

Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District

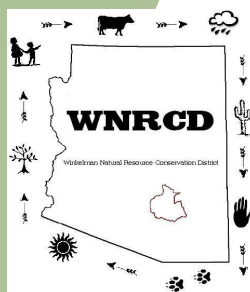
P.O. Box 68

Mammoth, AZ

85618

Winter 2011

www.wnrcd.org



Supervisors and Personnel:

Chairman: Bill Dunn

Supervisor: Beverly Miller

Supervisor: Gary Vinson

Supervisor: Peter Else

Supervisor: Dianna Manning

District Clerk: Vicki France

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Jenny Cordrey

With Assistance from:

*USDA Natural Resources
Conservation Service*

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Tucson, AZ 85705

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Monitoring workshop draws a good group

November 2 dawned windy and chilly, but it did not deter the 12 participants from Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District, Pima Natural Resource Conservation District and the Arizona Game and Fish Department from learning about Rangeland Monitoring. Kristen Egen explained the purpose and methods to use when monitoring vegetation. We then divided



Supervisor Gary Vinson places the frame while
Gale Manning records the data.

into two groups to monitor transects. After the results were tallied, Alisha Phipps and Katie Cline analyzed the data and the trends for the two transects over the past 20 years.



Range Conservationist Alisha Phipps explains what to
do in a sticky situation along the transect.

About the Extracurricular School Tax Credit—Keeping it local

Arizona law ARS 43-1089.01 enables taxpayers a tax credit contribution of up to \$400.00 per calendar year if filing status is Married, filing Joint Return; \$200.00 per calendar year if filing status is Single or Head of Household; and, \$200.00 per calendar year if filing status is Married filing separate return — for contributions that fund extracurricular activities in public schools. A tax credit is a full refund, not a deduction.

Contributions eligible for a tax credit are donated directly to schools, not to the state or the school district. To participate, go to the web site of your school district or give them a phone call. You can donate online or you can mail a form to your school to make the contribution. This is just another way you can help the local economy.

Arizona Tax Credit Frequently Asked Questions

Question: What is a tax credit?

Answer: A tax credit is a dollar-for-dollar reduction in your Arizona income tax liability. In other words, you subtract the amount of your contribution to a public school as a direct credit against your tax liability. For example, suppose you are married and filing jointly and owe \$1,000 in state income taxes. When you donate \$400 to your community public school, you receive a credit for that exact amount on your Arizona income tax return. As a result, you will only owe the state \$600 on your return.

Question: Is it a tax deduction?

Answer: No. You receive a tax credit on your Arizona income tax return for your contribution. As a dollar-for-dollar reduction in your tax obligation, a tax credit is much more valuable to you than a tax deduction.

Question: Who is eligible?

Answer: This tax credit is available to all Arizona individuals who pay state income taxes, regardless of whether or not they have children in school.

Question: Do I have to itemize?

Answer: No. You do not have to itemize deductions in order to take advantage of the Arizona tax credit for your contribution to your child's school of your choice. However, in order to receive the tax credit you must file Arizona Form 140 (the longer tax return form).

Question: Do I have to live within the school district?

Answer: No, any individual who pays Arizona State income tax can give to any Arizona public school.

Question: Why should I give money to a school?

Answer: With limited school funding, students do not always have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of extracurricular activities. School tax credit contributions can provide students with opportunities such as after-school programs, tutoring, arts and music education, and after-school sports. Simply put, tax credit contributions make possible a wide variety of learning opportunities that our students might not otherwise have.

Question: Why should I participate?

Answer: This program allows you (rather than the Arizona legislature) to control how your tax dollars are spent. You can direct a portion of your tax dollars directly to a public school, where the money will be used to support a variety of beneficial programs for students. Since all of your contribution will be returned to you when you file your taxes (up to the maximum annual limitation), there is no out-of-pocket expense to you for participating.

Question: Who chooses which school will receive my contribution?

Answer: You do, by making the check payable to the school of your choice. You can choose a school based on student need, grade levels, location, or personal preference.

News from around the State and District.....



Walt and Francie Meyer

Win Arizona Farm Bureau Environmental Stewardship Award

Arizona, November 16, 2011 – Walt and Francie Meyer received the Arizona Farm Bureau Environmental Stewardship Award during the 90th Annual AZFB conference in Litchfield Park, Arizona during a recent awards ceremony celebrating farmers and ranchers throughout the state.

The Environmental Stewardship Award is given to individuals who are doing conservation and environmental projects within the agricultural community.

In 1980 a Sonoran Desert Tortoise study was initiated by the Meyer family in the San Pedro Valley as a result of an unusual concern. Jojoba had become an object of major interest, and the resulting increase in its value encouraged a large number of illegal “nut pickers” to ravage the natural resources without regard for the plant and animal life of the desert community. The pickers were often without adequate provisions and therefore began taking for food many of the small animals in the area, including desert tortoise. The number of charred tortoise shells in their abandoned camp sites initiated the concern and curiosity of the Meyers about tortoise numbers in the area.

That twenty year study served as a pivotal piece of data for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service determining just this year that the Sonoran Desert Tortoise is not threatened by grazing– as was the claim of the petition to list the species. This is extremely important for ranching in the areas of the tortoise, because in the 90’s this same petition was made for the Mojave Desert Tortoise and the ranching industry in that area of concern was severely impacted.

“We’re proud of all our award winners and all that they’ve achieved on behalf of agriculture,” says Arizona Farm Bureau President Kevin Rogers. “Our awards banquet is an opportunity to extend our appreciation to those who make a difference in our industry.”

We Care About Conservation

NRCS and Conservation Districts Enter a New Partnership



District Conservationist Kristen Egen has announced preliminary information about a new partnership that is being formed between the State Association of Conservation Districts and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The goal is to help each land user develop and implement a sound conservation plan that ensures the natural resources are well managed for future generations.

