

NEWSLETTER Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District

P.O. Box 68

Mammoth, AZ

85618

From the Frog Pond

www.wnrzd.org

March 2013



Supervisors and Personnel:

Chairman: Bill Dunn

Supervisor: Gary Vinson

Supervisor: Peter Else

Supervisor: Diana Manning

Supervisor: Gale Manning

District Clerk: Vicki France

520-292-2999 x 111

With Assistance from:

*USDA Natural Resources
Conservation Service*

3241 N. Romero Road

Tucson, AZ 85705

520-292-2999 x 105

As always, lots going on. The joint Refuge Committee has held a couple of meetings at Aravaipa Campus and is coming up with a Vision Statement and objectives for how the local landowners view the future of the Lower San Pedro River Valley. This is in response to the refuge proposal for that area by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). This is not easy work since each has his own vision for the Valley but everyone is working in a spirit of respect knowing that this is important for the Valley's future. Hopefully we will have some kind of plan to present to the FWS soon.

The Ed Center committee will have met with the Kearny Rotary by the time this comes out to look at a request by the Ray Elementary school to help them with a school garden and another meeting with CAC personnel about having the use of one of their rooms for the Ed Center materials and other joint projects.

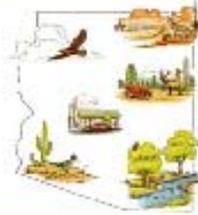
On SunZia, we met with officials from the Arizona BLM. They have admitted that the Districts should have been allowed to coordinate with them on the project. They tell us there will be a new first section in the Final EIS that will discuss coordination and will document how they achieve or attempt to achieve consistency with our plans and policies including how they have tried to resolve conflicts with same. This came about as a result of the state and national associations of conservation districts working directly with BLM officials in Washington. I think our dues paid off big for us this time.

Best Management Practices for livestock grazing in Sonoran Desert Tortoise country, which your district had a big hand in, as well as the state association, is out for peer review and should be ready for distribution soon. This should go a long way to keep grazing from being identified as a threat to the tortoise should it be listed in 2015. The state mining association has been watching to see if they can do the same for their industry.

Take a look at the WNRCD website. Under "Newsletters and Resources" take time to look at the 2013 Field Report. Authored by Katie Cline, it has a wealth of information about the Districts resources. It is the first update since her dad Walt Meyer did one in 1980. It will be a valuable reference used by agriculture, industry, government and individuals for a long time. Thanks Katie!

We had a good response to our request for donations last quarter. Thanks to all.

Until next time..... **BILL**



Natural Resource Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth

June 24 - June 28, 2013 James 4-H Camp

Highlights

- Learn lifelong skills and create lifetime friendships.
- Explore and study Arizona's forests, streams, rangelands, soils, plants, and wildlife with expert instructors who will intrigue and challenge you!
- Lots of small group learning activities in the forests of the Prescott National Forest.
- Gain hands-on experience with hi-tech equipment, field testing, data collection and project design.

Details

Dates: June 24 - June 28, 2013
Where: James 4-H Camp at Mingus Springs between Prescott & Jerome

Tuition: \$150 per student (Financial assistance is available. Please indicate on application if assistance is needed.)

Open to all youth entering grades 8-12 in the fall of 2013.

Limit: 35 participants.

Deadline for Applications: Postmarked by **May 1, 2013.**

Applicants will be notified of selection results no later than June 1, 2013.

Upon notification of acceptance, the \$150 fee is to be paid unless other aid has been requested and awarded.

An exciting opportunity for you to explore the great outdoors and experience the thrill of a unique adventure. The 50th Annual Natural Resource Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth is an interactive camp bringing together the latest in science and natural resource technology.

Mingus Mountain, in the Prescott National Forest, is the setting for learning about water, soils, plants, and other natural resources. You will discover nature by conducting experiments and completing outdoor projects. This is a hands-on workshop! Youth will have many opportunities to discuss and debate natural resource and management issues. Various group activities such as fishing, hiking, swimming, volleyball & horseshoes will be available during your free time.



