

Canyon de Chelly National Monument

Planning Efforts

Enabling Legislation

Authorization - Act of February 14, 1931 (41 Stat. 1161)

SEVENTY-FIRST CONGRESS. Sess. III. CH. 188. 1931.

1161

CHAP. 188.—An Act To authorize the President of the United States to establish the Canyon De Chelly National Monument within the Navajo Indian Reservation, Arizona.

February 14, 1931.
[H. R. 15267]
[Public, No. 667]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That with the consent of the tribal council of the Navajo Tribe of Indians the President of the United States is hereby authorized to establish by presidential proclamation, the Canyon De Chelly National Monument, within the Navajo Indian Reservation, Arizona, including the lands hereinafter described.

Township 4 north, range 7 west, north half section 5, and northeast quarter section 6; township 5 north, range 7 west, south half section 15, section 19, south half section 20, section 21, section 22, south half section 23, north half section 26, north half section 27, north half section 28, sections 29, 30, 31, and 32; township 3 north, range 8 west, section 4, east half section 5; township 4 north, range 8 west, sections 6 and 7, southwest quarter section 17, sections 18 and 19, west half and southeast quarter section 20, sections 29 and 30, north half section 31, sections 32 and 33; township 5 north, range 8 west, section 7, section 13, south half section 14, south half section 15, south half and northwest quarter section 16, sections 17 to 24, inclusive, north half section 25, north half section 26, section 27, north half and southeast quarter section 28, north half section 29, north half section 30 and southwest quarter section 31; township 6 north, range 8 west, north half section 3, sections 4 to 8, inclusive, west half section 18 and northwest quarter section 19; township 7 north, range 8 west, south half section 23, section 24 and west half section 35; township 4 north, range 9 west, sections 1 to 3, inclusive, east half section 4, north half section 10, north half section 11, sections 12 and 13, east half section 24 and east half section 25; township 5 north, range 9 west, sections 4 to 31, inclusive, east half section 33, and sections 34 to 36, inclusive; township 6 north, range 9 west, sections 1 to 3, inclusive, sections 10 to 15, inclusive, sections 21 to 23, inclusive, sections 10 to 15, inclusive, sections 21 to 23, inclusive, north half section 24; north half section 26, sections 27 to 29, inclusive, southeast quarter section 30, and sections 31 to 34, inclusive; township 5 north, range 10 west, sections 1 to 18, inclusive, north half section 22, sections 23 to 25, inclusive, north half section 26, and north half section 36; township 6 north, range 10 west, east half section 34, section 35, and south half section 36, embracing about eighty-three thousand eight hundred and forty acres of unsurveyed land, all west of the Navajo meridian, in Arizona.

SEC. 2. That nothing herein shall be construed as in any way impairing the right, title, and interest of the Navajo Tribe of Indians which they now have and hold to all lands and minerals, including oil and gas, and the surface use of such lands for agricultural, grazing, and other purposes, except as hereinafter defined: and the said tribe of Indians shall be, and is hereby, granted the preferential right, under regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior, of furnishing riding animals for the use of visitors to the monument.

SEC. 3. That the National Park Service, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, is hereby charged with the administration of the area of said national monument, so far as it applies to the care, maintenance, preservation and restoration of the prehistoric ruins, or other features of scientific or historical interest within the area, and shall have the right to construct upon the lands such roads, trails, or other structures or improvements as may be necessary in connection with the administration and protection of the monument.

Canyon De Chelly
National Monument,
Ariz.
Established, within
Navajo Indian Reservation,
with consent of
their council.

Description.

Rights of Indians reserved.

Control etc.

Navajo Nation Moratorium

- In 1985, a resolution of the Resources Committee of the Navajo Tribal Council was passed and established a protection zone within the boundaries of Canyon de Chelly National Monument.
- This provided some protection of the canyon from activities and developments deemed to be a threat or an adverse impact.
- To remain in place until a “Joint Management Plan” between the Navajo Nation, BIA, and NPS could be developed and approved.

