



MONTHLY BRIEF

STAY UPDATED ON NNWO'S WORK IN WASHINGTON DC

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Yá'át'ééh,

I want to express my appreciation for your continued support and interest in the work of the Navajo Nation Washington Office. This publication is part of our ongoing effort to provide transparency and consistent communication on the federal issues that matter most to the Navajo people.

Over the past month, our team has continued to actively monitor developments across our policy portfolios, and advocating for Navajo Nation priorities most notably in the areas of ONHIR, RECA, the Federal Budget, Agriculture, Economic Development, and National Parks & Monuments.

Our office also participated in a number of strategic meetings with congressional staff, federal agencies, and tribal advocacy partners. These meetings allow us to elevate Navajo concerns and build meaningful relationships with policymakers who directly influence funding decisions and legislative outcomes.

Our goal is to ensure that the voice of the Navajo Nation is heard clearly and consistently at the federal level. Thank you for staying informed and engaged. Ahéhee'.



GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIP

The Nation continues to make in-roads with agencies and members of Congress. Specifically, since coordinating the press conference and one-on-one meeting with EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin, the EPA and departments under its purview have been incredibly responsive towards the Nation. Our relationship with the BIA remains strong and we are working on a number of projects together; and our relationship with Senator Josh Hawley (R-MO) is stronger than ever as a result of the passage of RECA in the reconciliation bill.

OFFICE OF NAVAJO HOPI INDIAN RELOCATION

ONHIR has been informed that it will likely close at the end of the current fiscal year (September 30, 2025). The Nation is working on various strategies to ensure that ONHIR's statutory obligations are and continue to be performed.

RADIATION EXPOSURE COMPENSATION ACT

When President Donald Trump signed the "One Big, Beautiful Bill Act," into law, the legislation included a reauthorization and expansion of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act. **This has been a priority for the Navajo Nation for decades and a top priority for NNWO.** RECA now provides coverage to Navajo miners through 1990, covers additional illnesses, increases the compensation amount, and provides coverage for downwinders.

TAXATION AND FEDERAL BUDGET

On July 4, 2025, President Donald Trump signed into law the "One Big, Beautiful Bill Act," which was legislation passed by Congress through the reconciliation process. This legislation made sweeping cuts to the federal budget primarily in the form of increased work requirements on Medicaid recipients. **NNWO worked with our partners to ensure that an exemption was made from these work requirements for tribal members.**

On July 24, 2025, the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies released their Fiscal Year 2026 budget proposals. While the House seeks to increase funding across the major Indian Affairs agencies (BIA, BIE, and IHS), the Senate appears to be taking a more measured approach.

AGRICULTURE

On July 10, 2025, NNWO submitted a formal follow-up to the USDA Arizona Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Office and Office of Tribal Relations (OTR), outlining Navajo Department of Agricultural priorities discussed during a June 10, 2025, meeting with NRCS and USDA OTR. Highlights included requests to explore cost-share support for vital positions like the vacant range technician role, resolve USDA office space challenges in Window Rock, and expand public education and technical training programs for grazing officials and producers. The update was also shared with Honorable Delegates Cherilyn Yazzie, Germaine Simonson, Carl Slater, and RDC Chair Brenda Jesus to invite their engagement in advocating for FY26 budget support and coordination with Secretary Rollins' team. A response from USDA leadership, including NRCS Chief Bettencourt, is anticipated.

On July 17, 2025, The Office of the President and Vice President delivered an official congratulatory letter to Deputy Secretary Stephen A. Vaden, marking his confirmation by the Senate on June 10, 2025 (51-44 vote) and his formal swearing-in as USDA Deputy Secretary on July 7, 2025. The letter conveyed the Navajo Nation's confidence in his leadership and their commitment to his success in the role. The correspondence also highlighted Vaden's legal and policy expertise, his previous experience as USDA General Counsel and Judge of the U.S. Court of International Trade, and welcomed collaboration with the Navajo Nation.

