

Diné Fundamental Laws Presentation

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Many First Nations, the Diné, have been given the responsibility of protecting the sacred elements that exist; that is air, water, earth and fire. Also as with other people of the world, we have our place, which is among our sacred mountains of Blanca Peak, Mount Taylor, the San Francisco Peaks, and Hesperus Mountain. In our society we have laws that keep us in balance and harmony, such laws that we call the Diné Fundamental Laws; which consist of Traditional Law, Customary Law, Natural Law, and Common Law.

The Diné Fundamental Laws are in place to protect and promote teachings in the foundation of life by thinking, planning, living, and hope.

It becomes important for us to come to the realization that we must respect these laws and incorporate that into our governmental policies. But how do we do such things? In working with First Nations, we must first come to the reality that this land is all indigenous land that provided for all First Nations. We must further recognize that our Mother Earth does not belong to us, but we belong to her.

We have to acknowledge that policies being developed are being done by governments with no real roots to connect of Mother Earth and Father Sky. But we must come into terms with the world as it exists.

How do we include our cultural knowledge into responsible protection? Begin policy making in the four areas of Laws and build on that to the current situations and needs of the people.

Now we must build on the foundation of fundamental laws and look into areas such as:

- Including fundamental laws of Diné and other First Nations into policies
- Working with First Nations to develop relationships to get policies enacted
- Create real policies that reflect the connection to fundamental laws
- Creating space for First Nations to stand with others to address issues and stop new mining
- Strategize solutions for the protection against contamination and look at “clean up”