



# HEREFORD

## NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

CONSERVING - PROTECTING - PRACTICING WISE USE

# WINTER 2013 NEWSLETTER

Volume IV, Issue I

February ~ March ~ April

## Chairman's Corner

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Your NRCD board, advisors and concerned members have been busy! As you read through this newsletter, I'm sure you will appreciate their volunteered time and efforts. To show your support, please call or e-mail one of the board members or come to some of the meetings with your information and ideas. You may have some knowledge and input that is very valuable to the local issues of the Hereford NRCD. Please contribute with your annual donations as well. The donations are well spent.

I want to share with you some interesting facts. Did you know? Conservation Districts were established by the Arizona Enabling Act in 1941. There are 32 Districts and 9 Tribal Districts. Arizona covers 113,909 square miles and is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest state

in the U.S. with about 350 square miles of water surface. Arizona's elevation is from just 70 feet above sea level to over 12,000 feet above sea level. It's forest is the largest contiguous Ponderosa Pine stand in the world. Arizona is known as the Grand Canyon State and also for the five C's, Copper, Cattle, Citrus, Cotton and Climate. Agriculture contributes approximately 10.3 billion dollars to Arizona. The mining industry contributes 12.1 billion dollars. Arizona contributes 63% of all the copper produced in the U.S. Tourism contributes to the Arizona economy at over 17 billion dollars a year.

There are 15,000 farms and ranches in Arizona with the average size being 1,684 acres. There are a total of 77,115,050 acres in Arizona with the Ownership being: Federal 40%, Tribal

30%, Private 17% and State Trust 13%. As you can see Arizona has a diverse amount of resources which produce not only for the people within the State but also the nation and the world. As a community and State we need to achieve common sense conservation of our natural resources that are economically feasible and environmentally responsible.

Conservation Districts are one of the most important element of conservation. They provide linkages between landowners/managers and a host of conservation service providers both public and private. Conservation Districts are a local government which is the closest to the people and the resources they manage. It is the law that Federal Agencies coordinate planning documents with the local districts.

*continued on page 2*

WORKING TOGETHER

TO ENHANCE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES



## Upcoming Events

Stefanie Smallhouse, Executive Director, AZNRCD states "Arizona's Conservation Districts could be

referred to as "gateways" to natural resource management in their local communities.

Thank you,

**Jim Lindsey**  
*Chairman*  
Hereford NRCD

## Upcoming Events

**Ranchers Conference**  
February 28, 2013  
Holy Trinity Monastery  
St David, Arizona

*Information will be posted on the web.*

**Invasive Weed Workshop**  
March 26, 2013  
Palominas Fire Training Facility  
King Ranch Road  
Hereford, AZ

*Information will be posted on the web*

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## HNRCDD's Newest Cooperator -Anne May

Anne May grew up in England, and loved horses and country life from a very early age. She spent her youth riding at a local riding stable with Pony Club. After graduating school, Anne joined the British Army and while serving in Europe had the opportunity to compete in horse shows with German, Dutch and U.S. military riders. In Europe Anne met her husband who was serving in the U.S. Army. Later, stationed in Georgia, Anne was the riding instructor at Hilltop Stables Ft. Gordon and then moved to Michigan to further her studies in

dressage.

Anne lives in Hereford with her husband, has 4 horses, a mustang mare adopted from the BLM that she trained to drive, a Morgan



**Don Gallito, 4 year old Andalusian, enjoys a mid morning snack with Anne.**

mare that is used for trail riding, a young Andalusian that will be trained in dressage,

and a retired Arabian. She serves on the board of the Arizona Horse Council as the Cochise County Representative and Law Enforcement Training Coordinator for the Equine Abuse and Neglect Recognition Class taught at Arizona Peace Officer Standards of Training offices in Phoenix.

Anne is finishing her degree in Agricultural Science and this experience has given her a true appreciation of Arizona's agricultural industry and she enjoys Arizona's wide open spaces.



