



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Resources and Development Committee considers extension for proposed alignments for range units in Navajo Partitioned Lands

TSE BONITO, N.M. – On Tuesday, the Resources and Development Committee considered Legislation No. 0287-16, which seeks to amend CAP-26-16 by approving a 30-day extension for Navajo Partitioned Land chapters to establish proposed alignments for range units.

In April, Council approved CAP-26-16, which adopted and confirmed the range unit boundaries and grazing districts established by the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the Navajo Partitioned Lands, which includes precincts one, two, and three.

Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Dwight Witherspoon (Black Mesa, Forest Lake, Hardrock, Pinon, Whippoorwill) stated that the 30-day extension would allow NPL chapters to consult with families that are affected by the proposed range units and to possibly adjust the proposed boundaries.

Precinct one consists of 19 range units, approximately 177,037 acres, in Tolani Lake, Low Mountain, Teesto, and White Cone. Precinct two consists of 17 range units, approximately 466,588 acres, in Forest Lake, Black Mesa, Hard Rock, Pinon, Blue Gap, and Whippoorwill. Precinct three consists of 15 range units, approximately 262,758 acres, in Tonalea, Shonto, Chilchinbeto, Kayenta, and Black Mesa.

RDC member Council Delegate Walter Phelps (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tsidi To ii) asked which NPL chapters needed the 30-day extension and which precincts were already completed.

“The communities of Forest Lake, Hardrock, and Black Mesa need the 30-day extension. After careful review of the proposed range unit boundaries, the chapters found that the proposed lines effect grazing and customary use of lands and families affected by the proposed range units are making efforts to address and agree on the range unit lines. Consultation with the families would require more time. Precinct one and three are completed,” added Delegate Witherspoon.

According to CAP-26-16, proposed alignments for range units must be made through chapter resolutions and grazing committee resolutions within 120 days, which expired on Aug. 25. CAP-26-16 also directs the Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources to provide chapters in precinct two with large maps of individual proposed range units and provide detailed information on the

number of cancelled permittee(s), living and deceased, for possible heirs who live in the range unit to get agreement on alignment changes through resolutions.

The Resources and Development Committee approved Legislation No. 0287-16 with a 3-0 vote. The Navajo Nation Council serves as the final authority for the legislation.

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