



## Message from our President

In business, we always hear these catch words that are supposed to imply that we work together, that we are fully invested and interested in the results for the benefit of the team. We hear words used such as team work, collaboration, partnerships and we envision a group of people working with clear focus towards a singular goal or a well-defined mission. Ironically, for some time now, we have been reading reports in the news of people who thought they bought into one of these well-defined missions only to later discover they had lost all they had invested as a single person, trying to benefit himself wasted or spent all the money. We teach this so well to our children; we support their team efforts and attend their sports and other activities all the while shouting to work as a team, talk to each other on the field, and stay positive. We celebrate their successes when then win and encourage them to include everyone. Do we lose this attitude when we go to work? When we enter the office does it all change to a singular vision? Rural America, the place where we live, does not allow us much opportunity to accomplish major goals by ourselves – it really does take a team effort. For three years now, I have worked closely with the RC&D. I have worked with them because partnering with the RC&D accomplished the goals Apache County was trying to achieve ten-fold. Partnering with the RC&D has made Apache County a better place. The County has been able to expand and increase services it provides to its citizens regarding forest health way more than it could have done on its own. Teamwork, partnership, collaboration are all good words. When the words are put into action they create a force or synergy that can achieve the end results with more quality and quantity to the benefit of the many. Isn't that how it is supposed to work? That is how I have found returns when working with the RC&D – a much greater return than the initial investment. The RC&D is a group of outstanding individuals that increases a team's ability, improves an agencies' network and advances the organization's mission. Take a minute and get to know the RC&D better. Read the information on the website, attend a council meeting and identify ways you can partner with the RC&D to continue to make the White Mountain Region an outstanding place to grow up



Milton Ollerton  
President

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## Circle of Diamonds

Dear Little Colorado River Plateau RC&D Council:

Congratulations! It is with great pleasure that the National Association of RC&D Councils has approved your application for membership in NARC7DC's Circle of Dia-

monds Program. We are truly pleased to see your Council's wonderful accomplishments and are proud to have you as a member in this distinguished Program. We are eager to see your Council continue to receive recognition for its outstanding achievements in both

local community and at the national level. .

Very truly yours,

Joan Smith Freeman

President, National

Association of RC&D Councils

### Trends in Water Use and Management in the Little Colorado River Watershed?



David Newlin  
Watershed Project Director

An old saying (ca. 1915) is “think globally; act locally” (see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Think\\_Globally, Act Locally](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Think_Globally,_Act_Locally)).

With that in mind, this is an opportunity to discuss some of the trends in water management in the State and, in particular, in the Little Colorado River (LCR) Watershed. The LCR is the largest watershed in the state – covering almost 25% of the land area. It runs from Flagstaff to Gallup east and west and from Greer and Show Low and Greer to Tuba City and Ganado east and west. Perhaps the most significant concern is the ongoing (30 years+) Navajo and Hopi Colorado River Water litigation. Sadly, there has been little progress in the past few months and talks have ground to a halt. Until this litigation is closer to resolution, many water related issues remain in limbo. In other areas, the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS – the parent organization that services the RC&D’s) is trending towards managing their natural resources efforts on a Watershed Basis. The LCRP RC&D is the only Watershed in Arizona that is managed and organized along watershed lines. A map showing the watershed, other RC&D’s and Tribal boundaries has been created by the NEMO group at the University of Arizona. Please contact the RC&D if you wish an electronic or printed copy. Groundwater (aquifers) and surface water (Watersheds). There is abundant evidence that most potable water users in the LCR are, in effect, “mining” groundwater. That is, the water *is not* being renewed and water tables are dropping. This is also a worldwide phenomenon. Clashing with our centuries old philosophy of well drilling is the data that shows recharge of groundwater in the LCR takes *substantially* longer than previously thought. That is, recharge is now felt to be in the 1000’s of years rather than 100’s. Each individual hydrogeologic formation is different but the trends are clear. Surface water (from direct rain and snowfall) is becoming more and more important. In the LCR, most of the surface water is allocated or adjudicated to irrigation companies, groups or associations. These entities almost *always* predate statehood and therefore have prior rights on surface water .

### Little Colorado River Land Management



Clay Van Deren  
Invasive Weeds Project Director

In the RC&D area of Land Management, the **Little Colorado River Weed Management Area** is making some good progress. The biggest obstacle in the development of our weed goals, visions and objectives, are time and funding limitations. There is only so much time for us to donate to the program, and funding certainly limits what we can accomplish each week working the program on a part-time basis. Our monthly meetings are well attended, despite the very busy summer work schedules our members have. We alternate the meetings each month between Apache and Navajo Counties. The July meeting had nine (9) people attending, with representatives from the Apache Sitgreaves National Forests-Alpine District, Apache Sitgreaves National Forests Supervisors Office in Springerville, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Service, Navajo County Road Department, Arizona Department of Transportation, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service - Apache County, with two from the City of Show Low, and I attended for the RC&D. We are in the process of trying to develop a Noxious and Invasive Weed Management Strategy for our WMA. We had the first draft document of the strategy approved by the WMA members in June, and at our meeting in July an Annual Operating Plan was proposed, which still needs some revisions. The priority focus for the WMA is to complete the site mapping weed surveys, focus on education, and to work on the other requirements which the RC&D received the RAC Funding. The latest information is that the next RAC funding may be available in September or October. We have three real “go to” people that really have an interest in the WMA, as well as being willing to take on more work. Without them, the program would have died a slow death by now. There are others who are good supporters, still others who are faithful at attending our meetings on a regular basis, and who all have an interest in weeds, but the movers and shakers are the ones I can count on to help make the WMA a reality for our area. In my view, the WMA is still in an embryo stage with great potential and unlimited possibilities.



