

WINKELMAN NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Spring, 2023

PO Box 486, Kearny, AZ 85137 WNRCD.org

From the Frog Pond by Bill Dunn

It's been awhile since we've put out a newsletter and an even longer time since I've crawled out of the Frog Pond. Here goes.

Last year's fires in the District raised havoc with a bunch of our district cooperators in the Dripping Springs area. We jumped into action quickly by hiring District cooperator Amber Barton to start coordinating with the affected producers and setting up agency public meetings, putting together maps, etc. We worked closely with the Tonto NRCD which had more fire damage than our district did and Gila County which was overwhelmed by the fire and subsequent flooding. We then met with State Forestry and Fire (DFFM) folks to help them direct some of the 10 million dollars of newly appropriated funding to address the fire damage and mitigate the infrastructure losses that our cooperators and other landowners suffered. Amber did the ground work and put our landowners at the head of the line for this funding. On Page 6, there are pictures of fencing materials that were helicoptered in and a section of the repaired fence. Thank you Amber!

Pretty soon we realized that this would be more than what resources our districts could provide and asked the state association (AACD) to help out. With their resources, contractors and experience they quickly started putting funding requests together. It took a while to get going since DFFM didn't have much experience in administering these kinds of requests but as of the end of this year they have contracts with 17 applicants for \$6,123,690. Most of the fire was on the Tonto Forest and they said they would take care of all the external ranch fencing. They said they requested \$5 million for this. Last I heard, they received about \$2

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million. Hopefully, there will be some money left from the DFFM funding that can be put to that

We have also been working this year with the AACD and our Coordinator, Kyle Thompson on what is called a Needs Assessment. Kyle has been meeting for over a year with cooperators to identify the most pressing natural resource needs they have and put this information together for the whole district. Hopefully this will be finished shortly and once identified, we can more effectively go after funding to address these needs. Many of you participated in this information gathering. Thank you. Our District is so large and diverse, that there are many needs. Without this information, we don't know where to prioritize our efforts.

We have finished clearing the tamarisk around Kearny. They now have a defensible space to defend against fires along the river. We planted about 600 willows along the river last spring that were started for us by the Oracle Learning Garden and spread several thousand dollars worth of native seed there to help keep the tamarisk from coming back. The willow project was a disaster. The few that survived till spring succumbed to a late freeze along the river. We're going to try some pole plantings this winter to see if that will have better results. This is all being done with a grant from the state Water Protection Fund.

Also this past year, our Resource Management Center (WRMC), which is our education center, has helped the Town of Kearny establish a Community Garden. The first year's production is in the bag and this coming year hopefully they won't need our help. We would like to do the same thing with other communities and schools in the district. The Ray School Garden we helped put in is really going strong and is teaching young folks about horticulture, physical work and the satisfaction of watching something they did provide real food. You can see posts of them on our Winkelman NRCD facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/wnrzd/>

We recently hired Liz Tuck as our interim WRMC Manager. Liz is from Oracle and is doing a great job. If you have any ideas for projects you would like to see the WRMC do, contact her at liztuck8@gmail.com. We are planning on having another Summer Camp this year. Megan Vinson will be heading that up.

About 6 out of our 10 acre Dudleyville-Mesquite Rd. property has finally been cleared of all the burned mesquites, tamarisk and cottonwoods from the previous year's fire and we are ready to put in some irrigation. We plan to use the property as a demonstration for efficient irrigation and pasture grazing systems and to grow seeds and plants for reclamation projects in our hoop house (Picture on Page 4). We hope our school districts will use it for field trips and summer camps. There seems to be a great need for extra teaching resources, especially in the area of natural resources, in our district. The state association was the lead partner in a new \$4.9 million grant to discover and prove out new sustainable (whatever that means) and/or water efficient agriculture methods. There's a deal in there for small farms, which we hope to get that property involved in.

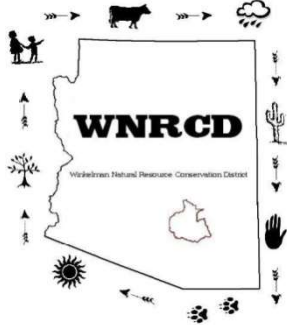
The District hasn't directly asked for donations in a while. Please fill out the enclosed Cooperator Agreement if your information has changed or you wish to be a new Cooperator, include a suggested \$50 donation. All of the funds go to working on natural resource projects in the District. For more information, including announcements of meetings, projects, etc. go to www.wnrzd.org.

On a sad note, Georgianna (Georgie) Wood, long time cooperator and mother and grandmother of Francie Meyer and her daughters passed away last month. Through Georgie and her kids, she left a legacy of service to our district.

Keep the rain coming,
Bill

Mark Your Calendar

- WNRCD Quarterly Meeting, May 17 at 10 am, Dudleyville MultiGenerational Complex,
- WRMCD Summer Camp, June 5-7 (1st Session) & June 12-14 (2nd Session).
- July 13-14 AZFB Summer Leadership Conference (Star Pass Resort, Tucson)
- July 19-22, ACGA Summer Convention (Loews Ventana Canyon Resort, Tucson)
- Summer 2023, NRCWAY Camp for students grades 8-12 (Mingus Mtn 4H Camp, Prescott)
- August 9-11, AZ Society for Range Management Summer Meeting
<https://azrangelands.org/> Ten-X Campground, Tusayan (Grand Canyon)
- AACD & NRCS Summer Meeting, July 30-31
- AACD Summer Meeting August 1-2 (El Conquistador, Tucson)



**Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation
District
State of Arizona
COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT
ARIZONA NATURAL RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

To Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District:

I, the undersigned, have natural resources under my control in regard to which I agree to protect, conserve, and practice wise use.

