
ASLD NRCD NEWSLETTER

April 2015

In Transition!

Arizona State Land Department

By- Amber Morin, NRCD Manager

As many of you know, the Department is in a period of transition. With the new Governor's administration getting settled in, the resignation of the previous State Land Commissioner, Vanessa Hickman, and the retirement of many well-seasoned Land Department employees, including Stephen Williams, change is in the air. Many of you have been asking if a Commissioner has been appointed, and the answer is not yet. The Department is currently under the leadership of the Acting State Land Commissioner, David Trimble, and business is moving forward in good fashion. Stephen Williams' replacement for the Natural Resources Division Director position, Rick Thompson, has been at the Department for a while and was able to work with Stephen before his departure. I am confident the Natural Resources Division is in good hands. So, if you have not had the opportunity to meet Rick yet, please take a moment and welcome him on board:

rthompson@azland.gov.

ASU Large Landowner Initiative

By-Debbie Freeman, Communications Manager, W. P. Carey School of Business

How do you balance the needs of economic development, a growing population and our natural resources? A new real estate initiative at the W. P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University will help address many of the issues involved in the ownership and management of large amounts of land by both public and private parties.



The unique Large Landowner Initiative will focus on real estate planning, related policy, economic impacts and natural resource management.

"This innovative effort will assist members of the real estate community, government officials and others concerned about the future of community development and how to grow wisely," explains Amy Hillman, dean of the W. P. Carey School of Business. "This new initiative joins the school's highly regarded real estate programs and business initiatives that foster an understanding of best practices for public and private entities."

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2 NRCD Observations: By-Stephen Williams

3 ASLD Grazing Fees

4 Political Representation

The program will be headed up by Vanessa Hickman, who recently served as Arizona's state land commissioner. She was responsible for maximizing the value of a 9.2-million-acre real estate trust. She brings extensive expertise in the areas of real estate law, land-use planning and zoning, development agreements, natural resource management and state trust lands.

NRCD Observations

By-Stephen Williams

As I conclude a 31 year career at the Arizona State Land Department (ASLD), I want to share with you some observations and reflections from that span of time.

Arizona residents have a profound lack of understanding about State Trust lands. They do not understand the nature of the conveyance of these lands from the federal government to Arizona, the purpose for which the lands were granted, and the U.S. Supreme Court cases that clarified that these grants are indeed a Trust to be managed under trust terms and obligations. Arizona residents mistakenly feel that they are the owners of State Trust land because they live here. They are welcome to their own opinion, but not their own facts. The State of Arizona is the owner, with the ASLD serving as a trustee managing the granted land for the beneficiaries, not residents.

I came to realize that the ASLD does not have an adequate mechanism for informing residents about State Trust lands. We have no Information and Education Division to develop publicity pamphlets, news releases and videos to air on television explaining what State Trust lands are.

Natural Resource Conservation Districts (NRCDs) suffer from the same lack of public exposure and understanding. A small minority of Arizona residents know what NRCDs are, and the important contributions they make to the management of natural resources within the boundaries of the Districts. The new quarterly newsletter, which is a joint effort of the Arizona Natural Conservation Districts State Association and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, could serve as a vehicle for such an information and education effort. Wick Communications and Western News & Info publish

both print and online newspapers in many areas of rural Arizona. They, as well as large media outlets such as Gannett, would welcome the information from the quarterly newsletter. The more citizens know about NRCDs the more likely they are to advocate for them. The best outcome is for informed citizens to champion NRCD efforts and convey that support to their legislators.

It became apparent to me early in my career that some NRCDs have a farmland focus, that some have a rangeland focus, and that some are a mix of both. This focus plays a big role in the projects and issues with which each District becomes engaged. As I learned, through the development and review of many Coordinated Resource Management Plans, the plan's goals and objectives should direct the implementation of the landowner's management actions. A District's Long Range Plan and Annual Work Plan are important guidance documents that, likewise, direct the District's actions to help achieve their goals and objectives. It is well worth the time and effort that goes into preparing these plans.

One of the most encouraging new developments is the NRCDs' effort to obtain coordinating agency status with federal agencies. It may take a paradigm shift for some federal agencies to recognize their legal obligation to coordinate. Knowing many tenacious NRCD members I envision that there will be a continuing education program for those federal agencies that are slow to respond to, and embrace, coordination by NRCDs.

Funding for operation of the NRCDs and Education Centers is always a concern. In order to assure funding it will be critical to build relationships with freshman legislators and to reinforce existing relationships with legislators who have seniority and chair key committees.

I value the friendships that I developed with you through the years and plan to maintain those into the future.

