

Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District

CONSERVING - PROTECTING - PRACTICING WISE USE



Summer 2013 NEWSLETTER



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Chairman's Corner

The Hereford NRCB Board and advisors have been very busy this summer. I thank them for their time and voluntary service.

The Herford District has many natural resources within its boundaries. These resources belong to the people. Our forefathers stated in 1842 through the U.S. Supreme Court, *Martin vs. Waddell* that wildlife resources, defined in the broadest sense, are owned by no one and are to be held in trust by the government for the benefit of the present and future generations. We are faced with many important conservation issues that could have implications for many years to come.

One of our resources is the grasslands used by our agricultural cattle growers. How do they help feed a hungry world while managing our soil and water, which ensures they will continue in the years to come? This year alone many of those cattle growers have ensured more grassland by the eradication of the whitethorn mesquite and creosote on approximately 8,000 acres. Those acres will benefit the cattle grower, wildlife, soil erosion, and water. This is a big benefit to all by the management of our cattle growers. Would the 8,000 plus acres have been done if not for them?

The management of our resources have come a long way to insure not only the prosperity of the rancher, farmer and the ability to feed the world, but to ensure those resources continue to bring stability to the economics of the United States.

I am sure some of you have noticed that our leadership in Washington has not passed a Farm Bill as of this article. I would encourage you to take a moment to address our representatives with the importance of our country's economic health to pass a Farm Bill. The programs help not only our State and District, but the county as well.

We have some tough challenges ahead, one being the San Pedro River. Your Board, its advisors and concerned citizens of this area will help in those decisions. Your District continues to engage in conversations with stakeholders about the resources of this District and the potential impacts of those resources. Go to our web site, www.hereford.com for information about topics from past workshops and future dates of importance.

**Working Together to Enhance
Our Natural Resources**

Walnut Gulch Experimental Watershed



Photo by Rachel Thomas

Recently Phil Heilman, Research Leader USDA, Agricultural Research Service invited the Hereford NRC Supervisors to a tour of some of the sites in the 58 square mile watershed in the area of Tombstone, Arizona. In about 3 hours the Supervisors were able to see a lot and try to retain just a little of all the information provided. Joining Phil in the tour were Mary Nichols, Research Hydraulic Engineer. Mary's Research is focused on erosion and sedimentation processes in arid and semiarid regions with emphasis on technologies for soil and water conservation and

rangeland management. John Smith, Supervisory Hydrologic Technician and Facility Manager Tombstone provided information on the overall testing equipment.

The Walnut Gulch Experimental Watershed was initiated in 1951 by the Research Division of the Soil Conservation Service. The watershed is an outdoor laboratory for studying semiarid rangeland hydrologic, ecosystem, climate, and erosion processes. Shrubs such as creosote, tarbush, mormonia, and whitethorn dominate about 2/3 of the watershed. The remaining 1/3 is still grassland, dominated mainly by black grama, curly mesquite grass, and tobosa grass.



ARS Photo

Flow in the main channels on the Walnut Gulch Watershed is measured at 11 gaging stations. Eight of the main tributaries are gaged, and three flumes such as the one in the photo on the left measure flow in the main Walnut Gulch channel.



ARS Photo

Precipitation measurement has been recorded at the Walnut Gulch Experimental Watershed in Universal weighing-type gages since 1953. Within the protective housing, precipitation is collected in a bucket that rests on a weighing platform and frame, which are suspended from a spring. As precipitation collects in the bucket, the load on the spring is increased, which lowers the platform and frame. The deflection is proportional to the amount of precipitation collected. The movement of the frame is mechanically transmitted to a pen, which marks a graduated revolving chart.

