



**conserving
natural resources**
for our future

**Triangle/Chino Winds
Natural Resource
Conservation District**
8841 East Florentine Rd Suite C
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314



Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- **Triangle & Chino
Winds Bi-Annual
Meeting**
November 9th 8:00 a.m.
**840 Rodeo Drive
Prescott, Az 86305**

Send us your pictures!!!

Text 928-713-7604
or
email to
dawnsalcito@yahoo.com
Photo credit will be given
and let us know the
location.

Do you have an idea for a
feature in our newsletter?
Call or email Dawn and she
will work with you to share
with our readers.
928-713-7604
dawnsalcito@yahoo.com
WYCECAZ.COM

Triangle/Chino Winds NRCD

Our mission at the Triangle/Chino Winds NRCD is to advocate for all local agricultural producers. We are dedicated to coordinating with governing agencies and local landowners to achieve conservation goals.

NRCD Newsletter

July 2021
Volume 4; Issue 3

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Goals

By Reuben Verner

The saying goes that what gets measured, gets done. Success is easy to define with a concrete benchmark, or a numerically defined goal. How then do we measure success when we can't directly measure the results of our efforts? Most successful ranchers I know have clearly defined goals. Many are tied directly to measurable attributes, such as increasing breed back rates or decreasing percentage bare ground. These are good goals that directly effect productivity, but if we were to ask ranchers in any part of the country why they do what they do, quality of life statements usually top the list.

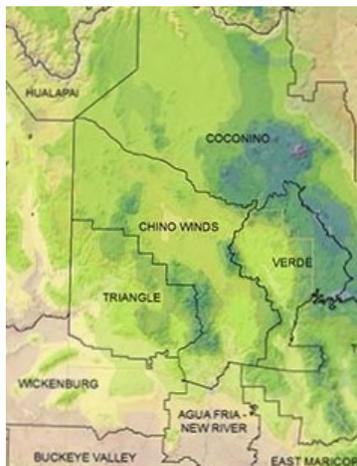
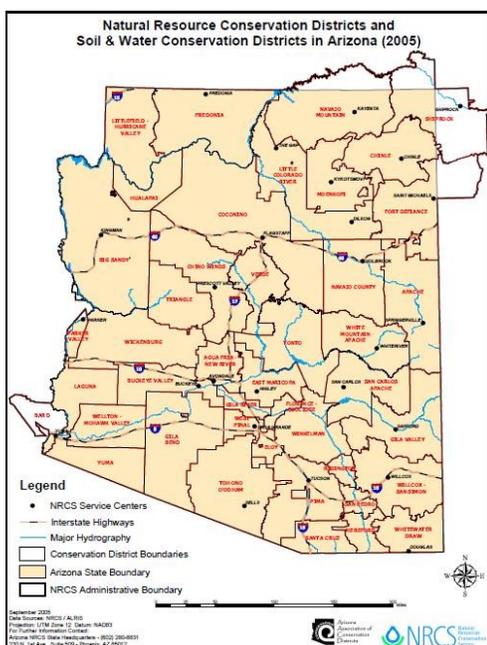
We do what we do because we enjoy doing it, not because it is fun checking heifers at two am and pray that the water truck doesn't break down.

When I have this conversation with others in production agriculture, they seem to instinctively understand. We have more in common with farmers than we might care to admit. The opposite is true of most outsiders. They see the 2% rate of return that our industry averages, the hours that we work, and conclude quickly that we are crazy.

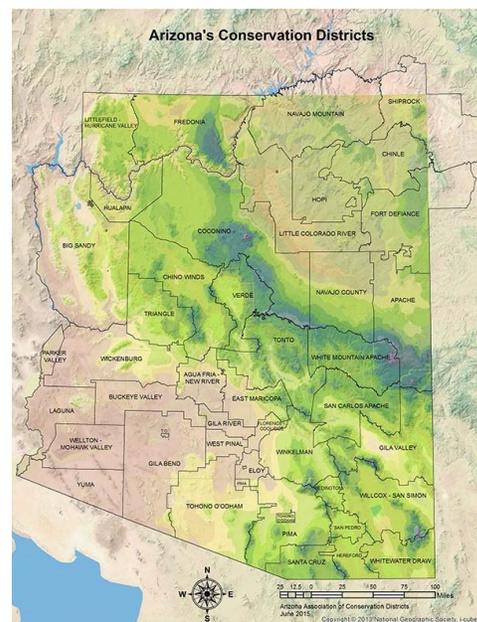
Raising kids on a working ranch has made me appreciate the importance of making daily work fun. It has forced me to answer the question of why do I enjoy the things that I do, and why I choose this occupation over others. When they are of age they will obviously set goals and define success for their own lives, which is as it should be. In the meantime, it is up to me to define what success looks like each day and make sure that we achieve it.

Our goals should always be measurable, but they also need to aim at the heart of what matters. Sustainable practices do not deplete soils or people. Stewardship of these resources -both human and environmental- is at the foundation of what we do, and we should be willing and able to describe what success looks like for both.

