

Diné Clans and Climate Change: A Historical Lesson for Land Use Today
[ABSTRACT]

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This paper presents the history of the Diné (Navajo) system of kinship and clanship as a response to environmental and political instability. We describe the Diné traditional system of *k'éí*, kinship and clanship, held together by *k'é*, the ethic of universal relatedness, and how, after 1930, the system has fared under conquest, settler colonialism, climate change, and replacement with a government-administered grazing-permit system. As long recognized, through the *k'é* principle, the clan system distributed people on the land flexibly in response to unstable conditions for farming and stock raising. Less understood is that, through *k'éí*—the mutual rights and responsibilities of clan relatives—the system also *limited* that flexibility to make the distribution more orderly.

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