# Tombstone FFA and HNRCD Antelope Project



Hereford NRCD has just been notified that they will be receiving an Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD)

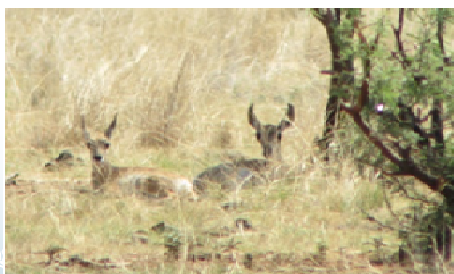
grant in the amount of \$1,936.00 The purpose of this grant is for the Tombstone Agriculture/FFA students to monitor and assemble data on the Sonoita/Elgin antelope and their habitat. The program is for both 2013 and 2014. Working with and for the

AGFD, and with the guidance of Kelly Lyda, the Tombstone Agriculture Instructor/FFA Advisor, the student will perform tests, field studies and assemble data on the antelope along with the soil, plants, water, land use, and predators. This information will be one of the tools used by the AGFD for future antelope management

decisions.

Through FFA the students can use leadership skills and knowledge learned in the classroom and field to educate others.

This program is just beginning and there will be a lot more information about it in the next two years.



Twin fawns in Elgin area  
Photo provided by AGFD

## Brush Removal Success

It does not take a large parcel of land to implement conservation practices. In 2008 Hereford NRCD Co-operator Steve Howland cleared the brush on his 4 acres back of his house. He got the idea after seeing the results of the brush removal on

the Hayhurst ranch and other material provided by the NRCD.

The photo above shows the land prior to the clearing which was



Photo by Steve Howland

done with the DR Brush Mower Steve is using in the next picture. The two



Photo by Rachel Thomas

photos below show the results, what the resource returned to, grass and flowers with no reseeding.



Photo by Steve Howland



Photo by Steve Howland

*"He got the idea after seeing the results of the brush removal on the Hayhurst ranch and other material provided by the NRCD."*

## HNRC D's Comments on Critical Habitat

The following information was a part of the Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District comments on the US Fish and Wildlife Service proposed rule change to the Endangered Species Act with regard to the timing of economic analyses for critical habitat designations.

As an affected Local District of State Government, Chapter 6, Arizona Revised Statutes Title 37, Public Lands with access to local direct, relevant, vital economic, cultural and scientific information on this important subject, the Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District requests the regulations be revised to ensure local governments including ours are allowed to enter into coordination with US Fish and Wildlife Service

(USFWS) to determine and document impacts associated with critical habitat designations. We regard the Coordination process as the most effective means by which the impacts upon local and regional human and natural environments can be identified and analyzed at an early stage. We recommend the regulations be formulated to clearly state that USFWS recognizes that local districts of state governments possess access to local economic, social and scientific data as well as other valuable expertise relevant to the analyses of the impacts of critical habitat designation proposals. Local Districts, because of their authorities and their close working relationships with local landowners are in a unique position to assist the Services in this type of analyses.

Local governmental data on economic impacts, including County and City economic reports and data should be considered as primary sources of relevant accurate information on economic impacts of critical habitat proposals. Instead, we continue to see the same template used by the same Massachusetts firm named "Industrial Economics, Incorporated" when USFWS commissions economic impact analysis reports for critical habitat proposals in Arizona and other western states. If you study the comments that were received for the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl by Elliot Pollock, an Arizona based economist, you would see the Massachusetts firm has little to no realistic information about our local economy and the impacts of

critical habitat. You can also refer the comments submitted by Hereford NRCD, Cochise County and Fort Huachuca on the spikedance and loach minnow proposed critical habitat to confirm that the Massachusetts firm should not write economic impacts analysis reports for western states.

The economic impacts of critical habitat proposals should be addressed, in coordination with local governments, at the very beginning of the drafting process and throughout the critical habitat assessment process. The proposed critical habitat designation draft rule that is released to the public for comment should already have the input of local government to ensure the lands proposed for designation have been properly vetted.

## Oleander - One of Southwest's Most Poisonous Plants

The Arizona Cooperative Extension lists oleander, yew, and lantana as common landscape plants that are toxic to humans and livestock. These are plants that we purchase

for many practical as well as aesthetic reasons to have on and around our property. If you have small children and/or livestock on this same property, be cautious,

especially when it comes to oleander.

Oleander is an evergreen shrub that is very popular in Southwest yards. It is drought-

resistant and a beautiful flowering ornamental plant. It is, however, one of the most poisonous plants in the world to humans and livestock.

