Contract
- The Cost Index Allocation for Fruitland-Cambridge Irrigation was agreed upon and the Navajo Nation request to be added to their PL 93-638 contract.
- The Navajo Nation will benefit from these water delivery projects by providing water to the Navajo communities in accordance with the Public Law 111-11.

SAFETY OF DAMS

Construction

The Safety of Dams is working to start rehabilitation work on the Tohajiilee Dam and the Charley Day Spring Dam.

Received approval to proceed with construction for Charley Day Spring Dam in Tuba City, AZ and Tohajiilee Dam near Albuquerque, NM. Both construction work will take place in spring of 2020.

NAVAJO INDIAN IRRIGATION PROJECT

Operations and Maintenance

The 2019 irrigation season is winding down. The head gate at Navajo Dam is scheduled to close on October 14, 2019 effectively ending the 2019 season.

The Navajo Indian Irrigation Project (NIIP) water delivery system successfully delivered irrigation water to approximately 70,000 acres of farmland during the 2019 season. The successful delivery of water to the NAPI farm acreage provided a positive economic benefit for the Navajo Nation in crop revenue and jobs, as well as, contributing to the overall economy of the Southwest.

NIIP will now be entering the critical fall off-season maintenance and repair of NIIP irrigation facilities to ensure necessary work is not deferred and ensures the reliability of the water delivery system of the NIIP. The off-season typically runs from November to mid-February when the water delivery system is dewatered for the winter.

BRANCH OF REAL ESTATE SERVICES (RES)

This last quarter was very busy as the Branch of Probate did several outreaches to the Navajo Public on the Land Buy Back Program via outreach. Many tribal members needed their related land holdings information regarding allotment interest, location, resources, and notary inquiries from the BIA Division of Real Estate Services (RES). This took a great deal of time assisting tribal members who needed help due to the Land Buy Back Program being active for the second round of trust lands purchasing in the Navajo Region. Several outreaches were conducted by Land Buy Back project for this Quarter, which were joint sessions with Office of Special Trustee, Real Estate Service, and Branch of Probate. The sessions were conducted in all five (5) Agencies (Eastern Navajo, Shiprock, Western Navajo, Chinle and Fort Defiance. Landowners that attended had questions on anything from Cobell Litigation, Land Buy Back, probate process, homesites, and right-of-ways.

RES Quarter Meetings Highlights with Navajo Nation

- Meeting with NTUA sewer/gas division on pending rights-of-way projects, status of FONSI determinations, and discussion of BIA roads permits.
- Attended work session on proposed Agricultural Lease for Navajo Agricultural Products Industry (NAPI) before the RDC Committee.
- Meeting with Navajo Delegate Jamie Henio, representing Alamo, Tohajilee, and Ramah Navajo Communities, to discuss incomplete Rights-of-way applications from Sacred Wind for fiber optic.
- Participated in discussion on refreshing the proposal of the Navajo Transmission Project, which was a project with origins in 1994 that were stymied by the controversial Desert Rock Project. RES provided guidance on the current right-of-way regulations as well as leasing changes.
- Provided general lease guidance to IHS at meeting on proposed helipad needed by the Pueblo Pintado community. The best placement for a helipad is possibly on an Indian Allotment adjacent to the existing parcel.
- Below photo: Honorable Delegate Crotty, NTUA, NLD/GLDD, IHS, BIA, and Sanostee Chapter met on the Sanostee sewer line issue. Follow up meetings were held September 3, 2019, September 6, 2019, and September 18, 2019.



(Meeting at Navajo Region, Gallup, New Mexico)

- BIA meet with IHS and Tuba City Health Care Corporation in its regular meetings regarding several projects and proposals for parking lot, laundry, and other support systems for the Tuba City hospital.
- BIA met with Navajo Land Department, General Land Development Department, and the Navajo DOT about tribally issued easements without BIA approval per 25 CFR 169.04. The NDOT is interested in this procedure. BIA provided a presentation to the RDC and recommended the Nation discuss internally with its counsel this opportunity and to identify which entities fit that category of a wholly owned entity of the tribe as described in the regulations.
- RES provided Right of Way training to Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, sewer and gas division. It was well attended, and the participants said they gained a great deal from it. The goal is to streamline the RES and NTUA coordination in the future.
- Meeting at OPVP regarding Frontier Communications and broadband initiative. BIA outlined its efforts with Frontier and discussion regarding a 1970 bill of sale to Navajo Communications Company.
- Realty Officer provided Right of Way Presentation to RDC Committee, Leadership session, Marriot Pyramid, Albuquerque, NM.
- Right-of-way training provided to Public Service of New Mexico which is in the process of renewing (2) 345kv transmission lines crossing 111 allotments. Training was provided to consultants.

RES Training Attended

RES staff attended Tracking, Accountability, and Productivity System (TAPS) which is an oracle-based system maintained by BIA. This system was developed to be an automated tool to assist in managing the Bureaus workload by locating issue specific documents in one location that can be available to multiple sources. The system will be implemented in all 12 BIA regions.

Pending items with the NN:

1. Formal notification confirming that the Navajo Land Department Manager can consent for tribal interests in Indian Allotments acquired through the Land Buy Back program and has the delegation and authority to consent to waive valuation or compensation as may be required by applicable statute or regulation. A consent decision may include/require for waiver of valuation of fair market value as well as compensation or bond, so confirmation is requested. The Indian Allotments that have interest acquired in allotments for the Tribe through the Land Buy Back Program may have proposed grazing permits, rights-of-way, or residential leases, where a record of consent for all landowners including the Navajo Nation is needed.
2. Formal notification regarding consent preference for BIA roads permits across Navajo Tribal Trust. The former NN Natural Resources Director verbally requested BIA Roads acquire tribal consent for BIA roads permits across Navajo Tribal Trust. Though consent by the Indian landowner for a road permit is not required by federal regulation, BIA could ensure it is a part of the road permit process if it was requested by the Navajo Nation. The issue of consent impacted Frontier Communications as well as NTUA this quarter. In relation to issues with Frontier Communications, BIA provided guidance to NLD on piggybacking rights-of-way as well as consent required for BIA roads permits. NN was to provide notification to BIA.

Mineral Leasing:

- July 2019 - RES responded to NuFuels, Inc, formerly HydroResources, Inc, regarding four (4) proposed uranium leases on several Indian Allotments in McKinley County that are incomplete. RES also referenced the Navajo Nations 2004 moratorium on uranium leasing in its response to the Company.
- Approved CA for Designation of Successor Operator from XTO Energy, Inc. to Hilcorp Energy, LLC.

- 8/29/2019 - Approved the Renewal to conduct 3D Seismic Survey within the Desert Creek Area, San Juan Co., Utah.
- Letter sent to Navajo Nation Minerals Department for review and considerations for 10 Assignment documents between XTO Energy, LLC & Exxon Mobil Corp to Hilcorp, San Juan.
- Follow-up letter sent to Navajo Nation Minerals Department on 10 Assignment documents between Nacogdoches O/G, Inc. to Nordic USA 4 for review and consideration.

Surface Leasing:

- Continued assisting the Navajo Region, Property Management with the Administrative Reserve Areas (Window Rock, Sanostee Chapter Compound, Pueblo Pintado Helipad), for perimeter improvements, sewer lines, lagoons, inventoried site offices, housings, and surrounding areas, reviewed and updated maps, researched filed documents related to the projects.
- One (1) Leasehold Mortgage for Mine Plant Lease Nos. 14-20-603-2505 and 14-20-0603-6447 approved between Navajo Transitional Energy Company, LLC and KeyBank National Association
- Mortgages - Two (2) mortgages were recorded with LTRO and four (4) mortgages were returned to lenders for discrepancies.
- Meeting on September 20, 2019, for “Abandoned Homes within Blackrock” at Fort Defiance Chapter House. Meeting included Fort Defiance Chapter officials, Navajo Nation Land Department, Navajo Housing Authority, Navajo Nation Community Housing, Apache County Sheriff Department, and homeowners in regards to criminal activities in the area, and abandoned houses are being used by gang members and are being used as drug houses, vandalized and are unsafe for the community. Our, Real Estates Services will be working directly with the Navajo Nation Land Department, the Lessor and Fort Defiance Housing Corporation/Sands Stone in assisting with the situation. Next meeting will be held on October 18, 2019.

Rights of Way

- Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association- two (2) projects renewal for ROW- Review 60% complete.
- Navajo Tribal Utility Authority- proposed 115kV rights-of-way within two (2) Arizona Allotted lands - Review 60% complete
- City of Gallup- Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project within Church Rock, NM- 90% complete

Cadastral Survey & Unresolved Rights

- Approved Surveys: 1 approved and pending recording with DLTR
- On-Going Surveys: NM-1 and UT-1; pending final review and approval
- Land Status/Map Inquiries within AZ/NM/UT: 16
- Land Buy-Back (LBB) Inquiries on Allotments:

Agencies	Allotments	Landowners
Eastern Navajo Agency	168	48
Fort Defiance Agency	127	18
Western Navajo Agency	8	4
Shiprock Agency	12	6
Total:	315	76

- Meetings with Navajo Nation or Tribal Entities: 7
- Site Inspections on boundary issues/trespasses: 2
- Land acquisitions on various land status, relinquishments, etc: 5
- Teleconference call held by Realty Officer with BLM State Offices on renewing new Inter-agency agreements.

Acquisition and Disposal:

- 2019 Land Buy Back: Navajo. Coordination Call meetings between Navajo Nation Land Buy Back team, Federal Land Buy Back team and Program Land Buy Back (LBB) team. Outreach meetings facilitated by Navajo Nation Land Buy Back team at various communities throughout Navajo land to inform Allotment Trust Landowners of the Land Buy Back Program. RES met with many Landowners in-office visits and at LBB
- Outreaches for one-on-one consultation regarding allotment interest, location, resources, and notary inquiries:
 - New Mexico (791) Landowners offers were generated letter dated of July 1, 2019 and a return date of August 30, 2019.
 - 15,123 offers made; returned and processed
- Landowners Count to be determined:
 - Arizona (790), Utah (792), Ramah (722), Alamo (723), Tohajilee (724)
 - Offers generated with a cover letter date of August 1, 2019; return date of September 30, 2019.
 - 5,824 offers made; return and processed count to be determined
- 32 Outreaches were held throughout the Navajo reservation this quarter:
 - 17 in July 2019;
 - 10 in August 2019;
 - 5 in September 2019;
 - 2 Post Offer Outreaches scheduled for October 2019 (FY2020)

Assistance to Property Management

- Reviewed and prepared the Access Agreement and associated notification letters for Cove Day School air monitoring related to Abandoned Uranium Mine remediation efforts. The Access Agreement was approved August 7, 2019.
- RES attended both internal and external meetings regarding Sanostee sewer line issue.

AGENCY OFFICES

Chinle Agency

Rights of Way – 2 approved

Navajo Nation Approved Leases Submitted for Recording

- Homesite Leases Received: 22
- Homesite Leases Recorded: 19

Fort Defiance Agency

Rights of Way approved:

- NTUA Kinlichee Phase III Distribution w/ Fiber Optic 8/8/19
- NTUA Hostenez Distribution Line w/ Fiber Optic 8/8/19
- NTUA Kinlichee Phase II Distribution w/ Fiber Optic 9/4/19
- NTUA Teesto Scattered Distribution w/ Fiber Optic - Returned - Incomplete

Navajo Nation Approved Leases Submitted for Recording

- Homesite Leases Received: 82

Business Site Lease: Proposed Billboard Lease - Allotment No. 368374

- Appraisal reviewed
- Title Status Reports: 3 issued for mortgage purposes

Special Projects

ROW Training provided to:

- NTUA 07/17-18/19
- Public Service Company of New Mexico 9/19/19

Land Buy Back Outreach & Notary Service

- Gallup 7/23/19
- Ganado 7/24/19
- Tuba City 8/27/19 Winslow 9/10/19
- Twin Arrows 9/12/19
- Gallup 8/13/19
- Birdsprings 8/20/19
- Chinle 9/16/19
- Fort Defiance 9/19/19

On September 12, 2019, a meeting was held with Navajo Land Department, General Land Development Department, Navajo Division of Transportation and BIA, Eastern Navajo Agency and Fort Defiance Agency re: Proposed ROWs issued by the Tribe.

