



Redington Resource Review
Resource News for the Conservation Minded
Producer and Landowner
A Quarterly Publication of the Redington Natural Resource
Conservation District
Volume 24 No. 2 May 2007

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Submitted by Charles Kent
 Chair, Redington NRCD

At our last board meeting Ruth Dewel brought to the Boards attention that many cooperators had attended the Master Watershed steward classes last year. Class requirements state that everyone attending need to perform forty hours of community service in order to complete the requirements to become Master Watershed Stewards. It occurred to me that those same forty hours could greatly benefit the Reddington District. I propose that at the next meeting we concentrate on developing several deserving projects that would make our watershed better.

I know that everybody has a pet project, so there must be something that we are capable doing, with limited financing, that will improve a small piece of our district. A couple weekends of cutting salt cedars is what I envisioned. Erosion control is also something that can be addressed as well as bank control along the San Pedro River. There are so many issues we can tackle, I'm certain that there are some good projects that we can all agree upon.

Improving the world around us; that is almost the mission statement of the NRCD, and what better community service is there than contributing to our own local environment? At our next meeting I would like everyone to have a project in mind, or a list of suggestions we can discuss. Let's use those forty hours to jointly benefit individuals in attaining their goal and the community as well!

REDINGTON NRCD ANNUAL MEETING
SATURDAY, JUNE 2ND
CARLINK RANCH
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

PLAN TO ATTEND THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING AT THE CARLINK RANCH IN REDINGTON.

A report of the district's activities for the year will be presented

The meeting will also highlight the Carlink's conversion to more efficient irrigation systems and ranch history.

A light brunch will be served

What's Inside?

District News and Announcements2

Board of Supervisors.2

CVFD News: Tips to Reduce Threat of Wildfire .3

In Case of Emergency3

EQIP: Easing the Cost of Conservation4

Education Center Report5

Rainfall Measurements5

District Meeting Schedule6

NRCS News6

Local Classifieds6

March Meeting Minutes7

Local NRCS Contact Info.Back Page

Redington NRCD News and Announcements

Cascabel/River Road Update

Supervisor Richard Searle recently met with Highway staff to go over the list of road issues submitted by Cascabel Rd. residents and this is an update on what can be done this year and what hopefully will be addressed in future.

- Hot Springs Wash road crossing erosion will be repaired this spring.
- MM 27.5 open cut outs to aid drainage (north of Gamez cattleguard) will be done this spring/summer.
- MM 22.5, south of Canyon Rd, rolling dips to keep washes separate and out of road, will be done this year as time allows.
- Down stream cut outs at MM 19.7 **pending BLM permits.**
- Cut out at MM 19.6 (north of Lara Lane) can be done this spring/summer but is **subject to land owner permission.**
- Guard rail on curve between MM 31 & 32 being reviewed and will try to get in next year's budget.
- Rebuild dike at Sosa Wash being reviewed for possible action next year.
- Wash crossings at Kelsey and Teran will be reviewed for ROW, and a concrete crossing for Teran will be a priority request in next year's budget.

As for raising and crowning of the road, there were several areas that were mentioned and I have asked that the grader operator identify which section should be addressed first. Hopefully a mile can be raised and crowned this year.

He stated that he will continue to follow through on this list and keep you updated on its progress.

Please note that some work is subject to landowner approval or government permits.

ADOT Feasibility Study of I-10 Bypass Route through the Valley

ADOT held a series of meetings this month to get public comment and questions on the feasibility of a Tucson/Phoenix bypass, with a possible route through the Redington District. URS, the consulting company doing the study for ADOT is asking for public comments. Information, proposed routes, and downloadable comment forms can be obtained from ADOT online at:
<http://tpd.azdot.gov/planning/i10bypass.php>
 or you can mail comments to:

Debra Duerr

I-10 Phoenix-Tucson Bypass Study Public Involvements Coordinator
 URS Corporation
 7720 N 16th Street, Suite 100
 Phoenix, AZ 85020

Redington NRCD Board Vacancy Announcement

There is currently an open seat on the Redington NRCD Board of Supervisors. This seat is an appointed 2 year term position with one year remaining in the appointment. This term will end in June of 2008. At that time the position will be open for the reappointment of said individual or be open for nomination once again.

