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**PRESS RELEASE**  
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The Hopi Tribe, an ancient people, believe they have a sacred duty to protect the land. The Tribe has passed land management regulations to protect native plants, grasses and wildlife in accordance with that duty. The Tribe regulates the number of horses, cattle and sheep to ensure the land is able to replenish itself. All residents, both Hopi and Navajo, living on the Hopi Reservation are expected to share in this responsibility and the laws will be equally enforced amongst all residents, Hopi and Navajo ranchers alike.

The Hopi Reservation and other areas of the Southwest are under severe drought conditions according to the U.S. Drought Monitor Map. Monthly monitoring of Hopi Lands shows severe deterioration of Hopi Lands due to over grazing in specific range units over the past five years. The July through September 2014 Drought Status Report, documents that the general conditions of the range is poor to fair depending on the amount of precipitation received as the rains arrived late and was spotty. The warm season annual grasses that are located in areas that did not receive rain did not respond to growth in maturity and the normal seeding stages. Only old growth vegetation is present.

The Hopi Tribe, Department of Natural Resources completed the annual Hopi Partitioned Lands (HPL) livestock inventory which was conducted from August 18 through August 28, 2014. Pursuant to Ordinance 43, a statute that govern the grazing of livestock on Hopi lands, citations were issued for violations of over permit limits and trespass for non-permit holders. Five day notices were posted and written notices were issued by Hopi Resource Enforcement Services for those who are not in compliance with their livestock grazing permits. This notice was to provide the opportunity to correct their permit violations and to come into compliance voluntarily.

The Hopi Tribe, Department of Natural Resources in coordination with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Hopi Agency has implemented the enforcement of impoundments of livestock that are over the Permittees allocated units in accordance with Ordinance 43 and 25CFR 168, the Hopi Partitioned Lands Grazing Regulations.

The protection of Hopi Natural Resources is of utmost priority to the Hopi Tribe. In an exercise of our sovereignty, and as stewards of our aboriginal lands, these impoundments are being carried out equally for and between Hopi and Navajo tribal members, including all Hopi Partitioned Land Navajo Non-Accommodation Agreement Signers, who have no permits, Hopi Partitioned Land Navajo "AA" Accommodation Agreement Permittees and Hopi Partitioned Land Hopi Tribal Permittees, who were all issued citations for violation of over their permit numbers.

Navajo members residing on the Hopi Partitioned Lands have assured the Hopi Tribe that they would abide by the reasonable regulations of the Tribe and limit their grazing of horses, sheep or cattle to "validly issued current grazing permits from the Hopi Tribe". Despite this agreement, it was discovered during the annual livestock counts that forty three ranchers had grazed animals in excess of their permits.

The Hopi Tribe, Department of Natural Resources is working one on one with the affected Navajo and Hopi livestock owners to resolve the removal, sale or to decrease the animal units to permitted numbers. Despite the misinformation being spread via the social media, there is no threat of violence by the Hopi Tribe against the Navajo and Hopi residents of Hopi Partitioned Lands.

The Hopi call upon the Navajo Nation and its citizens to honor their agreements and join with the Hopi Tribe to protect our sacred lands by the continued and ongoing enforcement of the reasonable grazing regulations. It is in the best interest of all live stock owners that we work together to preserve the natural resources for the benefit of all.

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