There is monthly information such as precipitation for each rain gauge, runoff for each floom, sediment for each floom and sediment stations and much more from the Online Data Access <http://www.tucson.ars.ag.gov/dap/>. In addition many papers and reports have been published on issues associated with resource management by the Agricultural Research Service personnel and others. These studies are listed at <http://www.tucson.ars.ag.gov/unit/Publications/ASPFiles/listing.asp>

Find out more on Walnut Gulch at the

**Walnut Gulch Experimental Watershed 60th Anniversary celebration
Tombstone, AZ October 24-25, 2013**

There has been many scientific papers published by people using the 60 years of data gathered at this experimental watershed. A list of these papers is available at:
<http://www.tucson.ars.ag.gov/unit/Publications/ASPFiles/listing.asp>

Coordination and Cooperating Agency Training

The Arizona Natural Resource Conservation Districts and County Supervisors Association of Arizona cosponsored a Coordination and Cooperating Agency Training in Phoenix July 29, 2013. Horst Greczmiel, Associate Director, Natural Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Oversight Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), Kerry Rogers, Senior Planning & Environmental Analyst, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Cynthia Moses-Nedd, BLM Washington Office came to Phoenix to present excellent information on NEPA and the Coordination requirements for BLM. Cynthia is one of the authors of the BLM's "A Desk Guide to Cooperating Agency Relationships and Coordination with Intergovernmental Partners".

Mr. Greczmiel discussed NEPA and the oversight provided by CEQ of each Federal agency's regulation to implement NEPA. Cynthia Moses-Nedd, and Margaret Byfield, Executive Director American Stewards of Liberty presentations focused on coordination between the Federal agencies and the local government. Coordination makes it possible for both the Federal agency and the local government to coordinate the local government plan with the agency plan. Everyone made it clear the first requirement for a local government to enter into coordination is to have a local plan to take to the table.

Other presenters were Chris Horyza, Arizona BLM, Bob Davis, US Forest Service, Region 3 and Derek Rapier, Attorney, Greenlee County.

Hereford NRCD's Jim Lindsey, Rachel Thomas, Tom Richter, Lucinda Earven, John Lohse, Joanne Daily and Kathy Morris made the trip to Phoenix to attend the conference. They were joined by Senator Gail Griffin and Mary Darling, Environmental Consultant. Other Districts represented was Santa Cruz, Pima, Big Sandy, Winkelman, Redington, Tonto, Verde and Whitewater Draw. There were county supervisors, county managers, and county attorneys representing Apache, Navajo, LaPaz, Mojave, Gila, Graham, Pinal and Greenlee Counties, and representatives from the Cities of Tucson, Globe and Miami. AZ NRCD and County Supervisory Association were represented.

At the Federal level, the Arizona BLM State Director attended with his deputy and six other Arizona BLM Personnel. Arizona NRCS State Conservationist also took time to attend. There were over 90 people in attendance. It was a long session from 8 to 5 with a short lunch break. It was a training where you did not see anyone taking catnaps.

Everyone owes a real big thanks to Stefanie Smallhouse, Executive Director, AZNRCD for all her work in making this happen.

DO NOT MISS THE

"It's Fall Ya'll - Come on down to the Cochise County Fair"

Fair Dates: September 26 - 29, 2013, Thursday—Sunday

Hereford, Whitewater Draw NRCD and NRCS booth will be in the south end of the Commercial Building. The Fair, Sept 26-29, is at the Cochise County Fair Grounds in Douglas at 3677 N. Leslie Canyon Road. Plan to visit the NRCD booth, the many exhibits including the 4-H. If you have a freezer and need something to go in it, suggest you attend the livestock sale on Sunday. John Lohse, the District fair representative states that NRCDs can always use help manning the booth. If you enjoy meeting a lot of people and can spend some time at the booth, contact the District at info@herefordnrcd.com or phone 220-2028 to put your name on the list.

Board Activities

Chairman Jim Lindsey, Treasurer Tom Richter, and Supervisor John Lohse attended the FFA banquet at the Tombstone High School. The District was presented a plaque of appreciation for participation with the FFA and the Antelope Foundation of Arizona on the fence modifications to benefit the antelope in the Elgin area. Jim received a plaque for his support and work with the FFA.

Jim Lindsey, Lucinda Earven, Secretary and Mike Hayhurst, Advisor, represented the District at the BLM's San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area July 27 Watershed and Range Management and Scoping Forum meeting.

Tom Richter and Jack Ladd, Advisor, visited the South Rotary Club and the Sunrise Rotary Club where Jack presented information about the Hereford NRCD including a showing of the video Tom produced about the Horseshoe Draw Project.

