



Arizona Trails

How can your RC&D get involved in these types of Programs fostered by the Administration? You already are!

Administration to take a grass-roots approach to conservation

By Mark Harrison, The Seattle Times via AP

WASHINGTON — President Obama plans to direct the federal government to foster community-based efforts to save the nation's rivers, coastlines, farms, forests and other outdoor spaces as part of a new approach to conservation. Instead of just designating vast tracts of land to be protected from development, pollution and overpopulation, Obama wants the government to embrace a grass-roots approach to conservation that has quietly taken hold in recent years in U.S. cities and towns and across international borders.

"Communities are uniting to protect the places they love," according to a directive Obama is scheduled to sign today at a White House conference on America's Great Outdoors.

The memo notes that farmers and ranchers, land trusts, recreation and conservation groups, community parks coalitions, governments and industry are working together. "However, these efforts are often scattered and sometimes insufficient," the directive says.

The president instructs his Cabinet chiefs not to spend any new money. But by Nov. 15, he wants a report that catalogs successful programs and lists the existing federal programs that could be tapped to support them and help establish new ones. Nearly a century after Theodore Roosevelt held a conference to establish the national park system, "we are now in a new era," said Armando Carbonell of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, a non-partisan land-use organization

Large and small regionally run conservation efforts that could serve as models: the Crown of the Continent, a 10-million-acre area stretching from western Montana across the Canadian border into Alberta, and the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, a 46-mile run of river from Worcester, Mass., to Providence. (Continues on Page 3)

Inside this issue:

<i>Grass-roots Approach</i>	1
<i>Weeds in our Garden Workshop</i>	1
<i>Weed Program Update</i>	2
<i>Apache County CWPP</i>	2
<i>Watershed</i>	3
<i>Grass-roots Approach Con't.</i>	3
<i>Over the Fence</i>	4

Special Dates

- April 27th Weeds in our Garden Workshop at 453 W. 1st N. Snowflake starting at 5:30 pm
- RAC Committee Review April 29 at AZ G&F Pinetop 10:00
- May 12, 2010 Board of Directors Meeting Starting at 9:30 am USDA Service Center—Holbrook

Weeds in our Garden Workshop

The Weeds in our Garden Workshop will be held Tuesday April 27th starting at 5:30 pm. The workshop will be held at 453 West 1st North in Snowflake, Arizona. Topics of discussion will include weed identification, weed control methods, pesticide application,

sprayer operation, mulching, watering, and plant selection and rotation. Mike Hauser, Apache County University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Agent, and Dennis Chandler, RC&D Coordinator will provide the instruction for the workshop. The public is in-

vited to attend. For more information about the workshop please call the Little Colorado River Plateau RC&D at (928) 524-6063 Ext. 5. Signs will be up to help you reach your destination to this great workshop.



Clay Van Deren
Land Management Project
Director

Weed Program Update

Since the previous newsletter, there has been a number of items of interest in the weed program. The Little Colorado River Weed Management Area (WMA) has two new sources of funding for 2010 and 2011. The Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) funding from the USDA Forest Service was awarded on February 1, 2010. Also, on March 10, 2010 the WMA received additional funding under the Cooperative Forestry Program Invasive Plants Agreement from the Office of the State Forester. The efforts of the US Forest Service and of the Office of the State Forester in providing funding are very valuable in the weed efforts for our WMA community.

The WMA has four major areas of focus: (1) Education, (2) Inventory, Control and Eradication; (3) Demonstration Projects, and (4) the management of the weed program for our Weed Management Area, with a Project Director being the facilitator and coordinator for the weed program.

The projects for the RAC Grant funding must be on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. The projects for the State Forestry Grant funding must be in forested and woodland areas, but can be on state and private lands. With these two programs, the WMA looks forward to expanding our program from what it has been in the past.

In the education facet, Mike Hauser from the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Service and who serves on the WMA Technical Committee, will be working with Dennis Chandler on the first Weed Workshop presentation for 2010. Some of the areas planned for the Workshop will be: Weed Identification, Weed Control Measures, Sprayer Calculations, Spray Techniques, Treatments, and Mulching. The Workshop is planned for Tuesday, April 27, 2010 in Snowflake. We look forward to the weed program strategy for 2010 and are sure that the WMA will have a very positive impact.

Only he who keeps his eye fixed on the far horizon will find his right road.
Dag Hammarskjöld

Apache County CWPP Project



Herb Hopper
Project Director

Success story for this RC&D - implementing the Apache Communities Wildfire Protection Plan (ACWPP). As our Council members are well aware, the RC&D has been actively involved implementing the ACWPP for over two under a professional services contract with Apache County. The most visible aspect of the effort has been working with private property owners to conduct fuel reduction efforts on their property, specifically those living in the communities of Alpine, Nutrioso and South Fork. A perhaps less visible aspect of this effort is the RC&D sponsorship of the Apache Forest Management Commission (FMC), a group that meets once per month to discuss a range of topics, such as tracking fuel reduction efforts on private property, or developing some guidelines for building codes for homes built in dense stands of Ponderosa Pines. Most recently, the RC&D worked closely with the FMC, in particular Chairman Dick Bruneau of Greer, to brief the Apache County Board of Supervisors, and obtain a resolution touting fuel reduction awareness. Resolution 2010-05 was passed by the Apache County Board of Supervisors on March 16, declaring May 2010 as "Firewise Awareness Month." The FMC has met since and has developed an outreach campaign for the residents of Southern Apache County, which includes all of the following listed below. The goal of these and other efforts is to promote long term sustainable firewise practices with home owners which can save lives and property.

