



Navajo Nation receives Pasture, Rangeland, Forage insurance program payment from CKP Insurance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 16, 2021



PHOTO: CKP Insurance presented a check for the 2020 pasture, range and forage crop insurance indemnity benefit to the Navajo Nation on Feb. 4, 2021, at the Navajo Nation Council Chamber. From left to right: Division of Natural Resources Executive Director Dr. Rudy Shebala, Alphonso Nephew, Tamara Begay, Council Delegate Daniel E. Tso, Chuck Hemphill, Council Delegate Edison Wauneka, Vice President Myron Lizer, Reneldi Begay, Speaker Seth Damon.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Representatives from CKP Insurance and members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council gathered with Division of Natural Resources Executive Director Rudy Shebala and Navajo Nation Vice President Myron Lizer to accept a deposit from the US Department of Agriculture's pasture, rangeland and forage (PRF) rainfall index insurance plan.

“The Navajo Nation is pleased to see our involvement in this program has produced results. This is a stark reminder that the extreme drought conditions across the entire southwest will require drastic action. This indemnity helps provide a more secure foundation for the Navajo Nation to plan and execute its future agricultural and livestock infrastructure needs,” said Speaker Seth Damon.

Utilizing Sihásin Funds, the Navajo Nation Council approved enrollment in the program beginning in 2017. The Navajo Nation guarantees the premium for the plan with the funds.

Chuck Hemphill, agency principal with CKP Insurance, said: “It’s a privilege and pleasure to be able to present this benefit payment to the Navajo Nation today. CKP Insurance has been a proud partner in securing more than \$70 million for the Navajo Nation since the start of the program. It’s an honor to be a part of this initiative.”

The program uses a cost-matching funding source from the federal government to provide indemnity for the Navajo Nation based on rainfall and precipitation measurements.

That indemnity has provided net benefits for the Navajo Nation since 2017, with the exception of 2019:

- 2017: \$17,386,456
- 2018: \$28,279,209
- 2019: (-\$6,905,198)
- 2020: \$32,830,890 (as of Nov/Dec)

Indemnity payments are sent to the Navajo Nation on a quarterly basis.

Historically, the Navajo Nation has undertaken the advisement of the Navajo Nation Office of the Controller to set-aside a percentage of indemnity payments to cover possible future liabilities under the program.

Indemnity from 2017 and 2018 was utilized to cover the 2019 liability. Combined, the net benefit for 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 YTD is \$71,591,357.

CKP Insurance is the Navajo Nation’s insurance agent in charge of facilitating the Nation’s participation in the PRF program.

The enabling legislation for the Sihásin Fund Pasture Range and Forage Expenditure plan was approved through Resolution No. CO-57-16 and amended by CMY-54-18. The resolutions mandate that indemnity payments be deposited into the Navajo Nation’s Agriculture Infrastructure Fund for agriculture infrastructure projects.

The fund management plan is overseen by the Budget and Finance Committee and the administration of projects utilizing the fund is overseen by the Resources and Development Committee.

###