

# Redington Resource Review

## Resource News for the Conservation Minded Producer and Landowner

November 2009  
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of the Redington  
Natural Resource  
Conservation District



## Chairman's Notes

Submitted by Charles Kent

It's been a long, hot summer, with little to no rain, something that has kept those of us in agriculture very busy. So I, personally, have spent most of the summer on the ranch trying to manage the land and the cattle so that both are not overly stressed. Consequently, I have been unable to spend much time doing my part for the District, but hope springs eternal and I plan on changing that, weather permitting!

I did manage to get to the AzNRCD Summer Conference, one of the best organized and informative that I have yet attended. The section on coordinating with other government agencies was particularly interesting and will be discussed at length at our future Board Meetings. It was also reassuring that the State Legislators thought our mission was

important enough to give the Districts full funding in a time of budget constraints. The NRCS updated and expanded on rules and regulations of the new Farm Bill, which will also be discussed at future meetings.

Supervisor training regarding the 2010 selection process was gone over, as usual. We, as a District, will be electing at least one new supervisor. This item is very important for the district to be able to function at its best. It been a long time since there were the recommended five members on the Board of Supervisors.

Thankful for the cooling weather.

Charles

Photo by Sue Newman

### Rainfall Measurements for Area

#### Data from Harold Elliott Cascabel:

June -- 0.24"  
July -- 2.93"  
Aug -- 2.92"  
Sept -- 1.42"

#### Data from Cascabel Clayworks:

June -- 0.39"  
July -- 2.72"  
Aug -- 2.37"  
Sept -- 1.04"

#### Data from M Diamond Headquarters near Redington:

June -- 0.75"  
July -- 1.71"  
Aug -- 1.11"  
Sept -- 0.66"

#### Data from Three Links Farm:

June -- 0.25"  
July -- 1.07"  
Aug -- 1.79"  
Sept -- 0.45"

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## District News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS TO ASSIST WITH RENEWABLE ENERGY CONVERSION PROGRAM AVAILABLE TO ARIZONA'S RANCHERS AND FARMERS

Phoenix, AZ – October 7, 2009- Arizona's Natural Resource Conservation Districts (NRCD) have been assisting landowners since 1942 by providing education and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers while facilitating their participation in conservation programs. NRCD's are excited to announce the availability of a new program of which districts will be helping to administer on the local level.

Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and State Energy Program Grant administered by the AZ Dept. of Commerce a proposed \$1.5 million will fund this program over the next two years. In the 2010 funding cycle up to \$540,000 will be available to Arizona's farmers and ranchers for conversion of fossil fueled agricultural production systems to renewable energy power. It is the intent of the Arizona Dept. of Commerce to offer the Conversion to Renewable Energy Incentive Program (CREIP) to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels for agricultural production in rural Arizona while creating jobs and economic stimulus in rural communities. Conversion of existing systems from gas, oil, diesel, and in some cases electric to the utilization of the abundant renewable energy available in the state will provide benefit in terms of energy savings, cost savings, better air quality and the creation of jobs and businesses related to the renewable energy and agricultural service industries. Commerce will solicit applications from agricultural producers for the following systems: livestock waters, irrigation, and production buildings. This grant is offered as a cost share program reimbursable at 75% of project costs. Maximum reimbursement limits apply.

Local Natural Resource Conservation Districts will assist the AZ Dept. of Commerce with outreach, promotion, education, and serving as a local liaison to ensure project completion.

The deadline for application is January 8th, 2010. It is the intent of Commerce to offer this program via the Request for Grant Application process. To obtain a copy of the grant application you can email the Letter of Intent form to [procurement@azcommerce.com](mailto:procurement@azcommerce.com), fax the form to (602) 771-1202, or send a written request to the Arizona Department of Commerce, 1700 W. Washington B-32, Phoenix AZ 85007, please include the following number (Solicitation Number G013-10) in your request. The grant application can also be picked up at the AZ Dept. of Commerce at the address listed above. The Letter of Intent form can be found at [www.azcommerce.com](http://www.azcommerce.com) (follow the ARRA link to the State Energy Program link to the CREIP link) or your local NRCD office.

For questions contact Martha Lynch, AZ Dept. of Commerce @ (602) 771-1110.

