

Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group
Agenda Item Form
August 24-25, 2016

Agenda Item

Stakeholder's Perspective: The River of Never-Ending Life—Cultural Resources from Navajo

Purpose of Agenda Item

To explain why the Navajo Nation is an AMWG member, what they hope to achieve at the AMWG table, and what is important to Navajo about the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program.

Action Requested

Information item only; we will answer questions but no action is requested.

Presenter

Melinda Arviso-Ciocco, AMWG Alternate and Navajo Cultural Specialist, Traditional Culture Program, Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department

Previous Action Taken

N/A

Relevant Science

N/A

Summary of Presentation and Background Information

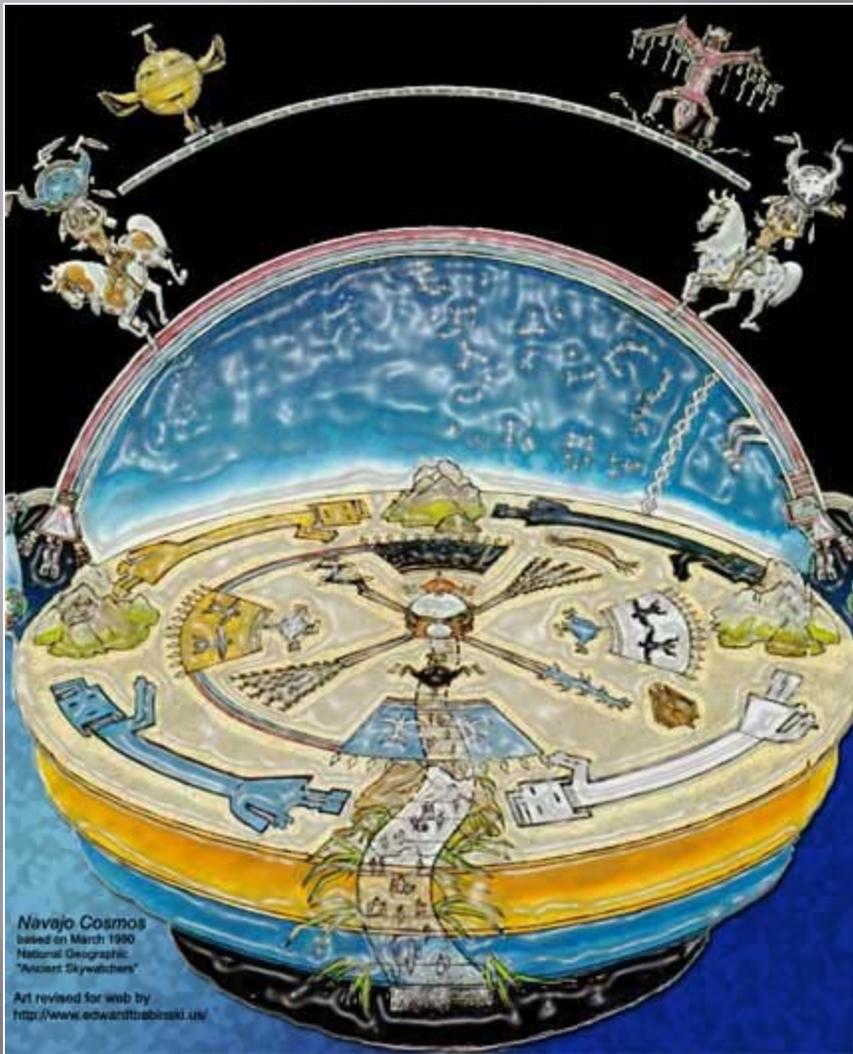
The Navajo Nation is one of five tribes that participates in the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program. Each tribe has unique perspectives and concerns relative to the Grand Canyon. Ms. Arviso-Ciocco will discuss the Navajo Nation's relationship to the Canyon and goals for their participation in the AMP.

