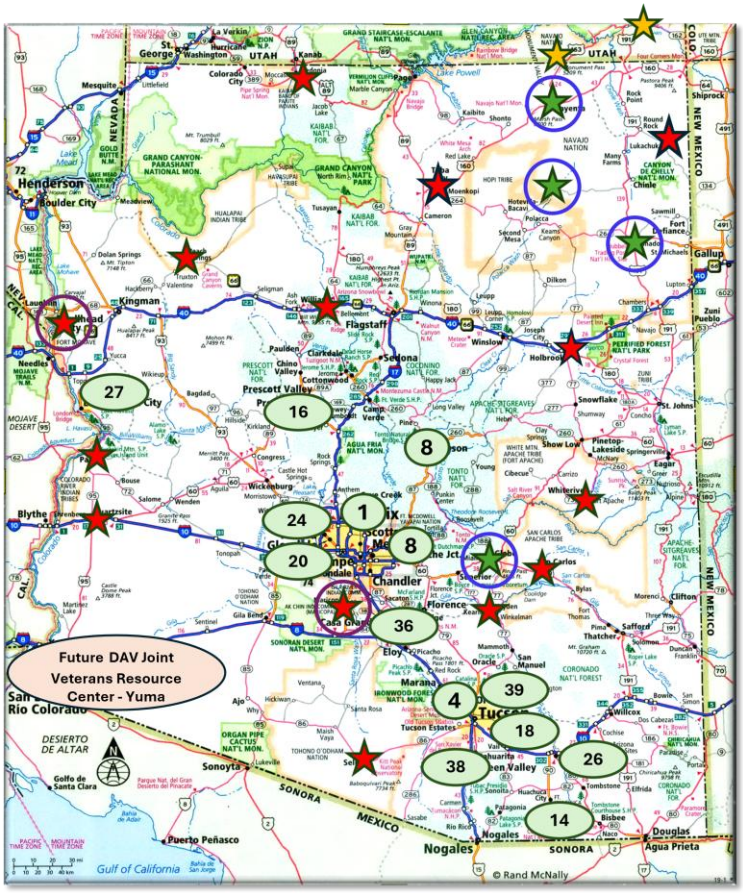

NATIVE AMERICAN & RURAL VETERAN OUTREACH

Current as of October 17, 2026

WHAT THIS DOCUMENT PRESENTS

This brief presents accomplishments, current situation, and planning for the Department of Arizona three-year project (2026-2029) and an introduction to cooperative efforts

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MEET THE TEAM

It takes a team to bring together the people and resources it takes to create, implement, and sustain a program that reaches to every corner of the State of Arizona—and beyond!

Department of Arizona

The Department of Arizona team includes Department leadership who designed, implemented, and manage the program, Department and Chapter Service Officers who conduct remote operations with Veterans at our remote service offices, and our support staff who manage tracking of equipment orders, travel, and other financial responsibilities.

The Design and Implementation Team

DR. CARL FORKNER
Adjutant | CEO

RODNEY HAGE
Senior Vice Commander

CHRISTINE SIEGEL
Navajo Program Coord.

The Program Operations Team

Team Member Responsibility	Team Member
Donation Management	Brian Novinger (Chapter 24) Tineke Hage (Chapter 24)
Donation Logistics and Transport	Lorrain Browning (Chapter 24)
Communications & Outreach Committee Liaison	Ray Drake (Chapter 20) Debbie Roberts (NDL/DSO)
Resource Procurement & Contracting	Carl Forkner (Department)
Administration & Financial Management	Yvonne Cortez (Department) Mary Dunber (Department)
Service Officer Coordination	Carl Forkner (Department) Chapter Lead CSOs

Lead Department and Chapter Service Officers

To contact a Lead Service Officer, click on their blue e-mail link.

Chapter	Name	Type	Level	E-Mail
1	Kim Vasquez	CSO	1	[redacted]
4	Jeri Harwood	CSO	1	
8	Lynn Burnett	CSO	2	
11	*None certified*	--	--	
14	Chris Campbell	CSO	1	
16	Gerald McKenzie	CSO	1	
18	*None certified*	--	--	
20	Ray Drake	CSO	1	
24	John Crockett	CSO	1	
26	Ron Cox	CSO	2	
27	Ric Spillane	CSO	1	
36	Doug Stinson	CSO	1	
38	*None certified*	--	--	
39	Kevin Karvinen	CSO	2	
Dept	Dr. Carl Forkner	DSO	2	

AZ DAV STAR Chapter 24

Chapter 24 has been instrumental in the outreach for, management, and delivery of donations for our Native American Veterans Community. In the beginning, the chapter was considering that they would collect a few pickup trucks worth of donations—WRONG! Their efforts spread like wildfire by word of mouth to the VSOs, churches, neighborhood groups, Veterans groups, and others! Now, with the incredible generosity of the people living, working, or meeting in Phoenix's west and northwest metro area, Chapter 24 plans to bring at least one 26' moving truck filled with furniture, blankets, clothing and undergarments, hygiene products, houseware, and more every month. SIMPLY AMAZING!

SOME OF STAR CHAPTER 24's DONATION HEROES:

Rod Hage	Tineke Hage	Thomas Dawson	Brian Novinger	Lorrain Browning
Treasurer	Member	Junior Vice	Commander	Member, Driver

Other Participating Chapters

DAV FULFILLING OUR PROMISES TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED ARIZONA Chapter #1

DAV 1920 2020 A Century of Service to Veterans Chapter 4 Tucson

EAST VALLEY CHAPTER 8 DAV MESA, ARIZONA

DAV Chapter 16 FULFILLING OUR PROMISES TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED Prescott, AZ

DAV 20

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS DAV CHAPTER 39 SERVICE ★ NOT ★ SELF ORO VALLEY, ARIZONA

DAV Rural Remote Site Managers

LINDA MERLIN
Member, Chapter 8
Site Mgr: Globe

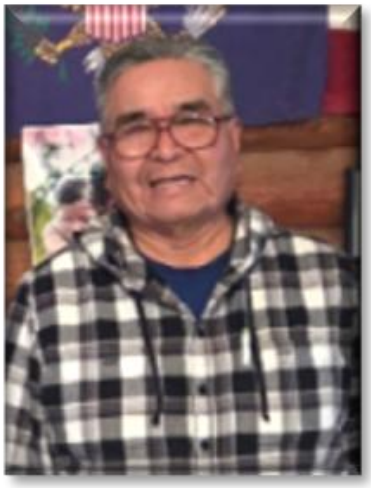
DEBBIE ROBERTS
No. Dist Liaison, DSO
Site Manager: Kearny

JOSEPH BUSH
Chapter 8 2nd Jr. Vice, CSO
Volunteer: Globe & Kearny

The Navajo Nation Team

SARAPHINE "SARA" JOSLEY
President
All-Navajo Veterans Auxiliary
Piñon & Kayenta Site Manager

WALTER BARRINGTON
Vice-President
All-Navajo Veterans Auxiliary
Ganado Site Manager



BARTON HOSTEEN
Vice-President, Piñon
Veterans Wellness Center
Commander,
Piñon Chapter, Navajo Nation

MISSION AND VISION

The Mission

We are dedicated to a single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. We accomplish this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them, fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life.

This mission is carried forward by:

- Providing free, professional assistance to veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services earned through military service and provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs and other agencies of government.
- Providing outreach concerning its program services to the American people generally, and to disabled veterans and their families specifically.
- Representing the interests of disabled veterans, their families, their widowed spouses and their orphans before Congress, the White House and the Judicial Branch, as well as state and local government.
- Extending DAV's mission of hope into the communities where these veterans and their families live, through a network of state-level departments and local chapters.

Providing a structure through which disabled veterans can express their compassion for their fellow veterans through a variety of volunteer programs.

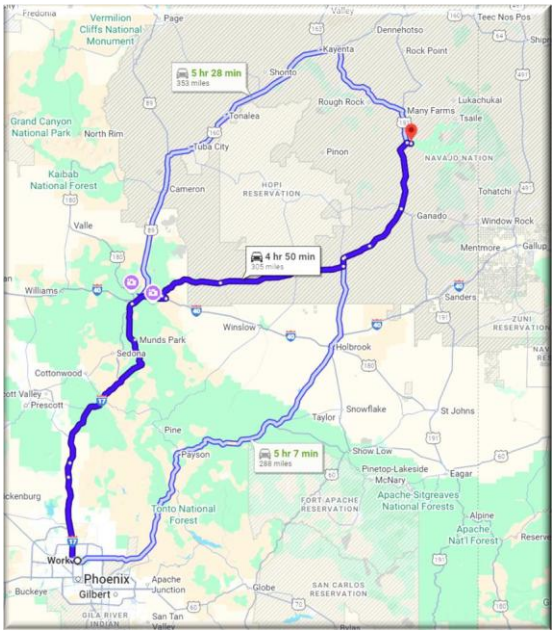
The Vision

Our mission as a Disabled American Veterans organization is not fulfilled until all our country's war-time disabled, and their dependents and survivors, have been adequately cared for.

GENESIS OF THE PROJECT

On December 23, 2025, Arizona DAV Chapter 1 Commander Christine Siegel was contacted by All-Navajo Veterans Auxiliary President Saraphine “Sara” Josley. Sara discussed the needs of the Veteran Community in the Navajo Nation and that they desired services to assist Veterans with VA issues.

The initial idea for Department of Arizona support of our Navajo brothers and sisters was to establish a way to provide services in the town of Chinle, AZ, which is centrally located within the Arizona expanse of the Navajo Nation, approximately 300 miles northeast of Phoenix. At the time—and still—there were no DAV chapters within a reasonable distance from the Navajo Nation; it is a similarly long drive between Chinle and Prescott (Chapter 16) or Phoenix (Chapter 1 or 24)...five to five-and-a-half hours one way. For the majority of Navajo Veterans who had reliable transportation, this normally meant an overnight stay—sometimes in their vehicle in a parking lot or a rest stop. In any case, the situation was untenable in our judgment.



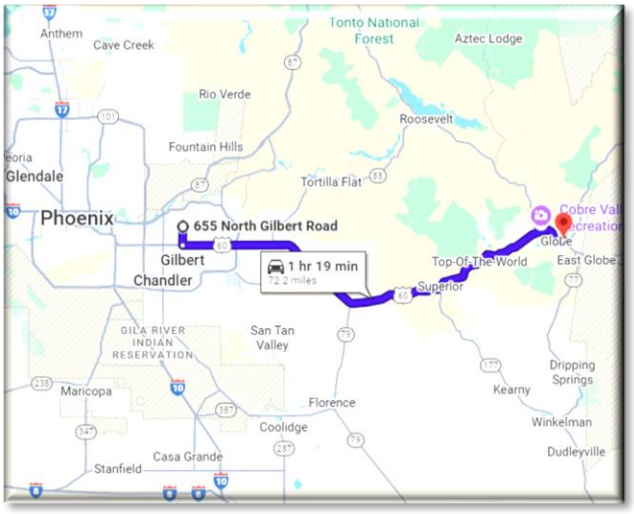
Chinle has limited resources (poor cell service, limited startup funding available, no Internet at the proposed location) but has access to a building where services may take place and available [and willing] volunteers.

We began planning for the type of equipment, logistics, cost, and management needs for establishing a remote site in Chinle. As the planning ensued, the Pinon Chapter of the Central Navajo Veteran Agency, which had its headquarters at the Piñon Veteran Wellness Center, offered their hogan as a site for the remote services.

After considering the location, the capability to not only host the remote site equipment but also keep it secure, and Sara’s dedication to the mission and managing the site, we began researching and acquiring the necessary components to establish and operate the remote site. As it turned out, the biggest challenge was neither equipment nor site management; the primary challenge was training service officers in working remotely via videoconference and then having them commit to the program. The other challenge—how the program manager was going to automate scheduling for the service officers and automate scheduling for the Veterans who need service.

The First Site is Established

During the fall of 2025, a Chapter 8 service officer would travel to Globe, AZ (about 90 minutes east of the Mesa Chapter—but still in their large service area) to meet with local residents there at Miami-Globe Elks Lodge 489. Most of the Veterans and survivors we met there were low-income individuals and families—in fact, even being in the center of this historic old town almost seemed rural. We decided that the proximity of Globe, although 90 minutes from the nearest chapter, was a perfect opportunity to test the features we designed into the remote service office program.



In January 2026, the Globe project was approved by the Department Finance Committee, the Elks Lodge, and the City of Globe. Technology acquisition was completed February 2, and delivery, testing, and training Linda Merlin—a DAV Chapter 8 member—as site manager commenced. The first round of remote claims was accomplished on February 9, 2026, and continues twice a month on the first and last Thursdays. One distinct advantage to the Miami-Globe Elks location is that they provide free Internet service for the remote station in addition to security for the equipment.

The cost of the Globe remote site? $1,012, plus travel two times a month for a DSO who is going to the site on the first and last Thursday of the month to assist the site manager and promote DAV to local Veterans. As a result, Globe is shifting this fall to an in-person site and the remote site capability will be duplicated about 75 minutes south in the town of Kearny—the center of an area rich with a rural Veteran population.

Initial cost breakdown for Globe remote services site

Why Globe?

When comparing the demographics of Veterans in and around the Miami-Globe area with Veterans in the Navajo Nation, we discovered many parallels.

- Reliable transportation for Veterans to go long distances to receive services is a problem in both locations.
- Communications in both areas have places that fall outside cellular footprints.
- Financial insecurity is a problem for many Veterans in both areas.
- Both areas have Veteran populations who have not had the opportunity to apply for the many benefits they earned through their service; many Veterans, especially from the Vietnam era, don't even realize what any of the benefits are for which they may be eligible.

Probably the most important parallel between Globe and the Navajo Nation is that *we were invited to their towns*. Often, when an organization approaches a population claiming to have a program or solution with their best interests in mind, it is the sales pitch that results in overselling and underdelivering…and sometimes, it is just for a token hand out, a photo opportunity, and they never return. For some people in Globe, that same level of caution existed when we started this project. Now, after six months of continually providing services to the area's Veteran Community, Globe is set to become a new chapter by the end of FY 2027.

BUILDING ON SUCCESS

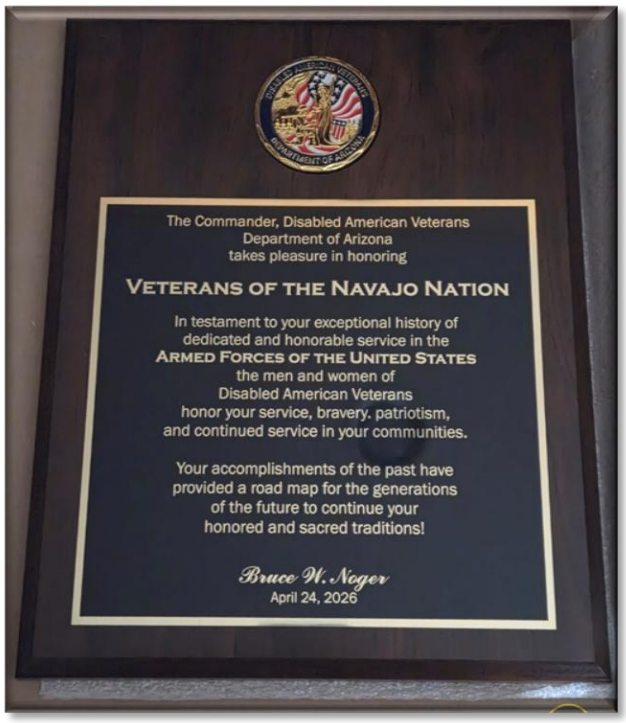
From the December 23, 2025 concept of finding ways to address the needs of our Navajo Veteran Community, through successful test of our remote site concept in Globe, the Navajo Program came to life in February 2026. After final acquisition of necessary equipment on February 6th, delivery, testing, and training with Sara Josley, who volunteered to manage the site in Piñon, remote services commenced. Supporting the effort was Barton Hosteen, an Army Veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, also the Commander of the Piñon Chapter of the Central Navajo Veteran Agency and Vice-president of the Piñon Veteran Wellness Center program.

Department Sr. Vice Rod Hage with Sara Josley and Barton Hosteen.

Piñon: Success and Beyond

Following a record of two-for-two successes in establishing remote services sites, even we were astounded by the response from the Navajo Veteran Community! Senior Vice Rod Hage and Adjutant Carl Forkner were invited to appear at the April 24th meeting of the Central Navajo Veteran Agency—a monthly meeting where the commanders of all 16 chapters of the agency meet—and invited to present a discussion on DAV and our outreach to Native American Veterans. At the meeting, we presented the Commander's Award for Excellence to Sara Josley for her work in bringing the program to fruition and presented the

Piñon Chapter Commander, Barton Hosteen, with a plaque honoring the history, tradition, and faithful & honorable service of generations of Navajo service members. At the end of the meeting, Barton Hosteen came up to Rod and I, put his hand on our chest, and said "I see you as a brother." We were told later that it is the highest regard that a Navajo can give to someone—and we are, truly, as brothers.



Whenever the day for claims work at Piñon comes around each week, there is generally a line of Veterans waiting at the door of the Piñon Veteran Wellness Center hogan for our CSOs and DSOs to serve.

DAV Department of Arizona

This Certifies that

SERAPHINE B. JOSLEY

is recognized for excellence for demonstrating the true heart of service to Veterans, in keeping with the DAV Mission of "empowering Veterans, their families, their caregivers, and their survivors to live high-quality lives with respect and dignity." Not only did you seize the opportunity to present the needs of Navajo Veterans to DAV, you also continuously followed through to make sure the program was successful. Your dedication and your heart for serving your community are above and beyond the normal efforts - and successes - of volunteers. Thank you for your continued service and for a job exceptionally well done!

Signed this 24th day of April, 2026

COMMANDER

You Never Know…

When traveling in a foreign land (OK, well not a foreign land, but the Navajo Nation *is* a sovereign nation recognized by the federal government), you never know who you might run into on your travels…

We typically stay at the Best Western hotel in Chinle, AZ, centrally located to the remote service sites we have established across the Navajo Nation. The only real sit-down, full-service restaurant is in front of the hotel, so it is the eatery of choice on our trips. One morning, after finishing breakfast, we noticed a Navajo gentleman sitting in the booth nearby. We went over to thank him for his service and welcome him home. It turned out that he was Jackie Burbank, who was President of the Diné Warriors Planning Group. He was the key leader responsible for bringing the traveling Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall—*The Wall that Heals*—to the Navajo Nation in Arizona. This was the first time that the wall was ever displayed on Native American soil. Jackie spoke with us for about 20 minutes and then walked outside with us and presented us with a framed remembrance print from that first Native American showing of the wall.

Adjutant Forkner with Jackie Burbank

An Explosion of Recognition, Respect, and Service

Up until this point, the program was moving at a very manageable pace. We had a couple CSO/DSOs working with Globe and with Piñon and that was enough to provide the services Veterans wanted. We were happy with the progress, our remote Veterans were happy to have the services available to them. We knew, however, that it wouldn't last for very long…

Adjutant Dr. Carl Forkner was invited to be the keynote speaker alongside Navajo Nation President Dr. Buu Nygren at the Nazili Chapter Memorial Day celebration. Navajo Memorial Day is celebrated on June 1st each year and this year's ceremonies were held on May 31st. There, a remarkable ceremony took place. The surviving family members of Veterans who had passed on brought their memorial flags to the ceremony.

Navajo President Nygren with CDR Forkner

The Navajo believe that the flag is a living entity that should be opened on special occasion to the sun and the wind, and then again reverently folded and presented back to the Veterans' surviving family members.

Having honored the Navajo at two important gatherings, and served Veterans each week for three months, many more members of the Navajo Veteran Community began to not only express interest in the services we were providing but also inquired about the Disabled American Veterans organization! While interest in benefits was expected, we had not expected our outreach to generate a community-generated interest in our organization. Of course, as we learned, our very own Sara Josley had been invited to numerous meetings to explain to Veterans about the services DAV was now providing on the Reservation.

Well, with the increase in Veterans interested in both our services and the DAV organization, it became apparent that we would need to open up another remote services office, as a lot of Veterans had to travel far (4-5 hours) to reach Piñon, our only location then on the Reservation. Since many of these Veterans were coming from the north and northeastern areas of the Arizona Reservation, the decision was to open our second remote services location in Kayenta, in the northern area of the Arizona Reservation.

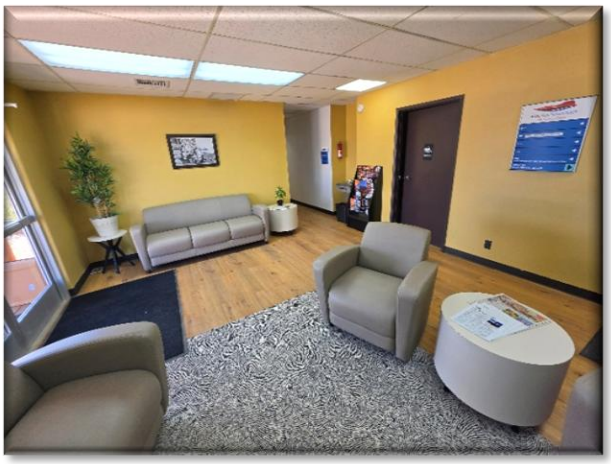
Word of Mouth is Faster than Technology

After our annual Department Convention in the beginning of June, we again traveled up to the Reservation, this time to Kayenta Township. The Township government offered to lease us an office in their administrative center annex, across the street from the main building, which our DEC approved at the Convention. This time, we Sr. Vice Hage and Adjutant Forkner brought a load of donations for Veterans in need—clothes, linens, and shoes, along with the equipment to set up the new office. The donations were a combination from CarryMe Productions in Mesa and Department officers. And…LOL…when we arrived, there were Veterans waiting for us because they heard we were coming that day!

As we were getting setup in the new office, we had the opportunity to assist a few Veterans with their questions and a few VA claims—this was because Rod Hage has become a wizard at installing Starlink antennas and nailed it the first try!

After we were up and operating, Sr. Vice Hage sat down with an older Marine Corps Veteran who had questions about letters he received from the VA. In fact, he found that the Veteran had been rated at 100% P&T by the VA. When he advised the Veteran of this, he asked, “What does that mean?” Rod explained that it meant that the VA recognized his disabilities as being service-connected and that he would now be receiving about $4,000 per month,

or $48,000 per year. The Veteran was amazed—he had been living a satisfactory life on the Reservation with a Social Security income of only $12,000 per year. When he asked Rod what he was supposed to do with "all that money," Rod told him to take care of himself, take care of his family, take care of other Veterans, and take care of his community. The Veteran was very thankful for both the benefit award and the explanation and suggestions.



The entry lounge area to the new Kayenta Office (above) and our office (below)

Sr. Vice Hage assists a Veteran. The new office provides enhanced privacy for interviewing Veterans and family members compared to the open format of the Piñon hogan.

A Visit from the Boss!

Well, not really a boss, rather, an exceptional leader—our DAV National Commander, Coleman Nee, visited Piñon, Kayenta, and made some home visits with Sara, Senior Vice Hage, and Judge Advocate/National 2nd Junior Vice Glenn Hohman. For Coleman, he viewed it as a life-changing trip as he contemplated the conditions in which so many Navajo Veterans—men and women who honorably served their country—were living; single-wide "homes" with gaps in rotting floorboards, roofs that leaked whenever it rained, a pot-belly stove rusted out on two side to heat the entire residence, uncleanliness of an unimaginable proportion. No running water, no electricity, either an outhouse or a trench for a bathroom. This was not every case, but it was some of the worst cases....

Claims at the Piñon Chapter Hogan

Coleman, Glenn, and some of our Navajo teammates at Piñon

Coleman getting a tour at our Kayenta Township Annex location

Working with our brothers and sisters on the Reservation is both challenging and rewarding at the same time. To see the faces of Veterans and survivors who had never had someone travel to the Reservation, sit down with them and listen to their stories, and then take time to explain the potential benefits they may be entitled to and truly want to help—not for money, but *because they mattered*—was heartwarming and recharged our souls. The heartbreak comes when we see and hear about some of the worst-case scenarios, be it living conditions, hunger, basic human necessities that aren't present, and so on. But no matter what their living conditions, everyone gets served from the heart...

EXPANDING THE OUTREACH

Relief for Veterans on the Reservation

Two weeks after the DAV National Convention, Sr. Vice Hage and Adjutant Forkner again headed northward to the Navajo Nation… but this would be no ordinary trip! Accompanying them were AZ Chapter 24 members Lorrain Browning and Tineke Hage, driving a 26' box truck filled with donations for the Navajo Veteran Community!

Staging the sorted donations

Chapter 24 made magic happen! After discussing the needs of the Navajo Veterans at the Chapter and Unit General Meetings, the true meaning of community showed through. Members told friends, friends told church members and other friends, members told other VSOs in the area, and so forth. The result was tremendous—beyond belief, really. Chapter 24 spent nearly $15,000 in buying new clothing, undergarments, and hygiene items at a local Walmart (they actually bought every.single.pair of denim pants in the store!). A special thanks to Flagstar Bank in Surprise, AZ, who donates the entire basement area of the bank to Chapter and Unit 24 for their meetings, service work, and collection of donations! In recognition of the bank's long and continued support of DAV and DAVA, the Chapter installed a memorial flagpole in front of the bank in a July ceremony.