*continued on page 5*

## Oleander - One of Southwest's Most Poisonous Plants *continued*



The toxins are cardiac glycosides and are present in all parts of the plant - fresh or dry. Even fumes from burning oleander cuttings are toxic. The shrub is dangerous in all seasons. A single leaf can be lethal if ingested by an infant or child. And as little as 100 grams is enough to kill an adult horse.

This ubiquitous ornamental's dangers were brought to this author's attention when a friend complained that she found a pile of oleander clippings dumped in her pasture (which borders a local road here in Cochise County).

Be safe, find another

ornamental shrub to plant in your yard, and don't poison another person's property!

To learn more about poisonous plants in our area, get the Hereford NRCD booklet available through our website."



Oleander in February

Photo by Lucinda C. Earven, DVM

## Coordination and Local Governments

Arizona BLM has finally admitted that they are required to coordinate with local governments in the development and revisions of land use plans. In a Winkelman, Redington and BLM Coordinated Planning Meeting, December 18, 2012 June Shoemaker from the Arizona State BLM Office agreed that coordination was in the laws and a different process from cooperating agency which up until now BLM had stated was the only process. A good description of the requirements of coordination is from the Federal Lands Management Act. It states in Sec. 202. [43 U.S.C. 1712] (c) In the development and revision of

land use plans, the Secretary shall- paragraph (9):

1.) Shall to the extent that he finds practical keep apprised of state, local, and tribal Land Use Plans

2.) Assure consideration is given to those state, local and tribal plans that are germane in the development of the Land Use Plans for public lands

3.) Assist in resolving to the extent practical inconsistencies between federal and non-federal government plans

4.) Shall provide for meaningful public involvement as state and local government officials both elected and appointed in the development of land use

programs, land use regulations, and land use decisions for public plans including early public notice of proposed decisions which may have a significant impact on non-federal lands

5.) Land Use Plans of the secretary under this section shall be consistent with state and local plans to the maximum extent that he finds consistent with federal law and the purposes of this act.

It is not an easy process for a local government to accomplish coordination. Hereford NRCD Supervisors have attended several training sessions by the American Steward of Liberty and

other meetings on the coordination process in the last 4 years. The District also entered into coordination with USFWS on the issue of critical habitat for the Spikedance and Loach minnow. Most feel that those coordination meetings had a lot to do with the Upper San Pedro River not being included in the critical habitat for the minnow.

Coordination is an important process for districts as a local voice for conservation efforts, connecting local knowledge, expertise and resource conservation needs to the overall management of our lands by all levels of government.



This year, the UA Cooperative Extension Water Wise program is teaming up with The Cochise Water Project, Liberty Utilities, Lowes Home Improvement Store, ACE Hardware and Hereford NRCD (see

October's Well Owners Workshop) to bring you many educational presentations. Half-hour "mini" presentations will be offered at Lowes and ACE Sierra Vista stores throughout the year (visit

the stores for dates and times). Longer, more in-depth presentations will be at the University of Arizona Sierra Vista (UASV), 1140 N. Colombo Ave, Sierra Vista in Groth Hall's

Public Meeting Room (unless noted).

For program dates and times please visit [water-wise.arizona.edu](http://water-wise.arizona.edu) or call Water Wise at (520) 458-8278 x 2141.

## Southwestern Gray Wolf Management Plan

In mid December, USFWS released the Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment (PDEA) on the draft Southwestern Gray Wolf management plan (141 pages) agency/tribal scoping review and draft Southwestern Gray Wolf management plan (44 pages) to a few counties with suspense of Feb 1, 2013 for comments. The plan is for the wolves in AZ, NM and TX. The district obtained a copy of the plan and submitted the following comments/request to USFWS. The District requested what was the date for the scoping for this action? Where was the information published for the scoping? What was the distribution of the scoping documents and the Draft EA, both

government and NGOs? The District requested a 90 day period be allowed for comments commencing with the date of notification of the action in the Federal Register. Also did USFWS make distribution of the plan to Game and Fish Departments of the three States? The District requested that an Environmental Impact Statement be prepared for the South Western Gray Wolf Management Plan with complete and accurate economic analysis. And the District be provided all information and documents pertaining to this action.

