



Redington Resource Review
Resource News for the Conservation Minded
Producer and Landowner
A Quarterly Publication of the Redington Natural Resource
Conservation District
Volume 26 No. 2 May 2009

DISTRICT NOTES

Submitted by Stefanie Smallhouse
 District Supervisor, Redington NRCD

Consider Playing a Role in a Success Story

In San Diego they have a name for this time of year - the "June Gloom." The fog rolls in and doesn't seem to leave until the end of the month. Arizona's June has a certain gloom. Gloomy is 30 days of blinding sunshine, not a cloud in the sky, the mercury over 100 degrees, no breeze to speak of, and the lingering dry dust that has settled around us turning the valley into a sepia photograph. The thought of rain is ever-present. As I hibernate indoors I remind myself that it could be much worse. At least the wind has died down and the dust isn't so thick that I have to tie myself to the shop in order to walk to the barn and not get swallowed by the Earth. This is not by chance...even in the driest years.

April 14, 1935 marked the culmination of the period known as The Dust Bowl. This was our country's worst ecological disasters in history. It was a defining moment in time when America's government and its farmers realized that food production and westward settlement could not take place at the expense of our most valuable resources. Black Sunday, generated enough electricity in the air to power all of New York City, people were left blind from the grit in their eyes, and died within yards of their houses as they became lost and disoriented in the thick air. It was this same storm that left a layer of Panhandle dust across the desk of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Shortly thereafter, Congress unanimously passed legislation declaring soil and water conservation a national policy and priority, during what was also the worst economic period in our history. Because nearly three-fourths of the continental United States was privately owned, Congress realized that only active, voluntary support from landowners would guarantee the success of conservation work on private land. There needed to be a liaison to bridge the gap of mistrust between the farmer and the government.

By 1937 more than three-fourths of the topsoil had been lost from 8,543,000 acres and as a result, President Roosevelt wrote the governors of all the states recommending legislation that would allow local landowners to form soil conservation districts (NRCD's). The Soil

...continued on page 2.



Photo source: <http://www.paper-dragon.com>

What's Inside?

District News and Announcements2 , 3
Board of Supervisors.	3
Rainfall Measurements	3
CVFD News	3
Let's Think About Soil	4
NRCS News	5
Education Center Report	5
District Meeting Schedule	6
Name the Snake	6
Local Classifieds	6
November Meeting Minutes	7
Local NRCS Contact Info.	Back Page

Redington NRCD News and Announcements



AP\Arthur Rothstein

(continued from cover page)

Conservation Service was also created (NRCS). Funding was made available for large-scale projects to be put into place immediately to save what soil was left of the Great Plains. At once,

the Soil Conservation Service and the Conservation Districts began implementing conservation practices and educating farmers about soil conservation methods.

ARIZONA

Arizona's NRCD's were established in 1941 as legal subdivisions of the state, organized by vote of the landowners within the District, and managed by a Board of Supervisors elected by local people. A form of self-government authorized to identify and address the resource conservation needs of the district.

There are 41 Conservation Districts blanketing the entire State of Arizona, 32 of which are established under State Law and 9 established under Tribal Law.

The District Board of Supervisors has the responsibility for determining the resource conservation needs of the District, for developing and coordinating long-range plans and programs of natural resource conservation, and for implementing them under the District's annual plan of operations. Districts work with many organizations, agencies, and individuals to accomplish soil and water conservation.

REDINGTON NRCD

The Redington NRCD was established in 1947 and is responsible for 285,860 acres of land located within Pima, Cochise, Graham and Pinal Counties. The demographic of land ownership and land use has changed dramatically in the past 62 years, but the need for conservation planning and education by and for local landowners has not. In 1947, farms and ranches began implementing practices and management plans focused on partnering conservation with production. Today there are more homes than farm fields and livestock pastures in our district. This requires that, as a Conservation District, we must consider conservation planning, priorities, and education for the needs of residential landowners as well as what remains of production agriculture.

