

RESOLUTION OF THE  
RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council --- Fourth Year, 2018

AN ACTION

RELATING TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE; AMENDING THE  
NAVAJO NATION RANCHES GRAZING FEE FROM \$4.00 PER ANIMAL UNIT PER  
MONTH TO \$6.00 PER ANIMAL UNIT PER MONTH

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 501 (B)(2)(a), the Resources and Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council is authorized to give final approval of all non-mineral leases on the Navajo Nation lands, including unrestricted (fee) land in accordance with applicable federal and Navajo Nation laws;
- B. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 501 (C)(1), the Resources and Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council is the oversight committee for the Division of Natural Resources, which includes the Department of Agriculture and the Navajo Tribal Ranch Program.
- C. Pursuant to 3 N.N.C. § 509 (B), the Resources and Development Committee has the authority to establish grazing fees for the utilization of the Navajo Nation ranches "Minimum lease fee shall be established by the Resources [and Development] Committee based on the recommendation of the Navajo Nation Ranch Program, Department of Agriculture through the Executive Director, Division of Natural Resources, in accordance with the provisions of this Plan of Operation, on a per animal per month basis, and may be subject to adjustment to be made as needed or necessary, to cover costs as provided herein. The Lessee(s) will be informed in writing of any modifications made in the rental fee sixty (60) days prior to the beginning of the succeeding year. Such modification will be attached as an amendment to the original lease and become a part of the lease."

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. Pursuant to Resources Committee (predecessor to the Resources and Development Committee) Resolution RCO-216-98, the grazing

fee was set at \$4.00 per animal unit per month for the use of tribal fee lands known as Navajo Nation ranches.

- B. Pursuant to 3 N.N.C. § 505, "The Navajo Nation Ranch Program shall exist to fulfill the following purposes: A. Provide for productive and optimum use of lands under the direct control of the Navajo Nation designated as Ranch lands. B. To ensure that sufficient revenues are realized to pay taxes, land use fees, and cost of administration. C. To carry out select purposes for land acquisition, pursuant to 16 N.N.C. § 1 et seq."
- C. Pursuant to 3 N.N.C. § 506 (C), "The Resources [and Development] Committee is authorized to establish use fees for Navajo Nation Ranch Lands and to adjust these fees as may be necessary to achieve a reasonable economic value for the use of these lands and to accomplish the purposes for which the land was acquired, as stated in the preceding Section. These fees may be adjusted annually for such reasons as unforeseen natural disasters and shall be adjusted at least every five (5) years, based on the recommendation of the Navajo Nation Ranch Program, Department of Agriculture through the Executive Director, Division of Natural Resources."
- D. Pursuant to 3 N.N.C. § 509 (B), recommendation of the Navajo Nation Ranch Program, Department of Agriculture through the Executive Director of the Division of Natural Resources recommends an adjustment to the grazing fees for Tribal Ranches. The memorandum is attached as **Exhibit A**.

### **SECTION THREE. APPROVAL**

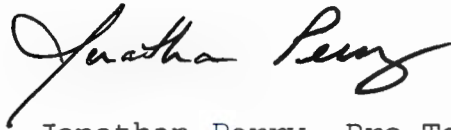
The Navajo Nation hereby approves an amendment to the Navajo Nation Tribal Ranches grazing fee. The grazing fee is amended to \$6.00 per animal unit per month. This fee is to be effective January 1, 2020.

### **SECTION FOUR. DIRECTIVE**

With regard to current Lessees, pursuant to 3 N.N.C. § 509 (B), the Navajo Nation Ranch Program is hereby directed to inform the Lessee(s) in writing of the modifications made in the rental fee sixty (60) days prior to the beginning of the succeeding year. Therefore, written notification of the fee modification is to be made is sixty (60) days prior to January 1, 2020. Such modification will be attached as an amendment to the original lease and become a part of the lease.

## CERTIFICATION

I, hereby, certify that the following resolution was duly considered by the Resources and Development Committee of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting at Navajo Nation Council Chambers, Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 3 in favor, and 2 opposed, on this 26<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2018.



Jonathan Perry, Pro Tempore Chairperson  
Resources and Development Committee  
of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council

Motion: Honorable Benjamin Bennett

Second: Honorable Walter Phelps

Pro Tempore Chairperson Jonathan Perry not voting.



# THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE PRESIDENT  
JONATHAN NEZ VICE PRESIDENT



November 2, 2018

RE: Ranch & Eastern Land Management Grazing Fee Increase

Dear Honorable Delegates,

I hope this letter finds you all well. The purpose of this letter is in support of increasing grazing fees from \$4.00 to \$8.00 per head per month. This fee was last established nearly twenty years ago and needs to be readjusted due to rising costs of managing ranch lands.

