



The Navajo Nation Council - Office of the Speaker

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pinedale Chapter receives new Caterpillar road grader

The chapter purchased the new equipment using \$150,000 of New Mexico capital outlay funds and \$168,000 of Navajo Nation capital outlay funds. Funding was matched by the Nation and approved by the Transportation and Community Development Committee

PINEDALE, N.M. — Several months of hard work has paid off for chapter officials with the Pinedale Chapter House and the fruition of their work became a reality Friday afternoon when a new Caterpillar road grader and back hoe arrived at the chapter house.

"We heard the diesel trucks rolling in," said Clara Daye, community services coordinator for Pinedale Chapter House. "It was such a good feeling."

The chapter purchased the new equipment using \$150,000 of New Mexico capital outlay funds and \$168,000 of Navajo Nation capital outlay funds. Funding was matched by the Nation and approved by the Transportation and Community Development Committee.



Daye said the equipment will be used to benefit the community and will help to carry out requests the chapter receives on a daily basis including: repairs for roads, leveling out home-site areas, cleaning sheep corrals and home improvement projects.

"The community decided we should get a road grader for ourselves," Daye said. "Our roads are very muddy and because of the high elevation we get a lot of snow compared to other communities."

Daye said the chapter plans to start going out into the community with the new grader in November, as soon as their office completes logistics, including, insurance and liability, and policies and procedures for use of the equipment.

"We plan to go out twice a month to do a general road grading," said Daye.

Anselm Morgan, vice-president for Pinedale Chapter, said the road grader is the first all-wheel drive machine on the Navajo Nation and in the northern state of New Mexico. Chapter house officials plan to have the machine blessed before they begin using it.

Raphael Martin, president for Pinedale Chapter House, said it took more than just pushing papers to get the project complete. He said it took teamwork, unity, communication, understanding, cooperation and most importantly, willingness. Because there are multi-jurisdictional issues, Martin said these components were necessary.

Daye said the process to get the equipment has been tedious, with paperwork going between Pinedale and Window Rock. Daye said the chapter house staff, council delegates, Navajo Nation Department of Transportation staff, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs staff helped to complete the process.

"We're hoping for positive production in this whole thing; we're moving Pinedale forward," said Martin. Martin said they are also working on establishing a maintenance fund for the equipment.

Navajo Council Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan, council delegate for Pinedale/Iyanbito, said it was the first time the community has had a grader. He commended the chapter officials for pushing forward to complete the project. The TCDC committee members in attendance thanked the chapter officials for having the "foresight" to get the project completed.

"It's something you take care of and it will take care of you," said Johnny Naize (Nazlini/Cottonwood/Tselani) with the TCDC committee. Other TCDC committee members in attendance include Sampson Begay (Jeddito/Steamboat/Low Mountain), Willie Begay (Chilchinbeto/Kayenta) and David Rico (Pueblo Pintado/Torreon/Whitehorse Lake).

Chapter officials plan to continue carrying out capital outlay projects in the community including infrastructure for a new head start building, a new resource building, basketball court and a road which leads from Pinedale to Iyanbito.

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