There is currently a vacant seat on the Redington

NRCD, and another Supervisor wishing to retire. If you are living in the District, whether involved in production agriculture or just interested in the conservation of our area's natural resources, please consider serving on this board. Much of the work that we do in this district is a combination of addressing conservation in rural living and agriculture.

In order to serve as a Supervisor on the Redington NRCD you must meet the following qualifications: 18 years of age, a registered AZ voter, a district cooperator, and reside within the district. Both of the seats available can be filled temporarily through appointments until May of 2010 at which time an election will be held. One of the seats is an appointed two year term position to be filled by the Board immediately following the election and the other is an elected 6 year term with 4 years left on it.

Since 1935 we have made great strides in land and water management through conservation minded actions. We have not experienced a natural resource disaster like the Dirty Thirties since the creation of the Conservation Districts and Natural Resource Conservation Service. The most successful conservation efforts in our country's history have been led and carried out through the voluntary, self-motivated actions of those that live close to the land. This is the tradition established by Conservation Districts. Consider being a part of it!

"Service is the rent we pay to be living..."
Marian Wright Edelman

Last Printed Newsletter

NEWSLETTER NOTICE

The Redington Resource Review is going Electronic ONLY

Starting in August 2009 newsletters will be in electronic version only. Newsletters will be posted on the Redington NRCD website at <http://www.redingtonnrcd.org>. If you would like to receive email notifications when they are posted, please email: redingtonnrcdnews@yahoo.com. and let us know.

If you would like to continue receiving printed copies, the cost will be \$5 per issue (\$20 per year) to cover the cost of printing and mailing. Please send check to Redington NRCD, PO Box 232, Pomerene, AZ 85627.

There are several committees being formed by the Arizona Association of Conservation Districts on various topics in natural resource management. Nominations are presently being accepted for these committees. You must be a cooperator to serve. The first meeting is in Gilbert on June 25th. If you are interested in volunteering to serve on any of these committees, please contact Stefanie at carlink@hughes.com or 2639.

Redington Natural Resource Conservation District & Conservation Education Center Board of Supervisors:

Charles Kent, Chair
ckent1@starband.net

Stefanie Smallhouse, Secretary
carlink@hughes.net

Charlie Ffolliott, Supervisor
lff@rnsmtc.com

Les Helfrich, Supervisor
chiefc@rnsmtc.com

Jacquie Dale, Newsletter Editor, Ed Center Director
redingtonnrcdnews@yahoo.com

Rainfall Measurements for Area

Data from M Diamond Headquarters near Redington:

March -- 0.3"
April -- 0.0"
May -- 0.97"

Data from Cascabel Clayworks, Cascabel (NWS Station):

March -- 0.31"
April -- 0.23"
May -- 0.50"

Data from Three Links Farm:

March -- 0.41"
April -- 0.07"
May -- 0.88"

Data from Conservation Education Center Station, Cascabel (J. Dale house):

March -- 0.20"
April -- 0.08"
May -- 0.41"

Cascabel Volunteer Fire Department News



Jim EtsHokin, Fire Chief CVFD
etshokin@rnsmtc.com

Howdy everyone,
Well, the wildland fire season is off to a busy start with numerous human-caused fires. Most have occurred in Santa Cruz and Cochise Counties, but there has been activity statewide. I want to remind everyone of the potential for fires to get out of hand. Please be sure to use caution when doing any type of burning this time of year.

The CVFD would like to take this opportunity to let everyone know of a fundraiser that will be taking place at the Cascabel Community Center on June 6th, at 5:00 PM. Gordan and Linda Beasley are sponsoring this event, to raise funds so Gordan may attend an EMT class in Tucson. The CVFD is really trying to improve our EMS response and this will be an important first step. CVFD policy provides for partial reimbursement

after certification is obtained, depending on funds available. A pizza party is planned. There will be ice cream, and a silent auction as well.

