

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: 0243-24

SPONSOR: Danny Simpson

TITLE: An Action Relating to Resources and Development Committee and the Naabik'iyáti' Committee; Approving an Animal Unit Month (AUM) Fee of Two-Dollars (\$2.00) for the 2025-2035 Eastern Agency Grazing Permit Rental Rate; and, Requesting Approval of this Rate by the Bureau of Indian Affairs

Date posted: November 14, 2024 at 4:45 PM

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0243-24

DATE: November 15, 2024

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION; AN ACTION RELATING TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; APPROVING AN ANIMAL UNIT MONTH (AUM) FEE OF TWO-DOLLARS (\$2.00) FOR THE 2025-2035 EASTERN AGENCY GRAZING PERMIT RENTAL RATE; AND, REQUESTING APPROVAL OF THIS RATE BY THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

PURPOSE: The purpose of the resolution is to approve a fee of \$2.00/AUM for grazing permits in the Eastern Navajo Agency and request approval of this rate by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Final Authority: Naabik'íyáti' Committee

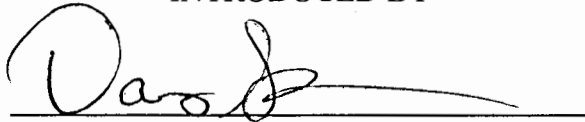
Vote Requirement: Simple Majority

This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD
Website Posting Time/Date
Posting End Date: 11-19-24
Eligible for Action: 11-20-24

PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—Second Year, 2024

INTRODUCED BY



Primary Sponsor

TRACKING NO. 0243-24

AN ACTION

RELATING TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND THE
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; APPROVING AN ANIMAL UNIT MONTH
(AUM) FEE OF TWO-DOLLARS (\$2.00) FOR THE 2025-2035 EASTERN
AGENCY GRAZING PERMIT RENTAL RATE; AND, REQUESTING
APPROVAL OF THIS RATE BY THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

BE IT RESOLVED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Resources and Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council has oversight authority over grazing and land matters to establish Navajo Nation policy with respect to the optimum utilization of all Navajo Nation resources. 2 N.N.C. § 500(C)(1).
- B. The Resources and Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council has oversight over the Division of Natural Resources, including District Grazing Officers and the Eastern Navajo Land Board. 2 N.N.C. § 501(C)(1).
- C. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council is empowered to coordinate all federal programs with other standing committees and branches of the Navajo Nation government to provide the most efficient delivery of services to the Navajo Nation.

1 **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

- 2 A. The purpose of the federal regulations found at 25 C.F.R. § 166.1 *et seq.* “is to
3 describe the authorities, policies, and procedures the [Bureau of Indian Affairs]
4 uses to approve, grant, and administer a permit for grazing on tribal land,
5 individually-owned Indian land, or government land.” 25 C.F.R. § 166.1(a).
- 6 B. Pursuant to 25 C.F.R. § 166.400 (a), “[f]or tribal lands, a tribe may establish a
7 grazing rental rate that is less or more than the grazing rental rate established
8 by [the Bureau of Indian Affairs]. [The Bureau of Indian Affairs] will assist a
9 tribe to establish a grazing rental rate by providing the tribe with available
10 information concerning the value of grazing on tribal lands.”
- 11 C. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (or “BIA”) is in the process of renewing grazing
12 permits for 2025 for various grazing permits in the Eastern Navajo Agency.
- 13 D. The current Animal Unit Month (AUM) for the Eastern Navajo Agency is
14 \$2.00/AUM. The Navajo Nation Council’s Naabik’íyáti’ Committee through
15 NABIJA-02-15, herein attached as **Exhibit A**, approved a fee of \$2.00/AUM
16 for Eastern Navajo Agency Grazing Permits in 2015.
- 17 E. The United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Eastern
18 Navajo Agency, Agency Superintendent, by letter dated September 23, 2024,
19 herein attached as **Exhibit B**, “recommends the rate of \$8.00/Animal Unit
20 Month (AUM) with the minimum rate of \$6.00/AUM for tribal trust lands and
21 individual Indian Allotments.”
- 22 F. Resolutions from the Eastern Navajo Joint Land Board (Resolution # ENJLB-
23 10-2024-002), the Navajo Nation Eastern Agency Council (No. EALBD-16-
24 2024-10-01S) herein attached as **Exhibit C** support the grazing permit rental
25 rate to remain at \$2.00/AUM).
- 26 G. As stated in the Navajo Nation Eastern Agency Council (No. EALBD-16-2024-
27 10-01S), “most Navajo people including grazing permittees are not commercial
28 producers and have utilized livestock such as sheep, goats, cattle, and horses as
29 cultural means of survival for sustenance, clothing, arts and crafts, and
30 transportation” and “the abrupt increase in grazing permit rental fees will cause

1 further burdens—financial, emotional and unneeded stress—to the grazing
2 permittees, the majority of whom are elderly Navajo people who receive a
3 limited monthly income [.]”

4 H. The Resources and Development Committee finds it is in the best interest of
5 the Navajo Nation to request that BIA continue the rate of \$2.00/AUM for
6 grazing permittees in the Eastern Navajo Agency.

7
8 **SECTION THREE. APPROVAL**

9 The Naabik’íyáti’ Committee of the Navajo Nation Council hereby approves a fee
10 of \$2.00/AUM for grazing permits in the Eastern Navajo Agency and requests
11 approval of this rate by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.