

NATIVE AMERICANS AND AVIAN PROTECTION

WORKING WITH TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

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I·RO·NY¹

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NOUN

1.the expression of one's meaning by using language that normally signifies the opposite, typically for humorous or emphatic effect.

"“Don't go overboard with the gratitude,” he rejoined with heavy irony“

- a state of affairs or an event that seems deliberately contrary to what one expects and is often amusing as a result.

"the irony is that I thought he could help me“

- a literary technique, originally used in Greek tragedy, by which the full significance of a character's words or actions are clear to the audience or reader although unknown to the character.

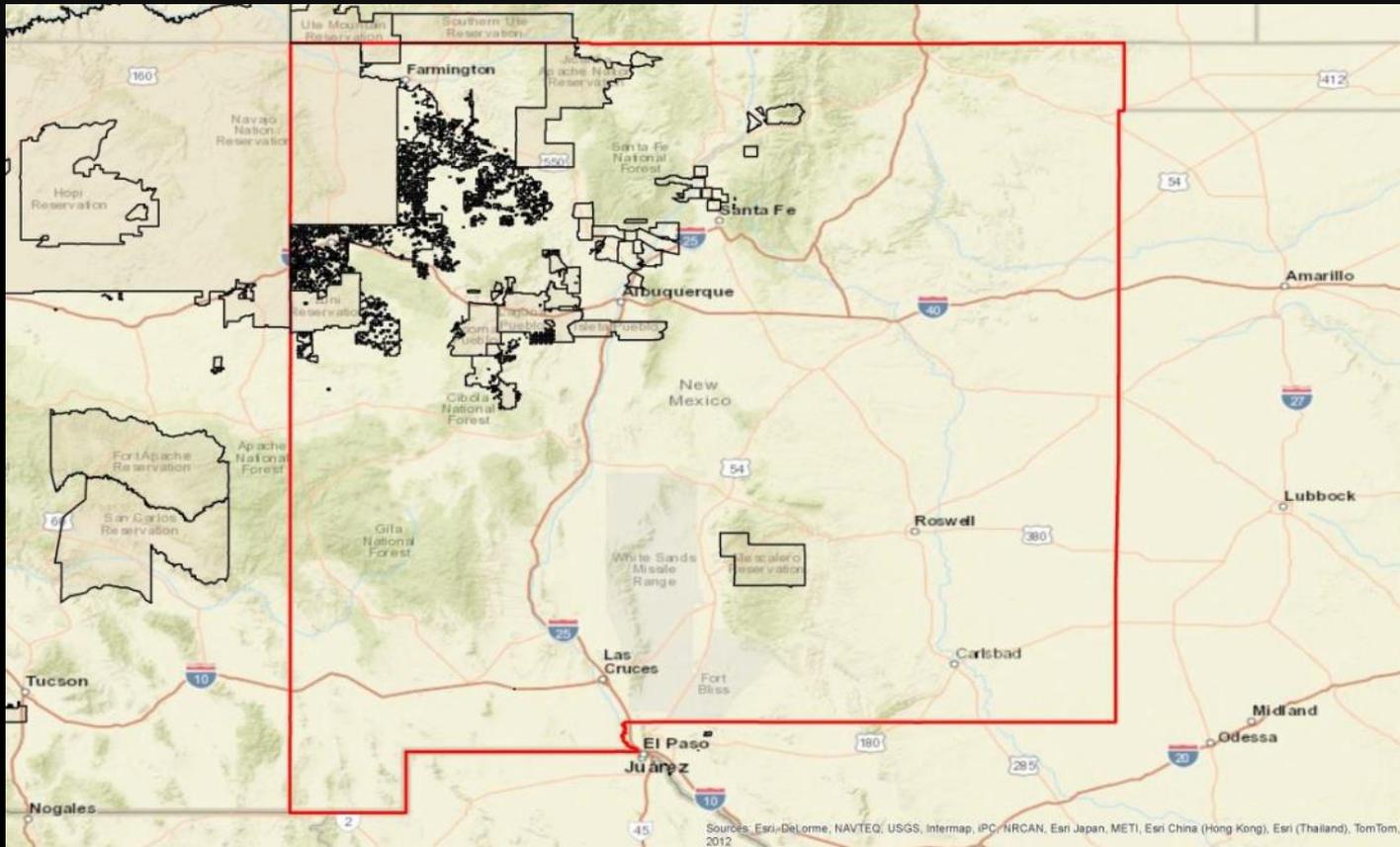
noun: **dramatic irony**

NEW MEXICO TRIBES AND LOCATIONS

- 19 Pueblos and 3 Tribes in New Mexico
- Mostly North and West of Albuquerque
- 7.252 Million Acres – 10.5% of lands within the exterior boundaries of the state.



