

Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District



SUMMER 2015 NEWSLETTER

CONSERVING - PROTECTING - PRACTICING WISE USE



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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

The weeds and flowers are growing fast and blossoming! I have noticed a lot of purple flowers that many people think are loco weed. I have them on my property as well. They have all been the desert Verbena. Just a reminder that the District has field guides to help identify the bad ones. Go to our web site for a list of the guides and how to order them. (www.herefordnrcd.com)

Speaking of blossoming; your Hereford NRCD is. We have a lot of things going on.

- ◇ A project with Freeport McMoran to grow grass seeds for ranchers, individuals and agencies.
- ◇ Joining with Whitewater draw NRCD, NRCS, and the Buffet Foundation for brush control along the US/Mexico border.
- ◇ The resource management plan with BLM San Pedro RNCA
- ◇ Travel plan with US Forest Service
- ◇ Continued monitoring and record keeping for the antelope project with Tombstone High School Ag and FFA class, Arizona Game and Fish and The Arizona Antelope Foundation
- ◇ Workshop with ranchers on range monitoring
- ◇ Workshop on range management for small parcels of land
- ◇ Working on a workshop for small parcel owners on erosion control and range management in June, on the C.A.N.T.E.R. property. More information to come on this one.
- ◇ A big project with Horseshoe draw and soil erosion

We lost Tom Richter this year. He was on the Board and our Treasurer. He also had a passion for video photography. The videos on our web site were produced by Tom. He has put us a step ahead from other Districts just from the creation of those videos. Please take a moment to view Tom's work at our web site www.herefordnrcd.com. Tom will be greatly missed as a Board member, but more so as a friend. *Cannot* was not in his vocabulary and he always said Yes when it was about the Kids. Our thoughts and prayers to his wife and family.

I want to thank our board members, staff, and our advisors for all the support. Countless hours of voluntary work has been performed. The only way we have been able to grow and accomplish the projects for the betterment of our District is because of them.

**Working Together to Enhance
Our Natural Resources**

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The Wolf at Your Door

With the final rule, Revision to the Regulations for the Nonessential Experimental Population of the Mexican Wolf released January 2015, the Hereford NRCD is in Zone 2 of the area for the wolves. Zone 2 is where Mexican wolves will be allowed to naturally disperse into and occupy. Zone 2 is also where Mexican wolves may be translocated. Where Mexican wolves causing a problem elsewhere can be picked up and hauled into anywhere in area 2, like the District. Why should people be concerned?

In April 2014, included in the wild (not in pens or zoos) Mexican Wolf population were 45 wolves with functional radio collars dispersed among 20 packs and three single wolves.

The people in Catron County, New Mexico, are among those that have been dealing with the presence of wolves and wolf problems for 15 years. The county has hired Jess Carey as their wildlife investigator who investigates all reported wolf incidents in the county and co-investigates wolf incidents with USDA/AHIS Wildlife Services.

In 2015 from Jan. 1 through May, in Catron County, there were nine incidents of one to four wolves near a resident on private property. In one incident the wolf was 20 feet from the front porch. There were 33 cattle that were confirmed wolf kills, four probably a wolf kill, and two unknown. Fourteen of the confirmed kills and the two unknown were on private property. Three dogs were injured by wolves. In addition there are numerous missing calves.

In the same time frame there has been one adult-biting incident which is an open investigation (waiting for DNA results), probably a wolf. A probable wolf charged two adults on forest land, and a confirmed wolf was 30 yards from an adult at a camp trailer on forest land. Then in May there were three incidents of human-confirmed wolf close contact on private property. A wolf was 15 feet from an adult at one location; a wolf spooked a horse ridden by a 12 year old, and reportedly closely followed horse and rider to the residence. A wolf was in a yard 30 feet from a 2 1/2 year old child, the wolf would not leave, staying around the residence.

On May 21 the Associated Press reported that Federal authorities shot and killed a male Mexican gray wolf in southwestern New Mexico after it was exhibiting escalating nuisance behavior.

Remember, we live in Zone 2 where wolves can be translocated into the area. The wolf may be at your door!

Hereford NRCD Receives Tombstone High School FFA Award

The Hereford NRCD has been a supporter of the Tombstone High School FFA program; including funding and supporting their involvement with Arizona Game & Fish and the Arizona Antelope Foundation's program to enlarge the pronghorn/antelope population in the Sonoita/Elgin, AZ area.

The HNRCD participated in field days with the FFA students, the AZG&F, and the AZ Antelope Foundation working on bettering fencing in the antelope habitat areas in order to help the antelope move through the area with more ease.

The District helped with the release of antelope captured in New Mexico and then went to Prescott Valley in January, 2014, to help capture antelope there to release in the Sonoita/Elgin area.

