

*Wendy*

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January, 2007

Pima Natural Resource

Newsletter for:

# Pima Natural Resource Conservation District



Conservation District

## Message from Chairman McGibbon

Greetings to all for the New Year. Cooperators will find a new version of the Cooperators Agreement enclosed in this issue. If you have not signed one in the past two or three years, we ask that you take a look at it. Everyone can see the rapid urbanization of our state and district. Conservation Districts must adapt to the change and although our focus is still soil and water conservation, many of our future cooperators may not be large scale agricultural producers. The form has been revised to say that one must have "a commitment to protection, conservation and wise use of lands that are controlled by the Cooperator". This could be smaller parcels and includes leased land. If you know of anyone that fits into the new definition, please invite them to become a member of the District. We also ask for a \$25 donation. This is also important because these are unrestricted funds. Grants and State money have limits on they can be spent on. The donations go into a separate fund that is controlled at the discretion of the District and are tax detectable.

Conservation Districts are also becoming involved in issues created by our growing population. Winkelman NRC D is tackling illegal dumping. Here at Pima NRC D, we are working on Off Highway Vehicle Issues. We intend on becoming active on the issue of Drought Management. The recent elections have brought a new group of people to the State Legislature. Do they know what a District is? The Arizona Association of Conservation Districts is planning meetings with various committees to familiarize them with our work. One common theme to our concerns is lack of enforcement. All agencies with enforcement divisions are so overwhelmed with illegal immigration issues, that OHV trespass and illegal dumping go un addressed. Contacting your legislator about our concerns could go a long way.

Remember, we are here for you. We work on our district's natural resource issues. If you have a concern, or issue that would be good for us to address by grant funding, public education, or specific projects, please contact a Board member or come to a meeting. Conservation Districts are well respected for their track record and receive many grants when they are submitted.

Looking forward to hearing from you in 2007!

*Drew*



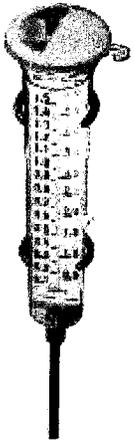
## From Kristen Egen, District Conservationist, NRCS

The Tucson Field Office is working on eleven new EQIP contracts for 2007. Of these, three are in the Pima NRCD with a total request of \$198,075 for cost share. A second ranking of applications closed on January 29<sup>th</sup>. In this ranking, applications totaled seven with two of those within the Pima NRCD. We accept applications year round for our programs, but rank them for funding during specific ranking windows. We also have three applications for WHIP this year.

One of our Rangeland Management Specialist positions became vacant in early December. There is currently a vacancy announcement posted to fill this position which closes on February 8<sup>th</sup>. We're hopeful that we'll have some great candidates to choose from and get the position filled by mid-March.

An exciting collaboration is coming to fruition this month. We have a set of 1936 aerial photographs in our office and we receive numerous requests throughout the year for access to these historical photos. It can take quite a bit of time searching for the correct map and then copying, faxing, or emailing the results to our customers. Pima County Regional Flood Control District has used the maps over the years and asked if we would be interested in having them scan the photos. When this project is done, they will provide easy access to the

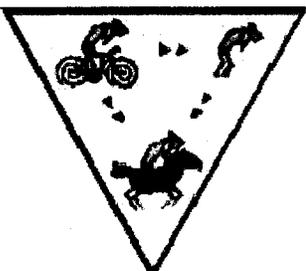
## Wanted: Citizen Scientists



This is an opportunity for the District to help with Drought and Water issues. The University of Arizona is recruiting citizens to collect simple rainfall data. The data gathered will provide information needed for drought monitoring and hydrologic modeling across the state. We all know that Arizona has complicated rainfall patterns. There is the 6" rain, monsoons, your neighbor gets an inch and you get nothing etc. There are observational gaps in the Official National Weather Service stations that can be filled by inputting your rainfall data into [Rainlog.org](http://Rainlog.org).

The site makes it easy to record data and even has gauges for sale at a reasonable price. A check of the sites reveals few outside of the Tucson Metro area. This would make a great project for rural schools or groups to under take. [Rainlog.org](http://Rainlog.org) is a partnership between the National Science Foundation's Sustainability of Semi-Arid Hydrology and Riparian Areas Center (now that is a mouth full!) and the University of Arizona's Cooperative Extension.

## Worth Repeating... Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Issues



Supervisor Cindy Copping reminds us that there are many free signs from the Arizona Game and Fish Department. They ask users to stay on roads, close gates etc and are available in Spanish. Signs need to be posted in order for law enforcement personnel to take action. We all know that a lot of the problem can be solved by educating the uses about the regulations. Most OHV users are happy to comply if they know the regulations and use areas.

