

FEDERAL MEETINGS

AUGUST 2025

BI-WEEKLY STATE SMALL BUSINESS CREDIT INITIATIVE (SSBCI) CAPITAL PROGRAM AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA) GRANT PROGRAM CHECK-IN

NNWO attends bi-weekly check-ins with the U.S. Treasury to discuss the status of ARPA SSBCI and TA grant program obligations, expenditures, and reports. During the August 21st meeting, it was confirmed that the technical assistance component will be transferred to Change Labs, with their first-tranche allocation increasing from \$7 million to \$20 million. The modification is moving through the Nation's 164 process, with a goal of completion within 30 days.

AUGUST 6, 2025

WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR STUART LEVENBACH

President Nygren and NNWO discussed the FY2027 budget process and the Nation's priorities with Mr. Levenbach, including education and public safety. Mr. Levenbach also indicated that the Nation should continue to keep him apprised of the push for our water rights settlements.

AUGUST 6, 2025

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICES, CHIEF AUDREY BETTENCOURT

President Nygren and NNWO met with NRCS Chief Audrey Bettencourt and her staff, who expressed strong engagement and requested an overview report from the Navajo Nation on agricultural needs. NNWO, in coordination with Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture Director Jesse Jim, will compile a report to include potential farmers, ranchers, and watershed projects that need support. The report will also provide updates on the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry and the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project, as well as address challenges such as invasive species, including Russian olives.

Following the meeting NNWO successfully connected General Land Development Department Director Byron Bitsoie with the NRCS office regarding an ongoing effort to establish an NRCS office in Window Rock. This new office is expected to expand technical assistance, funding access, and expert capacity to help address staffing shortages in the Navajo Nation Agriculture Department.

FEDERAL MEETINGS

AUGUST 6, 2025

U.S. TREASURER BRANDON BEACH

President Nygren and NNWO discussed expanding Opportunity Zones on the Navajo Nation and received a favorable response from the Treasurer. Treasurer Beach (who is familiar with the Navajo Nation through Billy Kirkland III and, as a former Georgia Senator, once advocated for his entire state to be designated as an Opportunity Zone) remarked his belief that the whole Navajo Nation should be considered an Opportunity Zone. The discussion highlighted potential growth through infrastructure such as new I-40 exits. NNWO also noted ongoing collaboration with NAFOA to expand economic development tools.

Overall, the Treasurer was highly receptive and is expected to be a valuable ally in advancing Opportunity Zone advocacy for the Navajo Nation. The discussion also focused on ARPA funds and the Nation's difficulty in spending and reporting on specific funding. A follow-up meeting was scheduled between NNWO and Treasury to discuss ARPA.

AUGUST 6, 2025

29TH BI-ANNUAL CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC) & AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY TRIBAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

NNWO attended this meeting virtually, which focused on the CDC's plans for FY2027 and included discussions on modernizing the CDC's technology. No outcomes or commitments were made.

AUGUST 7, 2025

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION

NNWO attended a presentation on the Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program and the Tribal Cybersecurity Grant Program. NNWO is reviewing whether the Nation is eligible for either grant.

AUGUST 11, 2025

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE SUB-WORKGROUP ON MANDATORY APPROPRIATIONS

NNWO attended the Sub-Workgroup meeting on IHS mandatory appropriations for FY2027. Possible strategies were discussed, including who to focus on within Congress.

FEDERAL MEETINGS

AUGUST 12, 2025

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, NAMUS

NNWO met with the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System Office at DOJ to discuss their response to the Nation's written comments from November 2024 and the Nation's advocacy efforts for tribal access to NamUs to help with the MMIP crisis.

AUGUST 12-13, 2025

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE FACILITIES APPROPRIATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

NNWO attended the meeting, which included a discussion on the next steps for the Indian Health Center facilities report to Congress, as well as a breakdown of the IHS budget on both the House and Senate sides.

AUGUST 13, 2025

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

NNWO attended the monthly National Tribal Meeting with DHS. The main topic was a discussion of FEMA grants and the notice of funding opportunities from the previous week.

AUGUST 14, 2025

SENATOR LUJÁN'S OFFICE

NNWO met with staff from Senator Luján's (D-NM) Office to discuss strategy for the 2025 Advanced Appropriations bill once it is released. The proposed bill would provide advanced appropriations for the BIA, BIE, and IHS, and is supported by the Navajo Nation Council.

AUGUST 20, 2025

USDA DEPUTY SECRETARY STEPHEN VADEN

President Nygren and NNWO met with Deputy Secretary Vaden to discuss Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations challenges that the Nation faces, as well as tribal college partnerships, and developing a stronger partnership to help the Nation further its goal of advancing food sovereignty.

FEDERAL MEETINGS

AUGUST 21, 2025

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

NNWO attended the quarterly check-in with Treasury on the status of the Nation's ARPA funds.

AUGUST 21, 2025

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NNWO attended the monthly Tribal Nations Leadership Council meeting and confirmed that there are no longer plans to cut funds from BIA Office of Justice Services and move them to DOJ Office of Tribal Justice for awarding through a competitive grant process. NNWO will continue to monitor this, however.

AUGUST 21, 2025

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

NNWO met with Kelly Rael, Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, to discuss various pieces of legislation, funding for FY2027, and the status of this year's BIA/BIE Green Book.

AUGUST 22, 2025

SENATOR MARTIN HEINRICH'S OFFICE

NNWO met with staff from Senator Heinrich's (D-NM) main office, as well as Energy and Natural Resources, to discuss possible options for protecting Mt. Taylor from uranium mining. This will be an ongoing conversation.

