

Honoring Chaco Initiative Phase I Final Report

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Introduction: Purpose and Objectives of this Report

Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland is committed to developing a vision for a broader cultural approach to all land management decisions across the Greater Chaco Landscape by bringing together neighboring Bureau of Land Management (BLM) field offices, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) regional offices, interested Tribes, Pueblos, and other Tribal interests in the Greater Chaco area. In mid-2022, leadership from the BLM and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs (AS-IA), as well as staff of the Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution (CADR) program within BLM, began to lay the groundwork for the first phase of the Honoring Chaco Initiative (the Initiative). Distinct from other ongoing land use planning and mineral withdrawal processes also underway in the region and formal government-to-government consultation, the Initiative is grounded in establishing a new Tribally-led approach to best identify ways to protect and celebrate Pueblo and Tribal Culture in the region, address impacts from energy development, and consider strategies to secure a sustainable economic future for residents and workers. This regional conversation is the first of its kind, and potentially will offer a roadmap and lessons learned for future collaborations seeking an expanded model for federal engagement.

The purpose of this report is to detail the process and outcomes of Phase I. The report includes a summary of activities and significant themes and challenges that arose. Finally, there are recommendations from participants for further discussion in the next phase of the Honoring Chaco Initiative and beyond. These are offered in short- and longer-term time frames. Throughout this report, references to “participants” refers to those engaging in discussion and producing recommendations and does not include the federal agencies.

Key themes that emerged from the discussions among the participants were the importance of focusing on communities, recognizing how resources are connected across the region when assessing the impacts of decisions, being proactive including in cleanup, cultivating trust and finding room to operate within existing laws. The participants also identified tensions that arose in their recommendations between, for instance, urgency to take actions and time needed to build trust; between moving forward and acknowledging past harms; and between Tribal leadership and community voices. A more detailed listing of recommendations for the next phase of the Honoring Chaco Initiative and requests for more immediate agency actions is included as an appendix to the report.

Framing this Report: Background on the Honoring Chaco Initiative

The Greater Chaco Landscape is defined in many ways and is universally acknowledged as one of the world's most unique and culturally significant places. It was home to the Chacoan culture concentrated from about 850 - 1250 ([UNESCO World Heritage Convention](#)), and the landscape holds a deep cultural and spiritual meaning for many Indigenous peoples. Sacred mountains, mesas, and other natural features and shrines may be found throughout the region's landscape. Much of the area is protected as Chaco Culture National Historical Park (the "Park") and by a UNESCO World Heritage Site designation in 1987. The influences of the Chacoan culture can be seen throughout much of the Four Corners area in what is now the American Southwest.

Below this unique and culturally rich surface lie oil and gas and mineral reserves. Energy development has impacted the ecosystem in many ways and threatened the health and well-being of those living in the area and the cultural and spiritual practices for those in surrounding areas. As one of the primary federal land managers, the BLM navigates competing tensions between its responsibilities to permit energy development and the need to preserve a landscape and way of life.

There are several processes underway in the Greater Chaco Landscape intended to achieve the difficult balance between sustaining an economy that is currently dependent on the extraction of energy resources, preserving cultural resources, and maintaining the health and well-being of communities. Most recently, Secretary Haaland proposed to withdraw approximately 351,500 acres of federal oil and gas and other minerals from energy development for a period of twenty years, creating a 10-mile protected area around the Park. The proposal has received mixed reactions from those in the region. It is seen as a step in the right direction for those wanting to protect sacred sites and halt any additional contamination to human health and the ecosystem. For those dependent on oil and gas jobs, the prospect of a ban on new leasing may not be welcome. And, although the withdrawal only applies to federal minerals, allottees within the boundaries of the area proposed for withdrawal who own their land outright have seen the withdrawal language as impacting development of their own property.

In November 2021, the Secretary created the Honoring Chaco Initiative (the "Initiative") and directed the BLM and the BIA to convene a regional conversation to

create a vision for a broader approach to managing cultural and natural values across the Greater Chaco Landscape. The goals of this Initiative are to “manage existing energy development, honor sensitive areas important to Tribes, and build collaborative management frameworks toward a sustainable economic future for the region.” The BLM’s national and local offices are engaged in this effort, as well as the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs and the BIA Southwest and Navajo Regions. The National Park Service has also joined the recent discussions. This collaborative convening, the first of its kind, can be a guide for future efforts to define Tribal co-stewardship and forge new partnerships between federal land managers and those communities impacted by federal decisions.

Phase I Process and Activities

The main objective of Phase I was to prepare, design, and carry out a regional conversation centering Tribal perspectives to define the vision and goals detailed above. The process and activities undertaken in this first phase included interviews involving 45 people, a Situation Assessment, two virtual planning sessions, and a three-day meeting in Albuquerque. The Albuquerque meeting, held October 18-20, 2022, was designed to guide and design the next phase of the Initiative. Outcomes of the Phase I conversations may also inform current BLM and BIA land management planning in the region.

A Project Team led the effort, working with the BLM, the BIA, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices representing nearby Pueblos and Tribes, and subject matter experts from Indigenous-led non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to design and facilitate the process. The Project Team included facilitators Lucy Moore, Nadine Tafoya, and Sophia Cinnamon.

The Situation Assessment: Beginning in May 2022, the Project Team interviewed 45 individuals representing Tribes, Pueblos, Tribal organizations, federal and state agencies, Greater Chaco Landscape communities, and environmental advocacy organizations. Interviewees were asked to reflect on values that should guide decisions in the region, issues, and conflicts that need attention, and a vision for stewardship that could offer both protection and opportunity for residents and workers. The views of people who were impacted by land management decisions and actions, and whose perspectives would reflect those of other constituents, were a particular focus of attention. The Project Team drafted the Situation Assessment report by pulling out themes, concerns, and ideas from the confidential interviews.

The Situation Assessment was intended to provide BLM and AS-IA with a robust foundation from which to design and implement the Honoring Chaco Initiative Phase I meeting. The Assessment acknowledges the inherent complexity and richness of the Greater Chaco Landscape and is organized by the key substantive topics raised by the interviewees. These topics are: 1) stewardship, 2) on-the-ground reality, 3) environmental clean-up and restoration, 4) just economic transition, 5) complexity of jurisdictions and relationships, and 6) multiplicity of processes.

While the interviews were only able to reach a subset of the many entities and individuals with interests in the region, the Assessment does include a wide range of voices that reflect the complex issues and offer ideas on how to achieve a healthy, productive future for the land, the culture, and the residents. The Assessment outlines (1) the most widely heard concerns and advice for land management agencies about how to engage with Tribes and Pueblos, (2) what design and approach to use for the Honoring Chaco Initiative gathering, (3) how to build relationships and trust, and (4) how to partner in effective, respectful ways. The Assessment includes a synthesis of values, priorities, and process-related suggestions from the interviews, which informed the goals and design for the Phase I meeting. The Assessment was shared with all interviewees.