Eligibility

Youth entering grades 8-12 in the fall of 2013 are eligible to apply. Youth must have an interest and desire to learn more about the environment in which we live. No applicant will be denied attendance because of financial need. Selection is made based on the merit of the application.

How To Apply

Complete the application or type the following on a single sheet of paper: Name, address, phone number, grade entering in the Fall of 2013, and email address (if available). Answer the following questions: 1) Explain why you would like to attend this camp. 2) Describe your interests and activities related to natural resources. 3) Describe any other special interests, hobbies, and involvement in community or school activities. 4) If appropriate, indicate the need for financial assistance. Application: <http://azrangelands.org/nrcway/NRCWAYflyer.pdf>

Mail application postmarked by May 1st to:

Kim McReynolds, Workshop Director,
AZ Section Society for Range Management
450 S. Haskell, Willcox AZ 85643

Questions: Contact Kim at 520-384-3594 or kimm@cals.arizona.edu

Location & Accommodations

James 4-H Camp at Mingus Springs is located on a secluded 88 acre wooded site at an elevation of 6,500 feet on Mingus Mountain in the Prescott National Forest. Participants will be housed in rustic cabins with a central bathhouse consisting of modern bathrooms and showers.



Spring District Meeting

So SAVE THE DATE.....April 17, 2013. We will send out a post card letting you know the location.

There will be a special treat.

Gil Mueller will show his paintings of the area including the Feldman Ranch



Thanks to the great response
to our request for donations
from these Cooperators.

Celeste	Andresen
Jim and Linda	Bingham
Bob and Kathy	Blake
Ruby	Carter
Harriet F. and Don	Hedrick
John	Hoopes
Beverly	Miller
Miriam	Reed
John B.	Rendall
Jim	Webb
Georgie	Wood
Stan and Molly	Yoder
Kathy	Brown
Walt and Francie	Meyer
William	Stambaugh
Donna	Woods
Charley and Joe	Goff
Bill and Becky	Dunn

Winter Meeting Minutes * January 16, 2013

Attendees:

Supervisors and District Personnel Present: Chairman, Bill Dunn, Gary Vinson, Peter Else, and Gale Manning. Diana Manning was excused; Vicki France, District Clerk.

Members, Cooperators and Guests Present: Hattie Hedrick, Becky Dunn, , Jeff Lark (TNC), Raymond Miller , Beverly Miller, Donna Woods, Anna Lands, Georgie Wood, Stan and Molly Yoder, Cathy Gorman, and John Rendall

Agency Personnel Present: Kristen Egen Katie Cline and Brian Lambeth, USDA-NRCS;

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Welcome and Introductions: Bill Dunn called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m.

After the Pledge, cooperators and guests introduced themselves.

Consent Agenda: Peter made the motion to approve the minutes of October 17, November 28, December 10 2012 with two corrections to names. The minutes from the December 18 meeting are almost done, but not quite ready for this meeting. Gary seconded it and the motion carried. Peter moved to pay the following bills:

Pima Natural Resource Conservation District - \$1,352.37

Bill Dunn for postage

Gary seconded it and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Although we show about \$4,000 in the two accounts, by the time we pay our bills and pass money to the Winkelman Resource Mgt. Center we only have \$300 left. Bill said we still owe about \$5000 in attorney's fees. The good news was that Hattie has received over \$2,000 in donations which will come back to the District.

1. New Business:

a) Status Supplemental Draft EIS for the SunZia project

Peter said that there were 5-6 other agencies that were requesting a Supplemental EIS or ready to sue the BLM over the inadequacies of the Draft. Some of them are hoping to stall the process to allow the Southline Project to catch up in the review process. Peter moved that we add a consistency review request to our request for a Supplemental Draft EIS. Gary seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Peter had one other concern. It was that the comment period is do short after the final EIS, that the record of decision is fast and a done deal in favor of the project.