A local furniture store donated a new bed, two new leather couches, and other furniture for an older couple who had a home for eight years but lived with their sons because they were not able to move into the house because they had no furniture, kitchenware, and so on. That is no longer a problem, as the couple received furniture, kitchenware, other necessities, and something that the wife has always dreamed of having—blue dishes for eight place settings with matching flatware! They will now be receiving the keys to their home

during a ceremony where a Navajo Medicine Man will bless the couple and their new residence.

The load crew's job is done! Ready to go!

When the truck pulled up at the Piñon Hogan, Chapter Commander Barton Hosteen was waiting with Sara and a few young men to help unload… thankfully! While Sr. Vice Hage and Adjutant Forkner had a fairly easy 5-hour drive to the Reservation, Lorrain and Tineke had the bumpy truck ride experience. Fortunately, Lorrain—a Marine Veteran—was a truck driver after her time in the Marines and enjoyed it.

When the rear of the truck was opened, everyone there was surprised—our Navajo friends because of the number of things we brought, and us because nothing fell out on us.

Sr. Vice Hage with ANVA President Sara Josley and Piñon Chapter Commander Barton Hosteen

While the donations were being transferred from the truck into the storage container, Adjutant Forkner was able to provide claims service and answer questions for Veteran couples who came to the Piñon Hogan that day. Whenever people catch the word that we will be in town, they are always there to get service, which we gladly provide.

Ganado, AZ: Remote Office Number 3

With the completion and initial operational capabilities of the Piñon and Kayenta remote service offices, we moved on to the town of Ganado, in the southern region of the Navajo Nation in Arizona. Veterans from the Ganado area had traveled to Piñon—and even to Kayenta—to seek service from DAV. They asked if there was a way to get services closer to them because there were other Veterans who needed help but could not all make the trip.

Ganado Senior & Veterans Center

Sara negotiated a space in the Ganado Senior and Veterans Center, which was graciously donated to us to use. The office is two doors down from the VA Vet Center office, which is associated with the Prescott VA—and is run by a psychologist that Sara knows. Yes, *on the Reservation, it is not a matter of what you know; it is a matter of who you know*.

After the initial unpacking and setting up of the Ganado Remote Service Office, we headed back to our hotel in Chinle. On the way to Chinle, we stopped to pay our respects at one of the local cemeteries—the Chinle Community and Veterans Cemetery. The expansive front area of the cemetery is the

community area, while the back area—away from the temptation to disturb the gravesites—is reserved for Veterans.

The following week, Sr. Vice Hage and Adjutant Forkner had to return to Ganado to complete installation of the Starlink system because Ganado Public Works could not assist us with the installation of the rooftop antenna. On the way to Ganado, we were loaded with a full SUV of 150 handmade quilts—both adult and youth sizes—in preparation for the cold Navajo winter. Needless to say, the representatives on the Reservation were very thankful for the much needed warmth.

Meet Walter, ANVA Vice-President and our site manager in Ganado, with the quilts for our Veterans

The unexpected—but very welcome—success of gathering donations from churches, organizations, companies, and individuals in the NW Phoenix area has resulted in the *need* to bring a moving truck each month up to the Reservation! The holding units for Chapter 24 are near overflowing by the end of each month's time!

Of course, this is a great problem to have, especially since a local benefactor has offered to pay for the moving truck to transport the donations to the Navajo Nation!

The first set of remote claims and benefits counseling will be on Friday, September 11th!

NEXT: ON TO THE FUTURE—THE FUTURE IS NOW!

Head West, Young [or old] Man!

Having successfully completed the office and technical setups for the north (Kayenta), central (Piñon), and south (Ganado) regions of Arizona's Navajo Nation, it was time to expand to the west. This would prove to be an interesting experience because the Hopi Reservation is predominantly an area carved out of the western area of the Navajo Nation—the Hopi are pretty much enveloped by the Navajo, although their relations are peaceful.

In exploring sites for the optimum placement for the Hopi Remote Services Office, we selected Tuba City for a number of reasons:

- It is located in a position to serve both the Hopi Reservation and surrounding Navajo Western Agency.
- It has a better developed infrastructure for utilities, paved roads, and hotels and restaurants.
- Tuba City has a medical infrastructure, with both the Indian Health Service (HIS) and the Johns Hopkins Center for Indian Health.
- The Hopi Veterans Wellness Center and Hopi Veterans Center would be good options, except that they are in Kykotsmovi, farther to the east, which would negatively impact Native American Veterans in terms of travel distance/time.

Although a vacant commercial space has been offered at a reasonable price, if we were a profit-making enterprise, it is not well-suited to our needs. We are exploring the following no- or low-cost venues that both reduce cost and provide better access to the Veteran Community:

- Tuba City Regional Health Care
- Navajo Nation Food Distribution building
- Diné College
- Navajo Housing Authority
- Johns Hopkins Center for Indian Health
- Diné Bii Association for the Disabled

We should have the site locked down by September 11th. Tentative planning for office setup and technology installation is September 15-17, concurrent with another moving truck full of donated furniture, clothing, blankets, and houseware to the Navajo Nation.

Wait! What Happened to Helping Rural Veterans?

After installing, testing, and beginning operations in Tuba City, the focus will shift back to our rural Veteran population. Since February 2026, we have been doing remote claims and benefits counseling with Veterans in Globe, AZ, about 90 minutes east of their closest Chapter in Mesa (but, believe it or not, still well within Chapter 8's boundaries). This month, two CSOs from Chapter 8 have been traveling out to Globe two Thursdays each month and started providing services in-person. One CSO has since transferred to Chapter 1 and is becoming a DSO, working with Department instead of specific Chapter areas. The other CSO is remaining with Chapter 8.

At the end of September and beginning of October, in-between setups and installations in Native American lands, a remote service office will be set up at Elks Lodge 2478 in Kearny, AZ, a little more than an hour south of Globe. Kearny is fairly centrally located in an area with many rural Veterans. Like the Globe operation, the Kearny Elks lodge is hosting the remote site and providing Internet access free of charge to us. Interorganizational cooperation is part of our thought process as we continue expanding the program.

And now...back to our regularly scheduled Native American Outreach discussion...

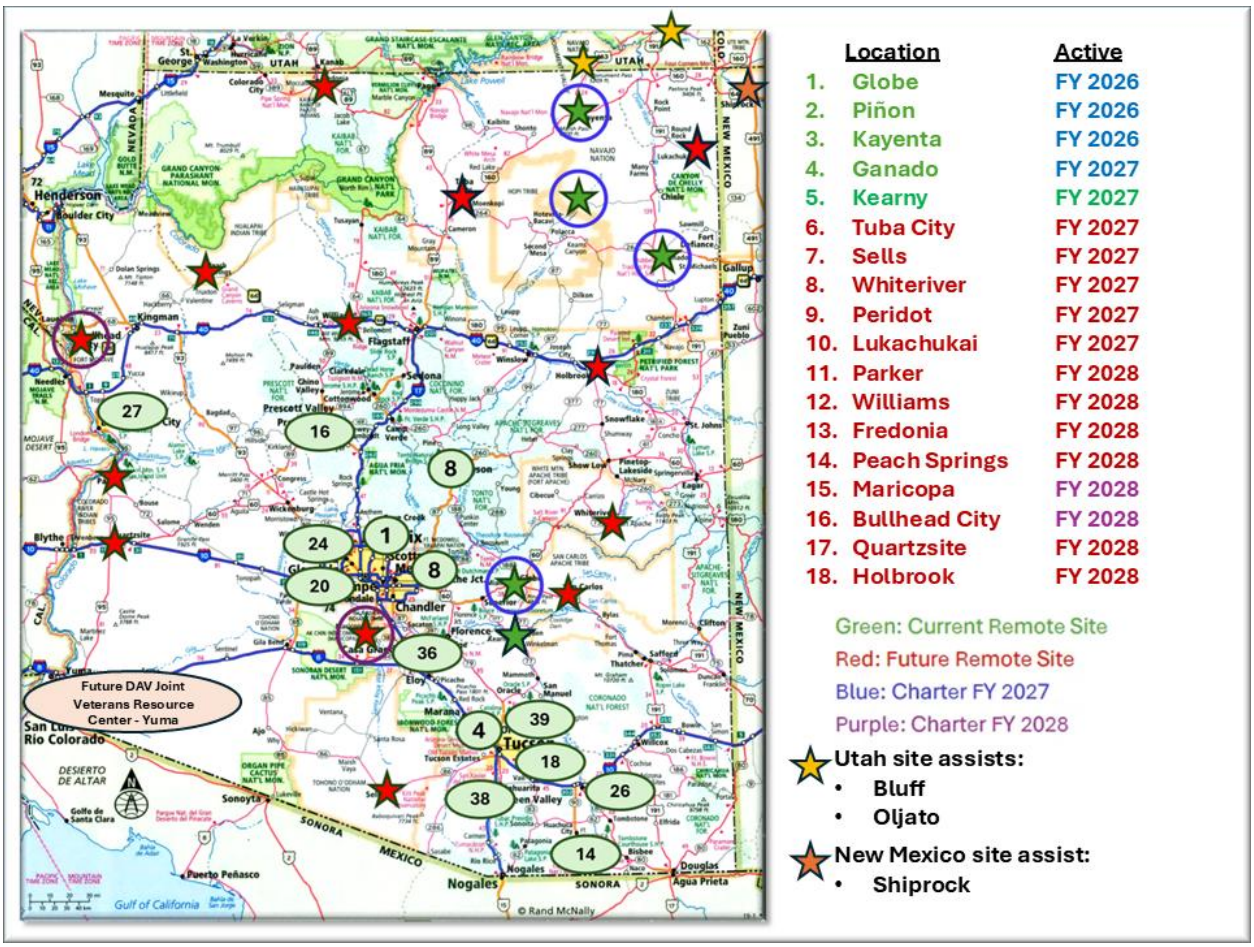
Finishing Eastern Arizona

In October 2026, we are establishing a new remote service office in Kearny, AZ, about 75 minutes south of Globe. Globe is now an in-person service site, with membership applications building to charter a new DAV Chapter there.

In December, we will establish a remote service office in Tuba City, which will serve both the Hopi Tribe and the Western Agency of the Navajo Nation. Following Tuba City, the next stop is Sells, along the border with Mexico, serving the Tohono O'odham Tribe. And then back to Eastern Arizona, with remote offices in Whiteriver (White Mountain Apache), Peridot (San Carlos Apache), and Lukachukai (back on the Navajo Reservation).

After 2026, what comes next?

With the Kearny office being established, there will be a pause in setting up new offices until January 2027. Provided below is the schedule for establishing additional remote offices to serve our Native American and rural Veteran populations:



Green: Current Remote Site
Red: Future Remote Site
Blue: Charter FY 2027
Purple: Charter FY 2028

APPENDIX A: NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES

Ak-Chin Indian Community

The Ak Chin Indian Community of the Maricopa (Ak-Chin) Indian Reservation (O'odham language: 'Akĭ Ciñ O'odham) is a federally recognized tribe of Native Americans headquartered in the Santa Cruz Valley in Pinal County, Arizona,37 miles south of Phoenix and near the city of Maricopa.

The community is composed mainly of Akimel O'odham and Tohono O'odham, as well as some ethnic Hia-Ced O'odham people. According to the 2020 United States Census, the reservation has 1,070 residents. The community comprises more than 1,100 citizens who live on and off the reservation.

The Maricopa Reservation was established by the federal government in 1912, under President William Howard Taft; within a few months his administration reduced it by more than half, due to opposition from non-Native farmers in the area. Gaining federal recognition in 1961, the tribe has established a large agricultural operation, aided by gaining water rights to the Colorado River in a 1984 federal settlement. This settlement enabled it to continue using irrigation to support its agriculture and other needs.

The Ak-Chin Community opened a gaming casino in 1994, Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino, with related hotel facilities. In 2011, the casino and resort was the major contributor to the economy of Pinal County. In July 2011, the casino underwent a $20 million expansion, with the addition of a new 152-room hotel tower that doubled its capacity. The resort, completed in 2012, has 300 rooms and an outdoor swimming pool.

In 2006, the Ak-Chin Indian Community purchased the Phoenix Regional Airport, which was later renamed Ak-Chin Regional Airport. Located near the Santa Cruz Commerce Center, the 170-acre Ak-Chin Regional Airport consists of an airport building with a 5,000 ft. runway.

The Maricopa Reservation was established by the federal government in 1912, under President William Howard Taft, at 47,600 acres (193 km2) in size. Within months the administration gave in to opposition from European-American farmers and other non-Natives and reduced the reservation to 22,000 acres (89 km2). The reservation is located in Pinal County within the Sonoran Desert, about 40 miles south of Phoenix and next to Maricopa. Averaging an elevation of 1,186 feet (361 m), the reservation is located 37 miles (60 km) south of Phoenix. Much of the land is good for farming, and 15,000 acres (6,100 ha) are under irrigation.

Government and Demographics

The Ak-Chin Indian Community is headquartered in Maricopa, Arizona. In the mid-20th century, it reorganized with a newly ratified constitution, bylaws, and elected government, gaining federal recognition in 1961. The chairman and vice chairman are elected by an at-large vote to serve four-year terms. The three council members serve two-year terms.

The November 2016 election was historic because it was the first time that tribal citizens were able to vote directly for chairman and vice chairman. Previously they had been elected from among the council members. A constitutional amendment in 2016 allowed candidates to run for a specific office, and for tribal citizens to vote specifically for the chairman and vice chairman in addition to council members.

Most of the population lives in Ak-Chin Village, in the western part of the reservation. Part of the city of Maricopa also lies within reservation territory. In total, the area (including tribal citizens and non-citizens) comprises 1,070 as of the 2020 United States Census. The 2020 U.S. Census also reports that 87.5% (914 individuals) of the total 1,070 population comprises American Indian or Native Alaskans. This is an increase of 742 from 2000. Of those individuals, 90.2% were born on the reservation and/or in Arizona. Additionally, 16.3% identify as Hispanic or Latino, 6.2% two or more races, 1.5% White, and 0.3% African American or Black. Of the total population, 47.8% are male and 52.2% are female. The majority of the population are ages 25 to 44 (29%) or 5 to 17 years of age (23.5%), with 7.9% ages 65 and older. The average median age is 27.9 years old.

Of the total population, 37.4% live below the federal poverty line. The 2020 American Community Survey reports that 33.7% of the working population is employed in the service industry, specifically public administration, education, health care, social services, and arts and recreation. Regarding housing, 94.5% of the total population are renters.

Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT)

The Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) (Mohave, Chemehuevi, Hopi, and Navajo) represent a federally recognized sovereign nation based in Parker, Arizona. Established in 1865, the reservation covers nearly 300,000 acres along 90 miles of the Colorado River, focusing on agriculture, gaming, and tourism. CRIT holds senior water rights to over 700,000 acre-feet of the Colorado River. The Mohave have lived along the Colorado River for over 800 years, while the Chemehuevi primarily occupied the eastern branch. The reservation was created to support these groups, with the Hopi and Navajo families relocating later in 1945.

The primary community in the CRIT Reservation is Parker, Arizona, which is located on a combination of Tribal land, leased land that is owned by CRIT and land owned by non-Native Americans. There are other, smaller communities on the reservation, including Poston, located 10 miles south of Parker.

Colorado River Tribal Government

The Colorado River Indian Tribes' Tribal government is overseen by a nine-member Tribal Council led by a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman who are elected by bi-annual votes of the membership. Each Tribal Council member is elected to a four-year term. Elections are held in early December of even-numbered years.

Colorado River Culture and the Great Seal

The primary economic activity on the CRIT Reservation has always been agriculture, going back to the days when mesquite trees were plentiful along the banks of the river and were relied upon for everything from food to cooking to Tribal traditions and ceremonies. CRIT continues to have a strong farming and agricultural industry, including growing cotton, alfalfa and sorghum.

However, in recent years the Tribal economy has diversified greatly, and now includes forays and businesses in several different fields. Sand and gravel, real estate development and retail stores have all been part of the Tribes' economic development efforts. And over the past decade, a heavy emphasis has turned toward tourism, as CRIT opened the BlueWater Resort and Casino in Parker and has endeavored to attract both cultural and recreational tourists to the area.

The tribal seal of the Colorado River Indian Tribes was designed and officially accepted in 1966 as a result of a contest open to all members. This design, by John Scott, was selected because it represented all aspects of the Tribes.

The sunburst design around the edges depicts the sun's rays, with 52 points for 52 weeks of sunshine. Riverside Mountain appears on the horizon, and the Colorado River flows across the seal. A crosshatch design is included to represent the checkerboard of farmed parcels in the reservation, and a shaft of wheat crossed with a branch of cotton represent the prime agricultural resources.

The four feathers at the top of the seal represent the four Tribes - the Mohave, Chemehuevi, Hopi and Navajo.

Did you know?

Poston was the site in World War II of one of the United States' largest Japanese internment camps, where thousands of Japanese-Americans were held over a three-year period. The camp sites are now home to a monument dedicated to those who died and suffered while in internment, and CRIT is currently in the process of creating a museum to commemorate the era.

Fort Mojave Indian Tribe

Mojave Indians are *Pipa Aha Macav* — "The People by the River." Mojave culture traces the earthly origins of its people to Spirit Mountain, the highest peak in the Newberry Mountains, located northwest of the present reservation inside the Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

The Tribe's spirit mentor, *Mutavilya*, created the Colorado River, its plants and animals, and instructed the *Pipa Aha Macav* in the arts of civilization. They were prosperous farmers with well-established villages and trade networks that stretched as far away as the Pacific Ocean.

In the 16th Century, the time the Spanish arrived in the territory, the Mojaves were the largest concentration of people in the Southwest. With the ever-growing insurgence of non-Indian people to the region traditionally occupied by *Pipa Aha Macav*, a United States military outpost was established in 1859 on the east bank of the Colorado River to give safe passage to American immigrants traveling from east to west. Initially, this outpost was called Camp Colorado, but it was soon renamed Fort Mojave. After the military fort was closed in 1891, the buildings were transformed into a boarding school, which operated until 1930. Ruins of Fort Mojave still exist today as a reminder of the once-troubled historic relationship between *Pipa Aha Macav* and American civilization. The ruins are located on a bluff overlooking the Colorado River just south of the boundary of present-day Bullhead City.

The Fort Mojave Indian Reservation is located along the Colorado River in the vicinity of Needles, California. The Reservation covers nearly 42,000 acres in the tri-state area of Arizona, California, and Nevada. The land is divided into three major segments: 23,669 acres in Mojave County Arizona; 12,633 acres adjacent to Needles, California; and 5,582 acres in Clark County, Nevada. Tribal headquarters is in Needles, California.

Recreation opportunities abound, whether it is gambling at one of the two Tribal casinos on the reservation, boating or fishing along the Colorado River, staying at the Avi Resort & Casino's full-service hotel, hitting the links at the Mojave Resort PGA Championship Golf Course or enjoying the comforts of home away from home in the RV parks, located adjacent to either casino.

An annual Pow Wow each February brings Native Americans from tribes across the United States to a celebration that includes dance and music competitions and displays of many aspects of tribal culture.

Gila River Indian Community

The Gila River Indian Community is an Indian reservation in the U.S. state of Arizona, lying adjacent to the south side of the city of Phoenix, within the Phoenix Metropolitan Area in Pinal and Maricopa counties. Gila River Indian Reservation was established in 1859, and the Gila River Indian Community formally established by Congress in 1939. The community is home for members of both the Akimel O'odham (Pima) and the Pee-Posh (Maricopa) tribes.

The reservation has a land area of 583.749 sq mi (1,511.902 km^2) and a 2000 Census population of 11,257. It is made up of seven districts along the Gila River and its largest communities are Sacaton, Komatke, Santan, and Blackwater.

Tribal administrative offices and departments are located in Sacaton. The Community operates its own telecom company, electric utility, industrial park and healthcare clinic, and publishes a monthly newspaper.

Havasupai Tribe

The Havasupai Tribe, the People of the Blue Green Water, have lived in and around the Grand Canyon since time immemorial. The Havasupai Tribe is a federally recognized Indian tribe. Their existence thrives on the life-sustaining blue-green waters from a hidden limestone aquifer, enabling cultivation and resilience in the harsh desert environment. Situated at the end of Indian Road 18 off historic Route 66, the Tribe's Reservation encompasses 188,077 acres of canyon land with beautiful waterfalls, boasting a rich cultural heritage and renowned arts and crafts.

For over 1,000 years the remote village of Supai, Arizona, located eight miles hike below the rim of the Grand Canyon, has been home to the *Havasu Baaja,* People of the Blue Green Waters, or as they are known today, the Havasupai Tribe. Just above the village, a hidden limestone aquifer gushes forth the life sustaining blue green waters that have nourished the fields of corn, squash and beans which have allowed the *Havasu Baaja* to thrive living in the harsh desert landscape deep in the Grand Canyon for centuries. This remoteness creates many obstacles for residents and visitors alike. The United States Postal Service office in Supai transports all mail in and out of the canyon by mule train. Everything must make the 8-mile trek in and out of the village either by foot or on horseback.

The Havasupai tribe's reservation is at the end of Route 18 off historic Route 66. It consists of 188,077 acres of canyon land and broken plateaus abutting the western edge of the Grand Canyons South Rim. The reservation was established in 1880 and substantially enlarged in 1975. The tribe is known for it's location, traditional cultural life and beautiful arts and crafts.

No plan is currently in work for the Havasupai Reservation. This is due to (1) the only way to Havasupai Village is by hiking or helicopter; and (2) the Havasupai Tribe does not look kindly toward outsiders. We will revisit this after success with the neighboring Hualapai Tribe.

Hopi Tribe

The Hopi are known as one of the oldest living cultures in documented history, having migrated north to Arizona in the 12th century. The Hopi are guardians of the sacred land they call *Hopitutskwa*. The Hopi Reservation, located on high and dry land, forced the Hopi to develop a unique agricultural practice known as "dry farming," a system of relying on water-retentive tillage methods rather than irrigation.

The Hopi and Navajo Tribes have a long history of conflict over land. After years of escalating conflict, the Navajo-Hopi Settlement Act of 1974 split land across tribes and forced relocation for those on the wrong side of the partition line.

The Hopi Tribe Reservation is located in northeastern Arizona in Coconino and Navajo Counties. The Reservation is made up of 12 villages on three mesas (known as First, Second, and Third Mesa) on more than 1.5 million acres. Each of the older villages is made up of a hierarchy of clans based on the order of their arrival to the area. Modern villages and clan leaders trace their authority and rights in land to these original sources. The Bear clan tends to be regarded as the first and highest-ranking clan in a number of the villages, with the male head of the clan serving as the village leader or "*Kikmongwi*."

Hopi Tribal Government

Kykotsmovi, the seat of the Hopi Tribal Government, is located just below Third Mesa. The oldest continuously inhabited village in the United States is Old Oraibi, located on top of Third Mesa, which is said to have been in existence since 1150 A.D. when the Hopi came to the area. Traditional Hopi houses were made of dried clay and stone, with flat roofs and multiple levels accessible by ladder. The bottom level was underground (called a Kiva), and was used for religious ceremonies.

The Hopi Tribe is governed by a Chairman, Vice Chairman, and 22 Legislative Council members representing six villages: Village of Upper Moenkopi, Village of Bakabi, Village of Kykotsmovi, Village of Mishongnovi, Village of Sipaulovi, and First Mesa Consolidated Villages. Each village has its own separate election of representatives, and council members serve two-year terms. The Tribal Council meets quarterly, the first day of December, March, June, and September.

Hopi Culture

The Hopi are a matrilineal society organized by clan membership. Hopi artisans are known for pottery, paintings, weaving, and carvings. In particular, First Mesa is known for pottery, Second Mesa is known for coiled basketry, and Third Mesa is known for wicker basketry, weaving, Kachina doll carving, and silversmithing.

Visitors are welcome to visit the Three Mesas, but photography, video recording, audio recording, sketching, and note-taking are not allowed.

Hualapai Tribe

The Hualapai Tribe is a federally recognized Indian Tribe located in northwestern Arizona. "Hualapai" (pronounced Wal-lah-pie) means "*People of the Tall Pines*." In 1883, an executive order established the Hualapai reservation.

The reservation encompasses about one million acres along 108 miles of the Grand Canyon and Colorado River. Occupying part of three northern Arizona counties: Coconino, Yavapai, and Mohave, the reservation's topography varies from rolling grassland, to thick forests, to rugged canyons. Elevations range from 1,500 feet at the Colorado River, to over 7,300 feet at the highest point of the Aubrey Cliffs.

The total population of the Hualapai Reservation is about 1,621 of whom 1,353 are tribal members (2000 U.S. Census). Total tribal membership, including members not residing on the reservation, is approximately 2,300. Most people who reside on the reservation live in the capitol town of Peach Springs, which owns its name to the peach trees that historically grew at nearby springs. The closest full-service community is Kingman, Arizona located 55 miles west of Peach Springs on historic Route 66. Peach Springs was the inspiration for the fictional "Radiator Springs" in the animated Pixar movie "Cars."

Hualapai Tribal Government

As a sovereign Indian nation, the Tribe is governed by an executive and judicial branch. The executive branch is composed of a nine-member Tribal Council, which includes a chairperson and vice-chairperson. Council members are elected to office by Tribal members and serve 4-year terms. The Council oversees twelve administrative departments. The judicial branch of government consists of a Tribal Court and a Court of Appeals. Judges are appointed by the Tribal Council for two-year terms. The Courts have jurisdiction over all cases and controversies within the jurisdiction of the Tribe by virtue of the Tribe's inherent sovereignty or which may be vested in tribal courts by federal law.

