

WINKELMAN NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Fall 2018

PO Box 486, Kearny, AZ 85137 WNRCD.org

From the Frog Pond by Bill Dunn

Lots of projects are starting to take place for the District as this newsletter comes out. First, by mid November, we should be able to finally start on the Kearny River Fire project. Maybe the longest grant timeline in history. You would think that FEMA, which has the word “emergency” in its name would be able to okay a simple grant like this in under three years. Hats off to Willie Sommers from the Arizona Department of Fire and Forestry Management for working on this through to completion. As you read this, we will be advertising and accepting bids from contractors for this project. We want to be finished with it by this spring.

Next, our new Coordinator, Kyle Thompson, is working on requesting bids to finalize the budget. He will apply for another grant to help pay for revegetating the river after we get it cleared of salt cedar. A Contractor Bid form is included in this newsletter. The other grant he had been working on is to clean and seal stock ponds is on hold since it started raining. As they begin to dry up, he will start back on that grant. The hoop houses we bought in partnership with the Redington District to be erected on the Aravaipa Campus were sitting in boxes for the last year, waiting on CAC management at Signal Peak to okay the MOU we wrote with them. Because of the delay and not knowing what the outcome would be, we began working on a separate MOU with the Oracle Community Garden. This is a group of volunteers who also just want to do good work for the community. A couple of weeks ago, I loaded up the hoop houses and took them to Oracle. We are going to erect at least half of them there. They are going to use them to grow plants for their use as well as for us and it will be available for district school field trips and class work for CAC. It should be up and running by the spring semester.

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The Winkelman Resource Management Center, our education center, has had a welcome influx of board members. This was needed to expand the reach of the Ed Center and bring in some new ideas on how we can make it more effective for the students, producers and other cooperators in the district. The new board members are Carol and Sam Hosler, Linda Leigh, Kyle Thompson and Megan Vinson. This will be in addition to existing board members, me, Steve Turcotte, Carol Dubois, Becky Dunn, Sam Rauhalammi, and Molly Yoder. Hattie Hedrick is still our Director. She has never been a board member but now she is. The Center is a separate 501C3 organization that is sponsored by the district but not accountable to it. It has a separate board and its own authorities under state statute. The board is still looking to expand its membership. If you or someone you know would like to help out, please contact Chris Postel or Hattie. We need to find representatives from all the schools and towns in the district.

Lastly, I want to welcome our newest Board member, past legislative Senator Barbara McGuire. She will bring a wealth of experience and knowledge of how our state government works. Our next meeting dates are Nov 14, 2018 and February 20, 2019.

Well, you're caught up till next time.....

Bill

Drought

By Steven M Barker, Executive Director, Arizona Association of Conservation Districts

Drought is the lack of effective precipitation. But there are different kinds of drought. The kind of drought is determined by the intended beneficial use of the water.

Soil moisture droughts affect plant production. Soil moisture droughts occur when adequate soil moisture is not available during the growing season. Depending on where you are in the state, that might occur due to a lack of rain during the growing season, or due to a lack of rain or snow during the winter. Soil moisture droughts may be seasonal - like a dry summer. Or they may last longer and result in the mortality of perennial plants. Soil moisture droughts can also be caused by poor distribution of precipitation events - when all the effective moisture comes in one storm event instead of spreading out through the season or year. Soil moisture droughts not only affect the amount of amount of vegetation production, but also the amount of vegetation cover, which impacts how much precipitation can be captured from the next storm. It also affects the potential for new plants to germinate. From a conservation perspective, the management strategy during soil moisture droughts is simply to keep the ground covered. The focus of management is to make sure every possible acre has as much vegetation cover as possible to capture the next big storm event. That typically means hauling water to areas where there is still good vegetation, moving animals to holding areas, and feeding them, or renting pasture somewhere else.

Surface water droughts occur when the normal runoff into washes and rivers is significantly reduced. Surface water drought occurs when the runoff into streams, ponds, lakes and reservoirs is not adequate to meet the demands for various uses. Localized surface water droughts may just mean a few ranchers do not have any water in ponds for their livestock. More widespread surface water drought impact reservoirs that supply water to cities, or reduce the flow in rivers that is needed to support aquatic species.

