



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

CONTACTS:

Jared Touchin, Communications Director
(928) 274-4275

Crystalyne Curley, Sr. Public Information Officer
(928) 274-2758

nnopvp.communications@gmail.com

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Navajo Nation receives nearly \$2 million from third-year agricultural insurance investment



PHOTO: (left to right) Council Delegates Raymond Smith, Jr., Jamie Henio, Jimmy Yellowhair, Vice President Myron Lizer, CKP Insurance, LLC Agency Principal Chuck Hemphill, Speaker Seth Damon, and Office of Legislative Services Advisor Peggy Nakai in Phoenix, Ariz. on Jan. 31, 2020.

PHOENIX, Ariz. – Navajo Nation Vice President Myron Lizer and members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council gathered on Friday, to review the Pasture Rangeland and Forage insurance policy that the Nation has participated in for the last three years. Two checks were presented to the Navajo Nation totaling approximately \$2 million. To date, the Navajo Nation has received nearly \$40 million overall from its initial investment. The Nation’s return on the insurance coverage is based on the rainfall levels for select portions of the Navajo Nation.

The Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture applied for the insurance coverage through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Pasture, Rangeland, Forage Insurance Program. In 2016, the 23rd Navajo Nation Council adopted the Síhasin Fund Pasture Rangeland and Forage Expenditure Plan,

which reserved \$20 million from the Nation's Síhasin Fund for insurance premiums to the USDA through CKP Insurance, LLC.

"We are very thankful for the rain and snow that our Nation is blessed with, but we are also appreciative of the great opportunities that this investment creates for agricultural production, land management, farming and irrigation, grazing lands, drought contingency planning, and other initiatives that will benefit our communities," said Vice President Lizer. "The Nez-Lizer Administration is also very thankful to the 24th Navajo Nation Council and the Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture and CKP Insurance for continuing to work together on this initiative."

Speaker Seth Damon and Council Delegates Raymond Smith, Jr., Jamie Henio, and Jimmy Yellowhair were also present for the check presentation.

Since the Navajo Nation's initial investment, the Department of Agriculture developed a listing of agricultural projects that would benefit irrigation systems, windmills, livestock improvements, drought contingency plans, and others.

"Our Nation is gradually seeing the benefits of this investment and I'm confident that we will continue to see more and more benefits as projects move forward in our communities," added Vice President Lizer.

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