

Status of Soil Surveys on the Navajo Nation

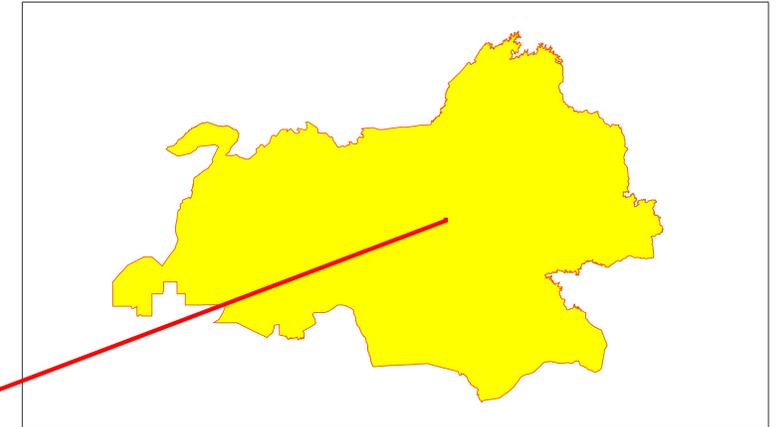
The treaty of 1968 established the first legal boundaries for the approximately 16 million acre Navajo reservation. With a population of 300,000, the Navajo Nation is the largest reservation in the United States in both land area and population. It is slightly larger than the state of West Virginia. Navajo Lands lie within Major Land Resource Area 35, the Colorado Plateau. It is located within the Four Corners area of the Southwest and covers parts of 3 states: Arizona, New Mexico and a small part of Utah.

The reservation is divided into five administrative areas called agencies. In the late 1930's, land management districts, commonly called grazing districts, were created. There are twenty three grazing districts within the five agencies and they are divided into units called chapters. There are numerous chapters within an agency.

The Department of Interior-Bureau of Indian Affairs-Navajo Region, Land Inventory & Classification's responsibility is to meet Federal trust and legal obligations to protect, conserve and manage the Navajo Tribe's land resource, which is the main trust resource of the Navajo People. The Navajo Indian Reservation is managed by the Navajo Tribe and the BIA for multipurpose uses.

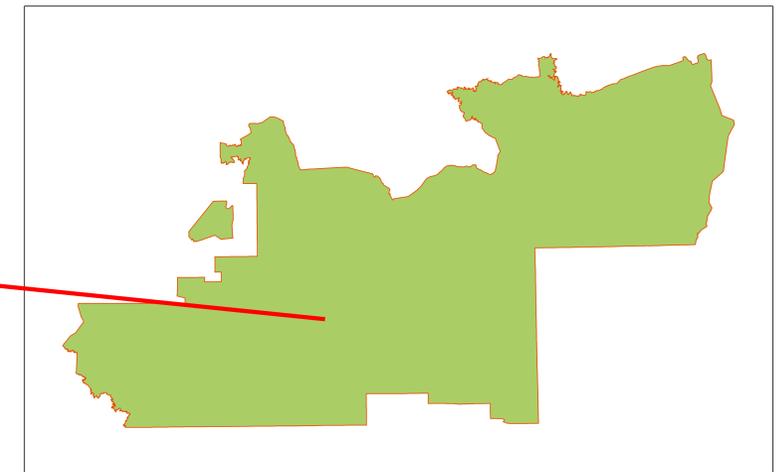
The BIA in cooperation with the Navajo Nation is part of the National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS) Program. The soils of the Navajo Nation are mapped to NCSS standards. There are 17 National Cooperative Soil Survey areas within the Navajo Nation boundaries. The Land Inventory and Classification Department has two surveys in progress; the Ft. Defiance Soil Survey and the Chinle Soil Survey. The Ft. Defiance survey is nearing completion and the Chinle survey is in the initial stages of mapping.

