

Subpart H—Trespass**§ 161.700 What is trespass?**

Under this part, trespass is any unauthorized use of, or action on, Navajo partitioned grazing lands.

§ 161.701 What is BIA's trespass policy?

BIA will:

(a) Investigate accidental, willful, and/or incidental trespass on Navajo Partitioned Lands;

(b) Respond to alleged trespass in a prompt, efficient manner;

(c) Assess trespass penalties for the value of products used or removed, cost of damage to the Navajo Partitioned Lands, and enforcement costs incurred as a consequence of the trespass; and

(d) Ensure, to the extent possible, that damage to Navajo Partitioned Lands resulting from trespass is rehabilitated and stabilized at the expense of the trespasser.

§ 161.702 Who will enforce this subpart?

(a) BIA enforces the provisions of this subpart. If the Navajo Nation adopts the provisions of this subpart, the Navajo Nation will have concurrent jurisdiction to enforce this subpart. Additionally, if the Navajo Nation so requests, BIA will defer to tribal prosecution of trespass on Navajo Partitioned Lands.

(b) Nothing in this subpart will be construed to diminish the sovereign authority of the Navajo Nation with respect to trespass.

NOTIFICATION

§ 161.703 How are trespassers notified of a trespass determination?

(a) Unless otherwise provided under tribal law, when BIA has reason to believe that a trespass on Navajo Partitioned Lands has occurred, BIA or the authorized tribal representative will provide written notice within 5 business days to:

(1) The alleged trespasser;

(2) The possessor of trespass property; and

(3) Any known lien holder.

(b) The written notice under paragraph (a) of this section will include the following:

(1) The basis for the trespass determination;

(2) A legal description of where the trespass occurred;

(3) A verification of ownership of unauthorized property (*e.g.*, brands in the State Brand Book for cases of livestock trespass, if applicable);

(4) Corrective actions that must be taken;

(5) Time frames for taking the corrective actions;

(6) Potential consequences and penalties for failure to take corrective action; and

(7) A statement that unauthorized livestock or other property may not be removed or disposed of unless authorized by BIA under paragraph (b)(4) of this section.

(c) If BIA determines that the alleged trespasser or possessor of trespass property is unknown or refuses delivery of the written notice, a public trespass notice will be posted at the tribal community building, U.S. Post Office, and published in the local newspaper nearest to the Indian agricultural lands where the trespass is occurring.

(d) Trespass notices under this subpart are not subject to appeal under part 2 of this title.

§ 161.704 What can a permittee do if they receive a trespass notice?

The trespasser will within the time frame specified in the notice:

(a) Comply with the ordered corrective actions; or

(b) Contact BIA in writing to explain why the trespass notice is in error. The trespasser may contact BIA by telephone but any explanation of trespass must be provided in writing. If BIA determines that a trespass notice was issued in error, the notice will be withdrawn.

§ 161.705 How long will a written trespass notice remain in effect?

A written trespass notice will remain in effect for the same action identified in that written notice for a period of one year from the date of receipt of the written notice by the trespasser.