



## **Navajo Nation Launches 10-Year Agricultural Resource Management Plan**



*1 Sheep grazing in high desert rangeland on the Navajo Nation. NNWO Photo*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – This week, the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council’s Resources and Development Committee (RDC) received an update on the formulation of a 10-year Agricultural Resource Management Plan (ARMP) from representatives of the Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources and the Fish & Wildlife Department. This plan will guide rangeland health, water use, food production, and support for farmers and ranchers on tribal trust lands.

The plan’s development is funded through a Bureau of Indian Affairs contract of more than \$5 million. The Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife is the lead contractor, supported by Wilson & Company, who joined the RDC meeting to provide updates. The Wilson team reported on internal Information Technology and Geographic Information System (GIS) efforts to build a shared database for soils, forestry, water, and rangeland, and noted engagement with Diné College and Navajo Technical University.

ARMPs are required under the American Indian Agricultural Resources Management Act of 1993 and are owned by the Nation. They set goals, identify gaps, and organize projects that can compete for federal funding.

With work currently underway, the first year of the project focuses on inventory and listening, including rangeland condition updates and chapter priorities. Drafting will begin during the spring of 2026 with formal GIS scoping. Year three finalizes the plan with an environmental baseline assessment. The plan will align with the Integrated Resource Management Plan, Water Department data, and Forest Division data, and will advance practical projects such as water and fencing improvements, drought tools, local processing and cold storage, and school food pathways.

The Resources and Development Committee urged broad public participation. During year one, the Navajo Nation will hold 24 district meetings beginning as early as November 2025 and continuing into the spring of 2026. Producers, grazing permittees, chapter officials, and families are invited to share local needs and solutions.

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