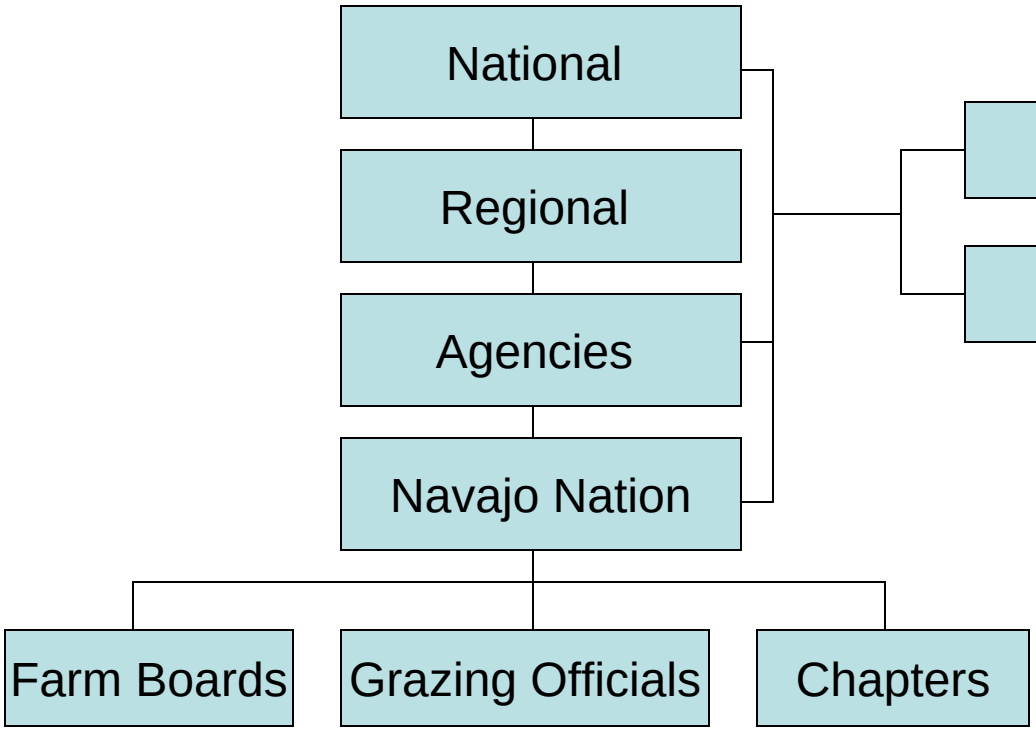
WORKING TOGETHER

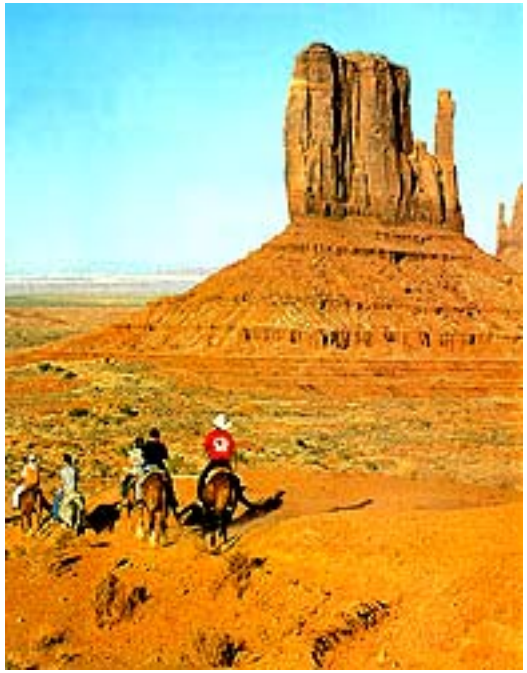
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Navajo Region and NRCS

Navajo Region & NRCS Cooperate at all levels



A Large and Complex Nation

- Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico
- 31% of land managed by BIA
- 17 million acres – About the size of New Jersey
- Population –250,000 to 300,000
- 58.5% of Navajos lack plumbing
- 68.4% of Navajo lack telephone
- Travel long distances on dirt roads for amenities



Data from: Chapter Images, 2004 Edition
Navajo Nation Division of Community Development

7 Vegetation Zones

1. Mohave Desert with 5”-7” PV
2. Semi-desert grasslands with 6.5” to 8.5” PZ
3. Mixed grasslands with 8.5” to 12” PZ
4. Sagebrush Steppe with 12”-15”PZ
5. Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands with 15”-18” PZ
6. Ponderosa Pine with 18”-21”PZ
7. Mixed Conifer with 21” + PZ

Seven zones described by Lyngholm (1978)