Ongoing discussions between the Arizona NRCS State Office, NNWO, Navajo Division of Natural Resources Director Mike Halona, and Navajo Department of Agriculture Director Jesse Jim have continued to address delays in establishing a USDA NRCS presence on the Navajo Nation. In the most recent correspondence, the Arizona NRCS office acknowledged a breakthrough in identifying the issue regarding the pending land lease for the NRCS trailer in St. Michaels. According to their message, the delay may be due to an administrative lapse following Navajo staff turnover. Chief Bettencourt conveyed her eagerness to meet with President Nygren at a future date and reaffirmed her strong commitment to ensuring the NRCS office is successfully established to serve the Navajo Nation. She noted her dedication to building a lasting USDA support presence in light of recent layoffs affecting remote staff and expressed interest in discussing long-term strategies for public outreach, technical assistance, and broader community engagement. Both Chief Bettencourt and Secretary Brooke Rollins remain ready and willing to meet with Navajo Nation leadership to advance these shared goals.

Secretary Brooke Rollins announced significant changes to several USDA COVID-era programs, including the termination of the Regional Food Business Centers initiative previously administered by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). As a result, the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) has received a modified termination letter affecting the National Intertribal Food Business Center (NIFBC). Specifically, all portions of the federal award not linked to an executed, selected, or announced Business Builder Award are subject to termination. While USDA has indicated that active or pending Business Builder Awards may proceed under a revised agreement, the exact scope for NIFBC is yet to be defined. Despite these setbacks, IAC remains committed to its mission to support Tribal food businesses and food sovereignty.

AGRICULTURE

On July 24, 2025 Secretary Brooke Rollins announced a sweeping reorganization of the USDA to realign the agency with its original mission of supporting American farmers, ranchers, and foresters. The reorganization aims to reduce USDA's Washington, D.C. footprint, eliminate bureaucratic redundancies, and relocate up to half of its 4,600 National Capital Region employees to five regional hubs: Raleigh, NC; Kansas City, MO; Indianapolis, IN; Fort Collins, CO; and Salt Lake City, UT. The plan includes workforce reductions through voluntary retirements and aims to lower operational costs while preserving critical public safety and national security functions. These changes will have long-term implications for tribal engagement and service delivery, which NNWO will closely monitor and assess to ensure continuity and accessibility of USDA programs serving the Navajo Nation.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

On July 10, 2025, The U.S. Department of the Treasury hosted a virtual check-in focused on the implementation of the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) Capital Program and its complementary Technical Assistance (TA) Grant Program. The discussion included Treasury's expectations for Tribal governments regarding performance reporting, best practices for disbursing funds to Native-owned businesses, and strategies for ensuring technical assistance aligns with program goals. Updates were also provided on reporting dashboards, deadlines, and the importance of timely obligation of TA funds. Treasury affirmed its commitment to supporting Tribal program administrators and encouraged continued communication to ensure successful program execution across Indian Country.

On July 17, 2025, Stakeholders convened to provide updates on the SSBCI TA application, including clarifications requested by Treasury. The application has been revised to reflect Change Labs as the new subrecipient, replacing Dineh Chambers of Commerce, and includes updated program goals and budget. Treasury is transitioning to a new outreach model ending jurisdiction-specific outreach managers in favor of structured office hours and real-time Q&A via the SSBCI inbox.

NATIONAL PARKS & MONUMENTS

On July 11, 2025, the Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition met to review planning logistics for the Tribal Leader Meeting at Twin Arrows Resort Casino, held on July 14 and July 15, 2025, with a community engagement event also on July 15, 2025. Additional updates covered the Cultural Resources Subcommittee meeting scheduled for August 6 and August 7, 2025 in Bluff, UT; a Pecos Conference panel on August 8, 2025, organized by Carlton Boti at Noonie Campground, and a concurrent Harvard Honoring Nations site visit to observe Bears Ears work. The Inner Monument Gathering will take place from August 18 to August 20, 2025, at Twin Arrows, with commissioners presenting on Bears Ears. Other highlights included a recent letter from the Department of the Interior confirming intent to consult on monument boundary changes, a proposed docu-series on Indigenous co-management by David Borish for potential filming in late September, a GAO report feedback deadline on July 11, 2025, regarding tribal shared decision-making agreements, and notice that Utah Division of Indian Affairs site visits originally planned for July 28 to August 1, 2025, have been postponed due to staffing challenges.

