

Francis, Ronald - Salt Lake City, UT

---

Subject: 9-9-08 eBlast from NRCS



September 9, 2008

## NAVAJO STUDENTS WORK TO IMPROVE NATIVE LANDS

Four Navajo students were hired this summer by NRCS to work on conservation projects that will improve the environment for their neighbors and give them an opportunity to earn money for school and learn new skills. They have been working under the supervision of NRCS Soil Conservation Technician Loren Crank at the Aneth Chapter near Montezuma Creek, Utah. They were hired under the NRCS Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP), which is available to students in high school and college.



Conservation work assignments included range inventory, archeology surveys, installation of solar panels for water well pumps, and construction of rainwater collection systems for rural homes with no running water. Crank said he was impressed with their work ethic and their ability to pick up new technology, such as use of GPS equipment.

The students shown in accompanying photo are, left to right, Carl Whitehair, Joshua John, Brian Johnson, and Aldrea Redhouse. They range in age from 17 to 21 and all have plans to pursue careers in health care. Like students in any culture, they have concerns about the economy, gas prices, taxes,

health care, and opportunities for education. Their environmental concerns center on the need for water and electricity in many areas of the reservation.

The Navajo Nation is the largest North American Indian Tribe with a population of approximately 300,000 on land located around the Four Corners Region of the United States that includes Southeastern Utah, Northeastern Arizona and Northwestern New Mexico. The Navajo Nation is world-renowned for its scenic and natural wonders that attract millions of visitors every year. The intriguing beauty is the people's (DINE') sacred culture and strong artist heritage that ties everything together in harmony.

 Periodic news reports from NRCS Utah  
To see blasts from the past go to [e-Blast archives](#)

**Sylvia Gillen, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service**

125 S. State St., Salt Lake City, UT 84138; (801) 524-4550; (801) 524-4403 - fax; [www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov)

To submit news items or subscribe/unsubscribe to the mailing list, contact NRCS Public Affairs Specialist Ron Francis at 801-524-4557; [ron.francis@ut.usda.gov](mailto:ron.francis@ut.usda.gov)

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*