

Thirty Years of Success and Challenges with the Navajo Natural Heritage Program



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The Story of NNHP, *abridged*

1. Early Beginnings
2. Current Configuration
3. Major Challenges and Solutions
4. *Tribal Sovereignty & Conservation*



Natural Heritage Programs

“...provide the scientific basis for effective conservation action”

- Track At-Risk Species & Ecosystems
- Inform research and land management decisions
- Environmental law compliance (provide species lists)



NatureServe

A Network Connecting
Science With Conservation



NNHIP

Navajo Natural Heritage Program

Timeline

- 1984 TNC funds NNHP for 1 year
- 1988 Fresh start on BIA money
- 1989 PL 93-638 funding includes project review duties
- 1990 NNDFW added to SAS process



Structure of NNHP

- Program Manager
- Data Managers
- Zoologist & Botanist
- Project Reviewer



Major Challenges

1. Simultaneously working toward economic development and conservation
2. Maintaining tribal sovereignty while assisting with federal law compliance
3. Contributing to science while maintaining data confidentiality



Major Accomplishments

- Navajo Endangered Species List
 - Protect species that are unique & important to Navajo Nation
 - Listing & delisting decisions less prone to litigation



Heil's Milkvetch
(*Astragalus heilii*)

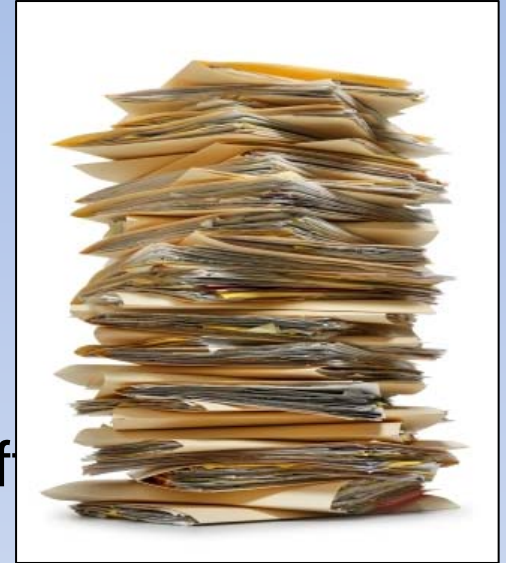


Northern Leopard Frog (*Lithobates pipiens*)

Major Accomplishments

➤ Review Process

1. Data Request
2. Technical Assistance from NNHP Staff
3. Review for Federal and Navajo Nation Law Compliance
4. BRCF (*Biological Resource Compliance Form*)