b) Working Lands for Wildlife – Kristen Egen

Kristen said the WHIP Program money was being used for Working Lands for Wildlife. This will be for Threatened and Endangered Species on private and tribal lands. The only one in the District is the Southwest Willow Flycatcher. She had a presentation and this is attached. She will make a more detailed map of eligible property for the District.

c) Status of Sub Committee on Refuge Alternatives

Bill is waiting to hear back as to when Dr. Tuggle can come and meet with us before the committee meets again. The committee has been reviewing alternatives and only had one meeting. They have begun to hash out Visions and frame work to incorporate the Southwest Willow Flycatcher Habitat.

d) Distribution of the Field Guide

The Guides were done and Vicki passed out the Distribution List, asking if anyone else should be included. She will get them in the mail.

DRAFT

e) Change Signers on Checking Accounts

Peter moved that Langdon Hill and Victoria France be removed as signers on the checking accounts and that Gale and Diana Manning be added. Gary seconded the motion. The motion carried.

f) Status of Desert Tortoise Survey Project

We need to have the Habitat Protocols done by 2015. Since Walt was not at the meeting, Katie would check to see how this is coming. They have their permits from Az Game and Fish.

g) Status of Support for EIS Reform

Bill handed out the proposal that many organizations are adopting. It is less single species driven and more habitat focused. So far The Cattle Associations, Mining Groups and Farm Bureau have adopted it. The National Association will consider it at the annual meeting. It will be presented to the State legislature this session for adoption. Then it will be sent to Congress.

h) Arizona Trail Update

John Rendall reported on various trail heads that were complete or nearly. Others such as Picket Post had minor changes in signage. There is some trouble with invasive species, but they are trying to eradicate it as they find Sahara Mustard. Bill brought up the issue of equestrian users blaming cows for the mess. In reality it is the hay they don't clean up after feeding the horses that attracts the cows. Gary thought that there was no feeding even allowed. Peter reiterated that this is a model for the whole county trail system and these bugs need to be worked out. Peter was wondering if the Az Trail had any usage data, but John said it was pretty slim.

2. *Old Business:*

There was none to consider

3. *Reports from Supervisors and District Personnel:*

Legislative Day is Feb 21 (later changed to March 25, 2013). The training day for the agencies on Coordination is up in the air. Now maybe in March.

4. *Reports from Agency Personnel*

NRCS – Kristen

Conservation Planning

Dubois plan is almost completed.

Battle Ax plan is completed – Winkelman needs to sign.

Willow Springs field work is complete. Plan in process.

New requests from Heisler, Rychner, Hedrick (IP) and Rodriguez (IP), McCall

Farm Bill Programs

EQIP – Always taking applications, regardless of status of funding and farm bill.

New WHIP program applies to work with Southwest Willow Flycatcher only. No funding now but presentation given today on program. Deadline for this funding cycle is January 18th in two days.

We have 6 applicants from Winkelman District thus far – 15 total. Funding is \$358,802 for Tucson Field office. This is about \$475,000 less than last year. Entire state was funded for about 35% of last year's total.

Field Office Operations

We are operating on a continuing resolution until March. Our funding levels are tight and we have been very frugal in spending and have done no new hiring in Arizona since October 1st. Continuing

current Farm Bill until October 1st will cause no new funding in programs that are out of funds and will impact our budget as well. Agency plans to keep all offices open and personnel in place, but, likely will not replace most vacant positions this year. Farm Bill funding will allow us to get caught up on existing workload as we will have fewer new contracts funded.

Brian said that they are working with the BLM to stream line approvals. There has been no action on the project relating to the BMP's for the tortoise. It is out for others to review.

5. *Call to the Public*

There was no one to comment.

At 1:12 the Board Adjourned into Executive session to review a ranch plan. The Executive Session was adjourned at 1:25 and the regular meeting reconvened. Peter Else moved that we sign the Conservation Plan for The BattleAxe. Gary seconded the motion and it carried.

6. *Adjournment*

The next District meeting was set for the third week in April 17, 2013 probably. Peter Else moved to adjourn the meeting, Gale Manning seconded it and the meeting adjourned at 1:32 pm.

DRAFT

