

**RESOLUTION OF THE  
RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council --- Second Year, 2020**

**AN ACTION**

**RELATING TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT; APPROVING THE INTEGRATED  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE FORMER BENNETT FREEZE AREA**

**BE IT ENACTED:**

**SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY**

- A. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 500 (C)(1), the Resources and Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council has oversight authority over land, environment, environmental protection, cultural resources "[t]o establish Navajo Nation policy with respect to the optimum utilization of all Navajo Nation resources and to protect the rights, interests, sacred sites and freedoms of the Navajo Nation and People to such resources, now and for future generations."
- B. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 500 (C)(2), the Resources and Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council has the authority "[t]o oversee regulation of activities on Navajo Nation lands for disposition or acquisition of resources, surface disturbance, or alternation of the natural state of the resource, including the enforcement and administration of applicable Navajo Nation and federal laws, regulations, guidelines, and administrative procedures in the development and use of resources as a good steward."

**SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

- A. In 1934 the federal government added about 234,000 acres to the Western Navajo Agency of the Navajo Nation. In 1966 the Commission of Indian Affairs, Robert Bennett, halted development on 1.6 million acres of Navajo Nation in northeastern Arizona that was claimed by both the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe. The ban became known as the Bennett Freeze Area. In 2006 the ban was lifted. In 2015, the Navajo Nation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) "the purpose ... is for the developing an IRMP [Integrated Resource Management Plan] for the Former Bennett Freeze Area (FBFA) of the Navajo Nation. Furthermore, this MOU defines the resources to be evaluated, identifies interdisciplinary team members from both the BIA and Navajo Nation, defines roles and responsibilities of each

party and identifies the project time frames. It is the intent of the Navajo Nation and BIA to provide for a cooperative relationship to develop integrated resource management goals and polices that will provide direction for the planning and the implementation of the IRMP of the FBFA while protecting the environmental and cultural values." The Memorandum of Understanding between the Navajo Nation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Regional Office is attached as **Exhibit B**. The Former Bennett Freeze Area's Integrated Resource Management Plan Handout dated August 14, 2020 is attached as **Exhibit C**.

- B. The Former Bennett Freeze Area-Integrated Resource Management Plan was completed and is attached as **Exhibit A**.
- C. The Navajo-Hopi Land Commission "supports the initiative and process for fulfilling the FBFA-IRMA" as stated in Resolution NHLCS-10-2020 which attached as **Exhibit D**. Memorandum dated September 10, 2020 from the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission to the BIA Regional Director is attached as **Exhibit E**.

**SECTION THREE. APPROVAL**

The Resources and Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council hereby approves the Former Bennett Freeze Area - Integrated Resource Management Plan attached as **Exhibit A**.

**CERTIFICATION**

I, hereby, certify that the following resolution was duly considered by the Resources and Development Committee of the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting held by a teleconference for which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 4 in favor, and 0 opposed, on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October 2020.



Rickie Nez, Chairperson  
Resources and Development Committee  
of the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

Motion: Honorable Herman M. Daniels  
Second: Honorable Wilson C. Stewart, Jr.

Chairperson Rickie Nez not voting.

**RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL**

**SECOND YEAR 2020**

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Speaker,

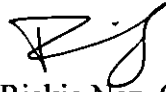
The **RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** to whom has been assigned:

**Legislation # 0237-20:** An Action Relating to Resources and Development; Approving The Integrated Resource Management Plan for the Former Bennett Freeze Area. *Sponsor: Honorable Otto Tso.*

Has had it under consideration and reports a DO PASS with no amendments

and thereafter the legislation was referred to Budget and Finance Committee.

Respectfully submitted,



Rickie Nez, Chairperson  
Resources and Development Committee of  
the 24th Navajo Nation Council

Date: October 7, 2020 - Regular Meeting (Teleconference)  
Meeting Location: (RDC members called in via teleconference from their location within the boundary of the Navajo Nation.)

**Main Motion:**

**Motion:** Herman M. Daniels, Jr. S: Wilson C. Stewart, Jr. Vote: 4-0-1 (CNV)

**In Favor:** Wilson C. Stewart, Jr., Herman M. Daniels, Kee Allen Begay, Jr., and Thomas Walker, Jr.

**Oppose:** NONE

**Excuse:** Mark A. Freeland

**Not Voting:** Presiding Chairperson Rickie Nez

(NOTE: Vote Tally attached.)

**RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council**

**SECOND YEAR 2020**

**ROLL CALL  
VOTE TALLY SHEET:**

**Legislation # 0237-20:** An Action Relating to Resources and Development;  
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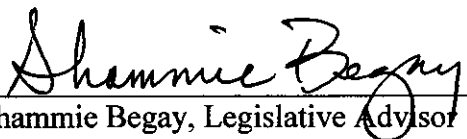
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**In Favor:** Wilson C. Stewart, Jr., Herman M. Daniels, Kee Allen Begay, Jr., and Thomas Walker,  
Jr.  
**Oppose:** NONE  
**Excuse:** Mark A. Freeland  
**Not Voting:** Presiding Chairperson Rickie Nez



Honorable Rickie Nez, Presiding Chairperson  
Resources and Development Committee



Shammie Begay, Legislative Advisor  
Office of Legislative Services