Once an individual is nominated by the current Board of Supervisors, this nomination is carried to the office of the Secretary of State for actual approval and appointment.

In order to qualify for this position you must be a cooperator of the district, citizen of the United States, and living within the district boundaries. As a member of the Board of Supervisors you will be one of five responsible for the actions and activities carried out by the district. If nominated for the position you should expect to attend at least one local district meeting on a monthly basis, and be willing to travel outside of the district for statewide meetings or other natural resource related meetings that may involve this district. You should also be willing to be involved with outside committees related to the conservation of natural resources.

If you are interested in applying for this position or if you have questions concerning a more detailed description of the purpose and mission of the district is, please contact any of the current board members listed in the box below. Letters of interest may be sent to the Redington NRCD, PO Box 232, Pomerene, AZ 85627

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

Charles Kent, Chair
ckent1@starband.net

Judy Dykes, Secretary
dykes@rnsmtc.com

Stefanie Smallhouse, Supervisor
carlink@hughes.net

Les Helfrich, Supervisor
chiefc@rnsmtc.com

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

Cascabel Volunteer Fire Department News

Les Helfrich, Fire Chief CVFD
chiefc@rnsmtc.com



Tips to Reduce the Threat of Wildfire in Arizona

Governor Napolitano proclaimed the week of March 18-24, 2007 as Wildfire Awareness Week in Arizona. As we move into the spring and summer, we begin the hot and dry part of the year that brings with it a potential increase in the number of wildfires.

The Governor's reminder this year is part of the FireWise program: "Do your part, don't let a wildfire start." The slogan underscores the fact that everyone in Arizona is a steward of our natural resources, and we are each responsible for preventing fire. "By taking simple steps in preparation for the season, and by practicing awareness, we can do a lot toward reducing the size and severity of the wildfire season this year," said Governor Napolitano.

State Forester Kirk Rowdabaugh added that as the state continues to grow, we have more people living in what's called the "wildland-urban interface," the area in which cities and towns touch brushlands and forests. "As the threat increases, we are taking the necessary steps to protect the communities that are most vulnerable," said Rowdabaugh. As part of this year's preparation, the Arizona Wildfire Academy will also be conducted the week of March 18, to train 1,000 firefighters to handle this year's hazards.

The Governor, the State Forester and the Wildland Fire Management Agencies offer the following tips to reduce the threat of fire in Arizona:

- Prevention is key. Homeowners need to create and maintain defensible space around their properties by thinning vegetation and pruning back trees and brush.
- For technical assistance- for example, information regarding how much space to clear - owners can contact their local fire department or the nearest State Forestry Office.
- Use extreme care in the use of all fire and potentially fire causing activities whether it be for industrial, home, or recreational use.
- Make sure campfires and smoking materials are extinguished.
- Use spark arrestors in mechanical equipment

such as chain saws and off-road vehicles.

- When you pull off a roadway, be sure not to park in grassy areas.
- People pulling trailers should also be sure to attach safety chains securely; when these chains are loose and drag on pavement, that can cause sparks which can ignite fires along the roadsides.
- Observe "Red Flag" warnings. These warnings will be issued by fire agencies when weather conditions are conducive to the easy start and rapid spread of wildfires. During such times, citizens should curtail activities which could cause fire and should obey all fire restrictions and area closures.

By following these steps, Arizonans can help to ensure our state stays free of the devastation of massive wildfire.

For more information, please visit

www.azstatefire.org or
www.azfireinfo.com

For information concerning fire restrictions call toll free: 877-864-6985.

In Case of Emergency

Submitted by Judy Dykes, District Supervisor

The form in this month's newsletter was put together with the help of local emergency responders. BUT- they stress personalizing it to meet your own needs.

Emergency response time is always going to be an issue when you live in a rural setting like we do, but if you can have information available that will enable them to treat you, it may save precious time.