Please bring your favorite pizza toppings. Anyone wishing to donate items for the auction bring them along. Please call Bonnie Bell (4130), if there are any questions concerning the auction. The Beasleys (4772), will be happy to answer any questions you may have concerning the class.

Please come out to support this worthy cause.

Thanks,
Jim

Let's Think About Soil

Submitted by Wilma Renken, NRCS Rangeland Management Specialist

Soil is our fundamental natural resource; the ground beneath our feet. It is the base for all human activity. Unfortunately, we often forget to consider soil before we embark on buying land or planting a garden. The particular combination of sand, silt and clay determines if you'll have an easy or hard time growing a harvestable crop (yes, rangeland forage IS a crop), building houses, or keeping a road surface smooth. So how do you or I know what soil you have on your farm or ranch?

The National Cooperative Soil Survey Program is a partnership led by NRCS of Federal land management agencies, state agricultural experiment stations and state and local units of government that provide soil survey information necessary for understanding, managing, conserving and sustaining the nation's limited soil resources.

Soil surveys provide an orderly, on-the-ground, scientific inventory of soil resources that includes maps showing the locations and extent of soils, data about the physical and chemical properties of those soils, and information derived from that data about potentialities and problems of use on each kind of soil in sufficient detail to meet all reasonable needs for farmers, agricultural technicians, community planners, engineers, and scientists in planning and transferring the findings of research and experience to specific land areas. Soil surveys provide the basic information needed to manage soil sustainably. They also provide information needed to protect water quality, wetlands, and wildlife habitat. Soil surveys are the basis for predicting the behavior of a soil under alternative uses, its potential erosion hazard, potential for ground water contamination, suitability and productivity for cultivated crops, trees, and grasses. Soil surveys are important to planners, engineers, zoning commissions, tax commissioners, homeowners, developers, as well as agricultural producers.

The NRCS has developed a new and very exciting web based soil survey product called "Web Soil Survey." This product allows the user to view and print soil survey maps and reports from a web browser without the need for additional software. Link it and find a user guide at <http://www.az.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/soils/index.html>

Web Soil Survey (WSS) provides soil data and information produced by the National Cooperative Soil Survey. It is operated by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and provides access to the largest natural resource information system in the world. NRCS has soil maps and data available online for more than 95 percent of the nation's counties and anticipates having 100 percent in the near future. The site is updated and maintained online as the single authoritative source of soil survey information.

Two ways NRCS can assist ranchers include conservation planning assistance, and a financial assistance program that can defray the cost of installing conservation practices. The planning process is free of charge and uses the soil survey and on-the-ground inventory to identify the vegetation communities on your ranch before determining if productivity problems exist. A conservation plan is your roadmap to enhancing your long term ranch sustainability. Financial assistance to implement planned practices is provided through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Applications are accepted on a year-round basis.

Contact the NRCS Willcox Field Office for assistance at 565 N. Bisbee Ave. or call (520) 384-2229 ext. 3. For more information about NRCS programs, visit www.az.nrcs.usda.gov

NRCS News

Submitted by Dave Matthews, NRCS
District Conservationist
Email: david.matthews@az.usda.gov

Education Center Report

Submitted by Jacquie Dale, Ed Center Director
Email: redingtonnrcdnews@yahoo.com

2009 EQIP PROGRAM UPDATE

Implementation of the 2009 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is progressing. Applications that were received prior to February 1, 2009 are currently being evaluated. Public comments on proposed rules are being accepted by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) through April 17th.

The NRCS plans to have all EQIP program applications evaluated by June 1, 2009. The highest ranking applications will be selected for funding and contract development early in June. By July 1, 2009 NRCS plans to have all contracts developed and approved. After contracts are approved and conservation practice designs are completed, participants can begin practice installation.

As a result of the new farm bill, there will be some new EQIP funding options available. For example, monies are being targeted to improving air quality in Cochise County. Also, special EQIP funding for organic farming is identified in the farm bill.