Land Status/Title Status Report provided to:

- I.H.S. NA-13-T16 Twin Lakes
- I.H.S. NA-17-Q84/NA-17-W28 Houck
- NTUA Proposed fiber optic from Oak Springs to Sanders, AZ
- NTUA Proposed Distribution line w/ fiber optic - Indian Wells, AZ
- Indian Wells and Lupton Grazing Officials

Shiprock Agency

Rights of Way

- Bureau of Reclamation, Navajo Gallup Water Supply (Naschitti to Newcomb)

Business Site Lease

- Compliance - initiated cancellation process by issuing show cause letters
- SR-96-145 Desert View Funeral Home issued 08/29/2019
- SR-01-168 K&V Enterprises, LLC

Western Navajo Agency

Navajo Nation Approved Leases Submitted for Recording:

- Homesite Leases Received: 188
- Returned for Discrepancy: 12
- Title Status Reports: 2
- Homesite Leases Recorded: 8
- Duplicate Submissions: 3

BRANCH OF PROBATE

Deceased Navajo allotted landowners trust property is probated by the Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA), Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Navajo Region Branch of Probate prepares cases by completing research for probable heirs of the decedent. Research is completed by contacting the family members of the decedent by means of home visits, searching internet, telephone interviews, writing letters and office visits. Branch of Probate staff does majority of the family research work at the Navajo Nation Vital Records Office. Probates that are completed are for Allotted Individual Trust lands. It helps the Navajo landowners in updating Trust ownership records.

A total of one hundred and twenty (120) cases were transferred to OHA for hearing to be scheduled, as follows: 45 by Fort Defiance Agency, 11 by Shiprock Agency, 56 by Eastern Navajo Agency, and 8 by Western Navajo Agency. It is an on-going process with death happening on a daily basis. At present time, the following is Navajo Region's case load by Agencies:

Agencies	Case Loads
Eastern Navajo Agency	2,448
Fort Defiance Agency	992
Shiprock Agency	571
Tuba City Agency	39
Total # Cases for Region: NAVAJO	4,050

Several outreaches were conducted by Land Buy Back project for this Quarter, which were joint sessions with Office of Special Trustee, Real Estate Service, and Branch of Probate. The sessions were conducted in all five (5) Agencies (Eastern Navajo, Shiprock, Western Navajo, Chinle and Fort Defiance. Landowners that attended had questions on anything from Cobell Litigation, Land Buy Back, probate process, homesites, right-of-ways, land use and/or grazing permit issues.

INDIAN SERVICES

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

The Navajo Region Tribal Operation Specialist continues to attend and represent the Bureau of Indian Affairs at the Navajo Nation Council Meetings, and committee meetings.

The Summer Quarter, the BIA Office referred 142 requests to the Navajo Nation Office of Vital Records/Enrollment program for further research regarding Certificate of Navajo Indian Blood (CNIB) for prospective membership. The requests for CNIB are from individuals seeking scholarship and benefits, including prison inmates seeking membership with the Navajo Nation.

In addition, our office continues to provide updates to the Nation, regarding National Tribal initiatives from the Office of the Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs, and eight (8) "Dear Tribal Leaders" letters were transmitted to the Nation this quarter. Copies of the "Dear Tribal Leaders" letter and transmittals are attached under Appendix A.

Awarding Official Technical Representative (AOTR) Activities:

The Tribal Operation Specialist serves as the Awarding Official Technical Representative, (AOTR). In coordination with the Awarding Official, Program Administrator, and Navajo Nation; the following transactions were completed this quarter.

P.L. 93-638 Contractual Program, Tribal (Census) Enrollment program Contract, A16AV00285:

- AOTR and Awarding Official met with the Program Manager regarding office space needs and options for the Tribal Enrollment program.
- Monitoring site visit report was completed and the AOTR found no issues with the Scope of Work performance.
- Onsite monitoring site visit was held on September 6, 2019, at Crownpoint, New Mexico. The AOTR noted the program is in need of new office space and working with the Awarding Official for possible solutions.

P.L. 93-638 Contractual Program, Tribal Courts program, Contract A17AV00252:

- Onsite monitoring site visit was held on September 4, 2019, at Window Rock, Arizona. The AOTR noted the program is need of new office space and working with the Awarding Official for possible solutions.
- AOTR processed a purchase request for \$325,306.00, as one-time funding.

P.L. 93-638 Contractual Program, Higher Education, Contract A17AV00096:

- An onsite monitoring visit is scheduled on October 29, 2019 in Tuba City, Arizona.
- AOTR processed a purchase request for \$534,491.00, as one-time funding.

HOUSING SERVICES

Contract A16AV00407 - FY 2016 – 2018 Housing Improvement Program (HIP): This contract is in compliance with contract and reporting requirements. The total contract amount is \$3,089,788.67. HIP serves the neediest of the needy Navajo Nation tribal member families who have no other resources for standard housing. Those selected for service will be granted a new, quality, modest, replacement home.

FY2018 – Construction is in progress; three homes are 100% complete, two homes are at various stages of completion and one home will began construction in the upcoming quarter.

FY2019 –The Nation submitted a proposal for FY 2019 with a budget in the amount of \$965,039; however only \$943,603 is available, a revised budget was requested but not yet received from the Nation. In addition, there were several recommendations made by the Awarding Official's Technical Representative (AOTR) and Self-Determination Office that have not yet been resolved; the Solicitor's Office is reviewing. Once a contract is awarded for FY2019, project recipients will be selected and the NEPA review will commence.

HIP Administration: Navajo Nation Housing Program Manager and BIA HIP Program Officer met July 10th and September 27th to discuss current FY2019 status and review applicant files on the FY2019 Tier II.

The Navajo Region Housing Officer also serves as the Regional Freedom of Information Act Office (FOIA) Coordinator. FOIA training was facilitated by Graduate School and provided to Regional Staff August 27 – 29, 2019. Twenty-two requests were worked on during this reporting cycle.

HUMAN SERVICES**Government Performance Results Act (GPRA):**

The Navajo Nation Division of Social Services Calendar Year (CY) 2019, Fourth Quarter GPRA for Performance Measure 1811 continues to be met at 69% or higher. This measurement is the percentage of General Welfare Assistance recipients that completed the goals identified in their Individual Self Sufficiency Plans (ISP). This means they are meeting their goals the clients have set for themselves and are making positive progress. The Navajo Nation continues to exceed its annual target goal set for this calendar year.

The Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) was enacted in 1993. It was designed to improve program management through the Federal Government. Agencies are required to develop a five-year strategic plan outlining its mission, long term goals for the agency's major functions, performance measures, and reporting results.

Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA):

The Navajo Regional Office processes ICWA Notices received by the State(s) daily. For this Quarter, there were 132 ICWA Notices that were received by our office which required an official

response from the Region. The Indian Child Welfare Act passed in 1978, recognizes the essential tribal relations of Indian people and the cultural and social standards prevailing in Indian communities and families. There is a government to government relationship between the Federal Government and the federally recognized Indian Tribes.

Social Services:

The Branch of Human Services for the Navajo Regional Office continues to remain available for Technical Assistance (TA) upon request from the Nation. Any and all requests for TA and trainings are provided in accordance to the scope of work as contracted under Public Law 93-638. Our office continues to reach out to local, state, county, federal and tribal service providers and coordinate resources benefiting tribal members and communities.

BRANCH OF INDIAN SELF DETERMINATION

The Navajo Region awarded the following funds to the Navajo Nation (Nation) and other tribal programs from June 27, 2019 to September 27, 2019. These funds benefit the Nation and all other tribal programs:

Contract No.	P.L. 93-638 Programs	Award
A14AV00258	Indian Child Welfare	\$ 1,554.00
A15AV00083	Water Monitoring Program	\$ 151,918.00
A15AV00438	Contract Support Cost	\$ 45,240.00
A16AV00335	Fish & Wildlife	\$ 273,815.00
A16AV00368	Natural Heritage	\$ 2,833,910.68
A16AV00385	Social Services	\$ 526,389.00
A16AV00407	Housing Improvement Program	\$ 101.00
A16AV00480	Safety of Dams	\$ 32.00
A17AV00096	Higher Education	\$ 534,802.00
A17AV00252	Tribal Courts	\$ 326,424.00
A17AV00262	Archaeological Non-Roads,	\$ 344,213.53
A18AV00262	Forestry Management,	\$ 2,496.00
A18AV00337	Johnson O'Malley	\$ 6,146.00
A18AV00338	Water Development	\$ 820,987.34
A19AV00376	Indian Child Welfare	\$ 232,364.00
	Total:	\$ 5,868,028.55
A18AV00235	Adult Detention	\$ 1,633,808.00
A18AV00236	Juvenile Detention	\$ 356,579.00
A16AV00383	LE Patrol Services	\$ 461,206.00
A16AV00384	LE Criminal Investigation	\$ 44,920.00
	Total:	\$ 2,496,513.00
A16AV00382	NAPI	\$ 106,254.00
A16AV00430	DBOSBA	\$ 373,904.00
A18AV00841	Rock Point Community School	\$ 4,906,757.00
A19AV00739	Alamo Navajo School Board, Inc.	\$ 2,223.00
	Total	\$ 5,389,138.00
	Grand Total	\$ 13,753,679.55

Along with issuing the appropriated funds to the Nation, the Nation submitted their Calendar Year 2020 Successor Annual Funding Agreements to continue contracting 17 programs. The majority of the Nation's 17 program are currently up to date with their contractual provisions and operating in a satisfactorily manner.

BRANCH OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Shiprock Administrative Reserve (SAR):

The Navajo Region Branch of Environmental Management and Facility Management completed the environmental abatement and demolition of five (5) buildings including the removal of the 45 trees located on the 7.3 acre north parcel SAR site. All bureau utilities servicing the Building 103 were removed with the exception of the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority utilities parallel the former Building 103 which remain in place. To the best of bureau's knowledge the north parcel site has been cleaned up for Navajo Nation reuse. The success to clean up the north parcel site involved teamwork among the Navajo Regional Programs, the Navajo Nation Forestry, Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Program and the Navajo Fish and Wildlife Program to complete this project.

Sanostee Community Wastewater:

BEM participated in several meetings with Indian Health Service (IHS), Sanostee Chapter, and Sanostee Church representatives on the wastewater concerns with connection and wastewater discharge within their community. It was reported to the BEM program wastewater sludge was accumulating at the former BIE School lagoon east of the community. The lagoon was closed when Facility Management demolished the former Sanostee Boarding School. The lagoon was also taken off the Facility Management asset list as the school was demolished and the utilities were no longer needed. Correspondence on the closure were provided to the community that were connected to the BIA wastewater system. Unfortunately, IHS, Sanostee Chapter and Church were still connected to the waste water pipe and the sludge discharged to the closed lagoon causing it to seep up to the ground. Since then, the BIA Regional programs has been assisting the Sanostee community to help resolve the issue. BIA coordinated a meeting with the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, Indian Health Service and the Sanostee Chapter on short-term and long-term solutions to help the community and Indian Health Service.

BEM completed and entered the discharge monitoring data for nine (9) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) permits for BIE. The bacteriological analyses were conducted and the results were submitted to the primacy agencies, the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency-Public Water Systems Supervision Program (PWSSP) and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IX. The data showed absence of bacteria in the drinking water systems for the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) bureau, grant and contract schools that were tested. One of the schools did not test their drinking water as required, therefore a Public Notice was issued and notification was provided to the primacy agencies.

BEM will continue to provide technical assistance to the BIE Schools to maintain environmental compliance for required reporting and sampling of drinking water systems. This includes quarterly reporting for discharge monitoring data for wastewater discharges.

BRANCH OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT COMPLIANCE AND REVIEW (NEPA)

BLM Farmington Field Office Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA) & Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):

The Navajo Region will use the EIS under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to guide the management of oil and gas resources owned by the United States in trust for the Navajo Nation and Navajo Indian Allotments in San Juan County, New Mexico. The analysis of the EIS will address impacts on both the surface and subsurface mineral estate in the planning area. The document continues to be refined to adhere to the Secretary's Order 3355 which was intended to improve the Department of Interior NEPA process.