Projects Triangle and Chino Winds NRCDC Support



Triangle & Chino Winds NRCDC

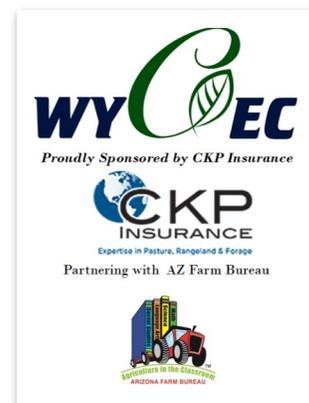


Projects Supported by Triangle and Chino Winds Districts

Triangle and Chino Winds Natural Resource Conservation Districts partner together to financially support four main projects. The most important fact to know about these projects is that they were developed as a response to a need that had been expressed. The motto "Locally Led" drives our plans, projects and goals.

WYCEC

Western Yavapai Conservation Education Center (WYCEC) has been supported by the districts since the early 1990's. The topics of soil health, food and fiber production, as well as aquifer recharge were greatly needed in the schools of Prescott and the surrounding areas. Understanding where your food comes from and what it takes to get on the plate are lessons not exclusive to school age children but adults alike. Our board set a goal of reaching 10,000 students in a school year and prior to Covid-19 we nearly reached this target. Due to classroom closures and at home learning, our readers have had to change the way they interact with students. In order to reach our audience, we created a YouTube channel with videos for teachers and home learners alike. WYCEC also offers



Projects— *continued*

live Zoom reading, but our main goal is to be in classrooms interacting with students across Yavapai County. The time we spend in classrooms has the greatest effect on learning and comprehension. WYCEC can't wait to return to our students, teachers and parents!

Program Assistants

Numerous ranchers in Yavapai County had stopped applying for financial assistance through the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) for their conservation practices. This includes applying for programs like EQIP and RCPP. The application process had become staggering for so many and the speed by which business was conducted had fallen far behind what was necessary. In some instances, a contract holder could wait up to six weeks from the time of certification to payment. Frequently, time is of the essence to put conservation practices into place as they help supply water for wildlife and livestock, manage grazing, reduce fire danger and improve soil. In response to these issues, Triangle and Chino Winds NRCD hired two part-time Program Assistants to help ease the time burden of processing. The Assistants work with local agricultural producers, Homeowners Associations and summer camps to process applications, payments and contract modifications when necessary. This allows the NRCS Planners freedom to spend more time in the field assisting with conservation planning. This project has improved new applications, the number of applications and speed of payment. Our average certification-to-payment time has been cut down to two weeks! This allows the producer to start upcoming projects in a timely manner.

Archaeology

Many projects planned in the Prescott Valley NRCS Field Office were on hold due to Cultural Survey needs. The backlog of conservation plans requiring a survey were so great that many were either canceled or on indefinite hold. The need for timely forest stand improvement, water projects, brush clearing, juniper thinning and fencing were only becoming greater as time passed. With the financial donations of local ranchers, Triangle and Chino Winds NRCD applied for a National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Technical Assistant Grant. With this, the districts were able to hire a full-time Archaeologist that can work across all types of land control. This October marks the 3rd year of implementing this position; with it, over 40 surveys have been completed, encompassing over approximately 3,000 acres of land. This year we also signed an MOU with the Prescott National Forest allowing us to receive funding to support additional hiring to assist our full-time Archaeologist. This MOU has become a goal we wish to achieve with many more government agencies in the future.

Drone

Both monitoring and management are key words for the future success of conservation planning. The ability to have information that is measurable, reportable and easily understood will ensure continued planning. Triangle and Chino Winds NRCD were able to take advantage of a Technical Innovation Grant through NRCS to purchase a Phantom 4 RTK Multispectral Drone with PIX4D. This new technology will allow the districts to measure and monitor brush density as justification for brush treatment and can also be used to monitor the results of conservation practices that are already in place.



In summary, the primary goal of Triangle and Chino Winds NRCD is to serve our co-operators. We are responsible for identifying resource concerns, where they might occur and who to partner with to achieve the best possible outcome. The only way for us to communicate effectively is through an active relationship with our co-operators. Your support can come in many ways; answer surveys, fill out your co-operator's forms, come to our bi-monthly meetings and financially support us with tax deductible donations through aacd1944.com. Please indicate in the comment box the district Triangle or Chino Winds NRCD that you wish to support.



NRCS Employee— *Featured Partner Employee*



Leif Baierl

Natural Resource Conservation Service
Soil Conservation Technician
Prescott Valley Field Office
Team 3

I'm Leif Baierl, the new NRCS Soil Conservation Technician stationed in the Prescott Valley Field Office. I'm a part of the Engineering Team and will be working on water facility projects, including water catchments, wells, pipelines, tanks and troughs. I'm originally from South Bend, Indiana and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Natural Resource Management from Indiana University in Bloomington. The last 14 years I've lived and worked in Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, Washington, and Arizona.