On July 14, 2025, NNWO formally delivered a letter to USDA Secretary Rollins and Interior Secretary Burgum outlining Navajo Nation priorities and recommendations for the future planning and stewardship of the Baaj Nwaavjo l'tah Kukveni – Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument. The letter, developed in coordination with leadership and staff from the Navajo Nation, emphasizes the importance of upholding tribal sovereignty, advancing co-management frameworks, and ensuring meaningful consultation throughout the land management planning process. This communication follows months of stakeholder engagement and is intended to inform the interagency planning efforts currently underway.

On July 23, 2025, Grand Canyon Trust and tribal representatives met to coordinate strategy ahead of expected monument-related decisions. With FY 2026 appropriations due by late September, attendees recommended virtual meetings with administration officials (Interior, BIA, and USDA) to go on record opposing any reduction in monument status, as well as an in-person fly-in to meet with key congressional offices and committee staff. Discussions also included preparations for the Intermountain Gathering from September 18 to September 20, 2025, at Twin Arrows, which will bring together monument coalitions to share management strategies and advocacy goals.

In accordance with a new executive order issued on July 24, 2025, titled “Restore Truth and Sanity,” (Executive Order 14253), President Trump has directed the National Park Service (NPS) to inventory and revise signage and interpretive materials at national parks to remove content deemed overly negative or “insufficiently patriotic.” This includes exhibits on slavery, climate change, and Native American imprisonment. Notably, this directive aligns with efforts to remove Civil War and slavery-related books from NPS gift shops this week. While some agencies are working to restore historical names and narratives, such as in the case of the Washington Commanders’ name change, this trend reveals a broader cultural struggle over how American history is remembered and taught. Alan Spears, Senior Director for Cultural Resources at the National Parks Conservation Association, criticized the directive, stating, “Great countries don’t hide from or sanitize their history.”

FEDERAL MEETINGS**JULY 9, 2025****FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
AGENCY**

NNWO coordinated a meeting between FEMA leadership and President Nygren to discuss wildfire relief efforts and prevention.

JULY 9, 2025**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

NNWO coordinated a meeting between EPA leadership and President Nygren to discuss wildfire relief efforts and prevention.



President Nygren meets with EPA leadership on July 9, 2025

JULY 9, 2025**INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE**

NNWO met with IHS Acting Director Ben Smith to discuss reports that approximately \$57 million in funding had transferred from the proposed Gamarco GIMC project to a non-Navajo IHS construction project in Arizona. Mr. Smith reported that this was due to the funds needing to be applied to shovel ready projects. He also indicated that the Navajo Nation did not receive advance notice of this decision and was therefore not consulted.

JULY 9, 2025**SENATOR MARTIN HEINRICH (D-NM)
(STAFF)**

NNWO participated in a meeting coordinated by the Nation's outside counsel on water settlements for President Nygren. The meeting was to provide updates on the status of the Nation's efforts with the other states and to reaffirm Senator Heinrich's support.



FEDERAL MEETINGS

JULY 10, 2025

SENATE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS (MINORITY STAFF)

NNWO participated in a meeting coordinated by the Nation's outside counsel on water settlements. This was a strategic meeting concerning the best way to introduce the Nation's water rights settlements in this Congress.

JULY 17, 2025

CONFIRMATION HEARING FOR MR. BILLY KIRKLAND AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

NNWO staff and interns attended the confirmation hearing for Billy Kirkland as AS-IA. The hearing featured questions from the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs leadership, including from Senator Ben Ray Luján who inquired about President Trump's proposed cuts to Indian water settlements. Mr. Kirkland expressed that he was unaware about the number of Indian water settlements and the funding needed, and further that he was unaware of President Trump's position on the Navajo-Gallup water settlement.

