

Western Landowners Alliance - Fall Meeting
Tucson and Altar Valley, AZ – December 9 - 11, 2015



Wednesday, December 9, 2015 (board and staff only)

9:00 am – 4:00 pm - **WLA Board Meeting**, Radisson Suites, 6555 East Speedway Blvd, Tucson

7:00 pm – **Board Dinner** – Diablo Burger, 312 E Congress, Tucson (Diablo Trust beef!)

Thursday, December 10, 2015 – Policy Convening

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. - Catalina Room, Radisson Suites

Join WLA to add your views and suggestions to a growing dialogue on visionary stewardship in the West!

9 am - Welcome, Session Objectives

Paul Vahldiek and Lesli Allison, Western Landowners Alliance

9:10 – 10:30 – Landowner Input to WLA Programs

WLA is guided by landowners. We will provide an overview and seek landowner input on our work on water, energy, working lands, economics, stewardship, and wildlife, with focused group discussion on three specific WLA program areas:

- Making sense of **property tax** policy for diversified working lands
- Advancing Arizona conservation landowner interests related to **water**
- Fostering improvements in Endangered Species Act (**ESA**) implementation for management flexibility while contributing to species conservation

10:30 Break

(see next page)

10:45 – 12:15 – Featured Topic #1: Advancing Landowner Watershed Restoration in the Southwest – Recent Work and Future Needs

- Setting the Stage:
 - o Joe Austin, Western Landowners Alliance; Laura Norman, U.S. Geological Survey/ Society for Ecological Restoration/Sky Island Restoration Cooperative
- Group Discussion
 - o Policy or other changes needed to advance successful practices and implementation?

12:15 – Working Lunch (*provided*)

12:45 – 4:00 – Featured Topic #2: Securing Fiscal Resources to Sustain Stewardship

- Setting the Stage:
 - o Lesli Allison and Nelson Shirley, Western Landowners Alliance; Brian Kuehl, K·Coe Conservation
- Group Discussion:
 - o Expanding Farm Bill opportunities for the West?
 - o Capacity for collaborative conservation
 - o Ecosystem services markets and implications of the new Federal Lands Mitigation Directive

4:00 – 4:30 – Recap, Next Steps, Tour Highlights, Adjourn for Day

4:30 – 6:00 p.m. – Social, Radisson Suites

6:00 p.m. – Dinner, Radisson Suites (*no host*)

Friday, December 11

9 am – 3:30 pm - Stewardship Tour – Altar Valley

Explore collaborative conservation on the ground with tour host Altar Valley Conservation Alliance. Discuss watershed restoration work and needs at the Elkhorn/Las Delicias demonstration [site](#), and over lunch help hone WLA's water program priorities for the West. To reserve a seat with WLA from Tucson, contact us by 12/7. We will meet at 8 am in the Radisson hotel lobby for transport to the Tour location. Otherwise, meet the group at the Anvil Ranch at 9 am. WLA vehicles will return to the hotel by 5 pm.

5:30 – 7:00 - Social – Mountain Oyster Club (*hosted by Western Landowners Alliance*)

7:00 p.m. – Dinner – Mountain Oyster Club (*hosted by Western Landowners Alliance*)

All invitees are welcome to attend the Thursday and Friday events. By December 7, please register [here](#) with contact info and which meeting elements you'll be attending, or contact us at info@westernlandownersalliance.org. Please make your own Radisson hotel room reservations [here](#). A small block of rooms were reserved at a discounted rate; call 520-721-7100 and mention WLA to reserve any remaining discounted rooms. Radisson Suites is at 6555 East Speedway Blvd in Tucson.

*These events are invite-only; please let us know if you have suggestions for additional invitees.
See you in December!*

Photo courtesy Pat Kottcamp