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Navajo Raincatchers

For years, Navajo residents of Navajo Mountain and Piute Mesa have traveled long distances to retrieve water.

Castleland RC&D has partnered with Hank Stevens, a resident of Navajo Mountain and President of Navajo Mountain Water Users Association to help members of his community at Navajo Mountain and Piute Mesa reduce the number of trips made to acquire water from a source many miles away. Hank Stevens has constructed 11 raincatchers to provide much needed water to elderly families in



Hank Stevens constructing a raincatcher.

the area. Castleland RC&D acquired funds through NRCS grants and from private donors to provide materials and labor. The frame structures support a tin roof that directs the rain water to a storage tank and pipe delivery system for the user. With proper

maintenance, the systems operate efficiently for many years.

Castleland RC&D partnered with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), and the



A raincatcher under construction.

Navajo Mountain Water Users' association to provide materials, funding, administrative and technical support for this project.

From the 2007 KSL TV news story: Wayne Urie, with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, says, "A simple thing like this raincatching structure can help people who haven't had that water available to them...It's actually pretty simple," Urie explains. "It rains, and the water catches on the roof of this structure, runs into a simple rain gutter, and then the rain gutters pipe into a storage tank."

Partners:

- Bureau of Reclamation
- Navajo Mtn. Water Users Association
- San Juan County
- Boyd Jensen Family, et al.
- San Juan Conservation District
- Natural Resource Conservation Service



Completed raincatcher.

Seven of the structures are being built with a \$12,000 grant from the NRCS; already there has been a request for 14 more raincatchers. It doesn't rain too often on Navajo Nation land, but when it does, there's a lot of it. Project engineers believe the systems will, at the very least, eliminate many long trips the Navajos have had to make for water.