



# Arizona Trails

Inside this issue:

<i>Little Colorado RC&amp;D</i>	1
<i>Little Colorado RC&amp;D</i>	2
<i>Weed Update</i>	2
<i>Watershed Update</i>	3
<i>ACWPP Update</i>	3
<i>Over the Fence</i>	4

## LITTLE COLORADO RC&D WORKS TO IMPROVE REGION

By Naomi Hatch - Silver Creek Herald, Wednesday, July 28, 2010

The roots of the Little Colorado River Plateau Resource Conservation & Development Area trace back to Pete Shumway and Paul Ellsworth according J.R. DeSpain, acting Chairman of the organization.

On May 15, 1968, a steering committee that consisted of Shumway, Ellsworth Earl Croford, Elred Edwards and Joseph C. Hickson took on the task of forming the Little Colorado River Plateau RC&D and in 1971 it became the 55<sup>th</sup> RC&D in the United States and the first in Arizona.

The original RC&D included the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe and Apache and Navajo Counties, but in 1976 the Navajo lands that were adjacent to Arizona in New Mexico were added making the area 18,449,647 acres in size.

A movement began in 1996 to create the Navajo Nation RC&D, which in 1997 amended the Little Colorado area to include Apache and Navajo Counties below the Navajo Reservation as well as the Hopi Tribe.

Original sponsors were Apache Natural Resource Conservation District, Navajo County NRC&D, Apache and Navajo County Boards of Supervisors, the Navajo Tribe and the Hopi Tribe and some years later the towns of Springerville, Eagar, Holbrook, Pinetop/Lakeside, Show Low, St. Johns, Snowflake, Taylor and Winslow joined as sponsors. In 1980 there were five Soil and Water Conservation Districts that joined as sponsors, making 20 active sponsors. Since that time there have been seven RC&D Coordinators and 16 people who served as president of the RC&D Board of Directors.

“It’s just kind of lagged along with the USDA and had never done a lot” said Despain “until Dennis Chandler (RC&D Coordinator) got here and said, ‘Let’s do something.’”

“They facilitate meetings or help with grant monies for people who have conservation and irrigation issues” DeSpain explained. He added that they are also involved in forest and water issues and are supportive of those issues with grant monies.

In 2009 the RC&D identified 67 tasks to address in the 2009 Annual Plan of Work. There were 37 tasks initiated during the year and 25 have been completed. At the beginning of 2009, the RC&D had 23 projects in progress and added 11 new projects during the year, with 14 of those projects being completed. Specific projects are listed in the organization’s annual report.

Chandler is making presentations to town councils to make participating cities and towns more aware of the RC&D and what it has to offer.

He explained the Little Colorado River Weed Management Area to the Taylor Town Council July 14, noting that in 2007, the RC&D was awarded a Forest Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) grant to address invasive weeds problems in Apache and Navajo Counties. The grant focused on several things that could be accomplished.

“If in fact, we as citizens of a community do not address basic weeds and we let them alone to do their own thing, basic weeds take over the land,” said Chandler. “How do we then have the monies to take care of the basic weed problems that we might have been able to take care of pretty easily today, but let five years go on. Now we have a problem and where do you get the money for that?”  
Cont. page 2

### Special points of interest:

- Nov. 4 & 5, RC&D Council Training @ La Plasada , Winslow 12:00 pm
- Nov. 10 BOD meeting @ Apache County 9:30 a.m.
- Nov. 17 State RC&D meeting in conjunction with Hohokam meeting 10:00 am at SRP bldg in Tempe

## LITTLE COLORADO RC&D WORKS TO IMPROVE REGION Cont.

With the help of volunteers, 15 forest sites were surveyed and information was mapped, identifying a variety of invasive species that the Forest Service would monitor and control. Two workshops were held in Snowflake in 2009 to help attendees identify weeds, and learn what control measures could be applied, proper maintenance of a sprayer and how to calibrate a sprayer to properly apply herbicides.

Clayton Van Deren was hired as Executive Director of the Invasive Weed Project and through his efforts, an executive committee was formed and meets monthly.

Because the goals and tasks identified by the committee were popular with the grant review committee, and because of the support of the Forest Service, Navajo County, the Navajo County Farm Bureau and individuals, they were awarded the second grant for \$76,262 in December.

Other projects include the Apache County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, the Little Colorado River Watershed, Community Renewable Energy Resources, Southwest Sustainable Forests Partnership and the Trail of Many Tracks.

