



FEDERAL MEETINGS

JUNE 3, 2025

US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OFFICE OF TRIBAL RELATIONS

NNWO met with Josiah Griffin from USDA's Office of Tribal Relations to discuss initiatives around the following: USDA resources for mobile and community meat processing (technical assistance via Intertribal Agriculture Council and Value-Added Producer Grants), potential financing tools (Business & Industry Loan Guarantees, Community Facilities Program), and existing partnerships at Diné College. Discussion also covered leveraging Opportunity Zones, USDA youth loans tied to NAPI initiatives, and support for year-round sheep breeding and sheep herder programs.

JUNE 4, 2025

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

NNWO staffed President Nygren, Navajo Department of Transportation Director Tom Platero, Deputy Division Director Shelby Dayzie, and staff in a meeting with Deputy Assistant Secretary of Tribal Affairs, James Crawford. President Nygren and Director Platero discussed concerns with the transportation bill that is expiring next year. Mr. Platero was able to discuss TTP formula funding changes, the need for the bus route program to continue, and how the US DOT plans to work with BIA and states on road maintenance issues. Further discussion will need to happen as the Deputy Assistant Secretary settles into his role, a role previous filled by Arlando Teller.

JUNE 5, 2025

CONGRESSMAN MIKE JOHNSON (R-LA)

The NNWO Executive Director was invited to a small gathering with Speaker Mike Johnson and was able to discuss the Nation's efforts regarding energy, as well as the Nation's critical water needs and how passage of our settlements would be beneficial for all parties.

JUNE 10, 2025

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

NNWO met with the Department of Treasury Office of Tribal and Native Affairs to discuss recent developments in opportunity zones. Under the reconciliation bill, there is a provision to extend opportunity zone tax benefits from 10% to 30% in rural areas.



FEDERAL MEETINGS

JUNE 10, 2025

NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION ACT, GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE WEBINAR

NNWO attended a webinar on NAGPRA hosted by the GAO. This session, originally anticipated to provide insight into the status of the NAGPRA Review Committee nominations—including the Navajo Nation’s nomination of Sherwin Curley—focused instead on GAO’s ongoing study into NAGPRA implementation and future congressional reporting.

The conversation centered on data protections, excavation oversight, and public comment feedback, with no direct updates on committee appointments. GAO is continuing its NAGPRA assessment through the end of 2025 and encouraged tribes to share examples and feedback. The GAO team will accept written input on issues like sensitive data protections, civil penalties, and inter-agency coordination.

JUNE 10, 2025

UNITED STATES FORESTRY SERVICE

NNWO attended a meeting with the USFS to discuss reclaiming small tracts (up to 40 acres) of the Nation’s land back under the Small Tracts Act. The discussion covered pathways for land transfer, legal authorities, co-stewardship tools, and emphasized a shared desire for increased tribal-federal coordination rooted in mutual respect and sovereignty. NNWO will prepare maps, coordinates, and justifications for parcels meeting Small Tracts Act criteria. The Forest Service committed to sharing transfer examples, defining key regulatory terms (“forest character,” “isolated,” “inaccessible”), and consulting their LANDS and legal teams. A follow-up meeting will be hosted at the NNWO office.

JUNE 10 - 11, 2025

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NNWO met with political leadership at the EPA to discuss abandoned uranium mines and funding gaps on the Navajo Nation. This meeting led to an invitation for President Nygren to participate the next day in an event with EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin for the proposed rescission of the Clean Power Plan, which according to our partners at NTEC would assist the Nation’s efforts to keep the Four Corners Station operating.



FEDERAL MEETINGS

JUNE 11, 2025

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

NNWO was alerted to a possible interaction between a Navajo student and DHS ICE officers in Salt Lake City, Utah. We spoke to our contacts at DHS regarding the incident. At this time, they believe the interaction was not with an ICE officer, but rather with an individual pretending to be an ICE officer. We are continuing to gather more facts and work with DHS to understand what happened.

