

# ARIZONA SECTION

## Society for Range Management

July 2006 Newsletter

<http://azrangelands.org>

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## President's Message

Bruce Munda

Howdy Folks,

The monsoon season is upon us and I hope that you have received some rain if only enough to provide a little reprieve from our intense summer heat. It seems that the summers are getting hotter and lasting longer. Perhaps the result of Global Warming—maybe? More likely it is just a result of my ever increasing number of years.

Our President-Elect, Dennis Moroney, has been working hard with the development of our Summer Meeting scheduled for August 17-19. We will be camping out on the Whitewater Draw Wildlife area, with tours of watershed activities on Dennis's ranch as well as Ruth Evelyn Cowan's. We will also be touring the Walnut Gulch Experimental Watershed where Mary Nichols will be showing us some of the work the Agricultural Research Service is conducting. This will be a great meeting (maybe a little warm) but we will see some interesting land treatment practices. So, plan on attending.

The NRCWAY just finished their summer camp the week of July 10<sup>th</sup>. I have heard many rumors that this was an outstanding camp with great student participation. I also heard (source cannot be disclosed) that many students had the opportunity to experience the joys of fishing for the very first time. So, hats off to the NRCWAY committee for resurrecting the Natural Resources Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth.

As you know the next National meeting will be held in Reno, Nevada on February 9-16, 2007 at John Ascuaga's Nugget. This year is the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and it is titled "Managed Rangelands: Traditions and Transitions". If you are considering submitting a paper or poster you have until September 5, 2006 to get your abstracts to Sherman Swanson at [sswanson@cabnr.unr.edu](mailto:sswanson@cabnr.unr.edu) OR Ben Bruce at [bbruce@unr.nevada.edu](mailto:bbruce@unr.nevada.edu).

Many of you know that Dan Robinett, NRCS Rangeland Specialist extraordinaire, is currently in Afghanistan working with USAID and the Provincial Reconstruction Teams. Dan is scheduled to be back in Tucson on July 31<sup>st</sup>. Dan has provided photos and a brief article for our newsletter that I know you will enjoy. Dan has had a unique experience and has shared with the Afghan people a wealth of knowledge and information. Please keep Dan in your thoughts and prayers as he prepares to come home as well as all of our troops serving this nation.

I hope to see you at the summer meeting.

## Thanks!

Dear Arizona Section of the Society of Range Management,  
Thank you for donating \$500.00 to the Wildlife and Restoration Ecology Club for the 59<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Vancouver. Sean Knapp, Todd Elliott, and I had a fantastic time studying the plants and competing. We are very thankful that we were given the chance to compete in the Plant Identification contest and learned a lot in the process. Taking the test has helped us find jobs and internships. Besides studying in the plant exchange and taking the test, we went to many symposia and discovered Vancouver. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity.

Sincerely,

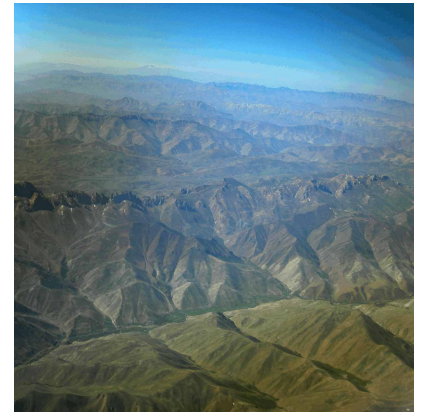
Bethany Porter, Vice President 2006-2007

Wildlife & Restoration Student Association, Arizona State University, Polytechnic campus



## Howdy to all my friends in the Arizona Section! From Dan Robinett

I'm doing fine in Afghanistan. Other than a few rocket attacks and riots in the streets things are pretty good here. I'm very busy and that is good. I did a 2 week training with two other NRCS guys (Chris Hoag from Idaho and Jon Fripp from Ft. Worth). It was the first range training in the country in the last 30 years. I spent two weeks in Ghor province this June. Ghor is the most remote and poorest part of the country. I stayed at a Provisional Reconstruction Team (PRT) run by the Lithuanian Army. They have 130 troops there along with a squad each from Croatia, Denmark, Iceland and Sweden. They treated me great, worked me very hard and I had a ball. My highlight was a day long patrol with the Lithuanian troopers. They let me stop three times to collect plants and twice to describe soils. I've got another range training scheduled in July which will focus on range assessments and monitoring.



