

WINKELMAN NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Fall, 2020

PO Box 486, Kearny, AZ 85137 WNRCD.org

Questions email Clerk: clerk.wnrcd@gmail.com

From the Frog Pond by Bill Dunn

It's been awhile since your District sent out a newsletter and we've been busy, so here goes:

The District has a long history of working with and for local landowners to help them conserve the District's natural resources. The Bighorn Fire on Mt. Lemmon is the most recent example. The District put together affected landowners with agencies that have disaster funding to rebuild destroyed infrastructure. Some of those agencies are the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Pinal County Flood Control District, US Forest Service Burn Assessment Emergency Response team, and others. This builds on the District's work on the Mt Lemmon fire of seventeen years ago when we worked with some of the same agencies to put in conservation measures for Summerhaven.

Lately, we have been working on more local initiatives. Last year, the District got a \$50,000 Urban Ag Grant from the National Association of Conservation Districts to help get the Oracle Community Learning Garden (OCLG) up and running. OCLG is now growing plants for sale, vegetables, and showing residents water harvesting techniques.

We have secured a \$217,000 three-year grant from the Arizona Water Protection Fund to clear and replace invasive salt cedar in our river bottoms. Currently our Coordinator, Kyle Thompson, is working with the Fish and Wildlife Service on clearances so we can get work done starting this spring.

Our District Education Center will be receiving a gift of land at Dudleyville from The Nature Conservancy this summer. This will be a place where we can grow native plants for local propagation in a hoop house, conduct demonstrations, and have an office. We hope to involve the local schools and Central Arizona College along with the OCLG and others to teach conservation and modern agriculture practices. Anyone who has an interest in helping with this is encouraged to contact us.

We just received a \$44,500 Partnership Grant from Pinal County Supervisors to hire a person to teach natural resources to our local school kids and adults along with helping to manage our new properties and our other educational activities.

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Because of the gift and grant, we will soon be announcing for a position to manage the Ed Center. Our long time Ed Center Director, Hattie Hedrick will be leading this effort.

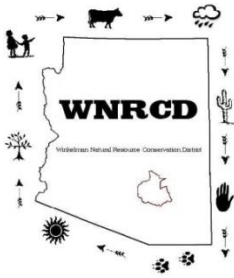
We are finishing up a three-year grant from the Arizona Game and Fish Department to clean and seal stock ponds in the District. This will help have a more dependable water supply for not only cattle, but also wildlife in the District.

We just received word that we will be part of a major statewide grant along with our Arizona Association of Conservation Districts, (AACD) to identify and develop solutions to major natural resource problems here. Don't know how much that will be for yet but it is a multi-year project.

Also, AACD has a place on its website that you can go to if you would like to contribute to *our* District. Going through them will allow the contribution to be counted as tax deductible. It's a great way to help the District and lower your taxes. Another thing in mentioning the State Association, if you do business through Amazon, you can now sign up with AmazonSmile; AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.05% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. By choosing AACD, the money from Amazon gets back to the Districts.

Your responses to the cooperator questionnaire will assist us in working with NRCS's Local Work Group initiative to identify and rank our natural resource issues. Could you please mail your cooperator questionnaire to: our address above or email to our clerk: clerk.wnrcd@gmail.com.

Well, you-re caught up till next time,
Bill



Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District Cooperator Questionnaire

Information about which of the following items would help you as a District Cooperator? Rank your top 5 choices with 1 being most important. Final rankings will help determine funding availability for future conservation projects.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| ___ Low stress livestock handling | ___ Livestock reproduction |
| ___ Livestock nutrition | ___ Plant identification |
| ___ Grazing management planning | ___ Rangeland monitoring |
| ___ Noxious plant and pest control | ___ Soil erosion control |
| ___ Livestock water developments | ___ Irrigation system, design & install
___ Flood ___ Sprinkler ___ Drip |
| ___ Prescribed burning | ___ Grant writing & funding sources |
| ___ Relationships with agencies | ___ Protection of archaeological sites |
| ___ Protection of historic sites | ___ Creation of wildlife habitat |
| ___ Creation of fish habitat | ___ Zoning, land use plans, ordinances |
| ___ Managing small acreage properties | ___ Small acreage conservation help |
| ___ Equipment rental needs _____ | |
| ___ Other (describe) _____ | |

When completed, please mail to the address below or email to clerk.wnrcd@gmail.com.