Virtual Planning Meetings: Initiative leadership and facilitators were committed to meaningful engagement and co-creation with those most impacted by development in the Chaco Basin. In this spirit, they designed two virtual planning sessions to prepare for the Phase I meeting and invited interviewees from the Situation Assessment and those attending the Phase I meeting to participate. These interviewees joined agency leads to share their perspectives on how to best design the Phase I meeting. Accepting the invitation to collaboratively plan were 39 participants from twelve entities: BLM, BIA, the National Park Service (NPS), the New Mexico State Land Office (SLO), the New Mexico Department of Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources (EMNRD), All Pueblo Council of Governors (APCG), the Chaco Heritage Tribal Association (CHTA), Navajo Heritage and Historic Preservation Department, Diné CARE, Diné Centered Research and Evaluation (DCRE), Diné Energy Project of the NAEVA Education Project, and Pueblo Action Alliance (PAA). The first session was held on September 9 and focused on the Phase I meeting goals and desired outcomes. Participants shared both process and substantive suggestions and requested additional information from the federal agencies to better understand the complexity and concurrence of federal planning

processes in addition to the scale of energy development in the Greater Chaco Landscape. Finally, there were requests for a statement of commitment to this innovative process from the federal agencies to assure that the participants' time investments would be justified.

Following this first planning session, the Project Team integrated participant feedback to propose a draft meeting agenda for the 3-day Phase I meeting, which included relationship building and information sharing, breakout sessions on specific topics identified in the Assessment, and sessions to collectively discuss interim and longer-term action steps and strategies. In addition, the Project Team sent out a survey for participants to identify their specific information requests from each of the following: BLM, BIA, State of New Mexico, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, and NGOs. These two documents – the draft agenda and the survey results -- formed the basis of the discussion of the second virtual planning meeting held October 10. This session was attended by 33 people. Both documents are found in the Appendix.

While all participating entities were invited to attend the two virtual planning sessions, only two representatives per entity were invited to attend the Phase I meeting. This was an intentional decision to ensure focus among a small group, to empower participating entities to choose their own representatives, and to ensure equitable representation across the organizations.

Phase I Meeting: Held over three days at the BIA Southwest Regional Center in Albuquerque, October 18-20, the Phase I meeting convened multiple agencies and organizations: BLM, BIA, the National Park Service (NPS), the New Mexico State Land Office (SLO), the New Mexico Department of Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources (EMNRD), APCG, CHTA, Jicarilla Apache Nation Office of Cultural Affairs, Navajo Heritage and Historic Preservation Department, Diné CARE, DCRE, PAA, and the NAEVA, along with Monte Mills, Professor of Law and Native American Law Center Director at the University of Washington. Tribal officials and Indigenous NGO representatives led the conversations, while the federal agency representatives were present in a listening and information sharing capacity.

Day 1

- The first day began with an opening ceremony held outside on an enclosed earthen space led by Dr. David Tsosie. This was an opportunity for all participants to contemplate together the reason for the gathering, the preciousness of the earth and its resources, and the common ground on

which they stood. The rest of the morning was devoted to establishing relationships and clarifying the meeting goals and hoped-for outcomes. A complimentary group lunch on Day One and refreshments throughout the three days were provided for non-federal participants by the Kind World Foundation and Dr. David Begay of the Indigenous Education Institute.

- Based on requests from invitees, the afternoon included presentations from the BLM and BIA about the variety of planning and permitting processes, how they relate to each other and to the Honoring Chaco Initiative, what timelines to expect, and what opportunities and constraints they carry. The Chaco National Historical Park Superintendent gave updates, and there was a presentation from representatives of the Greater Chaco Coalition. Monte Mills, Director of the Native American Law Center at the University of Washington, provided more detail on the legal framework surrounding the land management in the Greater Chaco Landscape.
- Participants closed the meeting by sharing their feedback and suggestions for the following day.

Day 2

- The second day started with all participants defining successful outcomes for the meeting. Following this discussion, the All Pueblo Council of Governors (APCG) and Chaco Heritage Tribal Association (CHTA) presented recommendations concerning Chaco Canyon National Historic Park and the Greater Chaco Landscape. Previously submitted to the Secretary of the Interior, the recommendations pertain to the process and potential work products for the Honoring Chaco Initiative. The APCG recommendations are included as Appendix D to this report. Following the presentation, participants shared feedback and asked questions.
- As a plenary, the group then identified needs and recommended possible solutions for the following topics: environmental justice, economic transformation, co-stewardship, and co-management.
- The group divided in the afternoon for a Tribal Leaders-only session while the four NGOs met to discuss the APCG-CHTA recommendations and other issues of concern.

Day 3

- For the final day, participants focused on identifying and discussing topics for future consideration in the Honoring Chaco Initiative process, including suggested action steps on the topics listed below. The recommendations are found in the next section.
 - *Environmental justice*
 - *Oil and gas permitting*
 - *Environmental remediation*
 - *Economic transformation*
 - *Tribal co-stewardship*
 - *Relationship healing and building*
 - *Other recommendations as appropriate*
- Participants expressed appreciation for the Honoring Chaco Initiative and for the chance to participate in this Phase I meeting. They supported the agencies' efforts to take a new approach to land management, one based on forming collaborative relationships with Tribes, Pueblos and communities most impacted by energy development. The goal, they agreed, is to create a new vision and implement changes for a more healthy and secure future for residents and workers, as well as protection, remediation, and healing for the environment and cultural properties. Agency representatives expressed their appreciation for the open, honest, and productive discussions and thanked participants for their willingness to partner with them in this innovative process.
- Following the meeting, the BLM and AS-IA leads sent an email of appreciation to participants. The Project Team prepared key takeaways and a meeting summary, which will also be shared with participants.

Themes

Throughout Phase I, participants emphasized themes they recommend should guide the Honoring Chaco Initiative going forward. These themes characterize the innovative, new approach to land management that could be the hallmark of this Initiative. Participants in the two collaborative planning sessions emphasized the importance of keeping this guidance foremost as the collaborative partners identify and define issues, explore options, and take action. Below are the themes identified by participants as captured by the Project Team. These summaries are presented as stated by the non-federal participants.

Community focus: The most damaging impacts from oil and gas development in the area, focused in the San Juan Basin, have been to the local communities. It is critical to keep the focus on these residents and workers whose lives have been changed, some in critical ways, by the decisions of the land management agencies and the actions of the industry. Phase I participants emphasized that these voices have not been heard to the degree they deserve. Those on the frontline of the impacts should have a role in decision-making that affects them. Future actions should be directed at improving the lives of those on the ground who are experiencing damage to health, safety, the environment, and cultural properties.

