

Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District

CONSERVING - PROTECTING - PRACTICING WISE USE



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January, 2020

Happy New Year!

Chairman's Corner

Happy New Year, I hope it started with a bang!

So far we have had a meeting with the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) in Phoenix, organized by Frank Krentz, President of the Arizona Association of Conservation Districts. The Districts and AZ Cattle Growers were represented by Fred Davis (Whitewater Draw NRCD) and myself. We will have a follow-up meeting in February. Maybe there is a solution in sight.

The HNRCD's wildlife workshop is planned for March, more information regarding it is inside this newsletter.

In closing, I would like to get as many people as possible in the HNRCD to attend the AACD winter meeting, January 28th and 29th in Phoenix. It will be the best update from AZ State Land Department on all of their new policies and procedures.

Regards,
John



**Working Together to Enhance
Our Natural Resources**

HNRCD SOILS WORKSHOP

In October, 2019 the Hereford NRCD hosted a soils workshop. The workshop took place at the Tombstone High School with Tombstone HS Future Farmers of America (FFA) students providing lunch.

Speakers included Kim McReynolds, University of Arizona Extension Service, Jim Walworth, U of A Extension Specialist—Soils, and Don Decker, NRCS. Slightly more than 30 people turned out to learn about soil.

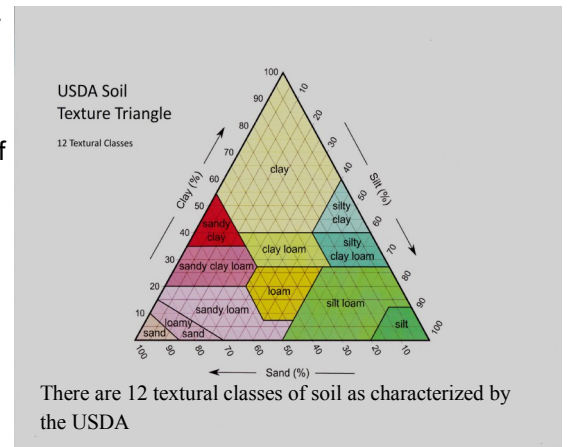
Soil: The unconsolidated mineral and organic matter on the immediate surface of the earth that serves as a natural medium for the growth of plants.

How to improve soil health and sustainability, and how to develop a soil health management plan were discussed. Attendees learned healthy soils are full of life, well structured, covered all the time, and high in organic matter. The class was given a demonstration on how to use websoilsurvey.com, to find out where to build a house, road, etc. and where to place a septic system. They learned basic soil composition, formation, horizons, types, and erosion.

Soils are often referred to as coarse, medium, or fine textured. In general, the finer the texture 1) the more difficult a soil is to work or till, 2) the greater the water holding capacity, 3) the slower water will enter and move through the soil profile, 4) the more difficult for roots to penetrate, 5) the more readily surface soil will crust, and 6) the more nutrient rich the soil.

Audience “hands on” participation facilitated the participants the opportunity to determine soil texture by the “feel method.” A heaping tablespoon of soil was placed in the palm of the hand. Drops of water were slowly added and the soil kneaded until plastic and moldable, like moist putty. If the soil would not squeeze into a ball it was mostly sand. If a ball was formed the soil was then squeezed into a ribbon. If it would not form a ribbon it was loamy sand. If it did form a ribbon there were further tests to determine if the soil was sandy loam, loam, sandy clay loam, sandy clay, silt loam, silty clay loam, clay loam or clay.

The attendees received extensive handouts on all the material covered as well as a list of laboratories conducting soil, plant, feed or water testing and a list of native rangeland seeding mixes that could be used as a general guide for southeastern Arizona rangeland. The list of mixes corresponded to soil types and what grows best, where. Also, a list of six seed suppliers who may sell a majority of the recommended species listed was provided.





AACD Winter Meeting 2020

The Arizona Association of Conservation Districts 2020 Winter Meeting will be held January 28th and 29th in Phoenix. Registration is free of charge, however *please* email, call or text Brooke Gladden your name to register. Names are necessary to make appointments with legislators and to provide lunch. Below is the meeting agenda. (Brooke Gladden (520) 668-3348 brooke.gladden@aacd1944.com)

January 28th at Holiday Inn & Suites PHX Airport North

Board of Directors Meeting

- ♦ Have a voice and vote on your District's Annual Plan of Work

How is the new Farm Bill going to affect your operation?

