Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture Begins Navajo Nation Wide Feral Livestock Removal

WINDOW ROCK, AZ. – Legislation 0202-13 passed. This will allow immediate protection and management of Navajo Natural Resources.

On July 18, 2013, Legislation No. 0202-13 passed. Relating to Emergency: Approving a Supplemental Appropriation Request from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Minimum Fund Balance in the Amount of $3,000,000 to the Navajo Department of Water Resources, for Addressing the Extreme Drought Conditions on the Navajo Nation; $897,239 to the Department of Agriculture for Feral Livestock Round-Ups; and $202,761 to the Department of Resource Enforcement for Livestock Round-Ups. The Legislation will become effective upon the signature of the Navajo Nation President.

The NNDA is gearing up to implement the legislation by working with our partners and the Navajo communities to achieve Navajo Nation wide Feral Livestock Round Up events. NNDA will work with Navajo Chapters to immediately begin an intense schedule of feral livestock round-ups up until the end of the fiscal year, September 30, 2013 and will follow all Navajo laws and regulations regarding the feral livestock round-up. All chapters are encourage to pass multi-year round up legislation and to contact the NNDA to schedule multiple round up events in August and September 2013. The legislation included $250,000 total for payment to those chapter with past round-ups and current round-ups.

The Navajo Nation Veterinary Livestock and Veterinarian Program will be on site during the round-ups to provide limited castration and sterilization services, a limited number will be provided at no cost. NNDA will hire a minimum of 20 temporary laborers by the second week of August 2013 and are currently accepting applications. Individuals with horses, vehicles and stock trailers along with the livestock management skills are needed. Applications can be secured on the NNDA and Department of Personnel Management website along with the job description - www.agriculture.navajo-nsn.gov.

As communicated by the NNDA through tribal ranch meetings, grazing meetings, annual agriculture conference and presentations at the local level, the continuous drought condition has taken a heavy toll on Mother Earth and Father Sky. Additional conditions such animal overpopulation, extreme temperatures, and high winds all combine to cause forage degradation, erosion, and loss of top soil.
Thus it is important to address the animal overpopulation to allow the land to rest and to allow communities to begin conservation and rangeland improvement activities.

The recent legislation as supported by the Navajo Nation government resulted from concerns expressed in every community regarding natural resources and the need to better protect and manage these resources. NNDA is pleased to work with each community in carrying out the goals and objectives of the legislation. We look forward to better protecting and managing Navajo natural resources for the use and enjoyment by current and future generations of Navajo people, animals and wildlife. For more information call (928) 871-6605.

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