The Hualapai Tribal Nation is a member tribe of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the Council of Energy Resource Tribes (CERT), the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA), and the Arizona Indian Gaming Association (AIGA).

Hualapai Culture and the Great Seal

The Great Spirit created man and woman in his own image. In doing so, both were created as equals and dependent on each other in order to survive. Great respect was shown for each other; in doing so, happiness and contentment was achieved.

The connecting of the hair makes them one person, as happiness cannot be achieved without each other.

The canyons, where the people were created, are represented by the purple in the middle ground. These canyons are sacred and should be so treated at all times.

The reservation is pictured to represent the land that is ours. The reservation is our heritage and the heritage of our children yet unborn. Be good to our land and it will continue to be good to us.

The sun is the symbol of life; without it nothing is possible—plants won't grow —there will be no life. The sun also represents the dawn of the Hualapai people. Through hard work, determination, and education, everything is possible.

The tracks in the middle represent the coyote and other animals which were here before us.

The green symbolizes pine trees, representing us, Hualapai— *PEOPLE OF THE TALL PINES*.

Kaibab Band of Paiutes

The traditional lands of the Southern Paiute people spanned more than 600 miles along the Colorado River. In 1865, federal Indian agents began to formally remove Southern Paiutes from their land onto reservations. The Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians was established in 1934 under the Indian Reorganization Act. The tribe is governed by a seven-person tribal council. The document that authorizes the tribal council as the officially recognized entity is the Tribal Constitution. At present, only the chairperson is an employee of the tribe, the remaining councilmen are not employees. The primary purpose for the tribal government is to provide services to its tribal membership such as healthcare, social services, substance abuse and mental health counseling, public works, judicial services, housing assistance, natural resources and employment opportunities.

The Kaibab Paiute Indian Reservation is located on the Arizona Strip, about 50 miles north of the Grand Canyon. Reservation lands total 120,840 acres, straddling Coconino County and Mohave County in Arizona. Elevations range from 7,058 to 4,400 feet above sea-level. The reservation spans semi-arid to alpine lands, dominated by pinyon pine and juniper, with many natural springs and several ephemeral washes that feed into the Colorado River.

In the recent past, the tribe has computerized its accounting system and has constructed a new tribal affairs/community services building. Now, the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians is at a point where one of the primary goals is to create economic development on tribal lands while protecting natural resources.

The Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians have been greatly affected by the construction of the Glen Canyon Dam in 1963. The dam originally flooded San Juan Paiute farms and affected plant and animal life and other culturally significant places. In 1993, the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians and the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah created the Southern Paiute Consortium to address concerns over the operation of the Glen Canyon Dam.

According to the 2018-2022 U.S. Census, approximately 249 individuals live on Kaibab Paiute tribal land in the northwest corner of Arizona near the Arizona-Utah border. The Reservation is nearly 121,000 acres including Pipe Spring National Monument. The Reservation holds five tribal villages, with headquarters in Fredonia, Arizona. The non-Indian community of Moccasin, and Pipe Spring National Monument are also located entirely within the reservation boundary. The band does not own or operate a casino. The Kaibab Paiute economy centers around tourism and the livestock industry. The Tribe and the National Park Service jointly operate a visitor center and museum at Pipe Springs National Monument.

Navajo Nation

The Navajo Nation extends into the states of Utah, Arizona and New Mexico, covering over 27,000 square miles of unparalleled beauty. *Diné Bikéyah*, or Navajoland, is larger than 10 of the 50 states in America.

Visitors from around the world are intrigued and mystified when they hear the Navajo language – so, too, were the enemy during World War II.

Unknown to many, the Navajo language was used to create a secret code to battle the Japanese. Navajo men were selected to create codes and serve on the front line to overcome and deceive those on the other side of the battlefield. Today, these men are recognized as the famous Navajo Code Talkers, who exemplify the unequaled bravery and patriotism of the Navajo people.

Navajo Nation Government

Today, the Navajo Nation is striving to sustain a viable economy for an ever-increasing population that now surpasses 250,000. In years past, Navajoland often appeared to be little more than a desolate section of the Southwest, but it was only a matter of time before the Navajo Nation became known as a wealthy nation in a world of its own. The discovery of oil on Navajoland in the early 1920's promoted the need for a more systematic form of government. In 1923, a tribal government was established to help meet the increasing desires of American oil companies to lease Navajoland for exploration.

Navajo government has evolved into the largest and most sophisticated form of American Indian government. The Navajo Nation Council Chambers hosts 88 council delegates representing 110 Navajo Nation chapters. Reorganized in 1991 to form a three-branch system (executive, legislative and judicial), the Navajos conduct what is considered to be the most sophisticated form of Indian government. While the Council is in session, you'll likely hear delegates carry on the tradition of speaking in Navajo, providing a perfect

example of how the Navajo Nation retains its valuable cultural heritage while forging ahead with modern progress.

The Navajo Veterans Memorial

The Navajos have built a Veteran's Memorial at the base of Window Rock to honor the many Navajos who served in the U.S. military. Many Navajo soldiers are recognized in the annals of history for their role as Code Talkers, whereby they used the native language to create a code that was never broken by the enemy. Historians credit the Navajo Code Talkers for helping to win World War II. The park has many symbolic structures: a circular path outlining the four cardinal directions, 16 angled steel pillars with the names of war veterans, and a healing sanctuary that is used for reflection and solitude that features a fountain made of sandstone. Open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC) is a sovereign tribe deeply rooted in history, culture, and tradition. Located in the heart of the metropolitan Phoenix area, the Community is home to the *Onk Akimel O'odham* (Salt River People), also known as Pima and the *Xalychidom Piipaash* (Upriver People), and more commonly known as Maricopa — two distinct but interconnected Native American tribes.

The current boundaries of SRPMIC were established by Executive Order on June 14, 1879. Since then, SRPMIC has grown into a thriving, self-governed nation that honors its rich heritage while embracing progress. Spanning 52,600 acres in Maricopa County, the Community is surrounded by the cities of Scottsdale, Tempe, Mesa, and Fountain Hills, with 19,000 acres preserved as natural land.

The SRPMIC Council, comprised of a president, vice president and seven elected Council members, provides governance and leadership, ensuring the prosperity and well-being of its people. Today, the Community has more than 11,000 enrolled tribal members.

The Salt River Indian Community is not only rich in cultural history but also in economic opportunity. The Community maintains approximately 12,000 acres of farmland, producing cotton, melons, potatoes, onions, broccoli, and carrots. In addition, commercial development along the western boundary fosters business growth while preserving cultural traditions.

A defining landmark of the Salt River Indian Community is the majestic Red Mountain, located on the eastern boundary. Visible throughout the Community, it serves as a powerful symbol of the O'odham and Piipaash people's deep connection to the land and signifies home.

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community is comprised of two distinct Native American tribes: the Onk Akimel O'odham (Pima) and the Xalychidom Piipaash (Maricopa). The center of our aboriginal territory is located in what is now called the Phoenix Valley, but our villages and farms previously occupied vast stretches of land along the Gila and Salt Rivers.

Although we derive from two distinct cultures and languages, our two tribes have been allies for many generations and share many of the same values. Even though each tribe formerly recognized its own leaders and independently managed its own day-to-day affairs, we interacted regularly. Intertribal commerce, decision-making, military action, and social interaction were common.

Our friendly alliance ultimately developed into a more formalized confederation that benefited both groups. Since that time, we have regularly acted as a single political power. Such was the case when establishing relations with the United States. Hence, we are now federally recognized as one tribe by the U.S. Federal Government.

Onk Akimel O'odham (Pima)

"Pima" is the common name applied to us, but it is not something we called ourselves prior to European arrival. In our own language, we refer to ourselves as O'odham, which means "The People". We are part of a large O'odham population that resides in Arizona and Mexico. To be more specific, we are *Akimel O'odham*, which means "River People", because unlike our desert dwelling relatives to the south, we have always resided along and depended upon the rivers that intersect our territory. To be even more precise, we are *Onk Akimel O'odham*, meaning "Salt River People" because that is the specific river along which we reside.

Xalychidom Piipaash (Maricopa)

"Maricopa" is the common name applied to us, but it is not something we called ourselves prior to European arrival. In our own language, we refer to ourselves as *Piipaash*, which means "The People". We are part of a larger *Yuman* culture that extends across Arizona, Southern California, and Baja California.

San Carlos Apache Tribe

The San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation spans across Gila, Graham, and Pinal Counties in Southeastern Arizona, roaming over a landscape that ranges from alpine meadows to desert. Encompassing 1,834,781 acres, the San Carlos Apache Reservation was established by executive order on November 9, 1871. Over one-third of the community's land is forested (175,000 acres) or wooded (665,000 acres).

The region we have lived in for centuries is one of great diversity from the low desert grasslands to the pine forests, home to many different animals. We moved as the land and seasons best directed us. Everything we made and used – our tools, clothing, food, and shelter – was taken directly from this land. In the spring, we left our winter camps in the river valleys and traveled to the high country to prepare our fields for the planting of squash, corn, and beans. Groups went out from these sites to collect Mescal, a type of agave central to our traditional diet.

As the crops ripened during the summer months, groups of women collected other important foods such as Mesquite beans, fruit of the yucca, and Emory's oak acorns. Acorns remain an important staple in the diet of the Apache people. After the crops were harvested in the fall, our men went out to hunt deer and antelope; the women and children collected juniper berries and the buds of the pinon pine. The coming of winter signaled our return to our camps in the river valleys. It was during these months that our men most frequently went out on raiding parties if the supply of our foods stored from our hunting and gathering during the rest of the year ran low.

<u>San Carlos Apache Tribal Government</u>

The San Carlos Apache Tribe is a Federally recognized Indian Tribe organized pursuant to the provisions of Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934. Therefore, the San Carlos Apache Tribe is a sovereign Indian Tribe committed to fostering its own self-determination.

Chairman and Vice-Chairman are elected by all Tribal members and serve four-year terms. District council members are elected by District Tribal Members and serve four-year terms.

The Tribal Council is entrusted with the responsibility to safeguard the Reservation and enrolled Tribal members. All governing matters go through various Boards, Committees and Tribal Council.

San Carlos Apache Culture and the Great Seal

With the establishment of the San Carlos Indian Agency in 1872, the Western Apache people witnessed a rapid and dramatic change from their traditional lifestyle. Under the reservation system, the federal government adopted a policy of assimilation to force our people to adopt Western values and institutions, such as private ownership of land, cash-based agriculture, and Christianity.

As part of life on the reservation, they became dependent upon the handouts issued to them by the government of the United States. Often these rations failed to meet basic needs. During the early reservation years, food and supplies promised by the government were often sold off by dishonest Indian Agents, leaving the tribe with shortages of food, cloth, or wood for cooking and warming our homes. In desperation, the people left the reservation to hunt, gather plants, and raid in traditional ways. These forays to relieve poverty were commonly referred to as “outbreaks” in the local press and the tribe was branded criminals in the struggle to maintain our dignity.

Today, Apaches still honor spiritual traditions. The *Ga’an* are called upon to evoke blessings and to ward off illness and evil at ceremonies, such as the Changing Woman and *Ga’an* ceremonies. The *Ga’an* is performed by selected men who represent the mountain spirits. Typically, four dancers representing the four directions participate in the ceremony. Their bodies are painted in black, white and with designs which have special meanings. They are accompanied by a fifth dancer, or *Lebaye*, painted gray and twirling a bull-roarer.

Tohono O’odham Nation

Historically, the O’odham inhabited an enormous area of land in the southwest, extending South to Sonora, Mexico, north to Central Arizona (just north of Phoenix, Arizona), west to the Gulf of California, and east to the San Pedro River. This land base was known as the *Papagueria* and it had been home to the O’odham for thousands of years.

From the early 18th Century through to the present, the O’odham land was occupied by foreign governments. With the independence of Republic of Mexico, O’odham fell under Mexican rule. Then, in 1853, through the Gadsden Purchase or Treaty of La Mesilla, O’odham land was divided almost in half, between the United States of America and Mexico.

The division of O’odham lands has resulted in an artificial division of O’odham society. O’odham bands are now broken up into 4 federally recognized tribes: the Tohono O’odham Nation, the Gila River Indian Community, the Ak-Chin Indian Community and the Salt River (Pima-Maricopa) Indian community. Each band is now politically and geographically distinct and separate. The remaining band, the Hia-C’ed O’odham, are not federally recognized, but reside throughout southwestern Arizona. All of the groups still speak the O’odham language, which derives from the Uto-Aztecan language group, although each group has varying dialects.

Tohono O'odham Government

The current tribal government, established in the 1930s under the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, reflects years of commercial, missionary, and federal intervention. While the federal government encouraged tribes to reestablish their governments, it approved models based on the electoral system and structure of the US.

The Tohono O'odham Nation is comprised of three branches of government; Executive (which houses the Chairman and Vice-Chairman's office), Legislative (which houses the tribal council representatives-two reps from each of the 11 districts) and Judicial (which houses the courts and judges). The three branches of government exist together in a system of checks and balances and allows the Nation to conduct business with the assurance that each branch will keep the other two in harmony.

Tohono O'odham Culture

The Tohono O'odham share linguistic and cultural roots with the closely related Akimel O'odham (People of the River), historically known as Pima, whose lands lie just south of present-day Phoenix, along the lower Gila River. The ancestors of both the Tohono O'odham and the Akimel O'odham resided along the major rivers of southern Arizona. Ancient pictographs adorn a rock wall that juts up out of the desert near the Baboquivari Mountains.

The Tohono O'odham have retained many traditions into the twenty-first century and still speak their language. Since the late 20th century, however, U.S. mass culture has penetrated and in some cases eroded O'odham traditions as their children adopt new trends in technology and other practices.

The Cultural Center & Museum is working to instill pride by creating a permanent tribal institution to protect and preserve O'odham "*jewe c himdag*". Working with elders, the Cultural Center & Museum will promote understanding and respect of O'odham "*himdag*" through educational programs and public outreach.

The Cultural Center & Museum is located in Topawa, AZ. For more information call (520)383-0200.

Visit the NEW Cultural Center & Museum at www.himdagki.org.

White Mountain Apache Tribe

The White Mountain Apache home is in eastern Arizona, where they have lived for thousands of years. They believe that they come from the Earth, and that they belong to the earth. Their beautiful home was given to them by our creator. The White Mountain Apache home is rich in tradition, resources, wildlife, and outdoor recreation.

The White Mountain Apache Tribe is also known for its world class hunting. Their home is one of the best places in the world for Trophy Elk hunting, drawing in hunters from all over the world to get a chance at a world class Trophy Bull Elk.

White Mountain Apache Tribal Government

The Tribal Government consists of: the Executive Office, Tribal Council, and Legal Department.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman are elected to four-year terms by the majority of the people.

The Tribal Council are split up into four districts. Districts 1, 2, and 3, each have two council members. While district 4 has four (4) council members. Each council member serves a staggered term of four (4) years.

The Legal department operates under the general supervision of the Tribal Attorney or General Council for the Tribe. Which falls under the daily supervision of the Tribal Chairman in accordance with the established tribal Council polices.

White Mountain Apache Culture and the Great Seal

The White Mountain Apache Tribe now consists of approximately 15,000 members. Many live here on Tribal lands, but others live and work all over the country and the world. The majority of the population lives in and around Whiteriver, the seat of Tribal government,

with others residing in the communities of Cibecue, Carrizo, Cedar Creek, Forestdale, Hon-Dah, McNary, East Fork, and Seven Mile.

The Whiteriver Unified School District and the Cibecue Community School offer public education. Other educational institutions include the Theodore Roosevelt School and John F. Kennedy School operated by the Indian Education Division of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the East Fork Lutheran Mission School . Higher Ed opportunities are available through the regional Northland Pioneer College, which has a center at Whiteriver. Many Apache young people attend Arizona 's three state universities and other schools and colleges around the country.

The reservation consists of 1.67 million acres (over 2,600 square miles) in east-central Arizona. It ranges in elevation from 2,600 feet in the Salt River Canyon on the southwest corner of the reservation to over 11,400 feet at the top of Mount Baldy, one of their sacred peaks. It includes some of the richest wildlife habitats in the state, and more than 400 miles of streams. It is home to the Apache trout, a species brought back from the brink of extinction through the efforts of the Tribe and many partners.

APPENDIX B: RURAL & NATIVE AMERICAN SITES

Bullhead City

Bullhead City is a city located on the Colorado River in Mohave County, Arizona, United States, 97 miles (156 km) south of Las Vegas, Nevada, and directly across the Colorado River from Laughlin, Nevada, whose casinos and ancillary services supply much of the employment for Bullhead City. Bullhead City is located at the southern end of Lake Mohave.

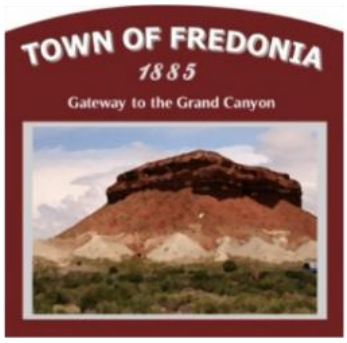
As of the 2020 census, the population of Bullhead City was 41,348. The nearby communities of Laughlin, Needles, Fort Mohave and Mohave Valley bring the Bullhead area's total population to over 77,000, making it the largest economic region in Mohave County.

With over 60 square miles (160 km^2), Bullhead City is the largest city in Mohave County in terms of total land area.

History

The earliest inhabitants of the Colorado River Valley were the Mojave people. The rich soil and plentiful water provided the valley's natives with the necessities to create a prosperous farming community. According to Mojave legend, life began on Spirit Mountain, the highest peak visible from the Bullhead City area.

The first account of European contact was with Spanish explorer Melchor Díaz, who in 1540 documented his travels in what is now northwestern Mohave County. He recounts meeting a large population of natives who referred to themselves as the *Pipa Aha Macav*, meaning "People by the River". From "Aha Macav" came the shortened name "*Mojave*" (also spelled "Mohave"). While Mohave County uses the modern English spelling, the tribe retains the traditional Spanish spelling "*Mojave*". Both are correct, and both are pronounced "Moh-hah-vee".



Town of Fredonia

Fredonia is a town in Coconino County, Arizona, United States. As of the 2020 census, Fredonia had a population of 1,323. Fredonia is the gateway to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon.

History

Fredonia was laid out in 1886. Its name is said to mean the "land of free women."

The town suffered economically from the re-routing of U.S. 89 in 1960. While the highway previously went through Fredonia, it was re-routed north of the Glen Canyon dam, and the town lost several businesses due to a drop in traffic.

Senator Barry Goldwater gave the commencement at Fredonia High School in 1964.

Kaibab Forest Products was the major industry in town until 1995, when it closed and laid off 200 workers. It had employed up to 400 workers in 1988. The Arizona One mine is also located nearby.

Demographics

Historical population

Census	Pop.	%±
1960	643	—
1970	798	24.1%
1980	1,040	30.3%
1990	1,207	16.1%
2000	1,036	−14.2%
2010	1,314	26.8%
2020	1,323	0.7%

As of the 2020 census, Fredonia had a population of 1,323. The median age was 39.1 years. 24.7% of residents were under the age of 18 and 18.3% of residents were 65 years of age or older. For every 100 females there were 92.6 males, and for every 100 females age 18 and over there were 92.3 males age 18 and over.

0.0% of residents lived in urban areas, while 100.0% lived in rural areas.

There were 490 households in Fredonia, of which 29.6% had children under the age of 18 living in them. Of all households, 48.6% were married-couple households, 20.6% were households with a male householder and no spouse or partner present, and 25.7% were households with a female householder and no spouse or partner present. About 32.2% of all households were made up of individuals and 18.6% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older.

City of Maricopa

Maricopa is a city in the Gila River Valley in Pinal County, Arizona, United States. With 76,654 residents as of 2024, Maricopa is the second largest incorporated municipality in Pinal County.

History

The settlement currently known as Maricopa has been located in three different places with three previous names: Maricopa Wells, Maricopaville and Maricopa Junction; the latter gradually became known as Maricopa. It began as an oasis around a series of watering holes eight miles north of present-day Maricopa, and about a mile west of Pima Butte. European-American traders and travelers called it Maricopa Wells. Several of Arizona's rivers, the Gila, Santa Cruz, Vekol and Santa Rosa provided this oasis in the desert with an ample supply of water during this time.

During the late 1800s, Maricopa Wells was one of the most important relay stations along the San Antonio-San Diego Mail Line and the later more famous Butterfield Overland Mail Route. Today, very little remains of this once bustling community, but it played an important part in the progress and development of the Southwest. It was one of the best-known spots in Arizona during this period of time because it had a reliable source of water, and offered an abundant supply of food. The peaceful Pima and Maricopa farmers who lived and farmed nearby sold supplies to travelers and migrants.

The most prosperous period of time for Maricopa Wells was in the 1870s. During this time the trading center at the Wells provided water and food for not only the east–west travelers, but those who traveled to the north to Phoenix. Fairly good roads had been built by James A. Moore, the proprietor at Maricopa Wells, to all points north.

Maricopaville developed south and west of the Wells, following construction of a railroad line from this terminus to Phoenix. In 1879, the Southern Pacific Railroad was in the process of building a railroad line from Yuma to Tucson, and a second railroad line was to

be built from Maricopaville, wrapping around the western edge of South Mountain into Phoenix. With the railroad, Maricopaville took on the appearance of a gold rush boom town, as men worked day and night building hotels, saloons, warehouses, restaurants, theaters, and other facilities. One local newspaper at the time believed that with its thousands of people and good location, Maricopaville would be an ideal choice for the location of the state capital. But the railroad never built the anticipated line from Maricopaville into Phoenix. Tempe also wanted to be on the railroad line and lobbied the territorial government for a stop; officials agreed.

In the early 1880s, the settlement was essentially rebuilt as Maricopa Junction, three miles to the east, at the present location of Maricopa, in order to accommodate the Maricopa and Phoenix Railroad, which was planned to go through Kyrene and Tempe to the north on the way to Phoenix. The first train departed from Maricopa for Phoenix on July 4, 1887. All east–west rail travelers had to stop at Maricopa, and those who wanted to go north had to shift to the M & P Railroad.

Maricopa was officially incorporated as a city on October 15, 2003, becoming the 88th incorporated municipality in Arizona. Between 2000 and 2010, the city's population grew from 1,040 residents to 43,482, an increase of 4080%. In 2018, estimates by the US Census Bureau and Arizona State Demographer's Office put Maricopa's population at 51,977 pushing the city over the 50,000 mark for the first time.

A part of the city is within the boundaries of the Ak-Chin Indian Community. The small, federally recognized tribe has developed Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino and resort, cinema multiplex, and operates a golf course. All are open to the public and draw customers from Maricopa as well as the greater Phoenix area. In addition, the tribe operates the Ak-Chin Regional Airport and an industrial park. A 2011 study said that its casino and resort made up a large part of the economy of Pinal County, in terms of number of jobs and revenue generated.

Town of Quartzsite

Quartzsite is a town in La Paz County, Arizona, United States. Although the population sits around 2,500, the town realizes a robust seasonal influx of people during the winter months. Interstate 10 runs directly through Quartzsite, making it the first town many people see when driving into Arizona from the Greater Los Angeles region of California.

History

Quartzsite's current location was the site of a waterhole from 1863 to the 1880s and was later a stage station, called Tyson's Wells, along the La Paz - Wickenburg Road on Tyson Wash, in what was then Yuma County, in the newly created Arizona Territory. It was about 20 miles from the Colorado River steamboat landing of La Paz and 25 miles from the landing of Erhenburg from 1866. The next stop was 25 miles to the east at Desert Station.

In the valley around Tyson's Wells were places known to have been successfully worked by individual prospectors since the beginning of the Colorado River Gold Rush of the 1860s up until the 1950s. Some large-scale operations in the early 20th century were failures.

Both rural Veterans and the southern end of the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) Reservation will be served by the Quartzsite remote services office. It is anticipated to have a joint venture with the already established VFW post in the town.

APPENDIX C: RURAL VETERAN SERVICE SITES

City of Globe

Globe is a city in and the county seat of Gila County, Arizona, United States. As of the 2020 census, the population of the city was 7,249. Globe was founded in1875 as a mining camp. Mining, tourism, government and retirees are most important in the present-day Globe economy.

History

Besh-Ba-Gowah, about one mile south of Globe, was occupied by Salado populations between AD 1225 and AD 1400.

In 1875 silver was discovered in the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation. Accordingly, that same year, the mining camp at Ramboz Peak nearest to the reservation relocated to what became Globe. The plans for an incorporated Globe were established in July 1876, with retail stores, banks, and Globe's first newspaper printing its first issue on May 2, 1878. By February 1881, Globe was the Gila County seat. Coming with Globe's new importance as the county seat came a stagecoach line linking it to Silver City, New Mexico.

Due to Globe's relative isolation from the rest of Arizona and its proximity to the San Carlos Apache reservation, Globe remained a frontier town. Globe's history is laced with many historic events such as murders, stagecoach robberies, outlaws, lynchings, and Apache raids. Natiotish, a San Carlos Apache, left the reservation with a group of about 50 men and continued to attack ranchers and miners.

The Old Dominion mine was the principal copper producer in the Globe District. In retirement, the old mine workings serve as the water supply for Globe-Miami and the district mines.