Groundwater droughts occur when the amount of water infiltrating down into the groundwater tables is declines significantly. When groundwater recharge is not keeping up with groundwater withdrawals, wither because of drought or over-pumping, the water table declines. The result is an increase in pumping depth and costs, the potential for wells to go dry, and the potential for land subsidence which can create large fissures. It can also result in springs drying up. Very little if any of the precipitation at lower elevations gets into the groundwater table, where evapo transpiration exceeds precipitation amounts. Most groundwater recharge is from snowmelt at the higher elevations in Arizona. Groundwater replenishment comes from long periods of water soaking into the ground. This recharge mostly occurs from long, slow snowmelt on north facing slopes, from water infiltration under perennial lakes, rivers and streams, or from streams that flow for long periods of time during snowmelt.

Town of Kearny declares a water crisis

By Staff | Posted May 23rd, 2018 reprinted from Copper Basin News

The state of Arizona is experiencing a drought situation and the time is approaching when Kearny will receive a drought alert. The Town of Kearny has released some facts to help citizens prepare for this alert in advance, including what it could entail and how the impact a drought has on the community can be lessened to make any required water-use restrictions as painless as possible. Click on the link below to read the entire article:

<http://www.copperarea.com/pages/town-kearny-declares-water-crisis/>

On Oct 1, 2018, Anna Flores, Town of Kearny Manager, wrote, "The Town of Kearny continues to be in a drought alert. The Gila Water Commissioner has cut the Town's water apportionment in half.

Movin on Down the Trail



William 'Bill' Morris Stambaugh

By Staff | Posted August 29th, 2018 | reprinted from Copper Basin News



William Morris Stambaugh (Bill) was born on Nov. 16, 1937 in Phoenix Arizona to William G. Stambaugh and Grace Isabel Swift. Bill grew up in Prescott, Arizona and attended the Arizona State University, where he met his wife, Gloria M. Bushell.

Bill served in the U. S. Army as a Second Lieutenant. After his service, he began his career in agriculture. Bill began farming in Tempe, Arizona and later moved to Aravaipa Creek in 1964. Here, he began his farming and ranching operation and raised five children with his wife, Gloria.

Bill passed away Aug. 21, 2018 at his home on the Aravaipa Creek, surrounded by family and friends. Bill suffered from cancer and dementia. Bill is survived by his wife, Gloria and their five children: Debby and husband Dennis Degraff, Becky and husband Jeff Heller, Billie and husband Gary Deen, Grace Stambaugh and his son, David Stambaugh. He is also survived by his sister Becky and husband Ray West of Prescott, AZ. In addition, Bill is survived by two nephews and one niece, 11 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Bill's life will be held on Sept. 8, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. at the Ray High School Auditorium in Kearny, AZ. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Pinal County 4-H can be made. Donations should be sent to 4650 S Jumping Cactus Road Winkelman, AZ 85192. Make checks payable to Pinal County 4-H.

Oracle Community Learning Garden (OCLG) by Linda Leigh, OCLG Director

The Oracle Community Learning Garden is a nonprofit 501(c)3 providing opportunities for education, food production, and growing a strong community. To date, volunteers have completed the fencing, launched a Bermuda grass removal program, built raised garden beds and started a composting system. On July 28th, community members planted their first seeds.

The OCLG will partner with the WNRCD to start a native plant nursery program that will provide native plants for WNRCD projects and other local landscape projects. In addition, a Farm to School program is being developed that will teach students about growing, harvesting and preparing food for school lunch programs. It could also serve to locate local and regional providers of food that can be part of our school lunch programs. Our mission is to encourage responsible stewardship of natural resources, promote understanding and appreciation of the environment, and to teach conservation. <https://www.facebook.com/oraclecommunitygarden/>

Meet our District Coordinator, Kyle Thompson



Kyle earned a B.S. in Applied Biological Sciences with a concentration in Wildlife and Restoration Ecology in 2012 from Arizona State University and a Master of Science in Wildlife Conservation and Management from the University of Arizona. He has held previous jobs with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and USDA APHIS. Most recently, he was the Science and Conservation Coordinator for the Altar Valley Conservation Alliance where he managed and coordinated projects involving prescribed fire, native plant restoration, erosion control, and worked to continue and strengthen collaborative conservation within the Altar Valley. Additionally, Kyle works in Sonora, Mexico with the non-profit Primero Conservation on river otter research and carnivore conflict mitigation programs with ranchers.

