

For more Info:

If you would like more information about our program, please visit our website:

navajoclimatechange.org

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2018

Climate Adaptation Plan for the Navajo Nation



Climate Change Program
Navajo Nation
Department of Fish and Wildlife
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Climate Change Program

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Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife Climate Change Program



"Climate Action for Diné'tah"

Climate Adaptation Plan for the Navajo Nation



Vision Statement

To prepare the Navajo Nation to adapt to our changing climate, and implement strategies that will preserve and enhance natural resources and provide a resilient future for the Navajo communities by:

- Protect and enhance native species of both vegetation and animals, and;
- Establish and manage their natural habitats;
- Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle;
- Implement and enforce sustainable, long-term livestock management goals;
- Recognize vulnerable areas and prepare for natural disasters;
- Provide sustainable healthy food sources for a healthier lifestyle;
- Taking advantage of advanced technology to encourage innovation and create a more efficient and livable community;
- Protect and enhance watersheds; • Cleaning up polluted areas;
- implement natural resource management plans (fire, erosion, etc.), and; • Educating the public.

NNDFW Workshop Priority List:

1. Water
2. Feral Horses
3. Communication
4. Enforcement/Compliance
5. Pollution, Air Quality, Illegal Dumping
6. Grazing Management

Climate Change Impacts

Impacts to the Navajo people, both directly and indirectly, won't be seizing so it is up to the people to adapt to the future changes. This ongoing change due to the climate around us is the reason the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife (NNDFW) established the Climate Change Program and team. The purpose for the program is to spread awareness of climate change to the Navajo people. Several hours were spent visiting communities all over the reservation to present on impacts and suggested adaptive solutions for climate change.

The Climate Change Program recruited several community leaders to assist in the assessment of vulnerabilities and impacts. At the beginning of 2018, the Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resource (NNDNR) planned a workshop with professionals. This workshop was the Professional's Workshop. Many of these professionals were field personnel rather than department managers. With the help of the Institute of Environmental Professionals (ITEP) to assist in facilitating the workshop, the NNDNR professionals were able to get their priority list together. This list was established based on the natural resource concerns. Along with the priority list, many of the professionals had the opportunity to talk about adaptation strategies and what could be improved. Many of the attendees aspired to make the Navajo Nation a healthier land that their kids, grandchildren, and great grandchildren could grow up in.

Why the Navajo Nation is Planning for Climate Change

Climate Change is real. Effects from climate change are happening right now and the Navajo people are witness to its continuing outcome. Analyzing the effects to the Navajo Nation in all aspects, the culture and traditions are at risk. Many areas are being jeopardized by climate change, one of those is – natural resources. Navajo culture is centered around the availability of its natural resources. However because of climate change impacts those resources are diminishing at an exponential rate. The people established their cultural lifestyle from the earth and its natural gifts. The ceremonial herbs, sacred stones, wildlife, and other natural resources are important elements to the people. Relations between the Navajo people and their environment is significant to their cultural values and beliefs. Many tribal and local monuments also hold a large importance to our self-identity. This is the reason why the Navajo Nation is planning for climate change. With the effects from the changing climate, there are risks associated with everything in our natural environment, the population, and places. Planning for the oncoming change helps to reduce those future risks. Climate change cannot be stopped so we must plan and adapt to those future impacts.



Chuska Mountain: Fire Damage