Contact Matt Walton at AGFD in Tucson, 628-5376 x 551 or Troy Christensen in Phoenix at 602-789-3492 to obtain signs.



# Pima Natural Resource Conservation District

4650 N. Highway Drive, Tucson, AZ 86705



## COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

I, the undersigned, have natural resources under my control in regard to which I agree to protect, conserve and practice wise use.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Residential Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Location and Description of Natural Resources: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Acreage: \_\_\_\_\_ Present Land Use: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Intended Land Use (If current use is to be changed): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you a resident of this District? \_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_no

Are you a registered voter in the State of Arizona? \_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_no

If you answered "yes" to both of the above, then you are eligible to vote in District elections.

Signature of District Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject to availability of funds and resources, The Pima Natural Resource Conservation District agrees to assist the above named coordinator in attaining his conservation goals in every lawful way and cooperate with said coordinator for the protection, conservation and wise use of the natural resources described above.

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Board Member)

Definition: "District Coordinator" means any person who has entered into a cooperative agreement with a natural resource conservation district for the purpose of protecting, conserving, and practicing wise use of the natural resources under his control. (Arizona Revised Statutes § 37-1002).

**THE DISTRICT AGREES TO:**

*Assist in implementing conservation measures by furnishing to the District Cooperator such:*

- 1. Information,*
- 2. Technical assistance and supervision,*
- 3. Other assistance as it may have available that aides the Cooperator in conservation efforts.*

**THE DISTRICT COOPERATOR AGREES TO:**

- 1. Use the land within its capabilities and treat it according to its needs.*
- 2. Promote responsible management and use of natural resources*
- 3. Encourage voluntary solutions to natural resource problems*
- 4. Aide in identifying key natural resource issues and propose effective solutions*
- 5. Comply with any applicable State Laws governing the beneficial use of water.*

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**What is the Pima Natural Resource District (PNRCD)?**

*The Pima NRCD is formed under Arizona State Law and administered by the Arizona State Land Department. The District provides a means for all interested people in a community to officially work together for natural resource conservation and development. Participation is strictly voluntary. The Pima NRCD is a form of self-government authorized to identify and address the resource conservation needs of the District. It is governed by five supervisors, three elected by the District Cooperators, and two appointed by the Land Commissioner. The District Board of Supervisors has the responsibility for determining the resource conservation needs of the District, for developing and coordinating long range plans and programs of natural resource conservation, and for their implementation.*

*The District encompasses 2,138,000 acres in eastern Pima County. The State Trust Lands are 37%, privately held lands are 36%, and Federal lands are approximately 26%.*

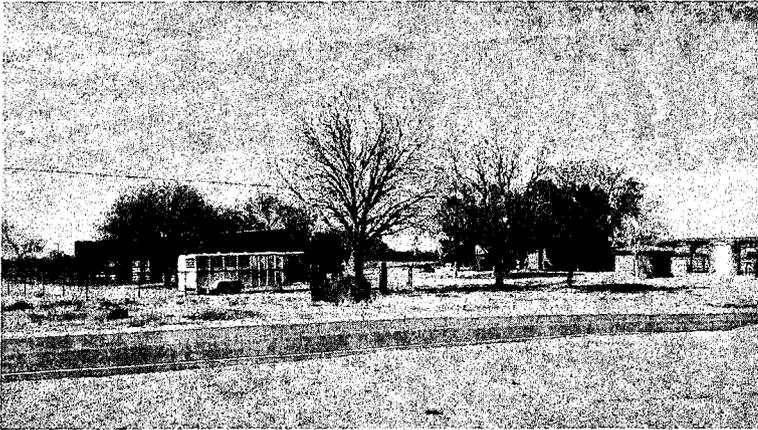
*The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS, part of the USDA) provides free technical assistance to Cooperators in the planning and carrying out conservation practices on private, State Trust Land, Indian Trust Land and federal lands. The Pima Natural Resource Conservation District provides direction to the NRCS Staff and aides them in setting priorities.*

**Contributions:**

*The District receives minimal funding from the State to fulfill its obligations such as reporting, bonding and payroll responsibilities. However, funding the rest of the projects above the NRCS programs comes from grants. Cooperators are requested to make a voluntary tax deductible contribution of \$25.00 annually; larger donations are always welcome. None of the monies contributed to the Pima NRCD are to be construed as compensation for services received from any Federal, State or local government employee, nor can those contributions be accepted by any of these employees in our behalf. Further more, these contributions are not a condition to the receiving of personnel service, materials, or cost-sharing assistance from the Federal Government.*

*09/06*

## We Welcome Two New Cooperators



*Future Home of the Marana Farm*

Two new cooperators have joined us since the last newsletter. The first is the **Community Food Bank**. Dana Helfer is the Food Production Manager. This six acre urban production and education farm which is a piece of the Town of Marana's Heritage Park. The farm will use drip irrigation, water harvesting and organic methods to grow vegetables, annual fruits, herbs and flowers. They have received an EQIP grant to install the irrigation system. The system has been designed and is being installation. The Food Bank has hired a Farm Manager. The first planting is scheduled for this spring and they welcome the community for volunteer and educational opportunities.