Cooperator: _____ Mailing Address: _____

Email Address/Telephone: _____

Location and description of natural resources: _____

Acres, if any: _____ Present Land Use: _____

Intended Land Use (If to be changed) _____

Description of Problem or Type of Natural Resource Conservation Assistance Needed, if any:

Signature: _____ (Cooperator) _____ (Date)

The District agrees to assist the above-named cooperator and cooperate with said cooperator in every lawful way for the protection, conservation, and wise use of the natural resources described above.

By: _____ (Signature of Authorized Board Member) _____ (Title) _____ (Date)

Definition: "District Cooperator" means any person who has entered into a cooperative agreement with a Natural Resource District for the purpose of protecting, conserving, and practicing wise use of the natural resources under his control. (Section 37-1002, Arizona Revised Statutes)

Updated: April 15, 2016

Please email to: clerk.wnrkd@gmail.com or mail to: WNRCD, PO Box 476, Kearny, AZ 85127

Meet Our New Interim Education Center Director

Liz Tuck is currently directing the Winkleman Resource Management Center (WRMC), also known as the Education Center. She grew up in a rural area outside Cleveland, Ohio. Her family had a large garden and Liz helped with the garden from the age of seven.

Liz earned a B.A. in Psychology from Ohio State and a master's degree in Adult Education from NAU. She spent most of her career designing and delivering training for employees. She developed courses specific to an organization's operations so that employees could master the skills needed to excel in their work. In 2000, she found her way to Oracle when asked to help train miners to operate the newly installed conveyor belt that brought ore to the surface.

Liz is the co-founder of the Oracle Community Learning Garden, celebrating its fifth year since planting their first seeds. The garden's biggest fund raisers are the two annual plant sales. The plants are grown in the hoop houses that the WNRCD donated. The fall sale will be in October. Kearny gardeners are welcome to buy organic vegetable starts and flowers. The Garden's address is 1034 E Mt Lemmon Hwy, Oracle.

As the Director of the Ed Center, Liz has contacted the Pinal County Extension program. Anne Lesenne (a Master Gardener) has facilitated two Kearny workshops for community gardeners. One was "Soil 101", all about enriching soil using organic methods. During the second workshop, gardeners learned about irrigation options and watering techniques. The group visited the Kearny garden to see how to test moisture levels. Workshops will be offered 3-4 times per year. Anyone is invited to come to these free workshops.

The *Ag – Ranching Summer Camp* will happen soon. This year the camp will be held twice. The first session will be June 5-7. The second session will be June 12-14. The free camps are open to 5th and 6th graders. One day will be spent at Steve Turcotte's ranch in Aravaipa. Arizona Game and Fish will lead activities related to wildlife. Lots of interesting, fun activities are planned so that students learn about our environment, natural resources and careers related to the outdoors. 25 students can be accommodated in each session. Last year, the camp filled up fast, so look for information about registration in coming weeks. As Bill mentioned, Liz can be reached at liztuck8@gmail.com. She would love to hear suggestions for the Education Center.

From Page 2, Hoop House on Dudleyville Property Education Center



JUNK SCIENCE by Stephen Williams, SCNRCD Chairman

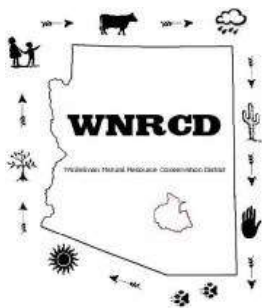
I read two lengthy documents recently that each cited numerous articles published in scientific journals and government reports. One was “Livestock Use On Public Lands in the Western USA Exacerbates Climate Change: Implications, for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation” by Kaufman, Beschta, Lacy and Liverman published in Environmental Management (2022). It contained 97 citations. The other was the Center for Biological Diversity’s Notice of Intent To Sue the Coronado National Forest for alleged violations of the Endangered Species and the Administrative Procedures Acts. It was over 200 pages in length. I did not count the citations but each page contained citations.

After reading these two documents I thought about an article Dr. Lamar Smith wrote during his term as President for the Society for Range Management. It was entitled “Junk Science” and was published in the September, 1998 issue of the SRM’s The Trailboss News. You may remember Lamar as a Professor of Range Management at the University of Arizona, a rancher in the Redington NRCD, and now as a consultant to the Arizona Association of Conservation Districts. The characteristics of Junk Science that Lamar identified are as follows:

- Improper interpretation of data. For example, effects of vegetation conversion on runoff may be extrapolated to climate or soils conditions different from the ones where the study was done.
- Cause and effect may be inferred without adequate consideration of alternative explanations.
- Many reports and “scientific” articles incorporate the values of the writer or agency. One way to do this is to ignore all the data which does not support the desired conclusion. It is often very difficult for reviewers to detect this type of fraud because they never see the data that was ignored in the analysis.
- Cite numerous “published” or “peer reviewed” articles from “scientific literature” which supposedly support the conclusion being drawn. The writer is trusting that the reader will not actually read the articles cited to see if they do support the same conclusions. The articles may cite an improper interpretation of their results, or on a speculative statement identified as speculation in the original article but quoted as fact by the writer.
- Many of the “publications” cited are only reports or articles not subject to any review or quality control.

Lamar quoted a fellow SRM member to sum up the situation this way: You often see 100 literature citations backing up a particular conclusion, but upon investigation, find that one author stated an opinion and the other 99 cited him!” I only hope the Coronado national Forest and the U.S. Department of Justice do an exhaustive literature review of the citations used by the Center if it does bring a lawsuit. I feel that many of its citations qualify as Junk Science as described above.

From Page 1, Fencing Materials & Replaced Fencing from Telegraph Fire



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