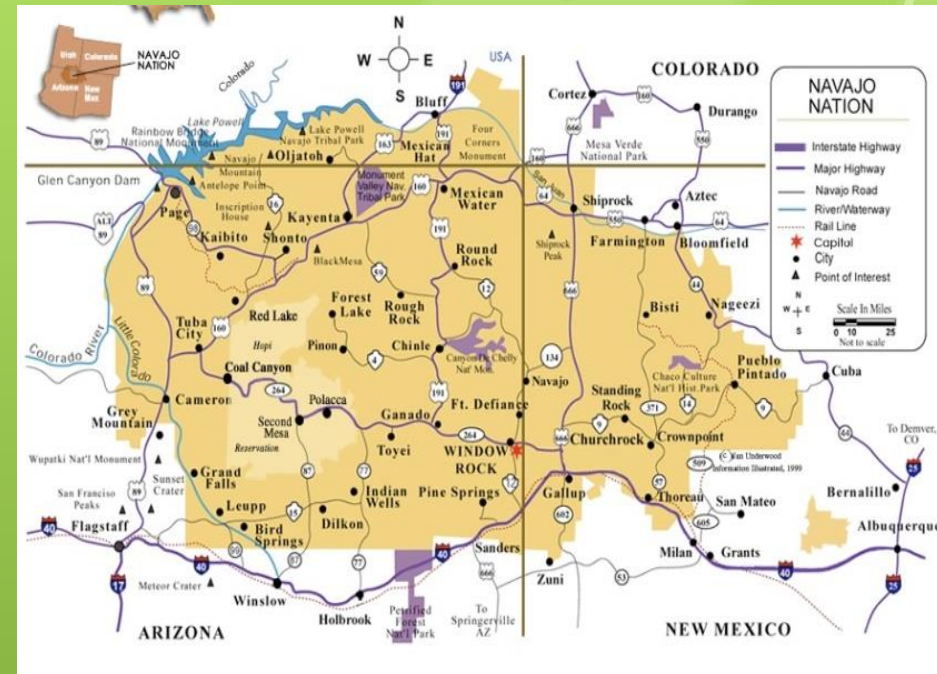


# **Access to hunting areas on trust land**

Presenter: Eddie Benally, Wildlife Conservation Officer  
Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife

# Accessing Trust Land

- Trust Land is held in trust by the Federal Government for the Navajo people to use
- Navajo Nation members do not own Navajo Nation trust lands
  - They **are not** private lands
- Navajos are permitted to use trust land for various things like:
  - Grazing- Grazing permit required
  - Hunting-Hunting permits are required through Fish and Wildlife
  - Fishing-Fishing permits are required through Fish and Wildlife
  - Home sites Lease-Requires approval by Land Department
  - Farming-Requires approval by BIA, through local Farm Boards
  - Wood Harvesting-Requires permit from Navajo Nation Forestry



# Accessing Trust Land



- Most tribal members mistakenly believe they own the land their home is built on.
- Most believe this because their family has lived there for generations

# Accessing Trust Land

- The reality is that the Navajo Nation government is the designated caretaker of the land.
  - Navajo Nation Code
- The land is held in trust by the federal government for the Navajo people



# Accessing Trust Land



- Access is granted to tribal members
- Access is granted to Non-tribal members by Navajo permit.
- Non-tribal members are required to have a permit for all natural resource recreational purposes.
- Being escorted by a tribal member does not remove this requirement.

**Navajo are known to deny access to both Navajo and Non-Navajo-Accessing Trust Land**



# Accessing Trust Land

- The Navajo Nation, through the Resources/Development Committee, has enacted rules and regulations that allows access onto Navajo Nation Trust Lands.
- Anyone denying access onto trust lands for hunters and fishermen who have valid permits can be cited for interference.
- There are similar Navajo Nation laws/regulations for wood haulers and other natural resource users.



# Accessing Trust Land



- Any person who puts up gates to deny access to trust land and locks gates is denying access to trust land
- Officers have the authority to cut locks without notifying the land user.
- Officers also have the authority to remove these gates if the land user continues to deny access for permitted activities.

# Accessing Trust Land

- Land Users need to understand that 99% of sportsmen are respectful of the land and its resources.
- The Department expends resources to improve wildlife habitat that also improves range and water resources, which benefits livestock and other agricultural resources.





To Report Problems with Sportsmen Being Disrespectful to  
Land Users, Property or Natural Resources, call

## OPERATION GAME THIEF

At

928-871-7066

You Can Remain Anonymous and May Receive a Cash Reward  
if the Violator is cited.

ANY QUESTIONS