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

Charles Kent, Chair  
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Stefanie Smallhouse, Secretary  
[carlink@hughes.net](mailto:carlink@hughes.net)

Charlie Ffolliott, Supervisor  
[lff@rnsmtc.com](mailto:lff@rnsmtc.com)

Andy Smallhouse, Supervisor  
[carlink@hughes.net](mailto:carlink@hughes.net)

Sue Newman, Supervisor (pending State appointment)  
[snewsy@rnsmtc.com](mailto:snewsy@rnsmtc.com)

Jacquie Dale, Newsletter Editor, Ed Center Director  
[redingtonnrcdnews@yahoo.com](mailto:redingtonnrcdnews@yahoo.com)

#### Redington NRCD Meeting Schedule

**Unless otherwise notified, the Redington NRCD Board meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Cascabel Community Center from 9 AM until noon.**

**Next Meeting Dates:  
Tuesday January 19th, 2009**

**Agendas are posted 24 hours in advance at the Cascabel Community Center. You may also receive email notification of the agenda by submitting request to [redingtonnrcd@gmail.com](mailto:redingtonnrcd@gmail.com)**

Message from Doug Witte, Natural Resources Conservation Section Manager, Arizona State Land Department:

NRCD's have received approximately 95% of full funding this year. \$390,000 from the Heritage Fund and \$245,000 to \$260,000 from the Environmental Special Licence Plate Fund.

# Cascabel Volunteer Fire Department News

Submitted by Jim EtsHokin, Fire Chief [etshokin@rnsmtc.com](mailto:etshokin@rnsmtc.com)

There has been a lot happening with our Cascabel VFD over the last several months. In May, the Cochise County Fire Association adopted a county-wide numbering system for fire departments/districts. The Cascabel VFD is designated as fire department 10. With this in mind, we have redesignated our apparatus appropriately. The Incident Command System, (the organizational structure under which we operate) does not recognize the "Brush" truck term. Thus, all of our apparatus are either Tenders or Engines. We now have six vehicles in our fleet. Mescal/J-6 Fire District donated a 1250 gallon Water Tender (Tender 102), and Tucson Electric Power donated a 1 ton utility bed 4X4 pick up (C-10). We have also tried to spread out in the community. Currently, Tender 102 is being hosted by Brian Goeglein on the west side of the river. Rescue/Engine 107 is at the Heavensent Ranch, Engine 104 (formally Brush 1) is at the Quisenberry's (formally Mission on the River), Tender 101 (formally Tender 1) is at Cascabel Clayworks, C-10 is at my house, and Engine 106 (formally Brush 2) is at Pat Corbett's.

In June, we received a report through the County concerning a structure fire at 5375 Teran Rd. There was a great response from our community with about 19 people responding along with 2 Engines and a Water Tender. Quick action from Joe Dyson and a CC Deputy extinguished the fire before it became a problem and only some smoke damage was sustained.

In August, Gordan Beasley completed an intense and rigorous EMT program in Tucson. Gordan is now nationally certified, and has established our VFD with a Medical Director and Base Hospital (Corondelet/St. Josephs), allowing us to provide EMT level EMS in our response area. A huge congratulations to Gordan for his efforts!

Our VFD was approved for a federal grant through the BLM, for \$11,200 to purchase some more radios and a 3000 gallon portable tank. A fundraiser was held at the beginning of October, and we raised about \$537.00 to help with our cost-share in the grant. Thanks to Brenda, Nicky and Sabrina for sponsoring that event! The generous contributions from the community will be a great help and are much appreciated!!

The Cascabel Community Fair is fast approaching and our VFD along with our CCC are busy planning and getting ready for this important fundraising event for our organizations. If anyone is available to help us in the preparation and/or during the event, please feel free to contact us, we can always use more help!