Native Seed Project

Initial Plans are being made for a Native Seed Project on Freeport McMoran Gold and Copper property near Bisbee. This involves coordination between the District, NRCS and Freeport McMoran Gold and Copper to plant, harvest and sell native seed and alfalfa. One of the purposes of the project is to mitigate the sulfate plume which is in the aquifer. There will be more information provided as the project moves forward.

The District is currently dealing with four Federal actions.

The Bureau of Land Management began a public scoping process May 15 to produce a new Resource Management Plan and a new Environmental Impact Statement for the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area. The new RMP will replace the management guidance for the SPRNCA within the Safford District RMP including eight amendments. It will also replace the original San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement that was approved in 1989. BLM is holding public scoping meeting to obtain input from the public.

Jaguar the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) reopened the comment period to August 9, 2013 for the proposed 858,137 acres of critical habitat for the jaguar. A draft economic analysis and draft environmental assessment of the revised proposed designation of critical habitat was also made available. The District has submitted a letter to USFWS on the proposed critical habitat.

Wolves, gray wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Is there a difference? USFWS think so and are proposing to remove the gray wolf from the list of Endangered Species. In the same action, the USFWS is proposed classifying the Mexican gray wolf as a subspecies and listing the subspecies as endangered with critical habitat over most of Arizona and New Mexico. Comments must be postmarked on or before September 11, 2013

Proposed Threatened Status for the Northern Mexican Gartersnake and Narrow-headed Gartersnake. The proposed listing of the Mexican gartersnake comes with a proposal to designate 24.4 miles of the Babocomari River (from it's confluence with the San Pedro River upstream toward the headwaters in Santa Cruz County) and all of the San Pedro River from Winkelman to the Mexican border as critical habitat. Comments must be postmarked on or before September 11, 2013

ARIZONA'S NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
 SUMMER CONFERENCE 2013
NAVIGATING A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE
 August 26-27wSierra Suitesw Sierra Vista, AZ
 AGENDA PREVIEW
 (Subject to Change)

Sunday, August 25

Registration (4 p.m.)

Supervisor Training (4:30 p.m.-6 p.m.) - From our new Supervisor Handbook the AZNRCD will be focusing on the District Planning Module. This will be an evening session on Annual and Long Term Planning. This will include District presentations highlighting different examples of planning efforts and plan types. Everyone is welcome.

Monday, August 26 (Start 8 a.m.)

"Riding for the Brand", Ron Nichols Public Affairs USDA-NRCS - Ron Nichols will give a thought provoking and interactive Keynote session on District "Branding" and communication. This will be a great kick off to our two-day conference and get you thinking about your District, your role as a Supervisor, and your role in the bigger picture of natural resource conservation in Arizona.

Arizona Water Panel- This session will be an informative look at Arizona's water from supply and transport planning to water law and recent legislative activity- an offering from several different perspectives.

Hereford NRCD Field Trip- Join us for an afternoon out in the field visiting sites within the Hereford NRCD followed by a casual ranch dinner with a little local flavor to finish up the day.

Tuesday, August 27 (Start 8 a.m.)

News From the Hill - The National Association of Conservation Districts will share national issue updates, Farm Bill, etc.

A Closer Look: District Resource Assessments and Planning - This session will focus on effective use of the Local Work Group process and Conservation Implementation Strategies (the 4 phases of local conservation planning), building further upon the local planning strategy rolled out from the AZ State Technical Committee in 2013.

Conservation Partners - Programs, Updates, On the Horizon

Break - Out Educational Sessions -

Making the Most of Social Media 101

"How Does Your Water Shed" - NACD Education and Stewardship Campaign 2013

Payment for Ecological Services - A conservation planning tool gaining ground in efforts to create awareness in the value of private lands natural resource management.

Policy Development/Committee Meetings - Set the policy goals and direction for your State Assoc.

Board of Directors Business Meeting

IDENTIFYING AND CONTROLLING WEEDS

In April the District hosted a workshop on weeds, the invasive kind. Kim McReynolds, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension provided some good information on identifying the invasive weeds and why some of these weeds are such as problems. An invasive weed is an unwanted plant that interferes with the management of a resource. The resource can be in a yard, a pasture or in some areas the whole country side. The best way to control an invasive weed is to not let it get stated at a site. Be active on the removal starting with the very first plant.