JULY 16-17, 2025

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES LISTENING SESSION ON REORGANIZATION

NNWO prepared talking points with Navajo Department of Health and Navajo Division of Children and Family Services, and virtually attended the listening session regarding the reorganizing of HHS.

JULY 18, 2025

CONGRESSWOMAN TERESA LEGER FERNÁNDEZ (D-NM) (STAFF)

NNWO met with Congresswoman Leger Fernández's staff to discuss the Gallup Indian Medical Center funds being transferred. The Congresswoman's staff said they would look into this further and let us know if they are able to determine if the funds have already been transferred.

FEDERAL MEETINGS**JULY 22, 2025****DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

DHS leadership, including the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs, the Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Tribal Affairs, the FEMA Liaison, and the head of Community Relations for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, visited NNWO to discuss concerns regarding bad actors imitating federal law enforcement officers to harass people who appear to be of Latin American descent. The discussion also included the REAL ID program, and some of the challenges tribal members in extremely rural areas face in proving their identity to the standards necessitated by the federal government.

The DHS team was very receptive to these matters and asked the Nation to immediately report any potential ICE imitators to them. DHS further said they would attempt to work with the United States Postal Service to address the issues of rural addressing. They also proposed a review of the acceptable proof of residency means for securing REAL IDs, as even utility bills do not show actual street addresses or widely known community names.



NNWO Deputy Executive Director DeWayne Crank (left) and NNWO staff Kyle Petersen (right) with DHS staff following meeting on July 22, 2025.

FEDERAL MEETINGS**JULY 22, 2025****SENATOR BEN RAY LUJÁN (D-NM)**

NNWO staff met with staff from Senator Luján's office to discuss the reintroduction of the Indian Programs Advanced Appropriations Act of 2025. The Senator had reached out requesting the Nation to support this legislation. The Nation's concern is that the legislation includes a consultation requirement for tribal organizations, which the Nation has a longstanding position of advocating against. NNWO provided technical assistance on this and is working with Senate Committee on Indian Affairs staff to finalize the language for the legislation.

JULY 23, 2025**SENATOR CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO (D-NV) (STAFF)**

President Nygren and NNWO staff met with Senator Cortez Masto's staff to discuss support for the Parity for Tribal Law Enforcement Act. The Senator's staff indicated that the Senator would likely sign-on as a co-sponsor to the legislation when it drops. This legislation would provide pension and death benefits to tribal law enforcements officers performing federal functions under a self-determination contract or compact.

JULY 23, 2025**SENATE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS (STAFF)**

President Nygren and NNWO staff met with Senate Committee on Indian Affairs staff to discuss the Nation's request for an update on the Nation's proposed oversight hearing regarding the closure of the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation. SCIA staff encouraged the Nation to propose legislation for the transfer of ONHIR's obligations rather than to seek an oversight hearing. Additional updates have been sent to the Navajo Hopi Land Commission.

JULY 23, 2025**SENATOR THOM TILLIS (R-NC) STAFF**

President Nygren and NNWO staff met with Senator Tillis' staff to discuss support for the Parity for Tribal Law Enforcement Act. The Senator's staff indicated that the Senator would likely sign-on as a co-sponsor to the legislation when it drops. This legislation would provide pension and death benefits to tribal law enforcements officers performing federal functions under a self-determination contract or compact.



FEDERAL MEETINGS

JULY 23, 2025

IHS REALIGNMENT CONSULTATION

President Nygren and NNWO staff attended the IHS Realignment consultation and expressed his disappointment with the transfer of funds from the GIMC project to another tribe. IHS Acting Director Ben Smith responded with an apology for the lack of notice given to the Nation and assured President Nygren that the GIMC site was still on the priority construction list.

JULY 24, 2025

U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE

NNWO staff resumed its meetings with the U.S. Marshals Service following a hiatus caused by the Oak Ridge Fire, as well as the departure of the Marshals' primary point of contact. NNWO will help facilitate a meeting between the Marshals and Navajo Chief of Police Ron Silversmith to discuss what support the Nation's law enforcement needs in its effort to track missing children.

