

LONG RANGE PROGRAM
FOR
RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
OF THE
WINKELMAN NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
STATE OF ARIZONA
1990 AMENDMENT

PREPARED BY THE
DISTRICT'S BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AND ASSOCIATES

FORWARD

We believe in the concepts of the organization of Conservation Districts, Self Government, Conservation and Development.

We believe the restoration, protection, and promotion of our soil, water, forage, wildlife and other resources on a multiple use basis is of interest and benefit to all...not only the farmer and rancher.

We believe that in order to facilitate a sound land and water use program, that it is desirable that all landowners, operators, state and federal land administration and service agencies, interested community and civic organizations, and private citizens develop together a coordinated and cooperative District-wide program.

Our objective is to provide leadership and to promote the development of the renewable natural resources through a coordinated conservation and development program resulting in the use of each acre in the District in accordance with its highest and best use.

To attain our objectives, we plan to act as a coordinating agency for projects affecting the common good; to assist landowners and operators in planning and applying soil and water conservation and related practices on the land; to make the most efficient use of water; to inform the general public of the District activities, accomplishments, and aims; to assist schools, churches, civic and community organizations in promotion and teaching of conservation; and to activate youth programs in the community.

Further, to keep informed and inform others on existing and needed legislation affecting water and other natural resources; to conduct regular and special meetings; to keep minutes and records~~ords~~ of all business and prepare annual reports; to provide for financing of District activities; to maintain contact with and have representation in other civic organizations; to use our influence to get county, state and federal agencies to correlate their plans for the watersheds, wildlife, recreation, and rural area development projects in our community; and to plan for and promote the best use and orderly development of watersheds and all land and related resources.

We shall seek the aid and advice of representatives of all county, state and federal agencies interested in conservation of natural resources. We will cooperate and advise particularly close with our partners in conservation, the Arizona Association of Conservation Districts, the State Division of Soil Conservation, Agriculture Stabilization and

Conservation Committee of Pinal and Gila Counties, Flood Control Organization, Agricultural Extension Service, Soil Conservation Service, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Local Urban Community Leadership and other agencies, groups, or individuals. We shall, however, reserve the right to evaluate all facts and to make our own decisions regarding program activities and plans.

The objectives as herein contained shall serve as a basis for the development of current annual plans of operations.

DISTRICT OBJECTIVES

1. The District board will, with the assistance of all cooperating agencies, conduct an education and information program designed to inform land owners and operators; as well as the general public; of the needs and program for resource conservation and development of the resources in the District. Methods and objectives for accomplishing this objective will be included in the District's annual plan of work as it is developed each year.
2. The District Board will encourage each applicant for assistance, both agricultural and non-agricultural land and resource users, to develop a complete plan of resource conservation and development with technical assistance available to the District through the cooperating local, state, and federal agencies. This plan shall be developed only after the resource inventory has been made and conservation treatment and needs have been determined.
3. Our major interest in planning and application of conservation programs shall be to meet the resource conservation and development needs on land within the District boundaries. We do not intend to limit our objectives to programs on agricultural lands. We are ready, willing, and able to participate in any and all new or expanding programs available through any local, state, and federal agencies that will assist in achieving total resource conservation and development in the District.

DISTRICT RESOURCES AND LAND USE

The Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District is located in the Eastern part of Pinal County; the Southern tip of Gila County; a small area in the Southwest corner of Graham County; and a small area in Northeast Pima County.

The District was organized and became functional under provisions of the Soil Conservation District Law, State of Arizona, in October, 1948. The Certificate of Organization was issued by the State Attorney General on October 4, 1948. The original program and work plan for the District was approved by the District Board of Supervisors on November 16, 1948. The District included 6,200 acres owned by 48 individuals. D.O. Shartzler was the first Chairman of the Winkelman Soil Conservation District. M.S. Wilkins was the first Secretary. Paul F. Adams was the other elected board member. On October 16, 1948 the District entered into a Memorandum of understanding with the USDA Soil Conservation Service. Hugh H. Bennett was the Chief of the Soil Conservation Service.

The Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District now includes 1,566,966 acres. Approximately 4,920 acres is currently in irrigated cropland. The remaining 1,562,046 acres is rangeland.

Land ownership is a combination of private, state, and federal lands. The US Forest Service National Forest Lands include portions of the Tonto National Forest, Globe District; and Coronado National Forest, Safford District and Catalina District. USDI Bureau of Land Management Lands include portions of the Safford District, Gila Resource Area; and the Phoenix District, Phoenix Resource Area. USDA Soil Conservation Service Technical Assistance is provided by the Tucson Field Office. State Trust Lands are administered by the Arizona State Land Department, Lower Gila Resource Area, and Upper Gila Resource Area.

Land uses other than agricultural include mining, recreation, urban areas. Mining activities include two major copper mining operations, at least two gypsum mines, and sand and gravel operations. Recreation involves hunting, fishing, hiking, off-highway vehicle use, camping, and sightseeing. Residential areas include Oracle, San Manuel, Mammoth, Dudleyville, Winkelman, Ray, Kearny, and Kelvin. The mining industry provides most of the income and economy

of the District. Areas of interest include the Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness area, and Oracle State Park.