## Forestry Grant Opportunities

There are more grant opportunities available than there is time to fully research and make applications. As a non-profit, the RC&D is eligible for many advertised grant funds. Most of our focus has been grants offered by partnering federal agencies, particularly the U. S. Forest Service. As an example, the RC&D is involved in the following two grant programs just announced:

The 2010 Hazardous Fuels Woody Biomass Utilization is a grant administered by our partners and friends at the Forest Products Laboratory. As much as \$8 Million has been allocated for this program which is accepting proposals in dealing with low-valued material removed from hazardous fuels reduction activities on **both** public and private lands. Applications may request a minimum of \$50,000, up to \$350,000. These funds are targeted to help communities, entrepreneurs and others turn residues from hazardous fuel reduction into marketable forest products and/or energy products. Competition for these funds is fierce. The RC&D staff and Board members continue to work and counsel prospective applicants to enhance their submission package. Additionally, our forestry project director Herb Hopper is slated to once again be one of about two dozen evaluators of the applications, which must be postmarked by November 20, 2009.

Grant applications are being accepted also by the Eastern Arizona Counties Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) for projects to improve the maintenance of existing infrastructure such as roads, trails, recreation facilities or projects that improve forest health and restore and improve land health and water quality. Projects will be generally less than \$75,000. Applications are due November 6, 2009. In addition to publishing word of this grant to our friends and partners, the RC&D intends to submit applications covering the topics of weed and watershed management.

Contact our office if you have any questions about these two outstanding funding opportunities. Call 928-524-6063 Ext. 5 to obtain more information.



Herb Hopper  
Project Director

## [Trends in Water Use and Management in the Little Colorado River Watershed? Con't.](#)

In the Salt River Valley, many of the agricultural surface water rights are being sold and transferred to municipal and Industrial (M&I). With continued growth – with the exception of Tribal lands – this trend is expected to continue and will eventually have an impact on the LCR. State Water Laws have existed in their present form since 1980, when the state was forced, under threat of Federal Action, to create and manage water through the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). Arizona's water management laws are seriously lagging behind other states (with the exception of the Colorado River Compact of 1922, most water is managed at the State level). When this will be addressed is not even being discussed because of the budget, partisan and political issues at the State level. Extensive studies are underway, mostly through the very influential Central Arizona Project (CAP) to discuss augmentation of water supplies. These center around three areas; listed in priority:

- Recycling water and/or cleansing brackish groundwater
- Desalination (very expensive and a large consumer of electricity)
- Weather Modification (used extensively in almost *every* western state except Arizona)

Management of water is unfortunately, with the current budget crisis (which is projected to only worsen), at a standstill. There is serious discussion of eliminating employees and programs at State Agencies. ADWR has more state funding than ADEQ, which receives many "pass through" funds from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and will thus be much more heavily impacted. None of this bodes well for the LCR and, in fact, appears to mimic the trend of the 1980's when lack of planning and agreement provided an opportunity for the Federal Government to essentially dictate laws applicable to the Federal Clean Water and Clean Air Acts. This is not a desirable outcome. Finally, the Third Annual Winter Watershed Conference is scheduled for 27-29 January 2010 in Show Low. More information will be forthcoming soon. If you wish to participate, either with displays or presentation, please contact the Watershed Projects Director, David M. Newlin at (928) 322-6146 or via e-mail at [david@littlecolorado.net](mailto:david@littlecolorado.net).

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We are on the Web

[WWW.LITTLECOLORADO.NET](http://WWW.LITTLECOLORADO.NET)

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A Grassroots Organization



### *Over the Fence by Dennis Chandler RC&D Coordinator*



Dennis Chandler  
RC&D Coordinator

The Little Colorado River Plateau RC&D has enjoyed some good successes this past year. We have done some good in several areas of our local communities. However, there is one area that I struggle with and try to find ways to improve that particular area. I have not gone to very many town or city council meetings or to county board of supervisors meeting. We have lots of things going on and many times meetings are on top of meetings. The tragedy of all of this is that most communities do not have a good handle on what this RC&D is doing. We

are going to change that. We have asked that all of our sponsors send us a representative to our council. We will send all meeting notices, minutes, and other important material to them so that they at least will be aware of what the RC&D is doing. Also next year, we will have quarterly council meetings. The intent of this is for all the sponsor representatives to have more exposure to the RC&D functions, project updates, and impact on communities. I am confident as our council understands our programs, the projects we are involved with, they will under-

stand the impact that this RC&D is having in your community. This has a double benefit. 1) it benefits the RC&D by having an individual who is now a strong supporter of the RC&D. 2) The individual now benefits the "sponsor" by helping projects that may not be identified or may be stuck by letting the RC&D become an advocate for those projects and helping those projects move along or start up to benefit the community. Success benefits everyone. Call the RC&D to see how we can help your idea or project move along to success.