Completing her first year as the Tombstone High School Ag instructor, Sara Odele and the FFA students are still involved with the antelope program with monitoring animal movement via satellite, tracking movement of collared animals and field conditions (grass and water).

At the end of April, John & Sharon Lohse attended the annual Tombstone FFA banquet and accepted the Award of Appreciation for the Hereford NRCD. Thank you Tombstone FFA students and Instructor Odele on behalf of the NRCD. The graduating seniors will be missed, but the District is hopeful the program will continue. The District wishes all the students the very best.

Endangered Species Act Proposed Rule

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has published a proposed rule to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to improve the content and specificity of petitions and to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the petitions process. Presently environmental groups such as the Center for Biological Diversity and WildEarth Guardians file petitions for multiple species. In the past the FWS has been inundated with multiple amounts of species being listed as threatened or endangered in one petition. Examples include such petitions as 15 species of Sturgeon listed at once, 81 marine species, 404 aquatic, riparian and wetland species from the Southeastern United States, 32 mollusk species from freshwater, and 83 coral species. Habitually these agencies do not submit a lot of good data or coordinate with state agencies.

In response to the overwhelming situation some changes in the proposed rule are:

- Require that a petition address only one species.
- Require a petitioner to certify that a copy of the petition was provided to the State agency(ies) responsible for the management and conservation of the species at least 30 days prior to submission to the FWS.
- If the State agency(ies) provided data or written comments regarding the accuracy or completeness of the petition, those data or comments must be labeled as such, appended to the petition, and submitted with the petition.
- The petitions should include a presentation of all reasonably available, relevant data on the subject species or habitat, including information that supports the petition as well as that which may tend to refute it. The petitioner will be required to certify they have gathered all relevant information and have clearly labeled and appended such information to the petition so that it is submitted with the petition.

Comments are due by July 20, 2015 and can be submitted by going to www.regulation.gov and entering document number FWS-HQ-ES-2015-0016.

The proposed rule is available on the Hereford NRCD web site www.hereford.com.

The District Welcomes Two New Official Faces

John Ladd has been appointed as an HNRCD Board Supervisor.

John and his wife, JoBeth ranch at the San Jose Ranch near Bisbee, and have been doing so for 38 years. John grew up ranching with his father, Jack Ladd, HNRCD Advisor, and mother Marie, and he is a proud 4th generation area rancher. John was away from home attending Northern Arizona University and Arizona Carpenter Apprenticeship but returned in 1989 to carry on the ranching tradition.

John and JoBeth married in 1977 and have three sons. The Ladds raise Hereford and Black Angus cattle.

The HNRCD Board of Supervisors welcome John and his expertise in the rural way of life.

Carole Vaughn has joined the HNRCD as an Advisor.

Carole was born in Minnesota, the oldest of three children. When she was six her family moved to Texas and then New Mexico. In 1959 the family moved back to Minnesota where she finished high school and went on to beauty school. The family moved to Texas once again and she became employed as a beautician.

She met and married Joe Vaughn. He was in the military and that started the military moves around the country while raising two boys, Joe and Jon. After a deployment to Ft. Huachuca, Joe retired and Carole and the boys settled in Huachuca City, AZ.

Carole became involved with the City of Huachuca City first as a volunteer firefighter, city councilwoman, and then as Mayor; a post she held for 23 years. During her time in Huachuca City her mother and father and younger brother moved to Huachuca City. Joe passed away after retiring and both of her parents have since passed, but her brother and his family are still in the area.

Carole began her career as a Realtor and she is still employed with Remax Home Store. The boys have married and each have children of their own and still live in Cochise County. She stays very busy working with Remax and as a mother and grandmother.

Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District Comprehensive District Resource Conservation Plan

The Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District is currently revising their coordinated resource management plan (Long Range Plan). To accomplish this they need the help of local land owners, ranchers, farmers, counties, municipalities, and state and federal agencies. Over the next several months, the Hereford NRCD will try to contact as many ranchers, farmers and other local landowners as possible to determine the conservation needs within the District. The Conservation District will also hold meetings with local land owners, officials who administer Federal and State Trust lands within the District, and with other State and Federal agencies who are authorized to manage, control, or regulate the natural resources within the District, including wildlife, water rights, water quality, air quality, and fire. The goal of this effort is to update the Coordinated Resource Management Plan (Long Range Plan) for the District.

In order to help identify the conservation needs of the local landowners, ranchers and farmers, the Hereford NRCD has developed a brief Conservation Needs Survey. Ranchers, farmers, land owners and other organizations within the Conservation District are encouraged to complete the questionnaire and return it to the Conservation District Supervisors to help us identify the conservation priorities within our District.

