



The Navajo Nation
Yideeskáądi Nitsáhákees

DR. BUU NYGREN **PRESIDENT**
RICHELLE MONTOYA **VICE PRESIDENT**

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CONTACT: George Hardeen, Public Relations Director

Email: george.hardeen@navajo-nsn.gov

Cell: 928-810-9174

Navajo President Buu Nygren joins White House 'America the Beautiful Freshwater Challenge'

Partnership to Conserve, Restore America's Rivers, Lakes, Streams, Wetlands

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren today announced the Navajo Nation will join the Biden-Harris Administration's new freshwater initiative.

Since 2019, according to the White House, the U.S. wetland loss rate increased 50 percent over the

The freshwater preservation plan called "The America the Beautiful Freshwater Challenge: A Partnership to Conserve and Restore America's Rivers, Lakes, Streams, and Wetlands" was launched during Earth Week, the White House reported today.

"We in the Southwest, and especially Navajos, are aware daily how precious water is to our life, our livestock, our crops, wildlife and the natural world all around us."

– Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren

"To Navajos and all Indigenous people, water is a sacred element," President Nygren said. "We in the Southwest, and especially Navajos, are aware daily how precious water is to our life, our livestock, our crops, wildlife and the natural world all around us. We are pleased to join the Biden-Harris Administration in this initiative."

previous decade.

A recent decision by the U.S. Supreme Court rolled back protections from pollution and destruction for some of the U.S.'s most important and imperiled streams, wetlands and freshwater resources.

According to the White House, the purpose is to create a national freshwater protection plan to ensure freshwater resources are protected for current and future generations.

The "America the Beautiful Freshwater Challenge" will restore and reconnect eight million acres of wetlands and 100,000 miles of our nation's river and streams.

The effort will protect the country's lakes, rivers, streams, estuaries and wetlands that are fundamental to the health and prosperity of communities and tribes. By absorbing and storing carbon, waterways, wetlands, forests, grasslands and the farmlands they nourish play a critical role in the fight against climate change.

The Navajo Nation is one of eight tribes and more than 100 inaugural members to support freshwater restoration in 10 states and 24 local governments.

For information, go to:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/ceq/97632-2/>

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