Projects totaling of \$1,451,996 with \$734,011 in grants and \$717,985 in matching funds completed in 2009.

Winner's Circle Soil, Inc. which owned by Bill Baldwin, received a large grant for a machine that automatically bags chips, and Western Molding, which is owned by Don Gonsalves, received a large grant for automated equipment that cut logs.

"It's a wonderful program" said DeSpain. "What I'd like to see in that program is more participation and citizens getting interested in it and getting on the Board."

"RC&D moves forward as much as you people have ideas and vision" said Chandler, noting that community leaders are the key people and know what is going on in their community.

"If you have some dreams that you would like to have happen here, for heavens sake let us help you" Chandler told the Taylor Town Council.

### Weed Program Update by Clay Van Deren, Land Management/Invasive Weeds Project Director

In the last newsletter we talked about one of the goals of the Little Colorado River Weed Management Area (WMA) is to coordinate the attendance of our weed committee members to several major educational weed conferences each year. Another objective is to provide a public display booth at a local County Fair.

Dennis Chandler and I set up the Weed Management Area Weed Booth at the 2010 Apache County Fair in St. Johns, Arizona. The fair grounds are a great facility and Milton Ollerton, Apache County Fair Manager, has his staff well organized and they are all very dedicated to their respective assignments at the Apache County Fair.

One of the new items we had was a photo weed display. We had a difficult time developing a good display from live weed species that we have collected and prepared for the display. We found that some of the morphologic characteristics that enable a weed to be aggressive and invasive are the same characteristics that make weeds difficult to turn into a recognizable display.

For example, most all of the noxious and invasive weed species have herbaceous or shrubby characteristics with a tap root system. This makes them much less desirable to help hold soil structures from erosion and this to allow them to be more competitive with native grasses in our native landscape. Thus, the weeds are much more difficult to press, preserve and mount for a weed display than I found grasses to be. We, therefore, used a photograph display that could also include several growth stages, as well as the flowered stages, for help in identification. Anyway, the weed display was well received by the Apache County Fair visitors.

Dennis and I also were asked to judge the garden and farm produce. In some cases we had as many as 12 entries per class with the four required examples that included perfect handpicked examples of Apache County products. This really makes the judging process very difficult. Dennis, with his background including an Extension Agent, is very valuable for our team assignments.

We had good help from other individuals to keep the booth staffed. This year we had to be set up on Tuesday evening, and have the booth staffed for about 10 hours each day on Thursday through Saturday. The education facet of the Weed Management Area is very important and is effective in helping people to better understand the weed problems that face us in this area.

---

## *Watershed - Events and Technology* by David Newlin, Watershed Project Director

The *Fourth* Annual Winter Watershed Conference is upon us! The dates for this premier event (spent too many years in sales) are Wednesday evening, January 26 through Friday Noon, January 28<sup>th</sup>. Licano's Steakhouse and Conference Center will be our hosts again this year and the Best Western Paint Pony Lodge will be the hotel of choice.

Last June, while attending the University of Arizona WRRC (Water Resources Research Center) Annual Conference, Dr. Sharon Megdal, the Director, stood and, quite firmly, stated that she was grateful for those that were at the Conference; *however*, the two major water managers in the State, Central Arizona Project (CAP) and the Salt River Project (SRP) were not well represented. My mind began to think and, after some months of persuasion, both organizations have agreed to not only send speakers but have agreed to sponsor the Conference!

In keeping with the need to work with technology, the webpage [www.winterwatershedconference.org](http://www.winterwatershedconference.org) should be up and running with all the data by the time you read this article. Of course, there will be some glitches – as there always are. Still, our Southwest Sustainable Forest Partnership website – [www.swsfp.org](http://www.swsfp.org) – should also be up by the time you read this; the regular [www.littlecolorado.net](http://www.littlecolorado.net) website should have a new look AND you can join us on Facebook by searching for Little Colorado RC&D. These websites carry on the mission of the RC&D in both Outreach and Education and Training. Communicating effectively with the broad base of stakeholders in our service area is critical. And, it is being done effectively and inexpensively.

A presentation at the recent Governors' Rural Development Conference also has led us into working on creating our newsletters and e-mails into an online format – and the next issue of the newsletter should be in that format. Look for good things in this regard.

As always, your suggestions for improvements are both welcomed and necessary.

