



## Navajo Nation Washington Office

Email: [info@nnwo.org](mailto:info@nnwo.org)

Wááshindoon Weekly | September 19, 2025

### U.S. Forest Service Meets Navajo Nation in D.C.



*The Navajo Nation flag is presented to U.S. Forest Service leaders at the Navajo Nation Washington Office, right to left: Beattra Wilson, Assistant Director for Cooperative Forestry, U.S. Forest Service; Reed Robinson, Director, Office of Tribal Relations, U.S. Forest Service; Vince Redhouse, Executive Director, Navajo Nation Washington Office; and Timothy Benally, Government & Legislative Affairs Associate.*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Tribal Affairs team met with the Navajo Nation Washington Office (NNWO) on Monday for a working session on land and access in the Coconino and Cibola National Forests. The visit began with a presentation of the Navajo Nation flag, which was accepted on the agency’s behalf by Dr. Beattra Wilson, Associate Deputy Chief for State, Private, and Tribal Forestry. Dr. Wilson also delivered a note from the Chief of the Forest Service to NNWO Executive Director Vince Redhouse, thanking him for hosting the meeting at NNWO, the only Tribal Nation office based in Washington, D.C. Navajo Forestry and the Navajo Nation Land Department participated, alongside USFS attendees Tribal Affairs Director Reed Robinson and Land and Minerals representatives from the USFS’s DC office, Arizona and New Mexico.

The meeting focused on practical next steps: sharing up-to-date maps, identifying small and isolated federal parcels that may be suitable for exchange or other lawful pathways, and addressing access for traditional uses such as gathering, ceremonies, grazing, and wood-hauling. USFS provided points of contact for technical assistance, while the Navajo Nation shared areas of interest and local knowledge to guide parcel screening. Participants also discussed coordinating with the Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to resolve jurisdictional questions and align processes toward land-into-trust where appropriate.

With federal policy shifts under discussion, such as potential changes touching the 2001 Roadless Rule and pressures from mineral development, bringing agencies and tribes to the same table helps the Navajo Nation protect sacred places and plan for long-term land stewardship.