

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Cooperation with the Navajo Nation



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Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife
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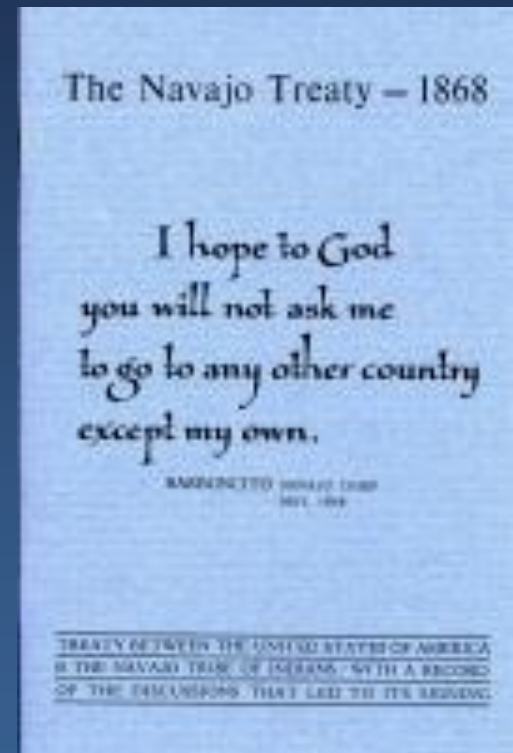


Foundation of Relationship

Navajo Nation – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- The Navajo Treaty of 1868
- The U.S. Constitution
 - *“This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States...and all Treaties made...under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land;”*
...

ARTICLE. VI., ¶ 2



Foundation of Relationship

Navajo Nation – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

■ Government-to-Government Relationship

- Sovereignty:

“Indian Nations had always been considered as distinct, independent communities, retaining their original natural rights, ...”

John Marshall, Chief Justice

U. S. Supreme Court 1832

■ Trust Responsibility

- Services, Assistance, Cooperation

Foundation of Relationship

Navajo Nation – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Federal Guidance (for USFWS)

- Executive Order 13175 “Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments” (2000)
 - Secretarial Order 3317 & Department of Interior Tribal Consultation Policy (2011)
 - USFWS Tribal Consultation Guide (2011)
- USFWS Native American Policy (1994)
- Secretarial Order 3206 (1997)

Secretarial Order 3206

American Indian Tribal Rights, Federal-Tribal Trust Responsibilities, and the Endangered Species Act

Principles

1. Working on Government-to-Government basis
2. Indian land \neq Public land
3. Assistance to tribes
4. Cultural sensitivity
5. Information – share & protect



Our *Mission*

“Working with others, to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.”



Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife Mission

“...to conserve, protect, enhance and restore the Navajo Nation’s fish, wildlife, plants and their habitat, through aggressive management programs for the spiritual, cultural and material benefit of present and future generations of the Navajo Nation.”



USFWS Organizational Structure

■ Several programs

- Ecological Services
- Enforcement
- Fish and Wildlife Conservation
- Migratory Birds
- Refuges
- Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration

■ Native American Program

- National Coordinator
- Native American Liaisons
- Tribal coordinators



Consultation - with the Navajo Nation

- Required for all actions with “tribal implications”
 - Affects on tribal lands, trust resources, exercise of tribal rights
 - Examples: listing a species or designating critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act
- Conducted on a government-to-government basis
- Meaningful
- Timely

Assistance – Tribal Wildlife Grants

<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date</u>
Golden Eagle Aviary & Education Center	\$200,000	2013
Golden Eagle & Prey Study	\$200,000	2011
Golden Eagle Study	\$200,000	2009
Gunnison's Prairie Dog Distribution	\$150,000	2006
Mesa Verde Cactus Conservation Plan, Ferruginous Hawk Survey and Nest Protection, Database Upgrade and Ecologist position	\$150,000	2005



Assistance – Partners for Fish and Wildlife

■ Program information

- Reimbursable program
- Up to \$25,000
- On-the-ground component
- Maintain improvement for minimum of 10 years

■ Navajo project

- Brady pincushion cactus



Assistance - Fisheries

- Fish stocking
- Field assistance for surveys
- San Juan River work
 - Raising endangered razorback sucker
 - Endangered fish monitoring and nonnative fish species monitoring and control 114 miles of the River
- Technical assistance in planning (fish management plans, etc.)



Assistance – Fisheries (cont'd)

- Assistance for restoration work and renovation projects
 - fish salvages to address fire, etc.
 - proposed Tsaile Creek habitat improvement
- Assistance in species research
 - Colorado cutthroat trout historical range and current suitable habitat
- Assistance for funding proposals
 - TWG
 - Fish Passage
 - National Fish Habitat Partnership

Assistance – Navajo Nation to USFWS

■ Candidate Assessment

- Gladiator milkvetch (early 1990's)
 - NNHP surveys - more numerous than known before
 - USFWS removed species from candidate list

■ Listing Actions

- Southwestern willow flycatcher
- Fickeisen plains cactus
- Zuni bluehead sucker



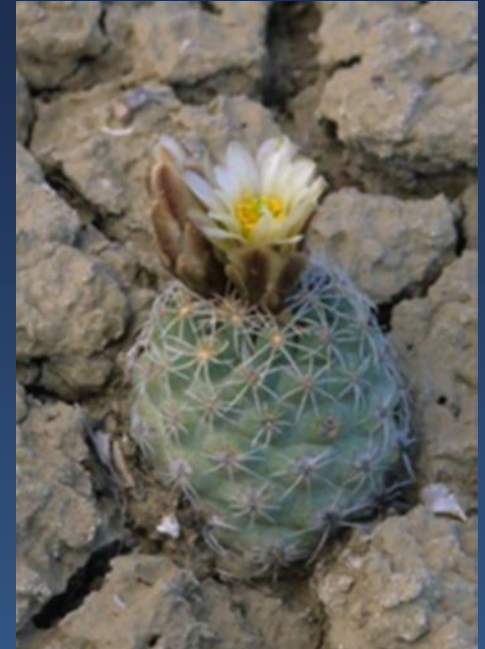
Assistance – Navajo Nation to USFWS (cont'd)

