

ANNUAL REPORT 2010-2011

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Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District
State of Arizona
P.O. Box 68
Mammoth, AZ
85618

The past fiscal year was one high activity for the Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District. The Board consisted of Bill Dunn, Chairman, Beverly Miller and Gary Vinson. Peter Else was appointed to fill the vacant two year position and Miriam Reed was appointed to fill Mickey Clark's term.

Administration

There were four regular District meetings. They were well attended by 30-35 Cooperators, visitors and agency personnel. At each meeting there was a good exchange of information. The newsletters continued and four were published. The Board made several decisions to save money and increase revenue. The year ended with Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District in a sound financial position to handle the projects thru the strong financial support of its cooperators.

The district has continued to have a part time clerk and uses a transcription service for many meetings.

Partners

The NRCS has no WHIP projects this year, 1 active Conservation Stewardship contract, 9 active EQIP and completed 3 EQIP this past year in the District.

The NRCS continues to support the District with technical and mapping data for the various projects such as Coordination.

In reaction to our coordination with USFWS on the Sonoran Desert Tortoise, we are working with the NRCS State Biologist via a Programmatic Agreement about the 4 D Rule of the Endangered Species act.

Several Cooperators attended the Arizona Natural Resources Conservation District Association meeting in Flagstaff. They also attended several committee meetings. The Agricultural Conservation Incentives Program was administered thru the State Association. Two Winkelman District Cooperators received a grant to convert to solar power for some of their operations.

Several Board members and cooperators are attending various meetings involving the Pinal County Comprehensive Plan. The Open Space and Recreation sub committees are of particular interest to the District. We have tried to make the other districts aware of the significance this process is to them.

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Policy Issues

The District is in coordination with two federal agencies, USFWS and the BLM. There have been three meetings with the USFWS relating to the listing of the Sonoran Desert Tortoise. The second issue that we have been coordinating on is the Sunzia Transmission Powerline. The BLM out of New Mexico is the lead agency on this project. There has been one meeting with them. There has been hours of research and review of the literature by the Sub Committee in preparation for these meetings. The district is focusing on finishing the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, up dating the Field Report and creating a long range plan and an economic report.. We are still partnering with the Reddington NRCD, Cascabel Working Group and the AzNRCD on the SunZia Transmission line project.

The final issue that has been on the agenda at several meetings was the increasing frequency of off road events going thru state lands and county roads of the District. The District is now a member of the County's Special Event Permit Committee. This will enable cooperators to have a better input to these and other large gatherings that would affect us.

The growing need is for more monitoring. It is vital to many things we are doing. Funds are scarce as are the technical people to do it.

For the third time, the Wildcat Dumping committee's Illegal Dumping Bill was introduced in the Arizona Legislature by Cooperator Barbara McGuire. Again it was held up in committee at the very end of the legislative session. Several of our cooperators testified and lobbied in the bills behalf.

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