Canyon Threats



- Permit disputes
- Trash
- Constant conflict
- Ad hoc buildings
- Canyon entrance littered with signs, businesses, cars
- Frustrated residents
- LE jurisdictional concerns

Canyon Threats

- Residents allowing visitors access into archaeological sites
- Stray and starving dogs and horses
- Vender issues
- Difficulties in enforcement of laws



Planning Efforts

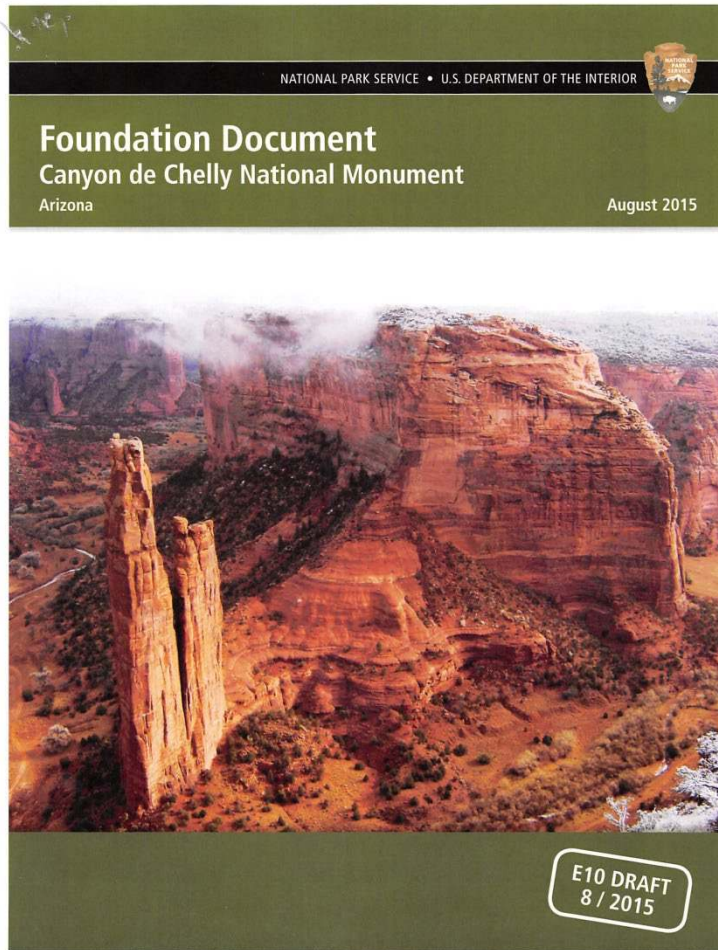
- Planning required concurrence by the National Park Service, Navajo Nation, and Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Because of the land status , all three entities have authorities and responsibilities within the canyon
- There is also a living community and agricultural land use within the park boundaries. Permittees within the canyon and others have a strong voice and wish to be part of the planning process.

Planning Efforts



- Canyon de Chelly had never had a General Management Plan
- In 1990 a planning effort to create a “Joint Management Plan” took place
- The Navajo Nation President did not sign

Foundation Document



Values identified in public meeting:

- Family
- Beautiful, Divine Gift
- Tradition
- Center
- Farming
- Stories
- Homeland of Spirit People
- Connection to my past, land, people
- Place that brings life to me, trees, animals
- Spiritual wholeness
- Awesome blessing.

Presentation to Resource and Development Committee of Tribal Council

- In 2015 , NPS was approached by the local council delegate Leonard Pete to do a presentation and tour of the canyon for the Resource and Development Committee of Tribal Council
- Values of the canyon and threats to the canyon were identified
- All agreed that it was time to renew efforts toward planning.
- The new head of the Department of Natural Resources, Bidtah Becker, was assigned to work with BIA and NPS to produce a plan.

