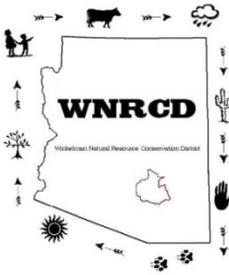


June 10, 2019



Dear Cooperators and Winkelman NRC D Supporters:

Let us tell you what your Winkelman NRC D has been working on the past year to protect and conserve your natural resources.

**SunZia:** This project is in its 7<sup>th</sup> year. As you recall, the District Board along with the Redington District Board spent hundreds of man hours working on the BLM Environmental Impact Statement trying to get the massive powerline project to be built along the I-10 corridor instead of through new ground along either the San Pedro or the Aravaipa watersheds. After many meetings with BLM people-one with the State Director who threatened to walk out in a meeting, we were unsuccessful in the EIS process, even though we did get the alignment out of the river bottom. We then attacked it during the Arizona Corporation Commission Line-Siting-Committee process. The Committee ultimately approved the route but their Certificate of Environmental Compatibility required that SunZia to work with us to make the project the “gold standard” for powerline construction in Arizona. Chris Fletcher was hired as our contractor liaison. He has been diligently meeting with affected landowners and the developers to identify and work on any potential conflicts beforehand with very good success. Chris is working with the construction contractor identifying sensitive soils and sensitive areas that will need alternative construction methods.

**Oracle Community Garden:** Last year, the Redington and Winkelman District bought two hoop houses to be placed at Central Arizona College, Aravaipa campus in partnership with them. Before we were able to get them up, CAC decided they didn't want them on campus. We were contacted by Linda Leigh of the Oracle Community Garden group and made a deal to put a hoop house on their property. They would partner with us on our Education mission and grow native plants for us to use in range and river bottom restoration and further our education mission. In February, 2019, the District was awarded a \$50,000 Urban Ag Grant from the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) . These NACD funds will provide technical assistance for conservation best-management practices using the Oracle Community Learning Garden as a district-wide demonstration hub, enabling three goals: hoop house installation; community-wide vermicomposting system; and a water conservation system. In terms of education program, the hoop house will be used for training in botany, growing native landscape plants and vegetable starts, and for teaching the propagation of plants. Their land had been donated by Pinal County. See some pictures below:



We are planning to have the hoop house operational by the end of July, just in time to be used for student (Elementary-High School & Central Arizona College) and adult educational programs.

**HPC Funding:** Finally, we are working on some stock pond cleaning and sealing projects with some AGFD funding (\$27,000). Three ranches are participating in this project. We hope to make this an ongoing grant. If you are interested in this, let us know. See pictures below, from start to finish:



After the area has been clean and shaped, ESS-13 is applied to the area. To learn about ESS-13, go to [seepagecontrol.com](http://seepagecontrol.com). A District demonstration workshop was held on May 31.



All but the SunZia project are being managed by Coordinator, Kyle Thompson. All of these projects (\$77,000) are for the betterment of our cooperators and our resources. And it all takes money for the contractors. We are receiving a little bit from some of the grants to manage them but not near enough, and we still only receive a little over a \$1000 per month from state funding. Same as it has been forever. Currently, we are spending about \$2,000/month for our staff contractors.

Our normal annual dues request is \$50. If you think we are doing a good job, please help us by investing a little more in your district when you renew. Also, included is a cooperator agreement we ask you to fill out so we can keep our records up to date and a Cooperator questionnaire to ask you what topics that you would like the District to focus on. Please make checks payable to the Winkelman NRCD, PO Box 486, Kearny, AZ 85137.

Thanks,

Your NRCD Board