There have been some terrible stories regarding ambulances where directions are misleading, signs and numbers non-existent, or the resident has no medical information for the person needing assistance. Take the time to prepare yourself and have it on paper. I have been told that in a moment of panic you may not remember critical information. Try to think of all the possibilities that could help you in a crisis. Keep this form where it will be visible to emergency personnel, for example on your fridge.

EQIP: Easing the Cost of Conservation

Submitted by Stefanie Smallhouse, District Supervisor

In June we will be hosting the Redington NRCD Annual Meeting to highlight some of the work that we have been doing to improve water conservation on the farms. We were able to accomplish these improvements through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) administered by the NRCS and enabled through the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, or better known as the Farm Bill.

Many cooperators in the district may not be aware of what the program is or how valuable it is to the country's agricultural producers and YOU.

EQIP provides a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals. EQIP offers financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land.

EQIP offers contracts with a minimum term that ends one year after the implementation of the last scheduled practices and a maximum term of ten years. These contracts provide incentive payments and cost-shares to implement conservation practices. Persons who are engaged in live-stock or agricultural production on eligible land may participate in the EQIP program. EQIP activities are carried out according to an environmental quality incentives program plan of operations developed in conjunction with the producer that identifies the appropriate conservation practice or practices to address the resource concerns. The practices are subject to NRCS technical standards adapted for local conditions. Initially the local conservation districts were to approve the plans and that is why this program is discussed at our monthly meetings. Now the districts are more involved with local work groups that provide input to the NRCS on setting area goals, priorities, and payment rates for various projects.

EQIP may cost-share up to 75 percent of the costs of certain conservation practices. In our district the cost-share on most projects is 50 percent. However, limited resource producers and beginning farmers and ranchers may be eligible for cost-shares up to 90 percent.

You should consider this a valuable program that benefits everyone, not just that farmer or rancher because any act of conservation whether your own or someone else's benefits many. Natural resources must be harvested for our survival and way of life, and striving to do this the best way

possible in order to maintain our sources is very important. This year the 2002 Farm Bill will expire and Congress has already begun the process of writing the next one to carry us into the next several years. There are many benefits for agriculture in the Farm Bill as well as funding for social programs such as food stamps. Support for agricultural production and conservation in agricultural production is vital for food security and in turn our security as a nation. This should be important to everyone, as everyone will benefit from it.

The many projects that we have done over the years in cooperation with the NRCS and conservation programs have been costly even with the cost share available. Many acts of conservation are easy and inexpensive, but others require ingenuity, time, labor, and money. Without programs like EQIP most agricultural producers would not be able to afford such improvements because the economic return is very slow in coming or there is none at all.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program National Priorities

- 1.Reductions of nonpoint source pollution, such as nutrients, sediment, pesticides, or excess salinity in impaired watersheds consistent with TMDLs where available as well as the reduction of groundwater contamination and reduction of point sources such as contamination from confined animal feeding operations;
2. Conservation of ground and surface water resources;
3. Reduction of emissions, such as particulate matter, nitrogen oxides (NOx), volatile organic compounds, and ozone precursors and depleters that contribute to air quality impairment violations of National Ambient Air Quality Standards;
4. Reduction in soil erosion and sedimentation from unacceptable levels on agricultural land; and
5. Promotion of at-risk species habitat conservation.

Since the EQIP began in 1997, USDA has entered into 117,625 contracts, enrolled more than 51.5 million acres into the program, and obligated nearly \$1.08 billion to help producers advance stewardship on working agricultural land.

Education Center Report

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

Redington NRC D Education Center Workshop: May 16th, 2007

A Wildlife Escape Ramp workshop held on May 16th was well attended by some enthusiastic community members. Sixteen people



Photo by Wilma Renker/NRCS

came to the Community Center and fourteen stayed to help build the wildlife escape ramps at the Helfrich's workshop.

Dan Brown of Bat Conservation International (BCI) gave a very informative talk on wildlife and the importance of water sources, with particular emphasis on accomodating

bats. Dan had some incredible pictures of bats and is a wealth of knowledge on the scientific research that has been done on bats. He distributed a BCI handbook entitled *Water for Wildlife: A Handbook for Ranchers and Range Managers* to all the participants. Frank Toupal, wildlife biologist also presented briefly on wildlife escape ramps.