The Section 106 process for the Farmington Mancos-Gallup Resource Management Plan Amendment and environmental impact statement (FMG RMPA/EIS) began in March 2014 following the BLM's notice of intent to prepare an EIS. Since that time, there have been 25 Tribes invited to participate and consult in the Section 106 process, including Hopi Tribe, Jicarilla Apache Nation, Navajo Nation, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and the Pueblos of Acoma, Cochiti, Isleta, Jemez, Laguna, Nambe, Ohkay Owingeh, Picuris, Pojoaque, San Felipe, San Ildefonso, Sandia, Santa Ana, Santa Clara, Santo Domingo, Taos, Tesuque, Ysleta del Sur, Zia, and Zuni. In addition, the BLM and BIA have invited 18 Navajo Nation Chapters to participate in the Section 106 process, including the Chapters of Becenti, Burnham, Counselor, Huerfano, Hogback, Lake Valley, Nageezi, Nenahnezad, Newcomb, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Sanostee House, Tiis Tsoh Sikaa, Torreón/Star Lake, Tse Daa K'aan, Upper Fruitland, White Rock, and Whitehorse Lake. Agency outreach included multiple letters, emails, and phone calls to the Tribes and Chapters since 2014, as well as the meetings described below.

The agencies have completed a variety of meetings for Section 106, including group meetings for the consulting parties and participants in the Section 106 process, as well as individual meetings or government-to-meetings. Since the beginning of the Section 106 process there have been eight group meetings held in Farmington, Gallup or the CCNP, including four meetings in 2019 with two more meetings scheduled for this year. Several of these were two-day meetings with one of the days dedicated to only tribal participants.

Various Tribes and Chapters have participated in the Section 106 process thus far, and representatives from 11 Tribes have attended group meetings, including Hopi Tribe, Jicarilla Apache Nation, Navajo Nation, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and the Pueblos of Acoma, Laguna, San Felipe, Santa Ana, Santa Clara, and Zuni, as well as representatives from 11 Chapters, including Counselor, Crownpoint, Hogback, Lake Valley, Nageezi, Nenahnezad, Ojo Encino, Torreón/Star Lake, Upper Fruitland, White Rock, and Whitehorse Lake. Additionally, the BLM and BIA have met 11 times with Tribes during government-to-government meetings or individual meetings related to Section 106. This has included meetings with the Navajo Nation and the Pueblos of Acoma, Laguna, San Felipe, and Zuni. There have also been many individual meetings with Chapters related to the overall FMG RMPA/EIS, which included discussion of the Section 106 process.

The BLM and BIA continue to consult with Tribes and involve Tribes and Chapters in the Section 106, including setting aside time during all group meetings exclusively for Tribes or tribal participants, and meeting separately in government-to-government meetings with any Tribe that so requests, or individually with Chapters. Thus far, the tribal engagement for the FMG RMPA/EIS Section 106 process has been good and exceeded the participation for many other Section 106 processes for the BLM and BIA, as evidenced by the on-going attendance of diverse Tribes and Chapters at Section 106 meetings. This tribal participation, however, has not always extended to receiving substantive comments from Tribes or Chapters on the development of the programmatic agreement (PA) for the FMG RMPA/EIS, which the agencies hope to address as they move further along in creating the PA. Other challenges have included defining the roles of the Navajo Nation

Chapters in the 106 process as they relate to the Navajo Nation and its Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.

Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project (NGWSP): On July 16, 2019, the Navajo Regional Archaeologist attended the Programmatic Agreement (PA) meeting with all consulting Section 106 PA Signatories in Farmington, New Mexico. Tour the Newcomb Chapter alignment and visited several archaeological sites that were being mitigated for clearance.

Integrated Weed Management Plan: The Region proceeded with finalizing the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DPEIS) for the Navajo Nation Integrated Weed Management Plan (NNIWMP). The plan outlines how the Region proposes to implement an integrated weed management plan for noxious weeds within the Navajo Nation. The Proposed Action would authorize annual treatment of weed infestations up to 50,000 acres across the Navajo Nation. The various methods analyzed under the integrated weed management approach include: manual; cultural; chemical; and biological. The 10-year plan will be reviewed after five years. The Region anticipates issuing a ROD by summer 2020.

National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106, Compliance Activities:

In May, 2019 Regional Director and Regional Archaeologist assisted the Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, Peabody and SRP on reburial of human remains in Black Mesa that were excavated during the NGS and Peabody mine operations.

On July 24, 2019 met with Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department and BIA Western Region on two issues. One NTUA's Navajo Mountain Project and NDOT N5020 project in Mitten Rock, NM. Both NTUA and NDOT construction crews impacted archaeological sites and cultural sites by blading the sites without adhering to stipulations set forth in the cultural resource compliance form. Currently, awaiting the NN THPO's recommendation to address this matter. BIA-NRO reviewed and approved 72 Section 106 compliance requests.

BRANCH OF SAFETY

The Annual Safety Inspection for twenty-nine (29) Indian Affairs sites including three Public Safety & Judicial Centers are 100% completed for fiscal year 2019. Tribal Navajo Nation, program tenants, (P.L. 93-638 contractual programs) at Shiprock, Chinle and Tuba City agencies were provided similar comprehensive workplace inspection in accordance with Indian Affairs Safety, Health and Accessibility Inspection/Evaluation Guidelines. The Indian Affairs safety inspectors evaluated compliance as well as non-compliance for every applicable sections within Bureau-funded facilities to ensure fire alarm systems are operable and accessibility requirements are maintained, this accomplishment benefits all bureau and tribal program occupants, general public and clientele. Safety management maintains fiduciary trust relationship by upholding individual rights to a safe environment and protection while conducting business at government facilities. Agency Official in Charge, employee(s), Supervisors/Program Managers or representative(s) were afforded an opportunity to accompany the safety inspector along the inspection tour. This provided additional information directly to the building users. This also identified immediate action in correcting deficiencies.

At the beginning of the school year 2019-2020 First Aid, CPR and Defensive Driving certification courses and the required OSHA training was provided. Overall, participation included: 450 academic personnel and School Principals. The training reinforced school preparedness and proactive in the execution of emergency action plans.

The Pinon Community School Dormitory was provided technical assistance with risk assessments of a minor fire damage due to the exhaust fan to the girl's wing restroom. The fan motor caught on fire and emitted smoke that was noticed around 11:00 p.m. on September 4, 2019. The dorm employees evacuated 59 students. The parents were notified and the children were picked up from

the school. The employees responded and helped transport some students home. School buses also transported students home. An emergency call (9-1-1) was made to summon the Navajo Police and Fire Department, to which they responded. The Safety Management Officer recommended to contract a Licensed Electrician to address the electrical repairs that ignited the fire

A special joint meeting regarding safety concerns was held at Western Navajo Agency. The BIA, BIE, IHS and NN Tribal Programs participated. The Tuba City community, had safety concerns of the main street dead/dried/weak cottonwood trees that had overgrown branches that pose overhead falling hazards. The intent was to gain effected organizations to come to a consensus in strategizing the best and safe remedies to eliminate or reduce hazards.

The Chinle Agency, BIA Safety and BIE, Facility Management responded to plumbing problems that affected NN Tribal Social Service Office. Water seepage overflowed onto the floor carpet and stored office supplies from the restroom. The issue was immediately cleaned and sanitized. The Safety Office ensured the office environment was safe before clearing for normal occupancy.

In addition, the “Roundabout” road construction project in the Chinle community along the Navajo Route 7 and 27 was successfully monitored throughout the year. It provided direct consultation with NECA (Navajo Engineering Construction Authority) for continuous assurance of any traffic hazards mitigated. Especially, during the Central Navajo Fair in August traffic increased to the fairgrounds along Navajo Route 27. The construction at the intersection is adjacent to the Chinle Agency Headquarter building and affecting the driveway and parking lot of the Agency.

BRANCH OF TRANSPORTATION

The Navajo Region Division of Transportation (NRDOT) continues to fulfill its mission to manage the intermodal transportation facilities by maintaining the existing infrastructure for reliability and safety that serves the Navajo Nation. We accomplish this by providing transportation related technical assistance and support working directly with the Navajo Nation’s Division of Transportation (Navajo DOT), as they pursue self-sufficiency and discretion in the administration and operation of the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP).

The NRDOT received their final distribution of FY2019 TTP Program Management & Oversight (PM&O) funds totaling \$600,000.00 for the purpose of carrying out the Navajo Region’s federally inherent functions of the program, which is under 25 CFR § 170.613 “*What funds are used to pay for non-contractible functions and activities?*” and listed in Appendix to Subpart E.

The NRDOT receive \$177,417.00 of TTP Tribal Share funds for FY2019 on August 8, 2019 to continue working on some Tribal Transportation Improvement Program (TTIP) projects. The NRDOT is currently providing construction monitoring and technical assistance on the N2007 New Lands Bridge project in Navajo, Arizona.

Road Maintenance:

The NRDOT Road Maintenance program received their final distribution of FY2019 Tribal Priority Allocation (TPA) funds totaling \$8,008,108.95 to preserve, repair, and restore the BIA system of roads, bridges and transportation facilities on the Navajo Nation. The total amount of TPA funding was sub-allocated to each Agency Road Maintenance program. Below is a list of the sub-allocated amounts for each respective Agency for FY2019.

Road Maintenance Agency	Budget Amount
Navajo Region	\$ 1,000,908.95
Shiprock	\$ 1,457,400.00
Western Navajo	\$ 1,489,500.00
Eastern Navajo	\$ 1,137,200.00
Chinle	\$ 1,417,500.00
Ft. Defiance	\$ 1,505,600.00
Total:	\$ 8,008,108.95

The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Ft. Defiance Agency Road Maintenance program re-striped the cross walks for the Window Rock and Ganado Unified Schools. Below are pictures of the striping activity. On BIA Route N9345 – Wide Ruins, AZ, the road maintenance crew removed and relocated the existing cable concrete, which was causing flooding of the resident’s property. The crew established a new drainage channel to re-direct the drainage path away from the property. In addition, the crew cleaned out the existing drainage structures on along this route.



BIA Route N15 – Burnside, AZ



BIA Route N15 – Burnside, AZ



BIA Route N110 – Ft. Defiance, AZ



BIA Route N12 – Ft. Defiance, AZ



BIA Route N9345 (before)



BIA Route N9345 (after)



BIA Route N9345 (before)



BIA Route N9345 (after)

The road maintenance crew also performed mowing and tree cutting activities along the paved shoulders of BIA Route N27 and N15. The crew setup temporary traffic control devices and will continue mowing activities in October and November 2019.



BIA Route N27 (before)



BIA Route N27 (after)



BIA Route N15 (after)

ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

BRANCH OF ACQUISITION OPERATIONS

The work in progress for the following school construction contracts benefits the members of the Navajo Nation by maintaining and upgrading deteriorating BIE school conditions for the students of the Navajo Nation. The BIA highways within the Navajo Reservation are being maintained and repaired for the traveling safety of the public which include members of the Navajo Nation and local school bus routes to ensure the safety of the students.

- Contract No. 140A0919F0063 was awarded to Barnhart-Taylor, Inc. in the amount of \$4,668,230.00 for the renovation of Government Quarters at Nazlini Community School. A pre-construction meeting will be scheduled soon.
- Contract No. 140A0919F0023 was awarded to Cherokee CRC, LLC, in the amount of \$1,075,589.86 for the abatement of the Chinle Quarters Demolition project. A NTP was issued effective July 8, 2019. The project is 68% complete. Contract completion is November 5, 2019.
- Contract No. 140A0919C0009 was awarded to Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) for the renovation of 5 storage water tanks within the Navajo Reservation. A pre-construction meeting will be scheduled soon.
- Contract No. A14PX02037 for the helitack pad located at the Window Rock airport, for the BIA, Fire Management Office, is in progress. The modular building has been set up. Contractor is working with NTUA for the utility services. The utility lines are an issue and a Service Line Agreement is needed to complete the utility lines. The contractor, Keyah Construction, and the BIA Staff are working with NTUA to resolve the issue.
- Contract No. 140A0918C0004 was awarded to Southwest General Construction, Inc. for the waterline replacement project at Crownpoint Community School, Crownpoint, NM. Work is in progress and to be completed by October 27, 2019. The project is ~60% complete.
- Contract No. 140A0918F0162 was awarded to Barnhart-Taylor, Inc. in the amount of \$2,450,076.58 for the Government Quarters renovation at Wingate High School, Ft. Wingate, NM. Work is in progress. Project completion date is December 31, 2019. The project is ~60% complete.
- Contract No. 140A0919F0005 was awarded to Barnhart/Taylor for the Shiprock Land Project. The ESA Phase III Remediation and Demolition is completed for the area identified to be a priority.