Conservation Districts are authorized to provide for the restoration and conservation of the natural resources within their boundaries in such manner as to protect and promote public health, safety, and the general welfare of the people. Conservation Districts may conduct surveys and investigations, develop and publish comprehensive plans for the conservation of the natural resources within their boundaries, and enter into agreements with landowners, operators, and any agency or subdivision of the state or federal government to implement those plans.

Information can be submitted by email to hereford_nrcd@juno.com or mailed to Hereford NRCD, P.O. Box 3361, Sierra Vista, Arizona 85636

The form and information is available on our web site www.herefordnrcd.com and for your convenience, in this newsletter.

Call Jim Lindsey, 559-0715 for more information.

WE NEED YOUR INFORMATION, which will be held strictly confidential. Your personal information will not be used in any way.

AZNRCD Name Change

The Executive Board for the Arizona Natural Resource Conservation Districts State Association, Inc. is recommending the State Association make a name change. The proposal is to accommodate both memberships of Natural Resource Conservation Districts (authorized under State law) and Soil and Water Conservation Districts (authorized under Tribal laws) in Arizona. The name change would also correct discrepancies in the Association's business name.

The name change will be voted on at the summer convention by the current AZNRCD State Association Board of Directors during their business meeting at the upcoming summer convention. **The summer convention will be August 11-13, 2015, at the Wigwam Resort in Litchfield, AZ.**

Hereford NRCD Conservation Needs Survey

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Location of property you own/manage _____

Approximate acres you own or manage: Private owned _____ Private leased _____ State Trust _____ BLM _____

National Forest _____

Is the land used for farming _____ ranching _____ wood production _____ wildlife habitat _____ other agricultural production _____ horse property _____ backyard gardening _____

Our coordinated resource management planning effort begins by identifying the natural resource problems occurring within the Conservation District. We are asking you to identify 5 highest priority natural resource concerns on the lands you own or manage by numbering them 1 through 5. Then put a check mark next to (or circle) any other natural resource problems you think the Conservation District should be aware of.

Soil Erosion Problems

- Gullies
- Erosion along roads
- Erosion from irrigation on farm fields
- Rills or sheet erosion on farm fields, rangeland or forest areas
- Erosion along ditches, channels or stream banks
- Wind erosion problems

Soil Quality Problems

- Soil Compaction
- Loss of Soil Organic Matter
- Soil salinity or other chemical problems

Water Quantity Problems

- Flooding and excess runoff
- Excess water ponding
- Inefficient irrigation

Water Quality Problems

- Excess nutrients in surface or ground water
- Excess pesticides in surface or ground water
- Excess pathogens from waste in surface or groundwater
- Excess salinity in surface or ground water
- Excess petroleum or heavy metals in surface or ground water
- Excess sediment in surface water
- Elevated water temperatures for aquatic species

Other

Plant Resource Problems

- Plant productivity or health
- Structure and composition of the plant community
- Noxious weeds
- Invasive wood species
- Wildfire hazards

Animal Resource problems

- Wildlife food
- Wildlife water
- Wildlife cover
- Wildlife habitat fragmentation
- Livestock forage
- Livestock water amount
- Livestock water distribution
- Livestock water reliability

Air Quality Problems

- Excessive dust from roads
- Excessive dust from farm fields
- Objectionable odors
- Non-attainment of air quality standards (Particulate Matter PM-10, PM 2.5)

Energy Conservation

- Excess energy use by equipment and facilities
- Excess energy use in farming and ranching operations
- Desire to change to a renewable energy source such as solar or wind

Other Considerations

- Threatened or endangered species
- Recreation use

Erosion Control Workshop

For Small Land Owners

When: June 20th from 7AM – 11AM (lunch provided after workshop)

Sponsored by: Hereford Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCD)

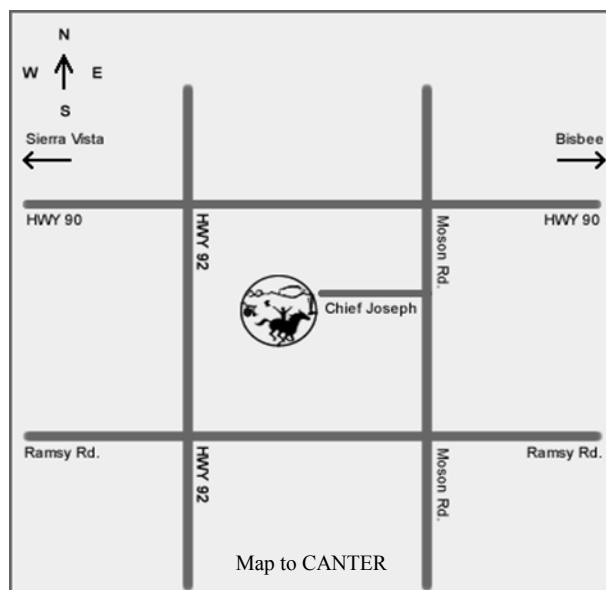
Location: Cochise Area Network for Therapeutic Equestrian Resources (CANTER)
7388 Chief Joseph Dr., Sierra Vista, AZ . (Just East of Moson Rd)

The NRCD, assisted by USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), will conduct a "hands on" Workshop on erosion control for small land owners. The Workshop will be hosted at CANTER's facility on Chief Joseph Trail just west of Moson Road. Lunch will be provided after the Workshop.

