

LONG RANGE PLAN

For

Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District

Updated January 16, 2002

GOAL:

To support and encourage the proper and wise sustained use and management of our basic renewable and non-renewable natural resources utilizing sound science and valid on-ground experience.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Embrace the multiple use philosophy of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.
2. Continue utilization of Coordinated Resource Planning.
3. Actively promote soil, natural resource management utilizing sound conservation practices.
4. Promote, develop, and maintain resource conservation education projects.
5. Address socio-economic and rural and urban development issues.
6. Foster the appreciation of cultural, wildlife and riparian resources.
7. Actively participate in reclamation of disturbed and despoiled resources.
8. Support, develop, and initiate applicable scientific research projects.
9. Protect the tax base and individual property rights.

OBJECTIVE 1:

Embrace the Multiple Use philosophy of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

- Work with other conservation Districts, agencies, other groups and interested individuals to develop a Long Range Plan for the management of the San Pedro and Gila River Watershed.

PLANNED PROJECTS

- Work with the Air National Guard and other military branches on activities affecting the natural resources of the District.
- Work with State and Federal agencies to improve regulation for the resale of native seed and other vegetation products. Encourage State and Federal agencies to better define standards for expected natural resource conditions.
- Work to improve laws on live plant removal and wood harvesting.
- Be involved in the planning and development of recreational areas within the District.

OBJECTIVE 2:

Continue utilization of Coordinated Resource Planning.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Work with State and Federal Agencies to encourage them to use the same management unit boundaries.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

- Attend annual Coordinated Planning Meetings.
- Participate fully in the development of Conservation Plans developed for District Cooperators.
- Coordinate with other Conservation Districts, agencies, and other interested public in developing a Long Range Plan for the management of the San Pedro Watershed.
- Work to involve Az. Game and Fish Dept. more fully in Coordinated Planning activities within the District.
- Determine the planning status of all ranches within the District.
- Develop Conservation Plans on all range land within the District.
- Develop Conservation Plans on all farm land within the District.
- Keep Informed and educated land users about water rights issues and regulations.
- Be involved in resource management conflict resolution
- Support inter District Projects
- Utilize the expertise of all agencies in educational activities.
- Keep informed and educated, land users about Best Management Practices to improve water quality
- Hold joint meetings with producer organizations to share information and concerns.
- Work to reorganize District boundaries to consolidate similar land uses and resource problems.
- Work with the NRCS Soil Survey to complete the District.

PLANNED PROJECTS

- Work to maintain local land use planning.
- Coordinate Conservation Plans for watershed areas within the District.
- Work with State Agencies to control off road vehicle use.

OBJECTIVE 3:

Actively promote natural resource management utilizing sound conservation practices.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

- Encourage Range Seeding Trials within the District.
- Provide technical assistance to users working on projects involving wetlands.
- Promote control of noxious weeds on farmland and rangeland.
- Promote Proper Grazing Use and Planned Grazing Systems on rangelands within the District.
- Promote prescribed burning to improve rangelands within the District.
- Require that monitoring be done to determine whether Conservation Plans on rangelands are meeting stated goals and objective.
- Encourage practices that reduce water erosion and wind erosion.
- Encourage practices that protect stream banks and maintain existing channels in the San Pedro River, Gila River, Aravaipa Creek and Dripping Springs Valley.
- Promote the improvement of irrigation distribution systems, irrigation efficiencies, and irrigation water management on farmlands within the District.
- Promote practices which improve vegetative cover on District water sheds.
- Keep land users informed about Food Security Act requirements.
- Provide weather monitoring and fire control equipment for use by Cooperators conducting prescribed burns.
- Encourage Practices that conform to long term water management goals.
- Keep informed and educate land users within the District about the requirements of Active Management Areas

PLANNED PROJECTS

- Develop a District Seed Production Program.
- Request continuing updates on water quality along the San Pedro River, Gila River and Aravaipa Creek.
- Work to improve laws on live plant removal and wood harvesting
- Be involved in the planning and development of recreational areas within the District.