Defining Impacts: Participants said that federal processes too often consider impacts as single events and ignore the cumulative effect of impacts, both current and legacy. Taking a broader look at the cumulative and legacy impacts will reveal not only greater harm done to landscape, wildlife, human health and cultural sites, but also recognize the importance of the connectivity of lands and resources within the broader Chaco region. Participants say it is a mistake to look at the damaged sites as islands when, in reality for those with current and ancestral ties, the lands and resources are interconnected, so damages are felt across the region. Looking with blinders on, it may seem that a single proposed action poses no significant threat, and so a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is issued instead of completing a more expansive Environmental Impact Statement to evaluate environmental consequences under the National Environmental Policy Act. It is critical that from this point forward when evaluating impacts, agencies consider the cumulative and legacy impacts on communities and the environment.

Proactive Approach: The needs in the Chaco region are so great that it is important for agencies to be proactive and address the problems as quickly as possible. This would include reaching out promptly to communities, NGOs, Tribes, and Pueblos with suggestions and proposals that will respond to the topics identified in this report. Federal and state agencies are asked to seek funding and partnerships, identify actions for collaboration, and bring ideas to participants for consideration. Generating a constructive, helpful suggestion will contribute to action in the region, and also will help build that all-important trust relationship fundamental to successful collaboration. At the Phase I meeting, participants had several requests for the agencies, certain actions to take, both short- and longer-term, that would be helpful and reflect a commitment to collaboration. These requests are found in the Appendix of this report.

Flexibility within the Law: At the Phase I meeting there was much discussion about the legal and regulatory limits and constraints on agencies that prohibit their taking certain actions that communities see as key in preventing further damage to the people and the landscape. Participants and agencies worked together to identify places where flexibility and creativity could be used to improve the ongoing processes, put conditions on future permitting, and support collaborative efforts in the region. It is hoped that the agencies can continue to seek these opportunities within the limits of applicable law.

Begin Clean Up: There is an urgency for those living in the region and for those with ties to cultural and sacred properties within the region to begin clean up now. The contamination of water, soil, and air is ongoing and needs attention as soon as possible. Community members say this is a top priority and see no reason why clean up can't begin tomorrow. They hear there are funds -- federal, state, and perhaps private -- dedicated to cleaning up extractive industry waste and need help making connections and finding avenues for accessing those monies. This is one way that federal and state agencies can be proactive, researching and supporting remediation, helping communities prioritize areas for attention, and ensuring that local labor is trained and utilized.

Cultivate Trust: During the Phase I activities, all acknowledged the importance of establishing trust among those striving to collaborate on issues across this region. The difficult recent history between local communities and the BLM, as well as the trauma visited on Tribes for the past several hundred years by the federal government, make trust-building a challenge. Participants on both sides agreed at the Phase I meeting that it was necessary to build a new relationship based on a common commitment to remediating, healing, and protecting communities and landscape. By working together, communicating openly and honestly, and exercising understanding and patience, the hope is that trust can be cultivated.

Alignment among Tribes and Pueblos: Some participants spoke of their hope that Tribes and Pueblos can continue their cooperation and alignment around overarching issues in the region. This theme was stated in the Situation Assessment interviews and restated at the Phase I meeting many times. There are many factors that could work to divide Tribal groups both internally and with each other, especially in times of stress when resources are scarce, damage is plentiful, and politics are volatile.

Need to Balance

During Phase I of the Honoring Chaco Initiative, there were inevitable tensions that ran through the discussions and affected relationships. Participants understood the challenge and for the most part recognized the areas where balance was needed and acknowledged the need to remain aware of potential points of conflict and take steps to find balance. Some of these tensions are noted below.

Urgency to address problems >< Time needed to build trust: As mentioned above, without trust, collaboration will be very difficult. Building that trust takes time and patience, and yet the needs of the region require quick action. Participants will need to find this balance between nurturing their relationships and moving ahead with concrete steps to make the coalition effort a reality. Successful small actions from the agencies early on can help build that trust; there is a relationship between action and trust that participants can take advantage of.

Need to move forward >< Need to acknowledge past hurt: Participants recognize there is a pull in opposite directions as they work to implement the Secretary's vision for the Greater Chaco Landscape. On the one hand there is great pressure to move forward. Communities want remediation and support for economic transformation as soon as possible; agencies want to move forward as well on a smoother, less litigious path. But there is a need to look back as well and to acknowledge the damage caused by the industrial development and the agency decision-making processes. Without honest, genuine recognition of the harm done, it is hard for some participants to move on. Again, the collaboration will need to strike a balance between looking back and moving forward, and again with some successful actions the past may exert less of a pull.

Constraints of laws >< Need to protect communities: As noted above, the agencies, both federal and state, are constrained by laws and regulations, constraints that may inhibit or make impossible the responses they can offer and the support they can give. This is difficult for damaged communities to accept given their extreme need for remediation, healing, and a path to a better future. It is important that both sides understand and accept each other's needs and limitations and find a creative balance where support can be given within the limits of the current laws.

Tribal and Pueblo leadership >< Community voices: There is a potential for competition and conflict within Tribal and Pueblo governance. This is a delicate matter to discuss and it pertains to Tribal sovereignty, the government-to-government relationship, internal Tribal matters and perhaps confidentiality issues. It is enough to highlight that Tribal/Pueblo leadership and community/chapter house members may have different goals and needs and may be governed by different processes. And Tribal and Pueblo NGOs may have somewhat different goals, needs, and processes as well. The challenge for participants in subsequent phases will be to find a place of mutual respect and to find that common ground where they can support each other and work together toward common goals.

Two Worldviews: Many times during the interviews, the planning sessions and the Phase I meeting participants spoke of the two distinct and often conflicting worldviews co-existing in the Greater Chaco Landscape. One is the worldview based on US government laws, with the supreme law descending from Washington, DC. The other world view is based on Native spiritual laws, descending from the Creator and giving order and relationship to all living things. In the first worldview, humans are superior to all other living forms and able to exploit and use resources to benefit themselves and their communities. In the Native worldview, humans are simply one among all living creatures and their connection and healthy relationship to their environment is of primary importance. Participants understood the profound differences in these world views and that they were at the heart of much of the discord and hard feelings between agencies and Tribes and Pueblos. Finding a balance will require open, honest communication, respect, and sensitivity to the places where mutual support is possible.

Recommendations for Discussion in the Next Phases of the Initiative

The following recommendations represent a thorough compilation of the recommendations originating from the Assessment, virtual planning sessions, and the 3-day Phase I meeting in Albuquerque. The recommendations with multi-phase opportunities include a distinction between specific actions requested to be addressed over the next several months, and the longer-term vision.

These recommendations constitute a synthesis of input from appointed participants representing a spectrum of Pueblo, Jicarilla Apache, and Navajo Tribal Historic Preservation Offices and Tribally-led nongovernmental organizations.