- Contract No. A17PC00115, for a modular building to replace the former BIE Facility Management office in Ft. Defiance, AZ, was awarded to Nambe Pueblo Healthcare Services, LLC. The land issue was resolved and work will begin soon.
- Heavy Equipment is being purchased for various Agency DOT programs.
- Staff continues to monitor and administer on-going contracts that have been issued in previous fiscal years for construction and services.
- A total of 561 purchase requests with a value of \$19,369,250.52 was completed for Fiscal Year 2019.

BRANCH OF BUDGET MANAGEMENT

FY 2019 – Below is a summary of funds provided to the Navajo Nation under P.L. 93-638 contracts, as of October 1, 2019. The funding provided totals \$78,821,364.37 with \$379,388.03 available for drawn down by NN and \$4,661,701.00 remaining to be obligated by BIA. The funding provided includes base funding as well as one-time funding from programs.

NAVAJO NATION P.L. 93-638 FUNDING STATUS as of October 1, 2019					
FA Budget Program	FA Budget Program Name	Funds Available	Not Drawdown	Distributed as of 10.01.2019	Unobligated Balancee
A0A311010	Facilities Management	150,000.00	0.00	150,000.00	0.00
A0E904040	Johnson-O'Malley Assist Grants (TPA)	3,825,047.00	0.00	3,825,047.00	0.00
A0E931010	Tribal Scholarships (TPA)	14,029,888.00	0.00	14,029,888.00	0.00
A0H901010	Social Services (TPA)	5,827,645.00	0.00	5,827,645.00	0.00
A0H901040	Domestic Violence	146,000.00	0.00	146,000.00	0.00
A0H913030	Welfare Assistance (TPA)	18,562,895.00	0.00	18,562,895.00	0.00
A0H922020	Indian Child Welfare Act (TPA)	1,451,790.00	0.00	1,451,790.00	0.00
A0J304545	Conservation Law Enforcement	47,000.00	0.00	47,000.00	0.00
A0J908080	Tribal Courts Program (TPA)	1,460,349.00	0.00	1,460,349.00	0.00
A0J908081	Tribal Courts (TPA) Tiwahe	325,306.00	0.00	325,306.00	0.00
A0N342020	Water Mgmt, Planning & Pre-Dev	367,000.00		0.00	367,000.00
A0N3A0000	Endangered Species	82,777.00	0.00	82,777.00	0.00
A0N3C0000	Inv Species/Noxious Weed Eradication	212,647.00	212,647.00	212,647.00	0.00
A0N3E2020	Forest Mgmt Inventories and Planning	78,930.00			78,930.00
A0N3F1212	Fish Hatchery Maintenance	211,548.00	0.00	211,548.00	0.00
A0N6A3031	Forestry Marketing Assist	25,993.00			25,993.00
A0N9A0505	Natural Resources (TPA)	912,018.34	52,900.00	912,018.34	0.00
A0N9B1010	Agriculture Program (TPA)	138,053.03	113,841.03	138,053.03	0.00
A0N9C3030	Forestry Program (TPA)	737,745.00	0.00	737,745.00	0.00
A0N9D4040	Water Resources Program (TPA)	708,544.00	0.00	708,544.00	0.00
A0N9E5050	Wildlife and Parks Program (TPA)	501,877.00	0.00	501,877.00	0.00
A0R312020	Water Rights Negotiation/ Litigation	907,040.00		0.00	907,040.00
A0R9D4040	Environmental Quality Program (TPA)	168,631.00	0.00	168,631.00	0.00
A0T902020	Other Aid to Tribal Government (TPA)	969,185.00	0.00	969,185.00	0.00
A0H937070	Housing Improvement Prg (TPA) ***	947,738.00		0.00	947,738.00
A11246060	Emergency Management System	266,000.00	0.00	266,000.00	0.00
A0N301010	Irrigation, Operations and Maint	5,500,000.00	0.00	5,500,000.00	0.00
A0N9B1010	Agriculture Program (TPA)	1,269,839.00	0.00	1,269,839.00	0.00
A1163G000	WIIN ACT Irrigation Projects - General	2,335,000.00			2,335,000.00
A3T937070	Contract Support (TPA)	16,654,879.00	0.00	16,654,879.00	0.00
TOTAL		78,821,364.37	379,388.03	74,159,663.37	4,661,701.00

Supplemental Funding:

Fund	Amount	Purpose	Contract
190A2100DD	\$107,258.53 \$212,647.00	Archaeological Services Phase 2 Seeds of Change	Natural Heritage
190A2100DD	\$325,306.00	Two NN Wide Hearing Officers	Tribal Courts (Judicial) Program
190A2100DD	\$341,470.53	BIA Program Archaeological Clearances	Environmental Arch - Non- Roads
	\$184,298.00 \$82,777.00 \$27,250.00 \$47,000.00 \$99,613.00 \$125,000.00	Welder/Generator, Hatcher Security Lts Attend the National Adaptation Forum Hatchery Maintenance-West Avoet NAPI Pond Harvest Kettle San Juan River Fish Passage Water Cannon Hatch Mountain-Tribal Youth Initiative Program 1 Conservation Officer Livestock & Feral Horse/Burro Tally Monitoring and removal of aquatic nuisance species and mollusks	Fish and Wildlife
190A2100DD	\$212,364.00	Tiwahe Initiative	ICWA
	146,000.00 95,482.00 405,583.00	Domestic & Family Violence Child Protective/Case Worker Activities Tiwahe Initiative	Social Services
190A2100DD	\$818,987.84	Former Bennet Freeze Area Projects	Water Development
190A2100DD	\$20,000.00	Juvenile Detention Education	Juvenile Detention Services
190A2100DD	\$343,741.00	Opioid Initiative	Patrol Services
190A2100DD	\$70,405.00	Opioid Initiative	Criminal Investigation
190A2100dd	\$534,491.00	Scholarships	Higher Education Programs
TOTAL 190	\$4,199,673.90		
189A2100DD	\$116,487.01	Scholarships	Higher Education Program
189A2100DD	\$17,059.00	Opioid Initiative	Criminal Investigation
189A2100DD	\$83,289.00	Opioid Initiative	Patrol Services
189A2100DD	\$863,285.87	Woodland Mgmt, Forest Development Marketing	Forestry Management
189A2100DD	\$9,800.00 \$2,154.00	Welder/Generator, Hatcher Security Lts Attend the National Adaptation Forum	Fish and Wildlife
189A2100DD	\$2,618,330.68	Ag & Range Res Mgmt. Plan and EIS	Natural Heritage
189A2100DD	\$150,000.00	NGS Economic Development	Water Monitoring & Inventory
TOTAL 189 Carryover Funds	\$3,860,405.56		

BRANCH OF FACILITY MANAGEMENT

Quarters Improvement and Repair (QI&R) Employee Housing

One project is in progress at Wingate High School, Fort Wingate, New Mexico campus to refurbish eight houses and two 4-unit apartment buildings. The other project at Nazlini Community School, Nazlini, Arizona to restore two houses, five duplex apartments and one 5-unit apartment building was awarded on September 20, 2019, by the Region Acquisition Office.

Minor Improvement and Repair (MI&R) School Locations

Projects are in progress at the following locations; Kinlichee Community School, Kinlichee, Arizona; Many Farms High School & Many Farms Community School, Many Farms, Arizona; Crownpoint Boarding School, Crownpoint, New Mexico; Fort Defiance Agency Facility Management, Fort Defiance, Arizona; Mariano Lake Community School, Mariano Lake, New Mexico; and Baca Community School, Pruitt, New Mexico.

Demolition Projects

The Shiprock Administrative Reserve (SAR) Demolition Scope of Work for the 5 buildings located on the north parcel (7.3 acres) was submitted by Region Facility Management Office to Acquisition and the project has been awarded to Barnhart-Taylor. The SAR project has completed all Environmental Site Assessment, Phase III. Documentation for an antiquated Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department facility was completed. Building No. 103 was demolished.

The project work is completed for the trees removal, voids filled & compacted and material removed. The parcel of land was transferred to the Navajo Nation in September 2019.

The project to demolish 53 housing units at Many Farms Community School, was awarded to Rock Gap. The Environmental Site Assessment III is completed. The demolition project will proceed when the abatement of the housing units is completed in October 2019.

BRANCH OF PROPERTY

The Navajo Regional Property Office (NRPO) is under new leadership after several decades. Ms. Tabitha Hayes has taken the helm in managing this program. As with all new leadership, a program assessment is underway to identify best practices, workload studies, and operating procedures that will drive decision making to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and accountability of the program as intended by BIA.

There are several priorities that have been moved to the forefront in this process. Housing management, property transfer, property excess and property inventory and ownership are currently being revamped with guidance and direction from statutes and regulations that apply including the DOI Housing Management Handbook.

NRPO and BIA leadership continue to collaborate regularly with Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) management to address housing issues and concerns. This process will clarify roles and responsibilities of both bureaus and align effective practice.

Property staff are receiving training to begin excessing federal property and equipment throughout the region. The BIA footprint should gradually be reduced throughout the region as this equipment and property are removed.

The NRPO has received several request from Navajo Nation PL93-638 program requesting office space. The BIA NRPO will determine facilities that may be available. Once this is completed the PL93-638 programs are a priority for use of BIA facilities and property.

EASTERN NAVAJO AGENCY (ENA)

Branch of Transportation

For the month of July, ENA BOT repaired potholes on N9 east within the Whitehorse Lake community; and repaired signs and fencing on N55 near Alamo, New Mexico. ENA BOT completed culvert cleaning, reshaping of shoulder and reestablished ditch line drainage on N7140 within Lupton, Arizona community. ENA BOT completed pothole patching at N49/11. Activities were aligned with ENA BOT blading Mariano lake pass road, Route 11, Mulholland Well, Route 7009. These activities align with ENA BOT's mission to provide safe roads for Eastern Navajo communities and the general public.

In August, ENA BOT cleaned out cattle guard grids in the Whiterock area (Eastern and Fort Defiance district line on Route 9652). ENA BOT completed blading at N53, Dalton Pass, fence repair on N9 east, reconnaissance N56, Tohajiilee bridge for debris and clean out sand build up, need to go beyond the right of way and re-align flow of water to alleviate the flooding at Tohajiilee school. ENA BOT also continued pavement repair on N9 east base failure by MP51. ENA BOT recon south of Gallup at N7062, Breadsprings, N7046, Jones Ranch and N7044, Chichiltah for pothole, fence, cattle guard cleaning and signs repair. ENA BOT also assisted Branch of Natural Resources with installation of 3 sections of cattle guards with wing braces on N481, west of Littlewater Chapter and N7048 at Standing Rock pipeline road.

In September, ENA BOT completed sign repair on N48 in Littlewater and on N49, Smith Lake-Mariano Lake. ENA BOT assisted in hauling and unloading 3 sections of new cattle guards for installation at N7004 Whitehorse Lake Chapter; this supports the Natural Resources Grazing Management in preventing and the safety of livestock accessing the roads.

Listing of areas that have been mowed by ENA BOT included: Manuelito N7140 completed July 8th - 15th; Breadsprings, Jones Ranch, Chichiltah N7062,N7046,N7044 completed July 23rd - 25th; Alamo, Tohajiilee N55,N56 completed July 27th - August 11th; Pinedale, Mariano Lake, Smith Lake N49/11 completed August 26th - 29th; Borrego Pass - Littlewater N48s - N49 north completed August 29th - September 3rd. Roads pending: Standing Rock, Pueblo Pintado, Ojo Encino N9 west, N9 east, and N474. ENA BOT also mowed vegetation up to Right-of-Way fencing along streets and cleared weeds off sidewalks in Crownpoint, New Mexico in preparation for the Eastern Navajo Fair.

