

# WINKELMAN NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Spring, 2017

PO Box 486, Kearny, AZ 85137 WNRCD.org

## From the Frog Pond by Bill Dunn

I just read a quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson that struck me as something that defines many if not most of our district producers. *"Passion is one of the most powerful engines of success. When you do a thing, do it with all your might. Put your whole soul into it. Stamp it with your own personality. Be active, be energetic and faithful, and you will accomplish your object. Nothing great was ever achieved without passion."* Okay, sermon's over.

The Board hired Chris Fletcher from Redington to work for us on the Sunzia Plan of Development. He has been contacting the affected landowners to get their input on the preliminary designs and routing. He's doing a great job. Chris is a rancher on the San Pedro and a board member for Redington NRCD. He is doing a great job making sure Sunzia is living up to the promises they made to the Line Siting Committee when they okayed their route through the state. The Corporation Commission said they want the transmission line to be the "Gold Standard" for future projects and Chris is helping them make sure they are going to do so.

Using NRCS, Cooperator Kemp Morris just across the river from Kearny is finishing up masticating 300+ acres of tamarisk, picture of cleared acres below.



He will be applying herbicide to it this summer. Our FEMA grant to provide defensible space for Kearny and folks up and down the river is moving achingly slow. We have been awarded the grant

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Rick on his dozer

I think but now we have to re-contact all the landowners who were interested in making a defensible space up and down the river and get additional information. Our Clerk, Chris Postel, will be managing that for the next couple of weeks. We are also been looking into other funding sources

District cooperator Rick Bader brought a dozer and I brought my loader tractor and gannon and we have made some fire breaks in the river at Kearny to hopefully stop a fire in the river from going too far and threatening town. We have a little more work to do but at least with less dry fuel in the river now, they have a better chance of stopping a fire. Big thanks to Rick, see the picture above.

We are making progress on our partnership with CAC and Redington on a native plant nursery. The hoop house designs have been finalized and by the time you read they will have been ordered. CAC will use this for a teaching resource and we will use it for restoration and field trips from local schools.

(Continued on Page 2)

**Frog Pond (Continued from Page 1)**

Your board is meeting with the Redington board on May 10<sup>th</sup> to work on hiring a joint district coordinator to work with district cooperators on funding new conservation projects and fill in for some of the functions that the agency folks have done for producers over the years. They all have lost positions in the district over the years and our people have been feeling it. So we have made the decision to try to have the district service some of their needs. When the position is filled, he or she will be contacting you to see what your needs are from the district.

I just got a flyer that our new Extension Agent, Ashley Hall is coordinating a drought workshop in Miami on June 15. Can't imagine that anyone doesn't need to be more prepared for the next one. Contact her at [ashleys3@email.arizona.edu](mailto:ashleys3@email.arizona.edu) or call her office at 928-402-4391 for information.

Register [https://uarizona.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1yQYXb2ch4TJ5Up](https://uarizona.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1yQYXb2ch4TJ5Up)

Until Next Time....

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**Arizona Conservation Partnership Accomplishes First Year of Work  
In Apache and Navajo County NRCDs**  
Arizona Association of Conservation Districts  
News Release 4/28/2017 Reprint

The Apache and Navajo County Natural Resource Conservation Districts are working with their ranchers and agency partners to enhance Arizona's working landscapes in Northern Arizona. Within the Apache and Navajo County NRCD focal area, USDA Environmental Quality Incentive Program, BLM Landscape Enhancement Collaborative, and Arizona Department of Environmental Water Quality Improvement Grant funds have been used to improve water quality and watershed health in northeastern Arizona through riparian area bank stabilization, grazing management, pond rehabilitation and brush control.

These conservation efforts are all part of the Arizona Conservation Partnership, a new statewide collaborative partnership between Arizona's 42 Conservation Districts and 10 state and federal agencies. The vision of the Arizona Conservation Partnership is to join forces and leverage resources to enhance Arizona's working landscapes for ecological and economic prosperity.

In the first year (2016), the partnership worked to complete grassland restoration on more than 2,000 acres, assisted with conservation planning on five ranches, and completed cultural resource surveys on four ranches so that needed conservation work can begin.

The Arizona Association of Conservation Districts was granted a Water Protection Fund Grant for \$300,000 earlier this year. Private land owner and Conservation District contributions will total \$120,000. A juniper removal project in the Apache Natural Resource Conservation District will improve the cover of perennial grasses and forbs provide increased soil protection and reduce sediment yield into streams. The Apache Natural Resource Conservation District was awarded two Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Water Quality Improvement Grants totaling \$391,512.69 to improve water quality on the Upper Little Colorado River. Private land owner and Conservation District contributions will total \$261,009.88.