1. NRCS inventories the resource on the operation, identifies resource problems, and recommends a Resource Management System for the operation.
2. The land user decides which resources they are currently willing and able to address in their Conservation Plan.
3. Conservation Plans are reviewed and approved by the **local Conservation District**.
4. Conservation Plans are reviewed and approved by an NRCS Certified Conservation Planner.
5. Land users who have worked with the Conservation District and NRCS to develop a Conservation Plan may be eligible for financial assistance.
6. An approved Conservation Plan is required before an application for financial assistance can be ranked.

Fall Meeting Minutes * November 2, 2011 * Dudleyville, AZ

Supervisors and District Personnel Present: Chairman, Bill Dunn, Gary Vinson, Peter Else and Diana Manning; Vicki France, District Clerk. Beverly Miller was excused.

Members, Cooperators and Guests Present: Hattie Hedrick, Bill Stambaugh, Becky Dunn, Stan and Molly Yoder, John Rendall, Jeff Lark (TNC), John Smith, Becky Stambaugh and Catharine Gorman. Anna Lands, Cascabel Working Group. Liz Petterson, Jeff Hampton and Aaron Citron from the Arizona Land and Water Trust

Agency Personnel Present: Kristen Egen, Katie Cline, USDA-NRCS; and Ben Brochu, AZ Game and Fish Dept.

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions: Bill Dunn called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. Cooperators and guests introduced themselves.

Consent Agenda: The minutes were tabled until after lunch break. The CD at the Bank of the West that is about to mature was discussed. Peter moved to not to renew the CD and move it into savings which is more accessible. Gary seconded the motion and the motion carried. Vicki will go to the bank on Thursday.

New Business:

- 1. Arizona Land Trust** - Liz Petterson of the Land Trust gave the District an over view of the trust. They do a lot more than aide land owners in establishing a Trust. They have workshops to aid producers in creating a modern sustainable operation. It is called "Ranching into the Future". They have funding for speakers on many topics. Easements are not for everyone and all are different. They are tailored to the needs of the individuals. There are income and estate tax benefits.

Bill was interested in the term easement. There is a program in the NRCS that is a 30 year term. The Federal Government can condemn an easement if the easement conflicts with a project.

Aaron then talked about the Desert Rivers Initiative. It started in 2007. It is a water leasing program. Operators are paid not to use water for a portion of the year so that it remains in the river system at critical times. The money comes from mitigation funds. It is not necessary to have water rights. It is more of a management agreement. These are examples of term agreements. They are trying to see if these easements are successful. This program has a lot of potential along the San Pedro River.

- 2. Update on the Triangle Bar Sale**— John Smith wanted to know why this sale was being discussed when no others had been. He really did not want it on the agenda as a topic of discussion. Bill said that the District is becoming more interested in protecting the tax base of the county. John said that it was a lot bigger than the sale of his land. The lack of support for schools by the mines is one example.
- 3. Request for support from *Center for Environmental Science, Advocacy and Reliability***— The supervisors reviewed the request. Peter was wondering if the Agencies had made a response. No one knew for sure. Catharine Gorman was wondering if there was a hidden agenda to this group. No one seemed to think that there was. Vicki said that the AzNRCD had a resolution on the agenda, but we did not know what the out come was. Diana suggested that we write a letter to the group and refer them to the State.

Old Business:

- 1. Field Report Update**—Katie said that there was a rough draft done. It has taken 6 months and is at 98 pages. She was trying to get the history done. The Board did not think that history was as important as finishing it. Katie said she still needed information on mining. Diana said that the Tucson office of the Az. Mining Assoc. will have it to her by Christmas. Ben will help; she just needs to officially request the information from him. We also need someone to write a section on coordination.

Winkelman Resource Mgt. Center - There will be a meeting following this one.

Reports from Supervisors and District Personnel:

Peter said that the response date for the appeal is coming up fast, Nov. 14. Hattie will make sure she goes to the Post office. They have three possible responses, put it off until the Draft EIS in Jan, deny the appeal or not respond. We need to be ready to react on the 14th.

John Rendall, Arizona Trial, said that a lot of work crews will be in the area this fall. One area was the Kelvin Steel bridge east to ASARCO and another 10 miles west around Red Mountain. The Freeman section was not funded by the Recreation Advisory Council. He said that the motorized race was not quite dead and that he has another map from Francisco of the BLM.

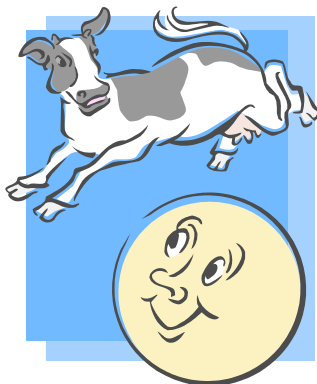
Vicki had handouts about the Southline Power Transmission Line. It comes into the district over by Eloy.

Reports from Agency Personnel

NRCS—Kristen Egen said that there were 21 applications, 1/3 were from Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District. **She stressed that if anyone is getting any USDA payments, they must complete a new AGI form (Adjusted Gross Income). This needs to be done at the Casa Grande Office. All owners must sign. You can no longer give power of attorney to someone to sign.**

We adjourned for lunch at 11:30 am and reconvened at 12:00 pm.

Minutes—There were corrections to the minutes of Aug 31, October 10. Diana moved that Bill sign the minutes for August 31, September 22, October 10 and 12 on Friday after Vicki has made the corrections. Peter seconded the motion and it carried via a voice vote.



Winter District Meeting

We are back on track with our meetings.

So SAVE THE DATE.....January 18, 2012. We will send out a post card letting you know the location.

