



Redington Resource Review
Resource News for the Conservation Minded
Producer and Landowner
A Quarterly Publication of the Redington Natural
Resource Conservation District
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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Submitted by Stefanie Smallhouse,
 Chair, Redington NRCD

As this is our first newsletter in quite some time, let me introduce myself. I am the Chair of the Redington Natural Resource Conservation District and have served on the Board of Supervisors since 2001. Prior to moving to Southern Arizona, I was working as a wildlife biologist for the Bureau of Land Management in Utah. My husband Andrew and I have a two-year-old daughter and along with the Smallhouse family we own and operate the Carlink Ranch headquartered in Redington. My husband is of the fifth generation to own the Carlink and I am a part of the third generation to sit on this district's board. We are deeply rooted in the San Pedro Valley and our goals for the future extend way beyond our years to that of the sixth generation to succeed us. The Carlink Ranch consists of a cow/calf herd and a farming operation.

The *Chairman's Notes* will be a regular portion of the newsletter. It is a chance for myself and other Supervisors to let our cooperators and partners know what the activities of the district have been. I would like to take this opportunity to share some thoughts on the district for those of you who may be new cooperators or not aware of the way a conservation district operates. I am one of five supervisors (currently four) to serve on the Redington Board. The Redington District basically frames the San Pedro River Valley from the Benson Narrows on the southern boundary to the confluence of Keilberg and Alder Canyons with the San Pedro River at the northern boundary.

Conservation districts were created so that landowners would have a locally led and non-threatening avenue through which to participate in conservation programs administered by the

Natural Resource Conservation Service, a federal agency. This partnership was intended to counteract the effects of the dust bowl and prevent such catastrophic events in the future. At that time in American history, 30% of the population was directly linked to farming or ranching and these landowners were the focus of Conservation Districts and NRCS efforts. Today that percentage has dropped dramatically to 2%. This district has mimicked that trend. Large tracts of land under the same ownership and land use are fewer in number. It is vital that the district continue to focus its efforts in working with farmers and ranchers to accomplish conservation planning on a watershed level, but we can also aid those non-agricultural landowners with their natural resource concerns. Conservation of soil and water should be a concern for all landowners.

I would like to address a misunderstanding that has surfaced concerning how and why some non-agricultural projects are completed and some are delayed or cancelled. If you are a non-agricultural cooperator, then you as the landowner must first approach the district with the concern or (continued on page 2)

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Redington NRC D News and Reports

need. This means attending one of our monthly meetings and bringing the issue forward to the board. The **landowner** must make a formal request for assistance to the board. It is then determined which avenue the district can take in order to find the assistance needed. This may involve finding technical assistance and/ or searching for financial assistance to implement a project. Any action by the conservation district requires the commitment of the landowner to the project. There is considerable cost involved in many projects. The role of the district can be to help the landowner find ways to soften this cost through grants, volunteer labor, or in kind assistance. Many grants require a certain cost share to be provided by the landowner. The district is funded by the state for the purpose of natural resource conservation education. We can use these funds to educate cooperators about programs, conservation management, and technical assistance. We cannot fund individual landowner projects. If the landowner/cooperator is unable to make a serious commitment to the project whether in time and/or funding the project will not move forward until the commitment is made.

Hopefully this information will help to clear up some confusion about how and why some projects are completed and some are delayed or cancelled. Your questions and concerns are always welcome at the monthly district meetings. We are always working on some aspect of natural resource conservation at all levels. In the future I will continue to update our cooperators and partners on our efforts.

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 - Cascabel History

This story first appeared in the Redington Resource Review in February 1987
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In our first issue of the Redington Resource Review we told of an early road that was built along the San Pedro River joining some of the military forts in the territory. Other historical sources tell us that after the Mormon Battalion established an east-west road through southern Arizona in 1847, gold was discovered in California and California joined the Union. There was then a demand for shorter, more problem-free route to the area. Congress, in 1857, was forced to appropriate and grant \$200,000 for new road construction. Supervising the building of the new route was James B. Leach, an army engineer, who gave his name to the road.