This is not Adios, but only Hasta Luego.

Sincerely,

Stephen Williams

WORKSHOPS! CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HEREFORD NRC

APRIL 14, 2015

PLACE: SIERRA VISTA FOREST SERVICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 4070 AVENIDA SARACINO, (SOUTH HIGHWAY 92), HEREFORD, AZ 85615

TIME: 9AM-3PM

NRCS requirements for monitoring and prescribed grazing – changes you need to know!

Contact: Hereford - Kathy Morris
(hereford_nrcd@juno.com)

HEREFORD NRC

APRIL 15, 2015

PLACE: COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONFERENCE ROOM 1415 MELODY LANE, BISBEE

TIME: 8AM-3:30PM

RANGE 101: PRINCIPLES OF RANGE AND WATERSHED ANALYSIS AND MANAGEMENT

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Contact: Hereford - Kathy Morris
(hereford_nrcd@juno.com)

PIMA NRC

APRIL 16, 2015

PLACE: WHEELER TAFT ABBETT LIBRARY, 7800 N. SCHISLER DR., TUCSON, AZ (NEAR CORTARO AND SILVERBELL)

TIME: 9AM -3PM

New NRCS Monitoring Requirements

Contact: Deb Smith (debsmith2727@gmail.com)

ARIZONA LAND AND WATER TRUST/PIMA NRC

MAY 6, 2015

PLACE: RINCON VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT STATION 2

(JUST NE OF I-10 AND SR 83. EXIT 281)

14550 E SANDS RANCH RD, VAIL, AZ 85641

TIME: 7:45AM-1:45PM

RANCHING/FARMING INTO THE FUTURE WORKSHOP

TRANSITIONING THE FARM/RANCH TO THE NEXT GENERATION

CONTACT: SHARMA HAMMOND TORRENS, 520-577-8564,
SHAMMOND@ALWT.ORG OR CAMERON BECKER, 520-577-8564,
CBECKER@ALWT.ORG

ASLD Grazing Fees

Following the Commissioner's recommendation of using the five year moving average price of beef (APB) for annual adjustments beginning in the 1997-98 grazing year, the Commissioner determined that the fee should be adjusted by a factor that is the ratio between the five year new average price of beef (NAPB) and the five year old average price of beef (OAPB).

The 19th annual adjustment by the commissioner, for the 2015/2016 grazing year, uses the five year periods 2009/2013 (OAPB) and the 2010/2014 (NAPB).

The annual updating formula is:

New fee=existing fee x (NAPB/OAPB)

New fee=\$2.78 x (\$117.13/104.30)

New ASLD grazing fee=\$3.12

Due to unusually high cattle prices, this is the first time that the ASLD grazing fee has ever been over \$3 per animal unit.



ON THE ROAD AGAIN!

NRC D MANAGER UPCOMING TRAVELS.

- April 14-15, 2015 Hereford NRC D Workshops
- April 23, 2015 Willcox-San Simon NRC D Meeting
- April 28, 2015 Triangle and Chino Winds NRC D Local Work Group Meeting
- April 29, 2015 East Maricopa NRC D Local Work Group Meeting

See you all soon!

Best,

Amber Morin

Amber Morin
NRC D Manager
Coordinated Resource Management Section
(602) 542-2699
nrcdadmin@azland.gov



1616 W Adams Street ♦ Phoenix ♦ AZ 85007

Political Representation

- While serving as an NRC D Supervisor, you are a public official.
- District Supervisors must prudently represent the interests of the district **AND** its members while directing the business and affairs of the district.

The concept of political representation is misleadingly simple: everyone seems to know what it is, yet few can agree on any particular definition. In fact, there is an extensive literature that offers many different definitions of this elusive concept.

One of the most straightforward definitions: to represent is simply to “make present again.” On this definition, political representation is the activity of making citizens' voices, opinions, and perspectives “present” in the public policy making processes. Political representation occurs when political actors speak, advocate, symbolize, and act on the behalf of others in the political arena. In short, political representation is a kind of political assistance.

Key Components of Political Representation

Political representation, on almost any account, will exhibit the following four components:

1. some party that is representing (NRCDS, the representatives, an organization, movement, state agency, etc.);
2. some party that is being represented (NRC D cooperators, the constituents, the clients, etc.);
3. something that is being represented (Natural resource conservation needs, perspectives, interests, etc.); and
4. a setting within which the activity of representation is taking place (The Local Work Groups, the coordination process, cooperation, comment letters, policies, Long Range Plans, AKA the political context).

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/political-representation/>