Old Dominion copper mine

The Old Dominion Mining Company was incorporated in 1880 and ran "on a financial roller-coaster" for the next twenty years. In 1894, the mine was sold to the Lewisohn Brothers of New York. The arrival of the railroad in 1898 dramatically lowered shipping costs. In 1904, the mine was acquired by Phelps-Dodge, who appointed Louis D. Ricketts as general manager. From 1904 to 1908, Phelps-Dodge spent $2.5 million on expanding and modernizing the mine and plant. As the mine grew, so did Globe. World War 1 brought increased copper demand; the mine and town both prospered. 1917 was a year of labor unrest in the copper mines nationwide. A strike on the Globe mines was called on July 1, 1917. Federal troops were called in to restore order, miners began returning to work, and the mine was back to normal production by October.

In the postwar years, the Old Dominion never returned to its former glory. Neglected maintenance, declining ore grades, and flooding underground all took their toll. The mine closed during the recession of 1921–22, and the mine closed permanently in 1931. In its half-century of operation, the mine produce some 800 million pounds of copper, and returned gross earnings of $134 million to shareholders. It was the economic mainstay for the Globe community for most of this half-century.

The property was sold to the Miami Copper Company as a water supply in 1941 and continues to supply both industrial and domestic water to the area.

Did you know?

In 1884 the surviving Clanton brothers Ike and Phineas arrived in Apache County after the infamous gunfight at the OK Corral in Tombstone. Ike was eventually killed by a local deputy sheriff, and Phineas, after serving prison time for a stage robbery, moved to Globe, where he died of pneumonia and was buried in 1906.

Globe is also known for having links to Geronimo and the Apache Kid. On October 23, 1889, the Apache Kid's trial was held in the Globe Courthouse. After he was convicted, it was the responsibility of Sheriff Glenn Reynolds to transport him to the Arizona Territorial Prison in Yuma. Sheriff Reynolds, his deputy, and their prisoners set out in an armored stagecoach holding the Apache Kid inside. At an incline in the road, known as the Kelvin Grade Massacre, near present-day Kearny, Sheriff Reynolds let some of the prisoners out of the stagecoach seeing as they were on an uphill climb and he wanted to ease the burden on the horses. The prisoners were able to overcome and murder Sheriff Reynolds as well as one other man. A third was left for dead. In response, the United States Army launched a campaign to track down the renegades.

Kearny

Kearny is a town in Pinal County, Arizona, United States. The town was named after General Stephen Watts Kearny, who passed through the area on November 7, 1846, while leading 100 dragoons to California. As of the 2020 census, Kearny had a population of 1,741.

History

Kearny was built by the Kennecott Mining Company in 1958 as a planned community to accommodate the populations of nearby Ray, Sonora and Barcelona, which were about to be swallowed by Kennecott's expanding open-pit copper mine. While many houses in the town were newly built, some mine employees had their homes moved down the road. Kearny was officially incorporated in 1959.

Demographics

As of the 2020 census, Kearny had a population of 1,741. The median age was 43.6 years. 24.1% of residents were under the age of 18 and 25.0% of residents were 65 years of age or older. For every 100 females there were 105.1 males, and for every 100 females age 18 and over there were 103.1 males age 18 and over.

0.0% of residents lived in urban areas, while 100.0% lived in rural areas.

There were 670 households in Kearny, of which 31.6% had children under the age of 18 living in them. Of all households, 48.4% were married-couple households, 21.8% were households with a male householder and no spouse or partner present, and 21.6% were households with a female householder and no spouse or partner present. About 23.7% of all households were made up of individuals and 14.2% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older.

Williams

Williams is a city in northern Arizona. It's known as a gateway to Grand Canyon National Park via the Grand Canyon Railway. Historic Route 66 has Americana-style shops and restaurants dating back to the early 1900s. It's home to the Route 66 Zipline and Pete's Route 66 Gas Station Museum, featuring highway memorabilia. To the east, Bearizona Wildlife Park has bears, mountain goats, bison and birds of prey.

History

Founded in 1881, Williams was named for William Sherley "Old Bill" Williams (1787–1849), a famous trapper, trader, scout and mountain man, who often trapped in the area. A statue of "Old Bill" stands in Monument Park, located on the west side of the city. The large mountain directly to the south is named Bill Williams Mountain. The city was incorporated on July 9, 1901.

Williams was the last city whose section of Route 66 was bypassed, due to lawsuits that kept the last section of Interstate 40 in Arizona from being built around the city. After settlements called for the state to build three Williams exits, the suits were dropped and I-40 was completed. On October 13, 1984, Interstate 40 was opened around the town and newspapers the next day reported the essential end of US 66. The following year, Route 66 was decommissioned.

The Williams Historic Business District and Urban Route 66, Williams were added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1984 and 1989, respectively.

Geography

Bill Williams Mountain rises to an elevation of 9,256 feet (2,821 m) just south of Williams. According to the United States Census Bureau, the city has a total area of 43.8 square miles (113 km2), of which 43.5 square miles (113 km2) is land and 0.3 square miles (0.78 km2), or 0.66%, is water.

Economy

The majority of economic activity for Williams is derived from tourism. Williams is approximately a one-hour, sixty-mile car drive from the South Entrance of the Grand Canyon, and forty-two miles west of the City of Flagstaff via Interstate 40. Other notable Williams attractions include Bearizona Wildlife Park, the Grand Canyon Railway & Hotel, Grand Canyon Deer Farm, Canyon Coaster Adventure Park, Pete's Route 66 Gas Station Museum, the Planes of Fame Air Museum and the Poozeum.

Holbrook

Holbrook (Navajo: T'iisyaakin) is a city in Navajo County, Arizona, United States. As of the 2020 census, Holbrook had a population of 4,858. The city is the county seat of Navajo County. The City of Holbrook was founded in 1881 or 1882, when the railroad was built, and named to honor the first chief engineer of the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad, Henry Randolph Holbrook.

History

The Holbrook area was inhabited first by the Ancestral Puebloans, then Puebloans, then the Navajo and Apache. In 1540 Coronado searched for the Seven Cities of Cibola and camped some 60 miles (100 km) east of Holbrook. Coronado sent an expedition west to find the Colorado River, and they crossed the Little Colorado some 25 miles (40 km) east of Holbrook and found a wonderland of colors they named "El Desierto Pintada" – The Painted Desert. The expedition was then led by the Hopis to the Grand Canyon.

U.S. settlements

After the Mexican–American War ended in 1848 the area was ceded to the United States. From 1851 to 1857 the U.S. Army sent three expeditions along the 35th parallel, the third led by Lt. Beale who created a 10 feet (3 m) wide wagon road. The area was known as Navajo Springs, after a spring a dozen miles northeast of Holbrook. Soon afterwards a store and saloon were established at the confluence of the Puerco River and Little Colorado Rivers two miles east of Holbrook, and the area became known as Horsehead Crossing.

In 1876, Mormons emigrated from Utah and began settlements near Horsehead Crossing on both the Little Colorado and Rio Puerco rivers. During 1881 and 1882, railroad tracks were laid down, and a railroad station was built to supply wood and water and to freight supplies south to Fort Apache. The community was then named Holbrook after the first engineer of the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad. The railroad sold a million acres to a Boston investment group which established the Aztec Land and Cattle Company, better known as the Hashknife Outfit. It leased another million acres of government land and became one

of the largest cattle ranches to ever exist. Holbrook became its headquarters and quickly grew into a cow-town.

Holbrook shootout

On September 4, 1887, Commodore Perry Owens, the Apache County Sheriff, came to Holbrook to arrest Andy Blevins, a.k.a. Andy Cooper, for horse theft. Blevins had also recently bragged about killing two men and had killed many more, including two lawmen.

Sheriff Owens insisted on confronting the Blevins brothers alone, knowing there would likely be a shootout. He went to the Blevins' house, which still stands, knocked on the door, and when Blevins asked what he wanted, announced he'd come to arrest him. Blevins resisted arrest and a shootout occurred. Blevins, two brothers, a friend, and Blevins' horse were shot; all died, except one brother.

Owens emerged unscathed, despite being shot at from a half-dozen feet (2 m) away. Owens single-handedly taking on four men made him a western legend rivaling the Earp Brothers and Texas John Slaughter as lawmen of the Old West.

Later Development

Holbrook was known as "the town too tough for women and churches" and in 1914 was said to be the only county seat in the U.S. that didn't have a church (the Mormons had moved 25 miles (40 km) south to Snowflake and Taylor). The original railroad station was replaced by the Santa Fe Depot in 1892.

Navajo County was divided off of Apache County in 1895 and Holbrook became the county seat. Many lawmen and cowboys from the area became Rough Riders with Theodore Roosevelt in the late 1800s. But by 1902, The Hashknife Outfit was bankrupt and the land was sold to the Babbitt brothers.

President Theodore Roosevelt named the Petrified Forest (including part of the Painted Desert) a National Monument in 1906. Holbrook was incorporated in 1917. Most of the Beale Wagon Road became Route 66 in 1926 and passed through both the Petrified Forest and Holbrook. Tourism started taking over the economy.

APPENDIX D: SERVICE-ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES

From Analog to Digital

On July 1, 2025, CSOs and DSOs were mandated to begin using the new DAV Case Management System (CMS) for processing VBA claims through their National Service Office (NSO) with primary oversight of the claim. For Arizona, that means the NSO office co-located with the VA Phoenix Regional Office. In an ideal world, the transition from analog, US Mail sorting, US Mail forwarding and delivery, dead time sitting in the VA mailroom, delivery to the NSO office for certification, and then returning the claim to the VBA to be processed would be eliminated in the switch to digital management. In fact, an estimated 2½ weeks would be cut off the total time for a claim to be adjudicated, just by eliminating that part of the human-machine interface! ...in a perfect world...

Through continuous work debugging the CMS system at the National level, to reinforcing and enhancing training to CSOs and DSOs at the grassroots level, a year later the system was proving to be a valuable move for the claims process. Are there still issues? Of course—it's technology, after all. Has it helped to better standardize the process? Yes. Has it helped get claims through the VBA faster and more accurately? Well, let's not go there...

Technology brings services to those in need

A primary issue that the Native American and Rural Veteran Outreach program sought to address was the lack of access to certified or accredited Service Officers for many of Arizona's Veterans. In a few cases, individual DAV chapters have worked to address this issue. East Valley Chapter 8, in Mesa, has a diverse population in its large area of responsibility—urban, rural, transportation-challenged, homebound, assisted living, and the full range from low-to-high income Veterans and families. They are in the process of establishing satellite offices around the chapter's area of responsibility—Fountain Hills, East Apache Junction, Queen Creek, South Chandler, and Sun Lakes. This is possible because the current Chapter Commander focused on building up the chapter's ability to serve more Veterans—they now have 17 certified CSOs.

With Department of Arizona's local outreach program, we purchased "Tablet Kits" for every CSO and DSO in the state. The kits included a choice of either an iPad or a Windows 11 tablet, a tablet case with integrated keyboard, and a stylus. The program was developed to follow Past National Commander Coleman Nee's admonition for Service Officers to get out of their chapters and go out into the community—go to where the Veterans are. This successful $50K program is ongoing, and enabled more CSOs to provide services to housebound, hospitalized, hospice care, and transportation-challenged Veterans and their families and survivors.

The Magic of Presence…without being Present?

While the use of technology to reach more local Veterans is working well, the problem remained that there are many Veterans who lives hours away from chapters. What about them and their families and survivors? This would take an entirely new approach, new technologies, and new training for CSOs and DSOs. At least for the first phase of the program, *thank you, Amazon!*

We developed what we consider to be our "Standard Package." This consists of a mid-range laptop computer with videoconference capability, combination laser printer and scanner, Bluetooth mouse, and standard tri-band Starlink system and mount, as illustrated below:

The Foundation: Reliable Computing

Lenovo IdeaPad 15.6" FHD Touchscreen Laptop Computer 2025, 10-Core Intel i5-1235U (Beat i7-1195G7), 16GB RAM, 1TB Storage (512GB SSD + 500GB Ext), MarxsolAccessory, Lifetime MS Office 2024, Win 11 Pro
Visit the Lenovo Store
4.5 ★★★★☆ (18) | Search this page
Amazon's Choice
$719.00 Price history

One laptop with mouse and hub.

Lifetime *FREE* Microsoft 365.

The Bridge: Reliable High-Speed Communications

Bundle: for STARLINK Gen 3 Standard Satellite Internet Setup – Advanced Dish - Wi-Fi 6 Router + 150FT Extension Cable – High-Speed, Low-Latency Connection
Brand: Generic
4.0 ★★★★☆ (9) | Search this page
50+ bought in past month
$539.00 Price history

Starlink Mount with Extension-Adjust Angle Without Disassembly Tube Gen 3 Roof Mount Wall/Ceiling Mounting Kit Compatible with Starlink Standard 4/4X/V3(Black)
Brand: BEIDUONA
4.6 (79) | Search this page
Amazon's Choice
1K+ bought in past month
Lowest price in 30 days
-44% $27.99 Price history
List Price: $49.99

Scanning Documents and Printing Client Handouts

Brother DCP-L2640DW Wireless Compact Monochrome Multi-Function Laser Printer with Copy and Scan, Duplex, Mobile, Black & White | Includes Refresh Subscription Trial(1), Works with Alexa
4.2 (3,814) | Search this page
1 sustainability feature
#1 Best Seller in Laser Computer Printers
10K+ bought in past month
$209.99 Price history

The Price of Technology

With the standard Remote Service Office package, the cost of technology, although not cheap in any sense, is fairly reasonable. The total package comes to an average cost of $1,518.00. We also pay the first two years of Starlink subscription at an estimated cost of $85.00/mo, bringing the total for the standard package to $3,558. This does not include the travel expenses to set up the remote office, since that is a variable in all respects depending on the location in the state for the office installation.

The Human-Machine Interfaces

Once the remote offices are setup and technology installation completed and tested, we are ready to start remote service operations…almost. First, we must train our site managers on all the "what to do and what not to do" aspects of the program.

Our Site Managers: Indigenous Volunteers

While we are on-site establishing the remote office, we provide the site manager with a guide on how to operate the site, key forms that we will work with while doing claims for our clients, how to use the scanner and Outlook e-mail to send documents to the CSO/DSO on the other end of the videoconference, and how to fully delete any client information from the laptop when we are finished.

- We provide information on how to find out which CSO or DSO is providing service that day and time and contact information.
- We have simplified to login process for the laptop and the Zoom videoconference.
- We create a site-specific, free e-mail address for that laptop at that remote site.

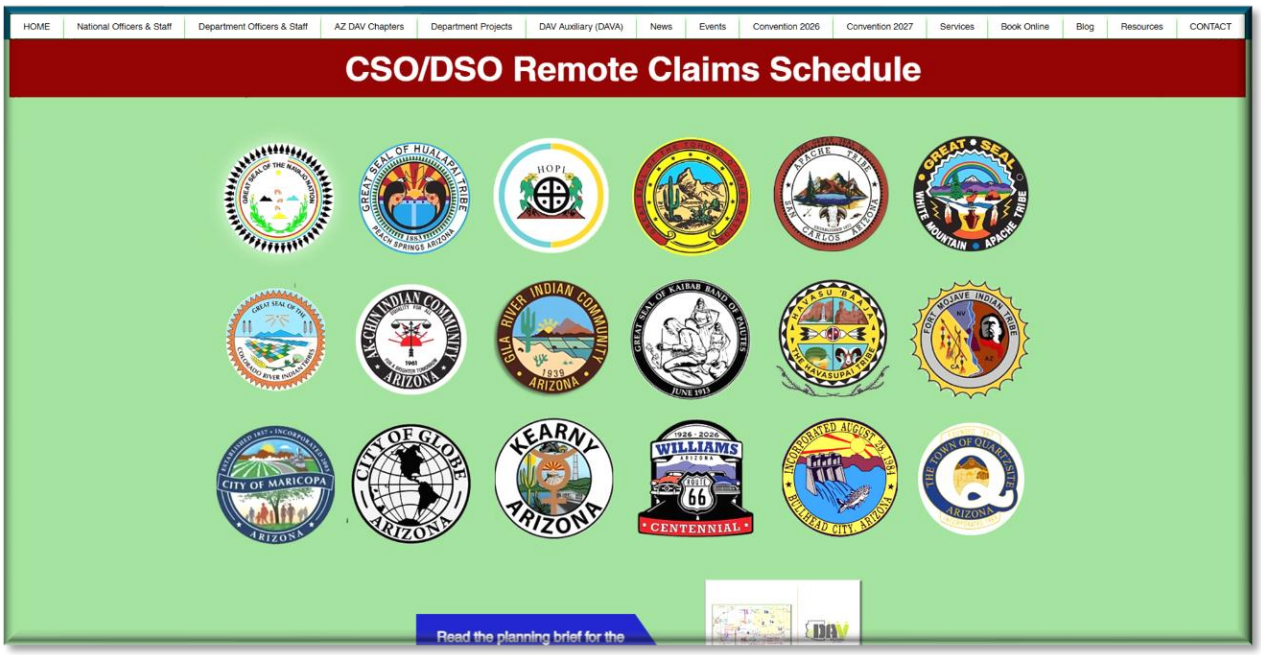
One of the most important functions of our site managers is providing translator service for clients and CSO/DSOs—many older Veterans and survivors speak very little English and truly understand even less…and we sure don't have a clue about indigenous languages, although watching and hearing our Native American friends speak it is a beautiful experience.

Chapter and Department Service Officers

Our CSO/DSOs have had the opportunity to work in the remote service program for nearly six months, now. Each month, a few more brave souls sign up to be a part of this rewarding program. Much the same as with our clients, the scheduling process for CSO/DSOs is also automated on the Department of Arizona website, residing on a password-protected page accessible only to CSOs and DSOs.

There are two password-protected pages on our website; both are under the "Services" tab in the main menu.

- The first protected page is the "Remote Schedule" page, open only to CSOs, DSOs, and site managers. This is where CSOs and DSOs can sign up for slots to provide remote services to our Native American and rural Veteran Communities.



CSOs and DSOs

To enter your information for the days you want to do remote service:

1. Click on the link below to access the Remote Service Schedule for FY 2027
2. When the table pops up, select the month when want to enter your service dates by clicking on the appropriate tab at the bottom of the spreadsheet
3. After you enter your information, simply close the spreadsheet and the changes will save!

NOTE: Format for entries is: **Name (Ch #)**

WARNING

Do NOT delete or alter other Service Officers' data!

Do NOT delete sheet or table!

FY 2027 Remote Service Schedule

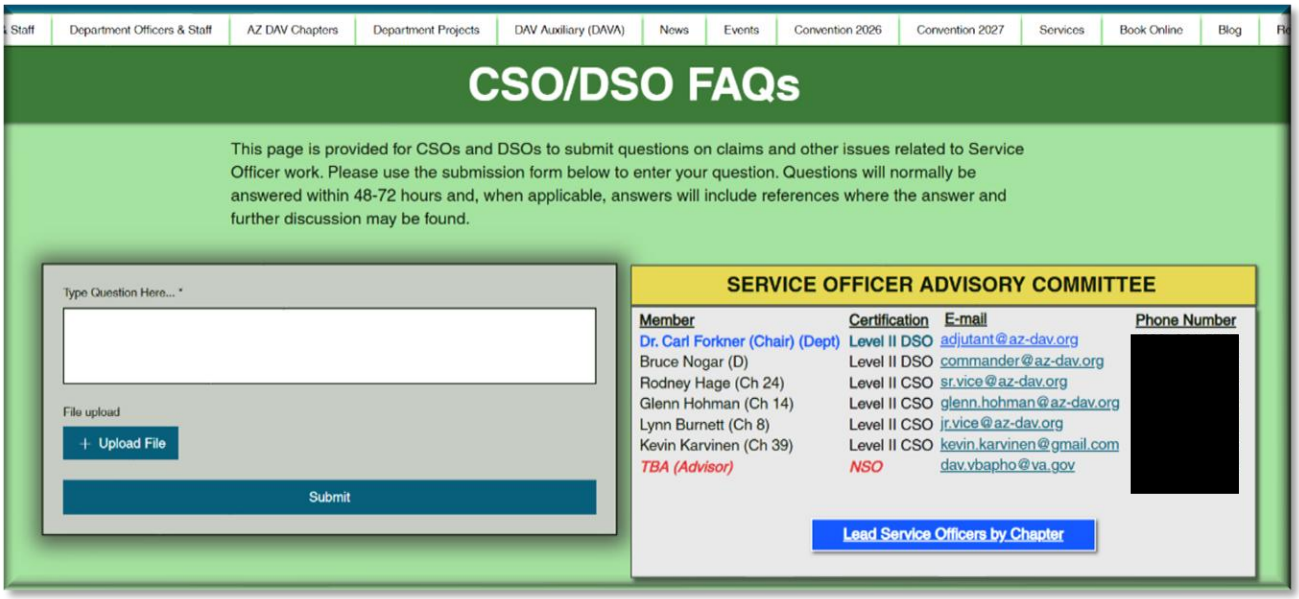
The main scheduling page with instructions, warnings, and the link to the actual schedule.

August 2026								
Tuesdays 1100-1500		Wednesdays 1100-1500		Thursdays 1100-1500		Thursdays 0900-1300		
DATE	FIELD VISITS	DATE	PIÑON	DATE	KAYENTA	DATE	GLOBE/KEARNY SUPPORT	
4	CONVENTION	5	CONVENTION	6	Kevin Karvinen (39)	6	Carl Forkner (D)	Add: Globe Support
11	Lynn Burnett (8)	12	Bruce Nogar (D)	13	Lynn Burnett (8)	13		
18	Lynn Burnett (8)	19	Kevin Karvinen (39)	20	In-person (D)	20		
25	Carl Forkner (D)	26	Bruce Nogar (D)	27	Carl Forkner (D)	27	Debbie Roberts (1)	

September 2026												
Mondays 1100-1500		Tuesdays 1100-1500		Wednesdays 1100-1500		Thursdays 1100-1500		Thursdays 0900-1300		Fridays 1100-1500		
DATE	HOPI	DATE	FIELD VISITS	DATE	KAYENTA	DATE	PIÑON	DATE	GLOBE/KEARNY SUPPORT	DATE	GANADO	
LABOR DAY		1	Chapter 8	2	Carl Forkner (D)	3	Jeri Harwood (4)	3	G: Debbie Roberts (1)	4	Mark Pollack (4)	Add: Ganado (Navajo 3)
		8		9	Bruce Nogar (D)	10	Jeri Harwood (4)	10		11	Mark Pollack (4)	
14		15	Chapter 8	16	John Crockett (24)	17	Jeri Harwood (4)	17		18	John Crockett (24)	
21		22	Chapter 8	23	Bruce Nogar (D)	24	Jeri Harwood (4)	24	G: Debbie Roberts (1)	25	Mark Pollack (4)	Add: Hopi Reservation
28		29		30								

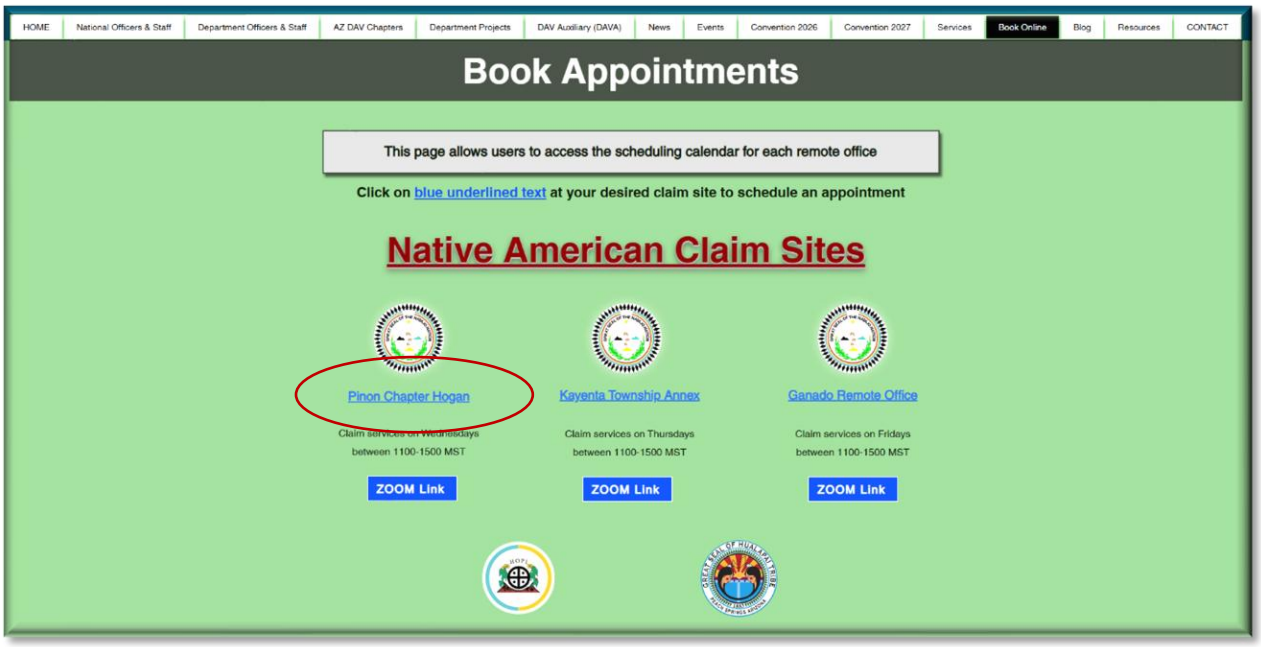
Dynamic scheduling page examples utilizing the collaborative feature of Google Sheets.