NAVAJO MEETINGS

JULY 7, 2025

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

NNWO hosts a weekly meeting with NHLCO and NNDOJ to ensure all departments are on the same page regarding our advocacy and efforts related to the likely closure of the Office of Navajo Hopi Indian Relocation.

JULY 11, 2025

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER AND NAVAJO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Speaker Curley requested NNWO provide an update to Council on the status of the GIMC transfer of funds. NNWO conducted a legal analysis on the situation, and drafted a response letter to Speaker Curley and Chair James directed to Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Robert Kennedy.

JULY 7, 2025

NAVAJO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IHS CONSULTATION AND HHS LISTENING SESSION

NNWO coordinated a meeting with Navajo Department of Health to prepare talking points for Council Delegates participating in the IHS consultation on realignment, as well as the HHS listening session on restructuring.

JULY 16, 2025

NAVAJO DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND DEPARTMENT OF DINÉ EDUCATION

NNWO joined a meeting with NNDOJ and DODE to present on the current federal funding landscape.

OTHER MEETINGS

NNWO Deputy Executive Director (left) with Governor Hobbs (right)

JULY 22, 2025
ARIZONA GOVERNOR KATIE HOBBS
ROUNDTABLE

NNWO staff attended a roundtable hosted by Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs. The gathering brought together tribal leaders, tribal representatives, and state officials to discuss priorities and challenges facing Indigenous communities across Arizona. The Governor emphasized the importance of government-to-government engagement with tribes and said she would support helpful federal legislation for tribes.

JULY 8, 2025 and JULY 14, 2025
NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH
TRIBAL CAUCUS
IHS STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

NNWO staff attended the NIHB tribal caucus where NIHB provided a space for dialogue regarding issues to raise for the upcoming IHS Strategic Realignment consultation. NIHB later provided template comments for participants.

JULY 24, 2025
UDALL NATIVE NATION BUILDING
SEMINAR

NNWO hosted the Udall Center's for its Native Nation Building Seminar for Congressional Interns. The seminar included sessions on Native Nation Building, Strengthening Indigenous Self-Governance, Making Native Nation Economies Work, and more.



UPCOMING CONSULTATIONS

THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS - Indian Affairs Public Health Needs Assessment

Written Comments due August 8, 2025

The Bureau of Indian Affairs is proposing to renew an information collection titled Indian Affairs Public Health Needs Assessment. Learn more [here](#).

THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS - Payment for Appointed Counsel in Involuntary Indian Child Custody Proceedings in State Courts, 25 CFR 23.13

Written Comments due August 8, 2025

The Bureau of Indian Affairs is proposing to renew an information collection titled Payment for Appointed Counsel in Involuntary Indian Child Custody Proceedings in State Courts, 25 CFR 23.13. Learn more [here](#).

THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS - Tribal Enrollment Count

Written Comments due August 8, 2025

The Bureau of Indian Affairs is proposing to renew an information collection titled Tribal Enrollment Count. Learn more [here](#).

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - WIC Tribal Organizations and U.S. Territories Study

Written Comments due August 12, 2025

The Department of Agriculture invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on this proposed information collection for the WIC Tribal Organizations and U.S. Territories Study. This is a new information collection request. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) administers the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program to improve the health of nutritionally at-risk women and children. WIC is one of the nation's most successful public health nutrition programs. This study involves all 32 Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs, "Tribal Organizations") and 5 U.S. territories that operate WIC State agencies, 5 tribally operated local WIC agencies, and approximately 15 geographic State agencies that share a border with a Tribal Organization. This study aims to inform FNS about variations in operations among Tribal Organizations, U.S. territories, and geographic States administering WIC as local and State agencies. The results of the study may inform efforts to improve WIC program operations and participant services. Learn more [here](#).

UPCOMING CONSULTATIONS**THE ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES - Native Employment Works Plan Guidance and Program Report**

Written Comments due August 18, 2025

The Administration for Children & Families is requesting a 3-year extension of the Native Employment Works (NEW) Plan Guidance and NEW Program Report (Office of Management and Budget #0970-0174, expiration August 31, 2025). There are minor changes requested to the NEW Plan Guidance. Learn more [here](#).