Much of my prior work experience was in non-governmental wildlife biology, including canid ecology (wolf, coyote, and fox), endangered shorebirds, desert tortoises, yellow-billed cuckoos, endangered songbirds, raptor migration, and Mexican spotted owls. The last six years of my career were spent with the Forest Service, leading the Natural Resources field crew for Prescott National Forest. That work comprised of wildlife surveys, rangeland monitoring, hydrology, soils, and wildfire. I'm very excited to have joined the NRCS Arizona team and look forward to working with local farmers and ranchers to conserve natural resources and thrive in their industry. My wife Natalia and I live in Prescott, Arizona.

The Triangle/Chino Winds NRCD Board is dedicated to promoting agricultural industries. We believe that agriculture is the healthiest way to maintain open spaces in Arizona. As producers ourselves, we understand that the maintenance of grasslands, cultivation of waters and water table recharge are direct results of our everyday good practices.

Our objective is to educate the public on the key role agricultural producer's play in a healthy environment as well as feeding our nation. The rancher is the backbone on which wildlife continues to grow and maintain healthy numbers. Building understanding between the local ranches and the general public will help to continue to grow a balanced and healthy Arizona.

We at the Triangle/Chino Winds NRCD would enjoy the opportunity to write letters and speak to government officials on behalf of ranches. Because we are a government agency, we have requested to receive all NEPA reports and upcoming projects in our area. Our objective is to coordinate with local government agencies so that upcoming projects are approved by and communicated clearly to those on the ground. The rancher holds a wealth of expertise and firsthand knowledge. A partnership built on honest and open communication will only further the betterment of land management and begin much needed projects that have been delayed. We would like to open lines of communications between those on the ground and the decision makers in government.

Your feedback is very appreciated and needed so that we know how to serve you better. We need your stories so we can spread the good news of ranching in Arizona today.

Range Plant I.D.

Plant Form: Grass
Family: Poaceae

Grass Description

Origin: Introduced **Season:** Cool and Warm
Habitat Description: Dry wasteland, especially on heavier soils. Roadsides, fields, railroads, and other disturbed places.
Plant Communities: Disturbed Areas
Elevation: 1000 - 7500 feet
Similar Species: *A. fatua*

General Description

Desc: Oats have a fibrous root system. Stems are erect, smooth, and hollow. The leaves are narrow. The primary seedhead branches are drooping. The spikelets (clustered units of flowers and bracts) are solitary and pendulous.
Identification notes: Spikelets are mostly 2-flowered, lemma awns are straight and not twisted, often reduced; lemmas are glabrous while the lemmas of *A. fatua* are long-hairy on their back; florets do not easily fall from the glumes.

Grass Type: Annual **Rhizomes:** N **Stolons:** N
Large Dense Clump (> 2 feet): N **Bushy (highly branched):** N
Height with Seedheads: Greater than 36 inches
Seedhead Structure: Branched - open and spreading **Seedhead Droops:** Y



Flowering Period: Jun - Jul

Flower Characteristics

Number of Flowers per Spikelet: Multi-flowered **Spikelets One-sided:** N
Awns: Less than 1/4 inch **Three Awns:** N **Awns Bent:** N

Flower and Seedhead Notes: The seedhead is open, pyramidal, loosely spreading, nodding, 7 to 15 inches long and 2 to 6 inches wide. Spikelets have 2 or 3 wedge-shaped fertile florets, overlapping glumes; attach to main seedhead by thin stems and stay on the seedhead at maturity.

Vegetative Characteristics

Blade Hairy: N **Blade with White Margin:** N **Blade Cross Section:** Flat
Blade Notes: Leaves are cauline (arise from the upper part of the stem). Leaf-blades are 5 to 15 inches long and less than 1/2 inch wide. The leaf-blade surface is minutely rough-textured on both sides. The tip of the leaf-blade tapers to a point.

Sheath Hairy: N **Tuft of Hairs Top of Sheath or Collar:** N **Ligules:** Membranous
Auricles (Ear-like lobes at base of blades): N

Forage Value: Oats are high in protein, carbohydrates and fiber. Both the grain and fodder are utilized by grazing animals. The forage yield and forage feeding value of the harvested crop change as the oat plant matures through its growth stages.



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(928) 445-6590

<https://cals.arizona.edu/yavapaiplants/>

<http://cals.arizona.edu/yavapaiplants/SpeciesDetailGrass.php>
Last Updated: May 10, 2017

ARIZONA RANGE GRASSES

Photos and information:

[Content Questions/Comments: Email Jeff Schalaus](#)
[Legal Disclaimer](#)

Contractors and Service Providers

SERVICE PROVIDERS

North American Procurement Co.
 P.O. Box 2279 Woodville, TX 75979



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The Triangle/Chino Winds NRCD would like to offer businesses targeting customers in agriculture the opportunity to connect with readers of our NRCD Newsletter. We are offering space in each issue for advertising for products and services that may be of interest to the ranchers and farmers we serve. We are happy to furnish space free of charge but will also be happy to accept donations to cover our costs of publication.

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