

Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District

CONSERVING - PROTECTING - PRACTICING WISE USE



Corrected
Spring 2013
NEWSLETTER

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Chairman's Corner

In the last chairman's corner I had referenced some interesting factoids. I received some good comments about how people like to read them. Well here we go again. Thinking about our up and coming Monsoon season and hoping for that record year of precipitation, I just finished a roof rain water capture system on my new RV garage. My wife will use the rain water for her greenhouse this year. Can't wait for those salads that actually taste like a salad should. Sorry I went off subject. Arizona Lightning Facts: Did you know that one cloud to ground lightning strike can generate between 100 million to one billion volts and reach temperatures of over 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit? The National Lightning Detection Network (based in Tucson, Arizona) monitors lightning strikes that occur over the continental United States. The average number of strikes in Arizona, between 1996 and 2005, was over 600,000 per year. I remember my Dad telling me about how far away you can tell lightning is. As soon as you see a lightning strike start counting. It takes thunder about 5 seconds to travel one mile from the originating strike. Thunder is the shockwave generated by the lightning. Light is faster than sound, which is why thunder lags behind the lighting flash. Make sure you find shelter when that storm heads your way. There were 9 deaths in Arizona between 1997 and 2006.

Now that we have you thinking about rain, look around your place; can you capture rain water for your garden, trees, shrubs? Catch and store rainwater in covered containers for later use. Increase the amount of water captured by sculpting the land and directing rain to planted areas. The more you can slow down and contain runoff, the better. Top dress your soil in flower gardens = less evaporation. Water again when a screwdriver will not penetrate the ground more than 4 inches easily. Water you plants and trees at their drip line. My Dad would tell me I was pouring water in the trees ear by watering at the trunk of the tree. Remember the root depth of your plants and trees. No need to water deeper than you need to. One foot for flowers, 2 feet for shrubs and 3 feet for trees.

*Jim Lindsey
Chairman*

**WORKING TOGETHER ON NATURAL RESOURCE
CONCERNS AND SOLUTIONS**

The following is from a letter from Bridget Schwartz-Manock, Manager, Legislative Affairs, Business Planning & Government Programs, Central Arizona Project, to Senator Gail Griffin, as a response to Senator Griffin's request for information reference the Central Arizona Project Water:

In response to your request for information related to the costs and considerations of extending the Central Arizona Project (CAP) canal to deliver water to the Sierra Vista area via pipeline, I have summarized some information included in the 2006 study prepared by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation looking into the construction of such a pipeline.

Reclamation's report estimated that the total capital cost would be \$193 million and total annual costs (annualized capital and Operations & Maintenance) to deliver 30,000 acre-feet from the end of the CAP to Sierra Vista would be around \$37 million per year. CAP rates have increased since that time, so this annual number is on the low side and, as you know, there is certainty that CAP rates will continue to go up in the future considering proposed Navajo Generating Station (NGS) air visibility regulations and other increases related to NGS land and coal leases.

The Reclamation study also identified another consideration in the analysis, the acquisition of a water supply for Sierra Vista from CAP supplies or from the Colorado River. Currently there is no CAP water available for the Sierra Vista area. There is some CAP non-Indian agricultural priority water that may be available for municipal and industrial users outside of the CAP service area in 2021. The Arizona Water Rights Settlement Act of 2004 set aside 96,295 acre-feet of CAP non-Indian agricultural priority water ("NIA Water") for reallocation to non-Indian municipal and industrial users. In February of this year, the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) published its Final Process for Reallocating this NIA Water; this document is available on ADWR's website. ADWR has set aside 17,333 acre-feet of NIA water to be offered for reallocation to municipal and industrial water users outside of the CAP service area in 2021. Entities located outside of CAP's service area receiving an allocation of NIA Water would have to pay about \$2,800 per acre-foot (in 2013 dollars) to obtain such an entitlement; annual water delivery charges would be in addition to this cost. These costs cover just the cost of the water, the costs of the infrastructure to deliver this water would be separate as discussed in the previous paragraph.