Attendees will learn:

- ♦ How to build rock structures to control erosion
- ♦ The difference between sheet, rill and wind erosion
- ♦ About different types of structures for stream bank and concentrated flow erosion
- ♦ About the role of both chemical and mechanical brush control in erosion control.

CONTACT INFO : Jim Lindsey 520-559-0715



TWO SUCCESSFUL WORKSHOPS

April 14th and 15th the HNRCD joined with others to host two workshops on range management. Both workshops were well attended and were a success.

AZNRCD - NRCS Range Monitoring Workshop featured speakers Steve Barker—Executive Director, AZNRCD and Don Decker—NRCS who educated the audience on monitoring requirements for prescribed grazing under financial assistance programs.

The UofA College of Ag & Life Sciences co-hosted *Range 101: Principles of Range and Watershed Analysis & Management*. Speakers Lamar Smith—Cascabel Ranch & Consulting, George Ruyle—UofA, Kim McReynolds—UofA, and Al Medina—USFS (retired) covered a wide range of topics. *Range 101* concluded with a field tour of the Ladd Ranch and exhibits of brush control and its effect on forage production, runoff and erosion.

Summer is Here and the Snakes are Out!



This photo was taken just off Highway 90, near the San Pedro House.

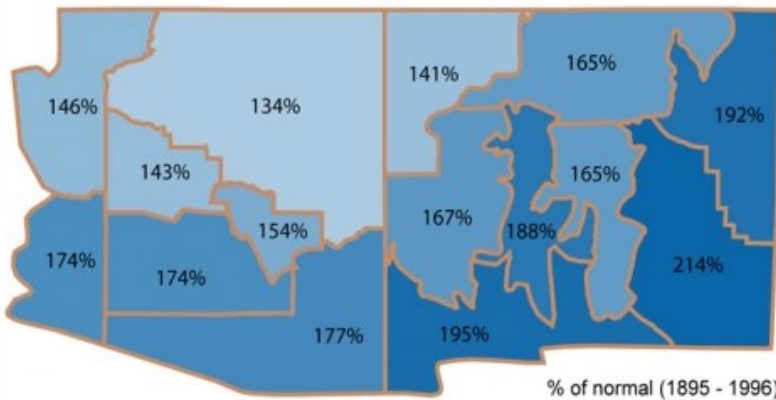
Photo by James Dean

Arizona is home to 13 varieties of rattlesnakes and eight or nine species live in Southern Arizona and the HNRCD. The two most common in our area are the Western Diamondback and the Mohave. The Western Diamondback is by far the most common and has the widest geographic ranging. It's also the biggest AZ rattlesnake and can reach up to six feet in length. The second most common and certainly the most venomous is the Mohave. Said to be 20 times more venomous than the Western Diamondback, the Mohave is greenish in color and has adopted to sitting in trees or on cacti while hunting prey.

Points to remember: 1) rattlers typically emerge from their winter dens in March or April, but can be out any time of year in AZ, 2) snakes sometimes rattle before striking, but

not always, 3) keep alert—watch where you place your hands and feet—don't reach or walk into obscured areas, 4) if you do encounter a snake back up two or three steps to be out of striking range, 5) if you are bitten seek medical attention immediately for antivenom—don't try "do it yourself" techniques like cutting, sucking, or applying a tourniquet.

Arizona and New Mexico are Wetter during El Niño Winters



Arizona and New Mexico During El Niño Winters: During El Niño years, all climate divisions in Arizona and New Mexico tend to receive above-average winter precipitation. Values represent the percentage of December -March precipitation compared to non-El Niño years for the period 1895-1996.

Credit: Figure reproduced from NOAA Climate Prediction Center material. <http://www.noaa.gov/>

Letters to the Editor

We'd love to hear from you!

Your comments, suggestions, questions. Send letters to hereford_nrcd@juno.com or HNRCD, P.O. Box 3361, Sierra Vista, AZ 85636. Every letter received will be answered and, space permitting, will be published.

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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.

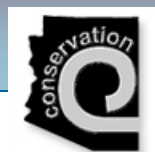
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Sierra Vista, AZ 85636



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.