Photo by Dan Taylor/Bat Conservation International



Photo by Dan Taylor/Bat Conservation International

Dave Matthews, with assistance from Wilma Renker and Frank Toupal of NRCS and Dan instructed us in building the ramps. An entire assembly line was created and within no time at all we had created 32 ramps out of eight 4 x 4 pieces of expanded metal. We did go

through several metal blades with our saws. Thanks to the creative painting efforts, we have many of them in a variety of colors. These ramps are available to cooperators in the district. Please contact me or one of the supervisors if you would like one or more. It is important that we get these ramps out to be used where they are needed to prevent unnecessary wildlife death.



Photo by Dan Taylor/Bat Conservation International

A big thank you to Les and Jean Helfrich for providing the location for the workshop and lunch preparation. Thanks also to the participants who did so much work and didn't stop until every last ramp was bent into shape and painted. The presenters were all wonderful and we hope to have them back again for future workshops.



Installed Escape Ramp
 Photo by J. Dale

For more information on Bat Conservation International's Water for Wildlife visit: www.batcon.org

AACD Education Committee Retreat

In April, I attended a productive three-day strategic planning retreat in beautiful Brown Canyon with nine other Education Center directors on the

Arizona Association of Conservation District's Education Committee. Brown Canyon is located in Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, just southwest of Tucson.



Arch at Brown Canyon
 Photo by J. Dale

Also in attendance were Tim Morrison, Mike McCauley of AACD and Doug Witte, NRC D Coordinator of the Arizona State Land Department. Romona Saunders of the Bureau of Reclamation facilitated the retreat.

Our goal, as members of the AACD Education Committee, was to develop a strategic plan to help guide the collective efforts of the education centers. We hope to have this ready by August of 2007 for the summer AACD meetings.

Rainfall Measurements for Area

Data from M Diamond Headquarters near Redington:

March -- 0.97"
 April -- 0.35"
 1/2 May -- 0.10"

Data from Cascabel Clayworks, Cascabel

March -- 1.13"
 April -- 0.20"
 1/2 May -- Trace

Data from Harold Elliott, Cascabel

March -- 0.87"
 April -- 0.53"
 May -- 0.08"

NRCS News

Soil Survey Update

Cathy McGuire, NRCS Soil Scientist

Soil survey field mapping for nearly 625,000 acres in the Benson area is now completed. The survey area covers most of northwestern Cochise County including Benson and Cascabel. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) completes soil surveys for use by property owners and others. These surveys are a valuable tool for landowners and land planners. The surveys identify soil types, properties, and limitations for various land uses such as grazing, farming, building construction, etc.

The final field review of the Soil Survey of Cochise County, AZ, Northwestern Part was conducted the week of April 17th. The field review consisted of approving the last of the map units, final field checks of soil maps, and wrapping up loose ends. This review signifies that the field mapping is complete and meets National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS) standards.

Bill Svetlik, Project Leader, will prepare the draft manuscript of the survey. The manuscript will then be correlated and edited. The correlation process ensures that the soils mapped in this survey area are mapped consistently through out the region. We are hopeful that the survey will be available for public use in early 2008. The survey will then be posted on the Web Soil Survey. To access Web Soil Survey, go to <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>.

If you need information related to soils, contact your local NRCS office in Willcox at 656 N. Bisbee Ave. or call 520-384-2229 ext. 3.

NRCS Staffing Changes

Dave Matthews, District Conservationist

The local NRCS office in Willcox is undergoing some staffing changes. Dave Clough, Soil Conservation Technician retired in January 2007 following about 30 years of service with NRCS. Marty Kroll, Soil Conservationist retired in May 2007 after about 28 years of service with NRCS. Both Dave and Marty plan to reside in the Willcox area during retirement. We will miss their experience and many contributions toward conservation activities in Southeastern Arizona.

Christo Visser was recently hired as the new Soil Conservation Technician for the Willcox NRCS Office. Christo is a local Willcox resident, farmer, and livestock producer. He is looking forward to meeting and working with cooperators in the Redington NRCD.