Sherry Barrett, Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator, responded to the District by email January 18, 2013 with

information that the date for comments from agencies (including State game and fish agencies in all three states) and tribes had been extended to April 1, 2013. The documents that are out for review are intended for agencies and tribes at this time. After USFWS receive their comments, they will provide a draft management plan and draft environmental assessment to the public for review and comment.

On January 29, 2013 Jonathan Olson, Environmental Planning Consultant, Mexican Wolf Recovery Program, New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office notified the District that they were adding the District to the list of Federal and state agencies, local

governments and Indian tribes they have requested to review and provide input and comment on the PDEA and the Draft Southwestern Gray Wolf Management Plan. The list of state agencies included the state wildlife management agencies in Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. They are requesting federal and state agencies and tribal review of the PDEA and the draft management plan as part of the National Environmental Policy Act scoping process. They state that once they have reviewed and incorporated comments they plan to release the Draft EA for public review/comment which will also provide the opportunity for additional agency /tribal review.

## Rabies Alert

Recently (1-12-13) a skunk attacked backyard livestock in Hereford, AZ. The skunk was killed and sent to the Arizona Department of Health Services for testing and was found to be rabid. The livestock are currently under

quarantine.

This is a warning to us all that rabies is a deadly neurological disease that can affect all mammals (this includes us!). Upon exposure through a bite of a rabid animal, the

virus migrates via nerves to the brain where it initiates rapidly progressive, invariably fatal encephalitis.

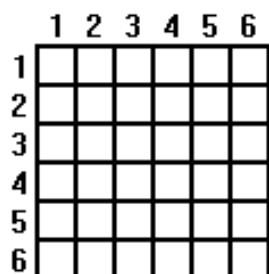
Currently, there are very good vaccines for prevention of this incurable disease for all

domestic pets as well as livestock. Vaccinate today!

For further information, contact your local veterinarian or Lucinda C. Earven, DVM at (520) 456-9145.

## Brain Teasers

Anacrossagrams are like miniature crossword puzzles, except the clues are words, and what you fill into the grid is an anagram of the clue. You have to figure out what order the letters go in based on the intersecting clues. Can you figure the puzzles out?



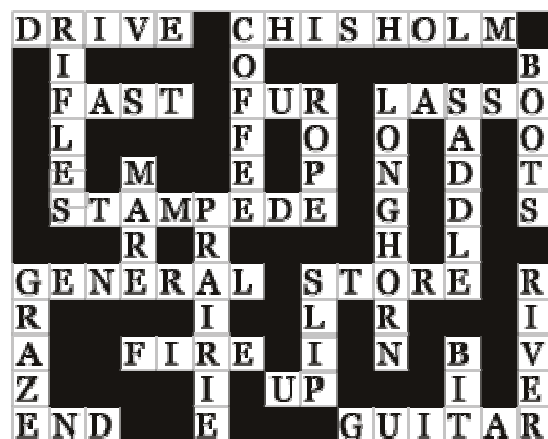
### Across

1. weirdo
2. igloos
3. watery
4. depths
5. myriad
6. decent

### Down

1. toward
2. diadem
3. solder
4. switch
5. eyeing
6. poetry

Solution from previous newsletter.



# The UPS Store

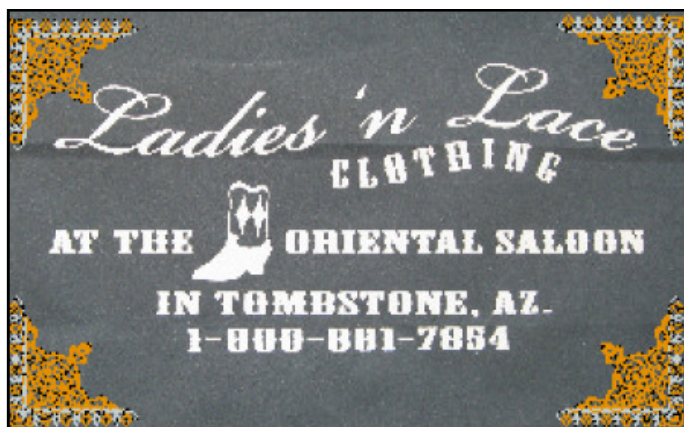


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Our Natural Resources.

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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

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is on the World Wide Web!**

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