TCP CORE VALUES
NIHOSDZAAN DOO'
DAHODIYINGOO BA'HAYAA'

Protecting Our Mother Earth and
Sacred Places

Navajo Universe & Worldview

- There is little or no distinction between natural and cultural resources.
- Based on a holistic view of the environment that we inhabit.
- Our kinship system is extended to our environment.
- There are four basic elements in the Navajo Universe: Earth, Air, Fire & Water



Earth & Sky

Nahasdzaan nima até'
The Earth is our mother

Yadihil nihitaa'
The Sky is our father

We are not removed from
the Earth, but a part of her,
just as the mountains,
water, plants, etc.,



Air

Nilch'i Diyinii

The air/winds are holy beings that reside within the cardinal directions as a part of the Sky.

The wind travels within each of us, the whirls found on your bodies are evident of this.



Water

Tó Asdzaan–Water Woman



This term encompasses all the hydrological forces. Water is the life blood of the earth.

Because its scarcity and cultural relevancy, every natural source of water is respected & considered sacred.

Fire



Hajiinaidee Ko

-Ancient Fire from the
place of Emergence

Fire is considered sacred
because it provides
protection and life to
those who respect it.

Navajo Existence

The Navajos exist as a part of the universe, the basic elements are gifts from the Holy People, to survive within the land.

Places where the elements came from or come together are considered sacred.

i.e., Emergence place, trails, ceremonial sites

There is no supreme “God” in Navajo.

No one Holy Person or sacred place is more powerful than that of another, each is respected and honored for the role they have on Mother Earth.

Using & Respecting the Environment

- ▣ Offerings of jewels, prayer sticks, pollen, and herbs are made to the environment as payment for sustaining the people and animals on earth.
- ▣ Navajo tradition teaches to take only what you need and can use from the environment.
 - Payment to the elements' sources must be made, just as you would pay for merchandise from a store.
(Offerings)

Cardinal Mountains



Sacred Cardinal Mountains

Sisnaajini-Blanca Peak eastern mountain located near Alamosa, Colorado.

- White, Dawn, White Shell, Lightning Belt, Home of Dawn People

Tsoodzil-Mt. Taylor southern mountain located near Grants, New Mexico.

- Turquoise/Blue, Turquoise, Great Stone Knife Belt, Home of Tur. People

Dok'o'oosliid-San Francisco Peaks western mountain near Flagstaff, Arizona.

- Yellow, Abalone, Sunbeam Belt, Home of Twilight People

Dibe Ntsaa'-Hesperus Mountains northern mountain near Durango, Colorado.

- Black, Black Jet, Rainbow Belt, Home of Darkness People

Hooghan



Navajo Cultural Landscape is our home.

LandScapes

This category consists of numerous places that may look insignificant to outsiders but are very important to Navajo people.

Landscapes usually are tied into Navajo Oral History.

- Reference points for Navajo deities when visiting Navajoland.





Falling Irons Cliff, Wheatfields, Arizona
Beesh Nahaldaas



Green Knobs, Red Lake, New Mexico
Tsezhin hodootl' izh



Hostah Butte, Crownpoint, New Mexico
Ak'I dah nast' ani

Offering Places





Offering Places, are usually in-use site and shrines that are located throughout the Navajo Nation.

Referenced in Ceremonies

Used by individuals and families



Large boulder, Chuska Mountains
Tse k'ineeshbizhii



Natural Spring,
To haali



Lighting, Struck Tree
Tsin bi oos' nii

Ceremonial Site





Ceremonial sites are where major ceremonies have taking place to heal the sick, to put an individual back in balance and harmony. The use of Chii is utilized here.

In use site

Traditional Cultural Properties

TCP's include but are not limited to:

- ✓ Major / Minor Water Bodies: Rivers, Artesian Wells, Springs
- ✓ Mountains Ranges, Mesas, Canyons
- ✓ Ceremonial Sites
- ✓ Offering Places, Shrines, Pilgrimage Paths
- ✓ Navajo Ceremonial / Historical Sites
- ✓ Clan Origination Sites
- ✓ Battle Sites
- ✓ Anasazi Sites

Why Preserve?

- ▣ To understand who we are.
- ▣ To understand what happened in the past.
- ▣ To make better decisions for the future.
- ▣ To honor ancestors who fought for our rights.
- ▣ To maintain cultural beauty and recognition.
- ▣ To protect a multitude of interests for the Navajo people.
- ▣ To promote sovereignty for the Navajo Nation.

LIVING CULTURE



We are a living culture that continues to teach and practice our connection to these lands from now and into the future.