

Navajo Horse Project: Past, Present, Future

Twin Arrows * August 15, 16, 2014 * 7:30 AM * FREE with Registration * Open to the Public



Meeting Moderators, August 15, 16, 2014

Mr. Gerald Moore

University of Arizona Extension, is Associate Professor at the University of Arizona-Cooperative Extension Program, his office is located in Window Rock Arizona. He received his MA from New Mexico State University and is the Coordinating Extension Agent for the Tri-State Extension Program for the Navajo Nation in 1991. He is Kiyaa'annii (Tall House) Born for the To'aheedliinii (Water Flows Together). He calls Tohatchi NM home. He has been with the Cooperative Extension for 28 years. Four years with B.I.A. Extension in Crownpoint NM, 6 years with NMSU and 18 years with University of Arizona. Mr. Moore collaborates with many inter-governmental agencies and two Tribal Colleges to deliver extension education programs in Agriculture/Natural Resources and 4H/Youth development for the Navajo Nation.

Mr. Grey Farrell Jr.

Program Coordinator, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension-Tuba City, Arizona. Grey Farrell Jr. is a member of the Dine' (Navajo) Nation of Arizona. He has lived on the Navajo Nation his entire life except for a brief time to attend college where he received his B.S. degree in Physical Education and Agriculture from Southern Utah University in Cedar City, Utah. Grey is married to Deborah Farrell and resides in Cow Springs, Arizona and Mesa, Arizona where they raise and breed American Quarter Horses. He has over 30 years of experience with the NN Department of Agriculture and the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Service providing extension education.

Friday, August 15, 2014

8:35 AM ***"Welcoming Remarks"***

Mr. Frederick H. White, Executive Director, Division of Natural Resources, Navajo Nation Originally from CORNFILDS Arizona which is located Southwest of Canyon De Chelly Monument; Graduate of Northern Arizona University in Biological Sciences; 3 years Training in Parks Service Management with the National Parks; 15 yrs. With Navajo Nation Rangers, Parks & Recreation and NN Fair Director; 13 yrs. With the Navajo Economic Development; 6 years in the position of Deputy Division Director for DNR; Appointed Division Director, Division of Natural Resources, June 1, 2010.

8:45 AM ***"Horses in Indian Country"***

- To support Tribal Nations in the protection of their Sovereign Rights to administer and manage Natural Resources on their Tribal Homelands
- To advocate for National and Tribal laws for the protection and humane treatment of livestock and other animals on tribal lands
- To protect or enhance our culturally significant foods and medicines
- To be a unified Tribal Voice that will be heard across the Nation

Ms. Katherine Good Luck, Regional Technical Assistance Specialist, [Intertribal Agriculture Council](#) (IAC), and member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Katherine promotes the Indian use of resources and contracts with federal agencies to maximize resources for tribal members.

Mr. Jason Smith, President of the National Tribal Horse Coalition, and member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon. Jason serves as the Range and Agriculture Manager, for the Branch of Natural Resources. Appointed by the Obama Administration (2010) to serve on the Oregon Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Committee.



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Jason and Katherine have been instrumental in taking the NTHC message directly to Members of Congress to prevent legislation that has proven to be detrimental to horse welfare, tribal natural resources, and our tribal economies.

Organization: The National Tribal Horse Coalition (NTHC) began in 2008 with five tribes to have a voice on how to mitigate the effects of rapidly increasing numbers of unwanted horses on tribal lands in the Pacific Northwest: Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (Oregon), Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (Oregon), Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (Washington), Confederated Tribes of the Colville (Washington), and the Shoshone Bannock (Idaho). As the numbers of unwanted horses is also prevalent on other tribal lands, the NTHC looks to include other tribes in the Southwest and mid eastern regions of the United States to address these issues. We are pleased that the both the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indian (ATNI) and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) have passed resolutions at their regional and national meetings endorsing the positions of the NTHC.

9:45 AM *"Bearer of the Sun and Moon"*

The Navajo people entered four worlds before coming into the present, Fifth World. During the ascension into the different four worlds many animals were observed to inhabit these worlds. In the four worlds, the animal being had leaders who spoke on behalf the population of animals. It was also discovered that each of the animals had chosen leaders. The leaders possessed knowledge of ceremonies.

