



## The 21<sup>st</sup> Navajo Nation Council

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June 10, 2010

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Resources Committee approves eligibility requirements for a grazing permit on Navajo Partitioned Lands, bill goes to IGR for final approval**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – The Resources Committee of the 21<sup>st</sup> Navajo Nation Council convened during a regular meeting and passed pieces of legislation approving eligibility requirements for issuance of a grazing permit on Navajo Partitioned Lands.

Before the committee could pass the legislation approving the eligibility requirements, it had to rescind Resolution IGRD-355-06 through Legislation No. 0345-10.

“If you look at the Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) resolution it has language of “proposed,” Council Delegate Amos F. Johnson (Forest Lake) said. “Resolution IGRD-355-06 went to the Resources Committee back in 2006 and passed and went to IGR. Thereafter, it went to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).”

“When the BIA received the resolution they read it and said the word “proposed” was problematic. The BIA said, ‘This resolution is only proposed,’ Johnson stated. “The BIA sent it back to the tribe. Now, I am asking for support for rescinding the IGR resolution, which was confusing.”

Council Delegate George Arthur (T’iistoh Bikaad/San Juan/Nenanezad), chairman for the Resources Committee, said everything in the eligibility process for issuing the grazing permit was complete except for the word “proposed,” which the BIA recommends to change. “In order to act in proper fashion, we have to rescind the previous legislation,” said Arthur.

After rescinding the resolution by passing Legislation No. 0345-10 on 6-0 vote, the committee acted and passed Legislation No. 0344-10, 6-0. Passage of Legislation No. 0344-10 approves the eligibility requirements for persons to qualify for issuance of a grazing permit on the Navajo Partitioned Lands.

Exhibit “A” of Legislation No. 0344-10, prepared by the Navajo Department of Agriculture’s Grazing Management Program and the District Grazing Committee, details the eligibility criteria for Navajo Partitioned Lands.

According to the eligibility requirements, in order for an individual to receive a permit to graze livestock on the Navajo Partitioned Lands the person must:

1. Appear as a permittee on the list of permits cancelled on October 14, 1973, or be the legally recognized heir or assignee to the permit of a deceased individual appearing on said list;

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2. Be listed on the 1974 or 1975 BIA enumeration within NPL or be legally recognized heir or assignee to the permit of a deceased individual appearing on said list;
3. Be a recognized full-time resident of the NPL and reside within the Customary use area where the cancelled permit was used;
4. Be an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation 18 years of age or older; and
5. Not have received any of the following accommodations:
  - a. Signed an accommodation agreement to remain on Hopi Partitioned Lands; or have a valid grazing permit for Hopi Partitioned Lands
  - b. Received a permit to graze livestock on New Lands
  - c. Reissued a grazing permit outside the Navajo Partitioned Land on Navajo Nation.

Legislation No. 0344-10 now goes to the IGR Committee for final approval. This legislation strikes out the word "proposed" and consists of an amendment that would delete references of words such as "proposed" from possible IGR amendments.

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