If Sierra Vista acquired a Colorado River entitlement (not a CAP entitlement), it would have to obtain the necessary regulatory approvals to transfer such right and move it off the River. Most likely, Sierra Vista would also have to obtain a wheeling contract from CAP and Reclamation to transport this water through the CAP canal and agree to pay all costs associated with delivery of this water and expansion of the CAP canal to accommodate this water. Finally, Sierra Vista may be able to obtain a lease of CAP water from a tribe. However, each tribal water rights settlement contains different provisions regarding where such CAP water may be leased (i.e., in which counties). Recent Indian leases have gone for around \$2,550 per acre-foot (in 2008 dollars). (That is a one-time cost for the right to use the water for 100 years; annual delivery costs would be in addition.)

The Reclamation study also states that the priority of a CAP allocation is of concern, as CAP water supply availability may be impacted when shortages are declared for the Lower Colorado River Basin States. Within the CAP system, the highest priority "pools" are the last to be reduced when system shortages occur. Indian and non-Indian Municipal & Industrial (M&I) allocations have the highest priority, while non-Indian agricultural priority water is subject to first reduction during times of shortage. But again, there is no M&I priority CAP water available to be acquired by or allocated to Sierra Vista.

If Sierra Vista were to obtain a CAP water supply, Arizona law (A.R.S. § 48-3707) provides that a county not originally included in the CAP service area (Maricopa, Pima, and Pinal counties) may petition for inclusion in the CAP and must pay "the county's accrued equitable share of construction costs previously paid by the district". Cochise County would have to pay a share of the CAP construction costs, plus interest to join the district. While CAP has not performed the financial analysis to determine what this cost would be, it could potentially be tens of millions of dollars. Further, after inclusion in the district, all taxable property in Cochise County would be subject to CAWCD's annual tax levies.

Improve the Endangered Species Act

In July, 2012, The Arizona Natural Resource Conservation District (AZNRCD) completed a document, “***America’s Working Lands: Updating the Endangered Species Act to Ensure Successful Species Recovery and a Productive Future***”, to suggest ways to update the ESA and simultaneously make corresponding modifications to the policies and regulations implementing the ESA. The most significant concerns with implementation cannot be addressed without changes to the ESA. The documents are available on the AZNRCD web site. <http://www.aznrzd.org/index.html>.

In Spring, 2013, the Arizona Legislature passed a Senate Concurrent Resolution supporting efforts to update the endangered species act. The resolution states that the Members of the Legislature support efforts of the Congress of the United States to update the Endangered Species Act to improve its effectiveness in protecting and recovering Arizona’s threatened and endangered species while rewarding landowner and lessee involvement, promoting productivity, ensuring vibrant and sustainable natural resources for future generations and relieving Arizona from burdensome regulatory measures that have been harmful to this State and ineffective in furthering the intent of the Act.

May 9, 2013, Members of the House of Representatives, representing a broad geographic range, today announced the creation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Working Group. This Working Group, led by House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Doc Hastings and Western Caucus Co-Chair Cynthia Lummis, will examine the ESA from many angles. Throughout this year, the Working Group will hold a series of events, forums, and hearings that will invite discussion and input on ways in which the ESA (last reauthorized in 1988) may be working well, how it could be updated, and how to boost its effectiveness for both people and species.

USFWS currently list 23 endangered, threatened and candidate species in Cochise County. The Spikedace and Loach Minnow are not on this list because of the combined work of the Hereford NRCD, County, Sierra Vista and Fort Huachuca to keep the Upper San Pedro from being listed as habitat for the 2 species.

COCHISE COUNTY ENDANGERED, THREATENED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES MAY 2013

Sonora tiger salamander	Endangered	Beautiful shiner	Threatened
Chiricahua leopard frog	Threatened	Cochise pincushion	Threatened
Arizona treefrog	Candidate	Huachcua water-umbel	Endangered
Yellow-billed cuckoo	Candidate	Canelo Hills ladies’tresses	Endangered
Mexican spotted owl	Threatened	Jaguar	Endangered
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	Endangered	Ocelot	Endangered
Sprague’s pipit	Candidate	Lesser long-noised bat	Endangered
Gila topminnow	Endangered	New Mexican ridge-nosed rattlesnake	Threatened
Yaqui catfish	Threatened	Northern Mexican gartersnake	Candidate
Gila chub	Endangered	Sonoran desert tortoise	Candidate
Yaqui chub	Endangered	San Bernardino springsnail	Threatened
Desert pupfish	Endangered		

IS ESA WORKING?