- The second protected page is the "CSO/DSO FAQs" page. This provides a confidential forum for CSOs and DSOs to submit questions about situations they do not fully understand. It also has contact for our *Service Officer Advisory Committee,* consisting of our Level II Service Officers, including their e-mail addresses and phone numbers. This provides the ability to reach out to a more experienced and more highly trained Service Officer when working with a client.



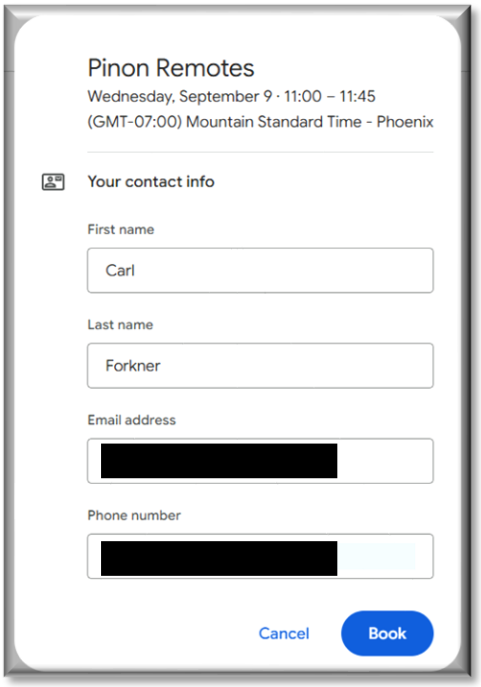
The Client Scheduling Process

Because many of our Native American and rural Veterans are either not comfortable or knowledgeable about using a computer, the site manager will sometimes schedule the appointment for them. To schedule an appointment using our website automation, the individual clicks on the “Book Online” tab in the main menu, which brings up the scheduling and connecting page for both Native American and rural Veteran sites.

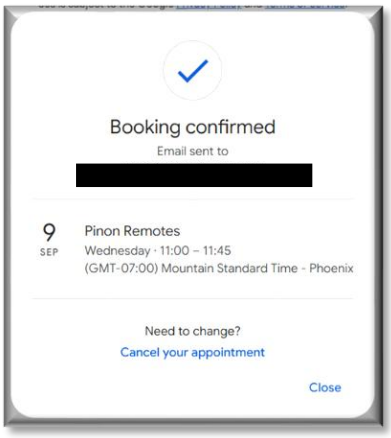


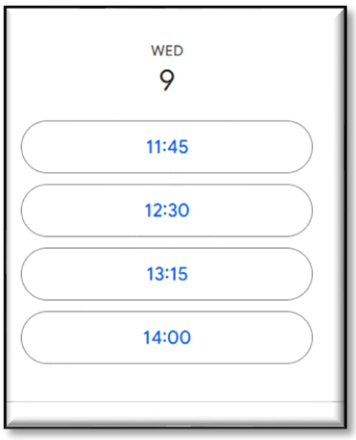
To schedule a 45-minute appointment with a Service Officer, the client [or site manager for the client] clicks on the blue underlined name of the desired site. This brings up a dedicated Google Appointment Calendar for that site and the available appointment times.

When the client [or site manager] clicks on the desired appointment day and time, the calendar opens up an appointment application specifically for that date and time.

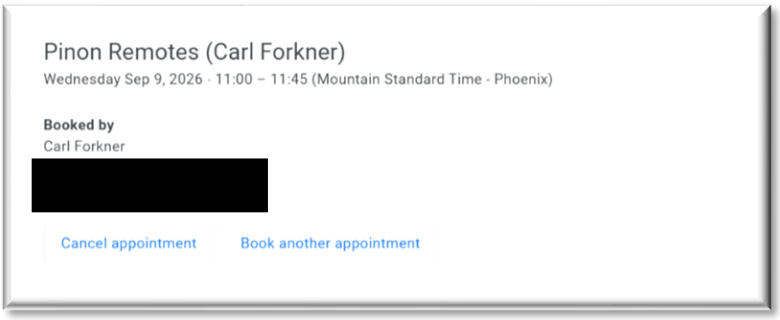


And when the client clicks "Book" the appointment is booked, a confirmation screen pops up, and the appointment time disappears from the list of available time slots.

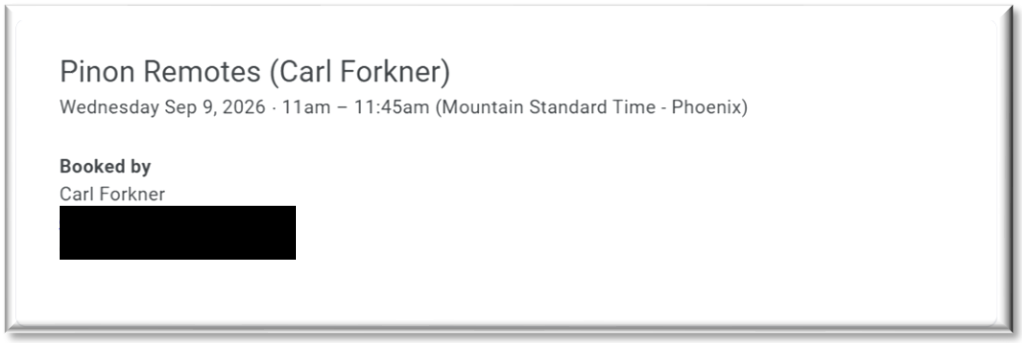




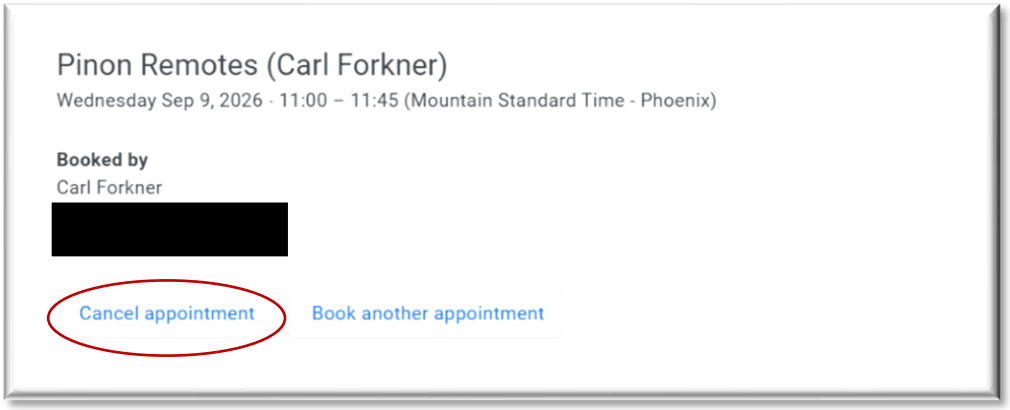
A confirmation is automatically sent to the client with the appointment details:



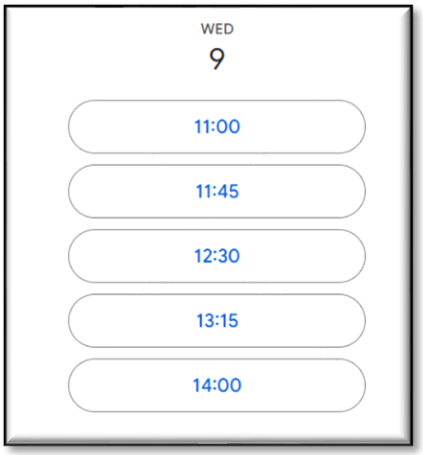
Once that happens, an email is sent to the common email inbox for Arizona's CSOs and DSOs, indicating the details of the booked appointment:



If a client has to reschedule or cancel the appointment for some reason, they can click on the “Cancel” link in their confirmation email to cancel the appointment:



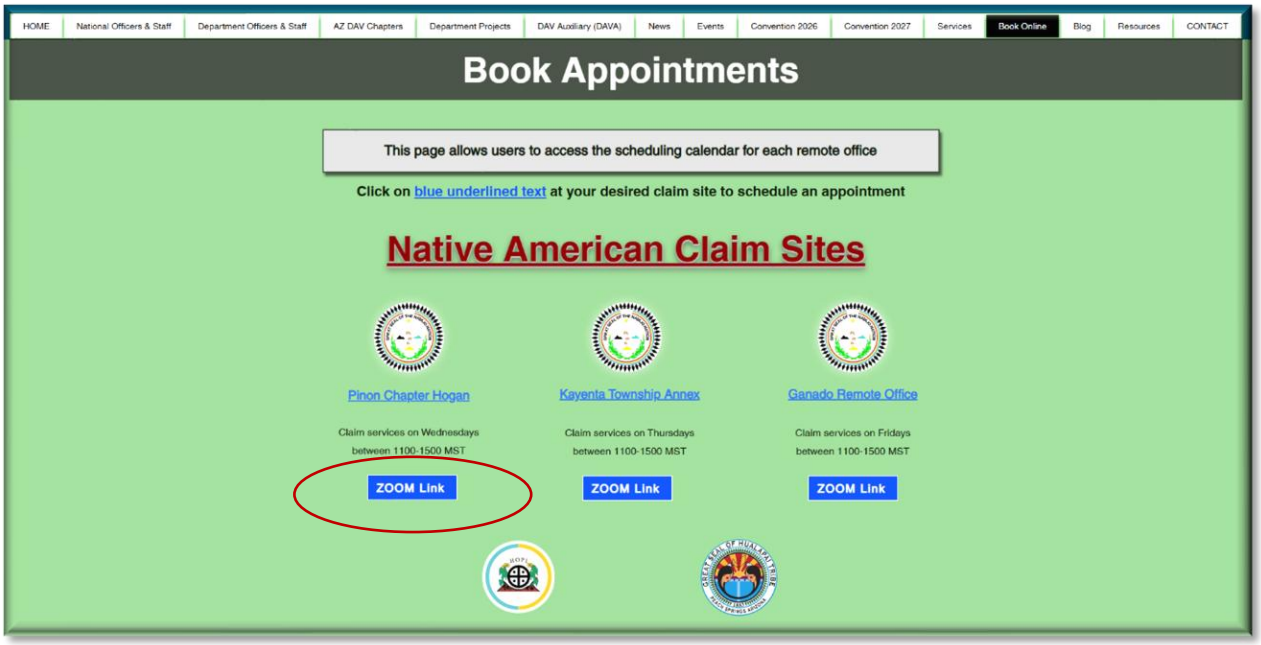
When the appointment is canceled, it pops back up as being available on the scheduling calendar:



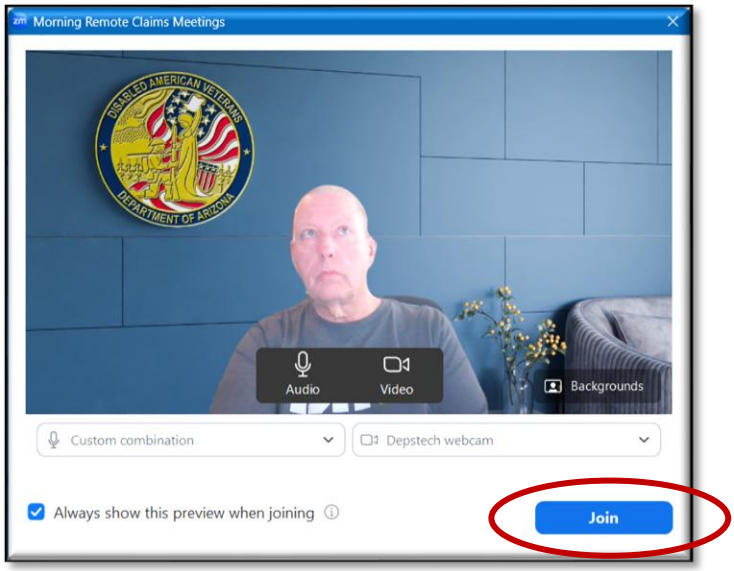
[redacted]

Connecting with our Veterans

This process has been simplified by embedding it in the Department website. This function appears on the same page as the booking online function, making it easy to associate the proper link with the Veteran's appointment location.



The ZOOM Link button will take the Veteran to the ZOOM Meeting for that location and timeframe:

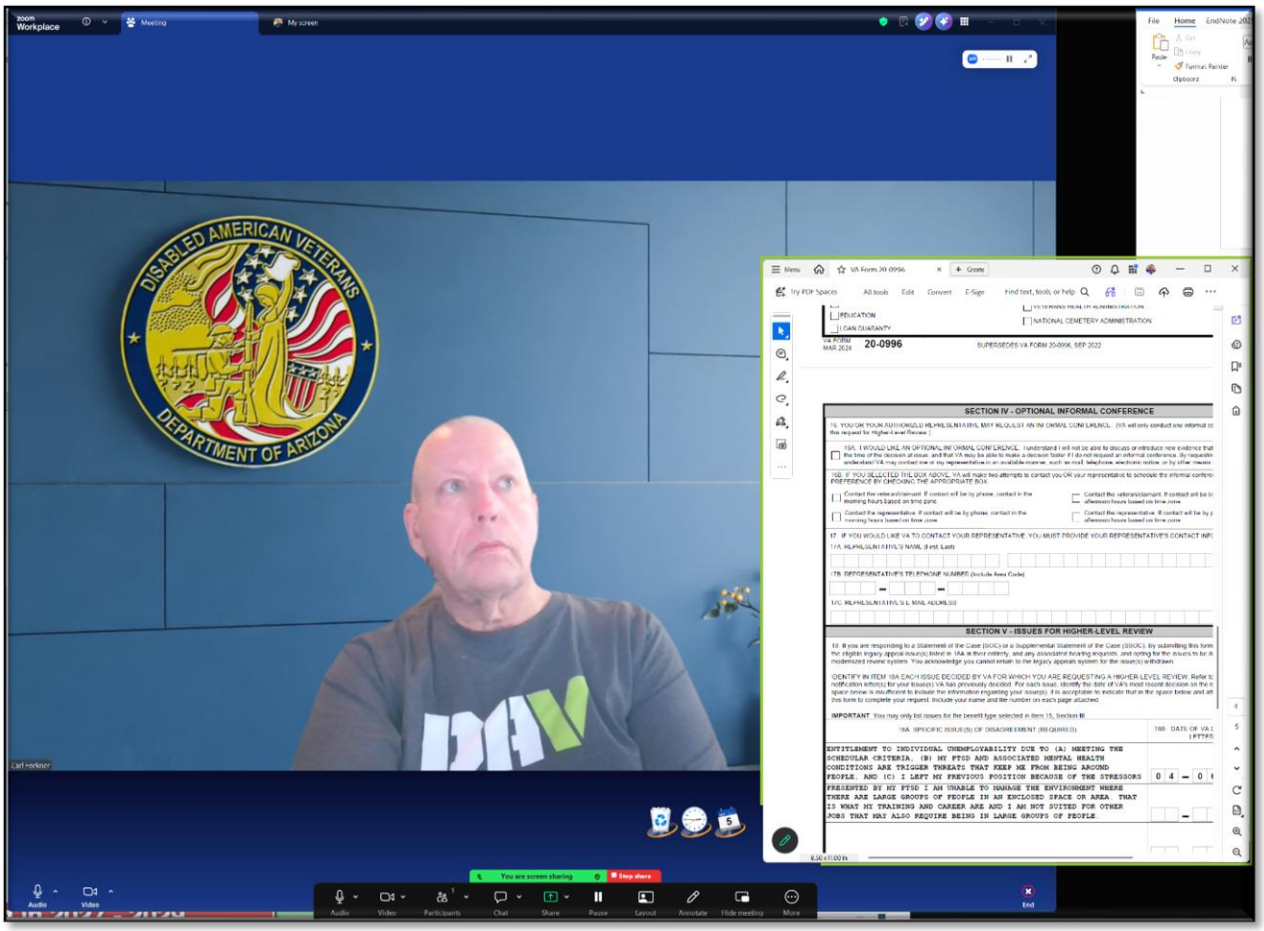


The Veteran [or site manager] clicks on the "Join" button and the client enters the meeting!

During the meeting, the CSO/DSO will share their screen with the Veteran so that they can see what is being typed into their claim. This helps to catch little (big) errors caused accidentally by typos.

[See image on next page]

After the claim is completed, reviewed, and ready to sign, the site manager has the Veteran sign a blank white sheet of paper, then scans and e-mails it to the CSO/DSO, who will then crop the image and upload it into the signature block using Adobe Acrobat Pro or Microsoft Edge.



On the Veteran's end of the videoconference, they will not see the CSO/DSO full-screen when the document is being shared with them, they will see the document in full-screen.

Once all the paperwork is completed and signed, the CSO/DSO will upload it all into the CMS system for the National Service Office to certify and upload it to the VA.

Future Technology Integration

Because some of the programs that may best provide needed assistance to our Native American and rural Veterans require reliable communications, many Veterans may be instantly disqualified for these programs. One such program is the DAV Caregiver Support Program.

Veterans may not have reliable communications for many reasons:

- Cellular Service
  - No or limited cellular service in their area
  - Living outside the cellular footprint
  - Not having a capable or reliable cellular phone/smartphone
- Internet Service
  - No service in their area
  - Not having a computer or laptop
  - Not having a smartphone capable of Internet use

In an effort to address the communications issues, the Department of Arizona Native American and Rural Veteran Outreach Program is working on the following solution options:

- Starlink Systems
  - Working with SpaceX and other companies to acquire, at no- or low-cost, Mini-Starlink systems to mount on Veterans' houses
  - Provides reliable satellite Internet service at a monthly cost far less than traditional Internet service companies charge (as low as $30/mo)
- Smartphones
  - Working with smartphone manufacturers to acquire, at no- or low-cost, basic smartphones with wi-fi calling capability
    - Wi-fi calling can be done through the Starlink satellite system
- "Portable" solar power panels
  - Exploring options to acquire, at no- or low-cost, "portable" solar panels to provide power necessary to run the Starlink Mini system and charge the smartphones
    - These are the type of panels frequently used by RVs and adventurers

APPENDIX E: COALITION BUILDING

With the article that appeared in DAV Magazine highlighting the Native American and Rural Veteran Outreach Program that Department of Arizona is operating, and multiple mentions in multiple meetings and seminars at this year's DAV/DAVA National Convention, interest among other Departments has resulted in the opportunity to collaborate and cooperate in helping reach more of our underserved populations across the United States.

How did the Coalition Start?

From a simple conversation between AZ DAV Chapter 1 Commander Christine Siegel and All-Navajo Veterans Auxiliary (ANVA) President Saraphine "Sara" Josley, the first partnership of the coalition was formed in December 2025. From that point, Department of Arizona Adjutant Dr. Carl Forkner became involved so that more resources could be brought to bear and a larger coalition of organizations and the community could be possible.

The All-Navajo Veterans Auxiliary (ANVA)

The ANVA is our primary and most valuable resource in the Navajo Nation. One of the lessons soon learned about Tribal Government is that the general population of the tribe—especially Veterans—trust them even less than they trust Washinton DC and Federal Agencies like the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Consequently, when we were introduced to Veteran leaders in Piñon, and they realized that we were not agents of the government—*any* government—they were very happy to work with us, telling us about the needs of Navajo Veterans and their families, from the simplest of necessities to the desire to acquire a construction trailer (the kind with a couple small offices, large middle section for meeting/waiting, and a built-in bathroom to replace the outhouse currently being used).

Central Navajo Veteran Agency (CNVA)

The Navajo Nation is divided into "Agencies"—see page 86 for discussion...

Why it is Possible

One of the [apparent] "old wives' tales" has been that CSO/DSOs are restricted to working withing the state where they were certified. At this year's Commanders and Adjutants Conference, I posed the question during the final day Question and Answer session with the DAV National leadership panel.

Here is the information from the Department of Arizona CSO/DSO FAQs page:

> **Can CSOs cross state lines to do VA claims?**
>
> [Answered by Carl Forkner on July 2, 2026]
> YES! I asked former Service Program Director and current Washington DC Headquarters Executive Director Jim Marszalek at the June 2026

Commanders & Adjutants conference at National Headquarters. His response was a resounding YES--we are certified in the United States and US Territories to do VA claims and there are no restrictions regarding state [or other] boundaries.

He did note that if a CSO/DSO is going to go into another state to do claim(s), they should give that state's NSO Office a heads-up as a courtesy.

Nevada

During the National Convention District Meeting for District 18, Nevada's Department Adjutant talked with me about a cooperative effort to help with their CSOs as well as interest in how we initiated and are managing the program. We are working with our NSO Supervisor on opportunities for assisting their CSOs, which she is actively pursuing for our Level II CSO/DSOs. When the details have been worked out by our NSO Supervisor, the cooperative effort can begin! We look forward to working with our friends in Nevada.

Utah

Department of Utah expressed interest in working with us to help them make relationship connections to establish two remote service offices in the Utah area of the Navajo Nation. The current target locations are Bluff (eastern area, near the Colorado border) and Oljato (near the Arizona border). We are happy to assist our friends in Utah to ensure that they avoid the mistakes that other organizations often make when dealing with Native American tribes—we will introduce them to the people who already trust DAV and let our Utah comrades build their program on our success in the Navajo Nation.

New Mexico

We are working to coordinate how our well-established operations in the bulk of the Navajo Nation may be able to assist the Department of New Mexico in working with their Navajo Nation Veteran Community. This is a promising opportunity to bring Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, and Colorado together in a coordinated manner throughout the Navajo Nation—the country's largest Native American Nation. The first remote service office is planned for Shiprock, NM.

Pennsylvania

Yet another great reason to attend the National Convention each year is making connections that result in mutually beneficial, cooperative work in serving Veterans. As a result of the visibility our program was provided by National Headquarters leaders throughout the convention (many thanks, by the way), Department of Pennsylvania is providing us with three vans that they are rotating out of service. These will be a *force multiplier* in the ability to provide our Native American Veterans with transportation, since most of them live well outside VA transportation limits. We are now working on the logistics of getting the vans to Arizona—whether to fund three drivers to bring them here or contract a carrier to transport them.

> *If DAV National Programs have points of contact or contracts already in place for transporting vehicles, we would love an assist in making this happen!*

California

The State Adjutant for California DAV requested us to contact him regarding guidance on how the California DAV can put in place a program to assist Native American and rural Veterans in their state. Our first joint interaction will be with California, Nevada, and Arizona, in serving the Fort Mojave Tribe in the Bullhead City area.

Other Opportunities

Department of Arizona has received inquiries about our program from the Departments of Washington, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Minnesota.

It's not just about Departments or the National Organization

There are significant other key players in our efforts reaching out to our Native American and rural Veteran Communities. First and foremost are the chapters and units that comprise the membership of the Department.

Phoenix Chapter 1

Chapter Commander Christine Siegel can be credited as the nexus to our current efforts. Being a friend of the All-Navajo Veteran Auxiliary (ANVA), Sara Josley, the current Native American part of our outreach program was developed based on casual conversation between these two leaders.

Tucson/Marana Chapter 4

Chapter 4 was also one of the first to sign on to the remote services program. They have been a staple each week, recently claiming Thursday appointments for the month.

East Valley Chapter 8 (Mesa)

Chapter 8 has multiple CSOs available daily to assist the Veteran Community. Each day, they have a CSO who is made available, if needed, to support remote claims; however, the chapter has reserved every Tuesday for supporting our remote services.

Prescott Chapter 16

After Department leadership put out the word to Arizona Chapters about the start of a Membership Scholarship Fund to assist low-income Veterans with their initial down payment for DAV membership, the chapter graciously approved and donated $1,000 to Department to put into the fund. With Department's initial investment of $4,000, this brings the fund another step closer to the goal of $8,000—enough to assist 200 Veterans in joining DAV. And, on the reservations, unless you work for the tribal government, you are likely in the category of low-income, often well below the Federal Government poverty level...

Sun City/ Surprise STAR Chapter 24

It is with Chapter 24 that we find the nexus to the next level of explosion in providing services to the Native American Veteran Community. In just 5 short weeks, they managed to accumulate enough donations to fill a 26-foot moving truck! The first delivery happened the third week of August...and the next week delivered over 150 hand-made quilts; the next delivery will be the third week of September, coincident with establishing our fourth Native American remote service office in Tuba City, which will serve both the Hopi Tribe and the Western Agency of the Navajo Nation. Chapter 24 CSOs are also getting into the rotation for remote services, including the new site in Ganado.

Oro Valley Chapter 39

Our newest chapter, sitting to the north-northeast of Tucson, has joined the rotation of doing remote services. Although they are a relatively small chapter, they have big hearts. We look forward to more involvement with this chapter as we move ahead, especially as we serve areas in the southern half of the state.

And it's not just about DAV/DAVA, either!

Following word-of-mouth spreading of Chapter 24's plan to gather donations for the Navajo Nation, local churches, community groups, VSOs, and individuals stepped up and contributed literally tons of new and gently used furniture, apparel, houseware, and more. It is the phenomenon about which Past Commander Coleman Nee encouraged us to pursue—getting up and out of our chapter houses, offices, etc. and getting out into the community; going to where the Veterans are—serving families, not just the Veteran; serving the community that supports them, and making the community aware of the many programs available through local chapters and ways the community can support Veterans.

Arizona Disabled Veterans Foundation (ADVF)

ADVF is a foundation started to provide emergency financial assistance to qualifying Veterans and/or their families, based on state and federal regulations for income and asset caps, as well as restrictions on type of grant and to whom the grant is paid—*always* to the vendor/landlord/mortgage company/etc. Part of the mission is also to educate applicants on the best use of their income.

ADVF has stepped in to provide assistance to Navajo Veterans who reside in the Arizona region of the Navajo Nation—they cannot provide funds out of state. This has become an overwhelming task, as so many of the Veterans and their families on the reservation fall well under the income and asset caps for assistance.