■ 5-Year Reviews

- Mesa Verde cactus (2011)
- Navajo sedge (2014)
- Welsh's milkweed (in progress)

■ Conservation Actions

- Mexican wolf
 - Assisted in development of Tribal Perspectives on Mexican Wolf Recovery
 - Participated in tribal working group during development of 2014 Environmental Impact Statement
- Black-footed ferret reintroduction – Aubrey Valley



Partnerships

- Zuni bluehead sucker and Navajo bluehead sucker habitat suitability
 - Science Support Program
 - University of Arizona
- Golden Eagle
 - Long-term satellite telemetry in Four Corners Region
 - Population dynamics of golden eagles on Navajo Nation
 - Western Golden Eagle Conservation Team
 - Habitat model development

Partnerships

■ San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program

● Navajo San Juan River Fish Ladder

- Opened in 2003
- \$1.5 million – BOR
- Mitigate PNM weir
- Navajo land
- Colorado pikeminnow
& razorback sucker



■ Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

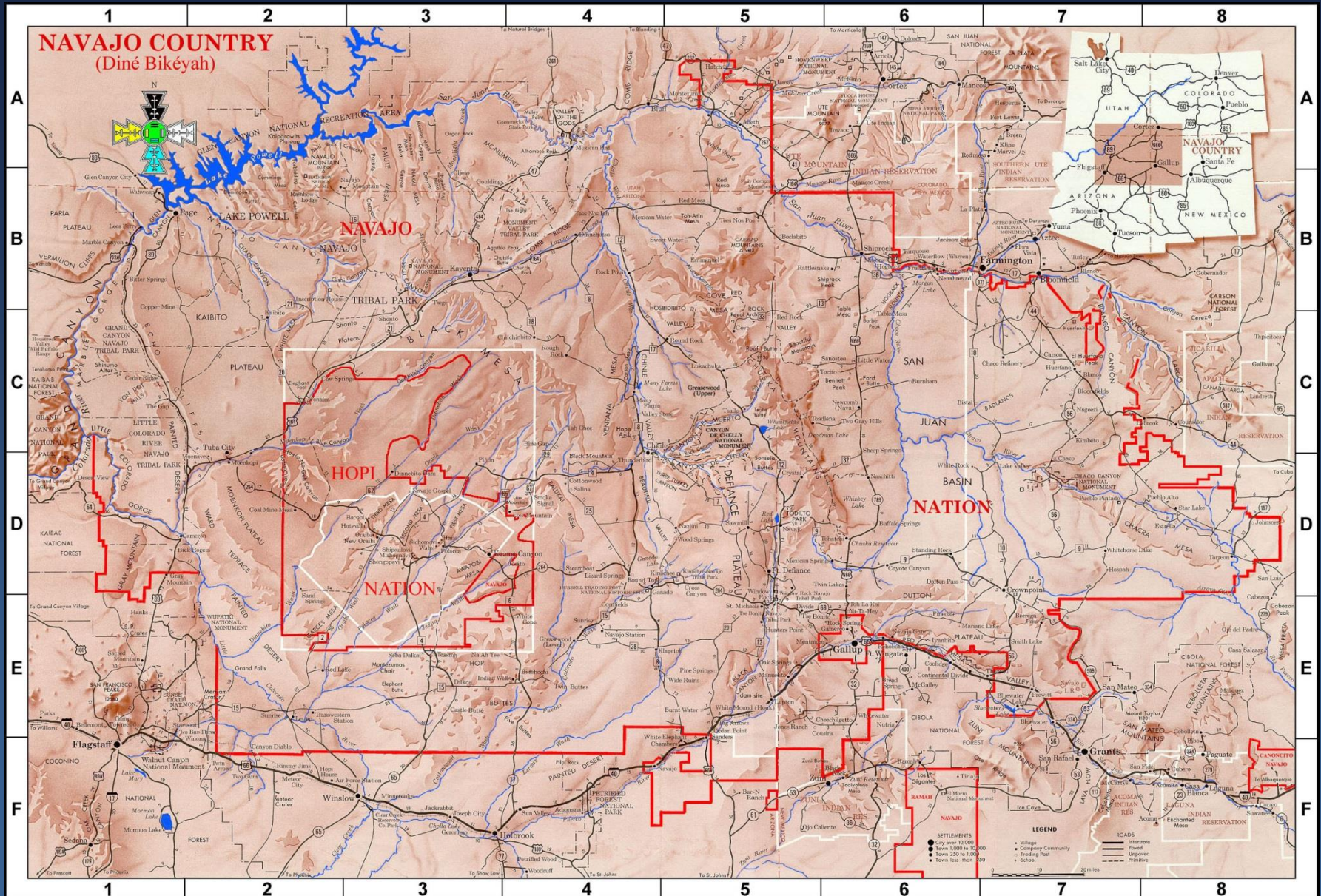
Partnerships - Enforcement

Operation Silent Wilderness

- Joint USFWS - Navajo LE operations on the Navajo Nation
- Investigating illegal killing and commercialization of protected eagles and other migratory birds



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



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Questions?