

# Feral Horse Round-Up 2013

The Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture

In Partnership With

Department of Resource Enforcement

And

The Bureau of Natural Resources/BIA, Navajo Nation Chapters

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# Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture

- Mission

*“Attain sustainability of Land,*

*People,*

*Water and*

*Agricultural resources*

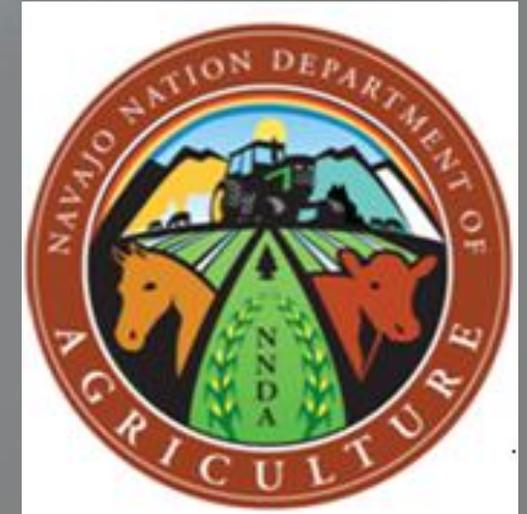
*Through conservation,*

*protection and*

*preservation.”*

- Vision

*“Provide guidance to the Dine’ People in the stewardship of Mother Earth by providing leadership, knowledge and technological assistance in the management and conservation of her resources, for the inheritance of generations to come.”*



[www.agriculture.navajo-nsn.gov](http://www.agriculture.navajo-nsn.gov)

# Department of Resource Enforcement

- Mission

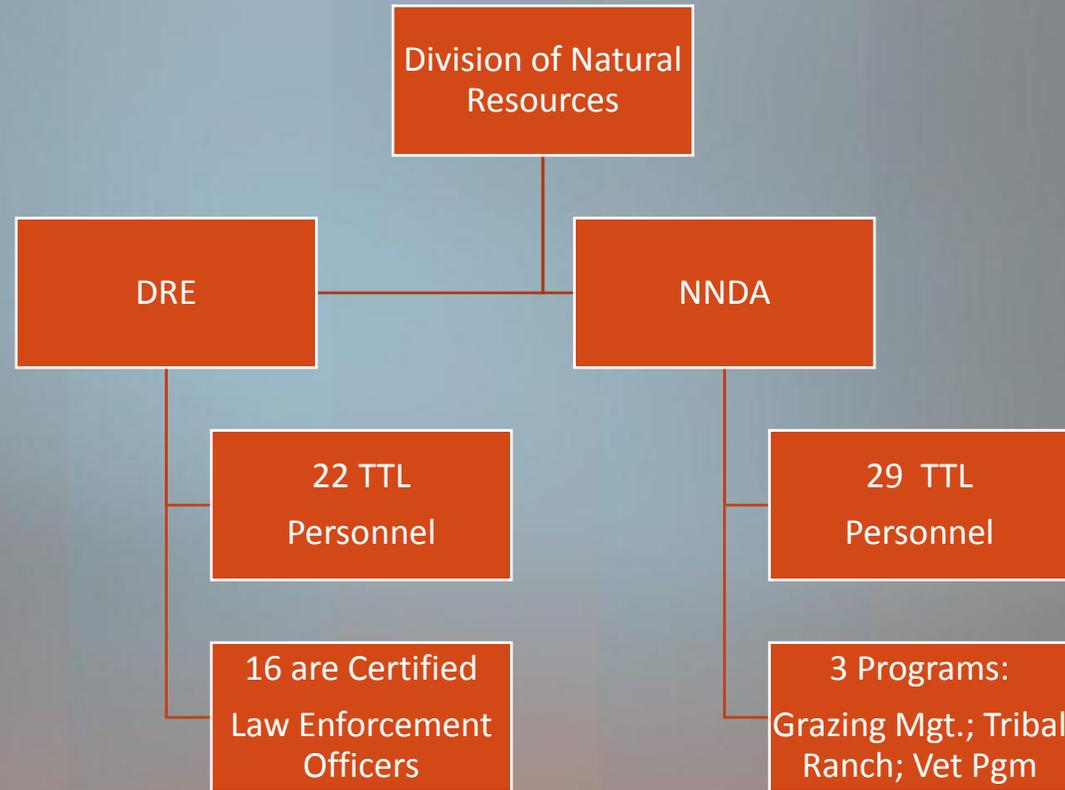
*To protect and preserve the cultural, historical and archaeological resources of the Navajo Nation, through law enforcement, public education, preventive patrols, and regulatory enforcement.*