North West Valley Veterans Association (NWVVA)

The North West Valley Veterans Association is a patriot organization that brings together numerous local military and veteran service organizations in the northwest Phoenix valley. Member organizations use the coalition to share resources, assist with joint fundraising, and collaborate on local veteran programs. The NWVVA has been supportive of promoting the need for donations to assist Veterans, including helping support our program with Native American Veterans.

American Legion Posts 94 & 96

Posts 94 & 96 are also associated with the NWVVA and is a very active participant. In our recent efforts to gather donations for the Navajo Nation, Posts 94 & 96 and their Women's Auxiliary were instrumental in helping acquire the large number of donations—both materially and monetarily.

Veterans Affinity

Veterans Affinity is a nonprofit Veterans organization founded by retired Army Command Sergeant Major Rick Kreiberg in the Phoenix, AZ area. Today, they have expanded to over 70 volunteers serving the entire Phoenix metro area and Tucson area, with plans to eventually expand statewide. Veterans Affinity has been a key partner in acquiring donations for the Navajo Nation in Arizona.

West Valley Women Veterans

WVWW is an organization that offers our Phoenix West Valley women to have a place to share common interests, common concerns, and provide mutual support. They are also a participant in garnering donations for our Native American Veteran Communities.

Flagstar Bank of Surprise AZ

Flagstar bank has been providing the operating space for AZ STAR Chapter 24, including not only a meeting space and CSO area, but enough room for the sorting and packing of the many donated items as they come in. Large items got to the chapter's storage units, but all the clothes and small items are sorted and boxed by the chapter and unit.

Lowe's Hardware of Surprise AZ

A major part of managing the [literal] mountain of donations is having an effective way to sort and group donations. Lowe's has been consistently providing 3.0 cu ft moving boxes to Chapter 24; we're not talking dozens—we're talking hundreds of boxes, all free of charge to support the program!

Individual Community Benefactors

When Chapter 24 was out purchasing new items to bring to the Navajo Nation, many people came up to the Chapter Commander and donated money to help the chapter be able to do even more. People from the community dropped off items for the Reservation—in fact, one group donated over 150 hand-made quits, about 60% adult size and 40% youth size.

APPENDIX F: THE LAY OF THE LAND

Globe, Arizona

First Remote Service Office

Established February 2026 at Globe Elks Lodge 489

Claims Work Started March 2, 2026

Navajo Nation Agencies

The Navajo Nation government has created 5 Navajo Nation Agencies that track BIA Agency region boundaries and are even called “Agencies” on the tribal map. While Ramah Navajo is its own BIA Agency, in the Navajo Nation system Ramah is part of the Eastern Navajo Agency.

Each Agency region has an advisory council that advocates for the chapters within that region. The Navajo Agencies are Western Navajo Agency, Shiprock Agency, Chinle Agency, Ft. Defiance Agency, and Eastern Agency.

In 1922, the federal government organized the reservation into 110 “chapters” in order to track population and livestock. Chapter boundaries are arbitrary, do not account for clans, matrilineal customary land uses, or seasonal migrations. Today, each of the 110 chapters is a “political subdivision” of the Navajo Nation, able to create community land use plans but, otherwise, lacking governance abilities.

Chapter representatives sit on advisory boards and committees, including the Navajo Agency Councils. Chapter officials are elected to advisory governmental roles. Chapters are further organized into certified and non-certified chapters under the Navajo Nation Local Governance Act, being “certified” under the LGA means greater local autonomy.

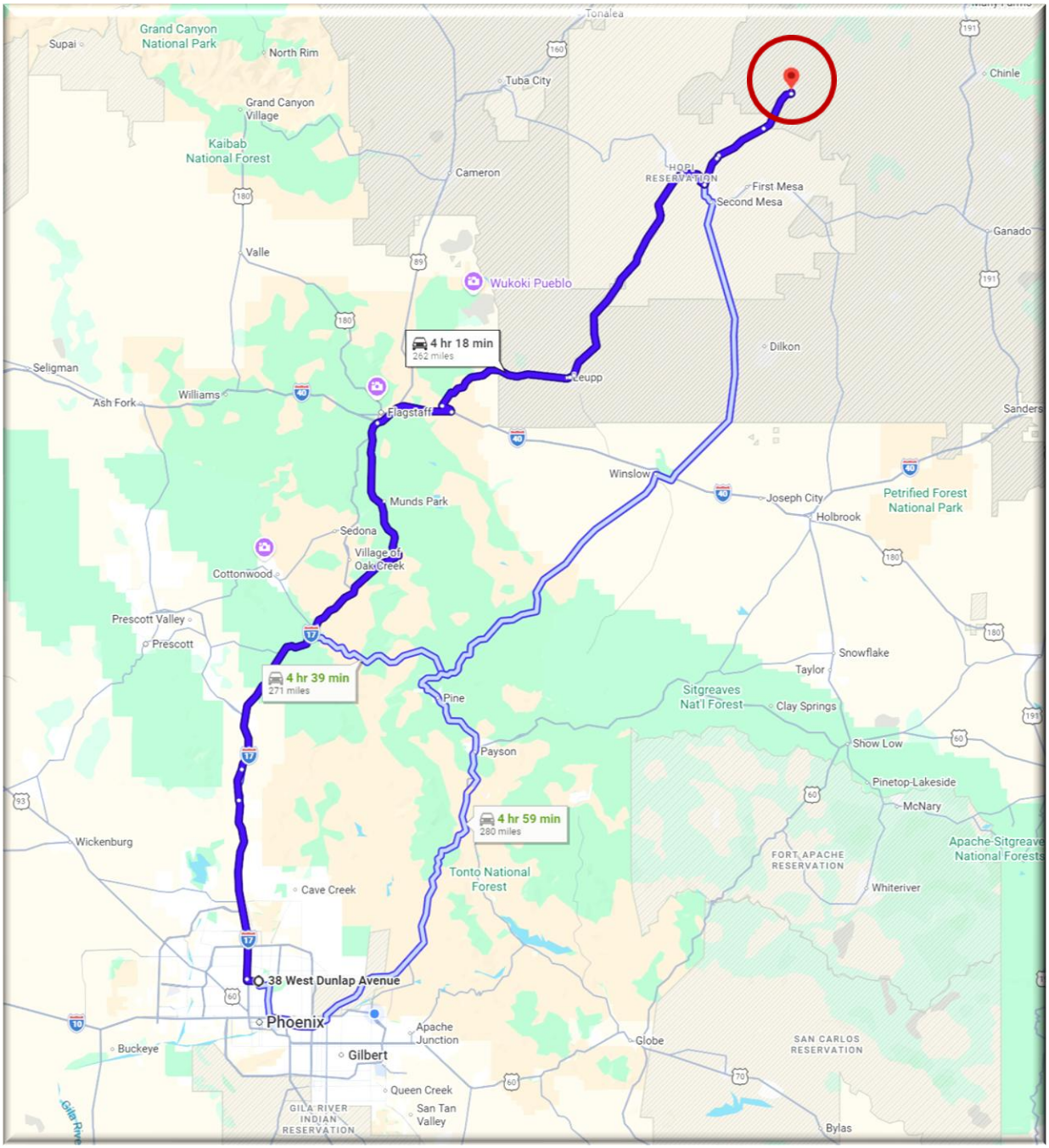
In addition to the 110 chapters, is the Kayenta Township, regulated by a unique set of tribal pilot regulations.