Last but not least, During the late afternoon of October 25th, several observant residents in the area of the River Ranch noticed smoke north of the ranch HQ and called our fire telephone number (212-FIRE). I was notified of this possible fire and after determining it was not a planned or recreational burn, I responded and found "a real fire, with flames and everything"! We immediately mobilized our VFD to respond. Virtually all of our apparatus was able to respond with about 25 people. Just as our resources were staging at the ranch, there were some suspicious circumstances surfacing. A recently abandoned vehicle was located in the river south of the fire, which prompted a request to the Cochise County Sheriff's Office for a Deputy to respond. Also at approximately the same time some neighbors were reporting calls for help coming from the area of the river north of the fire. After a brief search an injured unidentified man was located near Pat Corbett's. Our Rescue/Engine responded and took control of the EMS incident which eventually resulted in an ambulance and then helicopter medical evacuation of the injured person. It was not determined that the individual was connected to the vehicle or the fire(s). In the mean time, our suppression resources were being organized to perform an initial attack on the fire. It turned out there were 3 additional smaller fires (believed to be spot fires started by drifting embers) just to the south of the main fire. In total we had approximately 2 acres involved. The main fire was burning in heavy river-bottom fuels and was exhibiting moderate to active fire behavior, and the spot fires were in lighter fuels and were less active. We were able to access the main fire using the river, and the spots, using a nearby crossing and road. Our dispatcher was in contact with the Arizona Interagency Dispatcher and we provided a GPS location. Our initial attack was successful, thanks to the tremendous efforts of our firefighters and some help from nighttime temperatures and rising humidities, and we were able to stop the spread of the fire by late evening. With safety concerns in mind we decided to leave the fire for the night and return first thing in the morning, to continue with the suppression effort. Eight people were able to respond in the morning, and after an assessment of the work needed to control the fire before a forecasted wind event on Tuesday, the decision was made to order a Type 2 Handcrew to assist with the mop up and control of the fire. The Arizona State Forestry Crew from Douglas responded. It was also determined that the fire was on BLM land, so they were notified. The BLM sent a small crew to assist also. We turned command of the fire over to the BLM around mid-day, and remained on scene to support the crews with our apparatus. By late afternoon the Incident Commander declared the fire controlled and released our VFD resources.

I want to take this opportunity to THANK EVERYONE involved with this incident, from the folks who were paying attention and reporting the fire(s), to the volunteers who came out to fight the fire(s) and the folks who filled support roles both night and day. Feedback from the BLM representatives indicated that they were very pleased with our response and the actions we took. They also expressed, that they are glad that we can provide a resource for them out here in this remote area of the Safford District.

See you at the Fair!!!

Jim

# Education Center Report

Submitted by Anna Lands, Cooperator

In early 2009, the Redington NRC and the Cascabel Community Center joined to establish a rainwater harvesting demonstration site at the Community Center. The intention of this joint effort was for the initial class to develop plans for and manifest first phases of an on-going rainwater harvesting educational experience for the community. These students will have expertise and reading materials available for others and will, along with the larger community, continue to develop this demonstration site. The project is intended to assist property owners in learning more about erosion control and developing their own rain water catchment systems.



**Barbara and Carmen work with rain barrel.**  
Photo by Anna Lands

The NRC Education Center gave major funding to the education phase so that the attendees needed to pay only \$35.00 each for the class. The Community Center funds the physical materials at the Center for the catchment system. Our first step, led by Jess Rigel, was to organize core classes and to engage the U of A Extension Service WaterWise educator, Carmen Miller. She would facilitate and guide us through the Rainwater Harvesters Certificate Program.

After learning how to determine the annual amount of water we could expect from each roof surface and the annual amount of water we would need for landscaping and other uses, we calculated the maximum amount of water we would need for any given month. From that, we calculated the size(s) of the water collectors we would need, and how much augmenting water we would need from the well during any given month. The water-budgeting element is an essential part of good planning: landscaping, size and number of storage containers, size of gutters, types of water catchments such as earthen berms, straw wattles, and loose rock dams.

The first step in constructing the system was to calculate the slope needed and install a gutter the length of the porch. When the storage barrel is ready for installation, the downspout will be shortened to accommodate it. The barrel will have two drainage types: direct outflow with a faucet and an interior overflow to send water out via pvc piping to be caught by the berms over a large area.

Another essential element in creating a successful water catchment system is to observe and be responsive to the topography and geography: how water behaves over slopes and soil types. Some folks understand it instinctively, and this class was an exercise in discovering how we know. We learned how to determine why and where what types of water 'calmers' to use. On the hill behind the MTE building, we installed several loose rock dams and three straw wattles. Much more work is needed on this hill, but we gave it a good start. This is one of the long-term project areas.

Larry Scott of Benson brought his home-made laser leveling equipment and demonstrated how to create a low-cost sophisticated instrument. Using his equipment, we determined a level height for two berms and for a shallow, flat-bottomed water catchment. After the berms and catchment bowl were marked, one of the several contributing community members brought a small front loader and did the heavy earth-moving work including augering holes for three trees.