Branch of Real Estate Services

ENA BRES attended a Chapter Community Land Use Planning Committee meeting with the Crownpoint Chapter. The following issues were discussed and information was provided: how the Chapter can acquire the old police station site; a request to remove debris from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) burnt-out buildings; a request to remove the modular buildings at the old police station (Chapter received a report from the residents next door of mice infestation from the buildings). BIA is addressing the issues with Navajo Regional Property Branch. These issues will require further research and technical assistance from the BIA. In addition, ENA BRES continues to work with the chapter to ensure street lights are installed in accordance with regulations or statutes for public safety.

ENA BRES responded to a data call regarding the Bureau of Land Management reported acres of trust lands within the proposed (10 miles) as a protection zone around Chaco Culture National Historical Park. The Bureau of Land Management numbers for the allotment acres were corrected.

ENA BRES attended a meeting with the Office of the Solicitor, Navajo Nation Officials and Frontier/ Navajo Communications Company addressing the right-of-way issues resulting from the sale of a telephone system in 1970 from the BIA to the Navajo Nation and then to Navajo

Communications who are affiliated with Frontier Communications (Frontier). Frontier holds the position the sale included the right-of-way for the lines and is requesting expedited easements for seven proposed projects to improve and expand services using the acquired lines for Navajo Nation broadband development within Navajo Chapters in Arizona and New Mexico. Frontier reported they have secured a \$12 million grant funding for the projects with a deadline of December 2019. The Navajo Nation President supports a resolution as this project will benefit the Navajo communities. BRES will work with Frontier directly when applications are submitted for the allotted land rights-of-way.

ENA BRES provided gift deed services to a land owner with medical and travel limitations. The interview and gift deed preparation was completed at the Western Navajo Agency Office in Tuba City, Arizona. ENA BRES periodically receive requests for urgent services from landowners with health and physical limitations. As part of customer service in carrying out BIA's trust responsibility, ENA BRES coordinates services to provide the Navajo Nation in a timely manner.

Branch of Probate Estate Services

In FY 2019, ENA BPES received 327 deaths reported to the Agency; 206 cases have been submitted to and accepted by the Office of Hearings and Appeals consists of approximately \$1,829,088.00 in Individual Indian Monies accounts, 1,914 allotments, and 1024 probable heirs; and completed the disbursement and close-out of 246 cases. ENA BPES have also assisted 3,500 clients either in the office, in the field doing home visits, on the phone, through email, and at outreaches conducted by the Probate Branch (sponsored by the Office of the Special Trustee, the Federal Indian Minerals Office, and the Land Buy Back Program). In working with other federal entities, ENA BPES keeps Indian allotment interest holders informed for a better understanding of their holdings. Many of the outreach activities are conducted in the Navajo language to help with estate planning. All activities support tribal self-determination, self-governance, and sovereignty by ensuring that titles to Indian allotments are accurate and up-to-date resulting in timely disbursement of funds to tribal member heirs and to the Navajo Nation.

BPES continues to encounter challenges when conducting research at the Navajo Nation Census Office given the census office ceased the process of issuing family charts utilizing the *Progeny* program. This computer software has been an effective tool that helps track proper family lineage. Without the software, research is greatly hindered and limited, having a "domino effect" on families and individuals waiting for a probate order. BPES recommends the Navajo Nation census office to consider reestablishing the use of the *Progeny* program for census and probate work.

Branch of Natural Resources

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, a national mandate for federal agencies, ENA BNR has completed the Livestock Grazing Environmental Assessment (EA) in May 2019. In the EA, there are appropriate protective Agency actions to avoid, minimize, or mitigate grazing impacts for threatened and endangered species and their habitats; and long-term sustainable livestock grazing and range management. The livestock is an integral part of the culture, lifestyle, and economy of the Navajo people. BIA ENA expects to finalize the decision document based on the EA by September 2019.

ENA BNR conducted public meetings August 13-16 and August 20-22 on the Livestock Grazing Environmental Assessment. About 7 individuals attended the Tohajiilee and Alamo Chapters respectively attendees included: tribal leaders, chapter officials and District Land Board Members. The number of attendees at Manuelito, Baca, and Tse'ii'ahi chapters during the week of August 20-22 included 60 individuals, grazing permittees, District Land Board representatives, and Chapter officials. The public meetings were announced on the radio and in newspapers. A sign-in sheet was provided at each meeting place to document attendance; and the public meeting schedule

was announced on the local radio stations KGAK and KNDN; and printed in the *Gallup Independent* and *Navajo Times*, August 1-10, 2019. Information provided included permits, grazing projects and T&E Species Navajo names.

For the Land Management District 14/15/16 Boundary Fence-Line Reconstruction Project, five cattle guards will be installed along the Hard Ground Canyon road and an adjacent east road. This project benefits the Navajo Nation by improving the management of livestock and natural resources with limiting inter-district livestock trespassing and for the safety of the community, as well as, livestock.

For the Conservation Plan Project, the program received 200 completed plans involving more than 400,982 acreages for range units in Alamo, Canoncito, Baca/Prewitt and Rock Springs. All plan reviews include conservation measures specific to the Menifee (Geologic) Formation, as identified in the new EA. Conservation plans for range units outside of the Menifee Formation include general language related to protection of threatened and endangered species and cultural resources. ENA BNR finalized 45 conservation plans. The conservation plan provides feasible management options that yield acceptable economic returns and conservation benefits by considering the land user's management objectives, goals, and capabilities under prevailing economic conditions.

ENA BNR completed 10 Land Management District 15 conservation plans including Church Rock Range Unit 2, Red Rock Range Unit 42, Pinehaven Range Unit 27, Thoreau Range Unit 24, Becenti Range Unit 38, Littlewater Range Unit 20, Littlewater Range Unit 37, Littlewater Range Unit 29, Star Lake Range Unit 13, and Star Lake Range Unit 49.

The Rangeland Monitoring Plan Project: Tehama LLC completed 100 % of the study plots for all of the Land Management Districts. The Contractor will provide a plan with analysis by January 8, 2020. The program intends to use the plan to implement a rangeland monitoring program and document vegetation condition and change over time; adjust carrying capacity; determine seasonal use; determine class of livestock; determine impacts from unauthorized/ authorized livestock; indiscriminate developments; assist producers to acquire the best economic return and make management decisions; and enable producers to participate in government incentive programs and/or implement range improvements. Data was collected in the Pinehaven, Pinedale, Casamero Lake, Church Rock, Smith Lake, and Haystack grazing communities.

The Puerco River Noxious Weed Project: To date, the following work completed entailed retreating some re-sprouts of salt-cedar, Russian olives, and Siberian elms; the leaves have defoliated. The next phase of this project involves slash-pile burns which is planned for November 2019 or early winter with the assistance from the Navajo Region Fire Management Branch.

The range improvement projects in the conservation plans need to be approved by the District Land Boards (DLB) before the permittee begins the planning of projects. DLB and Eastern Agency Joint Land Board (EAJLB), and the Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture program are informed of the projects and updates during the board's regular monthly meetings. ENA BNR provided technical assistance at the District Land Board Meetings this quarter at local Chapters. ENA BNR participated in the Joint Land Board meetings, provided project update reports, and bonding requirements and implementation. The Land Board had concerns regarding the bonding requirements; bonding is required under Title 3 Navajo Nation Code. ENA BNR provided recommendations at District 20 meeting on July 12, 2019 at the Crownpoint Chapter House; District 19 meeting on July 2, 2019 at the Counselor Chapter House; and District 16 meeting at Casamero Lake Chapter House.

The following table shows the District Land Board agenda items:

District Land Board	Grazing Community	Range Unit #	Request	Decision
15	Nahodishgish	14	Transfer grazing permit	Deferred
15	Standing Rock	16	Transfer grazing permit	Deferred
15	Standing Rock	37	Transfer grazing permit	Deferred
15	Standing Rock	44	Transfer grazing permit	Referred to Navajo Nation Probate Court
15	Standing Rock	46	Boundary fence	Approved with cultural resource survey.
15	Standing Rock	52	Decision letter (cornfield dispute)	Decision letter delivered 6/6/2019.
16	Church Rock	24	Replace name	Further action
16	Manuelito	6	District Land Board minutes & resolution	No action
16	Mariano Lake	30	Permit	Permitted already, deferred
16	Pinehaven	30	District Land Board resolution	None
16	Red Rock	27	Add name	Referred to Eastern Agency Joint Land Board
16	Tsayatoh	4	Boundary survey	Approved
19	Blanco	3	Transfer grazing permit	Approved with cultural resource survey.
19	Gallegos	23	Add name	Approved
20	Becenti	20	Reestablish boundary	No action
20	Lake Valley	26	Update permit status	No action
20	Rincon Marquis	3	Replace name	No action
20	Rincon Marquis	9	Permit canceled	No action
20	Rincon Marquis	10	NNDA letter	No action

All DLB and EAJLB decisions for approval or denial, or any major action is required by a Board Resolution. All boards are requested to provide resolutions to the BIA.

Permittee(s) or applicants were assisted with maps, advised on grazing permit compliance documents, District Land Board requests, Navajo Nation Probate process, Navajo Nation dispute resolution process, field assessment, and provided technical assistance on the following:

District	Grazing Community	Range Unit #	Acreage	SUYL (Sheep Units)	Status	Request Issue
15	Standing Rock	36	4,578	97	Pending	Informed of probate process for father's permit.
15	Standing Rock	50	1,439	27	Active	Provided plan template, fencing, leasing bull, but neighboring cattle mixing with herd.
15	White Rock	5	9,851	354	Pending	Completed chronological history of events & legal request for court subpoena.
16	Casamero Lake	20	1,425	23	Active	Concerns with Individual Indian Allotment's added; cc does not reflect AUM on permit; request several other IIA's.
16	Church Rock	8	254	7	Non compliance	Provided permit status, non-compliance.
16	Church Rock	24	1,387	17	Canceled	Received compliance documents, informed of pending Environmental Assessment Findings of No Significant Impact.
16	Church Rock	38	350	6	Active	Provided permit status, permitted.
16	Manuelito	9	1,057	19	Active	Provided info on conservation plan, interviewed by the contractor.
16	Manuelito	10	1,456	17	Pending	Informed grazing permit process pending Environmental Assessment Findings of No Significant Impact.
16	Manuelito	15	3,394	41	Pending	Provided permit status; need District Land Board resolution.
16	Mariano Lake	10	926	8	Active	Researched adjacent available units.

District	Grazing Community	Range Unit #	Acreage	SUYL (Sheep Units)	Status	Request Issue
16	Mariano Lake	21	1,208	9	Active	Interested in EQIP contract to fence unit.
16	Mariano Lake	25	1,115	9	Active	Provided map & referred to NRCS for EQIP contract.
16	Mariano Lake	30	1,235	16	Active	Received CIB & Livestock Inventory Receipt.
16	Pinehaven	30	951	21	Pending	Scheduled 9/6/19 District Land Board meeting to approve permit transfer resolution.
16	Red Rock	52	1,027	18	Canceled	Provided permit status, need District Land Board resolution.
16	Thoreau	18	647	7	Pending	Provided permit status re Environmental Assessment.
16	Tsayatoh	4	1,104	21	Active	Scheduled 9/6/19 District Land Board meeting to approve permit transfer resolution.
16	Tsayatoh	11	5,691	85	Active	Informed field assessment will conduct after other priority projects completed.
16	Two Wells	24	495	7	Pending	Informed grazing permit process pending Environmental Assessment Findings of No Significant Impact.
16	Two Wells	38	1,793	25	Pending	Informed grazing permit process pending Environmental Assessment Findings of No Significant Impact.
16	Two Wells	47	2,220	35	Pending	Received 2019 Navajo Nation Livestock Inventory Receipt.
19	Blanco	3	485	17	Active	Transfer permit.
19	Gallegos	23	3,183	188	Active	Add name.

LMD	Grazing Community	Range Unit #	Acreage	SUYL	Status	Request Issue
20	Becenti	45	154	6	Active	Provided conservation plan info.
20	Becenti	49	2,803	99	Active	Provided District Land Board resolution status approving new boundary fence; excluded on earthen dam.
20	Lake Valley	22	2,089	89	Active	Seasonal permit with White Rock Range Unit 5.
20	Whitehorse	16	2,863	21	Active	Permit modified; sent invoice.
	Total	28	55,180	1,289		

Appendix A – Dear Tribal Leader Letter

Letter dated October 1, 2019, NCAI 2019 Annual Convention, Albuquerque, N.M.