OBJECTIVE 4:

Promote, develop, and maintain resource conservation education projects

COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Develop Prescribed Burning Booklet to assist ranchers planning prescribed burns.
- Develop Ranching Booklet to support grade school education projects
- Plant Bulletins

ON-GOING PROJECTS

- Support the development of Inter-agency technical bulletins.
- Publish a quarterly newsletter to keep Cooperators and other informed of District activities.
- Provide workshops for District Cooperators.
- Provide natural resource workshops for grade school students at schools in the District
- Provide support to the Natural Resource Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth.
- Support 4-H Activities within the District.
- Produce and acquire programs which provide education about resource management, and make them available to schools in the District
- Invite knowledgeable speakers to the District.
- Encourage the District to attend workshops and seminars to improve their knowledge of resource management and to develop better leadership skills.
- Encourage schools in the District to hold resource education fairs and career days.
- Promote and encourage training sessions for agency personnel.
- Encourage National leaders to come tour the District and learn more about resource management efforts and concerns.
- Provide recognition for outstanding and innovative conservation programs or service within the District
- Hold workshops with environmental organizations to improve communication and understanding.
- Encourage Universities to utilize us for field training.
- Maintain a District Supervisor handbook.

PLANNED PROJECTS

- Develop a public information program
- Educate the public about the benefits and detrimental affects of conservation programs and practices.
- Work to develop resource education programs with schools in the District.
- Develop workshops and tours for the general public.
- Develop a plant identification key for educational uses.
- Develop a High School natural resource education program.

OBJECTIVE 5:

Address socio-economic and rural and urban development issues.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

- Develop a program to document vandalism in the District.
- Work to reduce liability for recreational use on District lands.
- Assist State and County agencies with planning, development, and maintenance of utility corridors within the District.
- Promote the sharing of materials and equipment to achieve resource management goals.
- Inform District livestock operators about potential livestock health problems.
- Work to resolve liability issues for rancher conducted prescribed burning.

PLANNED PROJECTS

- Request continual updates of air and water quality conditions within the District.
- Address the impacts of wetland conversions and mitigation projects within the District.
- Promote the development of a Sanitary District for Dudleyville.
- Assist Mammoth with Critical Area Treatments along the San Pedro River to reduce stream bank erosion and promote stream bank rebuilding.

OBJECTIVE 6:

Foster the appreciation of cultural, wildlife and riparian resources.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

- Work to reduce robbing and destruction Archeological Sites within the District.
- Develop an archeological site inventory for the District.
- Work with *The Nature Conservancy*, *Desert Archeology* and other organizations to complete these projects.

PLANNED PROJECTS

- Develop a wildlife inventory and monitoring program for the San Pedro Riparian Area.
- Request information about native fish populations and monitoring activities within the District.
- Educate Cooperators on the values and concerns for wetlands.
- Promote coordination of activities within hunt unit boundaries within the District.

OBJECTIVE 7:

Actively participate in reclamation of disturbed and despoiled resource areas.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

- Work with right of way companies to revegetate right of ways.
- Provide technical assistance to mining companies for reclamation of mine tailings.
- Trails
- OHV

PLANNED PROJECTS

- Work to reduce wildcat dumping in the District thru education and monitoring.
- Develop guidelines to help land owners in the District dispose of hazardous wastes properly.
- Assist land owners with reclamation of drill sites and production facilities.
- Insure proper sealing of drill sites to prevent ground water contamination.

OBJECTIVE 8:

Support, develop, and initiate applicable scientific research projects.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

- Conduct remote sensing studies on rangeland within the District.
- Conduct a fecal study for determining diets of livestock and selected wildlife species.
- Request a soil survey be conducted for lands in the District.
- Develop current and historical livestock numbers as information for the District.
- Evaluate results of seeding trials within the District.
- Develop a riparian vegetation monitoring program within the District.
- Improve range site interpretation.
- Support the continuation of desert tortoise studies in the District.
- Determine the extent of clear water erosion in the District.
- Promote ground water recharge projects within the District.
- Provide District nursery plots for the evaluation of plant materials within the District.
- Encourage land users in the District to participate in the District Field Planting Program.
- Investigate the potential for the use of herbicides and other methods to control noxious weeds within the District.
- Conduct long term vegetative production studies within the District.
- Maintain information about ranches and range improvements within the District.
- Determine status of ground water level monitoring within the District.

PLANNED PROJECTS

- Determine status of in-stream flow monitoring within the District.
- Update the Winkelman NRCDF Field Report.
- Maintain information about endangered species population monitoring within the District.
- Maintain information about air quality monitoring within the District.
- Improve soil erosion data within the District.
- Maintain stream turbidity information for surface waters the District.
- Evaluate the potential effects of base level changes downstream on the District watershed.

OBJECTIVE 9:

Protect the tax base and individual property rights.