Under Title three, chapter three of the Navajo Nation Code, the purpose of the Navajo Nation Ranch Program is to provide productive and optimum use of Navajo Nation lands and to ensure that sufficient revenues are realized to pay taxes, maintain and improve ranch infrastructure, and cover associated administrative costs. Currently, the Ranch & Eastern Land Management Program is not meeting its financial needs. Therefore, the Tribal Ranch Program, operating on limited resources, must increase the current grazing fees to achieve revenue needs.

If you have any questions you may reach Ivan Becenti, Principal Extension Agent, at 928-871-6635. I hope you support the legislation to increase the grazing fees. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bidtah N. Becker, Director  
Division of Natural Resources

Ivan J. Becenti, Principal Extension Agent  
Ranch & Eastern Land Management Program  
Department of Agriculture



RCO-216-98

RESOLUTION  
OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
OF THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

FEB 21 2001

Amending the Navajo Nation Ranches Grazing Fees from \$2.75  
to \$4.00 Per Animal Unit Per Month

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 691, the Resources Committee was established and continued as a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council; and

2. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 695 (B) (2), the Resources Committee of the Navajo Nation Council is authorized to give final approval of any non-mineral leases in Navajo land, including unrestricted (fee) land, in accordance with applicable federal and Navajo Nation laws; and

3. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 695 (B) (14), the Resources Committee of the Navajo Nation Council is the oversight committee for the Division of Natural Resources, which includes the Department of Agriculture and the Navajo Tribal Ranches Program; and

4. Pursuant to 3 N.N.C. § 509 (B), the Resources Committee has the power to establish grazing fees for the utilization of the Navajo Nation ranches; and

5. Pursuant to Resources Committee Resolution No. RCD-149-98, the grazing fee was set at \$2.75 per animal unit per month for ten years and allows the Committee to adjust the grazing fees as deemed necessary, hereto attached as Exhibit "A"; and

6. It is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation that amending the grazing fees to \$4.00 per animal unit per month for the use of tribal fee lands known as Navajo Nation ranches, to be effective January 01, 1999 and to remain in effect until such time an adjustment is deemed necessary pursuant to 3 N.N.C. §§ 506 (C) and 509 (B).

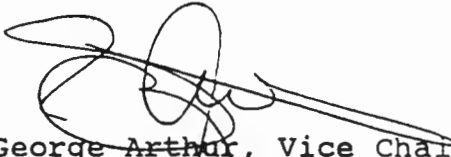
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Resources Committee of the Navajo Nation Council hereby establishes the grazing fees charged for the utilization of the Nation Ranches ranges resources, at \$4.00 per animal unit per month, to be effective January 01, 1999 and to be effective until such time an adjustment may be deemed necessary, pursuant to 3 N.N.C. §§ 506 (C) and 509 (B).

2. The Resources Committee of the Navajo Nation Council hereby directs the Division of Natural Resources and Division of Finance to assess the grazing fees at the rate of \$4.00 per animal unit per month.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Resources Committee of the Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting at Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstained, this 29th day of October, 1998.



George Arthur, Vice Chairperson  
Resources Committee

Motion: Sylvester Chee  
Second: Robert B. Whitehorse

**RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**Regular Meeting**

**ROLL CALL**  
**VOTE TALLY SHEET:**

**Legislation # 0351-18:** An Action Relating to Resources and Development Committee; Amending the Navajo Nation Ranches Grazing Fee from \$4.00 per animal unit per month to \$8.00 per animal unit per month. *Sponsor: Honorable Jonathan Hale; Co-Sponsor: Honorable Benjamin Bennett*

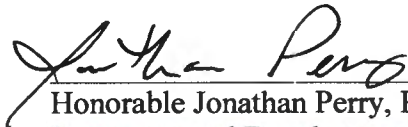
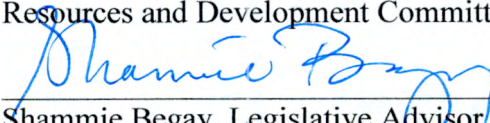
**MAIN MOTION:**

M: Benjamin Bennett                      S: Walter Phelps                      Vote: 3-2-1 (ProTemCNV)  
YEAS: Alton Joe Shepherd; Leonard Pete and Walter Phelps  
NAYS: Benjamin Bennett and Davis Filfred  
EXCUSED:

**Amendment # 1:**

M: Walter Phelps                      S: Benjamin Bennett                      Vote: 3-2-1 (ProTemCNV)  
YEAS: Alton Joe Shepherd; Leonard Pete and Walter Phelps  
NAYS: Benjamin Bennett and Davis Filfred  
EXCUSED:

Date: December 26, 2018 – Regular Meeting  
Meeting Location: Navajo Nation Council Chambers, Window Rock, Arizona

  
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Honorable Jonathan Perry, Presiding Pro Tem Chairman  
Resources and Development Committee  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Shammie Begay, Legislative Advisor  
Office of Legislative Services