

## **Society Continues with Partnership Agreement with the USFS**

*By Elveda Martinez, NAFWS Secretary/Treasurer*

The NAFWS Board has been working with Nate Gillespie, Acting Legislative Affairs Specialist in Washington, DC in reviewing and revising a new Master Participating Agreement between the USFS and the NAFWS that will go through December 2023. This agreement will be an avenue for the Forest Service (FS) to provide funding to the NAFWS. Yolynda Begay, Tribal Relations Program Manager in the SW Regional Office in Albuquerque, New Mexico has also been a great advocate for the NAFWS and SW Region.

Funding in 2017 allowed the NAFWS to have 5 tribes hire summer interns on their reservations, assist with the national summer youth practicum supplies and supplement the Navajo Nation's Youth Hunt.

On February 23, 2018, the NAFWS Board of Directors approved the new agreement with the FS. They have committed funding for 3 youth practicums, the national practicum will be held in the Pacific Northwest Region starting at the end of July, the Southwest Regional Practicum that will be held in New Mexico in June and one that will be held in the Great Lakes Region. They will also assist with funding the Navajo Nation Youth Hunt in September. The FS was also able to secure funding from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century CFS Funding for this commitment.

The Society would like to thank the USFS for its continued support of the Society in engaging youth in scientific, educational and leadership practicums and activities in the fish, wildlife and natural resource fields.

**2017 Navajo Nation Youth Hunt Photos (below). The first is with the youth gathered around a camp fire class. The second is Gloria Tom, NN Natural Resources Director providing the youth and mentors with an orientation.**