*To safeguard and preserve the livestock property of residents to maintain the cultural and traditional significance of this resource for future generations of Dine’.*

<http://dnrnavajo.org/rangers/>



# Organizational Chart



All parties including BIA provide:  
Staff, trucks, livestock trailers, livestock panels, water troughs, ATVs, flatbeds,

# Staff and Capital Equipment Invested



- 14 Rangers/Ranger Sergeants
- 6 Administrative Support
- 14 Vehicles
- 4 livestock trailers



- 24 Temporary Staff
- 4 Stock Trailers
- 2 ATVs
- 1 Flatbed
- 40 Panels
- 6 Admin Support
- Extension Agents
- District Grazing Committee (78)
- Farm Board (43)
- Eastern Land Board (20)



- Staff
- Trucks
- livestock trailers
- livestock panels
- water troughs
- ATVs
- flatbeds

# Navajo Nation Investment – \$4,600,000

- July 18, 2013 the Navajo Nation Council approved Resolution No. CJY-44-13 in the amount of \$1,397,239 to for feral livestock round-ups.
- Thursday, July 25, 2013 and President Shelly signed the legislation on.
- Wednesday, July 31, 2013, the funds were entered into the Navajo Nation financial system on with all items budgeted accordingly.
- Funds are only available for FY2013.
- There is a current Navajo Nation State of Emergency CEM 13-06-27.

	FY 2013
Department of Water Resources	\$3,000,000
Department of Resource Enforcement	\$202,761
Department of Agriculture	\$1,397,239
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,600,000</b>

# NNDA Budget

- Personnel (employment, benefits, overtime)
- Travel Expenses (vehicle mileage, vehicle rental, rental mileage)
- Personnel Travel Expenses (personal mileage, lodging, meals)
- Air (survey)
- Supplies (paper, printing, NNVLP, tires, fuel)
- Lease/Rental (back hoe)
- Mobile (hand held, vehicles)
- External Contractors (carcass removal)
- Contractual Service (veterinarian)
- Media (newspaper, radio, conference)
- Catering (water, Gatorade)
- Capital Outlay (2 – 550 trucks; modification of existing, backhoe, 32 ft. gooseneck trailer, 16 ft flatbed trailer, 30 ft heavy duty flatbed, 2 ATV trailer, 1 camper trailer, 4 ATVs, 2 off road bikes)

# General Information on Round-Up

## NNDA Temporary Staff

- 25 Temporary Staff hired
- Paid \$8.44/hour; oldest – 65; youngest – 19; most are early 20's.
- 59% of the funds have been expended including chapter payments (\$250,000).

## NNDA Provides

- mileage, meals, lodging with approval,
- safety equipment: helmets, gloves, ropes, reflective vests, goggles, first aid kits for each vehicle, fire extinguishers.
- communication equipment: two way radios (rental from NN Communications), walkie-talkies, mobile phones, etc.
- hay, feed & water for riders' horses.

## Field Staff

- NNDA – Tribal Ranch Program (3), Extension Agents (6),
- BIA – Minimum of one or more representative for each round up (eastern usually has 3 or more per site),
- DRE – 2 Rangers per site for safety, compliance and enforcement reasons.
- Navajo Chapter – volunteer and paid staff; number varies to assist and serve as the guide for the local community.

## DRE Provides

- hay, feed & water to captured horses

# General Information on Round-up

- 370 driving hours  
Total hours of transporting laborers and captured horses per roundup
- +7,700 miles
- To transport laborers, captured horses and equipment.
- Approximately 66 transporting trips of captured horses from the field to the DRE holding facility.
- We are limited with trucks, trailers resulting in multiple trips for equipment, manpower and hay delivery, etc.
- Since July 29, 2013 to August 31, 2013.