Letter dated August 28, 2019, National Broadband Summit (Summit).

Letter dated October 8, 2019, Department's reorganization efforts.

Letter dated October 8, 2019, DOI-wide invasive species strategic plan.

Letter dated October 10, 2019, ASIA accomplishments.



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Navajo Regional Office
P.O. Box 1060
Gallup, New Mexico 87301

IN REPLY REFER TO:

OCT 01 2019

Honorable Jonathan Nez
100 Parkway
Post Office Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear President Nez:

Enclosed is a letter from the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, (AS-IA) Ms. Tara Mac Lean Sweeney, inviting you to join the National Congress of American Indians, (NCAI) 2019 Annual Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The NCAI agenda is as follows:

- Monday, October 21, 2019, Buy Indian Regulation Updates
- Wednesday, October 23, 2019, BIA Law Enforcement Updates
- Wednesday, October 23, 2019, BIE School Construction Updates

Your participation is encouraged and a one-on-one opportunity is optional on October 21, 2019.

Please visit www.bia.gov/as-ia to request a meeting by October 4, 2019. If you have any questions, please call (202) 208-7163.

Sincerely,

Bartholomew Stevens
Regional Director, Navajo

Enclosure



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

SEP 26 2019

Dear Tribal Leader:

As many of you are participating in the upcoming National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) 2019 Annual Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico, I scheduled several concurrent Departmental sessions for your convenience.

I invite you to participate in one or more of the following listening sessions the week of October 20. Each of these sessions will be held at the Albuquerque Convention Center. Please refer to the NCAI agenda for room numbers:

Date	Time	Topic	Description
Monday, October 21, 2019	9 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Buy Indian Regulation Updates	The Department is hosting a listening consultation session to discuss proposed revisions to Buy Indian Act regulations that will, among other things, remove current restrictions and allow the Department to apply the Buy Indian Act to all types of construction. More information will be available as soon as possible on https://www.bia.gov/as-ia/raca/regulations-and-other-documents-in-development .
Wednesday, October 23, 2019	12 p.m. – 1 p.m.	BIA Law Enforcement Updates	The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services, is hosting this listening session to discuss current and upcoming issues related to Indian Country law enforcement, corrections, court and training programs.
Wednesday, October 23, 2019	5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	BIE School Construction Updates	Indian Affairs is hosting a listening session to discuss its plans for a comprehensive approach to assessing and improving the conditions of Bureau of Indian Education funded schools.

I also welcome the opportunity to engage with you on a one-on-one basis while in Albuquerque and have set aside most of Monday, October 21, 2019, for this purpose. Please visit www.bia.gov/ContactUs to request a meeting. To best accommodate as many meeting requests as possible, please submit your request by Friday, October 4, 2019.

If you have further questions, please contact my office at (202) 208-7163.

Sincerely,

Tara Sweeney
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs



Reply to
N360 Tribal Services

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Navajo Region

P.O. Box 1060

Gallup, New Mexico 87305

AUG 29 2019

Honorable Jonathan Nez
100 Parkway
Post Office Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear President Nez:

Enclosed is a letter from the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, (AS-IA) Ms. Tara Mac Lean Sweeney, inviting you to join the National Tribal Broadband Summit (Summit), September 23-24, 2019, Washington, DC. The two day summit brings together Tribes and Alaska Native-corporations, private industry, federal agencies, and other stakeholders for a solution-focused discussion on bridging the broadband connectivity gap in Indian Country.

Your participation is encouraged. Additional logistical details will be shared for those who confirm attendance by registering at: www.doi.gov/tribalbroadband.

If you have any questions, please contact the planning committee at rsvp@bia.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Stevens".

Bartholomew Stevens
Regional Director, Navajo

Enclosure



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

AUG 28 2019

Dear Tribal Leader:

On behalf of the Department of Interior (Department), I am pleased to invite you to join us in the National Tribal Broadband Summit (Summit), September 23-24, 2019, in Washington, DC.

This two-day Summit will bring together Tribes and Alaska Native corporations, private industry, federal agencies, and other stakeholders for a solution-focused discussion on bridging the broadband connectivity gap in Indian Country. The Summit is being planned by the Department in collaboration with the Department of Education (ED) and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). This event highlights the Trump Administration's effort to promote better access to broadband internet service to rural Americans.

On Monday, September 23, and Tuesday, September 24, Tribal and Alaska Native corporation leaders will join representatives of Native enterprises; schools and school districts serving under-connected Native students; Tribal libraries, museums, and cultural centers; private sector; and federal program managers and policymakers for a series of panel discussions and breakout sessions.

The Summit aims to build capacity among Tribal communities to support broadband deployment and adoption and identify new opportunities for private sector investment in broadband. Sessions will focus on topics including: Funding Broadband Infrastructure, Connectivity Solutions, Planning and Implementation, Community Engagement & Partnerships, Leveraging Technology for Social and Economic Well-being, and Protecting & Preserving Culture.

We hope you can join us on September 23-24, 2019, in our effort to find solutions that will *Expand Opportunity, Access and Connectivity in Indian Country*. Additional logistical details will be shared for those who confirm attendance by registering for the Summit at:

www.doi.gov/tribalbroadband

If you have any questions, please contact the Planning Committee at rsvp@bia.gov.

This invitation is non-transferrable.

Sincerely,

Tara Sweeney
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Navajo Region

P.O. Box 1060

Gallup, New Mexico 87305

Reply to
N360 Tribal Services

OCT 08 2019

President Jonathan Nez
100 Parkway
Post Office Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear President Nez:

Enclosed is a letter from Ms. Tara Sweeney, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs regarding the Department’s reorganization efforts. On August 22, 2018, the DOI established 12 united regions. This reorganization consolidated 49 preexisting regions of the Department except for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Special Trustee for American Indians and Bureau of Indian Education, into 12 regions to bring greater efficiency, accountability, collaboration, and consistency across those bureaus. (Interior Region) The Department’s goal is to clarify and simplify our activities by working across bureau lines in the new unified regions. Please see the enclosed for more information on the keys goals for the Field Special Assistants.

Your feedback and input on the Department’s reorganization efforts is also appreciated. Please send a detailed response to consultation@bia.gov by October 28, 2019. You may also email to Ms. Elizabeth Appel, Director, Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, 1849 C Street, NW, MS-4660-MIB, Washington, DC, 20240.

Sincerely,

Bartholomew Stevens
Regional Director, Navajo

Enclosure(s)

Cc: Honorable Seth Damon, 24th, Navajo Nation Council



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

OCT 04 2019

Dear Tribal Leader:

Pursuant to my commitment to update you on the Department of the Interior's (Department) reorganization efforts, I am happy to provide you with the following information.

As you may recall, on August 22, 2018, the Department established 12 unified regions. This reorganization consolidates 49 preexisting regions of the Department except for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians, and the Bureau of Indian Education, into 12 regions to bring greater efficiency, accountability, collaboration, and consistency across those bureaus. (Interior Region)

Last October, senior executives across most of the Department's Bureaus and the Office of the Solicitor were selected to temporarily serve as Regional Facilitators. They have done an enormous amount of helpful work and provided important feedback, in conjunction with their regional peers, to advance this unified regional structure. Building on their success, on August 9, the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) appointed 11 Field Special Assistants (FSA) to ensure the long-term operational efficiency of the Department's regional structure. A list of these FSAs is enclosed.

Key goals for the FSA positions include:

- enhancing cooperation and collaboration with states, local governments, and other key stakeholders within the region;
 - While Indian Affairs is not included in the reorganization, this coordination includes Tribes to ensure there is an opportunity to provide feedback regarding the Department's operations;
- coordinating major intra/interagency efforts as assigned by the Secretary;
- improving problem solving by expediently resolving jurisdictional conflicts within the region and/or elevating issues for faster resolution;
- strengthening relationships and direct communication with local states, counties, and communities to ensure their needs are considered; and
- enhancing senior executive leadership opportunities and fostering increased multi-jurisdictional experience.

FSA

The appointment of FSAs is not new to the Department and can be found referenced in the Department Manual at 110 DM 3. The stated purpose is to "provide a direct Secretarial conduit to the Department's field activities; to assure fast response on field matters requiring Secretarial review; and to provide expertise, leadership, and assistance in the coordination of programs and

policies of the Secretary." The FSAs will be appointed by the Secretary and shall generally be filled by members of the Senior Executive Service.

The FSA in each region will report directly to the Secretary and will typically serve for a period of one year. This position serves as a multi-agency leader and convener for relevant topics and issues as specified by the Secretary. This appointment may be designated to be full time or, in some instances, to supplement current duties. The FSA will play a critical role in coordinating Department-wide perspectives on interdepartmental issues and resolving inter-bureau issues, as assigned by the Secretary. The Secretary will meet with each FSA on at least a quarterly basis to review their activities, accomplishments, adherence to proposed timelines, and suggestions for improvement.

Upon completion of the typical one year assignment, another designee will be appointed. During the assignment, if the designated FSA is serving in a full time capacity, the home Bureau for that individual will be expected to backfill with a detail in the temporarily vacant position.

This rotational system will produce useful developmental value for participants in each region. The FSA will broaden his or her skills and experience while strengthening relationships across the region. Any temporary Bureau replacement will also develop skills allowing him/her to have an enriched professional experience and be more competitive for future senior executive vacancies.

A recent survey of the Department showed that a significant percentage of respondents wish to have the option of being detailed to other positions and Bureaus to understand future career opportunities and paths. This approach creates additional opportunities for growth and a deeper understanding of various Bureau missions. It will also enhance cooperation and collaboration throughout the Department. Individual executives should see value in the opportunity without harboring career concern, because they will return to their original position after one year. Accompanying this letter is a list of the FSAs by region.

Regional Field Committees

The FSAs are currently establishing Field Committees in each Interior Region comprising the senior executives appointed by the heads of Bureaus and Offices with responsibilities for a given region, as well as the Regional Solicitor with responsibilities for the region. The breadth of experience, programmatic knowledge, and demonstrated leadership capability of the members of the Regional Field Committees will prove extremely beneficial to the effective and efficient management of each Interior Region.

Each Field Committee will identify goals and activities for their region in coordination with the Secretary and their respective FSA. The FSA will maintain relevant timelines for all assignments and will work directly with the Field Committee to ensure timelines for assigned tasks are maintained. Each respective Field Committee will adhere to principles outlined in a charter or guidance document to be established in coordination with FSAs and Regional Facilitators.

Bureau of Land Management's Realignment of Resources

I also want to provide information regarding the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) realignment of resources to Western States. As Secretary Bernhardt has observed, a meaningful reorganization is not simply about where functions are performed; rather, it is rooted in how changes will better satisfy the needs of the American people. Time and time again, the Secretary has received feedback from Members of Congress, Governors, local officials, and citizens closest to the resources that their BLM state, district, or field office is understaffed or lacks resources to support the needs of their constituents. Under the Department's proposal, every Western State will gain additional staff resources. This approach will play an invaluable role in serving the American people more efficiently and advancing the BLM's multiple-use, sustained yield mission.

The Secretary spent considerable time and effort in reviewing the facts and assessing varying options. As a result of this effort, he has determined the proposed approach should achieve the following objectives:

- delegating more responsibility down to the field;
- maximizing services to the American people; and
- increasing the BLM's presence closest to the resources the BLM staff manages.

These objectives are to be achieved through the following actions:

- maintaining the necessary core D.C. based functions in Washington, D.C.;
- optimizing the efficiency of some headquarters positions currently based in Washington, D.C. by relocating them to the state offices across the West that their work supports;
- allocating certain positions to state offices to perform state office functions; and
- establishing a BLM Headquarters in Grand Junction, Colorado.

Under the BLM's implementation plan, the Deputy Director of Policy and Programs will remain in Washington, D.C., along with 60 staff who will continue to perform functions in the Main Interior Building that are inherently and logically located in Washington. For example, the BLM's staff who directly inform and perform duties tied to its budgetary responsibilities will continue to remain in Washington, as will staff performing functions in its Legislative Affairs, Regulatory Affairs, Public Affairs, and Freedom of Information Act divisions.