Representatives were selected by their office or organization to engage in these discussions and recommend topics, actions, and structure for the Honoring Chaco Initiative going forward. The offices and organizations that participants represented did not formally vet or endorse these discussion topics. These recommendations reflect the discussions of the other participants and not the commitments of the Federal and State entities, though Federal and State entities were present for all portions of the discussion.

Establish Temporary Environmental Justice Working Group: There was discussion about vehicles for moving the Environmental Justice (EJ) issues forward. The group discussed the Federal Advisory Committee Act which provides for a federal agency to consult with non-federal entities in a forum that is balanced and represents all those with an interest in the issue. Some felt this held promise as a way of moving forward. Others felt strongly that the EJ effort should begin with the frontline communities. Overall, participants agreed that Native-led NGOs should form a temporary EJ work group and engage with their constituents to define EJ. Diné CARE representatives volunteered to take the lead and plan an initial field tour of frontline communities. The locally driven process will define EJ for this process and make recommendations for activities in subsequent phases. They suggested a first step: a federal agency field visit to the Tri-Chapter area. Both the NM State Land Office (SLO) and the New Mexico Department of Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources (EMNRD) volunteered to make lands accessible and to join the federal agencies on the field visit.

Potential Short-term Actions	Longer Term Vision
Diné CARE invites federal and state agencies to field visit	Agencies work alongside communities to address environmental justice concerns
Agencies respond and coordinate dates and logistics for field tour	Communities and agencies have a common understanding of the on-the-ground impacts from extractive industries
Indigenous-led NGOs and frontline communities define Environmental Justice	The Initiative can move forward to address Environment Justice in all areas

Revise conditions for oil and gas permits and rights-of-way: Participants requested

that conditions be placed on the approval of permits and rights-of-way to address some of the abuses to natural and cultural resources and to human health resulting from widespread energy development. Agencies discussed opportunities to add conditions to permits, including a state rulemaking that could institute regulations which BLM could then adopt.

The following conditions were identified as critical:

- BLM should evaluate the use of FONSI (Finding of No Significant Impact) and other tools for acknowledging and addressing environmental consequences across a broader area and impose conditions where necessary
- All development applications should be subject to Tribal review
- State and/or federal agencies should work together to initiate rulemaking/policy for meaningful, protective setbacks in communities
- Bonding figures need to be revised to reflect the real cost of clean up
- Inspectors, monitors, and enforcers are badly needed to ensure good maintenance and rapid response to spills

Potential Short-term Actions	Longer Term Vision
NM EMNRD/BLM considers rulemaking/policy for setbacks by state and/or federal agency; intent to provide permit conditions not currently in place	The oil and gas permitting process – across state and federal agencies – is designed to protect and preserve environmental and community health
BLM reviews permit applications and audits past FONSI decisions for permits to determine if cumulative or legacy impacts were evaluated	BLM includes cumulative and legacy impacts in permitting review process

Begin Environmental Remediation Immediately: Participants saw no reason that clean up cannot begin immediately, prioritizing the most urgent areas. Funds, including the newly established orphan well program, are more plentiful than in the past. Participants emphasized that the cost to human health, especially for the young and the elderly, is growing; damage to the entire ecosystem (land, water, and wildlife) needs remediation and restoration as soon as possible. A priority for future phases should be clean-up actions.

Potential Short-term Actions	Longer Term Vision
Research, coordinate, and access federal, state, and Tribal funding sources for orphan/abandoned wells, air quality monitoring, and other damaged resources	Begin the economic transformation from fossil fuels with the reclamation and remediation of damaged areas
Prioritize areas for cleanup, looking at cumulative impacts, legacy waste, and areas of greatest risk to health and environment	Provide job training and employment opportunities to build and support a local workforce

Create Joint Resource Management Plan: Participants strongly support bringing the Rio Puerco and Farmington Field Offices together in a Joint Resource Management Planning process. This could bring efficiency, consistency, clarity, and a more holistic approach to the delivery of services. Joint Resource Management Planning should also include the consulting parties and would be a way of expanding the Programmatic Agreement. Participants asked that BLM take steps to create a joint resource management planning process as soon as possible.

BLM Resource Advisory Committee (RAC): BLM explained the opportunities for community engagement in the Northern New Mexico RAC. The meetings are open to the public, usually include field trips and an opportunity for public comment. The RAC can also create work groups that include non-RAC members.

Improve internal and external DOI communication: During the meeting there were many comments about the need for improved communication at DOI, both internally among agencies and offices, and externally with the public, NGOs, Tribes, Pueblos, and communities. Internally, participants see disconnects between BLM levels of authority – headquarters, district, and field offices. Some mandates from DC seem to be discounted or ignored at the field-office level. There were also concerns about misinformation regarding the proposed withdrawal that is causing confusion and conflict in the area. A consistent, clear, regular flow of reliable information would help reassure residents that they are receiving truthful information. It is also important that San Juan Basin residents understand the pressures and realities facing DOI as land managers. Communication must be open, honest, truthful, and must flow in both directions.

Potential Short-term Actions	Long Term Vision
BLM pursues a public affairs specialist position and/or Honoring Chaco Initiative coordination position to manage and direct communications related to federal land management in the region	Dedicated interagency staff will be in place to manage coordinate activities, and information across the region
BLM takes steps to create a working group to draft a “living document” for new federal staff which contains all necessary background on the Greater Chaco Landscape including history, plans, actions, updates, events, etc.	New staff, community members, Tribes, and Pueblos will have a common source for information on the Greater Chaco Landscape and the Honoring Chaco Initiative
BLM addresses need for improved communication among all levels of the agency	There will be greater coordination and clarity of roles and accountability within the agency

Co-stewardship: Co-stewardship was the focus of much discussion during the meeting. Participants were interested in models of co-stewardship and how to begin planning for increased Tribal roles in managing the federal lands throughout the Greater Chaco Landscape. They spoke of a phased approach and the need to create opportunities that allow Native people to fill mid- and upper-management positions within the co-stewardship model. AS-IA expressed openness to receiving proposals for co-stewardship plans.

Potential Short-term Actions	Long Term Vision
Agencies provide participants with case studies and other information on current co-stewardship agreements or models	Create community-level plan to engage and educate local residents on co-stewardship
Identify funding opportunities to support Tribal capacity building for co-stewardship and other collaborative agreements	Design and support pathways for Indigenous people to pursue resource management careers and work in leadership for federal agencies
DCRE and Professor Monte Mills research and create a map of traditional territories	There will be a new lens through which to see the Greater Chaco Landscape, giving depth and richness to future

	conversations and decisions
Explore the possibility and process of Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) and Traditional Cultural Landscape designation as a potential tool for greater protection of cultural resources and sacred sites	Cultural sites will have the maximum protection

Continued support for Native-led ethnographic studies: Many participants underscored the need for long-term support for Native-led ethnographic studies of the Greater Chaco Landscape. NGOs pointed out that the ethnographic studies, which will be completed in July 2023, will need to be updated as new discoveries are made and research done.

