



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
INDIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
Lynn Trujillo, Secretary
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The New Mexico Indian Affairs Department Applauds President Biden's
Proposed 20-Year Leasing Ban Around Chaco Canyon**

SANTA FE – New Mexico Indian Affairs Department (IAD) Cabinet Secretary Lynn Trujillo on Monday issued the following statement commending the Biden Administration's proposal for a 20-Year leasing Ban Around Chaco Canyon. This move temporarily prohibits federal oil and gas leasing and development in the region while the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) conducts an environmental analysis and gathers public comment on the long-term leasing ban around Chaco.

"The New Mexico Indian Affairs Department applauds President Biden's announcement of a 20-year withdrawal of federal properties within a 10-mile radius of Chaco Culture National Historical Park. The broader Chaco landscape has been a sacred location for Indigenous people for more than a thousand years yet has continued to be a target for oil and gas development. As this work moves forward, we encourage our Native relatives and advocates to get involved in the conversation about how best to safeguard and manage this unique area's cultural and environmental characteristics."

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Since 2003 the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department (IAD) has implemented groundbreaking state-tribal policies intended to improve the quality of life for the state's Native citizens. Our initiatives are designed to strengthen Tribal and state relations and address the challenges we face in our communities; challenges such as economic development, infrastructure improvement, the protection of our cultures and languages, health care accessibility, and educational opportunities for our most precious resource, our children. Learn more at www.iad.state.nm.us.