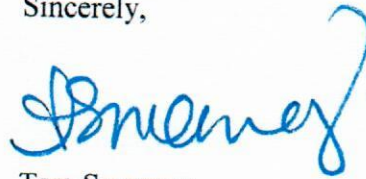
Two hundred and twenty-two positions currently performing headquarter duties in Washington, D.C., will continue to accomplish these functions while being based in locations throughout the BLM's western regions and landscapes in order to optimize the BLM's presence where the needs are greatest. In consultation and coordination with each of the Assistant Directors, BLM thoroughly assessed the duties and responsibilities, reviewed the current duty stations, considered appropriate western locations and the benefits and challenges of a potential relocation for each of these 222 positions. These relocations will improve the BLM's headquarters operations on a state-by-state basis and will enhance coordination with its constituencies.

One of the goals of the Department's reorganization is to clarify and simplify our activities by working across bureau lines in the new unified regions. As part of the reorganization, the Department is deploying Interior Region branding on letterhead, business cards and facility signs used by affected bureaus and programs. These new graphics and products do not replace individual bureau logos, but instead reinforces our collective commitment to come together across bureaus to better achieve our mission, to address common issues and challenges, and to communicate our new spirit of collaboration to our partners.

We continue to update our website to reflect the most recent developments with the Department's reorganization. I encourage you to visit <https://www.doi.gov/employees/reorg> for more information.

I appreciate your input on the Department's reorganization efforts and I look forward to any feedback you may have with regard to this update. Please send a detailed response to consultation@bia.gov by October 28, 2019. You may also mail your response to Ms. Elizabeth Appel, Director, Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, 1849 C Street, NW, MS-4660-MIB, Washington, DC, 20240.

Sincerely,



Tara Sweeney
Assistant Secretary — Indian Affairs

Enclosure

Field Special Assistants
August 16, 2019

Region 1 - North Atlantic Appalachian
Thomas Shope
tshope@osmre.gov
412-937-2828

Region 2 - South Atlantic Gulf
Shannon Goessling
shannon.goessling@sol.doi.gov
404-331-5601

Region 3 - Great Lakes
Tony Sullins
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612-713-7100

Region 4 - Mississippi Basin
Lars Herbst
lars.herbst@bsee.gov
504-736-2507

Region 5 - Missouri Basin
Linda Walker
linda_d_walker@fws.gov
703-358-2172

Region 6 - Arkansas Rio Grande Texas Gulf
Michael Celata
michael.celata@boem.gov
504-736-2448

Region 7 - Upper Colorado Basin
Region 9 - Columbia-Pacific Northwest
Alan Mikkelson
alan_mikkelson@ios.doi.gov
303-445-2583

Region 8 - Lower Colorado Basin
Raymond Suazo
rsuazo@blm.gov
602-417-9500

Region 10 - California Great Basin
Stan Austin

stan_austin@nps.gov
415-623-2101

Region 11 – Alaska
Steve Wackowski
stephen_wackowski@ios.doi.gov
907-330-9304

Region 12 - Pacific Islands
Cindy Orlando
cindy_orlando@nps.gov
415-623-2109



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

OCT 07 2019

Dear Tribal Leader:

Pursuant to the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (Act), the Department of the Interior (DOI) is developing a DOI-wide invasive species strategic plan. We are at the beginning stage of this effort and would like the plan to be informed by your perspectives, issues, and priorities related to invasive species management. To facilitate this, we invite you, or your designee, to participate in a teleconference listening session on November 4, 2019 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST). We are also seeking input on whether you would be interested in hosting or attending an in-person consultation once the document is drafted and ready to be reviewed.

Background

The Act became law on March 12, 2019. Title VII Section 7001 of the Act directs relevant agencies to take actions concerning invasive species; specific language in the Act with respect to the development of an invasive species strategic plan is included in Attachment A. Recognizing the importance of the invasive species issue, we feel it is critical we work with federally recognized Indian tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, the Native Hawaiian Community, as well as with Federal agencies, State and County governments, Territories, and others to effectively address the challenges posed by invasive species.

We are holding listening sessions at this early stage so that we can understand what is important to you as we develop the content of the plan. We then will hold another series of listening sessions, as well as conduct in-person Tribal consultation, once the document is drafted. We will also post the draft document in the Federal Register.

Issues of Potential Interest

Non-native invasive plants, animals, and pathogens—such as emerald ash borer, quagga mussels, feral swine, Burmese python, tamarisk, Asian carp, and whitenose syndrome in bats—cause a wide variety of problems. Invasive plants and animals know no boundaries and can spread uncontrollably across jurisdictions. They degrade natural areas and can negatively affect human health, local economies, water quality and supply, irrigation, power generation, recreation, and the fish, wildlife, forests, and rangelands on which we rely. Cooperation is critical to successfully prevent, eradicate, and control invasive species. Work is underway at multiple levels—national to local—that will be important to emphasize and build upon through this strategic planning process.

Expertise and perspectives that we hope to gain from you may include—but are not limited to—the following topics:

- Priority invasive species of greatest concern to address to protect valued natural, economic, and cultural resources;
- Opportunities to address invasive species at a meaningful scale to achieve effective outcomes;
- Interjurisdictional efforts needed to prevent, detect, eradicate, and control invasive species;

- Opportunities to fulfill Trust responsibilities; and
- Specific areas of interest to emphasize in the strategic plan.

Questions to help frame the discussion during the listening session are included in Attachment B.

We are committed to ongoing and meaningful engagement and scheduled the following listening session:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
November 4, 2019	3:00 p.m. to 5:00 pm EST	Teleconference (RSVP required)

Please note that this is a teleconference listening session. RSVP to oiea@ios.doi.gov by 5:00 p.m. EST on October 31, 2019 for call details. Please include “RSVP for Tribal Listening Session” in the subject of your email. A phone number and passcode will be sent to registrants on November 1, 2019.

Representatives of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget will participate in the listening session.

In addition to the listening session, we are accepting written comments until 5:00 p.m. EST Friday, November 29, 2019. You may submit comments via email to invasivespecies@ios.doi.gov (please include “Comments: DOI Invasive Species Strategic Plan” in the subject line of the email) or mail to the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Policy Analysis-Mailstop 3530, ATTN: Invasive Species Comments, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240. You may also include whether you would be interested in hosting or attending an in-person consultation once the document is drafted and ready to be reviewed.

Should you have any questions regarding this invitation, please contact Hilary Smith, DOI’s Senior Advisor for Invasive Species at hilary_smith@ios.doi.gov or 202-208-4103.

Sincerely,



Tara Sweeney
Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs

Enclosures (2)

Attachment A.

**John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act
Direction to Develop a Strategic Plan (page 202 of the enrolled bill)**

“(c) STRATEGIC PLAN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Secretary concerned shall develop a strategic plan for the implementation of the invasive species program to achieve, to the maximum extent practicable, a substantive annual net reduction of invasive species populations or infested acreage on land or water managed by the Secretary concerned.

“(2) COORDINATION.—Each strategic plan under paragraph (1) shall be developed—

“(A) in coordination with affected—

“(i) eligible States; and

“(ii) political subdivisions of eligible States;

“(B) in consultation with federally recognized Indian tribes; and

“(C) in accordance with the priorities established by 1 or more Governors of the eligible States in which an ecosystem affected by an invasive species is located.

“(3) FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION.—In developing a strategic plan under this subsection, the Secretary concerned shall take into consideration the economic and ecological costs of action or inaction, as applicable.

For a copy of the Act and other invasive species provisions included in this section (starting on page 200), please visit: <https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/s47/BILLS-116s47enr.pdf>

Attachment B.

Listening Session Questions Regarding the Development of the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Invasive Species Strategic Plan

The John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (Public Law 116-9) was enacted on March 12, 2019. Title VII Section 7001 of the Act directs relevant agencies to take actions concerning invasive species, including the development of an invasive species strategic plan.

Your input will inform the development of the strategic plan. We look forward to receiving your feedback on the questions below during the listening session to be held on November 4, 2019 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) via teleconference. You may also submit written comments by 5:00 p.m. EST, Friday, November 29, 2019. Comments will be accepted via email to invasivespecies@ios.doi.gov (please include "Comments: DOI Invasive Species Strategic Plan" in the subject line of the email) or mail to the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Policy Analysis-Mailstop 3530, ATTN: Invasive Species Comments, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

Please consider sharing input on one or more of the following questions:

1. Does your Tribe or Tribal Commission have an invasive species strategic plan to address invasive species on Tribal or co-managed lands? If so, please describe, including the goals or strategies included in the plan that are of greatest importance.
2. Has your Tribe or Tribal Commission collaborated with Federal and non-Federal entities across Tribal and non-Tribal lands and/or waters to address invasive species? If so, please describe where, what worked well, and what could have been improved?
3. Does your Tribe or Tribal Commission maintain a list of priority invasive species? If so, please list those priority species and describe how the list was developed and is maintained, and include a link to the list, if available. If there is not a priority list, which invasive species on Tribal or co-managed lands are of concern to you, and why?
4. Are there invasive species management needs of Tribes that DOI could support or otherwise add value to, consistent with available resources? If so, please describe.
5. At what geographic scale (i.e., international, national, regional, State, or local levels) can DOI work to best complement Tribal efforts to manage invasive species?
6. What mechanisms for coordination on invasive species currently exist among Tribes and with Federal agencies, regions, States, and other entities? Please describe the effectiveness of this coordination as well as any areas that may need improvement. If no

mechanisms exist, what type of mechanism(s) could be beneficial to establish in the future, and at what scale?

7. Some of the emerging themes to focus on in the strategic plan include coordination and partnerships, prevention, increasing public awareness, early detection and rapid response, eradication and control, innovation and research, data management, and optimization of operational resources. What other themes would you recommend that we consider including?
8. What other information, not yet covered, is important to consider during the development of the DOI invasive species strategic plan?



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Navajo Regional Office

P.O. Box 1060

Gallup, New Mexico 87305

Honorable Jonathan Nez
100 Parkway
Post Office Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

OCT 10 2019

Dear President Nez:

Enclosed is a letter from the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, (AS-IA) Ms. Tara Mac Lean Sweeney, regarding the ASIA's accomplishments for Tribal communities. The enclosed outlines more information on the high level examples of the following:

- Reopened the Santa Rosa Ranch School
- BIE & BIA budget separation
- Completed the Department's first 105(1) lease agreement
- Hosted the first meeting with Native-owned Community Development Financial Institutions
- Fee to Trust
- Opioids & Other Illegal Narcotics
- Tribal Access Program for National Crime Information (TAP) Kiosks
- National Broadband Summit
- Executed multiple Native safety events focused on "Reclaiming Our Native Communities"
- Presidential Proclamation
- Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience (NATIVE) Act Implementation
- Tribal Energy Agreements (TERA) Reforms
- Opportunity Zones
- Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Home Ownership (HEARTH) Act Approvals
- Applications for Permit to Drill Approvals
- Tribal Consultations
- Looking Forward: Reclaiming our Native Communities, Housing Opportunities and Opportunity Zones, and Inherently Federal Functions.

The office of the ASIA welcomes meeting requests of importance to you. Meeting requests can be made at: <https://www.bia.gov/as-ia>. The ASIA and BIA looks forward to continue working with you.

Sincerely,

Bartholomew Stevens
Regional Director, Navajo

Enclosure(s)

Cc: Vice President, Navajo Nation
Chief of Staff, Navajo Nation
Office of the Speaker, Navajo Nation



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

OCT 09 2019

Dear Tribal Leader:

On July 30, 2019, marked the one-year anniversary of my swearing in as the Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs.

As I hit the ground running, my goal has been to develop strong relationships with Tribes to work on innovative solutions for lifting up tribal communities. I remain steadfast in my motivation to work with Indian Country to make Indian Affairs an efficient enterprise that improves service delivery to Tribes, continues to improve the administration of operations within the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), strengthens law enforcement operations and opportunities, increases economic growth and broadband deployment opportunities, and focuses on a more effective voice for Tribes throughout the Federal Government.

Within my first year, my team and I worked diligently to deliver for Tribes across our Nation. Below are some high level examples I would like to share with you.

Reopened the Santa Rosa Ranch School

After closing the school in December 2018 for high priority deficiencies, Indian Affairs reopened the Santa Rosa Ranch School in March 2019 with five new modular units, which included a cultural room, classrooms, kitchen, and cafeteria.