The Fifth World was modified by First Man with the aide of other holy deities. As the Nihokáá Bítá 'Ashdla'íí (Five Fingered Earth People) began to flourish, monsters were depleting them. Changing Woman was born and found on top of Huerfano Butte.

- Twins: Birth, Travel to Sun (T'áá Baazhni Aazh), Abuse
- After the sweat bath, sun acknowledges them as his children.
- Sun shows twins soft and hard goods, and animals that would be of use to the people. But twins want weapons and will return for what they seen.
- Twins kill of Monsters

- Return to Sun for the animals
- Animals become part of Blessing Way, Night Way,
- 'Ntliz, for livestock in ceremonies and well-being for Navajo families
- Spaniards introduce domesticated animals to southwest
- Overgrazing on Navajo Lands in report to Congress in 1921.
- 1930-1935, John Collier Livestock Reduction
- 1945 WWII. Navajo wins war through language
- Feral horses overgrazing on trust lands
- 2014, Navajo Division of Natural Resources and Department of Agriculture Implements Newly and Improved Livestock Reduction

- Mr. Tony Joe-Supervisory Anthropologist. Apprentice, Historic Preservation Department, NN
- Mr. Timothy Begay-Navajo Cultural Specialist. Chanter, Historic Preservation Department, NN
- Ms. Melinda Arivso-Ciocco-Navajo Cultural Specialist. Oral historian, Historic Preservation Dpt., NN



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10:45 AM ***“Navajo Nation Horse Project: Humane Alternatives for Long-Term Management”***

This presentation will cover the history of the Navajo Nation-Richardson Group partnership; the need for an aerial assessment of the horse population; and the proposed alternatives, which have been set out in our Proposal for Long-Term Management of Horses on Navajo Nation Lands.

Ms. Deborah Torza is a board member of the Foundation to Protect New Mexico Wildlife, where she has worked closely with Governor Richardson and the Navajo Nation to bring local and national groups together to address horse overpopulation on the Navajo Nation. With more than a decade of experience working on the federal, state and local levels, Deborah Torza has become a leading provider of government relations on a broad range of issues. Deborah graduated from the University of New Mexico with a degree in print journalism. She began working on political campaigns in 2000 and maintains bipartisan relationships with current and upcoming candidates. With experience gained as an analyst with the legislative Tax and Revenue and Business and Industry Committees, she started her own consulting firm in 2005.

Ms. Alarie Ray-Garcia manages communications and other projects for the Foundation to Protect New Mexico Wildlife. She has worked with Governor Richardson as an advisor and communications specialist on many animal protection initiatives over the past several years. She owns her own public relations firm, Impronta, located in Albuquerque, NM.

Ms. Deborah Risberg is the Navajo Nation Horse Project Manager for Animal Protection of New Mexico, coordinating between the Navajo Nation, The Foundation to Protect New Mexico Wildlife, and our national animal-protection-group partners. Deborah has a B.S. in Biology from the University of New Mexico. She was a biologist and technical editor at Los Alamos National Laboratory, a fish biologist for Alaska Department of Fish and Game in the native village of Emmonak, Alaska, and was the wildlife programs manager at APNM for 3 years. She was also a massage therapist for 13 years, a painter, and a violinist in several bands and orchestras.

1:00 PM ***“Navajo Horse Round Up”***

All aspects of the Navajo Nation’s effort to manage its horse population for the health and safety of the animals and people on the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Veterinary and Livestock Program presentation focuses on the Navajo Veterinary & Livestock Program’s 2013 and 2014 chapter field services under the Emergency Drought funding and carryover, CJY-55-13. The field services include stallion castrations and mare PZP injections. NNVL staff from the Chinle, Shiprock and Tse Bonito Clinics conducted all veterinary services.

Mr. Ray Castillo, Principle Extension Agent, Grazing Management Office, Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture

Ms. Glenda Davis, CVT, MBA - A member of the Dine’ Nation, maternal clan is of the Water’s Edge People, born for the Salt People, and resides in the community of Sawmill, AZ (Navajo Nation). Presently, working for the Navajo Tribe as the Program Manager for the Veterinary & Livestock Program for over seventeen years and as a Certified Veterinary Technician for ten years prior. “A microbiologist with a MBA” is her educational background. She graduated from Colorado State University with a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Microbiology then pursued her Master’s in Business Administration with



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the University of Phoenix. Ms. Davis is the team leader for the Foreign Animal Disease Task Force for the Prevention of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF) with the Navajo Nation. She presently is a member of the Statewide Coalition (Arizona Department of Health Services, Center of Disease Control & Prevention, Indian Health Services, and Six Tribal Nations) for the Prevention of RMSF.