Ghor Country



Dan's Protector's

I'm working on 2 plant books (grasses and forbs) like the ones we've done in SE Arizona. They will be the only plant books in Afghanistan. I hope to spark enough interest in them with my Afghan counter-parts, that they will continue the series and do two others on trees and shrubs. I've also done two ecological site descriptions for major sites in the Kabul area. The best places to find relict vegetation are the mine fields and shrines. Since the Army won't let me near the mine fields (thank God for that!) I've been sampling some of the shrines. The locals are afraid to dig up the shrubs and herbs in these holy places so they can have pretty neat vegetation. The most common winter fuel in the entire country is sagebrush species (*Artemisia diffusa* and *Artemisia turicana*) and they have stripped the land bare of them in the last 20 years. I'll be home in August and look forward to seeing all my friends again. Maybe I'll even make the Summer Meeting.



300 head



Artemesia in Dodemast village shrine

# Natural Resource Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth 2006 at Mingus Springs Camp



**Kim McReynolds**  
Workshop Director

**Natalie Goldfarb**, Scottsdale  
Selected as Alternate to SRM  
High School Youth Forum



**Katie Radosevic**, Cornville  
Selected Outstanding Student  
& Delegate to SRM High  
School Youth Forum

**Kim McReynolds**  
Workshop Director



**Eric Johnston**, Claypool & **Eric Hartman**, Paradise Valley  
Voted Outstanding Campers

Mark your calendars and start recruiting now  
for next year's workshop!

**July 9-13, 2007**

# Arizona Section Society for Range Management Summer Meeting It Takes a Watershed!

August 17-19, 2006  
Near Historic Tombstone Arizona

## Agenda

### Thursday evening, August 17

Arrive at Whitewater Draw Wildlife Refuge, set up camp. Dinner on your own.

5:00-6:30 pm Arizona Section SRM Board/ General Membership Meeting.

### Friday, August 18

7:00 am Breakfast on your own. If desired, it is also available at the Family Cafe, in nearby Elfrida.

8:00 am Tombstone Heritage Estates, Mechanical Brush Treatment in Mesquite, Exurban subdivision, Lehman's Lovegrass, Drought Management. *Ron Bemis, NRCS Retired, and Dennis Moroney, Rancher*

9:00 am NI Ranch, Spillway Pasture, Brush treatment in mesquite, historic flood control structure, AWPf grant project, Hay Mountain Watershed Research. *Mary Nichols, USDA/ARS, and Ruth E. Cowan, Rancher*

10:00 am NI Ranch, Hayfield Pasture and Fred Davis Ranch, Chemical Brush Treatment in Whitethorn, Johnson Grass, overland flows, livestock management. *Art Meen NRCS Rangeland Conservationist; R.E. Cowan, Rancher; and Fred Davis, Rancher*

11:00 am Davis Ranch, Solar water pumping, alternative energy. *Fred Davis, Rancher*

12 noon Lunch at 47 Ranch. Authentic Mexican Food from Elvia's Cocina of Bisbee

1:00 pm 47 Ranch, Erosion control research project, check dams, soil moisture, measurement and metrics. *Mary Nichols USDA/ARS*

2:00 pm 47 Ranch, 880 Pasture, Chemical Brush Treatment in Mesquite, Cooperative Monitoring Transect, Hay Mountain Watershed Project. *Art Meen, NRCS, and Dennis Moroney, Rancher*

3:00 pm Return to Whitewater Draw

3:30 pm Whitewater Draw Wildlife Refuge, Migratory waterfowl habitat management, Refuge management, Sandhill Cranes, etc. *Brad Fulk, AGFD Area Manager, and Jim Curley Garrett, AGFD, Refuge Manager*