Chinle Soil Survey Area

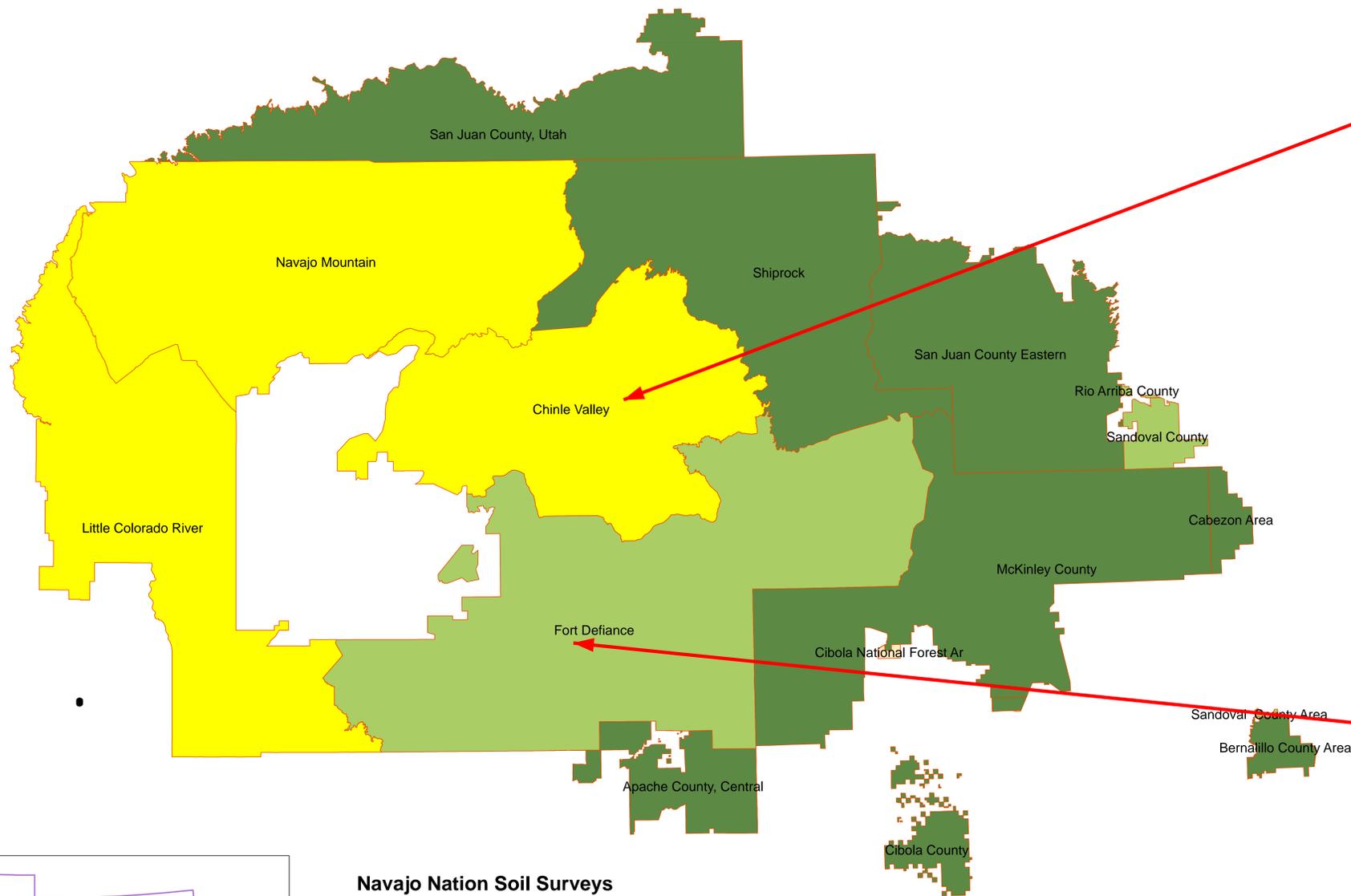


The Chinle Soil Survey Area covers 1.9 million acres in three counties in two states. It occurs in Apache and Navajo Counties in Arizona and San Juan County in New Mexico. It includes three grazing districts; Districts 4, 10 and 11. The survey is in the initial stages of mapping and plans to begin digitally. Digital surveys of various vintages surround Chinle enabling digital matching of survey joins from the beginning of the survey. Map unit concepts are already approved and accepted in the adjoining surveys so by beginning mapping along the border the Chinle map units can be approved with minimal field work and documentation. Because the survey is digital the data can be released in draft form as it is approved.

Ft. Defiance Soil Survey Area



Fort Defiance is the largest soil survey on the Navajo Indian Reservation. The survey area comprises 3.2 million acres in four counties in two states. It occurs in Apache and Navajo Counties in Arizona and McKinley and San Juan Counties in New Mexico. Four grazing districts occur within the survey boundaries; Districts 7, 17, 18 and 14. The survey, which is nearing completion, began converting to electronic publication by digitally compiling the field sheets. This allowed ongoing review by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Arizona State Office during compilation.



Navajo Nation Soil Surveys

STATUS

- Published Soil Survey
- Project - Mapping Complete
- Project Mapping in Progress
- USFS TES Inventory



Data provided by Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
of Arizona and New Mexico

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
NAVAJO REGION
LAND INVENTORY & CLASSIFICATION

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