# Support



Navajo Nation President

Navajo Nation Council

Division of Natural  
Resources

Navajo Nation Chapters

- 65 Navajo Chapters approved resolutions, which is 73% of the entire Navajo Nation.
- Round ups resolutions and requests continue to be submitted to NNDA.
- Resolution CJY-44-14 was unanimously passed by the NNC to address Extreme Drought Conditions on the Navajo Nation.
- The NN President is in full support.
- Only 1 chapter opposed the round up resolution by vote. Ojo Encino, Eastern Agency.
- 1 Chapter, Shiprock, Northern Agency, rescinded their round-up resolution.
- 36 Chapters are on the waiting list for a community round up (some rescheduled due to flood conditions, washed out roads, etc. caused by forage depletion then monsoon rain)

# Listing of Navajo Chapters

- 1 Chilchinbeto
- 2 Ft. Defiance
- 3 Low Mountain
- 4 Cove
- 5 Naschitti
- 6 Blue Gap
- 7 Nazlini
- 8 Kaibeto
- 9 Tohatchi
- 10 Coppermine
- 11 Coalmine
- 12 Breadsprings
- 13 Tohajile'
- 14 Hogback
- 15 Aneth
- 16 Oljato
- 17 Red Mesa
- 18 Crystal
- 19 Indian Wells
- 20 Kindalichee
- 21 Oak Springs
- 22 Many Farms
- 23 Round Rock
- 24 Chinle
- 25 Crystal
- 26 Hard Rock
- 27 Red Valley
- 28 Alamo
- 29 Tuba City
- 30 Cameron
- 31 Sawmill

Most District Grazing Committee Officials are requesting 3-5 days for a roundup, however the Department is limited to only two to three days for horse roundup, due to the high demand for community roundups across the Navajo Nation.



# Navajo Nation Process



# How to Request a Chapter Round-Up

## Community Range Assessment

- Conduct Community Range Assessment
- Community Input

## Place on Chapter Agenda

- Range condition.
- Explain round-up procedure.
- Develop written Plan of Operation according to NN Code.
- Community Input.