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - Nominations for National Advisory Council on Indian Education

Nominations due August 31, 2025

The Department of Education is seeking nominations for individuals to fill vacant seats and serve on the National Advisory Council on Indian Education. Learn more [here](#).

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS - Nominations for Advisory Committee on Tribal and Indian Affairs

Nominations due August 31, 2025

The Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, Office of Tribal Government Relations, is seeking nominations of qualified candidates to be considered for appointment as a member of the Advisory Committee on Tribal and Indian Affairs to represent the following Indian Health Service Areas: Great Plains, Portland, Phoenix, Oklahoma City, Alaska, Albuquerque, Native Hawaiian, Urban Indian, and Member At-Large. Learn more [here](#).

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR - Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians Petitions for Federal Acknowledgement as an American Indian Tribe

Nominations due September 3, 2025

The Department of the Interior gives notice that the group known as the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians, a petitioner for Federal acknowledgment as an American Indian Tribe, has chosen to complete the petitioning process under the current version of the acknowledgment regulations (as revised July 31, 2015). The Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians had been proceeding under the previous version of the regulations (as they existed prior to July 31, 2015). The Department seeks comment and evidence from the public on the petition. Learn more [here](#).



UPCOMING CONSULTATIONS

THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS - Grazing Permits

Written Comments due September 9, 2025

The Bureau of Indian Affairs is proposing to renew an information collection titled "Grazing Permits." Learn more [here](#).

THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS - Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act Programs

Written Comments due September 9, 2025

The Bureau of Indian Affairs is proposing to renew an information collection titled "Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act Programs." Learn more [here](#).

THE BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION - Tribal Education Department Grant Program

Written Comments due September 9, 2025

The Bureau of Indian Education is proposing to renew an information collection titled "Tribal Education Department Grant Program." Learn more [here](#).

THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS - Trust Land Mortgage Lender Checklists

Written Comments due September 9, 2025

The Bureau of Indian Affairs is proposing to renew an information collection titled "Trust Land Mortgage Lender Checklists." Learn more [here](#).

THE FOREST SERVICE - Tribal Consultation on Alaska Roadless Rule

Written Comments due October 21, 2025

The Forest Service is hosting a Tribal Consultation on proposed changes to the Alaska Roadless Rule. The agency held a Tribal Forum engagement session on this issue July 15th from 2-3:30 (EST). Learn more [here](#).



EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Executive Order 14343 - Establishing the President's Make America Beautiful Again Commission

Issued July 3, 2025

This order establishes the President's Make America Beautiful Again Commission to promote conservation, restore public lands, and expand access to outdoor recreation such as hunting, fishing, and hiking. Chaired by the Secretary of the Interior, the commission is tasked with advising the President on responsible stewardship of natural resources, reducing regulatory barriers, and enhancing collaborative conservation efforts across federal agencies.

This order WILL impact Navajo

The impact to Navajo of this commission won't be known until it convenes and starts to make recommendations, but the lands under consideration by the commission will almost certainly include lands of interest to the Nation, including Bears Ears and the Grand Canyon. It would be worth investigating to see if we can get Navajo allies appointed to the commission.

Executive Order 14314 - Making America Beautiful Again by Improving Our National Parks

Issued July 3, 2025

This order directs the Department of the Interior to increase national park entrance and recreation fees for foreign tourists while improving affordability and access for U.S. residents, with the goal of enhancing visitor experiences and investing in park infrastructure. It also calls for a review of park regulations to expand recreational access for Americans and revokes a prior memorandum focused on diversity and inclusion in public lands.

This order MIGHT impact Navajo

The increased fees should not impact Navajo citizens seeking to visit National Parks, and may lead to less crowding and improved facilities. But it could also lead to decreased tourism for Navajo communities who rely on visitors to National Parks such as Grand Canyon visitors who come through Cameron.

