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Drought Response on Jicarilla Reservation

Date: January –June 2018
Agent: Jesse T. LeFevre
Area: Jicarilla Apache Nation

Issue: The driest winter in recorded history was the winter of 2017-2018 for the Jicarilla Apache Nation and the watersheds feeding this area. There are no reservoirs for water storage above the reservation. Both the residents of the reservation and the livestock in the area depended on winter precipitation for summer water.

What has been done: The agent began reviewing the drought issue in January of 2018. The agent advised the tribal president of the need to develop a drought plan for both the community and the livestock present on the reservation. The tribal president called mandatory drought planning meeting with the tribal department heads. The extension agent served in an advisory role.

What was achieved: The departments were made aware of the need for a coordinated response to the drought situation. Each department developed their own role based on personnel, equipment and budget. The town itself did not run out of water but many ranchers needed to have water hauled to their livestock.

Public Value: The community, producers and department benefited from developing a coordinated effort and planning early regarding drought planning. Although only the agricultural portion of the reservation needed response the Jicarilla Nation is now aware of the limitations of their water system and has gained the experience in drought response planning.

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