AUGUST 25, 2025

WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

NNWO met with Associate Directors of Intergovernmental Affairs Katherine Kaye and Chase Wilson to discuss the Nation's immediate priorities, including the possible pocket recission on education.

AUGUST 26, 2025

SENATOR RUBEN GALLEGOS OFFICE

NNWO met with Senator Gallego's (D-AZ) office to discuss support for several pieces of legislation, including Senator Luján's upcoming Advanced Appropriations bill, the Parity for Tribal Law Enforcement Act, and others. NNWO also discussed strategy for a possible pocket recission on education.

FEDERAL MEETINGS

AUGUST 26, 2025

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

NNWO coordinated a meeting with Treasury and Navajo Broadband for technical assistance on completing the Capital Funds Project report, which ultimately resulted in the Nation not having to repay those funds.

AUGUST 27, 2025

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

NNWO met with Treasury to discuss the status of the ARPA Homeowners Assistance Fund.

AUGUST 27, 2025

CONGRESSWOMAN MELANIE STANSBURY'S OFFICE

NNWO met with Congresswoman Stansbury's (D-NM-1) staff to discuss support for the Parity for Tribal Law Enforcement Act.

AUGUST 27, 2025

CONGRESSMAN PAUL GOSAR'S OFFICE

NNWO met with Congressman Gosar's (R-AZ-9) staff to discuss support for the Parity for Tribal Law Enforcement Act.

NAVAJO MEETINGS

AUGUST 2025

NAVAJO HOPI LAND COMMISSION AND NAVAJO DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (WEEKLY)

NNWO hosts a weekly meeting with NHLCO and NNDOJ to discuss the latest developments regarding ONHIR and its likely closure

AUGUST 2025

CHACO CANYON MEETING (BI-WEEKLY)

NNWO attends the bi-weekly meetings regarding updates and strategy for Chaco Canyon

AUGUST 8, 2025

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER, HONORING RECA ADVOCATES

NNWO attended in person Speaker Curley's RECA event to honor RECA advocates. NNWO met with advocates and discussed how the final RECA package came together during the reconciliation process as well as the next steps for the RECA applications.

AUGUST 9, 2025

NAVAJO HOPI LAND COMMISSION SPECIAL WORK SESSION

NNWO attended the NHLC Special Work Session in person and provided a report on the likely closure of ONHIR.

AUGUST 28, 2025

NAVAJO MINERALS DEPARTMENT

NNWO coordinated a meeting with the Minerals Department to decide whether to accept an invitation to participate in a GAO study on the status of coal mine reclamation efforts.

OTHER MEETINGS

AUGUST 2025
RECA WORKING GROUP (BI-WEEKLY)

NNWO attends the bi-weekly RECA Working Group meeting to discuss updates on the application process, DOJ staffing, location of application materials, and possible future amendments to the legislation.

AUGUST 1, 2025
LAURA TAYLOR, OUTSIDE COUNSEL FOR RECA WORKING GROUP

This meeting was to discuss the RECA claims window and application process, as well as a brainstorming session for how to prepare Navajo employees to assist with the new RECA applications. A follow up training will be provided and information for the training will be shared with NDOH, OPVP, and Office of the Speaker.

AUGUST 6, 2025
TRIBAL LEADERS COALITION

The Tribal Leaders Coalition met to discuss wildfire impacts, federal coordination, and next steps to protect national monument lands. Updates were also shared on the North Rim wildfire, and tribes were encouraged to participate in the upcoming Intermountain Tribal Gathering.

AUGUST 11, 2025
PLANNING FOR CONGRESSMAN ELI CRANE'S VISIT

NNWO hosted a planning meeting to finalize details for Congressman Eli Crane's (R-AZ-2) visit to Window Rock for Code Talkers Day.

AUGUST 12, 2025
MEETING WITH A REPRESENTATIVE FROM LABATT

NNWO met with a representative from Labatt to discuss the future of the Padres Mesa Ranch.

AUGUST 13, 2025
GRAND CANYON TRUST

The Grand Canyon Trust discussed ongoing concerns over Ancestral Footprints, Bears Ears, and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments amid Trump Administration efforts to reduce or eliminate monument boundaries.

AUGUST 15, 2025
BEARS EARS COALITION

The Bears Ears Coalition discussed outreach strategies

OTHER MEETINGS

AUGUST 15, 2025

TRIBAL INTERIOR BUDGET COUNCIL FOLLOW-UP

NNWO met with TIBC organizers to discuss possible changes that would make TIBC work better for the interest of the Navajo Nation.

AUGUST 20, 2025

UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE, GUARDIAN TERRELL ATCITY

President Nygren and NNWO hosted Navajo Space Force Guardian Terrell Atcity at NNWO to thank him for his service and recognize him, to the best of our knowledge, as the first Navajo to join the Space Force.

AUGUST 23, 2025

NATIVEOUTDOORS AND THE “AMERICAN SOUTHWEST”

NNWO met with producers from NativeOutdoors to discuss the possible screening of their film “American Southwest,” which focuses on how the fight for water has changed the Southwest throughout the centuries.

AUGUST 27, 2025

MEETING WITH CONSTITUENT

NNWO met with Echohawk Lefthand, a member of the Navajo Nation, who was attending the 7 Generations Center of Excellence Policy Action Institute Conference in D.C. Mr. Lefthand works in public health in Nebraska and informed us of the funding situation for public health in his area.

AUGUST 27, 2025

ANCESTRAL FOOTPRINTS COALITION MEETING

Coalition members discussed monument protection strategies and outreach.