4:30 pm Siesta

6:30 pm Steak Dinner, *Arizona Game & Fish Department, BYOB*

7:30 pm Evening Program TBA

### Saturday, August 19 Walnut Gulch Experimental Watershed

7:30 am Depart for Tombstone

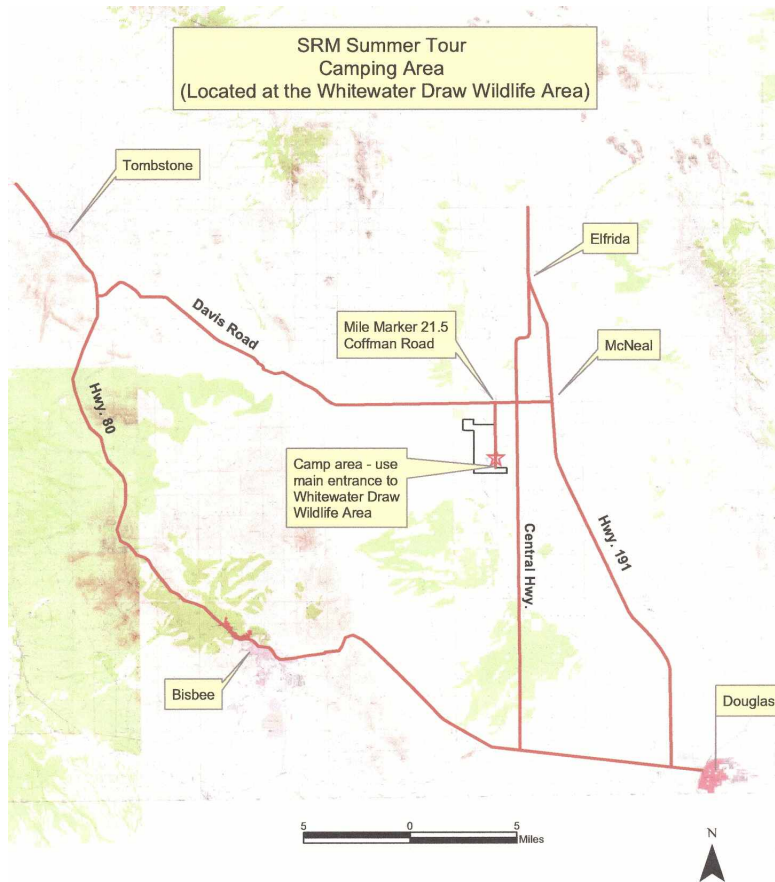
8:00 am Walnut Gulch Field Office, Overview of ARS Research Program, *Dr. Mary Nichols, USDA/ARS, Research Hydraulic Engineer*

9:00 am Flume 6, Overview of Flume History, Operation, Research

10:30 am Lucky Hills (Middlemarch Road), Overview of Small Watershed Research Program, Hydrology, Erosion, Sedimentation

11:30 am Return to Tombstone

12 noon Lunch on your own, Tombstone?



We will plan on a board meeting on Thursday evening from 5 to 6:30 pm. Campers can set up camp before or after. We are welcome to camp at the AGFD Whitewater Draw Wildlife Area. There is some limited access for a few folks to stay in their "bunkhouse" which is really an old farmhouse on the site. In addition there is a big hay barn which can provide the equivalent of a giant rainfly for those who are tent camping and wish the added security in the extremely rare event of a rain shower. I know it's a remote possibility, but it could rain! Modern motel accommodations with a simulated western theme are available in nearby Tombstone. Dark occurs by 8pm, but there will be two bare bulbs powered by a generator for late arrivals to navigate by. The area within 25 feet of each bulb will be off limits to all but the bat biologists and entomologists, and all sampling must be pre-approved and certified by AGFD personnel. We will have a fire pit nearby and members should be encouraged to bring wood or burnable trash. Dinner Thursday evening and breakfast Friday and Saturday is on your own. A barbeque permit may be purchased from AGFD. BYOB. Plan on bringing rain gear, sensible shoes, and a snakebite kit.

The educational portion of our meeting will begin at 8 am on Friday with a look at the Hay Mountain Watershed Project, a cooperative effort involving 4 neighboring ranches working to improve the watershed above Whitewater Draw. We will spend the day looking

at brush treatments, reseeding efforts, erosion control structures, and solar energy installations. Issues for discussion will include collaboration, watershed restoration, wildlife habitat, rural subdivision, alternative energy, livestock management, and border issues. On Saturday morning we will be privileged to accompany Dr. Mary Nichols, Research Hydraulic Engineer with the Southwest Watershed Research Center on a tour of the USDA ARS Walnut Gulch Experimental Watershed. This sub watershed is one of the most studied watersheds in the world, and data collected here is utilized around the world for both research and management applications in semiarid ecosystems. With well over 100 rain gauges in place, and research in hydrology, erosion, and sedimentation conducted since 1953, this promises to be a very informative experience.

Any questions? Contact Dennis Moroney at (520)642-9368 or email Dennis at [crossu@hughes.net](mailto:crossu@hughes.net)

**REGISTRATION FORM (Due August 7<sup>th</sup>)**

NAME & ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE/CHILDREN/GUEST NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

\$55/member	_____
\$65/non-member	_____
\$30/spouse, student or youth	_____
Total Amount Enclosed	\$ _____

**Mail the registration form along with a check or money order** (payable to Arizona SRM) to:  
 Byron Lambeth,  
 6221 N. 15<sup>th</sup> St., Phoenix AZ 85014  
[byron\\_lambeth@blm.gov](mailto:byron_lambeth@blm.gov)

Registrations must be received by **August 7, 2006** to guarantee meals.

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Willcox AZ 85643