Piñon, Arizona

Second Remote Service Office

Established March 2026 at Piñon Veteran Wellness Center

Claims Work Started March 2026

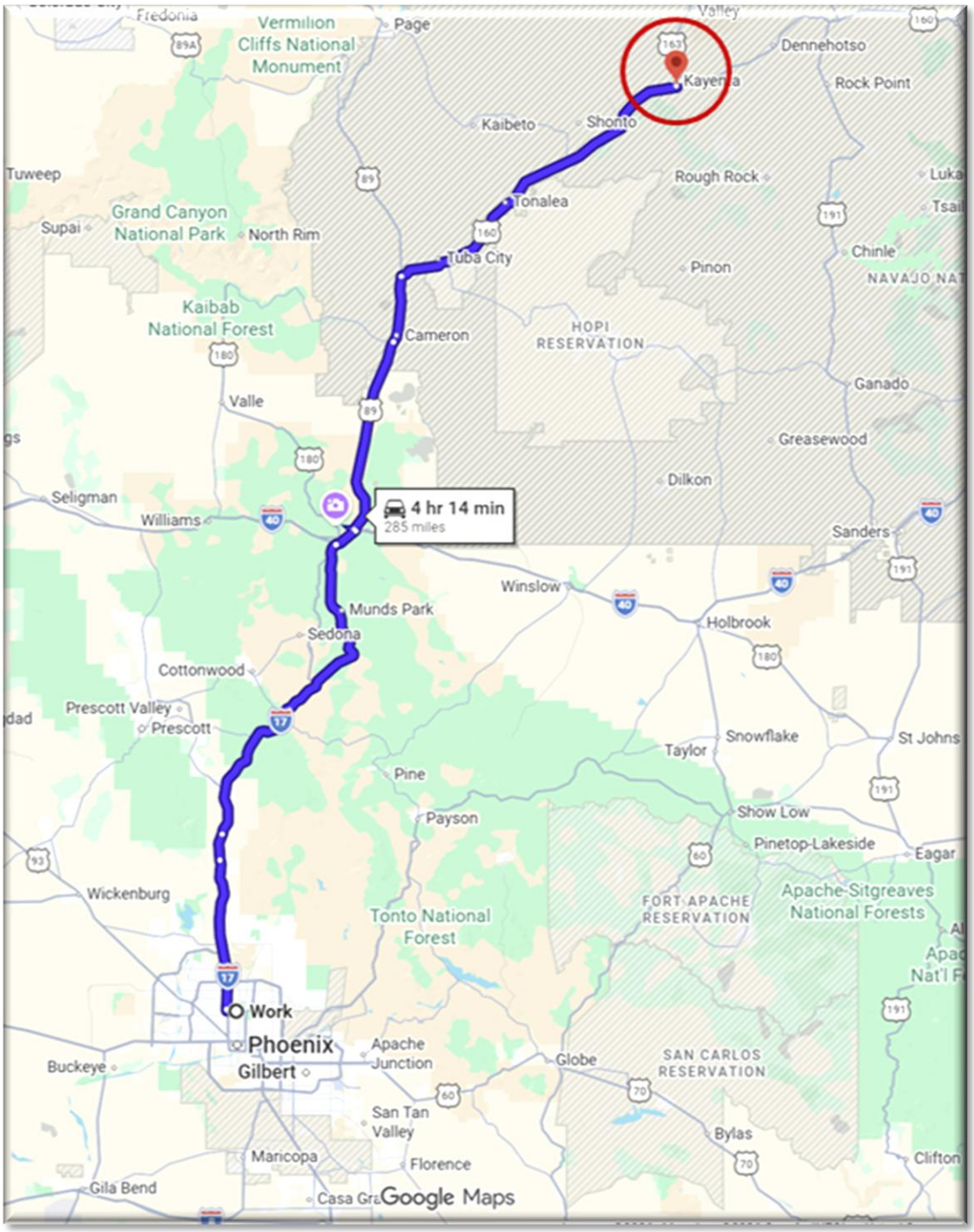


Kayenta, Arizona

Third Remote Service Office

Established June 2026 at the Kayenta Township Annex

Claims Work Started June 2026

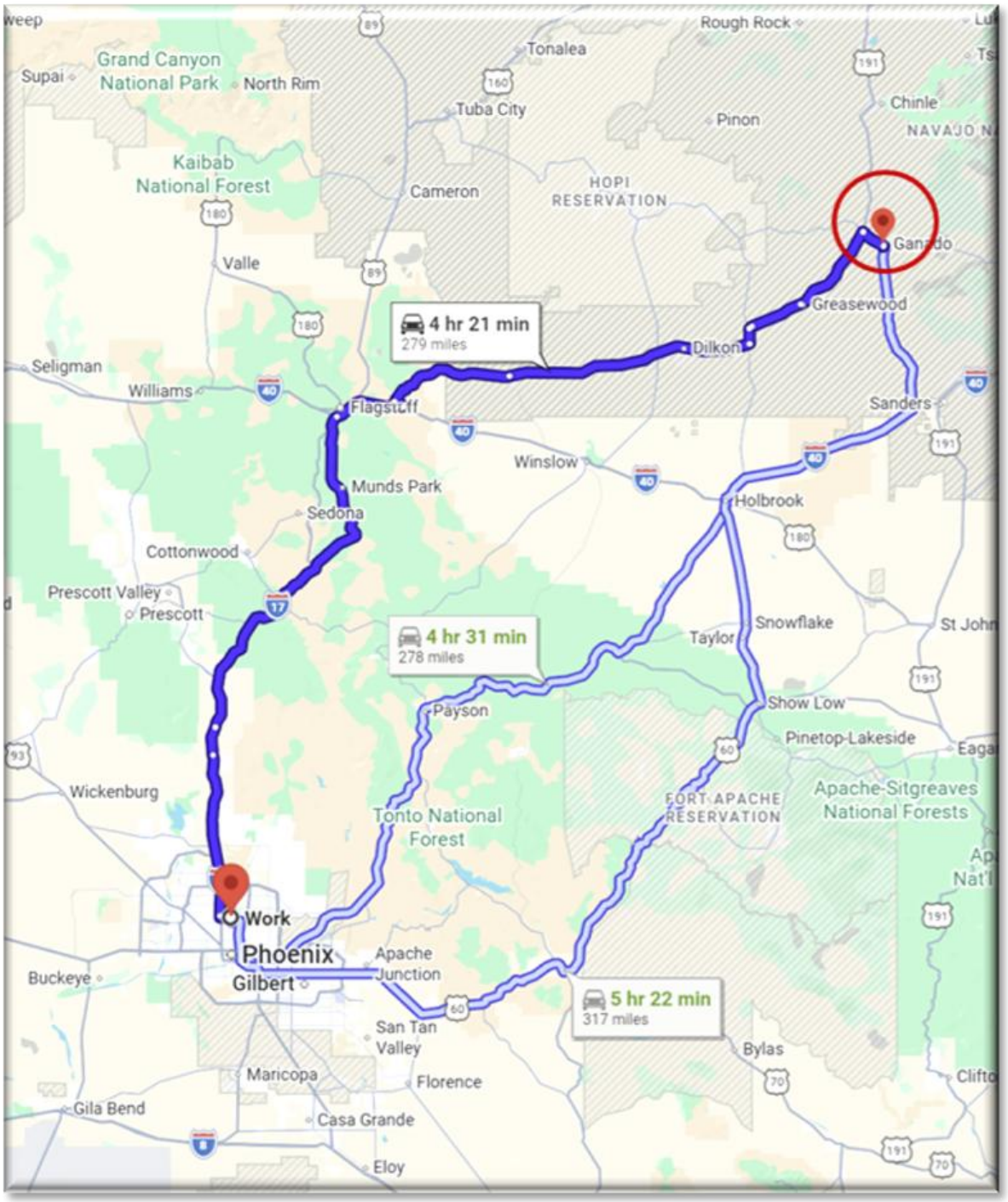


Ganado, Arizona

Fourth Remote Service Office

Established August 2026 at the Ganado Senior and Veterans Center

Claims Work Started September 2026

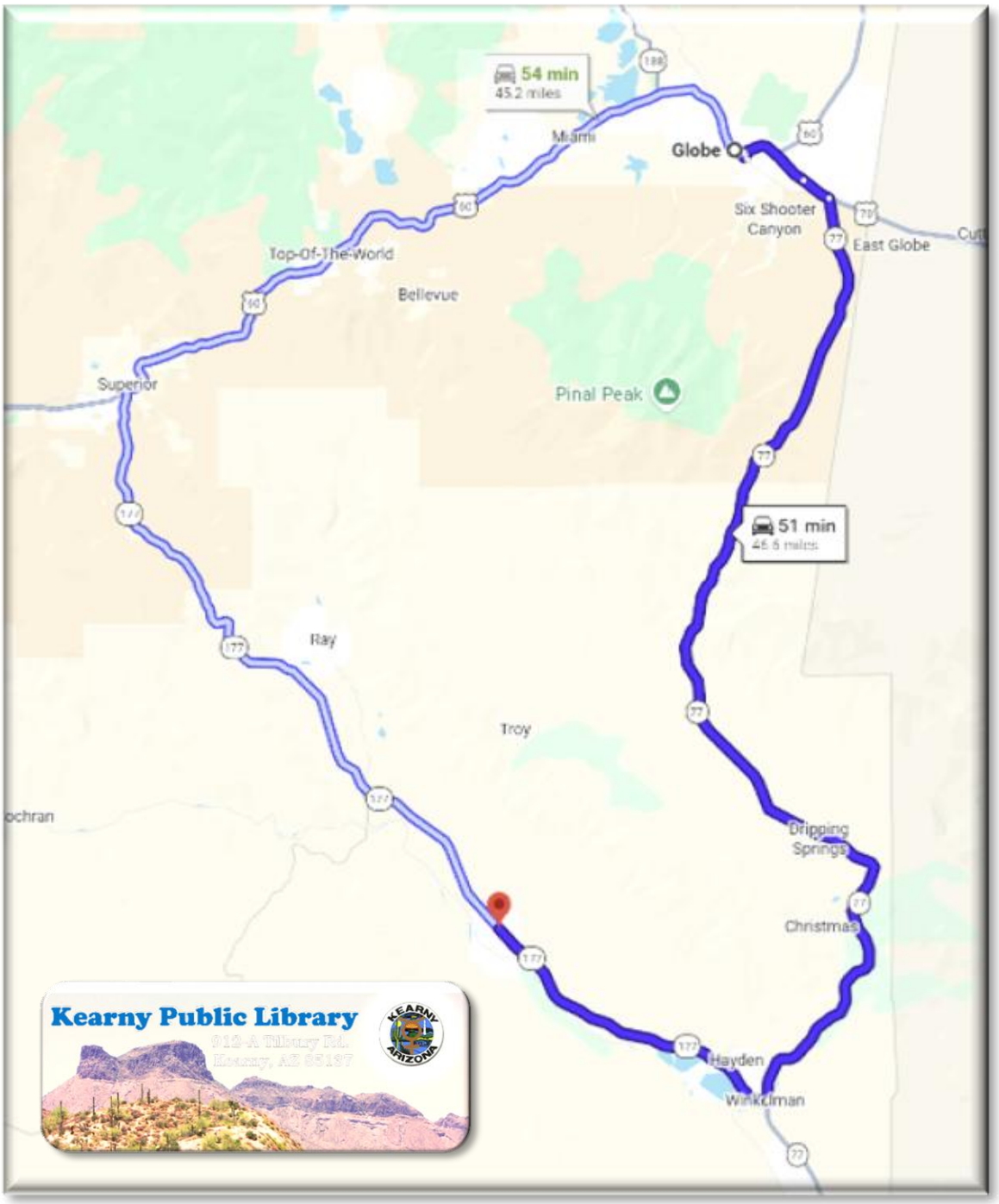


Kearny, Arizona

Fifth Remote Service Office

Establishing October 21, 2026, Kearny Public Library

Claims Work to Start November, 2026



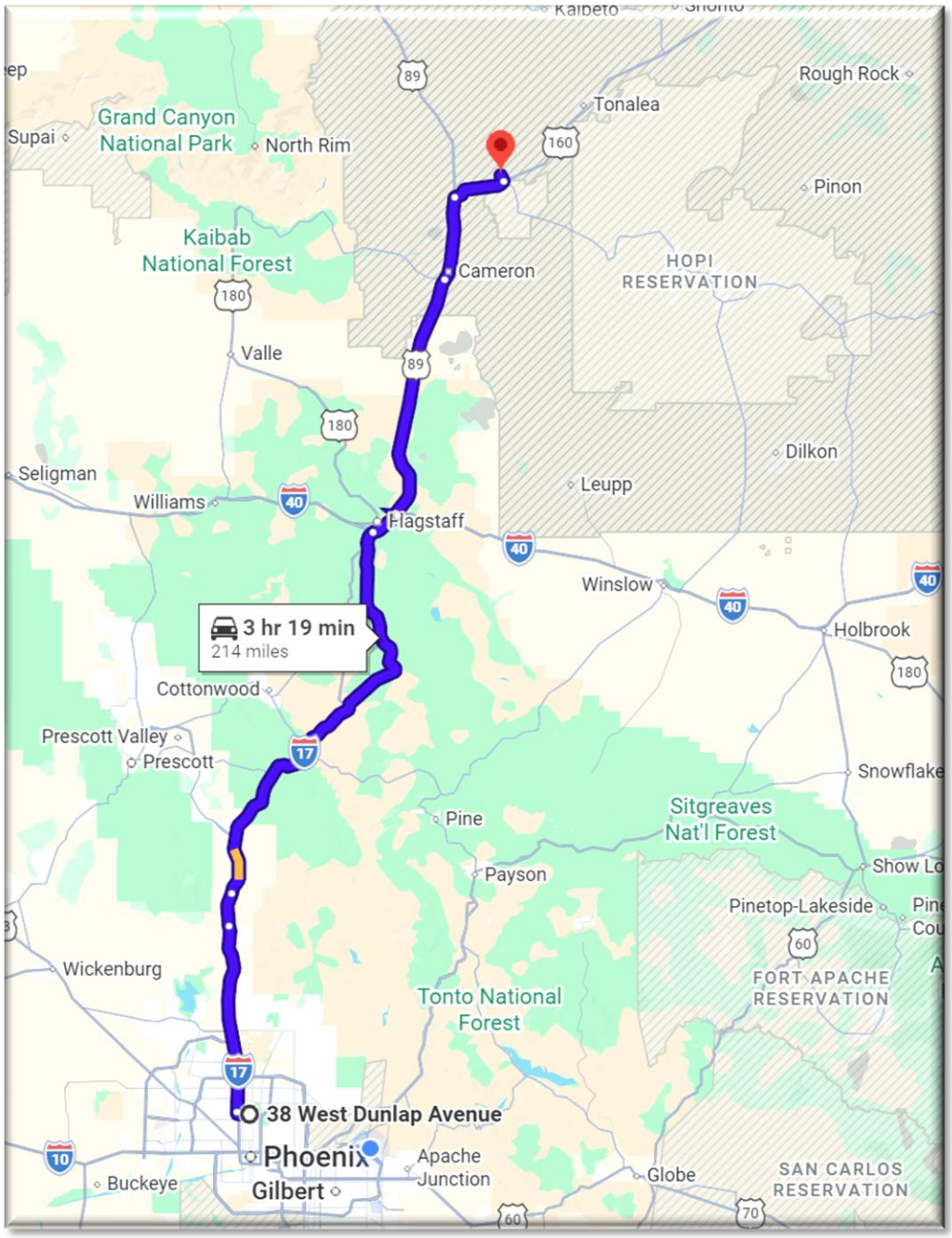
Tuba City, Arizona

Sixth Remote Service Office

Establishing December 8, 2026, Location being Confirmed

Claims Work to Start December 13, 2026

Will service the Hopi Tribe and Western Agency of the Navajo Nation

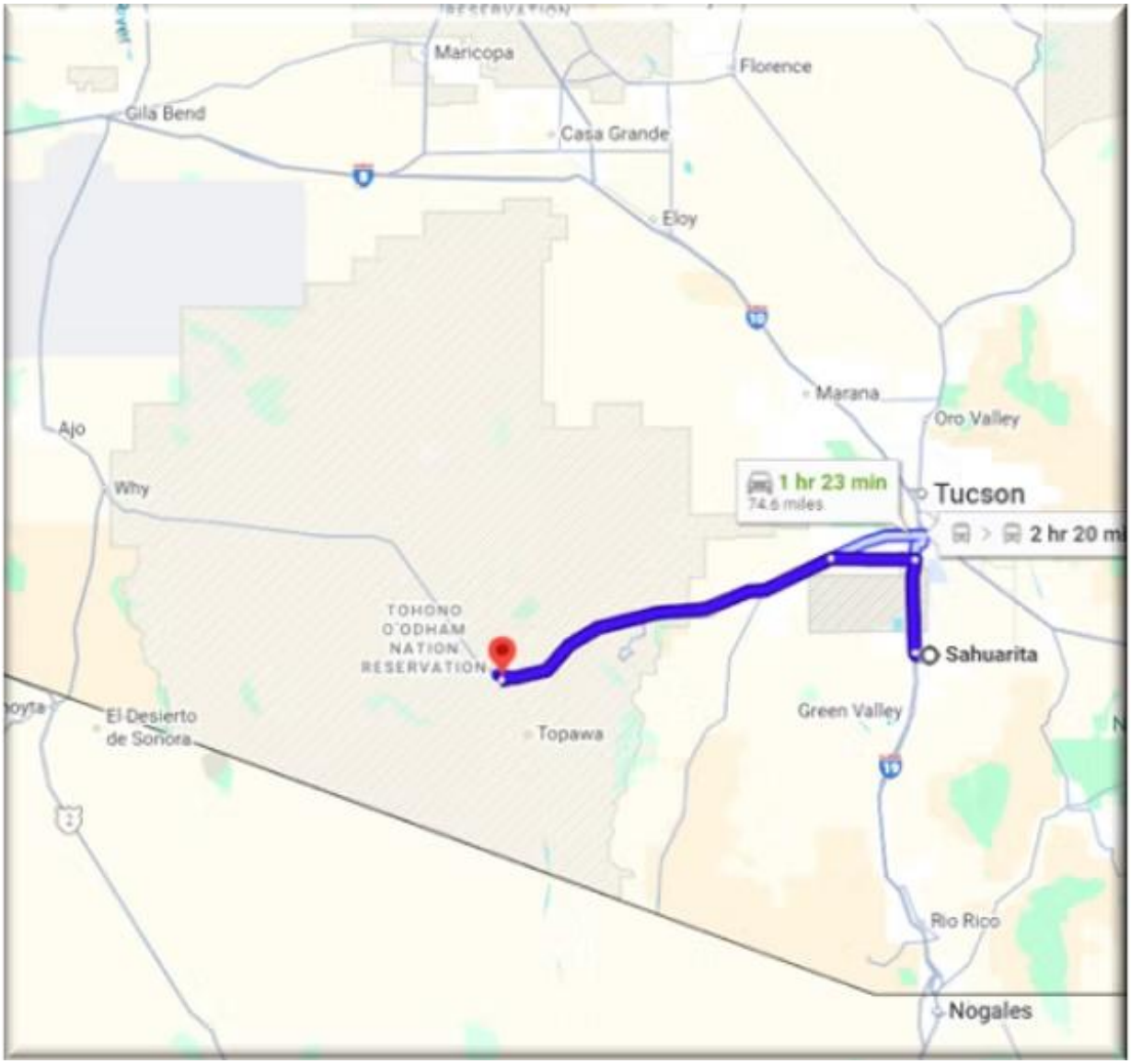


Sells, Arizona

Seventh Remote Service Office

Establishing January 2027, Location being Confirmed

Claims Work to Start February 2027

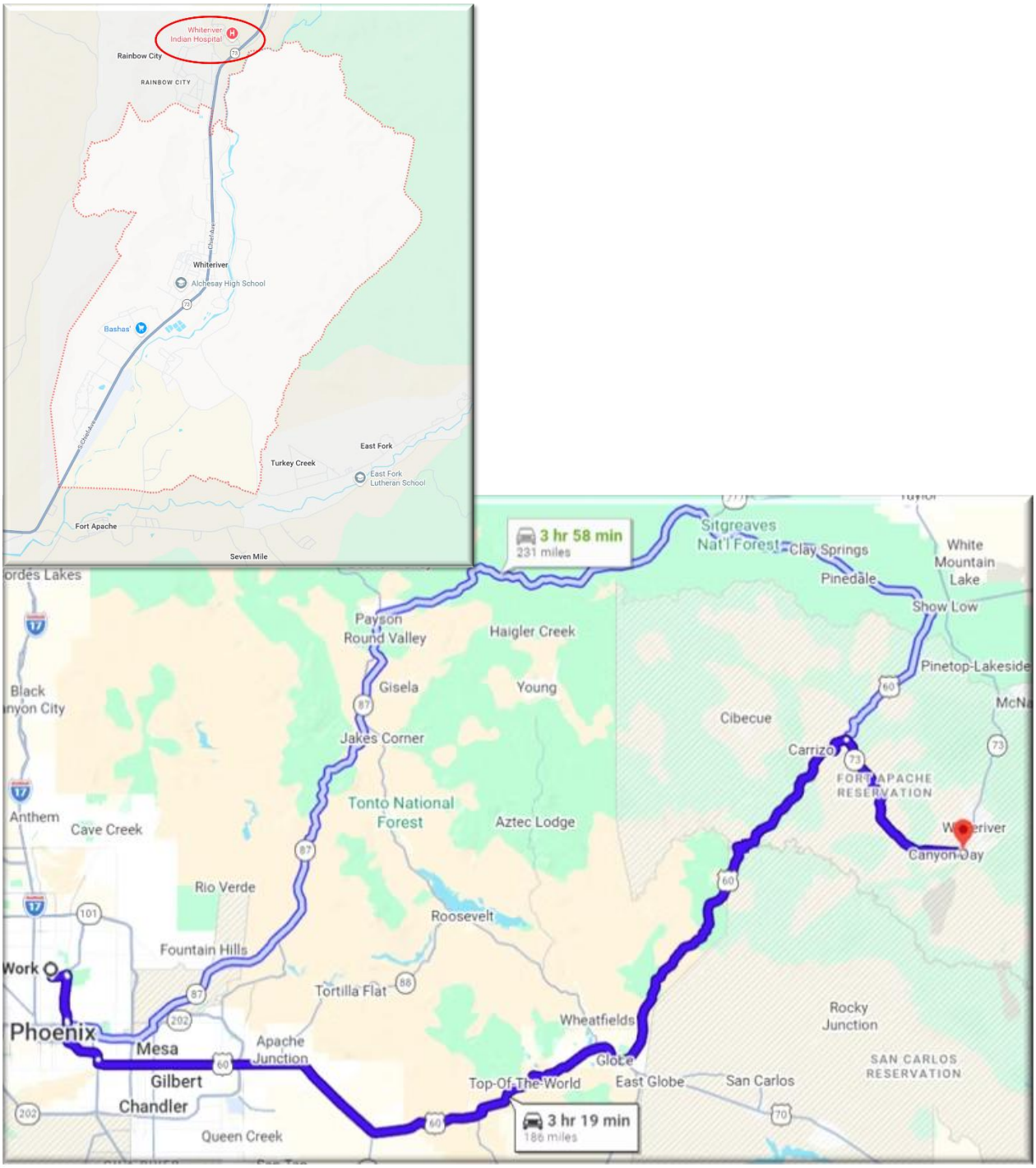


Whiteriver, Arizona

Eighth Remote Service Office

Establishing February 2027, Proposed for IHS Campus

Claims Work to Start March 2027

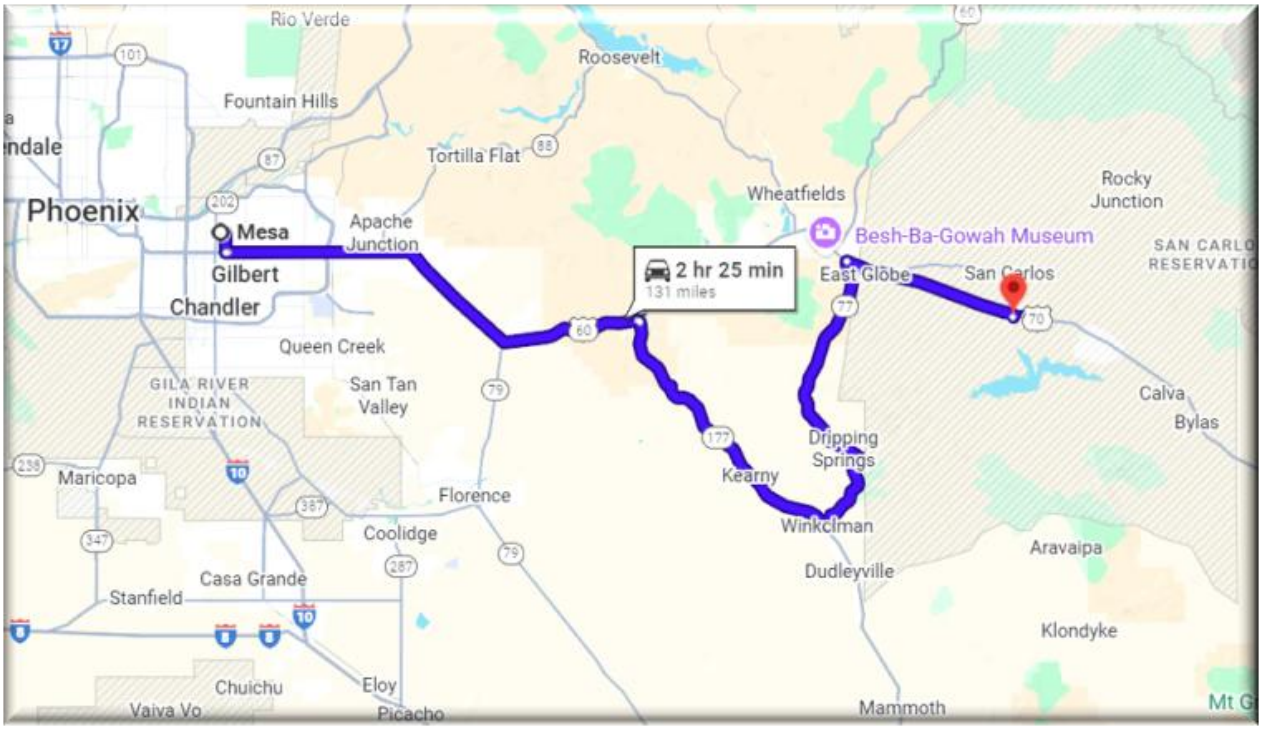


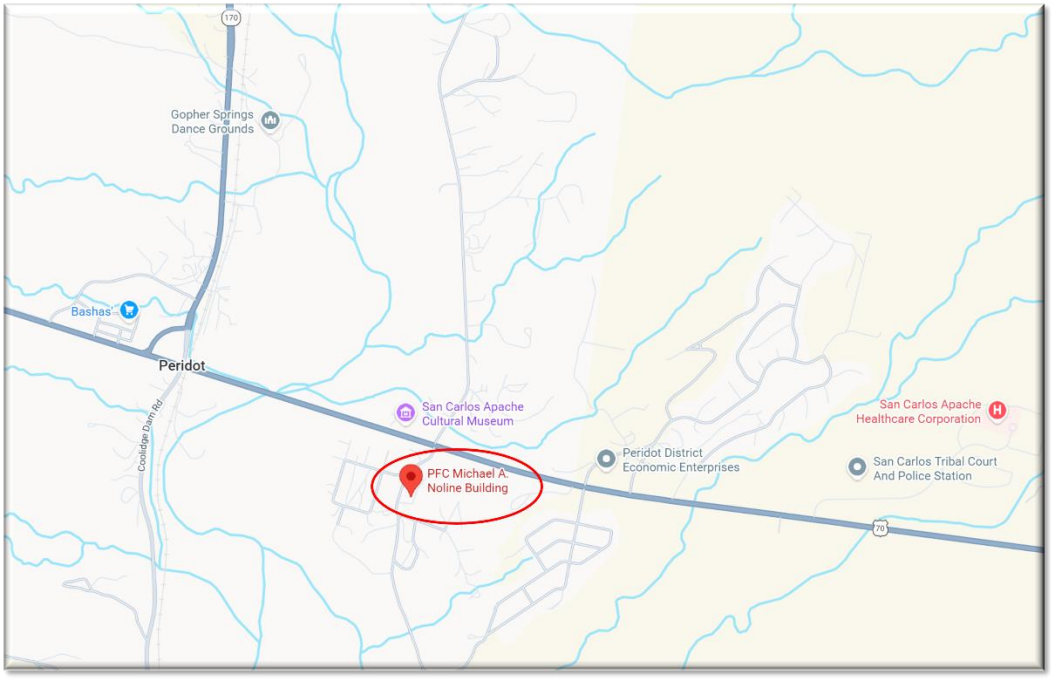
Peridot, Arizona

Ninth Remote Service Office

Establishing February 2027, Proposed for Community Center

Claims Work to Start March 2027



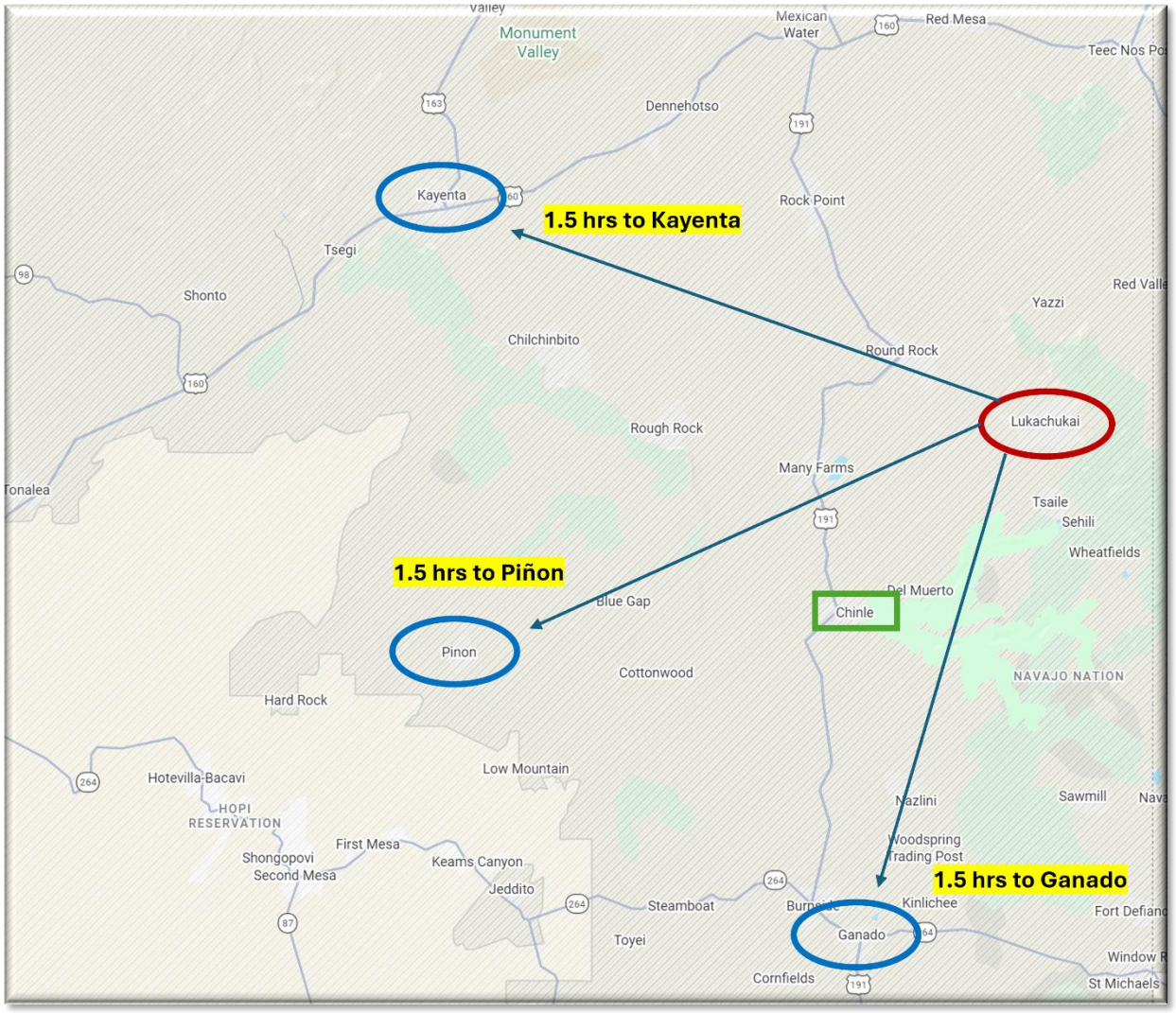


Lukachukai, Arizona

10th Remote Service Office

Establishing March 2027, Location TBD

Claims Work to Start April 2027

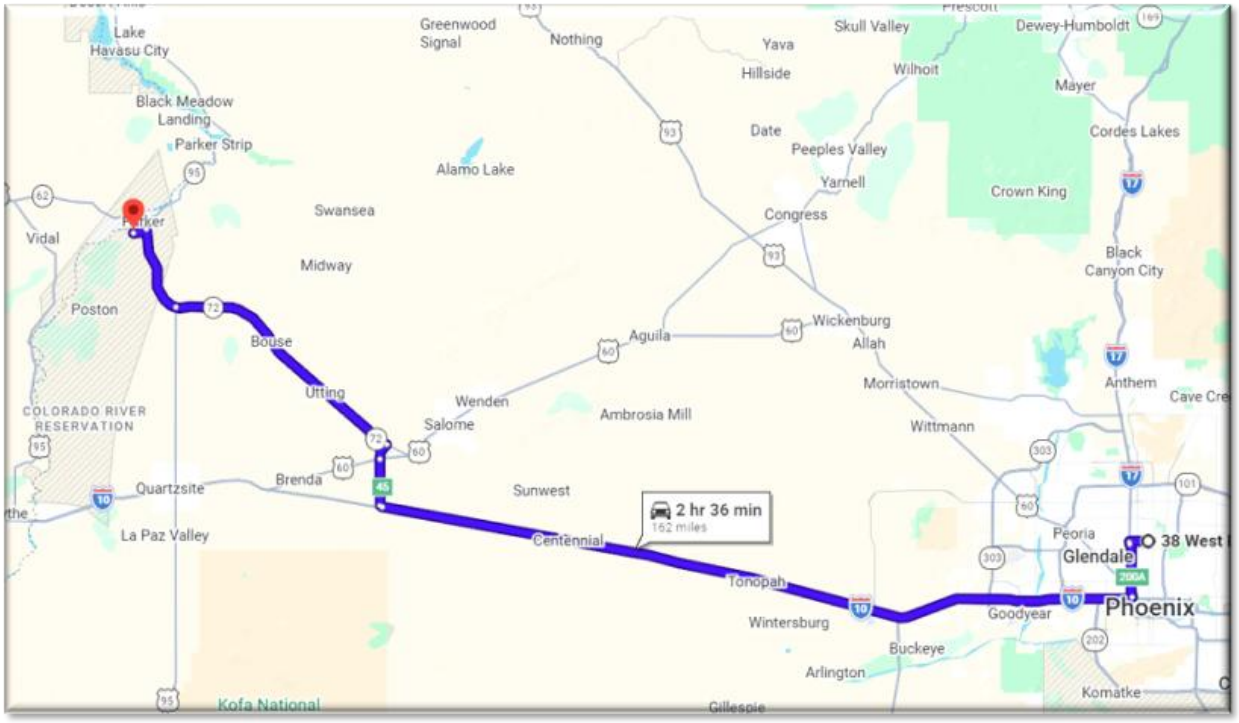


Parker, Arizona

11th Remote Service Office

Establishing July 2027, Building TBD

Claims Work to Start August 2027



Williams, Arizona