Potential Short-term Actions
Engage federal agencies as partners, both in funding and letters of support to encourage contributions and cooperation of others
Explore partnerships with academic institutions and centers, such as UNM, with local organizations and Traditional Knowledge Keepers

Economic Transition/Transformation: Participants advocated for a broader, more ambitious transformation of the economy in the region, including in the San Juan Basin, that will bring residents a wider choice of opportunities beyond energy development. These jobs in the tech industry, tourism, place-based agriculture, business, remediation, and cleanup will require trained workers and modern infrastructure, including reliable Wi-Fi support for remote workers. Federal and state agencies can help with funding, partnering in the governmental and private sectors, and training programs. There are a variety of vehicles (governmental and non-governmental) that can help prepare for the economic transformation: The Energy Transition Act, the Federal Community Reinvestment Act, NM State Technical Assistance Center, BIA self-determination agreements, partnerships with foundations, conservation groups, and community development groups, technical assistance agreements, and curation agreements, among other options.

Potential Short-term Actions	Long term Vision
Write letter(s) of support for Tribal and NGO proposals and requests to other agencies, foundations, and institutions	A demonstration of agency/community collaboration and a chance of greater success with outreach for support
Support initial planning steps to consider economic development options	Economic development that has the potential to make positive change sooner
Understand the importance of taking time to talk to local leadership and communities about their goals, and support Tribes and NGOs in those efforts	A thriving and diverse regional economic future that is appropriate and supportive of the local communities

NPS specific recommendations: There were issues specific to NPS that participants would like to address in a productive way with the agency. Residents in the area have two concerns with access: the destructive presence of visitors on culturally sensitive lands, and the need for local residents to have access to cultural sites as needed. In addition, participants ask for an active role in the disposition of remains and cultural items now in the control of NPS. They need to know where these items are, how they are cared for, and how to repatriate them in cases where that is desired by the Tribe. The Park Superintendent asked for clarification of the role of her agency in the Honoring Chaco Initiative.

Potential Short-term Actions	Long Term Vision
DOI to clarify role of NPS in future phases of Honoring Chaco Initiative	Productive collaboration including all federal agencies
Revive regular NPS/Tribal meetings for the airing of issues and development of relationships	Collaborate with local communities on the disposition of remains and cultural items

Review access issues Reach agreement on plan	Create framework to support seasonal and ceremonial use in the Park Create protections for cultural sites from destructive visitors
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Cultivate trust: During the meeting, participants identified elements that contribute to building trust and repairing relationships. They reviewed the list below and asked that this guide the collaboration as it moves forward.

Elements of Trust-building

- Agencies take a proactive stance, looking for opportunities to support Tribes and Tribal communities
- Agencies set timelines that enable communities to consult with constituencies and respond
- Agencies support economic transition and transformation
- Agencies include Tribes and Pueblos in locating, reviewing, and deciding on disposition of cultural items
- All communicate, connect in open, honest, respectful dialogue
- All listen and respond, showing that concerns and ideas are heard and understood
- All address any misinformation quickly and clearly
- All contribute to healing among parties
- All commit to accountability on all sides and mutual respect

In addition, participants asked for a formal, public declaration of federal agency commitment to building trust with Tribes, in the form of an Executive Order or high-level Department of Interior statement.

Looking Forward to the Next Phase

Phase I of the Initiative concluded with the three-day meeting in Albuquerque. There was support for a continuation of the Honoring Chaco Initiative, anticipating that the topics above will be further developed during the next phase. The design of the next phase will be in the hands of the participants and the agencies working collaboratively for the most efficient and productive process. There was a suggestion to include young people in the next phase for several reasons: to educate them about the issues, introduce them to an innovative collaborative

process, prepare them to take a role in implementing the goals of the Initiative, and gain their perspective and guidance on the process and outcomes of the Initiative. Participants also hope for a greater role for Traditional Knowledge Keepers in the next phase, as well as others to be identified by the participants and agencies.

Participants highlighted specific goals that they hope agencies can help move forward during the next phase of the Initiative.

- Defining and planning for *environmental justice*
- Establishing *conditions* for oil and gas permitting
- Beginning *clean up*
- Establishing a *RAC work group* to further goals of Honoring Chaco Initiative
- Planning and conducting initial research for *co-stewardship* discussion
- Repairing relationships and *building trust*

The Honoring Chaco Initiative is an ambitious and bold effort to tackle some of the most challenging issues facing public land managers. Participants in Phase I interviews, planning sessions, and the 3-day meeting repeated often that the on-the-ground protection and clean up needs are urgent in the San Juan Basin, the existing federal processes are floundering, and relationships between agencies and communities have deteriorated. They also observed that this situation is repeated throughout the West to the detriment of physical, cultural, social, and economic landscapes. They were hopeful that the implementation of Secretary Haaland's vision will serve as a model for others facing the same challenges, offering lessons learned, and a road map for building strong collaborative relationships. They acknowledged the differences between the law-based authority of the public land manager and the culture-based authority of residents who are committed to honoring the sacred origin of the resources through protection and healing. And they added, these two very different authorities need not be adversarial. Participants expressed the hope at the end of meeting that with honest, open communication, joint planning, enough time and resources, and a firm commitment on all sides, trust can be built and progress made.

In the end, participants said, collaboration requires both trust and action. The two go hand in hand. Seeing action builds trust, and the more trust that exists, the more action will be possible.

They asked that the next phase of the Initiative prioritize both these elements of collaboration.

Appendix A: Honoring Chaco Initiative Phase 1 – Survey for Planning Session Results

1. *We would like Interior to share information on:*

- Honoring Chaco
- Scope of co-stewardship agreements in the Greater Chaco Region, including the agreement documents and an assessment of what worked and what didn't work for each agreement including the agreement documents and an assessment of what worked and what didn't work for each agreement.
- Percentage of federal lands in the Greater Chaco Region (aka the San Juan Basin) leased for oil and gas development.
- What is the minimum acreage to make oil and gas drilling economically viable?
- What does DOI think necessary for completing its Section 106 and NEPA review responsibilities on Navajo trust or allotment land?
- Federal Leasing of Public lands currently taking place within the Chaco Region; what is the criteria for making a location a sacrifice zone?
- Status/timeline for completion of BLM Farmington Land Exchange with Navajo Nation
- List of active & draft management documents in proposed 10-mile boundary
- List & highlight Active/Draft TEK incorporated into management plans
- List and history of TEK database/s or similar and where the data is located
- List & highlight documents protecting Chaco, TEK and Communities
- Resource Maps would help visually the federal management
- Map and list current oil/gas permit applications/active/abandon
- What are the hard limitations when it comes to protecting Chaco and implementing a holistic Honoring Chaco Initiative?
- What commitments will the Interior be able to make to support effective co-management strategies?
- What other management frameworks the government has used to develop landscape level protected areas
- What is the status of the transfer/housing of collections by Chaco NP at the park? What is the current scope of agreements for research on the collections at Chaco are there? Who are the agreements with?