BIE & BIA budget separation

Shortly after arriving at Interior, I tasked Indian Affairs staff (both BIA and BIE) with providing me detailed process maps about how things get done in our organization. The most glaring concern that came out of those briefings was the cumbersome processes by which simple – yet critical – operations are implemented for the maintenance of our BIE schools.

It was clear we needed to empower BIE to manage its own operations to more independently serve the unique needs of our students while allowing BIA to more directly focus on its own service-based requirements. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 budget reflects the first time there are separate budgets for both BIA and BIE. I look forward to working with you to improve the delivery of Indian education and advance our shared priorities across Indian Country.

Completed the Department's first 105(l) lease agreement

Indian Affairs is forward looking and seeks innovative recommendations, solutions, and approaches to financing infrastructure development in Indian Country. Indian Affairs completed a 105(l) lease agreement for the Gila Crossing Day School. This type of lease represents a new, faster tool for leveraging appropriations to improve school facility conditions. The school is in full operation.

Hosted the first meeting with Native-owned Community Development Financial Institutions.

In an effort to understand the challenges of access to capital for Native financial institutions, Indian Affairs convened the first-ever roundtable between the Department of the Interior (Department) and Native-owned Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs). Indian Affairs looks forward to continuing to work with Federal partners and Native CDFIs on helping individuals and tribal communities access loans, increase tribal entrepreneurs access to capital funds and increase financial literacy across Indian Country. This progress can make Indian Country attractive for business and development.

Fee to Trust

In an effort to promote self-determination, economic development, and Indian housing, under my leadership the BIA has accepted over 29,600 acres of land into trust for Tribes.

Opioids & Other Illegal Narcotics

In FY2019, the BIA Office of Justice Services (OJS) hosted over 40 Opioid Community Awareness events and trained over 700 tribal community and service providers throughout Indian Country. The BIA OJS also trained over 600 Indian Country law enforcement officers in opioid identification and enforcement.

In 2018, the Department launched the first-ever Joint Law Enforcement Task Force on opioids, focusing on Indian Country. Led by BIA OJS, the task force partners with Federal, State, Tribal and local law enforcement to conduct multi-month undercover operations and stings to get drugs and dealers off the streets.

By the end of 2018, there were 15 Opioid Task Force operations conducted throughout Indian Country resulting in:

- 372 arrests,
- 3,287 pounds of illegal narcotics seized, and
- \$9.8 million estimated street value.

At this point in 2019 there have been an additional 14 Opioid Task Force operations conducted throughout Indian Country, resulting in:

- 283 arrests,
- 1,073.6 pounds of illegal narcotics seized, and
- \$4.1 million estimated street value.

In addition to our task force efforts, in FY2019 the Division of Drug Enforcement Canine Enforcement Teams have seized:

- 1,309.6 pounds of illegal narcotics,
- \$9.5 million estimated street value, and
- \$13.6 million Total Seizure between Operations and Canine Teams.

On August 30, 2019, the Department announced that while on patrol near the exterior boundaries of the Laguna Indian Reservation in New Mexico, a BIA K-9 police unit arrested an individual and seized:

- 82.8 pounds of methamphetamine with a street value of nearly \$3.8 million,
- 2.44 pounds of heroin with a street value of over \$162,000, and
- 2,000 THC Concentrate cigarette cartridges with a retail value of \$90,000.

By working alongside our Native communities and other partners, we are doing everything we can to get these drugs off the streets.

Tribal Access Program for National Crime Information (TAP) Kiosks

During my confirmation hearing at the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Senator Heidi Heitkamp impressed upon me the backlog in Indian Country for background checks on “covered individuals” in a household when placing our Native children in foster care. In September 2018, I directed the deployment of additional kiosks under the TAP. These kiosks allow Tribes to more effectively serve and protect their communities by fostering the exchange of critical data through several national databases through the FBI’s Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS) network, including the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), Next Generation Identification (NGI), National Data Exchange (N-DEx), National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP), and other national systems such as the International Justice and Public Safety Network (Nlets). The TAP enhances tribal efforts to register sex offenders pursuant to the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA), have orders of protection enforced nationwide, protect children, keep firearms away from persons who are disqualified from receiving them, improve the safety of public housing, and allow Tribes to enter their arrests and convictions into national databases. In partnership with the Department of Justice, the first kiosk to “go live” was on September 18, 2019, at the Anadarko Agency.

The next two deployments will be at Northern Cheyenne Agency in Montana on December 10-12, 2019, and at Northern Pueblos Agency in New Mexico on February 18-20, 2020.

National Broadband Summit

On September 23-24, 2019, the Department hosted the landmark National Tribal Broadband Summit in Washington, D.C., where tribal leaders connected with private sector and Federal decision makers to explore ways to expand broadband capacity and investment in American Indian and Alaska Native communities, schools, and libraries. The Summit was attended by over 250 individuals representing more than 150 Federal agencies, tribal governments, tribal organizations, the non-profit organizations, and private companies. Slides from presentations at the Summit will be made available in the coming

weeks at doi.gov/tribalbroadband. At the Summit, I also announced a new \$1.2 million grant opportunity for tribal broadband feasibility studies. Details of this grant will be forthcoming and the solicitation will be available on grants.gov.

Executed multiple Native safety events focused on “Reclaiming Our Native Communities”

Joined by other Federal agencies and tribal leaders including Gila River Governor Stephen Roe Lewis and Lt. Governor Robert Stone, domestic violence advocates, and leaders working on *missing and murdered Native Americans*, Indian Affairs held a nationwide listening session, “Reclaiming Our Native Communities” at the Gila River Indian Community in Arizona. In August, the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Justice, other Federal agencies, the White House, and tribal leaders participated in two roundtables in Alaska. They were held in Nome and Bethel, respectively.

These engagements were well-received by all tribal and community leaders in attendance. Leadership agreed that a holistic, multi-faceted approach to building safe and secure communities is necessary to address the particular criminal issues that plague Indian Country and Alaska Native villages. These discussions, by bringing together tribal and community leaders, victim advocates, government officials, community members, and law enforcement and public safety personnel, offer the input necessary for a cooperative approach to public safety in Indian Country. These face-to-face discussions between the Trump Administration and tribal leaders from throughout the United States highlight the Department’s commitment to promoting public safety in Indian Country and Alaska Native villages.

Presidential Proclamation

Indian Affairs worked closely with our Federal partners to support the efforts of the Trump Administration to issue the presidential proclamation designating May 5 as Missing and Murdered American Indian and Alaska Natives Awareness Day.

Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience (NATIVE) Act Implementation

The Department signed a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Commerce and the American Indian and Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) for the full implementation of the NATIVE Act, which aims to promote tourism and economic growth in Native communities.

Tribal Energy Agreements (TERA) Reforms

Indian Affairs announced proposed changes to the TERA regulations. The TERAs promote tribal control over energy development on tribal lands and offer the potential for economic growth. The proposed changes were outlined in my June 17, 2019, Tribal Leader letter. The proposed changes aim to remove hefty regulatory requirements and propose to establish an alternative to TERA through a certification of Tribal Energy Development Organization. These changes will be finalized by December, and I look forward to approving the very first TERA.

Opportunity Zones

The Department of Treasury issued Opportunity Zone draft regulations in October 2018. After reviewing and listening to tribal leaders' concerns, Indian Affairs worked with the Department of Treasury to update their regulations to deal with leases as business property on tribal trust lands in their April 2019 updated draft. Another win for Indian Country was the inclusion of tribal consultation in the updated draft regulation. Opportunity Zones are a unique tool that can attract private capital to traditionally under-capitalized areas of the country. Indian Country stands to potentially benefit by attracting investors (who benefit from deferred or eliminated capital gains) to invest in capital intensive projects, on tribal lands within Qualified Opportunity Zones, such as housing development, commercial and retail development and other critical infrastructure.

Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Home Ownership (HEARTH) Act Approvals

In the last year, I have approved HEARTH Act regulations for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw, Pueblo of Isleta, Fond du Lac Band of Minnesota Chippewa, Prairie Band Potawatomi, Quinault Indian Nation, and the Jamul Indian Village, bringing the total number of Tribes with HEARTH Act regulations to 47. The BIA is also working with a number of other Tribes on their HEARTH Act regulation approvals. We aim to hit and surpass the 50-Tribe mark in the coming months.

Applications for Permit to Drill Approvals

The BIA played an important role in the reduction in the backlog of approved applications for oil and gas drilling permits, which resulted in a reduction by almost 73 percent in pending Applications for Permit to Drill, or APDs, the first step in the oil and gas development process on Federal Indian trust lands, from March 2018 to July 2019.

The BIA's role in this effort to cut the Department's average APD processing time is in the elimination of applications that lacked approved BIA right-of-way permits or approved leases. As a result, by the end of Summer 2019 the backlog of pending applications was reduced from 451 to 120. The APD backlog reduction benefits tribal and individual Indian landowners in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma and Utah who now may see new or increased production on their mineral estates. The owners of mineral rights will receive royalties from production taking place under leases on their lands.

Tribal Consultations

In furtherance of the vitally important government-to-government relationship we have with you as federally recognized Tribes, Indian Affairs has hosted almost 40 nationwide consultation sessions in my tenure so far as Assistant Secretary. The consultation sessions have focused on nine topics spanning from potential regulation updates to the demonstration projects for forestry and biomass under the Indian Trust Asset Reform Act (ITARA). I look forward to continuing to engage with you through more consultation sessions, as well as informal listening sessions, and consultation on a one-on-one basis.

LOOKING FORWARD

Reclaiming our Native Communities

Following the successful “Reclaiming Our Native Communities” roundtables in Arizona and Alaska we are working with the Department of Health and Human Services’ Administration for Native Americans (ANA) and the Great Plains Tribal Chairman’s Association to host another roundtable in Rapid City, South Dakota, on October 9, 2019. We are also working with Representative Newhouse to support his efforts to host a roundtable in his district.

Although BIA OJS currently does not have a team of agents specifically designated to work cold cases, BIA OJS continues to explore options to provide tip lines and other information about active missing and murdered cases that would assist law enforcement with collecting intelligence or eliciting tips that will aid law enforcement in solving these cases.

Housing Opportunities and Opportunity Zones

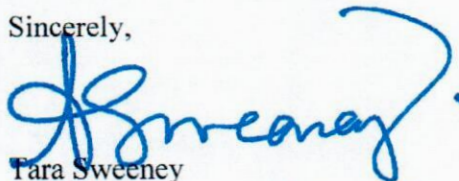
My team and I remained actively engaged with our Federal partners, including the Department of Treasury and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, to ensure trust assets were considered during the opportunity zones rulemaking process. We remain committed to facilitating tribal access to potential housing investment opportunities.

Inherently Federal Functions

I am happy to report that the Department has made progress on defining the term, with the assistance of tribal leader comments from the consultation, and that the Department will be sharing out its progress in the near future.

As always, I welcome meetings with you on any of these or other issues of importance to you. To schedule a meeting, please go to: <https://www.bia.gov/as-ia>. I look forward to continuing to work with you to bring more success to Indian Country.

Sincerely,



Tara Sweeney
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Appendix B – News Release

<https://www.bia.gov/press-releases>

9/18/19 | Online Press Releases

The Trump Administration Deploys the First Biometric Kiosk at a BIA Agency for Foster Parent Background Checks

8/30/19 | Online Press Releases

Interior’s Law Enforcement K-9 Unit Seizes More Than \$4 Million Dollars of Narcotics in Indian Country

8/28/19 | Online Press Releases

Federal Coalition Convenes Summit to Improve Broadband Access in Indian Country

8/22/19 | Online Press Releases

Trump Administration Supports American Indian and Alaska Native Communities to End Violence and Illicit Drug Activity

8/21/19 | Online Press Releases

OST News Release: Buy-Back Program Returns to the Navajo Nation – August 30 and September 30 Deadlines Approach for Landowners

8/1/19 | Online Press Releases

Gila River Indian Community, U.S. Department Of The Interior Creatively Partner, Open Historic K-8 School To Serve More Than 500 Students

7/30/19 | Online Press Releases

Assistant Secretary Sweeney Announces Over \$5.3 Million in Energy and Mineral Development Grants Awarded to 24 Tribes in 11 States

7/19/19 | Online Press Releases

U.S. Department of the Interior and Gila River Indian Community Enter into First-of-its-Kind Innovative Lease for Gila Crossing Community School