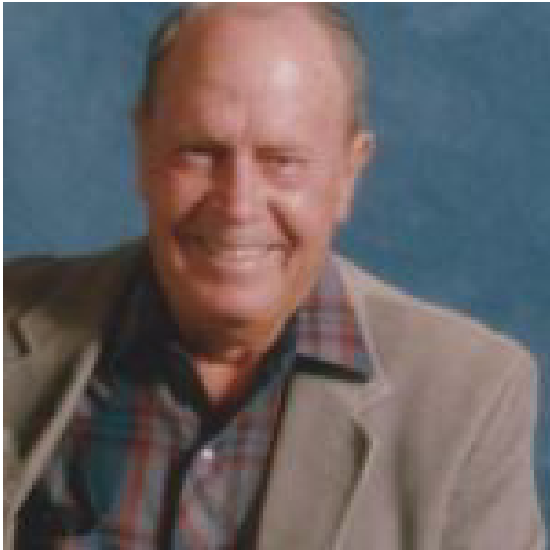
In the second year (2017), the partnership is focused on funding grassland restoration projects in southeastern Arizona. Over \$1 million in federal, state and private funding will be used for this purpose. More than 30 conservation project proposals have been submitted to the Arizona Conservation Partnership in the first two years.

To find out more about the Arizona Conservation Partnership, visit our web page at: <http://www.aacd1944.com/arizona-conservation-partnership/>

## Movin on Down the Trail



### Harry Thomas Hendrickson 1923 - 2017



Harry Thomas Hendrickson, 93, of Oracle, passed away on March 8, 2017 in Gilbert from complications of dementia. He was born in Bisbee on Sept. 19, 1923 to Harry and Anne Linnea (Egnell).

Harry was reared in Copper Creek, graduated from Tucson High School and attended the University of New Mexico. He was a WWII Navy veteran. He retired from Magma Copper Company in San Manuel and was a rancher. Harry met Edna Mae, the love of his life, at a dance at the Blue Front in Mammoth and married her on June 24, 1945 in Globe.

Harry's mother died when he was only 16 months old and his father passed away when he was only 14. Despite those hardships he grew to be a well respected, hard working, and very loved member of the community.

He had an excellent mind and wonderful mechanical ability. He designed efficient water improvements for his and his neighbor's ranches. One of his inventions was a float system to determine the water level in a tank that could be spotted from afar with a spotting scope. This system often saved many hard miles of driving and also prevented waste. Harry was an active long time member of the Winkelman NRCD, serving as secretary of the district for years. Harry's sweet personality and willing smile endeared him, not only to his family, but to everyone who knew him. There was an overflowing, standing-room-only crowd attending Harry's funeral which was held at the Oracle Community Church on March 17.

He is preceded in death by his parents, sister Maryanne Bateman, twin brother Arthur, brothers Robert and Peter, and son-in-law Darrel Shanan.

He is survived by Edna Mae, his wife of 71 years; children, Judy Shahan, Jeanne Hendrickson, Tom (Maria), Karl (Peggy), and Karen (Mike) Kleine; grandchildren, Michael Guest, Julie (Russ) Kimberlin, Jaclyn (Nick) Valdez, Leighton Hendrickson, Ashleigh Hendrickson, Jennifer (Joe) Carper, Jake (Quinn) Hendrickson, Zack Hendrickson, Kristen Hendrickson, Michael Kleine and Rachel Kleine; and, great-grandchildren: Maya Guest, Celeste Kimberlin, Clayton Kimberlin, Jonathon Kimberlin, Addison Kimberlin and Margot Carper.

Central Arizona College Agriculture Professor Karen Geldmacher requires her students to write papers on natural resource concepts including The Dust Bowl, wild land fires, & the historic open range cattle industry. Jeremy is a CAC Agriculture major and a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation agriculturist from Coolidge, Arizona. He will earn his Associate of Agriculture degree in May and plans to earn a BS in Agribusiness.

### **The Close of the Open Range Jeremy Simpson - Central Arizona College**

The open-range is rangeland where cattle run freely regardless of land ownership (Gray, Ratliff & Anaya, 2014). The culture of the Open Range was basically dictated by the unstructured Code of the Range, which neither drew boundaries nor created strict regulations and allowed for a common sharing of the American frontier. In the mid 1800s ranch hands or cowboys transported cattle across the country by hoof due to lack of more efficient alternatives. Herding cattle across the frontier brought about animal weight loss, trespassing claims and even the loss of life. It was time for a change in the way things were done in the cattle industry. Some factors that caused the open range to come to an end were overgrazing, the invention of barbed wire and the growing railroad.

The Open Range era brought about rangeland overgrazing resulting in soil erosion. There were only so many square miles of prairie to be grazed. In later drives, cattle began to lose weight as they travelled due to malnutrition. The passage of the Taylor Grazing Act in 1934 gave order and federal administrative authority to public grazing lands, preventing overgrazing and bringing stability to the livestock industry dependent upon the public range (Wimmer, 2015). Policies such as this one helped to control overgrazing but also limited the free range that cattle could graze. Policies controlling overgrazing weren't the only issue that cowboys came across. The invention of barbed wire sent the cowboy era into a tailspin.