The new road crossed Apache Pass west of Fort Bowie east of Willcox, continued westward to a point near Tres Alamos (just north of Benson) and turned north along the east side of the San Pedro River, crossing to the west bank where the San Pedro is joined by Aravaipa Creek. By proceeding along the San Pedro to the Gila River, the road provided a faster route with more watering and resting places.

Why was this shorter, more convenient route abandoned as a major thoroughfare to the West? Tucson citizens protested the short cut because the route discouraged travelers from traveling through their town.

The Leach wagon road is the same twisty, rough, ungraveled road (with only a few changes) that we in the Redington-Cascabel area must use today to get to Benson (30 miles) or to San Manuel (30 miles). The vision of the many travelers who have passed this way, their successes, failures, problems and solutions are food for thought as we, ourselves, cover the long, dusty, sometimes flooded, narrow miles. It is probably the oldest, continuously used most neglected road in Arizona. More later...

Why You Should Monitor Your Rangelands

by Wilma Renken, NRCS Range Specialist, Willcox Office

For years your local friendly NRCS range specialist may have trundled out to your ranch with a clipboard, camera and funny little metal frame. He spent a day or two with his head down muttering plant names and putting spots on a paper. Then he sent you a letter saying the monitoring is all done on your ranch for yet another year, please send your pasture use and rainfall information to complete the data. Why has he gone to so much trouble? Why should you continue his work or begin monitoring on your own?

Rangeland monitoring involves gathering on-the-ground information to determine changes in vegetation and soil conditions on key areas within a management unit. Monitoring efforts are important for many reasons. These reasons include creating a permanent record of past vegetation and soil conditions with a prediction of trends, aiding in timely decision making, and providing proof of land stewardship efforts.

Rangeland monitoring creates a record of the vegetation and soil components of your land. Do you remember what the forage conditions on your ranch were in 1993? Our memories tend to only remember dramatic events while leaving big gaps during average years. So there's a good chance you will first go through your mental calendar thinking of what happened or why 1993 seems to stick out. Winter rains fell heavily that year, but do you remember that year's monsoon or how the rangelands looked? Maybe a picture would remind you or rainfall records would help. But good monitoring data would provide complete information showing what happened by species or the overall trend in rangeland condition. For example, if many forage species are decreasing in number and non-forage species such as burweed or snakeweed are increasing in number, then the overall trend on the rangeland is considered downward. If the opposite is true, then trend is considered upward.

Rangeland trend information can aid in timely decision making. Because changes generally occur slowly over time, monitoring data can show the trend in rangeland conditions before a potential wreck. Using the method of "looking at the country", you may not "see" the subtle changes occurring until a dramatic event occurs. If monitoring data shows the balance between forage and non-forage species is trending toward the non-forage species, changing the grazing rotation may keep cattle off the non-forage species during their most poisonous season. Without monitoring information, trend could continue downward until livestock may consume the poisonous, non-forage plants with detrimental effects including a high abortion rate or death. Monitoring can also be used to assess grazing use levels within pastures. This information can help in making decisions on proper livestock stocking rates, especially during times of drought. Stocking rates can often be adjusted before livestock performance and rangeland health suffers.

Finally, monitoring data can demonstrate land stewardship to others. Simply telling someone that you rotate your cattle often does not convince them that you are managing effectively. Many decisions regarding lease renewal or awarding are made off-site. A notebook with photographs and data can convey effective management practices and care for the resource as a whole. Collecting and keeping the information yourself, will show that you go the extra mile in management. At the same time, you will have a deeper understanding of the plant-soil-grazing dynamics that affect your bottom line.

You should lead the monitoring efforts on your ranch! Don't wait for government agency personnel to call you or come out to your ranch. You need to be actively involved in the process. To get started on rangeland monitoring or for other information visit your local NRCS office in Willcox at 656 N. Bisbee Ave. or call (520) 384-2229 ext. 3.

Cascabel Volunteer Fire Department News



Submitted by Les Helfrich, Fire Chief, CVFD
chiefd@theriver.com

The Cascabel Volunteer Fire Department serves the area from Rockspring Lane/Starr Road to Buehman Canyon Road in Redington.