Vegetative Types on the Navajo Nation

Precipitation ranges from 5-25” per year

Pinyon Tree

Black Mesa Navajo Nation

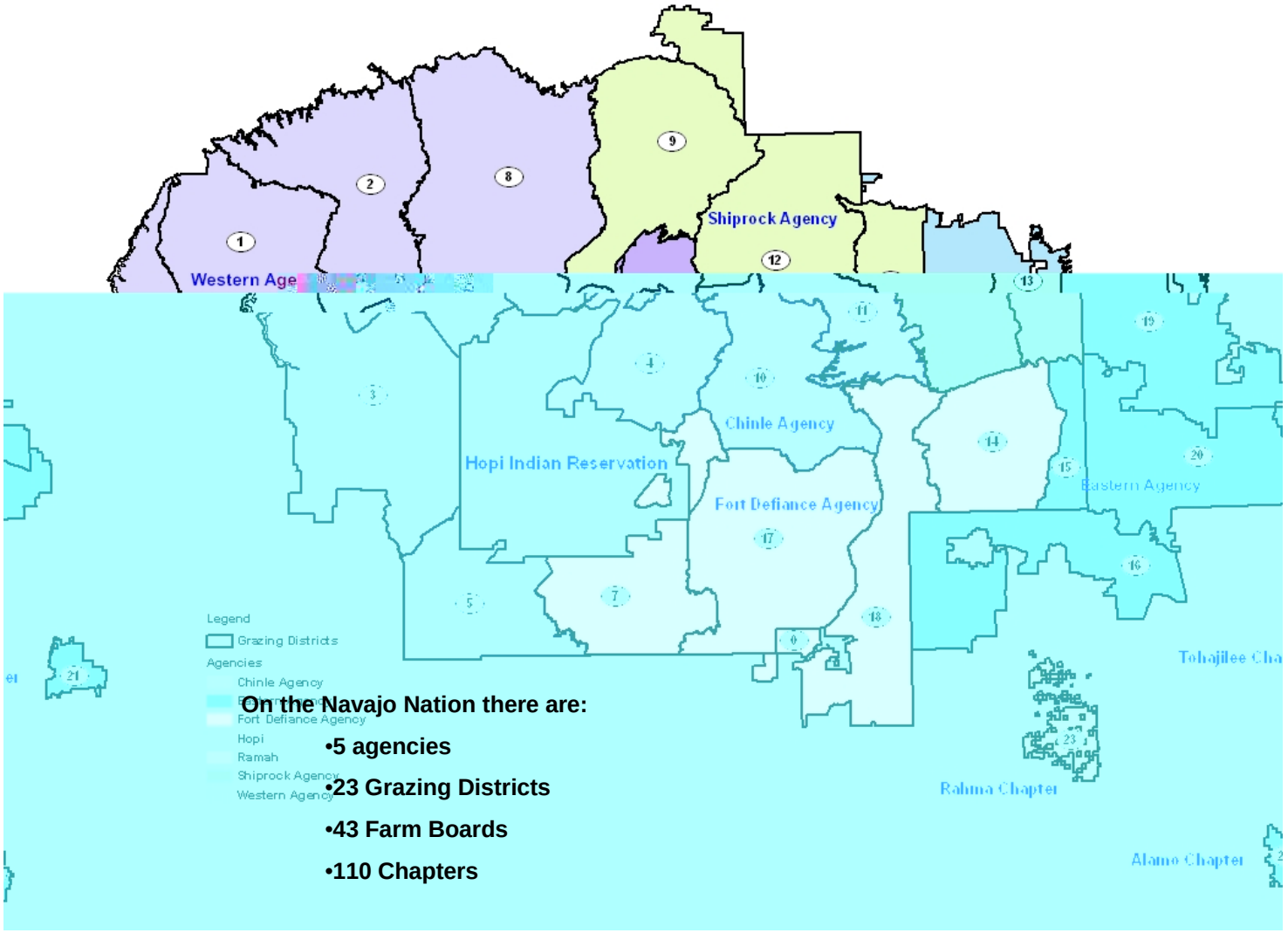
West Slope of Chuska Mtns.

Juniper

Semiarid Grass and Shrub Lands

Mountain Meadows, Chuska Mountains.

Navajo Agencies and Grazing Districts



On the Navajo Nation there are:

- **5 agencies**
- **23 Grazing Districts**
- **43 Farm Boards**
- **110 Chapters**

Navajo Region-NRCS Agreements

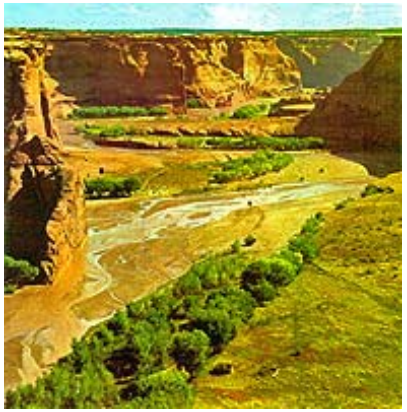
Past Agreements

- NM NRCS provided financial and technical assistance with the Ft. Defiance Soil Survey
- Provided BIA Soil Department an office in the Gallup Field Office for two years.

