General Land Development Department

Land Withdrawal Designation Checklist for Community and Industrial Development

Applicant: ________________________________

Email (required): ________________________________

Please submit the following:

☐ Letter of Application or Cover Letter including the intended use of the land and the exact acreage of the proposed undertaking.

☐ Legal Survey or GPS coordinates at each point indicating the location and total acreage to be withdrawn.

☐ Supporting Chapter Resolution with the inclusion of the resolution legal language as required in the Land Withdrawal Regulations (RDCJN—33-15).

☐ Letter from Grazing Officer stating there are no valid grazing permittees in the use area or gather grazing permittee consent.

By submitting the top four (4) requirements above will allow you to reserve the area for five (5) years until the environmental documentation is provided. You may NOT construct, operate and/or maintain during this time period. The Biological Resource Compliance Form and Cultural Resource Compliance Form must be submitted in order to complete the entire land withdrawal process for development.

☐ Biological Resource Compliance Form (BRCF) from Navajo Fish and Wildlife

☐ Cultural Resource Compliance Form (CRCF) from Navajo Heritage and Historic Preservation Department

*If a Non-Navajo government entity, a lease and/or permit is required in addition to the designation*

*Incomplete packets will not be processed and will be returned to you*

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RESOLUTION
OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
OF THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

Recommending and Requesting that Each Community Designate
Trust Land for Community Cemeteries

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §§ 691 and 693, the Resources Committee is established as a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council for the purposes of ensuring the optimum utilization of all resources of the Navajo Nation and to protect the rights, and interests and freedoms of the Navajo Nation and people to such resources; and

2. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 695 (B) (14), the Resources Committee of the Navajo Nation Council serves as the legislative oversight committee for the Division of Natural Resources, District Grazing Committee, Eastern Navajo Land Board and Navajo Nation Farm Boards and overall matters affecting Navajo resources; and

3. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 695 (B) (5) and (6), the Resources Committee is authorized to give final approval of all land withdrawals for residential subdivisions, rights-of-way, including all surface easements and other clearances related but not limited to powerline, waterline and sewer line extensions; and to oversee and regulate all activities within Navajo Nation lands, including actions which may involve disposition or acquisition of resources, surface disturbance, or alteration of the natural state of the resource; and

4. The District Grazing Committee has been dealing with issues involving burials. There is a prevalence of people burying their deceased loved ones out on rangelands, within farm plots and within or near their homesite leases. Land use controversies arise when other land users find a burial that interferes with their use of range or farm lands. During the funeral and burial planning process, controversies and disputes arise when a grazing permittee or land use permittee finds out that the burial is being planned on open rangelands or within or near a farm plot or homesite lease area. The District Grazing officials are being requested to handle or mediate these disputes on burials; and

5. To address these issues and to avoid any further controversies, the District Grazing Committee by resolutions, have requested that each community designate and withdraw lands in accordance with 13 N.N.C. § 1951 and 2 N.N.C. § 695 (B) (5) and (6). These resolutions of the District Grazing Committees are attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit "A"; and
6. The Resources Committee is also aware that there are communities where their community cemeteries have reached their maximum use allowances and may have to withdraw more lands to handle the additional needs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Resources Committee of the Navajo Nation Council hereby requests that each community of the Navajo Nation designate lands for community cemeteries in accordance with Title 13, Navajo Nation Code, Chapter 11, Burials, Subchapter 1. Generally and Subchapter 3, Cemeteries, including 13 N.N.C. § 1951 and 2 N.N.C. § 695 (B) (5) and (6). Chapter resolutions recommending such land withdrawals shall be submitted to the Division of Natural Resources for consideration by the Resources Committee.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Resources Committee of the Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting at Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstained, this 9th day of December, 1999.