Art Meen, NRCS provided information on the importance of herbicide labels. He also explained, with the assistance of Jim Lindsey, the important of and how to calibrate a hand sprayer.

We hope everyone has had lots of rain, and if you have you have weeds. if you need help in identifying the weeds or determining what spray to use and how to calibrate your sprayers, you are in luck. Tom Richter made a video of the complete workshop presentation and the videos are available on the District web site as Invasive Weed Workshop 2013.

2013 AZ NRCD State Association Summer Conference

AUGUST 26–27, 2013
Sierra Suites, 391 E. Fry Blvd
Sierra Vista, Arizona

REGISTRATION FORM

Please use ONE form for each registrant

Name _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ **State** ____ **Zip Code** _____

Phone No. _____

E-mail _____

District/Organization Representing _____

Registration Fee (Includes entire meeting schedule)	\$185.00	_____
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Late/Onsite Registration	\$195.00	_____
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One Day Only Registration (7/27/13) (Education Center Directors/District Staff)	\$85.00	_____
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Please specify if you will be attending the Supervisor Training
August 25th from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. (Module 4 – District Planning) _____

Please specify if spouse/guest will be attending the dinner:

Guest Name: _____

Please include additional fees if spouse/guest attending:

Monday (August 26th) Dinner Only	\$35.00	_____
Monday (August 26th) Tour and Dinner	\$55.00	_____

TOTAL PAYMENT INCLUDED: _____

Please make payment to AZ NRCD and send to:
c/o Carolyn Harbison, West Pinal NRCD
Casa Grande, NRCS Field Office
520 N. Camino Mercado, Suite 12
Casa Grande, AZ 85122
QUESTIONS: CALL AZNRCD (Stefanie Smallhouse)
@520-850-8250 or email: aznrcd@gmail.com

EROSION/SEDIMENT CONTROL—SMALL LAND PARCEL

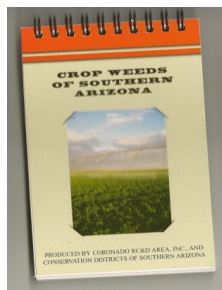


In the fall, 2011, a two-day passive storm water harvesting and erosion control workshop was held on the 5 acre property of Joanne Daley . Joanne had severe flooding and the beginning of some bad cutting by water on her property.. Participants learned how to read the land and how to decide what kind of erosion/passive storm water harvesting structure, how to make straw wattle berms, zuni bowls, loose rocks structures and wire-wrapped gabions. The difference shows in the photos below.



Help available to identify plants

There are a wide variety of plants in Southern Arizona and most people need help in identifying them all. The District has spiral bound field guides for 9 classes of plants for sale. The booklets are large enough to contain pertinent, useful information, but small enough to fit in your pocket, glove box, backpack, or saddlebag. The classes of plants are Cacti, Crop Weeds, Grasses, Non-Native Invasive Plants, Poisonous Plants, Shrubs, Summer Forbs, rees and Winter Forbs. For each booklet, the District requests a \$7.00 tax deductible donation to help cover cost. For information on purchasing email info@herefordnrcd.com with plant guides in the subject field. Or call 520-220-2028



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BOARD MEETINGS

**Third Wednesday of every month
9:30 AM**

**Sierra Vista Cochise County
Complex Conference Room
Hwy 92 and Foothills Drive, Sierra Vista**

Note: Date, location and time is subject to change.
We invite District Cooperators and the general public's attendance

**Hereford NRCD
is on the World Wide Web!
www.herefordnrcd.com**

**Classified Ads: \$5.00 per item per issue
Advertisement: \$60 for 4 issues.
Email: info@herefordnrcd.com**

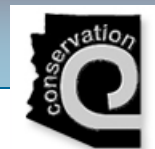
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HEREFORD NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**PO Box 3361
Sierra Vista, AZ 85636**



All programs of the Hereford NRCD are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, national origin, age, sex, religion, political belief, marital or familial status or handicap.