

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS Navajo Regional Office P.O. Box 1060 Gallup, New Mexico 87305

DEC 1 2 2019

Dear Permit Holder:

The review of your grazing or land use permit(s) transfers has been delayed. In the transfer process, BIA is now required to evaluate impacts to endangered species habitats and culturally significant sites affected by grazing especially in current drought conditions on the Navajo Nation. Limited vegetation and water availability poses a potential threat to wildlife, cultural resources, livestock and even land users that have to share and occupy the same lands. BIA will consider these potential threats as well as determine how best to protect and conserve the land in further processing your permit for approval or disapproval.

To address these impacts BIA lobbied for and received 2.6 million dollars in funding for the development of Navajo Nation Agricultural Resource Management Plan (ARMP). In 2019, the BIA contracted the 2.6 million dollars to the Navajo Nation Fish and Wildlife Department for the ARMP to assess Environmental Impact(s).

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Navajo Region has been diligently working on improving the grazing and land use permit transfer process while meeting the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the American Indian Agricultural Resource Management Act (AIARMA) of 2003.

We appreciate your cooperation and patience during this transitional period.

Sincerely,

Bartholomew Stevens, Navajo Regional Director