Robert B. Whitehorse
Vice Chairperson
Resources Committee

Motion: Jack Colorado
Second: Herman Daniels
RESOLUTION OF THE
RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
OF THE 23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL --- FIRST YEAR, 2015

AN ACTION

RELAETING TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT; DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO
THE DIRECTOR OF THE NAVAJO LAND DEPARTMENT TO APPROVE LAND
WITHDRAWALS ON THE NAVAJO NATION; AND APPROVING THE
ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR LAND WITHDRAWALS

BE IT ENACTED:

Section One. Findings

A. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §502(B)(2), the Resources and
Development Committee is authorized to give final approval
of all land withdrawals; and

B. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §501(B)(3), the Resources and
Development Committee is authorized to delegate its powers
to appropriate divisions of the Navajo Nation for
efficiency and streamlining of government processes
provided the Committee first grants final approval of rules
and regulations governing such delegations and rescission
of such delegations; and

C. The current system of processing land withdrawals is
confusing, time consuming, and inconsistent. It has
resulted in delay and loss of development on the Navajo
Nation; and

D. Therefore, there is a need to delegate the authority to
approve land withdrawals to the Director of the Navajo Land
Department to streamline the land withdrawal process; and

E. The process of reviewing documents associated with land
withdrawals is an administrative task that can be performed
by the Director of the Navajo Land Department; and

F. The Resources and Development Committee finds it is in the
best interest of the Navajo Nation to approve the
degregation of authority.
Section Two. Delegation to the Director of the Navajo Land Department to Process Land Withdrawals and Approval of the Administrative Rules and Regulations for Land Withdrawals

A. The Resources Committee of the Navajo Nation Council hereby approves the delegation of authority to the director of the Navajo Land Department, Division of Natural Resources, to approve Land Withdrawals on the Navajo Nation.

B. The Navajo Nation hereby approves the Administrative Rules and Regulations, attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby, certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Resources and Development Committee of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting at Navajo Nation Council Chambers, Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain this 16th day of June, 2015.

Benjamin Bennett, Vice-Chairperson
Resources and Development Committee

Motion: Honorable Benjamin Bennett
Second: Honorable Davis Filfred
Vote : 3-0 (Vice Chair not voting)
LAND WITHDRAWAL DESIGNATION REGULATIONS

§ 1. Purpose.

The purpose of these Regulations is to clarify and expedite the Land Withdrawal Designation process on the Navajo Nation, and explains that a Land Withdrawal Designation does not authorize development or disturbance on Navajo Nation land. This Land Withdrawal Designation process does not apply to how to get a lease. Prior to any development on the land, a lease must be obtained in addition to the withdrawal. The purpose of a Land Withdrawal Designation is to designate an area of land for future development by,

a. Ensuring that the rights of grazing permittees, who are in compliance with their grazing permits, are properly addressed as applicable and as required under 16 N.N.C. §§ 1401 et seq. and to prevent any subsequent claims to the land; and

b. Ensuring that the affected Chapter supports the Land Withdrawal Designation and use of the land.

§ 2. Scope.

These regulations apply to all Land Withdrawal Designations on the Navajo Nation.

§ 3. Delegation

a. The Resources and Development Committee hereby delegates to the Director of the Navajo Land Department the power and authority to give final approval of all Land Withdrawal Designations on the Navajo Nation. The Director may sub-delegate this authority to a person under the Director’s supervision, but this delegation of authority shall not be re-delegated to any other Department or Division within the Nation without the consent and approval of the Resources and Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.

b. Resources and Development Committee hereby delegates authority to the Navajo Land Department to administer and manage Land Withdrawal Designations on the Navajo Nation, with the express power to adopt rules to further implement these regulations.

§ 4. Definitions.
a. Community Development: Community Development encompasses infrastructure, economic development projects, installation of public facilities, community centers, housing, public services, businesses, schools, hospitals, government offices, and other similar projects.

b. Designation Holder: Any person or entity who has obtained a Land Withdrawal Designation.

c. Industrial Development: Economic activity concerned with the manufacture, and processing of materials or construction.

d. Land Withdrawal Designation: A formal action used to designate and reserve a parcel of land for:
   i. Community Development
   ii. Industrial Development

e. The Navajo Nation Business Site Leasing Regulations of 2005 (Business Site Leasing Regulations): Navajo Nation regulations that make business site leases mandatory for all businesses operating on the Navajo Nation.

f. The Navajo Nation General Leasing Regulations of 2013 (General Leasing Regulations): Navajo Nation regulations that apply to all leases and permits for the use or possession of Navajo Nation trust land, with the exception of business and mineral leases.

g. The Navajo Nation Government: The Navajo Nation Government is comprised of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, as well as political subdivisions. For the purpose of land use, ownership, and these regulations, enterprises, businesses, housing authorities, or other entities created or owned by the Navajo Nation are not entities of the Navajo Nation Government.

h. The Navajo Nation Trust Land Leasing Act of 2000 (Navajo Leasing Act, 25 U.S.C. §415(e)): A federal law that regulates the leasing of Navajo Nation lands. It allows the Nation to lease certain lands without Secretarial approval.

i. Resolution of Support: A Resolution of Support is a resolution passed by an affected Chapter stating that they are in support of a particular entity or business locating within their chapter on withdrawn land.