EQIP is a cost share program to help agricultural producers treat conservation problems and enhance natural resources. Eligible participants can receive financial and technical assistance to implement approved conservation practices. These practices include high efficiency irrigation systems as well as other crop, water, and soil conservation practices for land currently being irrigated in our area. On rangeland, water development practices such as solar pumps, wells, pipelines, storage and troughs can be eligible. Other conservation practices including cross fencing, brush clearing, seeding, and grazing management can also be eligible for assistance.

The NRCS is continuing to accept applications for the EQIP program. Agricultural producers interested in participating in EQIP can apply at their local NRCS office in Willcox. For more information, call (520) 384-2229 extension 3 or visit us at the USDA Service Center at 656 N. Bisbee Ave.

Calling all Bat House Owners

I'm trying to follow up on our bat house program last summer. Could everyone who received a bat house through last year's workshop, please let me know if you have had any success with bats moving in this year. You can email me at redingtonnrcdnews@yahoo.com or call me at 1441.

Rainwater Harvesting Stewardship Opportunity!

The Redington NRC D Education Center, in partnership with the Cascabel Community Center and Cochise County Cooperative Extension's Water Wise Program is pleased to bring an outstanding opportunity to our valley. Carmen Miller of the Water Wise Program will be leading a series of educational seminars and hands on projects teaching our community about the skills and equipment needed to simply and effectively harvest the desert's most precious resource—water! The classes will cover water budgeting for household and landscaping use; installation of earthworks and catchment systems; the creation of various earthworks, including rock dams; laser leveling; basic landscaping with native plants; correctly installing irrigation systems to distribute harvested rainwater; a field trip to Benson to tour successful Rainwater Harvesting systems, and much, much more!

Classes will take place from 8:30 am - 1:30 pm on Tuesday June 23rd; Saturday, July 11th; Tuesday, July 21st; Wednesday, August 19th; and Tuesday, September 22nd. Participants should plan on bringing a lunch for each session, and come prepared to begin installation of a rainwater harvesting system for the Community Center. Cost is \$35-per person, which includes all program materials and a 55 gallon rainwater harvesting barrel to establish a catchment system at a participant's home!

To register for this wonderful opportunity, please contact Jess at jessrigel@gmail.com or 212-YAVS. Sign up is limited to 10 people, but if there is more interest other opportunities may become available!

**Redington NRCD Annual Meeting
Friday July 17, 2009
9 AM - 1 PM**

Refreshments and a sandwich lunch will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert that you would like to share. Come out and meet your Board Supervisors and see what the district has been doing .

The Annual Meeting will be followed by a brief business meeting.

**Redington Natural Resource Conservation
District Meeting Schedule**

Unless otherwise notified, the Redington NRCD Board meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Cascabel Community Center

Next Meeting Dates:

Annual Meeting

Friday July 17th, 2009 at 9 AM at Cascabel Community Center

Tuesday September 15th at 9 AM at CCC

All agendas are posted 24 hours in advance at the Game and Fish kiosks along the Cascabel/San Pedro River Rd. If you would like email notification of the agenda please email Charles Kent ckent1@starband.net

Name the Snake.

Identify the Snake's common name or species name. Answer in August 2009 Newsletter.



Photo by Gene Troutner, 2009.

Local Classifieds

**Saguaro-Juniper
Grass Finished Beef**
jeannine85602@yahoo.com

(520) 212-7333

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Armando Gonzales
Rental/Sales Coordinator



Email: agonzales@roadmachinery.com

www.roadmachinery.com

The Redington Resource Review accepts ads on a quarterly basis. Ads measuring 4" x 3" cost \$5 per issue. If you are interested in placing an ad please email redingtonnrcdnews@yahoo.com. or submit your ad and check to: Redington NRCD, PO Box 232, Pomerene, AZ 85627

Meeting Minutes

Redington Natural Resource Conservation District

Board of Supervisors Meeting
November 18, 2008
Cascabel Community Center

Approved January 20, 2009

Call to order 9:20 a.m.