According to a May 18, 2013, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“FWS”) report, there are currently 1436 American and 619 foreign species on the ESA list. On the delisting side, a total of 57 species have been removed from the list, 18 of the 57 species because of a listing error, 10 because the species were determined to be extinct and 29 because the ESA worked and the species was recovered. In other words, since 1979, the ESA has worked as intended in 1.4 percent of the cases

San Pedro Navigability

The Arizona Navigable Stream Adjudication Commission will hold a hearing regarding the San Pedro River on June 7, 2013, at 1:00 p.m. at the Cochise County Board of Supervisors Board Room, Building G, 1415 West Melody Lane, Bisbee, Arizona. The Commission will receive physical evidence and testimony on two narrow issues: (1) navigability or non-navigability of the San Pedro River in its "ordinary and natural condition" prior to the State of Arizona's admission to the United States on February 14, 1912, consistent with the Arizona Court of Appeals decision in *State v. Arizona Navigable Stream Adjudication Commission*, 224 Ariz. 230, 229 P.3d 242 (App. 2010); and (2) segmentation of the San Pedro River consistent with the United States Supreme Court's decision in *PPL Montana, LLC v. Montana*. More information on this issue is available at the Arizona Navigable Stream Adjudication Commission web site: <http://www.ansac.az.gov>

Did You Know?

Railroads have played a big part in the history of the Upper San Pedro valley since the San Francisco-New Orleans line of the Southern Pacific Railroad was completed through the Benson area in 1880. A branch line from Benson to Bisbee was completed in 1903. About the same time a 2nd railroad, the El Paso & Southwestern Railroad, was built from Benson to Fairbank, parallel to the Southern Pacific Line, sometimes less than a quarter mile apart. A railroad was also built from Fairbank to Nogales, Arizona, where in 1882 it joined with Mexico's Sonoran Limited which went all the way to Guaymas, Mexico. To support the military at Fort Huachuca, a spur track was built from Fort Huachuca joining the Benson to Bisbee branch line at Lewis Springs in 1913. Present day, except for the main line through Benson the rails have been removed from all the lines.

CONTROLS HAVE BEEN PLACED ON ROTENONE APPLICATIONS

Senate Bill 1469, signed by the Governor 4/16/2013, placed requirements for notifications and impact analysis prior to application of Rotenone, or any aquatic poison, to Arizona streams and rivers.

Rotenone, or Antimycin A, shall not be applied for any purpose to any spring, seep, watershed, stream, river, stock pond, irrigation water delivery system, lake or other body of standing or running water in this state, without a full impact analysis submitted to the Arizona Game and Fish Commission of any risks posed to the environment and to downstream potable water supplies and livestock water sources. On receipt and review of the analysis, the commission shall either provide a written approval, if the commission finds the application will not endanger the health of the environment, humans or livestock, or a written disapproval of the analysis.

In addition, the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) must provide at least ten days' advance written notice to all owners, lessees and permittees of real property, including federal and state public lands that are contiguous with the treatment area as defined in the impact analysis, and publish general notice in two publications in a daily or weekly newspaper of general circulation in the general area in which the Rotenone or Antimycin A will be applied. Soil and water analyses must be conducted before applying Rotenone or Antimycin A to establish baseline levels. Analyses will be done after application to monitor downstream levels in soil, potable water supplies and livestock water sources. The department shall continue to monitor the downstream levels until they return to pretreatment baseline levels.



TOMBSTONE FFA ANTELOPE MONITORING PROGRAM

The involvement of the Tombstone Agriculture/FFA students in the antelope monitoring program began with a presentation to the class about the antelope and the program by Matt Braun, Wildlife Manager, Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) April 30, 2013. The program originally was to have initiated the monitoring of antelope relocated to the Sonoita/Elgin area from the Prescott area where in the relocation process GPS tracking collars were going to be placed on some of the antelope.

The antelope relocation was planned for early 2012 before the does have their fawns. The antelope did not cooperate going into the catch trap, so plans were made to try again and succeed in 2013. The trap location was selected and everything as a go, then AGFD found out that for them to drive some steel posts into the ground and some stakes, they had to have an archeology study completed on the site. This would require money, not in the budget, and time. So now they are working on a 2014 plan.