2. *We would like the State of New Mexico to share information on?*

- How they are aligning with Honoring Chaco and other federal documents
- The number of state permitted oil and gas wells, the percentage of NM state land leased, and the total acreage of NM state leased lands for oil and gas.
- Benefits such as tax breaks that the oil and gas industry enjoys and any other supports the industry receives.
- List of state lands active & draft management documents in proposed 10 mile boundary
- List & highlight Active/Draft TEK incorporated into management state plans

- List and history of TEK/NMHPPO database/s or similar and where the data is location List & highlight documents protecting Chaco, TEK and Communities
 - Resource Maps would help visualize the management
 - Map and list current oil/gas permit applications/active/abandon
 - List of current land exchanges
- State commitments to support the Honoring Chaco Initiative and addressing community concerns with regard to adverse impacts from Oil and Gas development.

3. We would like THPOs to share information on ?

- What resources or kinds of info do they need in notifications and consultations? How do they want to receive information (snail mail, email, etc.)? How often is their contact information updated?
- How THPOs are engaging in this process
- What their needs are to address the protection of cultural heritage.
- Process/protocols/policies for sharing database and type of data collected and sharing with Tribes/Pueblos and Indigenous NGOs
- Cultural maps that detail the extent of the greater Chaco Region.

4. We would like Tribal/Pueblo Non-Governmental Organizations to share information on?

- Counselor Chapter House (Navajo Nation)
- Their vision on what Honoring Chaco means
- What additional strategies can be sought to protect Chaco
- Opportunity to review data collection and incorporate into current and active management
- List of databases of TEK and maps outlining sensitive areas
- Plans for protecting Chaco, including traditional knowledge holders from all impacted nations, and ideas for Indigenous-led conservation and co-management.

5. Additional information

- What are the archaeological resources that the Oil and Gas Industry identifies and what can they do to support protection of Chaco?
- Overlay of any other critical minerals found in the greater Chaco region so that protections can be comprehensive and go beyond oil and gas to include all threats of unsustainable, extractive development

Appendix B: Honoring Chaco Phase I Meeting Agenda

**Honoring Chaco Initiative Phase I Meeting
October 18-20, 2022
Bureau of Indian Affairs Southwest Regional Office, Room 133
Albuquerque, New Mexico**

AGENDA

Day One – Opening and Exchanging Information

9:00-10:15	Opening Ceremony <i>Outside,</i> Land acknowledgement <i>TBD</i> Participants greeting	Tribal and Pueblo participants
BREAK	<i>Coffee, snacks available in meeting room, Rm 133</i>	
10:30-12:00	Welcome and Logistics <i>Rm 133</i> Opening Remarks	Facilitators Federal Agencies
	Participants Introductions Prompt: Offer a vision for the Greater Chaco Landscape?	Facilitators
	Review Agenda and process	Facilitators
	Develop, agree on protocols	Facilitators
12:00-1:00	LUNCH	
1:00-3:00	Information exchange, presentations, discussion <i>All participant entities are invited to offer information to the group.</i>	
BREAK		
3:15-4:30	Information exchange, presentations, discussion (<i>continued</i>)	
4:30-5:00	Review of Day 1, preview Day 2	Facilitators
5:00	Adjourn	

Day Two – Phase II Recommendations on Priority Topics

8:30-9:00	Gathering, coffee, snacks (<i>optional</i>)	
9:00-9:15	Opening prayer	Participants
<i>Rm 133</i>	Review agenda	Facilitator
9:15-10:15	Process recommendations for Phase II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision(s) • Communication, sustaining relationships • Structure, activities 	
BREAK		
10:30-11:45	Breakout Session 1 (concurrent, 45 minutes each) <i>Develop one or more recommendations for Phase II</i> <i>Needed action, by whom, timeline, partners, resources, etc.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Justice • Multiplicity of Processes 	Co-facilitated
	Report Outs of recommendations (15 minutes each)	Facilitated
11:45-1:00	LUNCH	
1:00-2:15	Breakout Session 2 (concurrent, 45 minutes each) <i>Develop one or more recommendations for Phase II</i> <i>Needed action, by whom, timeline, partners, resources, etc.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental cleanup • Complexity of Jurisdictions and Relationships 	Co-facilitated
	Report Outs of recommendations (15 minutes each)	Facilitated
BREAK		
2:30-3:45	Breakout Session 3 (concurrent, 45 minutes each) <i>Develop one or more recommendations for Phase II</i> <i>Needed action, by whom, timeline, partners, resources, etc.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Transition • Co-stewardship, co-management 	
	Report Outs of recommendations (15 minutes each)	Facilitated
BREAK		
4:00-4:30	Wrap up session, evaluation, and preview of Day 3	Facilitators
4:30	Adjourn	

Day Three – Building Consensus and Moving Forward

8:30-9:00	Gathering, coffee, snacks (<i>optional</i>)	
9:00-9:15	Opening prayer	Participants
<i>Rm 133</i>	Review agenda	Facilitator
9:15-10:20	Moving forward in Phase II <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review Day Two recommendations• Discussion, seeking consensus	Facilitated
BREAK		
10:35-11:30	Identify and discuss potential interim agency actions	Facilitated
11:30-12:00	Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflections on the three days• Closing prayer	All

Appendix C: Recommendations and Requests to Agencies Gathered from the Phase I Meeting

Recommendations:

- Agencies be proactive in their support for the welfare of communities
- Agencies find ways to be flexible, creative to address community needs and stay within the law
- All parties continue rebuilding trust with good communication and collaborative actions
- DOI dedicate Staff person and PR/info specialist for Chaco issues
- DOI create “living document” of Chaco issues, actions, updates, events as a resource for staff
- DOI issues public, formal statement (EO) of federal commitment to building trust with Tribes
- DOI improves communication both internal and external
- DOI continues support for ongoing ethnographic studies
- BLM develops conditions for approval of permits and right-of-way, including setbacks, bonding, inspections, monitoring, Tribal review, etc.
- Agencies evaluate use of FONSI, review all data from all sources and consider cumulative impacts before defaulting to a FONSI and issuing decision
- BLM creates Joint Resource Management Planning for Rio Puerco and Farmington
- Agencies take concrete action to address urgent need for cleanup, monitoring, and enforcement; collaborate with partners, use local labor
- Diné Care takes lead in formation of Environmental Justice Temporary Work Group
- All pursue Co-stewardship, with models, funding
- All parties work toward economic transformation for the Chaco landscape
- All pursue potential for participation in RAC, including formation of RAC work group
- NPS collaborates with local communities about review/disposition of cultural items
- NPS revives NPS/Tribal meetings
- NPS meets with local residents to resolve access issues, protection of sites
- For Phase II, the group needs to be expanded to include youth and Traditional Knowledge Keepers