Executive Order 14315 - Ending Market Distorting Subsidies for Unreliable, Foreign-Controlled Energy Sources

Issued July 7, 2025

This order directs federal agencies to eliminate subsidies and tax credits for wind, solar, and other renewable energy sources, citing concerns about cost, reliability, and foreign control of supply chains. It mandates the Departments of the Treasury and Interior to implement provisions of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act that restrict green energy incentives and remove preferential treatment for renewables on public lands.

This order WILL impact Navajo

Navajo enterprises and outside investors, including NTUA, had plans to invest in large scale clean energy projects such as solar. Not only will funding be removed, but approvals for projects may be slower because of this order.

EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Executive Order 14316 - Extending the Modification of the Reciprocal Tariff Rates

Issued July 7, 2025

This order extends the temporary suspension of increased reciprocal tariff rates on most U.S. trading partners—except China—until August 1, 2025, citing ongoing discussions and alignment on national and economic security concerns. The order authorizes relevant federal agencies to implement these tariff adjustments and continue exercising emergency powers under trade and national security laws.

This order **WILL** impact Navajo

The continued delay in implementing tariffs will allow for cheaper imports in the interim, impacting all consumers and businesses that rely on imported goods.

Executive Order - Accelerating Federal Permitting of Data Center Infrastructure

Issued July 23, 2025

This order directs federal agencies to accelerate permitting and reduce regulatory barriers for large-scale AI data centers and related infrastructure, designating projects with significant investment or national security relevance as "Qualifying Projects." It mobilizes financial incentives, simplifies environmental reviews, opens access to federal lands, and prioritizes reuse of brownfield and Superfund sites to expedite construction and deployment of critical data infrastructure across the United States.

This order **MIGHT** impact Navajo

At least one outside investor has discussed the possibility of building a data center on Navajo. This could speed up the process if Navajo decides to move forward with that proposal. Superfund sites are also mentioned, which may make it easier to build in the Lukachukai mountains, but not sure how practical it will be to build near uranium mines that have yet to be cleaned up.



Executive Order - Preventing Woke AI in the Federal Government

Issued July 23, 2025

This order prohibits federal agencies from procuring large language models that incorporate what it calls ideological bias, particularly those influenced by diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) frameworks. It mandates that AI systems used by the government must adhere to two principles—truth-seeking and ideological neutrality—and directs the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance for enforcing these standards in federal contracts.

This order MIGHT impact Navajo

This primarily impacts AI companies and their prospects of securing a federal contract, however there is some concern that AI models that are compliant with this order will have inherent biases against minorities, and impact federal programs that utilize these models.

Executive Order - Saving College Sports

Issued July 24, 2025

This order aims to preserve and expand college athletics—especially women's and non-revenue sports—by curbing third-party pay-for-play schemes and ensuring schools maintain or increase scholarship and roster opportunities. It directs federal agencies to use regulatory, legal, and funding tools to protect the educational mission of college sports and prevent its professionalization, while also safeguarding the pipeline of Olympic-level athletes.

This order MIGHT impact Navajo

This could help Navajo student athletes secure scholarships, but could hurt the highest performing athletes who could have received higher compensation.

Executive Order - Ending Crime and Disorder on America's Streets

Issued July 24, 2025

This order directs federal agencies to support stricter enforcement of laws against vagrancy, open drug use, and urban camping, while promoting expanded civil commitment and institutional treatment for homeless individuals with serious mental illness or substance use disorders. It also ends federal support for "housing first" and "safe consumption" programs, instead prioritizing accountability, treatment-based housing, and law enforcement cooperation to reduce homelessness and restore public safety in cities.

This order MIGHT impact Navajo

The implementation of "housing first" and "safe consumption" programs was criticized for allowing more drug use, but kept people out of jails. Homeless and drug using Navajos will be more likely to be arrested under this shift in policy, but it could create safer streets overall. Not clear whether the net impact will be positive or negative.

NNWO INTERNSHIP

The Navajo Nation Washington Office Internship is an 8-week program designed to provide students with real-world experience in government and legislative affairs. Interns gain a comprehensive understanding of tribal sovereignty, federal trust responsibility, and the complexities of the government-to-government relationship between the Navajo Nation and the United States.