§ 5. Use and Occupation of Navajo Nation Land.
A Land Withdrawal Designation does not authorize an entity outside the Navajo Nation Government to use, occupy, or disturb Navajo Nation land. The Navajo Leasing Act, Business Site Leasing Regulations, and General Leasing Regulations apply to all land use on the Navajo Nation. A lease is always required if the land is being developed by any entity outside the Navajo Nation Government.


The Navajo Leasing Act, Business Site Leasing Regulations, and General Leasing Regulations do not apply to the Navajo Nation Government. The Navajo Nation Government may develop on land designated by a Land Withdrawal Designation without a lease for government purposes only.


a. Every individual, chapter, or entity desiring a Land Withdrawal Designation on the Navajo Nation shall submit an Application for Land Withdrawal to the Navajo Land Department (NLD). The Application shall be accompanied by the following supporting documents:

i. A letter of application or cover letter;

ii. A proposal for the planned use of the land; and

iii. A legal survey or GPS land description indicating the location.

b. An entity requesting a Land Withdrawal Designation shall then submit their proposal to the Chapter to obtain a Resolution of Support.

i. All Chapter Resolutions should contain standard language approving a Land Withdrawal for either community development or industrial development.

ii. Resolutions of Support for community development Land Withdrawal Designations shall contain the following language: “The _____ Chapter hereby supports and recognizes this land withdrawal for community development, which may include, but is not limited to, the following purposes: housing, education, economic development, healthcare facilities, public use, or governmental use. Industrial development is not supported for this area.” To change the use, Chapter approval must be obtained.
iii. Resolutions of Support for industrial development Land Withdrawal
Designations shall contain the following language: “The ______ Chapter hereby
supports and recognizes this Land Withdrawal Designation for the sole purpose
of industrial development. Industrial development shall be considered the
economic activity concerned with the manufacture, and processing of materials
or construction.” To change the use, Chapter approval must be obtained.

iv. Once the Chapter Resolution of Support is passed by the affected Chapter,
return the signed Resolution of Support to the NLD.

c. The NLD will acquire the necessary consent from all grazing permittees holding a valid
grazing permit with an interest in the land as applicable and required under 16 N.N.C.
sections 1402 et seq. Consent will include infrastructure that supports the development
and no additional consents are necessary.

d. In the event the grazing permittees will not consent, but the proposed project is in the
best interest of the community and the Navajo Nation, the appropriate authorities may
undertake eminent domain as allowed pursuant to 16 N.N.C. §§ 1401-1403.

e. Approval from NLD.

i. If all requirements are met, the NLD will approve the Land Withdrawal
Designation. NLD will subsequently record the Land Withdrawal Designation
on the Navajo land title recording system.

ii. The NLD will not approve and record a Land Withdrawal Designation until all
required documents are provided for review.

f. If the Designation Holder is not the Navajo Nation Government, they must then begin
the leasing process pursuant to The Navajo Leasing Act, Business Site Leasing
Regulations, or General Leasing Regulations prior to any development, disturbance, use,
or occupation of the land.

§ 8. Change in purpose.

a. If the Designation Holder changes the purpose of the Land Withdrawal Designation,
they must go back to the affected Chapter to obtain a new Resolution of Support.

b. If a Chapter, as Designation Holder, wishes to permit an outside entity use of a
portion of or the entire Land Withdrawal Designation, the Chapter must relinquish
the Land Withdrawal Designation and the outside entity must apply for their own
Land Withdrawal Designation in their name for their specific purpose.