If a helicopter response is needed:

- 1) Request dispatch by telephoning 911
- 2) Tell 911 operator incident and location of closest landing zone to you.
- 3) Call Cascabel Fire Dept. @ 212-FIRE - we can help you.

Waiting at the landing site:

Please do not approach the helicopter while the rotors are turning unless directed to do so by the pilot or medical crew member- wait for the crew members to come to you.

IMPORTANT: The tail rotor of the aircraft is extremely dangerous, never go near the back of the helicopter while the blades are moving.

Emergency Helicopter Landing

Locations in the CVFD Area



1. Intersection of Cascabel Rd. and Starr Road:

Lat: 32° 06' 30.6" N Long: 110° 18' 00.6" W

2. McPherson Landing Strip @ 5999 Canyon Road

Lat: 32° 18' 07.8" N Long: 110° 21' 54.9" W

3. Cascabel Community Center Helipad @ 5871 Cascabel Road

Lat: 32° 17' 40.7" N Long: 110° 23' 02.8" W

4. Cascabel Ranch @ 6200 N. Cascabel Rd.

Lat: 32° 18' 55.8" N Long: 110° 23' 19.2" W

5. C-Spear Ranch @ 6820 N. Cascabel Rd.

Lat: 32° 21' 07.0" N Long: 110° 25' 37.4" W

6. Carlink Ranch @ 11900 Buehman Rd, Redington

Lat: 32° 25' 38.0" N Long: 110° 29' 34.1" W

Home Safety Tip: Smoke Detectors

According to the U.S. Fire Administration having a working smoke detector is the single most important step a family can take toward surviving a house fire.

Location:

- ♦Recommend putting a detector in every sleeping area.
- ♦Mount them 6-8" below the ceiling on a side wall, avoiding an exterior wall, as extreme temperature difference could affect their performance.
- ♦Place detector 3 feet from registers of forced-air heating systems and 3 feet from a door to a kitchen or bathroom with a shower.
- ♦Don't place them in the kitchen or garage.

Maintenance:

- ♦Change the Batteries twice a year. Tie the changing to a holiday or special event, spring and fall.
- ♦Test monthly.
- ♦To remove dust and debris, eg. spider webs, vacuum around the unit regularly.
- ♦It is recommended smoke alarms be replaced every 10 years.

Cut this out, complete it and put it on your fridge or near your phone in case of an emergency

In case of Emergency First Call 911
Your local Fire Dept is Cascabel Volunteer Fire Department at 212-FIRE

My address is: _____

My phone number is: _____

The closest Mile marker is: _____

Township: _____ Range: _____ Section: _____

In the event that a helicopter air rescue is required my closest Helicopter Landing Site is at the following location:

Lat: _____ N Long: _____ W

Redington Natural Resource Conservation District Meeting Minutes & Draft Agenda

■ Sorry, October Redington NRC D Meeting Minutes not available at press time. Please request via email if you would like a copy.

**Next Meeting :
November 26
9:00 a.m.**

Cascabel Community Center

**Abbreviated Agenda due to the holidays
Supervisor Appointment
Interviews
(Plan to attend if you are interested
in the open position)**

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

Stefanie Smallhouse, Chairman

Don Looney, Member

Les Helfrich, Member

Judy Dykes, Member

District Contact:

Stefanie Smallhouse

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Newsletter produced by J. Dale
If you would prefer to receive this
newsletter electronically, please
email
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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, **Email notices will ONLY GO OUT TO THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN AN UPDATED ADDRESS to Stefanie Smallhouse (carlink@theriver.com).**

The current meeting schedule will continue to be the 4th Saturday of the month.

Meeting Dates:

November 26, 2005

January 28, 2006,

February 25, 2006,

March 25, 2006

****Please note: There will be no meeting in December.**

Redington NRC D was established in 1947 and is responsible for 285,860 acres of land located within Pima, Cochise, Graham and Pinal Counties. The district is an independent political subdivision of the State of Arizona that works with private landowners on a voluntary basis to help provide science-based technical assistance for the purpose of conservation. Over 200,000 acres of land are under conservation management plans or using conservation practices. Only 48,071 acres in the district are privately owned. Over 156,000 acres are state trust lands.

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