12th Remote Service Office

Establishing August 2027, Location TBD

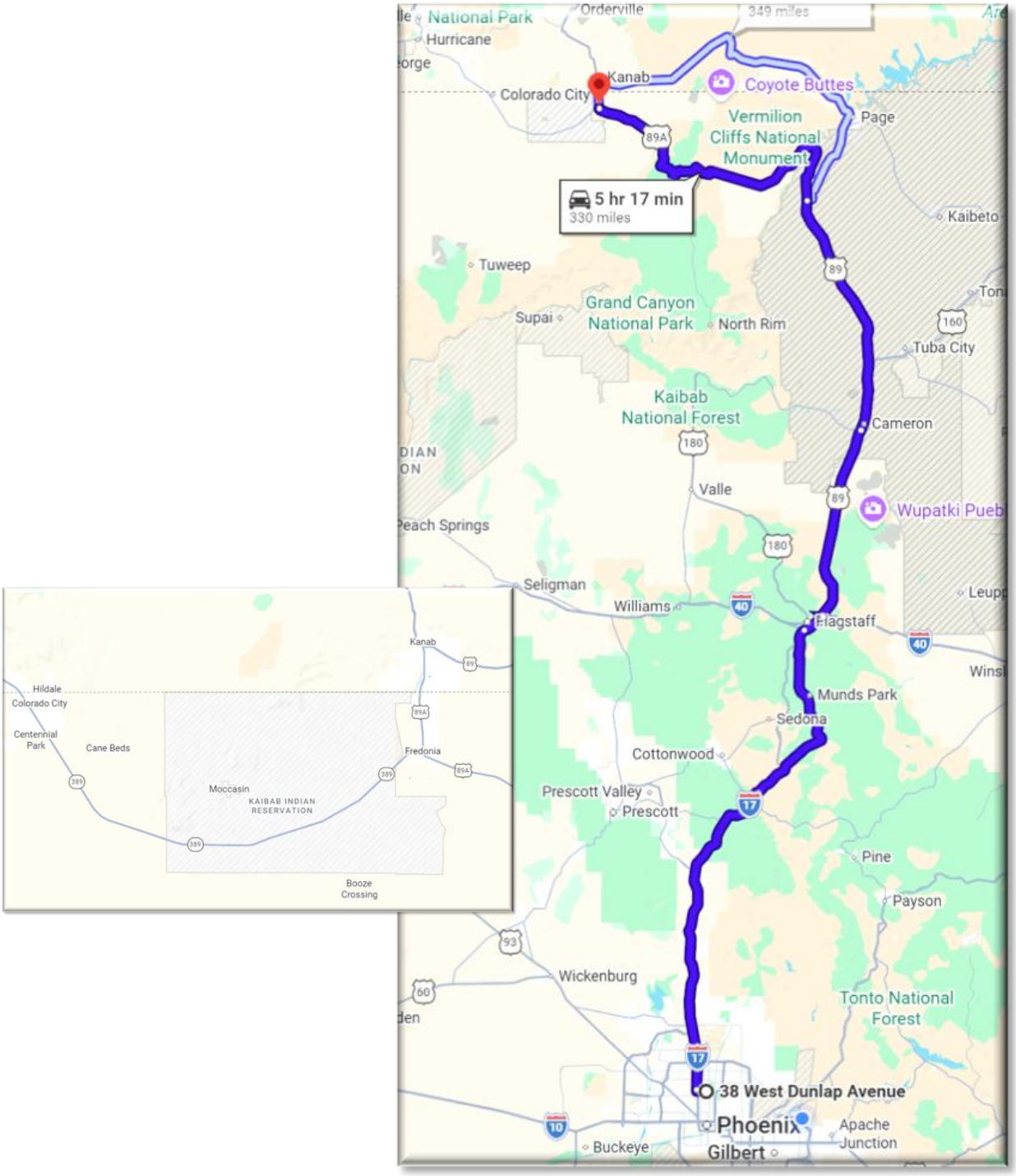
Claims Work to Start September 2027

Fredonia, Arizona

13th Remote Service Office

Establishing August 2027, Location TBD

Claims Work to Start September 2027

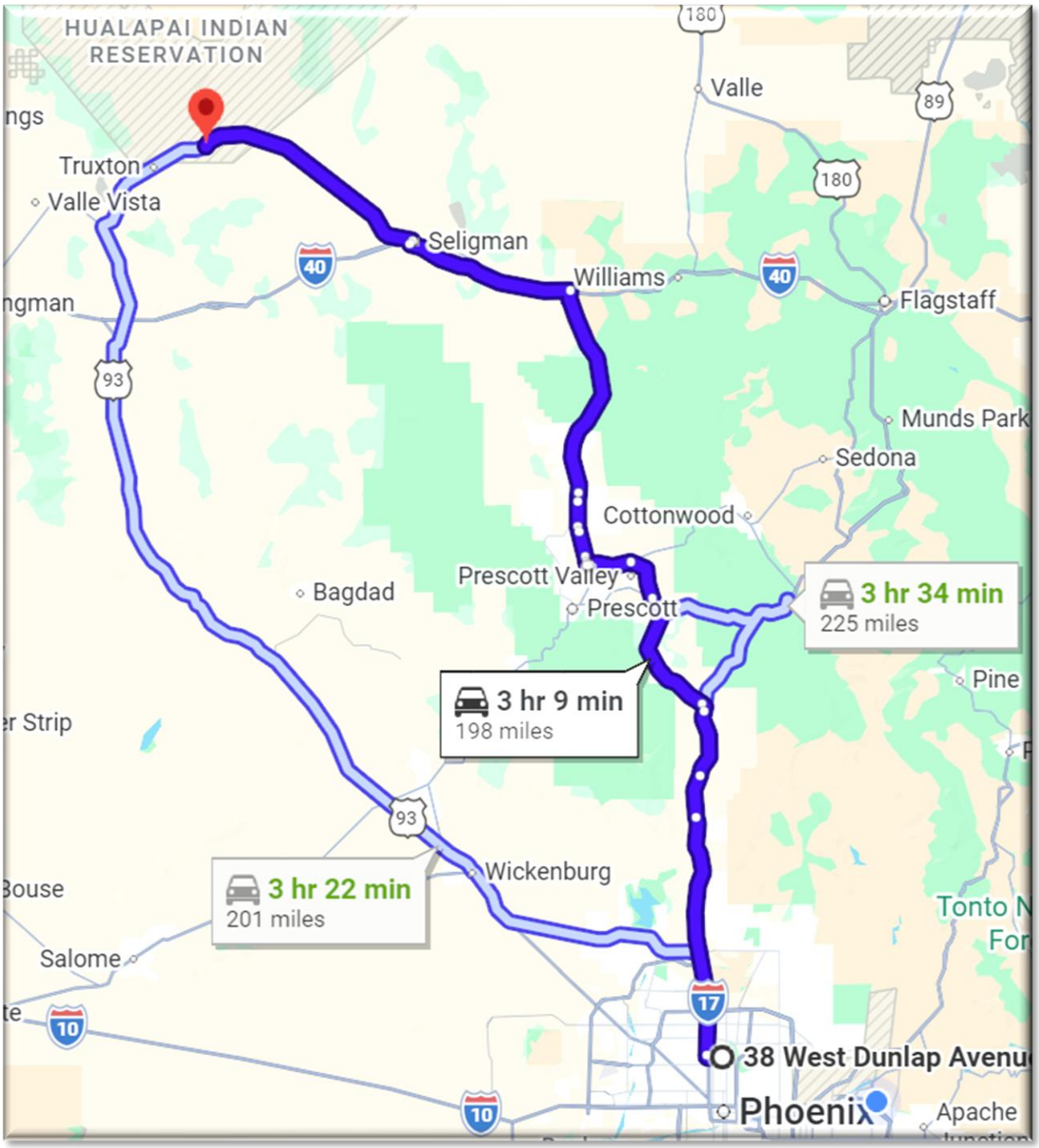


Peach Springs, Arizona

14th Remote Service Office

Establishing September 2027, Location being Confirmed

Claims Work to Start October 2027

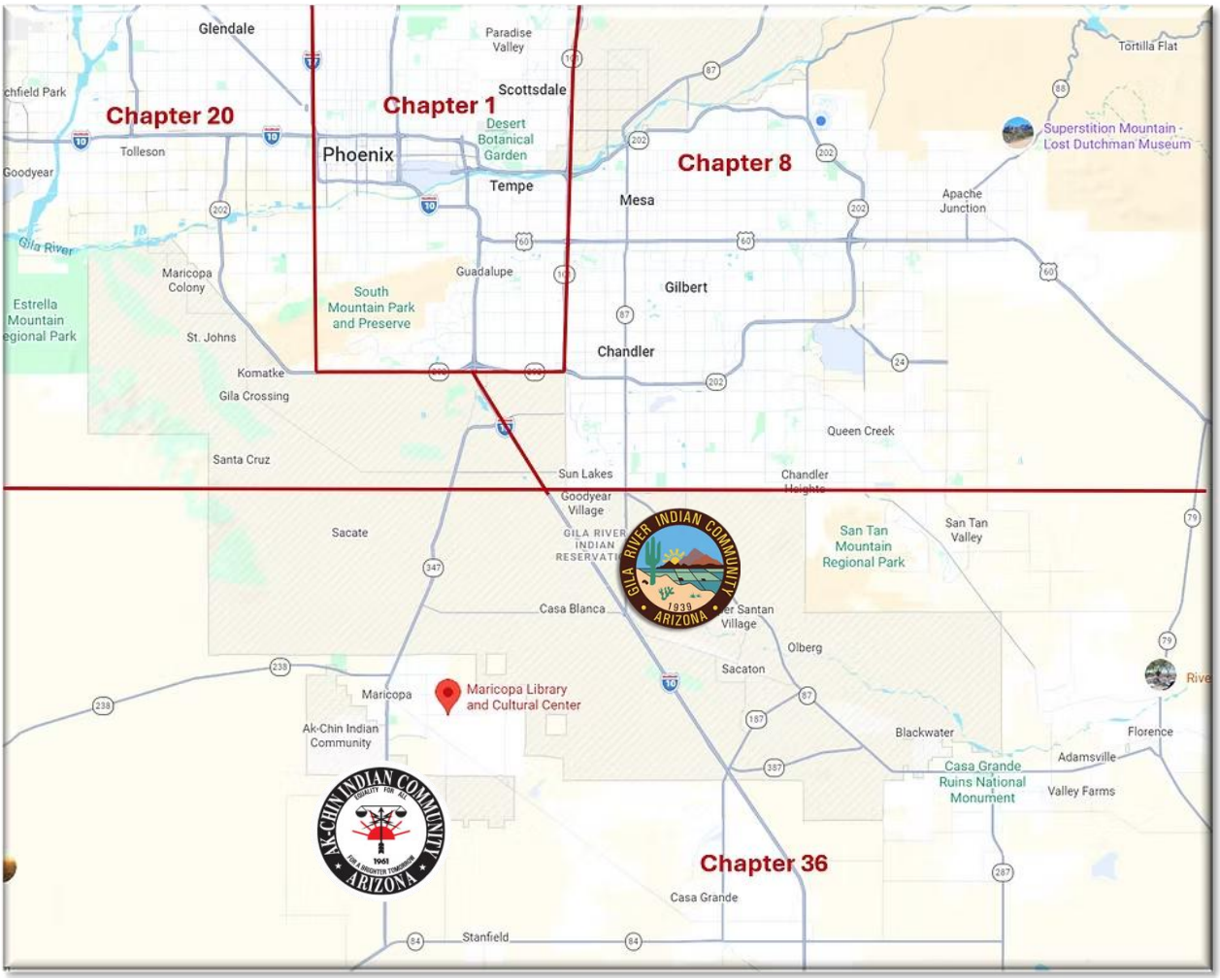


Maricopa, Arizona

15th Remote Service Office

Establishing October 2027, Building TBD

Claims Work to Start November 2027

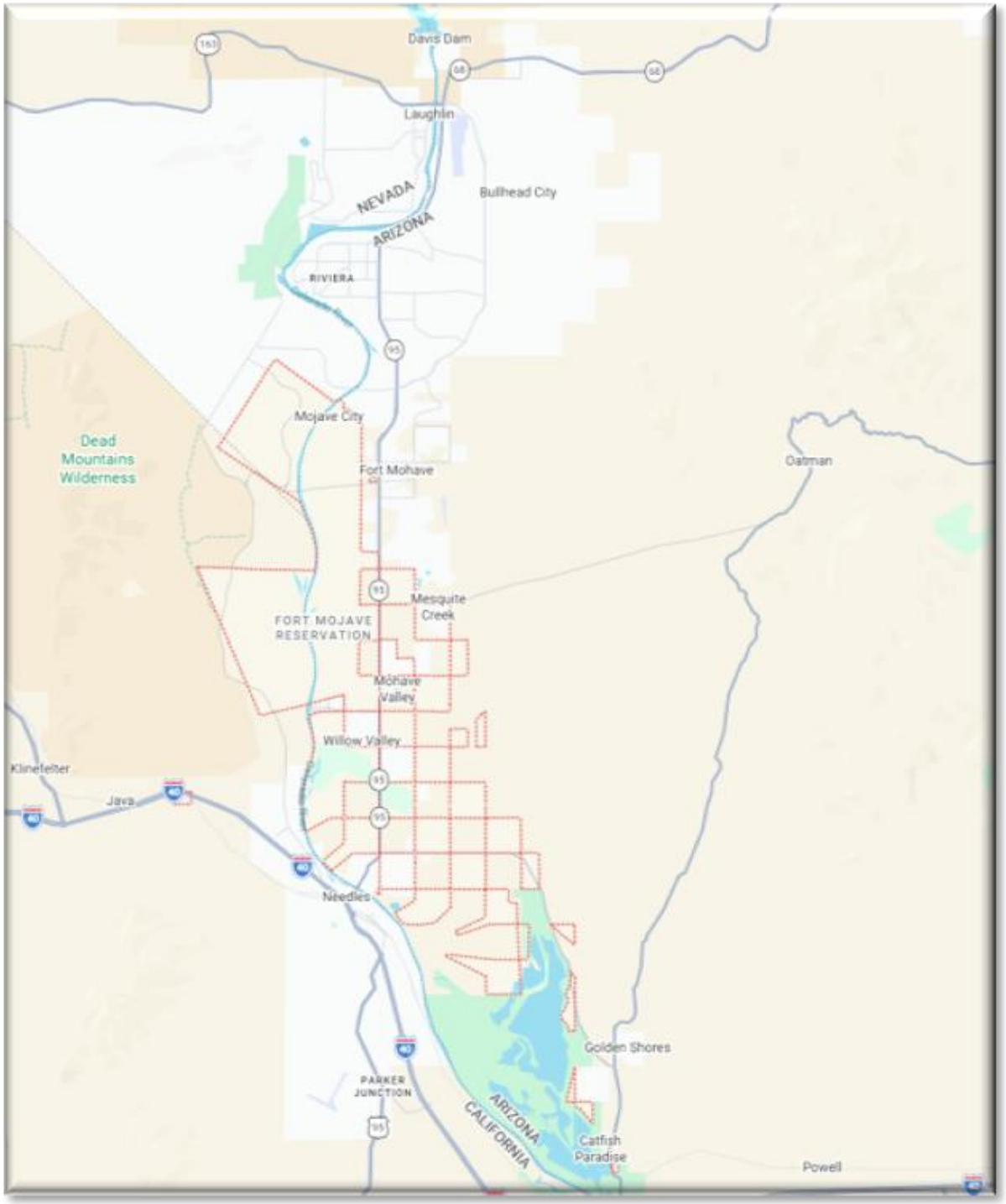


Bullhead City, Arizona

16th Remote Service Office

Establishing January 2028, Building TBA

Claims Work to Start February 2028

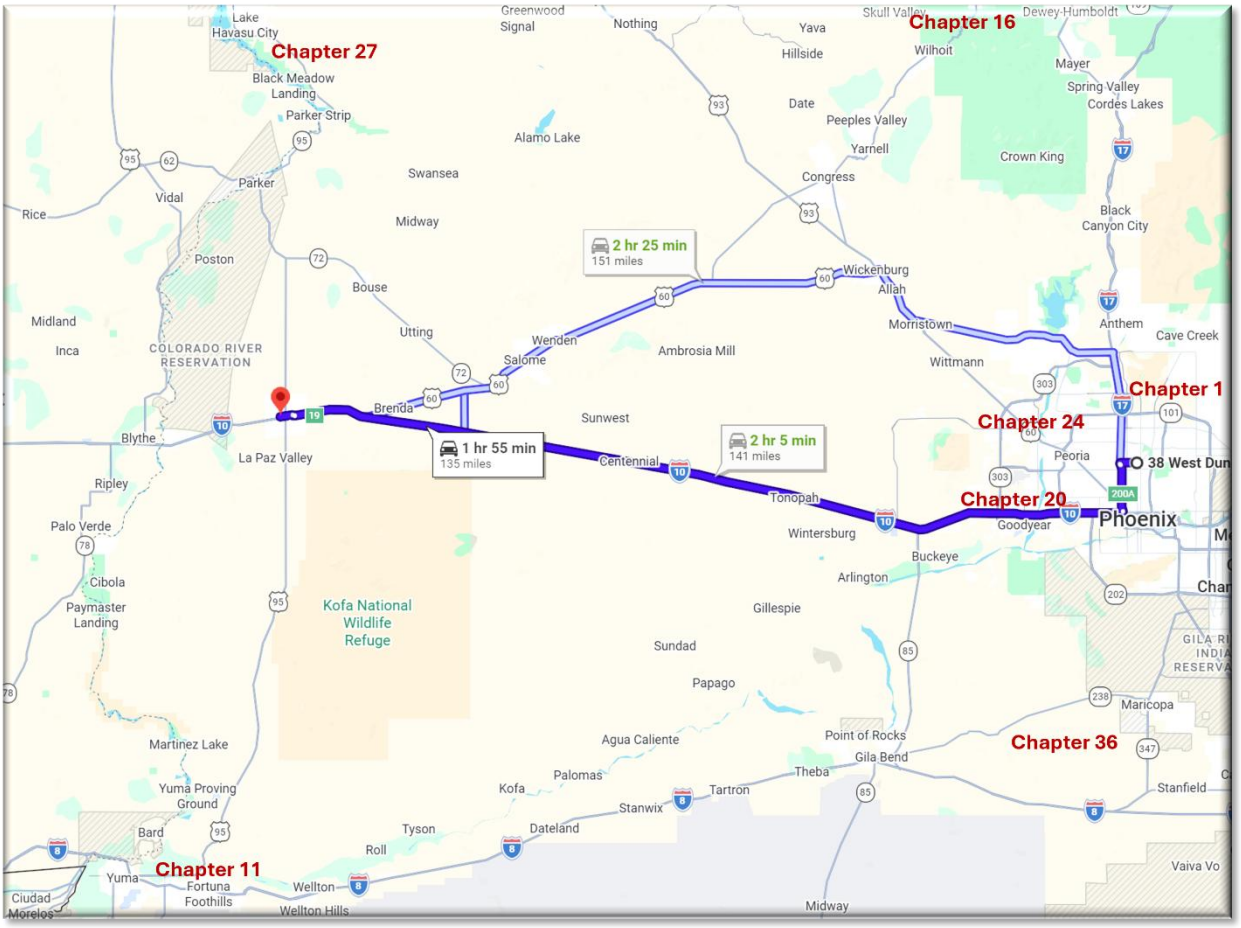


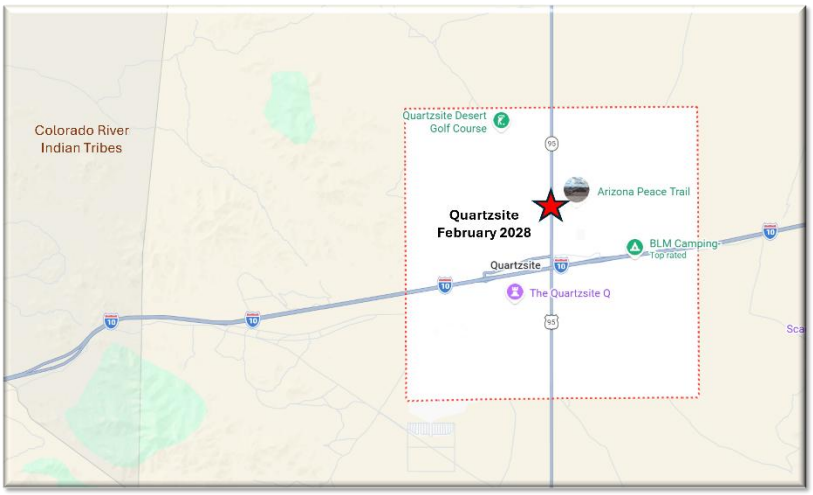
Quartzsite, Arizona

17th Remote Service Office

Establishing February 2028, Building TBD

Claims Work to Start March 2028



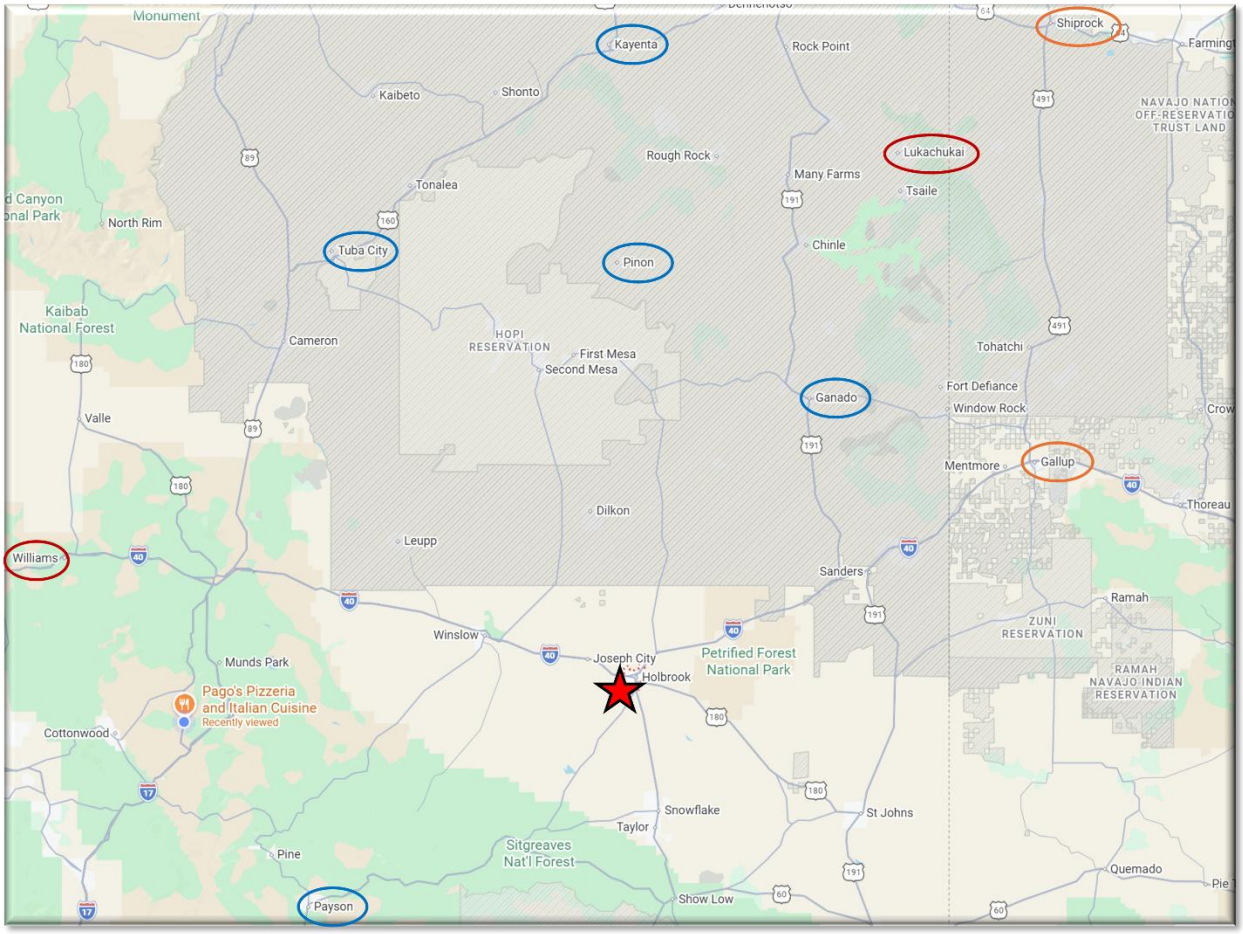


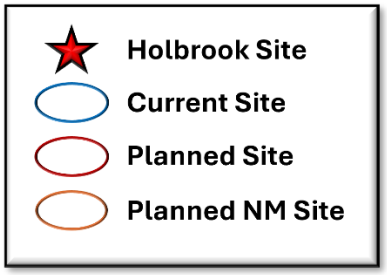
Holbrook, Arizona

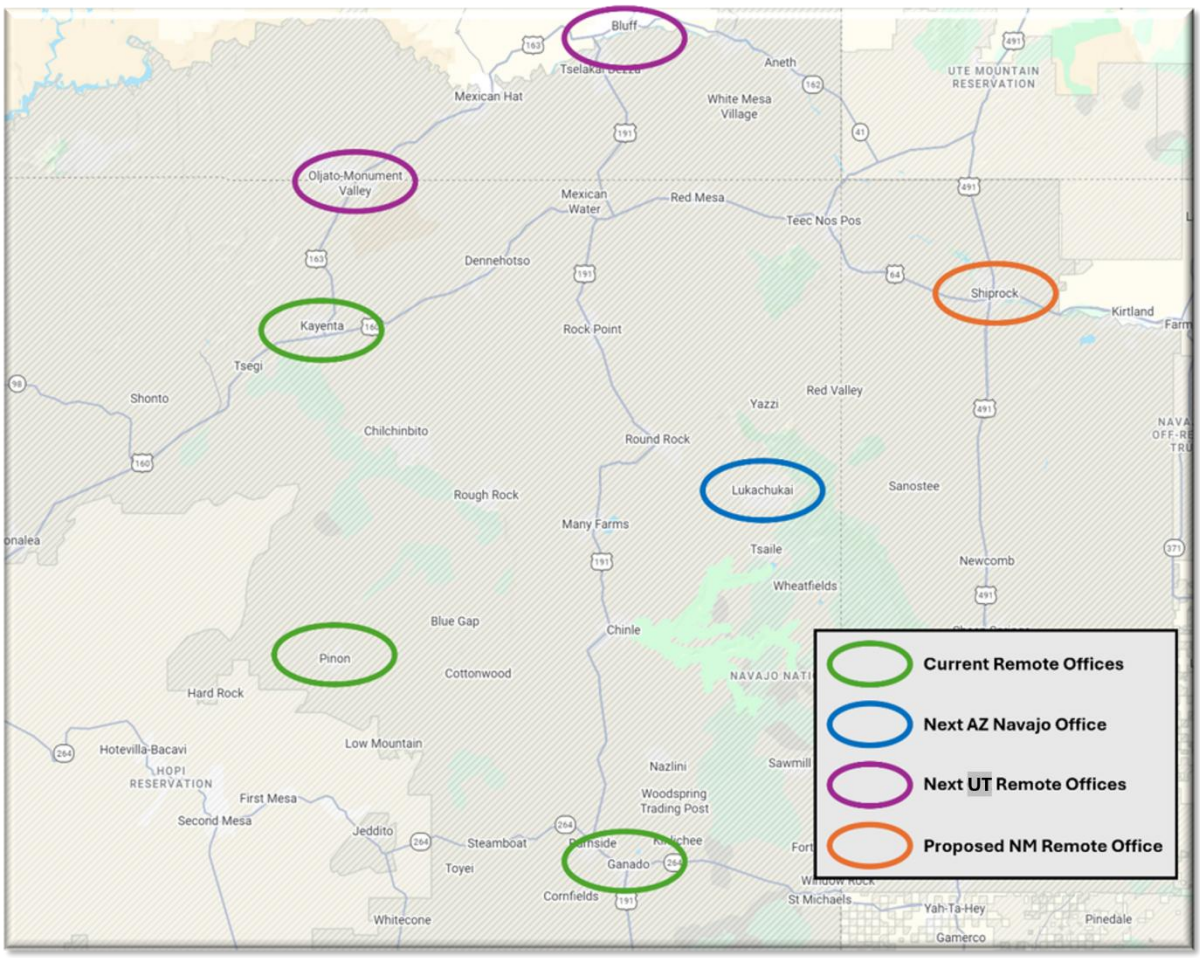
18th Remote Service Office

Establishing March 2028, Building TBD

Claims Work to Start April 2028







Current, Future, and Proposed Navajo Remote Stations

Current remote service offices:

- Pinon, Arizona (February 2026)
- Kayenta, Arizona (June 2026)
- Ganado, Arizona (August 2026)

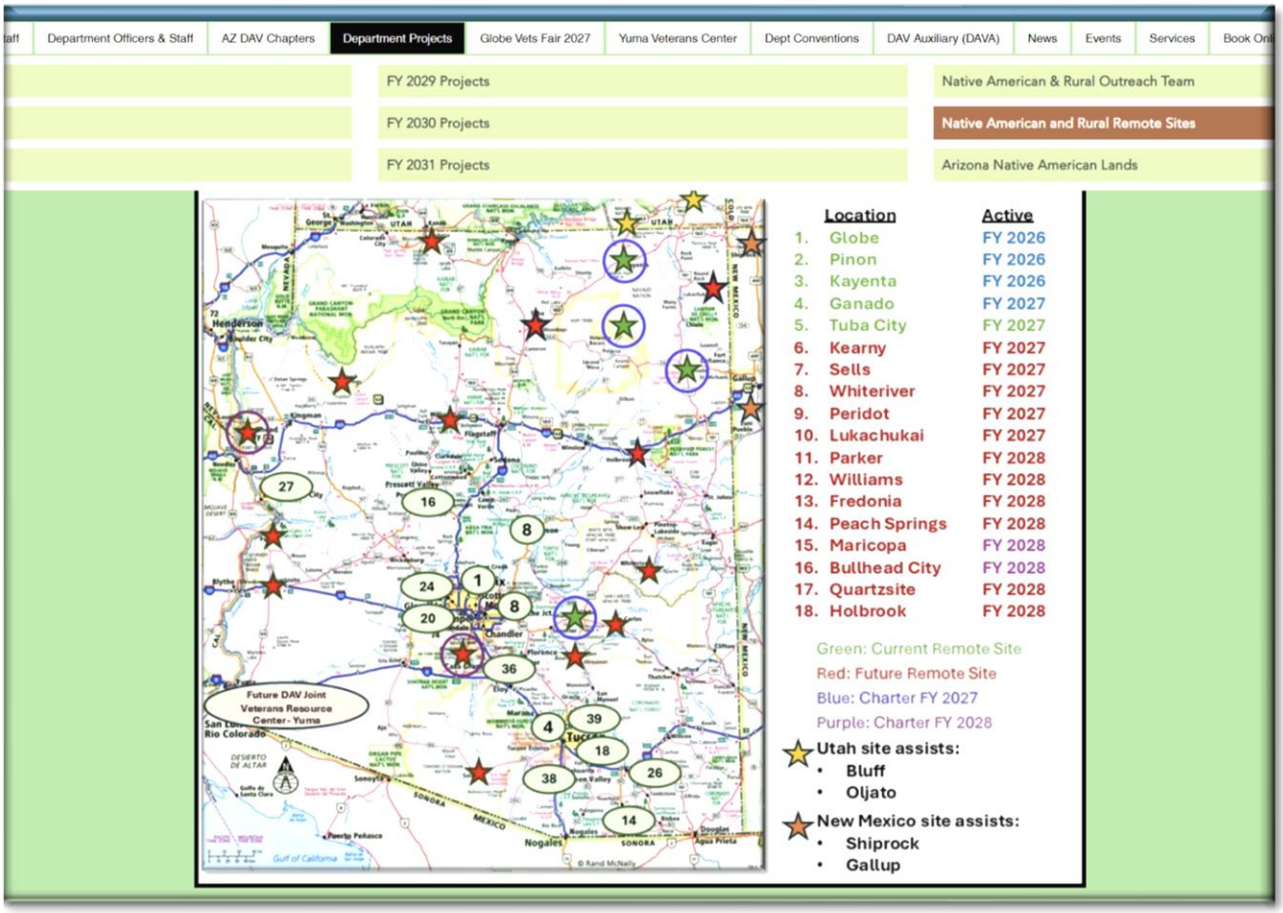
Next planned Navajo Nation remote service office:

- Lukachukai, Arizona

Upcoming Department of Utah remote offices:

- Bluff, Utah
- Oljato, Utah

Proposed Department of New Mexico remote service offices:

- Shiprock, New Mexico
- Gallup, New Mexico

For ongoing program and project updates, check out the DAV Department of Arizona website at: https://az-dav.org on a regular basis!