Agricultural land use in the district includes approximately 15 farms and 71 ranches. Grass roots appraisals of the resource conservation needs were done in 1948, when the District was organized. Updated inventories were done in 1954, 1962 and the most detailed inventory was done in 1980. Each of the inventories identified the conservation treatments needed to protect soil, water, plant, and animal resources in the District.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT NEEDS

Conservation practices typically identified for irrigated cropland include Irrigation Water Management, Irrigation Land Leveling, Irrigation Ditch Lining, Irrigation Wells, Irrigation Pipeline, Conservation Cropping Systems, Minimum Tillage, Crop Residue Use, and other soil and crop management practices. New information about the kind and amounts of fertilizers and pesticides to use to help insure safe and dependable surface and groundwater supplies will be included in future planning activities.

Conservation Practices typically identified as needed on rangeland include Planned Grazing Systems, Proper Grazing Use, Deferred Grazing, Livestock Pipeline, Troughs and Tanks, Ponds, Wells, Fencing, Prescribed Burning and Brush Control and Range Seeding.

The Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District has requested that work begin on a Soil Survey for the area. The District is located in Soil Survey Area 661; Soil Survey of Eastern Pinal and Southern Gila Counties. Field work on this soil survey is being planned by the USDA Soil Conservation Service for a 1991 or 1992 start. A soil survey of the cropland along the San Pedro River was completed in 1988 to help in making Highly Erodible Lands and Wetlands determinations for compliance with the 1985 Farm Bill.

A grass roots inventory will be done to determine the kind and amount of Conservation Planning and Application that is needed in the Winkelman NRCD.

DISTRICT BOARD FUNCTIONS

1. Regular meetings of the District Board will be held each quarter in January, April, July, and October. Special meetings will be called as determined by the Chairman.
2. Funds needed to finance District operations will be obtained through contributions. All district funds will be handled by the Board Treasurer - appointed by the Board.

3. The Secretary of the Board will keep records and make reports as required or requested by cooperating agencies and organizations. The Supervisors, with the assistance of cooperating agencies, will prepare an annual report of the District's operations. This report will be on a fiscal year basis - from July 1st to June 30th each year.

4. The District owns some equipment that can be used by cooperators of the District. This includes some equipment for use in conducting Prescribed Burns on rangeland.

5. District Board elections and terms of office will be conducted as directed by the State Laws or Statutes administered by the State Natural Resource Commissioner.

OPERATION POLICY AND PROCEDURES

1. Applications for assistance from land owners or operators may be accepted and approved by any duly elected or appointed member of the Board. Cooperative agreements with land owners or operators may be cancelled by a majority vote of Board members present at a regular or special meeting or by notification in writing from the cooperator.

2. The District Board will take the initiative to coordinate planning and application assistance from owners or users of lands that involves federal and private ownership. The Board will encourage all District cooperators to use the technical assistance available through the Board in developing basic conservation plans on all lands in their operating units.

3. Requests for assistance from other than users of agricultural lands will be accepted and considered by the Board at regular or special meetings.

4. An annual plan of work will be developed each year, on a fiscal year basis, from this coordinated program. This annual plan will set forth the high priority jobs and plan for their accomplishment.

5. Cooperative working agreements will be executed with any other local, state, and federal agencies that can be induced to cooperate and assist the District in carrying out its programs.

6. The work plan may be revised or amended at any regular meeting provided that all members of the Board have been advised at least one week in advance of the date of the meeting, and that such changes are approved by a majority of the entire Board.

7. All programs and services of Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District are available on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

STATEMENT OF AMENDMENT

The Winkelman and Eloy NRCDs petitioned the State Natural Resource Conservation Commissioner on September 13, 1989, requesting that a transfer of territory be made between the two districts.

On October 23, 1989, the Commissioner approved the realignment and 737,546 acres in the Eloy NRCD were transferred to the Winkelman NRCD.

The total area included in the Winkelman NRCD is now 1,556,966 acres.

The Long Range Program adopted by this District on August 3, 1967 has been amended by a resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District to include the 737,546 acres added to the district and to update some of the other changes that have occurred in the District. A grass roots survey will be done during the coming year to determine the kinds and amounts of conservation planning and application work needed within the District in order to develop a new Long Range Program for the District.

This amended Long Range Program was approved and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District on October 17, 1990

Virgil E. Mercer
Virgil Mercer, Chairman

Walt Meyer
Walt Meyer, Vice Chairman

Harry Hendrickson
Harry Hendrickson, Member

Catherine Miller
Catherine Miller, Member

Inez Black
Inez Black, Secretary

APPENDIX

The headquarters and address of the Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District will be the home address of the current District Board Chairman. The present Chairman is Virgil E. Mercer, P.O. Box 158 Mammoth, Arizona 85618