Major Accomplishments

➤ Raptor Protection Regulations

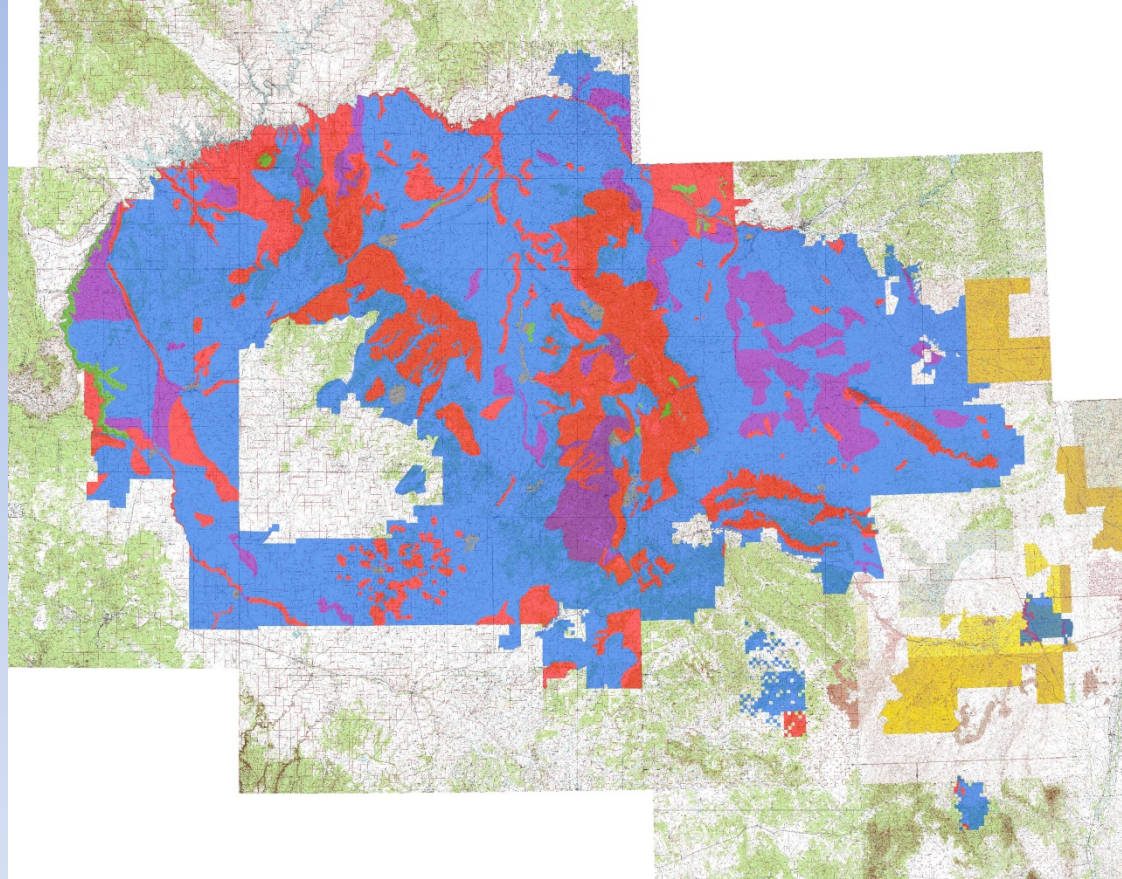


➤ Nest Protection Guidelines

➤ Bald & Golden Eagles; Ferruginous Hawks

Major Accomplishments

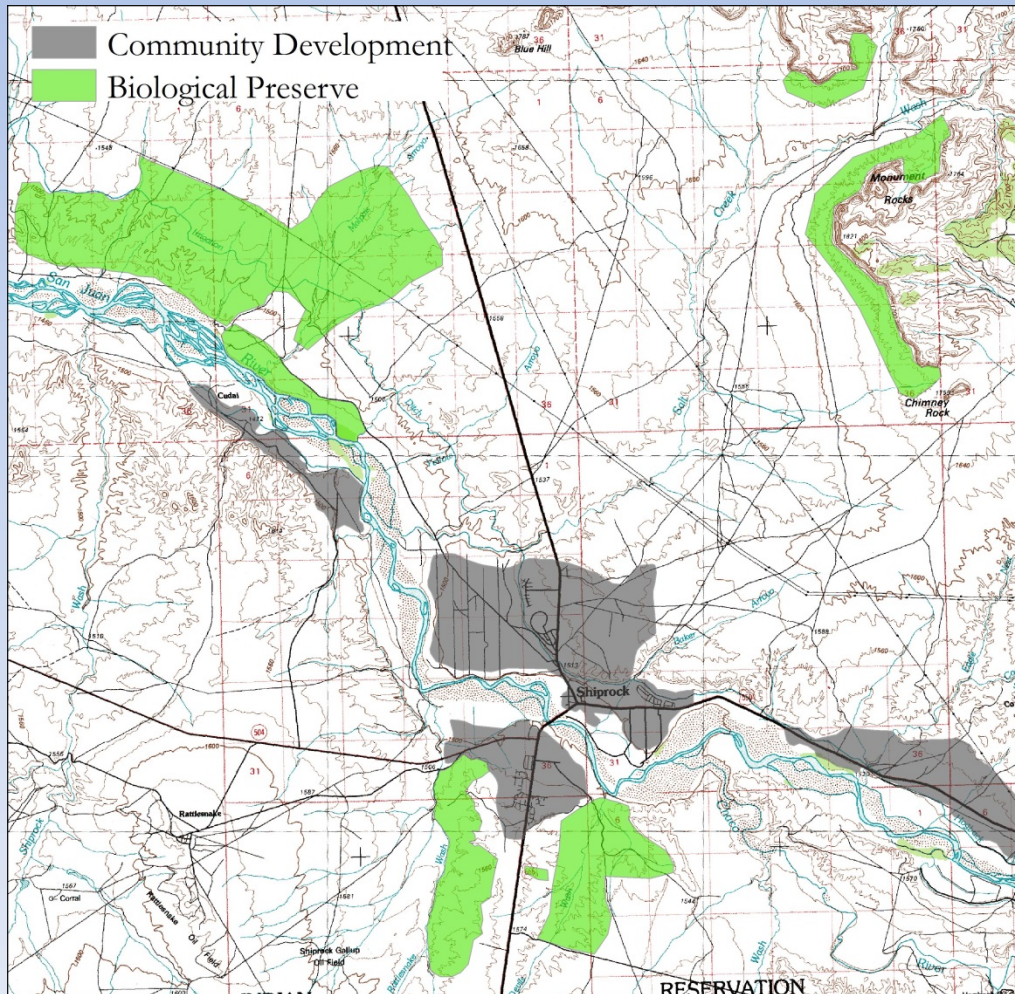
➤ RCP



“...help direct development to areas where impacts to wildlife and/or their habitat will be less significant”

Major Accomplishments

➤ Mesa Verde Cactus Conservation Areas



Mesa Verde Cactus
(*Sclerocactus mesae-verdae*)

Major Accomplishments

- Species-Based Management Plan
 - For *ESA-listed species*



Southwestern Willow Flycatcher
(*Empidonax traillii extimus*)



Mexican Spotted Owl
(*Strix occidentalis lucida*)



Fickeysen Plains Cactus
(*Pediocactus peeblesianus* var.
fickeysenianus)

Thank You!

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