Since starting to work for the WNRCD, Kyle has taken on several projects. See listed below:

- **Dirt Stock Tank**: A cleaning and maintenance project has begun to clean and seal dirt stock tanks within the Winkelman District. An Arizona Game and Fish Habitat Partnership Committee was submitted September 1, 2018 for \$49,835 with 40% in-kind match including some funds committed from the AZ Game and Fish Landowner Relations Program. The work would start in Spring 2019 to clean the tanks and apply Seepage Control's ESS-13 to seal the tanks. If funded, the program could be continued in following years clean and seal more dirt tanks in the District.
- **Kearny Fuels Reduction**: This project that was funded by FEMA through the Fire Management Assistance Grant will finally be started this fall to remove salt cedar along the Gila River on the Town of Kearny property. Funds have officially been granted to the Department of Fire and Forestry Management and will then be available to the WNRCD as the sub recipient. A request for contractor bids has been announced and the WNRCD is looking to hire a contractor as soon as feasible to complete the work this winter. Please see the bid announcement on the next page.
- **Arizona Water Protection Fund**: The WNRCD has also applied for a \$86,669 grant with a 13% in-kind match through the Arizona Water Protection Fund. No funds have been dedicated for restoration after the salt cedar removal in Kearny, this project would re-vegetate the riparian corridor with native trees and shrubs where salt cedar removal has taken place. It is highly probable that the salt cedar will return if native vegetation is not reestablished.
- **Community Challenge Grant**: The WNRCD has applied for a grant from the Department of Fire and Forestry Management for \$11,647 with 50% in-kind match to establish native vegetation after the salt cedar removal in the Town of Kearny in the picnic area behind the ball fields. This would be another opportunity to re-vegetate the riparian area along the Gila River after salt cedar removal.
- **Oracle Community Learning Garden Hoop House**: Purchased by the Winkelman and Redington NRC Ds, the hoop house will be put up at the Oracle Community Learning Garden in the next few months. A future partnership in growing native plants for restoration is being planned.

Winkelman NRCD Contractor Bid Summary

Project Name: Kearny Fuels Reduction
Method: Mastication/Grubbing

Location: 33.052849, -110.919150
Cover Type: Salt Cedar **Acres:** 105

Contact Information: Kyle Thompson
Phone Number: 928-368-7067

Position Title: WNRCD Coordinator
Email Address: kylewthomp@gmail.com

Proposed Treatment and Specifications:

The Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District is requesting bids for 105 acres of mechanical clearing of salt cedar in Kearny, Arizona. All six parcels are contiguous, and treatment acres are located near the Gila River, but outside the active river channel. Treatment will occur on areas of dry sand, not in saturated soil. The overall scope of work of the project is to conduct mechanical fuels reduction treatments on six Town of Kearny parcels. Parcels range in size from just over 5 acres to 46 acres. Typical fuels on these parcels are mostly composed of native mesquite and non-native salt cedar along the Gila River floodplain.

The contractor should attempt to remove approximately 100 percent of salt cedar within the project boundary, taking care to ensure mastication and grubbing does not disrupt critical infrastructure within the boundary. Mastication should take place only on trees closest to river. Crews will treat the masticated trees with herbicide. Other trees will be uprooted and piled for burning.

- Remove 100% of salt cedar
- Leave standing native species

There is adequate access to reach all treatment areas; there should be no creation of roads during operations. Operations are expected to leave approximately 2-4 inches of wood chips from mastication on the ground in masticated areas, which will help soil stability.

Pinal Co. Parcel	Treatment area	Acres
301-15-006A	Both sides of river; south of ball fields	10
301-15-0100	Both sides of river; south of industrial area	35
301-15-0110	North side of river; northwest of airport	20
301-16-001A	North side of river; south and west of airport	5
301-17-005B	North side of river; south of airport	25
301-17-005C	North side of river; south of airport	10

Please contact Kyle Thompson for the entire package.



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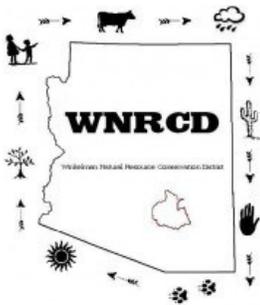
Ray Federal Credit Union is proud to serve the communities of the copper basin with a full range of financial services and branches in Kearny & Superior. We strive to provide courteous and professional service. **Dan Thurman** is the manager of the credit union and welcomes your comments and suggestions.

Mark Your Calendar

WNRCD Quarterly meeting on November 14 at 10 am, CAC (Aravaipa Campus), Room E102.

AACD Winter Meeting on January 30-31, 2019, Gilbert, AZ

WNRCD Quarterly meeting on February 20, 2019 at 10 am, location TBD.



PO Box 486
 Kearny, AZ 85137