JUNE 12, 2025

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

NNWO participated in a meeting with the U.S. Treasury and the Navajo Controller, Sean McCabe. The meeting was conducted by Jennifer Parisien and was joined by James Colombe and Patrick Orr. Jennifer provided updates on the progress of the ARPA funds, which the Navajo Nation has expended \$ 1.2 billion (75%) of the funds allocated to the Navajo Nation.

Mr. Orr discussed the HAF program and expressed his desire to see more progress with the funds being expended. Controller McCabe indicated that the Program has been updating the red tape that was self-inflicted by the program's administrators. The approval rate for the program was 40% (estimated).

Mr. Colombe updated on the expenditures for the SSBCI program, noting that no funds have been reported as expended. However, the program is only required to submit annual reports, and a report is due to be provided to the Treasury soon. Mr. Colombe stated that they can provide technical assistance to the SSBCI program and discuss other options for using the program to fund entrepreneurs and small businesses (fewer than 500 employees).

JUNE 16, 2025

HOUSE DEMOCRATIC WHIP STAFF

NNWO met with Laila Goharioon, Health Policy Advisor, for the House Democratic Whip staff to discuss the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act reauthorization in the reconciliation bill, as well as its importance to the Navajo Nation.

JUNE 16, 2025

SENATOR WARREN'S STAFF

NNWO met with Senator Warren's (D-MA) tax staff to discuss opportunity zones in the reconciliation bill and the possibility of amending the language to provide explicit authority for tribes to designate their own opportunity zones.



FEDERAL MEETINGS

JUNE 16, 2025

SENATOR SHEEHY'S STAFF

NNWO met with staff from Senator Sheehy's (R-MN) office to discuss the importance of Medicaid exemptions for tribes, including maintaining the work requirement exemption as well as an exemption from any enrollment verification requirements.

JUNE 18, 2025

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

NNWO met with Senate Finance Committee majority staff to discuss amending the reconciliation bill to authorize tribes to designate their own census tracts as opportunity zones.

JUNE 16, 2025

SENATOR HAWLEY'S STAFF

NNWO met with Senator Hawley's (R-MO) staff on the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act reauthorization to coordinate our activities to ensure that the Nation's RECA priorities survived the reconciliation process in the Senate and House.

JUNE 23, 2025

SENATE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

NNWO met with Senate Committee on Indian Affairs majority staff to discuss our support for the Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program, the Loan Program Office, and the Inflation Reduction Act clean energy tax credits. The TELGP and IRA tax credits are set to be rescinded under the reconciliation bill, and the LPO is set to be closed in the FY2026 budget.

JUNE 23, 2025

SENATOR GALLEGO'S STAFF

NNWO met with Senator Gallego's (D-AZ) staff to discuss our support for the Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program, the Loan Program Office, and the Inflation Reduction Act clean energy tax credits. The TELGP and IRA tax credits are set to be rescinded under the reconciliation bill, and the LPO is set to be closed in the FY2026 budget. We also discussed Medicaid exemptions for tribes and expressed support for NAFOA's opportunity zone amendment to provide tribes with the authority to designate their own census tracts as opportunity zones.

JUNE 24, 2025

SENATOR CANTWELL'S STAFF

NNWO met with Senator Cantwell's (D-WA) staff to discuss opportunity zones in the reconciliation bill and the possibility of amending the language to provide explicit authority for tribes to designate their own opportunity zones.

JUNE 25, 2025

SENATOR SMITH (D-MN)

NNWO coordinated a meeting between President Nygren and Senator Tina Smith to discuss the Nation's reconciliation priorities, including our support for the Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program, the Loan Program Office, and the Inflation Reduction Act clean energy tax credits.



FEDERAL MEETINGS

JUNE 25, 2025

SENATOR SCHATZ (D-HI)

NNWO coordinated a meeting between President Nygren and Senator Brian Schatz to discuss the Nation's reconciliation priorities, including our support for the Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program, the Loan Program Office, and the Inflation Reduction Act clean energy tax credits.

JUNE 25, 2025

SENATOR HAWLEY (R-MO)

NNWO coordinated a meeting between President Nygren and Senator Josh Hawley to discuss the Nation's reconciliation priorities, including our support for the Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program, the Loan Program Office, and the Inflation Reduction Act clean energy tax credits, as well as the Nation's joint advocacy for the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act reauthorization.