Requests

- Conduct a separate EIS process for Jicarilla Apache Tribe which has impacted areas different from those covered in the current EIS
- Send all data relevant on archaeological sites and studies from all sources to the Navajo Nation
- Both federal and state agencies provide lists of their contractors doing archaeological work in the Chaco Landscape
- Explore the applicability of NHPA Section 110 to the Greater Chaco Landscape.
- Programmatic Agreement:

- Expand PA scope beyond oil and gas to include all development, and identify all historical properties within the area
- Coordinate timelines for development and for all processes including the PA to ensure that community members have time to educate and discuss.
- Expand the Area of Potential Effect (APE)
- Remediation and prevention of further damage:
 - Land managers take action to regulate “man camps” and protect Indigenous women from violence.
 - Land managers undertake policy and regulation changes to minimize further contamination and damage to sacred sites in the future.
- Co-stewardship:
 - Federal agencies support research on existing co-stewardship agreements
 - Compilation and evaluation of possible funding sources for co-stewardship at both the Tribal and community level
- Provide LIDAR data to supplement ethnographies
- “Chaco Landscape” needs to be defined
- Update Navajo Nation boundaries on maps to reflect recent purchases
- Need map of traditional territories
- Provide participants with list of 14 chapters identified in RMP appendix

Appendix D: All Pueblo Council of Governors Recommendations



All Pueblo
Council of
Governors

Officers:
Mark Mitchell, Chairman
Jerome Lucero, Vice-Chairman
Governor Val Panteah Sr., Secretary

Acoma

Cochiti

Isleta

Jemez

Laguna

Nambe

Ohkay Owingeh

Picuris

Pojoaque

Sandia

San Felipe

San Ildefonso

Santa Ana

Santa Clara

Santo Domingo

Taos

Tesuque

Ysleta del Sur

Zia

Zuni

All Pueblo Council of Governors Initial Recommendations for Honoring Chaco Initiative Planning Stage October 8, 2022

I. Background

As part of the White House Tribal Nations Summit announcement on Chaco Canyon in November of 2021, the Department of the Interior (DOI) [announced](#) it was beginning a “broader assessment of the Greater Chaco cultural landscape to ensure that public land management better reflects the sacred sites, stories, and cultural resources in the region.” DOI now refers to this assessment as the “Honoring Chaco Initiative.”

In the Honoring Chaco Initiative, DOI through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) [has said](#) it is exploring “ways the Interior Department can manage existing energy development, honor sensitive areas important to Tribes and communities, and build collaborative management frameworks toward a sustainable economic future for the region.” In an initial planning meeting, DOI underscored that it is largely deferring to tribal communities to shape what the Honoring Chaco Initiative will look like and aim to accomplish. DOI says it is looking for new and bold recommendations for holistic and cultural land management strategies in the Greater Chaco Region, while also stressing that those strategies must comply with existing legal requirements.

DOI released an August 30, 2022 Phase I: Situation Assessment that largely summarizes the conflicting land uses and concerns in the Greater Chaco Region. Further, DOI has recently been engaging technical experts in planning meetings. These technical experts include representatives from the All Pueblo Council of Governors (APCG), the Chaco Heritage Tribal Association, the State of New Mexico, non-governmental organizations, and others, and the Navajo Nation has been invited to participate. DOI has included federal representatives from DC and the region, from both the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and BLM.

The Honoring Chaco Initiative has “Phase I” meetings scheduled for October 18-20, 2022, between the technical experts and DOI representatives.

II. Recommendations

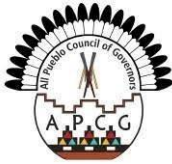
We understand DOI is interested in developing various recommendations pertaining to Chaco Canyon and the Greater Chaco Region that will later be the subject of direct tribal consultation, including with Pueblo leadership. APCG is serving as a technical expert during the planning stages of the Honoring Chaco Initiative, and, in that role, we make the



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Acoma	following recommendations regarding process and potential work products for the Honoring Chaco Initiative.
Cochiti	A. <u>Process</u>
Isleta	APCG makes the following recommendations for the process under which the Honoring Chaco Initiative will proceed. APCG reiterates the importance of allowing tribal and Pueblo leadership to make the final decisions on the work products and outcomes the Honoring Chaco Initiative will pursue.
Jemez	
Laguna	(1) Phase I: Engage with technical experts to create a list of potential work products or outcomes (e.g., agency procedures, policy recommendations, additional studies, specific initiatives, etc.) for the Honoring Chaco Initiative to achieve in the short, middle, and long term. Include in the Phase I stage a meeting or meetings for tribal and Pueblo participants only, consistent with DOI's trust obligations and the government-to-government relationship.
Nambe	
Ohkay Owingeh	
Picuris	(2) Phase II: Engage in full and robust tribal consultation with tribal and Pueblo leadership, and include Tribal Historic Preservation Officers and other tribal technical experts. Allow tribal and Pueblo leadership to make additional recommendations and to make the final decision regarding which work products the Honoring Chaco Initiative will undertake to execute.
Pojoaque	
Sandia	(3) Phase III: Complete the work products, with DOI doing the heavy lifting regarding researching and drafting of particular work products.
San Felipe	
San Ildefonso	B. <u>Potential Work Products</u>
Santa Ana	As you know, the Pueblos have long pursued a 2-part approach to protecting Chaco Canyon and the Greater Chaco Region, which includes advocating for: (1) withdrawal of federal land and minerals from future mineral development in the especially critical 10-mile withdrawal area surrounding Chaco Culture National Historical Park and including its outliers; and (2) sufficient tribally-led cultural resource studies and tribal consultation, both of which must include Pueblos, preceding all other federal development decisions, including mineral lease sales and non-mineral development, throughout the Greater Chaco Region, which encompasses the entire San Juan Basin. Our recommendations carry out these aims.
Santa Clara	
Santo Domingo	
Taos	
Tesuque	<u>Create or Amend DOI Processes for Ensuring Proper Tribal Consultation and Consideration of Cultural Resources Throughout DOI, Including BLM and BIA Field Offices</u>
Ysleta del Sur	
Zia	(1) Review existing DOI and other processes for each federal land management or development decision in the Greater Chaco Region, identify places where tribal input, including from Pueblos, is lacking and could be incorporated more, and
Zuni	



