



Winona D. House
Public Information Officer
Navajo Parks and Recreation
PO Box 2520 Window Rock, Arizona 86515
T: (928) 871-6647 • F: (928) 871-7309
wdawnhouse@hotmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 27, 2007

ASAAYI LAKE'S DAM IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION, BOWL CANYON RECREATION AREA WILL BE CLOSED

Window Rock, AZ –The Bowl Canyon Recreation Area (BCRA) is now closed for the remainder of the year under the authority of the Navajo Parks and Recreation Department (NPRD). Asaayi Lake will be drained for the reconstructing of the south-side dam, all access roads and gate entrances will be closed. In order to ensure the public's safety fishing, camping, and picnicking will not be allowed.

The construction plans for Asaayi Dam was originally scheduled to begin in March of this year. Due to a delay in the funding process the BCRA was momentarily open to the public during this summer season. Now that construction and rehabilitation plans are finally underway the NPRD will be restricting access to the entire BCRA.

In a letter dated January 24, 2007, to NPRD from the United States Department of the Interior, The United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) in agreement with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Safety of Dams Program necessitated the improvement and modification of the dam, focusing largely on the corroded outlets within the wall of the structure. Draining of the lake's water is the initial step.

Although the access roads to BRCA will be closed, David Segay, BRCA Park Manager assures that the local residents will still be able to travel the main dirt road that cuts through the Bowl Canyon area. In the meantime it is expected that BRCA facilities as well as the annual activities, like Camp Asaayi Youth Camp will be cancelled until December of 2008. NPRD apologizes for the inconvenience.

For more information contact the Navajo Parks and Recreations Department (928) 871-6647.