Supervisors present: Les Helfrich, Stefanie Smallhouse, Charles Kent, Ruth Dewel, Charles Ffolliot,

Public/Agency Present: Ed Center Dir. Jacquie Dale, Dave Matthews NRCS, Maria Troutner, Gene Troutner, Bill Dewel

Minutes for the prior meeting were approved.
Motion made: Ruth Dewel
Seconded: Les Helfrich

The financial report was given by Ruth Dewel Attached.
Motion to Accept – Stefanie

Smallhouse

Seconded – Charles Ffolliot

Receipts submitted for payment – S. Smallhouse \$555.70 (Ranch Field Day)

J.Dale \$117.95 (weather station)

Motion to approve giving \$275.00 to local school district for field trip travel.
Motion to accept – C. Ffolliot
Seconded – R. Dewel

Motion to approve spending \$37.50 for half of the Christmas Fair Booth
Motion to accept – S. Smallhouse
Seconded – C. Ffolliot

Reports:

Charlie Ffolliot reported that the Cascabel Fire Department will be heavily involved in the Cascabel Community Fair again this year in practicing their command system in the event of a local wildfire.

Dave Matthews DC for our area gave the NRCS report – attached.

J.Dale reported that the newsletter would be out next week. She reported that the Game and Fish will have seven new people to enforce trespassing. The webpage is being worked on to change the home-page and update information. It was also reported that the weather station will have to be relocated again in order to be consistent with past and on average reporting in the area. The Christmas fair booth will be \$37.50 this year for half of the booth fee, split with the Center for Desert Archaeology. We will sell books this year again.

Stefanie Smallhouse reported that the 2008 Ranch Field Day went well. There were 80+ fourth graders in attendance. The stations were the same with the exception of the historical station being taken out in the interest of time. Article attached describing the event.

Les Helfrich has not received any information on his appointment. The state office needs his cooperator agreement to move forward.

Stefanie Smallhouse attended the drought monitoring workshop for the updated webpage and user instruction for local drought monitors.

Call to the Public:

Maria Troutner requested information on the tree trimming request made by the Carlink Ranch for Cascabel Road from Cochise County. S.Smallhouse reported that this request had been made but no action has been taken. This was not a request which was district related, but a road safety issue. Maria offered to take this issue up with Supervisor Searle, as she has had some very serious near collisions on the road recently. This was not related to the tree overhang, but speed. A very lengthy discussion ensued concerning the road and its condition and the concern with speed of travel, tree overhang, and overall road usage.

Having no further business the meeting adjourned at 1pm.

MISSION STATEMENT

The legislation establishing the Conservation Districts in Arizona described their mission as follows: ARS Title 37, Chapter 6 37-1001
It is declared that the policy of the legislature to provide for the restoration and conservation of lands and soil resources of the state, the preservation of water rights and the control and prevention of soil erosion, and thereby to conserve natural resources, conserve wildlife, protect the tax base, protect public lands and protect and restore this state's rivers and streams and associated riparian habitats, including fish and wildlife resources that are dependent on those habitats, and in such a manner to protect and promote the public health, safety and general welfare of the people.

**Redington Natural Resource
Conservation District**

PO Box 232, Pomerene, AZ 85627

Natural Resource Conservation Service
656 N. Bisbee Ave., Willcox, AZ 85643
(520) 384-2229 ext.3 (phone)
(520) 384-2735 (fax)
david.matthews@az.usda.gov (email)
www.az.nrcs.usda.gov (website)

NRCS Willcox Office Staff (Team)

Dave Matthews, District Conservationist
Wilma Renken, Rangeland Management Specialist
Chase Skaarer, Rangeland Management Specialist
Tobiah Salvail, Soil Conservation Technician
Donna Matthews, Coronado RC&D Coordinator

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Redington Natural Resource Conservation District
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