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Acoma	assess the extent to which these processes work for everyone and the degree to which they fall short of fully carrying out existing obligations under land management and historic preservation statutes.
Cochiti	(2) Create or amend step-by-step DOI procedures to implement part (2) of the Pueblos' 2-part approach discussed above. Spell out exactly what will happen as a result of each federal land management or development decision throughout the Greater Chaco Region in order to strengthen existing federal requirements to ensure each decision is informed by sufficient tribal consultation and tribally-led cultural resource studies, which must include Pueblos. These procedures would also assist in ensuring that each bureau and each regional office within DOI is following the same playbook, and they would allow tribes a fuller understanding of what to expect. These procedures should take into account and weave together with the other relevant Greater Chaco Region land management documents, including the Resource Management Plan Amendment and its Programmatic Agreement.
Isleta	
Jemez	
Laguna	
Nambe	
Ohkay Owingeh	(3) Amend any DOI guidance or regulations relevant to development that limit DOI's ability to engage in tribal consultation and resource studies, including with Pueblos, or its ability to better incorporate and consider tribal and Pueblo knowledge and values prior to decision making on federal undertakings and major federal actions.
Picuris	
Pojoaque	(4) Create a list of statutory changes needed to better allow DOI to engage in tribal consultation and resource studies, including with Pueblos, and better incorporate and consider tribal and Pueblo knowledge and values prior to decision making on federal undertakings and major federal actions.
Sandia	
San Felipe	(5) Create guidance and regulations directing land management agencies to interpret land management and historic preservation statutes to require inclusion of tribal and Pueblo knowledge and land ethics in land management planning and decision-making, and provide tribal and Pueblo sovereigns the opportunity to influence and make land management decisions beyond mere consultation.
San Ildefonso	
Santa Ana	
Santa Clara	<u>Investigate and Develop Opportunities for Co-Stewardship</u>
Santo Domingo	(1) Conduct a review of existing co-stewardship arrangements to examine opportunity gaps in funding, decision making, and coordination so that tribes and Pueblos can strengthen and improve co-stewardship arrangements in the Greater Chaco Region.
Taos	(2) Create a tribal advisory committee, and/or update the BLM Resource Advisory Committee, to help inform land use decisions for the Greater Chaco Region, and create mechanisms whereby the committee has sufficient power to advise federal actors.
Tesuque	(3) Create an environmental justice advisory committee to help inform land use decisions for the Greater Chaco Region in regards to public health and other social implications.
Ysleta del Sur	(4) Ensure that all information shared by tribes and Pueblos is protected from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act or otherwise, including any information shared by a tribal advisory committee or environmental justice advisory committee.
Zia	
Zuni	



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- Acoma
- Cochiti
- Isleta
- Jemez
- Laguna
- Nambe
- Ohkay Owingeh
- Picuris
- Pojoaque
- Sandia
- San Felipe
- San Ildefonso
- Santa Ana
- Santa Clara
- Santo Domingo
- Taos
- Tesuque
- Ysleta del Sur
- Zia
- Zuni
- (5) Find ways to provide sufficient funding that goes hand-in-hand with co-stewardship, in accordance with existing federal laws, keeping in mind that adequate funding is intrinsically interconnected with increased resources. Existing funding levels that the federal government allocates to management of the land are insufficient, and often even these inadequate amounts are not fully reflected in tribes' land management funding.
- (6) Coordinate with tribes and Pueblos to create a phased approach to co-steward federal lands, projects, and undertakings in the Greater Chaco Region, which can strengthen as time moves on and funding levels increase. A phased approach could begin, for example, with tribes and Pueblos taking over discrete tasks, such as educational outreach or facilitating private tribal and Pueblo access to land for traditional purposes.
- (7) Execute any agreements between federal officials, such as the Park Superintendent, and tribes or Pueblos in writing.
- Ensure Effective DOI Staffing
- (1) Appoint a lead official at DOI for Great Chaco Region issues, and empower that official to effectively interface between tribes and Pueblos, BIA, BLM, other relevant bureaus and offices, DC officials, and regional and district officials.
- (2) Revise the responsibilities of the Superintendent of the Chaco Culture National Historical Park to focus exclusively on the Park, and not other areas in addition to Chaco. Take steps to ensure the Superintendent remains in the position so that institutional knowledge and relationships can be built and continue on.
- (3) Ensure that tribal liaison positions are filled, including within the BLM's Farmington Field Office.
- (4) Increase opportunities for Native and Puebloan people to fill key roles in federal land management positions tied to the Greater Chaco Region. Value cultural and ecological knowledge as equivalent to other types of education and experience in hiring.
- (5) Establish and maintain recruitment programs, internship pipelines, and job training at tribal and Pueblo high schools and vocational schools, colleges with many Native and Puebloan students, and Native colleges and vocational schools.
- Increase Tribal Capacity
- (1) Create avenues for increased and sustained funding to Tribal Historic Preservation Officers so that tribes and Pueblos have the resources necessary to fully engage in decision making processes and to provide cultural resource data.
- Gather Data to Inform Decision Making
- (1) Study the physical, mental, and environmental health impacts of degradation of the Greater Chaco Region on Pueblos and other tribal communities, and include tribal and Pueblo experts in the study.



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- Acoma (2) Conduct a comprehensive study of the various resources and values in the Greater Chaco Region—including, for example, cultural, ecological, wildlife, view sheds, water sheds, and other values—and include tribal and Pueblo experts in the study.
- Cochiti
- Rebuild Tribal Trust
- Isleta (1) Build relationships and engage in educational efforts at the local level, including with the Navajo Nation, and correct any misinformation about Chaco protection efforts.
- Jemez (2) Engage in tribal consultation on pathways to generate alternative economic development in the Greater Chaco Region so that Native people are not subjected to relying on oil and gas extraction.
- Laguna (3) Expressly recognize on behalf of DOI through formal documentation that Pueblos have an ancestral and current-day presence with and connection to Chaco Canyon and the Greater Chaco Region.
- Nambe
- Ohkay Owingeh
- Tribal Cultural Heritage Items and Excavations
- Picuris (1) Facilitate the return of tribal and Pueblo cultural heritage items excavated from the Greater Chaco Region. This may require building a repository at the Chaco Culture National Historical Park, and it may also require facilitating reinternment of some items.
- Pojoaque (2) Give tribes and Pueblos the ability to be part of the federal review process of excavation or research permits, both new and existing, in Chaco Culture National Historical Park and throughout the Greater Chaco Region in order to provide input to DOI on specific issues and concerns. Tribes and Pueblos must be integrated more deeply into the review process between federal agencies and non-tribal entities, including Universities.
- Sandia
- San Felipe
- San Ildefonso
- Santa Ana
- Santa Clara
- Santo Domingo
- Taos
- Tesuque
- Ysleta del Sur
- Zia
- Zuni