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NEW NRCS OFFICE TO SERVE NAVAJO NATION NEAR BLANDING

A cooperative agreement between the Aneth Chapter of the Navajo Nation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service will establish a new service office and improve natural resource conservation services to agricultural producers in southeastern San Juan County. Prior to the March 7 signing ceremony at Tribal headquarters in Window Rock, NRCS customers would travel to Monticello, Shiprock or some other distant USDA service center.

Under the agreement the Aneth Chapter will provide office space at the Chapter House and the Utah and Arizona NRCS will provide equipment and technical staff support. The goals of the agreement are to implement a coordinated resource management plan for the Chapter, to install conservation practices and provide education and information that will improve the health and productivity of the land.

Don Andrews, NRCS District Conservationist in the Monticello Field Office, will supervise the new soil conservation technician who will shortly be hired to staff the new Aneth Office. NRCS State Conservationist Sylvia Gillen noted that the agency will seek job candidates from the



local area who have a good working knowledge of agricultural and natural resource issues. She anticipates the official job announcement will be made within the next month.

Local officials participating in the signing ceremony are (in accompanying photo, left to right) Davis Felfred, Navajo Nation Council Delegate for the Aneth area; State Conservationist Sylvia Gillen; Andrew Tso, Executive Staff Assistant for the Office of the President and Vice President of the Navajo Nation; Wilbur Capitn, Community Service Coordinator for the Aneth Chapter; and Don Andrews, DC in the NRCS Monticello office. Look

for more details about this and other related events in the next edition of *NRCS This Week*.

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