§ 9. Duration and Renewal.

a. All Land Withdrawals shall be issued for a term of no more than five (5) years, with the
possibility of extension of the term every five years thereafter, so long as the Designation
Holder is not in violation of any provision set forth in these Regulations. The term shall
be determined by NLD on a case-by-case basis.

b. If the Designation Holder wishes to extend the Land Withdrawal Designation, the
Designation Holder shall give written notice to NLD ninety (90) days prior to expiration
of the original term. Renewal of the Land Withdrawal Designation will be at the sole
discretion of NLD.

c. A Land Withdrawal Designation will be terminated if any provision set forth in these
Regulations is violated by a Designation Holder.

d. A Land Withdrawal will be removed from the Navajo Nation land title recording system
and open to other applicants for Land Withdrawal Designation or other land use at the
expiration of the term or if the Land Withdrawal Designation is terminated for any
reason. In the case of a Land Withdrawal Designation for a portion of a pre-existing
Chapter land withdrawal, the area will revert back to the Chapter withdrawal status prior
to the Land Withdrawal Designation application.


a. No environmental review is required for Land Withdrawal Designations issued to the
non-Navajo Nation Government entities; however, when the entity obtains a lease, the
General Leasing Regulations require environmental review.

b. Since the Navajo Nation Government is not required to obtain a lease prior to
development on the land, when the Navajo Nation Government obtains a Land
Withdrawal Designation for Navajo Nation Governmental use, an environmental
review must be completed.

c. In the event that a Land Withdrawal Designation was done by the Navajo Nation
Government, but the Navajo Nation Government relinquished the Land Withdrawal
Designation for use by another non-Navajo Nation Governmental entity, the new
Designation Holder must still undergo environmental review when a lease is obtained.
Each program conducting an environmental review will determine if the use is
consistent with the former environmental review and will determine whether further analysis needs to be conducted.

§ 11. **Oversight and Enforcement.**

a. Every department within the Navajo Nation Government that is responsible for such oversight shall work to ensure that all Land Withdrawal Designations are in compliance with these Regulations and other applicable Navajo Nation law.

b. The Navajo Nation shall have the authority to enforce the provisions set forth in these Regulations in accordance with applicable Navajo Nation and federal law.

§ 12. **Penalties.**

a. If a Designation Holder develops or otherwise disturbs the land without first having a valid lease, the Designation Holder is subject to trespass, and a penalty will be assessed by the NLD. 16 N.N.C. §§ 2251 and 2252.

§ 13. **Transfer of Land Withdrawal Designations.**

The NLD will approve transfers of Land Withdrawal Designations if the following conditions are met:

a. Consent from the original Designation Holder has been acquired.

b. The original Designation Holder or the transferee are not in violation of the Land Withdrawal Designation;

c. No development or disturbance has taken place on the land in question;

d. The purpose of the new Designation Holder is in accordance with the Resolution of Support, or a new Resolution of Support has been obtained;

e. The transferee agrees to be bound by the terms of the Land Withdrawal Designation; and

f. The NLD finds no compelling reason to withhold approval.

§ 14. **Review and Amendments.**
The scope and administration of this delegation of authority to the Director of the Navajo Land Department and Administrative Regulations may be amended or rescinded by the Resources and Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.

6/16/2015 (3)
Land Withdrawal Designation Process

1. **Letter of Application and Project Proposal**

   **Application for Community Development:**
   - Economic Development
   - Installation of Public Facilities
   - Community Centers
   - Public Services
   - Businesses
   - Schools
   - Hospitals
   - Government Offices
   - Other Similar Projects

2. **Legal Survey OR GPS Survey (Coordinates)**

3. **Consents OR Letter from Grazing Official stating there are no valid permittees in the area of effect**

   - 3a. No Grazing Consent can evoke Eminent Domain
     - 16 NTC §§ 1401

4. **Supporting Chapter Resolution** requires language from Land Withdrawal regulations (RDCJN-33-15)

5. **Approved by Navajo Land Dept. Director for 5 years**

   *You may not construct, operate, or maintain before acquiring environmental clearances*

6. **Attain environmental clearances from Navajo Nation Fish and Wildlife (BRCF) and Heritage and Historic Preservation Dept. (CRCF)**

7. **Land Withdrawal Designation** to construct, operate, and maintain is approved by Navajo Land Dept. Director.

8. **Non-Navajo government entities (NACE, NHA, NECA, etc.)***

   need to obtain Lease or permit before development.

*If necessary*