The new and existing trees will eventually provide an extended shaded area adjacent to and west of the porch. They will receive more water than ever because all water, from rain and well, will be directed more effectively. We took care in selecting trees that grow locally and that, once established, will require only low maintenance.

To learn more about Rain Water Harvesting, you may contact Anna Lands for additional contacts or visit the Water Wise website at [www.ag.arizona.edu/cochise/waterwise](http://www.ag.arizona.edu/cochise/waterwise). Many thanks to the Redington NRC and to the Cascabel Community Center for their support.



**Sue and George work on landscaping for rainwater harvesting project at the community center.**  
Photo by Anna Lands

## Local Classifieds

### Identify the Animal?

In May's edition, we had a photo of a snake to identify. The species is a Big Bend Patch-nosed Snake (*Salvadora deserticola*)



Photo by Gene Troutner

**Description:** Length from 22 to 40 inches in length. Head with a triangular, enlarged rostral scaling curved backward and not free from the snout. A lined snake. Dorsum with a brown to brown-orange stripe margined below by a dark black or brown stripe. There is usually a narrow dark line just below the major dark stripe on the fourth scale row. Head with 9 upper labial scales, two reaching the eye.

**Behavior:** This species is active during the day. It moves rapidly.

**Range:** The species occurs in southeastern Arizona, western New Mexico and southward into the Big Bend region of southwestern Texas. It also occurs in adjacent parts of northern Mexico.

**Habitat:** The Big Bend Patch-nosed Snake occurs in a variety of desert habitats including areas dominated by creosote or mesquite.

**Food:** Lizards.

Reference source:

<http://www.nearctica.com/herps/snakes/colubrid/Sdesert.htm>

If you have a photo of wildlife you would like to contribute to this section, please email a digital photo to: [redingtonnrcdnews@yahoo.com](mailto:redingtonnrcdnews@yahoo.com)



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# Meeting Minutes

Redington Natural Resource Conservation District  
Board of Supervisors Meeting  
May 29, 2009

Cascabel Community Center

The meeting was called to order at 9:20 A.M.

Supervisors present: Charles Kent, Les Helfrich, Stefanie Smallhouse

Education Center Director: Jacquie Dale

Guests Present:

The minutes from March were presented by Stefanie Smallhouse and approved.

Motion to approve was made by Les Helfrich and seconded by Charles Kent.

The financial report was given by Jacquie Dale and approved.

Motion to accept Stefanie Smallhouse, Seconded by Les Helfrich

Jacquie also presented the end of the year expenditure report for approval.

Motion to approve by Stefanie Smallhouse, Seconded by L. Helfrich.

Stefanie Smallhouse presented the annual report, but it still needs the budget and weather station information added.

The Board as a whole discussed the Annual Plan of Work and made adjustments as needed. Motion was made to approve both reports and the annual report pending addition of the budget and weather station information by L. Helfrich, and Seconded by Charles Kent.

Stefanie Smallhouse presented a report for the AZNRCD. It was reported that the 2009 policy committee meetings would be held on June 25th in Phoenix. Charles would tentatively attend.

Motion for adjournment made by Les Helfrich, seconded by S. Smallhouse.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stefanie Smallhouse, Secretary

## How to get in touch with the Redington NRCD:

Redington NRCD Mailing address:  
PO Box 232,  
Pomerene, AZ 85627  
[redingtonnrcd@gmail.com](mailto:redingtonnrcd@gmail.com) (email)  
[www.redingtonnrcd.org](http://www.redingtonnrcd.org) (website)

### 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.

## Local NRCS Contact Info

Natural Resource Conservation Service  
656 N. Bisbee Ave., Willcox, AZ 85643  
[www.az.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.az.nrcs.usda.gov) (website)  
(520) 384-2229 ext. 3 (phone)  
(520) 384-2735 (fax)

### NRCS Willcox Office Staff (Team)

Dave Matthews, District Conservationist  
[david.matthews@az.usda.gov](mailto:david.matthews@az.usda.gov) (email)

Wilma Renken, Rangeland Management Specialist  
Chase Skaarer, Rangeland Management Specialist  
Tobiah Salvail, Soil Conservation Technician

### Coronado RC&D

Donna Matthews, Coronado RC&D Coordinator  
[donna.matthews@az.usda.gov](mailto:donna.matthews@az.usda.gov) (email)