The program ultimately empowers students to become advocates for positive change, through hands-on experience, mentorship, and exposure to real issues affecting the Navajo Nation today. The structured and supportive environment fosters skill development in research, policy evaluation, and communication, creating well-rounded professionals for any field.

This year's summer program ran from June 2 to August 1, 2025, and included five students who each worked on a project that was aligned with their interests, in addition to daily tasks.



NNWO INTERNSHIP

Andrew, Arizona State University

Studying Political Science
ASU Capitol Scholars Program

Project: Self-Governance and Protection of Cultural Property Through Intellectual Property

"My time as a summer intern with NNWO has been one of the best experiences of my life! As a political science major, I am used to learning about politics in theory through textbooks and lectures. However, my summer with NNWO provided me a chance to experience politics in motion as I learned about the behind-the-scenes work that goes into advocating for the Navajo Nation to the federal government in the Capital."



Aubrey, Arizona State University

Studying Accounting and
Computer Information Systems
Navajo Nation

Project: The National Environmental Protection Act and Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency

"This internship at NNWO has been a great learning experience, because I have learned in more detail the legislation and policy that are affecting my community... Every day at the office brought something new as we were pulled into meetings or conducted new areas of research. I appreciate my time here and will use this experience in future endeavors."



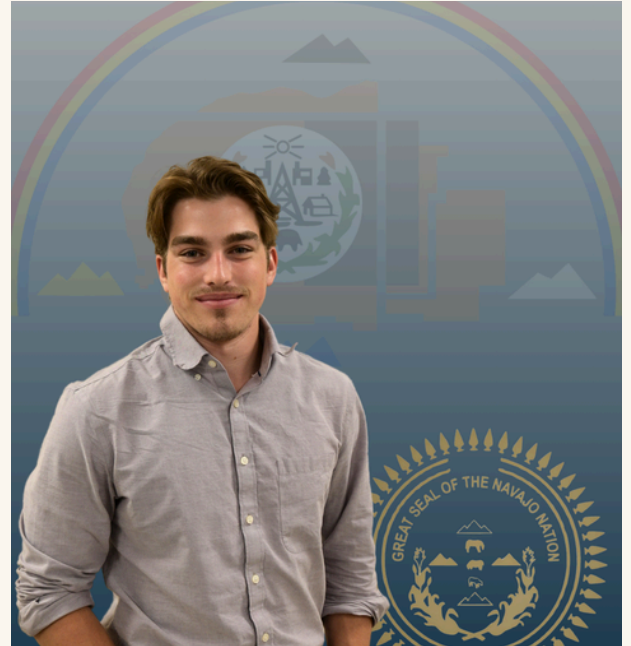
NNWO INTERNSHIP

Caiden, Vassar College

Studying Political Science and Economics
*The Fund for American Studies
Academic Internship Program*

Project: Rethinking Agriculture on the Navajo Nation

"My internship at the Navajo Nation Washington Office over the past eight weeks far exceeded my already high expectations... Most important, I learned from professionals who fostered my growth with patience and compassion, while also opening my eyes to the complexity, urgency, and importance of tribal affairs."



Vy, Arizona State University

Studying Political Science
ASU Capitol Scholars Program

Project: Underreported Crimes in the Navajo Nation: Challenges with Misrepresentation in Tribal and Federal Databases

"My summer internship at the Navajo Nation Washington Office has been nothing but spectacular and professionally transformative. My involvement with the federal government grew tremendously through going to meetings and hearings on Capitol Hill and preparing technical writing... These tasks are attainable because of the support from professionals in the office."



NNWO INTERNSHIP

Tatum, Arizona State University

Received undergraduate degree in Global Studies;
Studying for Master's in Political Science
The Fund for American Studies
Academic Internship Program

Project: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples
Data Divide and the Fight for Justice

"During my time at the Navajo Nation Washington Office I learned so much that will aid in my future career and personal development. Not only did I get the opportunity to live in Washington, D.C. and grow as an individual, but I also got to be a part of an excellent work environment... I will forever cherish the skills I acquired, the connections that I made, and the things that I learned at NNWO!"





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