Barbed wire was invented by J. F. Glidden in 1874. This invention meant that large areas could be fenced cheaply (American West, 2014). The open range was just that, open. Cowboys had the freedom to herd their cattle across the lands to the feedlots and shipping yards. Ranchers and homesteaders began to purchase barbed wire to fence off the property that was rightfully theirs. This became popular and many land owners joined the fencing wars of the late 1880's. With open range becoming non-existent in some spots cowboys were desperate to find another way to transport their cattle. This is where the railroad came in.

When the railroad came about people were able to transport goods from one place to another much more efficiently. Cattle were not excluded in this. In fact whole rail cars were constructed specifically to haul cattle. The rapid development of railroads in the United States was accomplished with the help of some of the largest government subsidies ever granted (Westward, 2017). When the railroad was run through Texas, ranchers and cowboys used it to transport cattle in a fraction of the time. Other benefits were obviously apparent, some being the fact that men no longer have to risk their lives or the lives and the health of their cattle on the trail.

Using the Open Range to drive cattle to market was an important part of this country's history. If these cowboys had not risked their lives to accomplish this task our agricultural community would not be where it is at today. The successful American ranching systems of the 21<sup>st</sup> century may have never replaced the open range without the invention of barbed wire or the railroad. The factors that ended the open range are important to our critical agricultural timeline and forever transformed the way we raise cattle today.

#### **References**

- American West. (2014). American West - The Cattle Industry. History on the Net.  
Gray, J., Ratcliff, D., Anaya, C.J. (2014). The End of the Open Range.  
N/A (2017). Westward Expansion 1865-1900. Quizlet.  
Wimmer, M., (2015). Ranching. Bureau of Land Management.



**What's all this talk about a Food Hub?** by Karalea Cox (SGCEDC)

The Copper Corridor Economic Development Coalition (CCEDC) and the Southern Gila County Economic Development Corporation (SGCEDC), along with Local First Arizona Foundation (LFAF), are conducting a Food Hub Study in the Copper Communities region. According to the USDA, a food hub is: "A business or organization that actively manages the aggregation, distribution, and marketing of source-identified food products primarily from local and regional producers to strengthen their ability to satisfy wholesale, retail, and institutional demand." The goal of the study is to determine if there is enough local production to meet local consumer demand. Consumer interest in fresh, locally produced fruit, vegetables, meat and value-added items like cheese, sausage and tortillas is on the rise. For the last 60 years or so, food production has focused on meeting the demands of the commodity market. This study is exploring the interest of producers in meeting local consumption and demand and includes leveraging smaller scale producers, even backyard gardeners and 4H or FFA producers.

What does this mean for NRCD Members?

A successful food hub is totally dependent on the aggregation of products from local producers. Local producers must have an interest in getting their products into the local economy, and working together to aggregate product for local demand. If that sounds like a lot of work, consider, that the role of a Food Hub is to provide producers with services such as collection, light processing, distribution, marketing, and selling of locally grown foods. An efficient food hub should allow producers to concentrate on producing and growing.

A Food Hub also provides producers with a "new" market and potentially better prices for your products. With reduced transportation costs, differentiated marketing and the elimination of a "middle man" most producers should see better profits. For a food hub to work well in a region this geographically large, producers concentrated in smaller geographic locations can organize themselves to work cooperatively with one another to meet demand within other areas of the region or focus on value-added and specialty products. A great example of this is the NRCD's proposed native plants nursery at the CAC Aravaipa campus. Edible native nursery plants would provide a unique and growing niche in the local and natural food market.

The Copper Communities Food Hub Study is also identifying the necessary infrastructure for a food hub to work. A food hub in this region would require reliable cold transportation, a light wash-pack station, slaughter and processing facilities (potentially mobile), or a commercial kitchen. Other infrastructure could be farmers markets and other retail outlets, purchase agreements with school districts, hospitals, restaurants, etc.

So, how do you become involved?

If you did not have the chance to fill out the online producers survey for the Copper Communities Food Hub Study, please contact Mila Besich-Lira with the CCEDC at [mila.lira19@gmail.com](mailto:mila.lira19@gmail.com) or Karalea Cox with the SGCEDC at [sgcedc@cableone.net](mailto:sgcedc@cableone.net). Or send us a message through Facebook at The Copper Communities Food Hub Study. You will also find information about local foods and where we are with the study. The study will be finished the end of August. During July and August, we will be back out in your communities sharing information from the study and what the next steps should be.



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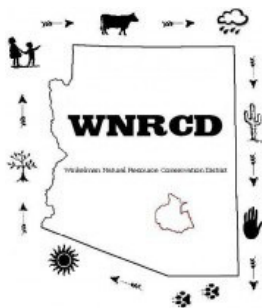
Ray Federal Credit Union is proud to serve the communities of the copper basin with a full range of financial services. We strive to provide courteous and professional service. **Dan Thurman** is the new manager of the credit union and welcomes your comments and suggestions.

### Mark Your Calendar

Rangeland Precipitation Monitoring Workshop on June 15 at 9:30 am, Miami, AZ

WNRCD Quarterly meeting on August 16 at 10 am, location to be determined.

AACD Summer Meeting, September 11-14, Tucson, AZ



PO Box 68  
Mammoth, AZ 85618

