

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 17, 2016

Navajo Nation to Sponsor Natural Resources Summit

WINDOW ROCK, AZ. – "Build Foundations to Enhance Dine' Bikeyah's Ecosystem Through Hozho."

That's the theme of a 2016 Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources (DNR) Summit, which will be held on March 29-31, 2016 at the Twin Arrows Resort and Casino.

Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources Division Director Bidtah Becker, said, "The last time DNR sponsored a summit was in the year 2010. We are reviving the DNR Summit, which will include participation by all of the departments within DNR. The DNR Summit will be a one-stop shop so to speak for the public to learn about an array of natural resource-related issues and how to access the services of the many DNR departments."

DNR has 12 departments, which include Administration, Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation/Uranium Mine Tailings Reclamation Act, Agriculture, Fish and Wildlife, which includes the Navajo Nation Zoo, Forestry, Natural Heritage and Historic Preservation, which includes Archaeology, Land, Minerals, Navajo Nation Museum, Parks and Recreation, which includes the Navajo Nation Fair, Resource Enforcement and Water Resources. The mission of DNR is to preserve and protect the natural resources of the Navajo Nation for the benefit of future generations and the public.

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"The Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources is the backbone of the Navajo Nation government," Becker stated. "The staff and I are very excited to bring back the DNR Summit. Each department has their own goal yet we are all working in concert with each other to help the Navajo people and protect our precious resources. DNR is the first point of contact for all community and economic development projects so it is important that the public know who we are and how we can assist them in their endeavors."

Some of the topics that will be covered include Leasing and Permitting Navajo Land, Navajo Water Rights, Forestry Entrepreneurship Opportunities, Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project, Bennett Freeze/NPL Issues, Horse Round-Up, Land Buy-Back Program, Endangered Species, Climate Change on the Navajo Nation, Emergency Planning for Chapters, Land and Grazing Regulations, Navajo Beef Project, Illegal Trash Dumping, Sand and Gravel Development, Water Code Permits, Integrated Weed Management, Brand Inspection and Impoundment, Hunting and Fishing Regulations and much more.

Registration is free. For more information, go <u>www.DNRSummit2016</u> or call Kayla Bia at (928) 871-6447 or Irma Roanhorse at (928) 871-6440. Fax registration to Susan Day at the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources (928) 729-4029.