2:00 PM ***"Striving for Balance"***

James Peshlakai has dedicated his life to the preservation of Navajo culture. Born near Wupatki National Monument near Flagstaff, he is a teacher, artist, and medicine man who successfully bridges cultural gaps. His father, uncles, and grandfathers were all medicine men. Mr. Peshlakai is also an accomplished artist and silversmith and has taught Applied Indigenous Studies at Northern Arizona University. He has spoken on the Navajo Way at institutions throughout the country including Wooster College, Vanderbilt University, and the Telluride Institute. He has guided numerous trips for at-risk Navajo youth in the Grand Canyon where he teaches self-reliance, native plants, geology, and cultural values. When not teaching or touring, he takes care of his sheep at his family ranch near Cameron, Arizona.

3:00 PM ***"RDC Perspective"***

Honorable Council Delegate Katherine Benally represents the Chapters and Communities of Dennehotso, Chinchilbeto and Kayenta in the Western Agency of the Navajo Nation. She is also the Chairperson of the Resources and Development Committee, which serves as oversight for several Navajo Nation Divisions and Offices including Natural Resources, Community Development, Transportation, and the Navajo Environmental Protection Agency. In the 21st Navajo Nation Council, she served as Chairperson for the Economic Development Committee, and in the 20th Council she was a member of the Education Committee.

Honorable Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie, Navajo Nation Council, represents Littlewater, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake, Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Ojo Encino, Counselor. Mr. Tsosie earned a Bachelor of Science at the University of New Mexico and his JD at the University of New Mexico. Mr. Tsosie served as Senator, New Mexico State Senate, 1992-2006.

4:00 PM ***"Water Is Life"***

Presentation will cover specific activities that contribute to generating Non-Point Source surface water pollution on Navajo Nation. Some of the activities cause increase runoff and increase erosion that is degrading the land and water quality.

Mr. Fred Johnson, Environmental Specialist, Navajo Nation EPA, Surface and Ground water Department, Water Quality/ NPEDS Program. Mr. Johnson has been with NNEPA for 16 years doing surface water quality monitoring and conducting outreach to schools and communities on and off the reservation. Mr. Johnson also worked with Navajo Forestry and Navajo Fish and Wildlife.

4:30 PM ***"Traditional & Cultural Aspects of the Modern Horse"***

Presenting on all aspects of Equine Management.

Wayne Franklin, certified Journeyman farrier, Equine Nutritionist (cultural, modern medicine); BS degree in Equine Science, New Mexico State University.



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Saturday, August 16, 2014

8:45 AM ***"Navajo Rangeland Improvement Act of 2014"***

For many years the Navajo Nation has attempted to change laws to address the demands, needs and concerns of the Dine' People. The Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture attempted to do so in 1999, 2006 and again in 2013/2014. The same problems still exist but have grown exponentially. Today at the direction of the RDC the Department of Agriculture began drafting the Navajo Rangeland Improvement Act to address the many issues voiced at the public meetings. To get the Dine People's input we have conducted presentations throughout the Navajo Nation.

Mr. Ray Castillo, Principle Grazing Management Office Staff, Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture. Mr. Castillo has been employed with The Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture for 23 years. He was a St. Michaels Chapter Official and an all-around employee with experience in giving presentations, conducting horse round ups, and providing branding/sheep shearing services to the community.

9:45 AM ***"Navajo Nation's Rangelands: Its Current Condition"***

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Region—Branch of Natural Resources.

Genevieve Benally, Rangeland Management Specialist for the B.I.A. Central Navajo Agency Branch of Natural Resources in Chinle, AZ. A graduate from Utah State University—College of Natural Resources, B.S. in Environmental Sciences.