- (1) Mail a flyer to all property owners in the targeted communities, alerting them to the principles of making their property firewise safe.
- (2) Place posters and other literature in common areas across the County, such as the library and County offices.
- (3) Make appearances/set up information tables at key public activities during the Memorial Day weekend.
- (4) Schedule interviews for the press with key advocates of firewise efforts, such as the fire chiefs of Nutrioso, Alpine and South Fork (Eagar).
- (5) And, encourage home owners to seek free firewise property assessments from their local fire chiefs.

Eastern Navajo Pipeline Moves Forward – Potable Water to 10,000

In and around the Little Colorado River Watershed major events are shaping the future of our water supplies and their use. One of the major projects envisioned by the 2009 Omnibus Public Land Management Act signed into law in April 2009 has begun. The Eastern Navajo Waterline Project was kicked off in a dedication ceremony held in Counselor, NM on Monday, April 12, 2010. This projects is the first “on the ground” evidence of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project, an \$870 million portion of the Omnibus Bill referred to above. The Eastern Navajo Pipeline is a segment of this project. The pipeline is designed to bring groundwater from the northern chapters of the Navajo Nation to four counties and eight chapters including more than 10,000 residents. The Omnibus bill envisions diverting water from the San Juan through the Navajo Gallup pipeline project; however, this may not happen until as late as 2022.

Pipeline projects such as these have long been envisioned to bring river water to the isolated communities of the Navajo Nation (and other area tribes such as the Hopi). The current project that has the most impact on the Little Colorado River Watershed are the Western Navajo Pipeline and the Coconino Plateau Water Advisory Council, both of whom are advocating for pipelines that will divert water from the Colorado River into pipeline to serve the north central Arizona area. These projects are on hold pending funding for the Bureau of Reclamation Feasibility Study. In addition, water right allocations to the non-tribal areas of the region are unclear. The effect that this has on the Little Colorado River Watershed is potentially enormous. Much work has been going on with the proposed Tribal Settlements in the Little Colorado River Watershed. A major meeting among all parties is scheduled with Special Master Eddward (sic) Ballinger on Friday, April 29. Much has been made among the participants by the absolute lack of any kind of discussion about these settlements. The negotiations have been ongoing for more than 30 years and have reached great highs and extreme lows (that is, no meetings of any kind). The effects of a settlement are simply unknown at this time. Various proposals have been made, but none have been found acceptable to all parties.

The recent massive reduction of staffing in the ADWR has affected many aspects of water planning in the State. The current staffing has reduced ADWR levels to those of more than 10 years ago. This lack of professional water-related staff members profoundly affects the ability of the State agencies and departments to be effectively involved in negotiating water settlements. It also places the negotiations in the hands of attorneys, whom as you might expect, are much more expensive. A critical portion of these negotiations lie in the hands of the Congress in Washington, who must approve the expenses associated with any Tribal Settlement



David Newlin
Watershed Project Director

“Good instincts usually tell you what to do long before your head has figured it out.”
Michael Burke

Administration to take a grass-roots approach to conservation

(Continued from page 1)

The administration's plan to help local governments, private groups and others put together projects to protect natural resources is aimed at more than preservation. The plan also:

- Encourages people to reconnect with the outdoors, a tie-in with first lady Michelle Obama's campaign to tackle childhood obesity.
- Promotes economic development. Cities that have revitalized their riverfronts have cleaned up the environment while providing a place for people to spend money and enjoy the outdoors.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar says the conference and the ongoing effort will bring together groups that often have been at odds over land use.

"Conservation is a unifying issue for America," he says. "Hunters, bikers, joggers and outdoor enthusiasts — they're not divided into Republican and Democratic camps, conservative and liberal camps. This is a very unifying agenda

Little Colorado River Plateau RC&D

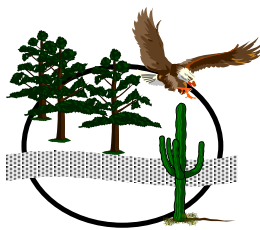
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We are on the Web!

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A Grass Roots Organization



LITTLE COLORADO RIVER PLATEAU RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

All programs of the Little Colorado River Plateau RC&D are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, national origin, age, sex, religion, political belief, marital or familial status or handicap.



Dennis Chandler
RC&D Coordinator

Opportunities All Around Us

The greatest achievement of the human spirit is to live up to one's opportunities and make the most of one's resources.—
Luc de Clapiers

This is a great thought. It describes almost perfectly what a Resource Conservation and Development Area is. The RC&D looks for opportunities, great or small, that can have a positive benefit to local communities. And those opportunities also address natural resource concerns whether it be the land, the air, the water, or the people. Those opportunities are generally composed of an action group, a group of people who have an idea that can have a positive affect on one or several communities. Through a collaboration proc-

ess an idea is developed into a well laid plan to improve economic development and conserve or enrich the natural resources that are all around us. Vision about opportunities is a marvelous thing. It takes us from present ,where we are, to majestic ideas of what we could be. Dreams or ideas, combined with hope, combined with commitment, combined with collaboration, combined with resources, combined with determination charts us down uncharted courses. Our vision—our sights on the horizon helps to chart our way through those uncharted courses and the final outcome is that we have achieve a benefit far greater than I could have achieved individually because it was not just me, but a

following who became anchored in the idea as well as the basic plan and formed and laid the foundation and the hopeful goals became all our goals. As you and I become involved in action groups that want to address issues that we ourselves want to address, we form a hope that weathers the storm, molds our character and tries our substance and when the going gets tough those resources that are within and around us now nourishes and empowers our commitment to finish the goal. If you have an idea, a dream, come to the RC&D and see how it can become empowered for good.