Winkelman NRCD
PO Box 486
Kearny, AZ 85137

Cooperator: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____
Email: _____

Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District:
Preserving the Copper Corridor's Agricultural Heritage
By **Staff** | **Posted** September 11th, 2020, Copper Basin News

Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District (WNRCD) has helped maintain agriculture as an economic powerhouse in our region for nearly 70 years. While not every agricultural operation can be seen from our picturesque highways, there lies along our dirt roads and near our rivers and creeks a beating heart from which flows sustenance and the financial support for ranching families in the region.

Economic Impacts

According to Tim Kanavel, Pinal County's Economic Development Director, the aggregate agriculture economic impact amount in Pinal County is \$2.6 billion annually. Attempts to ascertain an economic figure for the just WNRCD were strangely difficult to locate. With some educated guesses and looking at the WNRCD's footprint in Pinal County (see map), perhaps half of the \$2.6 billion of economic impact can be attributed to the WNRCD. That is \$1.3 billion of economic impact. Please note, unless better figures can be found, it is only a guess. Let put this into some context, mining represents \$1.3 billion of economic impact to Pinal County according to the Arizona Mining Association. It seems clear that outside of Florence Copper near Florence, most of Pinal County's active mining would be within the WNRCD footprint. The WNRCD's annual public funding includes:

- \$13,000 from the Arizona Legislature
- \$5,000 annually for the Education Center, sponsored by the WNRCD

All other income is from the grants, contracts, gifts which include monies from cooperators. Article continued: <https://www.copperarea.com/pages/winkelman-natural-resource-conservation-district-preserving->

AACD Update by Cindy Coping, Pima NRCD Supervisor

The [Arizona Association of Conservation Districts](#) (AACD) is a nonprofit organization that unifies and supports Arizona's 32 Natural Resource Conservation Districts (NRCDs) and 10 Tribal Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs). All 42 Districts are members with representation on the Board of Directors. The AACD provides expertise that a typical NRCD with \$13,245 of annual State funding and an all-volunteer Board of Supervisors would find challenging to muster. Beginning in 2018, the [AACD developed a 5-Priority Strategy](#), (see <https://bit.ly/344xGUd>) briefly summarized as follows:

1. Provide assistance to assess resource conservation needs, District-wide, for each District. Map and incorporate the comprehensive assessments into a statewide GIS portal for conservation planning.
2. Support the Education Centers with K-12 programs and adult workshops, e.g, Beginning Farmer and Rancher Workshops, Drought Planning, etc. Support research, e.g., quantifying the benefits of brush management on rangelands. AACD also has developed comprehensive District Supervisor and Clerk training programs, which are accessible through the AACD website.
3. Support District outreach and recruitment of new cooperators. This is achieved through educational workshops along with the recently upgraded [AACD website](#), (<https://www.aacd1944.com/>) social media (Facebook, Instagram) and a new magazine, *ConserveAZ*.
4. Provide technical and financial support to the Districts. The AACD seeks out major funding opportunities and works with partners including the National Association of Conservation Districts, BLM, NRCS and others to achieve landscape-scale results. AACD provides professional assistance with archaeological clearances, grant writing, planning, and contract management.
5. Provide direct District support. Between January and September of 2020, AACD helped various Districts write 13 grant proposals, 7 of which were funded, 3 were rejected, and 3 more awaiting a decision. That is a far better rate of success than is typically seen by grant writers.



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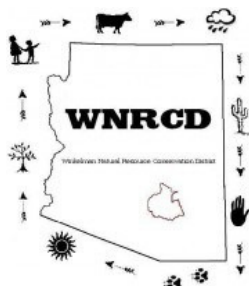
Ray Federal Credit Union is proud to serve the communities of the copper basin with a full range of financial services. We strive to provide courteous and professional service. **Dan Thurman** is the manager of the credit union and welcomes your comments and suggestions.

Mark Your Calendar

Winkelman Resource Management Center Planning Meeting, October 9, 1:15 pm, GKI

WNRCD Quarterly meeting on November 18 at 1:15 pm, Teleconference

AACD Winter Meeting (Teleconference to be Determined)



PO Box 486
Kearny, AZ 85137