The Coyote Creek Watershed Improvement Council Project is moving forwards nicely. Meetings have been held and on-the-ground surveys are planned in November. Because of the great service of many stakeholders, past projects, data and information have been provided in sufficient detail that ADEQ has indicated that portion (research) may be skipped and the RC&D and landowners and managers can move directly to the establishment of Best Management Practices and Site Selections. This is an excellent opportunity to focus on one of the four 10-digit HUC's (Hydrologic Unit Codes) in the Headwaters, Little Colorado River Watershed; an ephemeral stream (intermittent); an ADEQ Targeted Watershed *and* obtain funding for the land managers to do what they know they need to do to reduce and prevent erosion and soil disturbance. Please join us for our next meeting on Tuesday, 9 November at 5:30 PM at the Eagar Town Hall.

## *ACWPP Update by Herb Hopper, ACWPP Project Director*

Apache Community Wildfire Protection Plan - an RC&D contract to assist private property owners in Alpine, Nutrioso and South Fork to access funds available from the U.S. Forest Service to reduce the number of trees on their property, thus reducing the risk of catastrophic fire and facilitate restoration of healthier forests. Funds are used to cost-share the expense of removing dense tree growth on private property, matching similar efforts done on the neighboring National Forest. The program's goal is 475 acres for of treatment in all three communities. Alpine is allocated 125 acres: 65 acres have been treated and another 53 acres are committed, leaving only 7 acres unassigned. Nutrioso is allocated 275 acres: 122 acres have been treated and another 11 acres are committed, leaving 42 acres unassigned. Finally, South Fork is allocated 75 acres: 25 acres have been treated and the remaining 50 acres are committed. Twenty seven property owners are participating in the program - we anticipate that close to 35 property owners will participate by program's end. With the 3rd quarter report just submitted, the program has claimed \$243,508.48 in expenses, or 48% of the project total. Depending on how property owners do the work on their property, the cost can average from \$1200 per acre to \$2500 per acre. When using a private contractor, which is the most common choice with property owners, the cost averages about \$1200, and prices increase depending on the tree density, tree proximity to buildings and the steepness of terrain. Our largest number of participating owners are busy treating their land this fall, so we estimate that the program will come close to completion by the end of December 2010.

## Little Colorado River Plateau RC&D

51 W. Vista Dr. Suite 4  
Holbrook, AZ 86025

Phone: 928-524-6063 ext 5

Fax: 928-524-6609

E-mail: [dennis.chandler@az.usda.gov](mailto:dennis.chandler@az.usda.gov)

WE ARE ON THE WEB

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

A Grass Roots Organization.



### LITTLE COLORADO RIVER PLATEAU RC&D

51 W. VISTA, SUITE 4

HOLBROOK, AZ 86025

PHONE: (928) 524-6063 EXT. 5

FAX: (928) 524-2910 (DIRECT)

[www.littlecolorado.net](http://www.littlecolorado.net)

[info@littlecolorado.net](mailto:info@littlecolorado.net)



Dennis Chandler  
RC&D Coordinator

People underestimate their capacity for change. There is never a right time to do a difficult thing. A leader's job is to help people have vision of their potential.

John Porter

## Over The Fence

There is a State RC&D meeting planned for the 17th of November to be held down in Tempe, Arizona. The meeting is discuss three topics; 1. state-wide weed management area. 2. 2013 Western RC&D Conference and 3. statewide RC&D Association. These are some good topics. First, weeds are everywhere. Every county has some invasive weeds. And if we looked carefully it would be many invasive weeds. There is no state weed organization to gather and coordinate invasive weed control efforts. This would be a significant addition to the Arizona invasive weed efforts. Secondly, hosting the 2013 Western RC&D Conference is a significant undertaking. The RC&D

Areas of Arizona have done great things for Arizona. I think many other RC&D areas in the Western Region would like to see what we have done. I have been in Bismarck, North Dakota for the Western RC&D Conference when it was 30 below zero. Coming to Arizona would almost be like coming home to summer. There is a lot of planning to do. Coordinator can do a lot but we cannot do it all. Your ideas and thoughts are extremely important as we begin to put this program together. So please volunteer to do something to make the 2013 Western RC&D Conference an unforgettable experience. Third, The ability to have someone or some group that is

able to attend meeting or participate in teleconference is crucial. The Western RC&D as well as the National RC&D honestly tries to get information out. Without some form of a state organization, then all we get is second hand stuff. It takes time and some money to have an effective state organization. Both you and I understand both money and time. But I would just challenge you to think of some things that would be of a good benefit if we organized a state RC&D Association. Bring those thoughts and ideas with you on November 17th. We will arrange car pooling so that we are conserving energy.