Renewed Planning Efforts

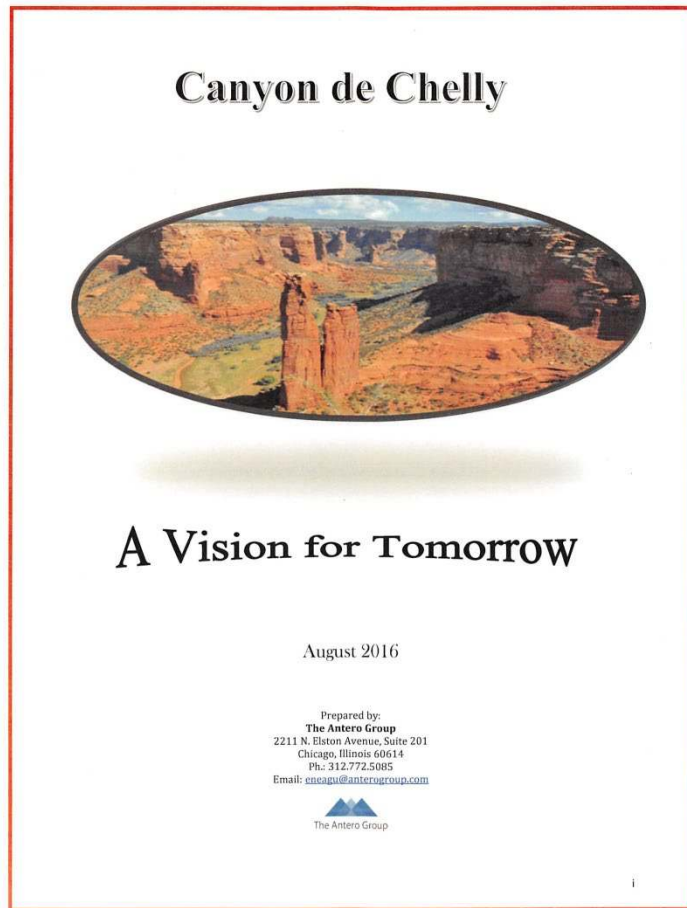
- Navajo Nation has provided \$10,000 for development of a “Shared Vision Statement
- BIA passed \$25,000 to Navajo Nation to complete “Strategic Agreement between BIA, NPS and Navajo Nation for Cooperative Management of Canyon de Chelly”
- PMIS project 210992



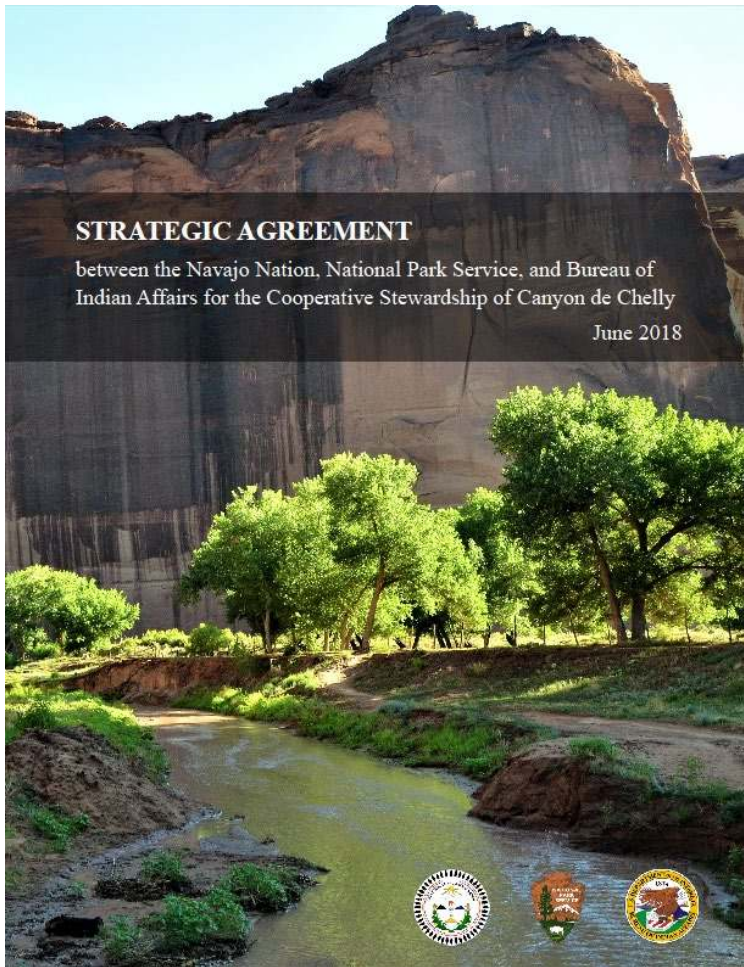
Canyon de Chelly Vision Statement Completed August 2016

The Canyon de Chelly Vision

To respectfully share
stewardship of Canyon
values, and to protect
and preserve its
beauty, resources, and
culture for the future -
hózhq dooleet.



Strategic Agreement Completed and Signed June 22, 2018



Next Steps...

- Multijurisdictional approach
- Need for facilitated process and assistance from other associations.
- Historically the Navajo Nation has lost opportunities because the federal government made decisions without truly collaborating with the tribe.
- Government to government relationship is not just a “check the box” process.
- The modern framework of multijurisdictional authority means we have to address the complexity of management of the canyon so that we serve the resource and not the bureaucratic needs of multiple jurisdictions.
- Having all entities involved in management is more complicated but, in so doing, we will achieve a better result.
- Secure funding for a facilitator and for the “Plan.”
- Develop plan by summer of 2019.