Casey Francisco, Rangeland Management Specialist for the B.I.A. Western Navajo Agency-Branch of Natural Resources in Tuba City, AZ. A graduate from New Mexico State University-College of Agriculture, Bachelor of Science in Agriculture.

10:45 AM ***"Understanding the Past to Protect our Future"***

Presentation will present and explain data and numbers from past horse gatherings to understand the issues at hand. These numbers were recorded from actual horse gatherings the Navajo Nation Veterinary & Livestock Program were involved with.

Dr. Kelly Upshaw-Bia, graduated from Colorado State University School of Veterinary Medicine in 2005. Ms. Upshaw has been working the NNVLP since June 2005.

1:00 PM ***"Save the Navajo Horse"***

Mr. Leland Grass. Dine' Traditionalist from the Betatakin Canyon area of Arizona, south of Navajo National Monument. He is the youngest Ho'ya'nee' (vigilant one) for the 12 Traditional Headsmen Council of Nahooká Dine'.

2:00 PM ***"Where do the Horses Go?"***

Dr. Scott Bender, Veterinarian, Navajo Veterinary and Livestock Program, Chinle Veterinary Clinic, Navajo Department of Agriculture, Navajo Nation. Dr. Bender is a Tribal Veterinarian, working primarily as a clinician, regulatory programs and wildlife Veterinarian, now over 16 years, for the Navajo Nation Veterinary program, Department of Agriculture. Education background includes degrees in Animal science, range science, biochemistry and



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Veterinary Science. Attended both Oregon State University and Washington State University- College's of Veterinary Medicine. Previous work included; Seaworld with aquatic animal medicine, the US Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Forensic Lab, the Atlantic Veterinary College , Canada, as a large animal medicine - surgery clinician, and assistant instructor of wildlife medicine. Presently, besides working as a Tribal Veterinarian, continues to consult with the USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services in Arizona , doing cooperative Rabies projects, primarily on evaluation and use of Oral Rabies baits, Oral Rabies vaccines and birth control vaccines, for use in feral and free-roaming canines and USDA Veterinary Services as the Navajo area Foreign animal disease investigation Veterinarian.

3:00 PM **PANEL – “Presentation of Solutions”**

Panel Synopsis:

Will explore and search for solutions to managing the Navajo Nation horse population. The Panel will be given a question and it is up to each side to provide their opinion on how to properly address the problem. The panel will include three Panelist who support the Round Ups, and three Panelist who are against the Round Ups. The Panel discussion will be an hour and forty-five minutes with a Moderator.

PANEL Moderator

Ms. Marley Shebala is Diné (Navajo) and A:shiwi (Zuni). She is Tó'aheedlínii (Water Flows Together clan), her mother's clan, and born for Naasht'ezhi Cha'al Dine'e (Zuni Frog clan), which her father's clan. Ms. Shebala started her independent journalism business, “Marley Shebala's Notebook”, after she left the Navajo Times in February 2013, where she was the senior news reporter. Her news reporting specialties were domestic violence, the environment, government, and veterans. Her news reporting received recognition from state and national organizations during her 29 years as a journalist.

Ms. Shebala was also the first KTNN radio station news director. She also established the Farmington Daily Times' first and only Dine' Bureau in Window Rock. She also served as the Dine' Bureau news reporter and photographer for the Gallup Independent.

Her work, has appeared in News From Indian Country, The Native Voice, New Mexico Magazine, National Museum of the American Indian magazine, Farmington Daily Times, Gallup Independent, two books on Native Americans, and the journalism textbook “Covering Violence.”

PANEL Members:

- Mr. Ray Thomas: White Cone Chapter Grazing Official
- Mr. Casey Begay: Coyote Canyon Grazing Official. Currently employed as a Department Manager at the Capital Improvement Office at the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development.
- Mr. Glenmore Begay: Coalmine Canyon Grazing Official. Western Grazing Agency Secretary.
- Mr. Curtis Yanito: Mexican Water Grazing Official.
- Mr. Clinton Jim: Standing Rock Land Board Member, Eastern Navajo Land Board Secretary.
- Mr. Leland Grass: Dine' Traditionalist from the Betatakin Canyon area of Arizona, south of Navajo National Monument. He is the youngest Ho'ya'nee' (vigilant one) for the 12 Traditional Headsmen Council of Nahooká Dine'.



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