JUNE 25, 2025

SENATOR CURTIS (R-UT)

NNWO coordinated a meeting between President Nygren and Senator John Curtis to discuss the Nation's reconciliation priorities, including our support for the Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program, the Loan Program Office, and the Inflation Reduction Act clean energy tax credits, as well as the Nation's advocacy for the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act reauthorization.

JUNE 26, 2025

SENATOR ROUNDS' STAFF

NNWO met with staff from Senator Rounds' (R-SD) office to discuss the Nation's reconciliation priorities, including our support for the Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program, the Loan Program Office, and the Inflation Reduction Act clean energy tax credits.

JUNE 26, 2025

US MARSHALS SERVICE

NNWO coordinated a meeting for the Navajo Department of Public Safety and the Navajo Police Department to meet with the US Marshals Service leadership to continue discussions on a partnership for the Marshals to assist the Nation in its MMIP efforts as they relate to missing children. The Marshals proposed to meet us next in Window Rock to get a sense of our current law enforcement capabilities and where they could provide technical assistance.

JUNE 29, 2025

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

NNWO met with BIA leadership to discuss wildfire updates, probate issues, Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation, and other matters of importance to the Nation.

JUNE 22-30, 2025

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES MINORITY STAFF

NNWO has met daily with minority staff on the Senate Subcommittee on Energy and Natural Resources to strategize our advocacy on support for the Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program, the Loan Program Office, and the Inflation Reduction Act clean energy tax credits.



NAVAJO MEETINGS

JUNE 3, 2025

DIVISION DIRECTOR MEETING

NNWO Executive Director traveled to Red Mesa, Utah, for President Nygren's monthly division director meeting.

JUNE 4, 2025

ANCESTRAL FOOTPRINTS NATIONAL MONUMENT COORDINATION CALL

This call outlined topics around proactive tribal strategy to protect the Ancestral Footprints National Monument, in anticipation of potential administrative rollbacks or changes to monument protections. The group discussed preparation of joint Tribal letters to DOI Secretary Bringham and USDA Secretary Rollins, finalizing a coalition op-ed for submission to the Arizona Republic, and holding a potential June 18 press conference to showcase broad Tribal support for the monument.

Additional agenda items for June 18 will include outreach planning for congressional offices, coordination for an upcoming DC advocacy trip, and engaging Arizona Attorney General Chris May's office regarding state-level positions on the monument. Delegate Casey Allen Johnson has indicated that he will represent the Navajo Nation on this Coalition.

JUNE 4, 2025

NAVAJO LEADERSHIP PREPARATION FOR BIA CONSULTATION WRITTEN COMMENTS

NNWO attended the event virtually. Council would like the Navajo Nation to have a unified voice when submitting the written comments for the Indian Affairs reorganization consultation. All stakeholders for Navajo education were present at the meeting to discuss their priorities and to work on a single set of comments. Stakeholders are to submit their comments to Delegate Nez who will organize them into a NABI resolution for council to vote on. After the comments are voted on and submitted, Council would like to have an advocacy event in Washington, DC. NNWO will schedule principal meetings with Department of Education leadership and members of the HELP committee after the legislation is passed.

JUNE 5, 2025

NAVAJO HOPI LAND COMMISSION

NNWO Executive Director presented to the NHLC in executive session regarding next steps on the potential closure of the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation.

Following approval from the NHLC, NHLCO, and President Nygren, Director Redhouse submitted a letter to ONHIR requesting consultation on the potential closure.



NAVAJO MEETINGS

JUNE 9, 2025

RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

This meeting featured an extensive presentation from Kayenta Township on local governance as the members waited for quorum, then discussed infrastructure, and safety initiatives with Mr. Williams as he plans for the future and sets the precedent for the township model of governance on the Navajo Nation. Later, the committee heard public testimony on oilfield mismanagement in Aneth, which prompted strong committee discussion on regulatory enforcement and environmental health concerns. Committee members committed to organizing a site visit to Aneth, encouraged stronger interagency coordination with the Office of Labor Relations and Business Regulatory Department, called for lease agreement reviews and labor law enforcement, expressed support for expanding Kayenta Township's local authority over housing, infrastructure, and safety services, and recommended sharing successful township models across the Navajo Nation to strengthen regional self-governance and service delivery.