TRIBAL LANDS MAP



SOVEREIGNTY AND CULTURE

- All recognized Tribes, Nations, and Pueblos are considered to be domestic sovereigns, effectively on the same level as States, despite predating the States, and the Country.
- Each tribe is different. Politically, culturally, religiously – plan for this
 - Even directly adjacent tribes
- Treat tribal officials with respect
- Plan ahead-process may be longer than you expect
- Ask questions
- Communication is key



SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

Political systems

- Centralized vs distributed
- Religious vs Secular
- Annual vs multi-year leadership
- Democratic vs Autocratic

Origin stories

- Origin stories describe how the specific tribe/pueblo/nation was created and arrived at their current location. They are frequently similar in general, but may be very different in the specifics.
- Contribute to an understanding of the tribes place in the world, their roles, and their interaction with the natural world.

Holistic world view



NATIVE VIEWS: HOLISTIC NATURE

- Native cultures interact with nature on a holistic level – similar to the western ecosystem approach.
- Natural elements are interconnected.
- Avoid single species/single class approach to management
- Incorporate spirituality into management and ecology
- Historical area knowledge
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge



THE ROLE OF BIRDS

- Birds play a wide variety of roles
 - For example: Western thought associates owls with wisdom;
Navajo belief associates them with death;
Some pueblos have adopted the Navajo association, others use Owls for other purposes.
- Different stories for each tribe – these may identify how or why specific birds are used in the ways that they are.
- Some more important than others –Eagles frequently venerated, all have roles though
- Different ceremonies – consumptive (new feathers each time)
 - Permanent (feathers may be handed down for generations)
- Ritual Adornment

BIRD SYMBOLISM IN NATIVE CULTURE

- Eagles – messenger, courage, wisdom, strength
- Raven – change, transformation
- Thunderbird – rain, war, change
- Hummingbird – devotion, life, eternity
- Roadrunner – magic, spiritual protection
- Turkey – abundance, fertility
- Other Birds - messengers



PROTECTIONS AND THREATS

- Each Tribe has different laws protecting wildlife, or may have none.
- Federal laws apply, but may be enforced differently by local law enforcement
 - May be ignored in some cases/blind eye
 - Religious Freedom vs Federal Law
 - Cultural Need vs Federal Protection
 - Take permits – general vs specific
- State Laws DO NOT APPLY on Tribal Lands
- Cultural Protections

NAVAJO NATION AVIAN PROTECTION LAWS

- Navajo Endangered species list: Protects 8 bird species under tribal law.
 - Bald and Golden Eagle Nest protection Regulations
 - Raptor Electrocution Prevention Regulations
 - Ferruginous Hawk nest protection regulations
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NEEDS AND GOALS

- Different by tribe
 - Whole Birds
 - Feathers
 - Self Harvested
- Impacted by federal laws
 - Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
 - Migratory Bird Treaty Act
 - Endangered Species Act
 - Take permits
- Consumptive vs re-useable
 - Impacts Quantity of need
- Tribes have limited legal ability to distribute parts or birds to their people



CULTURE VS PROTECTION

- Not all Native Americans understand federal protections
- Some understand but feel that those protections/requirements impinge on cultural responsibilities
- Some Federal employees don't appear to care about tribal sovereignty or culture
- Religious freedom vs federal law is a challenging area for everyone
- Communication is key
- Profit vs Culture



COLLECTION BY TRIBAL MEMBERS OF ELECTRIFIED BIRDS

- Generally illegal under federal law
 - Especially eagles, but other species as well
- May not be acknowledged and may even be concealed
- May be different among tribes or individuals
 - Negative or positive association with Electrocution
 - Profit vs Culture
- Is there an impact to electrical providers?
- What are the consequences if identified?



QUESTIONS

