

Canyon de Chelly Joint Management Plan Development  
Report  
June 2017

In October 2016, the Resources and Development Committee directed Bidtah Becker, Director, Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources to develop a Joint Management Plan for the Canyon de Chelly area. A Joint Management Plan among the Navajo Nation, National Park Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs is much needed in order to ensure that the natural and cultural resources of the Canyon are protected and to ensure that the protection of those resources is accomplished in a manner that allows for economic vitality.

After much discussion among the Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources (DNR), the National Park Service (NPS) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), it was determined that the development of a joint management plan would be developed in three steps. Those steps are:

1. Vision Statement, completed, can be found at: <http://www.dnr.navajo-nsn.gov/Documents>;
2. Strategic Agreement Among the Navajo Nation, National Park Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs, to be completed by December 2017;
3. Joint Management Plan, to be completed by June 2020.

The schedule for developing the Joint Management Plan is:

Schedule	Deliverable
August 2016	Vision Statement
December 2017	Strategic Agreement among NN, NPS, BIA
June 2019	Joint Management Plan DRAFT
December 2019	NNEPA Process on Joint Management Plan Completed
June 2020	Final Approval of Joint Management Plan

A team has been working together to lead the development of the Canyon de Chelly Joint Management Plan. The team consists of Bidtah Becker, Navajo Nation DNR; Lyn Carranza, NPS; Leonard Notah, BIA; Tyrone Begay, Chinle Chapter, and others who attended meetings to provide input into the Vision Statement.

In 2015, the Navajo Nation Department of Tourism provided funds which paid for a contractor, Antero Group, to prepare a vision statement for Canyon de Chelly. Three public meetings were held and community input was used to develop the document "Canyon de Chelly: A Vision for Tomorrow," which was finalized in August of 2016.

Navajo Nation DNR, BIA, and NPS worked together from August 2016 to May 2017 to secure funding to retain the Northern Arizona University (NAU) to work with the team to develop the Strategic Agreement. NAU has developed a project plan, interview questions, and contact database. *NAU will begin interviews with community members and others in the month of June.* NAU is also working on bringing a Navajo student on to help with the project. If you would like to be interviewed or suggest people to be interviewed, please contact Bidtah Becker or Lyn Carranza.

For any questions on this report, please contact Bidtah Becker at 928-871-6592 or Lyn Carranza at 928-674-5500 extension 224. Thank you.