JUNE 9, 2025

HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

The HEHSC meeting included several key reports regarding the reauthorization and technical coordination challenges of Hunter's Point Boarding School, updates from Arizona Complete Health on crisis services and affiliated programs, and a public health update on a confirmed measles case in Farmington, NM and what was being done in prevention of further cases. The Navajo Department of Health was present and provided updates on the Division of Aging and Long-Term Care Support. Another action the Committee took was to review school board background check requirements and discussed a draft response to a federal "Dear Tribal Leader" letter.

JUNE 10, 2025

NAVAJO NATION DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

This meeting addressed Navajo Nation's agricultural staffing challenges, infrastructure needs, and coordination opportunities with NRCS. Emphasis was placed on replacing short-term EQIP fixes with long-term watershed-level planning, restoring USDA office presence on Navajo lands, and creating new contribution agreements for shared staff and technical support. NRCS and USDA will revisit land lease and utility setup at the Window Rock fairgrounds; issue escalated to Chief Betancourt.



NAVAJO MEETINGS

JUNE 20, 2025

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NNWO met with DED Director Tony Skrelunas to discuss our advocacy efforts and priorities related to opportunity zones and the Small Business Administration Director Skrelunas.

JUNE 27, 2025

TEEC NOS POS CHAPTER MEETING

NNWO Acting Executive Director attended the Teec Nos Pos Chapter meeting, where a resolution was passed in support of his nomination as Executive Director of NNWO, and to discuss the needs of the community with Chapter members and Delegate Curtis Yanito.

JUNE 16, 23, & 30, 2025

NAVAJO HOPI LAND COMMISSION OFFICE & NAVAJO DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NNWO hosts a weekly meeting with the NHLCO and NNDOJ to ensure that we are all on the same page regarding our advocacy and efforts related to the potential closure of ONHIR.

OTHER MEETINGS

JUNE 10, 2025

CONSTITUENT MEETING WITH DR. JOSHUA SHEAK

NNWO met with Dr. Sheak to learn about funding cuts affecting his work as a neonatology fellow. Doctor Sheak is a Navajo Board-Certified Pediatrician, currently based at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital in Ohio. He was conducting research on the effects of antenatal corticosteroids on animal-based cells to identify potential benefits and improve survival rates for preterm infants. His research was funded by NIH and K12, before the Trump Administration cut these programs. He is no longer able to continue his research.

JUNE 10-12, 2025

CONSTITUENT MEETING WITH PHIL HARRISON REGARDING RECA

NNWO assisted Mr. Harrison's RECA advocacy this week on the Hill by planning meetings over the course of three days as well as accompanying Mr. Harrison to his meetings.

JUNE 16, 2025

RECA WORKING GROUP

NNWO attended the RECA Working Group meeting to assist with strategy on social media for RECA reauthorization and expansion, as well as other advocacy efforts related to the reconciliation bill.



OTHER MEETINGS

JUNE 18, 2025

NATIVE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION LUNCH

NNWO hosted college students from around the country who are interning in Washington, D.C., at offices and law firms relating to Native American advocacy. The interns learned about the work that NNWO does, the importance of working for their tribes, and opportunities to someday work at NNWO. The organization we partnered with is the Native American Bar Association, which provides services and outreach to Native attorneys

JUNE 23, 2025

ARIZONA TRIBAL ID CARDS

NNWO attended an update meeting on Arizona Tribal ID Cards, where we learned more about the Pascua Yaqui Tribe's Sacred Path program and how tribes can meet the REAL ID requirements with their own tribally-issued IDs.

JUNE 24, 2025

LEGISLATIVE TRAINING

NNWO attended a legislative training session hosted by Hobbs Straus Dean & Walker, LLP, for the NNWO Government & Legislative Affairs Associates and interns.