

Secretary of Interior withdraws from future leasing, mining claims

U.S. Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland recently withdrew future leasing and mining claims public lands that surround the Chaco Culture National Historical Park. The park is about 90 miles northeast of Gallup.

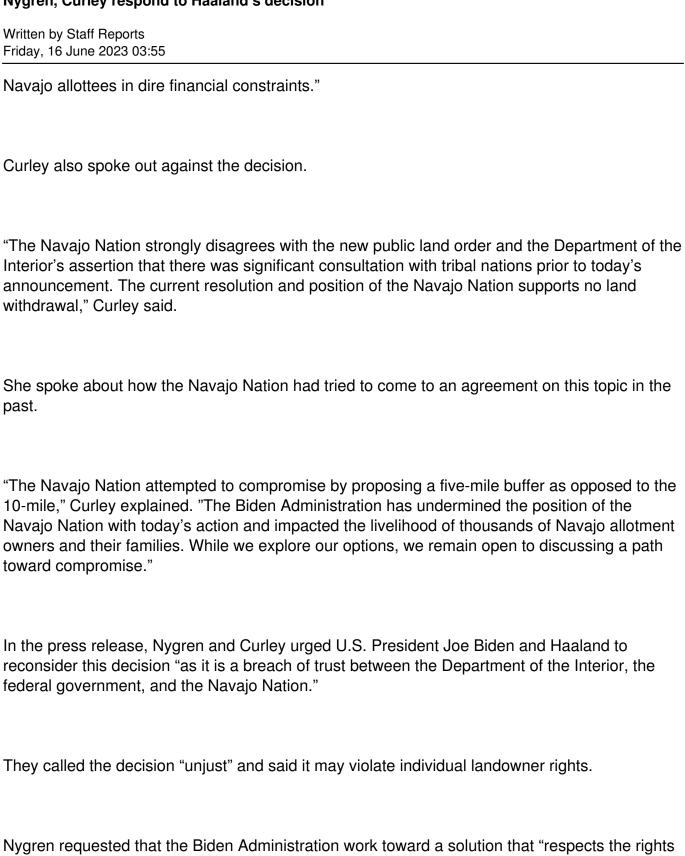
In a June 2 press release, Navajo Nation president Buu Nygren and Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council Hon. Crystalyne Curley spoke against Haaland's decision.

"Despite the Navajo Nation's position, Secretary Haaland proceeded to issue this decision one day after the Navajo Nation commemorated our Treaty Day, which recognizes the Treaty of 1868 and the start of the government-to-government relationship between the Navajo Nation and the United States. The Secretary's action undermines our sovereignty and self-determination," Nygren said.

Nygren went into more detail about how the decision will affect the Navajo Nation.

"Despite my concerns and denunciation, the Department of Interior has moved forward which is highly disappointing. Secretary Haaland's decision impacts Navajo allottees but also disregards the tribe's choice to lease lands for economic development," Nygren said. "Ultimately, this decision jeopardizes future economic opportunities while at the same time placing some 5,600

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and dignity of the Navajo people due to the long-lasting consequences to the Navajo People."

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