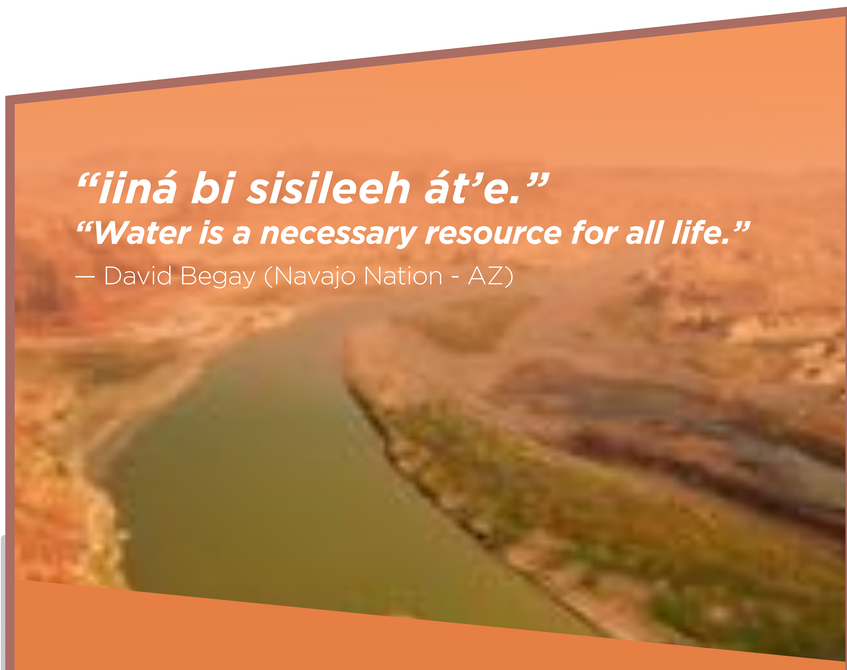

“iiná bi sisileeh át’e.”

“Water is a necessary resource for all life.”

— David Begay (Navajo Nation - AZ)

WATER CONNECTS LIFE AND LANDSCAPE IN THE FOUR CORNERS

KÉYAH DĮĮ’GO HAHOODZOOÍGÍÍ ’AHIDI’ DII’ÁADI ÉÍ TÓ’ KÉYAH BEE ÍINA DÓÓ BEE DA’AHXÍÍNÍÍTĄ

EL AGUA CONECTA LA VIDA Y EL PAISAJE EN LAS CUATRO ESQUINAS

Plants, animals, landforms, weather events, and their connections to water all play an important role in shaping what people see in the environment and how people interact with and learn from the natural world.

Rain
Rain brings water and life to the Four Corners; but just ten to twenty inches fall here each year. Zuni, Hopi, and Pueblo farmers have created ways of farming that make good use of that limited water. They grow crops with traditional practices that rely on water from seasonal storms and irrigation.

Mountain
In the spring, snow from the mountains melts and flows into our rivers, bringing water to plants, animals, and people. The Navajo call the month of April T’aachil, or growth of early plant life. During this time Indigenous, Latinx, and rural communities clean irrigation ditches and prepare their water systems for the planting season.

Yucca
When water is available, yucca plants store water in their leaves and roots to help see them through drier times. Many Indigenous communities, including the Pueblo Nations and the Navajo, weave yucca leaves into baskets. They also crush the roots of some yucca species in water to make soap and for ceremonial uses.

Coyotes
Coyotes drink water from rivers, streams, and water holes. In moist ground, they will even dig shallow “wells” to reach the water below.

What can you find? Do you know it’s name?

To read or listen in...

Navajo
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Spanish
bit.ly/WaWSpanishC3