The second cooperator is the **U of A Agricultural Experiment Station**. Steve Husman is the Manager. Due to increasing urbanization and the value of the land, the farm is moving from Marana to Red Rock. This is a lease of approximately 5,000 acres State Trust Lands. Of this, 280 will be developed for the Experiment Station. Currently, the infra structure such as water and electricity is being installed. It will be another year or two before experiments get under way

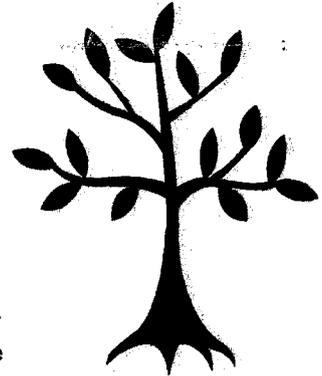
## Time to Plant A Tree

With the many thousands of acres of forests burned, we have lost a valuable link in the ecosystem. There are thousands of less oxygen factories, shade producers, erosion controllers and animal shelters. What good is it if we only plant one tree? How will it compensate for the loss of thousands?

Here in the Sonoran Desert, we do appreciate the value of even one tree. The Australians with whom we share similar climates and plant species have actually confirmed the value of a single tree. Researchers at the Australian National University gathered data on scattered-tree ecosystems whether natural rangelands or man made parks. They do a variety of things in their ecosystem. They increase nutrients in the soil under the canopies due to leaf litter, animal droppings or root growth. They create plant and animal diversity around them by providing habitat and food. These benefits have traditionally only been attributed to larger areas of vegetation.

Land managers should plan to keep this vegetation pattern viable if it is on land that they manage. These scattered trees should be restored on over grazed or farmed lands. These scattered trees eventually die and should be replaced. This may mean protection from grazing, and fire until they are established.

Yes, even the single tree is important.



## Natural History of the Pima Pineapple Cactus



The Altar Valley Conservation Alliance will feature Bob Schmauzel at it's February 9th meeting. Bob has compiled all of the available information about the endangered Pima Pineapple Cactus and will present it at this meeting. The discussion will start at 10 am with a walk following to see the plants in the field. It will be held at the King's Anvil Ranch, on Rt. 286, Sasabe Highway just south of milepost 38. Please RSVP to Pat King at 822-1065.



**Newsletter for:**

**Pima Natural Resource Conservation District**  
4650 E. Highway Drive  
Tucson, AZ 85705

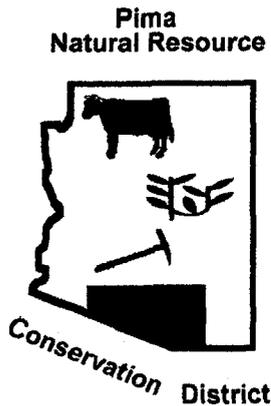
Timothy Bee  
Representative  
1700 W Washington Room 204  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

**Our meetings:**

Are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m. in the NRCS Offices 4650 N. Highway Drive, Tucson AZ. They are open to the public

**We're on the Web:**

**[www.pimanrkd.org](http://www.pimanrkd.org)**



**Supervisors:**

- Andrew McGibbon, Chairman
- John King, Vice-Chairman
- Stuart Bengson
- Patrick Pacheco
- Cynthia Coping

**Advisors:**

- Pat King

District Administrative Coordinator  
Pima Center for Environmental Education Director:

Vicki France  
4650 N. Highway Drive #100  
Tucson, AZ 85708  
Phone: 520.887.8520 x 111  
Fax: 520.888.1467  
Email: [vicki.france@az.nacdnet.net](mailto:vicki.france@az.nacdnet.net)

Conservation Districts are created by the State Legislature to provide for the restoration and conservation of the land and soil resources of the state, the preservation of water rights & the control and prevention of soil erosion; thereby conserving natural resources and wildlife, protecting the tax base, the public lands rivers streams and associated riparian habitats, including fish and wildlife resources that are dependent on those habitats.