



U.S. Department of the Interior

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News Release

President Obama is preparing to reduce the size of the Navajo Reservation. Due to the work involved to maintain sheep, the Navajo people have very significantly reduced the number of sheep on the reservation land. The need for vast amounts of grazing land is no longer needed by the reservation. Much of the reservation is no longer inhabited as the population has moved from rural areas and congregated in a few cities on the reservation or near the reservation.

Therefore, approximately 2.25 million acres on the Arizona portion of the reservation, 1.5 million acres on the New Mexico portion of the reservation and 400,000 acres of the Utah portion of the reservation will revert to the Bureau of Land Management jurisdiction. It will no longer be part of the Navajo Reservation. The land will be available for grazing permits and mineral claims by citizens or companies. However some mineral development fees will be paid to the Navajo Tribe on any oil or mineral extraction from these lands.

This announcement and the new boundary lines will be made in the very near future.

Sally M. Jewell

Secretary of the Interior

1849 C Street, N. W.

Washington, DC 20240