Spider Rock

Soil Survey MOUs

- BIA lead agency on Chinle and Ft. Defiance Surveys
- 2006 – Congress mandated NRCS to finish all US Soil Surveys by 2010
- Tribal lands – considered private land



Canyon De Chelly

BIA Navajo and the Arizona NRCS Agreed

- NRCS would finish the Ft. Defiance and Chinle Surveys
- BIA would provide 30% of one FTE to assist with the field work

Progress

- Ft. Defiance and Monument Valley Surveys are published
- Field work on Chinle in March 2009 was half finished
- Little Colorado River is partially complete

Interagency Agreement for Technical Assistance with Ecological Classification

- Five year agreement - four surveys
- 10 million acres
- NRCS
  - ecological site to soil correlation
  - Ecological Site Descriptions
- BIA - $500,000 per year

- 7,809 grazing permits within the four surveys
- Progress
  - Fort Defiance has been completed
  - Currently working on the Monument Valley SS

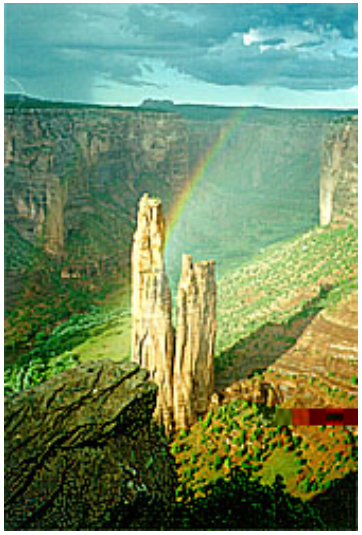
Monument Valley

Conservation Work

- New Mexico, Arizona and Utah Field Offices
- Develop conservation plans
  - Range Management Units
  - Farm Land Use Areas
- BIA Staff are being trained to become Certified Conservation Planners.

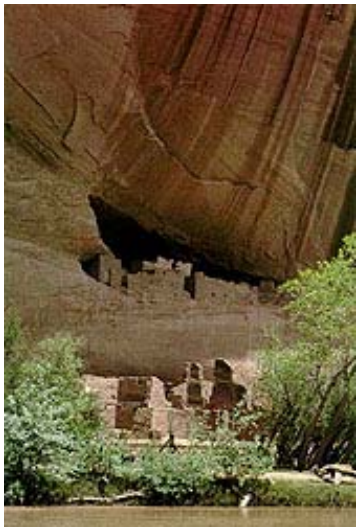
NRCS Salinity Project
Shiprock Agency

- Part of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program
- Located on McKracken Mesa in Utah
- 1100-1500 acres



Spider Rock

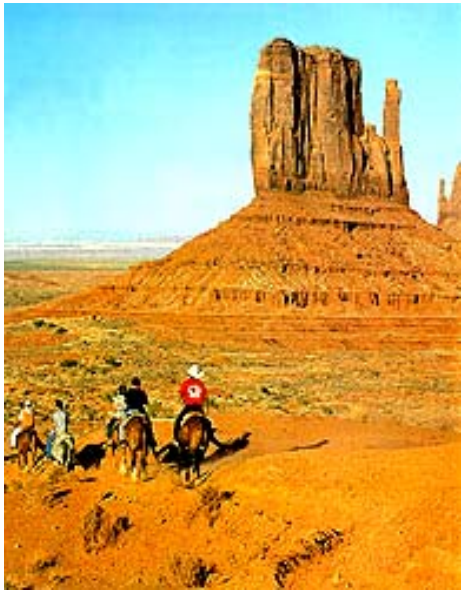
- Reduce runoff into the Colorado River
- Prescribed grazing
- Livestock exclusion 1-3 years
- Monitoring



White House Ruins

Noxious Weeds Coordinated Management Area

- Draft MOU between BIA, NRCS, Hopi, Navajo Nation and Peabody Coal
- Work will be on the Moenkopi Wash in Western Agency



The Diné

- Adapt new technologies to their advantage
- Traditions are being lost
- Recovering traditions

Navajo Cowboy

Traditional Agriculture

- Traditional Practices were Sustainable
- Intervention of the Federal Government
  - Wars, Treaty of 1868
  - Kit Carson
  - Confinement on the reservation
  - Long Walk
  - Boarding Schools
  - Collier

Dry Land Farming

A movement to reestablish agriculture

- As an economic base
- Return to traditional practices
- Integrate spirituality
- Learning new technology
- Exploring Markets