The students will now start with a pre relocation study and observe and gather data. They will identify the location of the antelope and hopefully fawns of the current very small antelope herd. The students will record date, time, location with number, gender, type of activity (feeding, bedded, traveling, watering, etc.) and whether predators were present, weather conditions, fawn(s) observed or doe appears to be bred or still pregnant. The data sheet will be designed in the classroom for data collection in the field and later entered into a spreadsheet. Additional information will be gathered on the habitat to include the availability and type of feed and water. This will be the beginning of a data base to be built over a 3 year time frame as students visit the field and record data in the classroom.

If you know of a high school student who has an interest in agriculture, you should suggest that they check out the Tombstone High School agriculture/FFA program. Tombstone is the only high school in the District which offers such a program.

April Water Awareness Month by John Loshe

On April 13, the Mall of Sierra Vista hosted an event with vendors featuring their water conservation products and services. Jim Lindsey and I were there with information and handouts from the Hereford NRCD. The day went quite well and several people stopped to speak with about conservation. Jim and I enjoyed speaking about our organization and showing people we do. A representative from Liberty Water Company spoke with us about joint educational ventures and will send some information on joint ventures and some additional educational projects.



Photo courtesy Anne May



During the FFA Banquet May 15 plaques were presented to Jim Lindsey and to the Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District as a thank you for support and dedication of the Tombstone FFA students and program. Tom Richter received the plaque for the District.

Photos courtesy Tom Richter



The District Has Been Busy With Workshops

In the last three months the District had put on two successful workshops. The first was a Ranchers Workshop, February 21, 2013, at the St David Monastery. This workshop was cosponsored by San Pedro NRCD, Coronado RC&D and Arizona Department of Environment Quality. Information was provided on resource management with the focus on brush management, the results and benefits. Mike Hayhurst, Brookline Ranch and George Monzingo, Running N Bar Ranch, both provided a lot of documented information on their brush control and the visual benefits of the projects. Their presentation was supplemented by presentations by Gerry Gonzalez, District Conservationist, NRCS, and Dr. Phil Guertin, Professor, University of Arizona.



Jim Lindsey, Chairman, Hereford NRCD, assists Art Meen with demonstrating calibration of sprayer. Photo courtesy Anne May

A second workshop, April 23, focused on both noxious and invasive weeds. Kim McReynolds, U of A Cooperative Extensive presentation was on the identification of the noxious and invasive weeds, why people should be alert and concerned about them and things people can do to control them. Kim's presentation shows why these nasty weeds are a major concern to everyone and can be an economic disaster to both agriculture producers and to the government. If you were unable to attend this workshop, you are still in luck. Tom Richter video recorded the complete presentation and is working toward having it posted on the District's web site by Mid June. It is recommended that everyone take time to watch this presentation, once it is posted, so you know what weeds to watch for and how to control them. Art Meen, NRCS, provided information on some of the herbicides used for weed control, how to read all herbicide labels, and the important of reading the labels. Art and Jim Lindsey then gave a demonstration on how to calibrate a sprayer for the right mixture of condensed herbicide with water in accordance with the product label. A video was also made of Art's presentation and will be on the web site by mid June.



Kim McReynolds, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Services displays an exact reproduction of a 22' long root system of one single invasive weed. Photo courtesy Anne May

BLM Scoping for RMP/EIS San Pedro NCA

The Tucson Field Office is beginning work on a Resource Management Plan (RMP)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area. A Notice of Intent was published in the Federal Register on April 30, 2013, announcing the beginning of the scoping process that will solicit public comments and identify issues. The scoping process will end September 30, 2013.

Information for this planning is available on the BLM website:

http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/planning/san_pedro.html

To stay current with all the planning activities, suggest you contact the BLM and ask to receive the info either by email or by print.

BLM Contact Info: Phone: (520) 258-7200 E-mail: TFOWEB_AZ@blm.gov

The District will be very involved in this process, reviewing documents and providing information to BLM. A page on the District web site will be developed to make information available. One of the first documents to be added to the web site will be a copy of the final San Pedro River Riparian Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement dated June 1989.

Unbelievable Cost Associated With ESA

Between 2000 and 2009, in just 12 states and the District of Columbia, 14 environmental groups filed 180 federal court complaints to get species listed under the ESA and were paid \$11,743,287 in attorney fees and costs by the government. This information is from published information of Karen Budd Falen, Budd-Falen Law Offices, LLC, Cheyenne, Wyoming. An example of other cost is the USFWS estimate the total cost for the recovery of one species, the Mexican spotted owl, to be a minimum of \$42,628,000 .

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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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