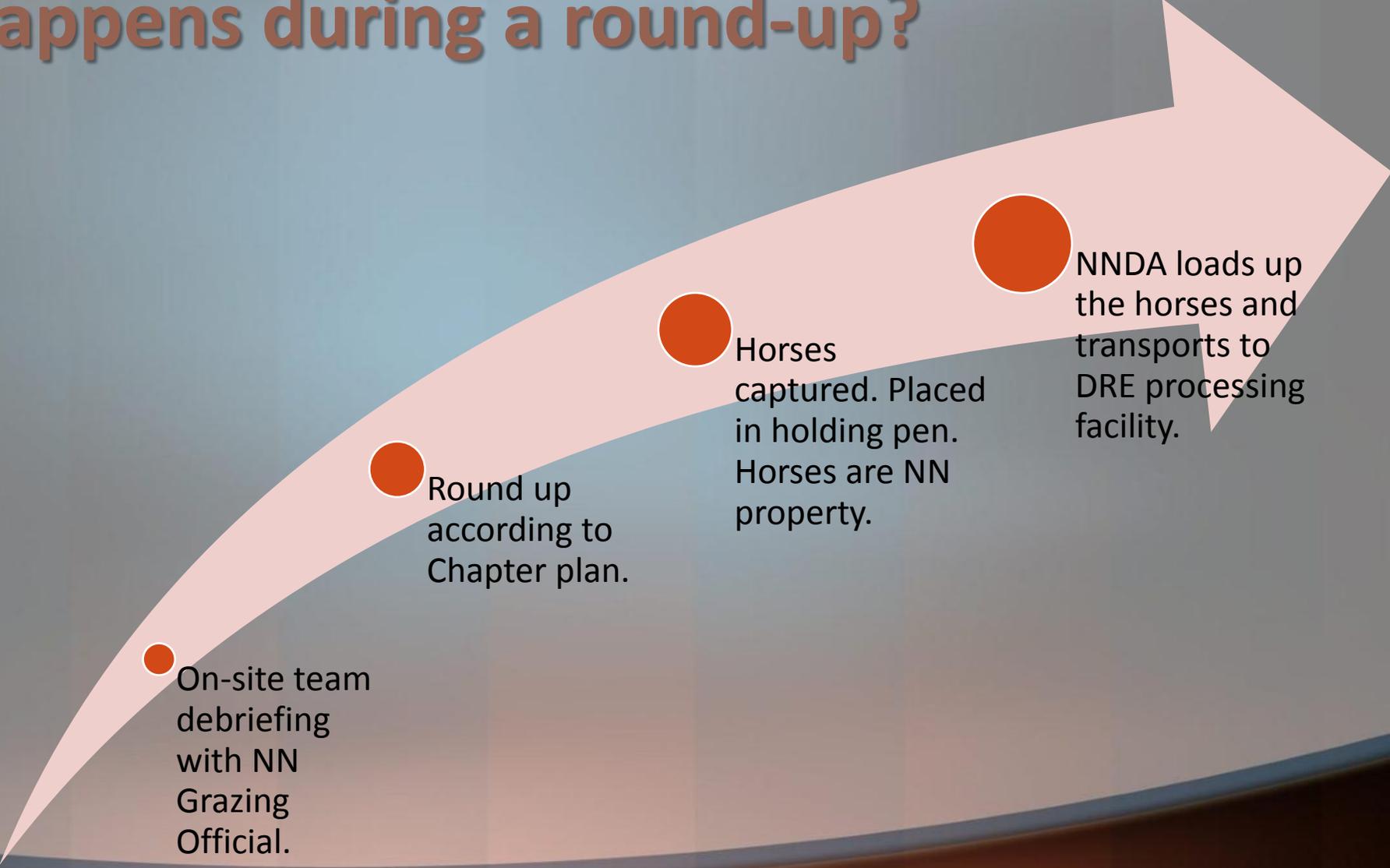
## Present at Chapter Planning Meeting

- Propose multi-year resolution due to continuing drought & emergency conditions.
- All unauthorized livestock are trespassing on Navajo Nation rangelands.
- Explain applicable NN law

## Upon Approval of Resolution to Conduct Community Round-Up

- Confirm and/or acquire resources needed to assist with round-up.
- Schedule with NNDA, RE, BIA
- Post Notice 10 days prior to the scheduled round up.

# What happens during a round-up?



On-site team debriefing with NN Grazing Official.

Round up according to Chapter plan.

Horses captured. Placed in holding pen. Horses are NN property.

NNDA loads up the horses and transports to DRE processing facility.

# Land Condition

Feral Horses/Livestock Overpopulation/  
Continuous Drought Conditions/Arid Land  
Base/Climate Change

- Depleted Forage (BNR/BIA, NRCS)
- Damage of the water with feces/urine (EPA, Dept of Health)
- Causes death, property destruction, poor image of NN due to highway accidents (DPS, EPA, Tourism)
- Competes for resources (forage, water) used by people, wildlife, domestic livestock; in remote areas horses drinking water that people use for daily life and agriculture (Chapters, DGCM, ENLB, NNFB)

## Vicious Cycle



Studies: BNR/BIA Range Inventory & Utilization Studies; USGS; NN EPA; NN DPS

# Pictures



# Pictures



# Pictures



- ❖ On the Navajo Nation, drought conditions have persisted since 1994
- ❖ Climate change is influencing drought impacts of the Southwestern United States
- ❖ Long term trends of increasing temperature and decreasing snowfall are superimposed on the current drought
- ❖ Observations of Navajo tribal elders suggest that these long term trends have had a significant impact on plant and animal populations, as well as living conditions
- ❖ USGS Information