Redington Natural Resource Conservation District Meeting Schedule

Unless otherwise notified, the Redington NRCD Board meets the 4th Saturday of every month at the Cascabel Community Center

Next Meeting Dates:

Annual Meeting

Saturday June 2nd, 2007 at 9 AM at Carlink Ranch, Redington

Saturday July 28th, 2007 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 Stefanie Smallhouse carlink@hughes.net

Local Classifieds

Saguaro-Juniper Grass Finished Beef

jeannine85602@yahoo.com

(520) 212-7333



CENTER FOR
DESERT
ARCHAEOLOGY

a nonprofit corporation

300 E. University Blvd #230
Tucson, Arizona 85705
(520) 882-6946
www.cdarc.org
center@cdarc.org

Preserving the Places of our Shared Past

Contact us to receive a
FREE copy of our award
winning magazine,
Archaeology Southwest
and to learn more about
Member benefits

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

Board of Supervisors Meeting
 Saturday March 24 2007
 Cascabel Community Center

Call to order 9:15

Guests John McGeehee Arizona Game & Fish
 Dave Matthews Natural Resource
 Conservation Service
 Donna Matthews Coronado
 Resource Conservation &
 Development

Correction to the minutes

Public Comment: Maria Troutner addressed concerns for the Hollow T. to Mr Drennan. He stated that input was important on historical properties.

Motion made by L. Helfrich for the District to take an active role in assisting BLM in revising the 1996 Cascabel Management Plan. The District will facilitate meetings for public participation and provide information.
 Second C Kent
 Motion passed

Approval of Financial report

- a. List as presented to the Board by S. Smallhouse
- b. AACD dues \$1200.00
- c. Ed Center Director \$600.00
- d. NACD Dues \$ 775.00
- e. Surety Bond \$240.98

Motion to approve L. Helfrich
 Second J.Dykes
 Motion Passed

Reports

NRCS Update Dave Matthews
 Conservation Plan Development: Brian Hartman (C-Spear, Banderilla Ranch, Hughes Ranch) conservation plan.
 Bill Kieckhefer Conservation plan in progress. Charlie Goff plan on hold. 2008 Farm Program applicants: Jane Amari
 C-Spear LLC
 Equip Program is accepting applications for the 2008 Enviromental Quality incentives program.
 Other items of interest
 Field Office Staffing
 NRCS Budget
 Farm Bill

Reports

Donna Matthews Coronado Resource Conservation & Development

Project activities

Work is still being done on the Field Guide for invasive weeds. Benson Habitat Restoration. Revegetation project along the El Paso Natural Gas pipeline.

Erosion Workshop. The RC&D has agreed to take the lead on organizing a workshop with the Redington NRCD regarding the San Pedro NRCD and Cochise County.

Reports John McGeehee Arizona Game & Fish.

G&F suggests residents contact Animal Control or their Supervisors office concerning wild dog issue

It was determined that the Redington NRCD has no legal input on feral dogs.

Motion was made by S. Smallhouse to move on Second J Dykes
 Motion passed

District Reports

Les Helfrich has offered to help with the concerns regarding 911 Capabilities

J. Dykes Reports on the updating of a list of residents on the North end of the District for emergency response purposes. A meeting was held April 5 at Pima County Supervisor office of Ray Carroll. I trust they will follow thru with trying to resolve this problem. Surprisingly was the realization that there are now 74 residents that are impacted .

C. Kent Reported on the Farm Bill and let everyone know he has a copy of the 07 Farm Bill comment summary if anyone wants to review it.

Old Business: Cascabel Road Update

Stefanie Smallhouse and Maria Troutner collected comments regarding the Cascabel road. They were presented to Richard Searle, Cochise county Supervisor and county road officials. Jacquie Dale has also offered to review road work for archaeological sites.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Next meeting date set for April 28th.

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.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information should contact USDA's Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326 W. Whitten Bldg., 14th and Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Redington Natural Resource Conservation

**District and 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

Matt Roberts, Rangeland Management Specialist

Christo Visser, Soil Conservation Technician

Donna Matthews, Coronado RC&D Coordinator

Redington Natural Resource Conservation District

P.O. Box 232

Pomerene, Arizona 85627

Web Site: www.redingtonnrcd.org