- ♦ Come find out January 28th with some one-on-one time with your NRCS State Conservationist, Keisha Tatem!

January 29th -Legislative Day 8:00AM - 3:00PM @ AZ Capitol

Legislative Appointments 8:00AM - 1:00PM

- ♦ Lunch on your own

1:00 p.m. Arizona State Land Department Basement Meeting Room

- ♦ Natural Resource Commissioner, Lisa Atkins
- ♦ Arizona Department of Agriculture, Director Mark Killian
- ♦ NRCD Program Manager, Jackie Thomas
- ♦ **Update on Reporting & Budget Request (Supervisors and Clerks urged to attend)**

Hotel: (602) 244-8800 Ask for AACD Rate - \$146 (Government Rate)

Holiday Inn & Suites Phoenix Airport North
1515 North 44th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85008
www.hiphoenixsuites.com

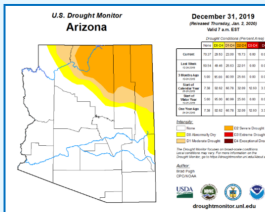
Drought Status Report

December 2019 Short-Term Drought Status

A series of winter storms that crossed the state in December brought heavy rain and snowfall that steadily improved short-term drought conditions in most parts of Arizona.

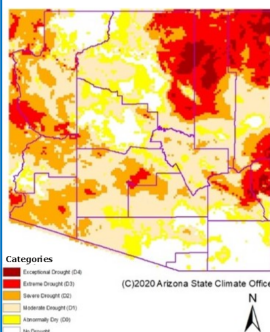
The storms were low-intensity events that dropped considerable amounts of precipitation over a long period of time, allowing the moisture to soak the soil and vegetation without causing significant flooding. The last storm of the year, however, caused major traffic problems during the holidays.

The December short-term map reflects drought-free conditions in two-thirds of the state (70%) while the northeast corner of Arizona is still experiencing some short-term drought conditions: 17% remains in Severe Drought (D2), 6% is in Moderate Drought (D1) and 7% is Abnormally Dry (D0).



October–December 2019 Long-Term Drought Status

October — December 2019 Long-Term Drought



Long-term drought conditions improved in most parts of Arizona thanks to the significant rain and snow the state has received since October. The slow-moving storms brought soaking rains that improved soil moisture and increased streamflows. Snowpack is also above average for this time of year.

The northeast Colorado Plateau is the only area in the state with a slight drought degradation. Though higher elevations in this area, such as the Chuska Mountains, have received much needed snowfall, precipitation at lower elevations of the Plateau remain much lower than normal for the calendar year. This has led to an expansion of Extreme Drought (D3) and Exceptional Drought (D4) in the Northeast part of the state.

While cooler weather is likely through the remainder of January, weather projection models still favor warmer and drier than average conditions for the latter parts of the winter into the spring season.

Summaries produced by the State Drought Monitoring Technical Committee, January 9, 2020

Save the Date!

March 21, 2020 is the date for the next HNRCD workshop, Wildlife Attractors. Master Gardener, Jan Garth, from the University of Arizona and Sarah Gandaria of Arizona Game and Fish Department will be the featured speakers.

Registration will be free of charge but you will need to RSVP because of limited seating so stay tuned for all the details. Flyers will be sent out in plenty of time for response but in the meantime, Save the Date!

HNRCD Welcomes New AACD Staff Member

Sharma Torrens is the AACD's new Conservation Education Director. Sharma has worked with Arizona NRCDs for the past seven years; being involved with Arizona Land & Water Trust and with the Arizona Department of Agriculture.

Sharma believes having this team together will permit the AACD, and the NRCDs, to do the following: (1) Obtain more and varied funding sources, with the goal to become self sustainable; (2) Establish and further enhance existing partnerships and collaborations; (3) Further all Strategic and Financial Plans; and (4) Meet all statutory obligations, among other things.

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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 and participation.

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

Classified Ads: \$5.00 per item per issue

Email: nrcdhereford@gmail.com

This newsletter was printed by the UPS Store in Sierra Vista.

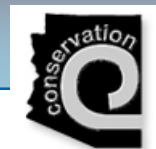
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HEREFORD NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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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.