# Pictures

- Spring Vegetation Surveys
- USGS

2010

2011



# Pictures

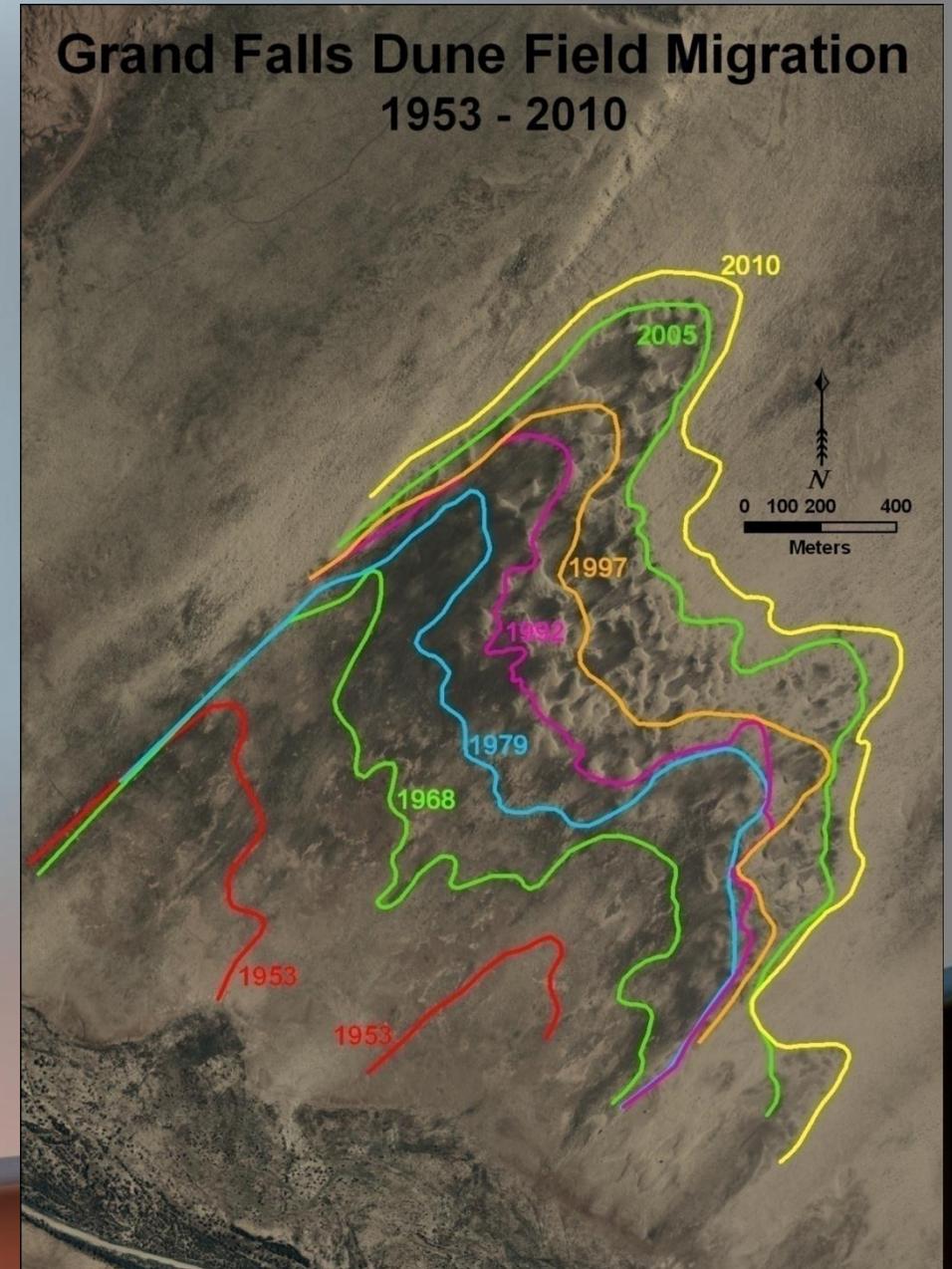
- Vegetation that grew in adequate rainfall (2010) died off rapidly during the subsequent dry year (2011). (USGS)
- Short-term (single-season) increases in rainfall will not improve landscape stability in the long term because perennials, which are more effective than annual plants at stabilizing sand against wind erosion, require multiple consecutive seasons of adequate rain. (USGS)



# Pictures

Dune source sediments  
– flood deposits from  
1940's

Dune movement  
beginning  
During early 1950's  
drought



# Pictures



# Pictures



# Pictures



# Pictures

**Rice grass planting  
has been  
successful**



**But more challenges lie ahead**

# Information Source

- Leo Watchman, Jr., Department Manager, Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture
- Kim Johnson, Grazing Management, Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture
- Chief Leonard Butler, Department Manager, Department of Resource Enforcement
- Dr. Margaret Hiza Redsteer, U.S. Geological Survey

# The End!

Navajo Nation

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505-371-5200

Navajo Nation

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928-871-6605

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Branch of Natural  
Resources

*“Our Resources, Our  
responsibility”*

