

THE STATUS OF SOIL SURVEYS ON THE NAVAJO NATION

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The Navajo Nation lies within Major Land Resource Area 35, the Colorado Plateau. It is located within the Four Corners area of the Southwest and covers three states; Arizona, New Mexico and a small part of Utah. The Treaty of 1868 established the first legal boundaries for the approximately 16 million acre reservation. The Navajo Nation is the largest reservation in the United States with a population of 300,000. It has the largest population of any reservation. There are all or part of 16 National Cooperative Soil Survey Areas within the Navajo Nation boundaries. The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Region, Land Inventory and Classification Department has two surveys in progress; the Ft. Defiance Soil Survey and the Chinle Soil Survey. The Ft. Defiance survey is nearing completion; the spatial data is complete, the NASIS database has been populated and the checks and validations have been run. The Chinle Survey, which is being mapped digitally, is in the initial stages of predelimitation.