



Redington Resource Review
Resource News for the Conservation Minded
Producer and Landowner
A Quarterly Publication of the Redington Natural
Resource Conservation District
Volume 23 No. 2 May 2006

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Submitted by Stefanie Smallhouse,
 Chair, Redington NRCD

Thank you to everyone who voted in this year's Supervisor election. We had a record turnout of nearly 100%. Thank you to Toni Looney, Maria Troutner, and Jean Helfrich for serving on the election board, our polling location, and all of your hard work!

Now that the election is behind us, the board will be focusing on the planning and activities of the coming year. Keep your eyes open for notices and agendas for this year's annual meeting to be held in June. The long awaited completion of the Lower San Pedro River Watershed Assessment Grant should be this summer with community meetings, similar to those a few years ago, to take place to present the grant and information gathered. To go hand in hand with this effort the board will be revising the district's 10 year plan, which is much overdue! We continue on with our work with the state for drought planning and weed management. We have a very busy year ahead!

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RESULTS OF THE ELECTION OF
SATURDAY, MAY 6TH 2006, CERTIFIED BY
THE ELECTION BOARD OF
REDINGTON NATURAL RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Position: 6-year Elective Term to expire May 31, 2012

Candidate	No. of Votes
Stefanie Smallhouse	55
Jim McPherson	23

Position: Vacated Elective Term to expire May 31, 2010

Candidate	No. of Votes
Judith Dykes	46
Barbara Clark	33

Position: Vacated Elective Term to expire May 31, 2008

Candidate	No. of Votes
Charles Kent	48
Carol Bribach	30

Election Board:

Maria Troutner
 Toni Looney
 Jean Helfrich

If you need additional information please contact the election board or Jody Latimer, NRCD Administrator at 602-542-2699 or Stefanie Smallhouse at 212-2639.

.....
 The Redington NRCD was established in 1947 and is responsible for 285,860 acres of land located within Pima, Cochise, Graham and Pinal Counties. The district is an independent political subdivision of the State of Arizona that works with private landowners on a voluntary basis to help provide science-based technical assistance for the purpose of conservation. Over 200,000 acres of land are under conservation management plans or using conservation practices. Only 48,071 acres in the district are privately owned. Over 156,000 acres are state trust lands.

Redington NRCD News and Announcements

Redington NRCD Web Site

The Redington NRCD has a web site. It can be found at <http://www.redingtonnrcd.org>

On the Redington NRCD web site you can read about the history of the Redington NRCD, past and current projects in the district, election results, news, contact information. You can also download cooperators agreements and read old newsletters. Check it out. There is lots of interesting and informative stuff!

Cascabel Community Wildfire Protection Plan

In April 2004 the Cascabel Community Firewise Group first met to review the Cascabel BLM Management Plan and consider a new Community Wildfire Protection Plan. On May 05,2006 the Cascabel Volunteer Fire Department received the completed Cascabel Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Copies are available to review. If you would like to see a copy of the plan, please contact Les Helfrich (email: chiefc@rnsmtc.com).

On May 17,2006 Arizona State Land Department crews completed the final areas for fire breaks and fuel reduction projects within the Community. These included BLM and private property located at: Cascabel Ranch, Elna Otter/David Omick, Charlie & Jeannine Thomas, Nathan & Lucia Sayre, Tim Healy, Pat Corbett, the Munguia House and the Oasis Bird Sanctuary.

The CVFD Board of Directors wish to thank all parties that assisted in this endeavor, particularly Mr. David Peters, BLM Fire Mitigation Specialist.

Rural Living in Southeastern Arizona 2nd Edition

Never lived off of a country road before? What is the open range law, or where can you dispose of your trash?

What can you plant in your garden and when? Or maybe who maintains the road and where should you put the mailbox?

This handbook was designed and improved with the new edition to answer these questions and provide information on contacts to further help you.

Produced by: Coronado Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. and the Counties of Cochise, Graham, and Greenlee

Available through the Redington NRCD. Please Call 520-212-2639 for a copy.

Rainfall Measurements for Area

Data from M Diamond Headquarters near Redington:

Jan 06--0
Feb 06--0
Mar 06--.80"
Apr 06--0
1/2 May 06--Trace

Data from Cascabel Clayworks, Cascabel

Jan 06--.09"
Feb 06--Trace
Mar 06--.42"
Apr 06--Trace
1/2 May 06--.11"

Redington Natural Resource Conservation District Current Elected Board of Directors:

Stefanie Smallhouse

Judy Dykes

Charles Kent

Newsletter produced by J. Dale

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically, please email jdale@cdarc.org

Cascabel Volunteer Fire Department News

Submitted by Les Helfrich, Fire Chief, CVFD
chiefc@rnsmtc.com



HOW SAFE IS YOUR HOME?

In the last issue of the Redington Resource Review we discussed "Defensible Space" Zone 1. Now let's consider Zone 2.

CREATING WILDFIRE - DEFENSIBLE ZONES

The actual design and development of your defensible space depends on several factors:

- ▶ Size and shape of buildings
- ▶ Materials used in their construction
- ▶ Slope of the ground on which structures are built
- ▶ Surrounding topography
- ▶ Sizes and types of vegetation on your property

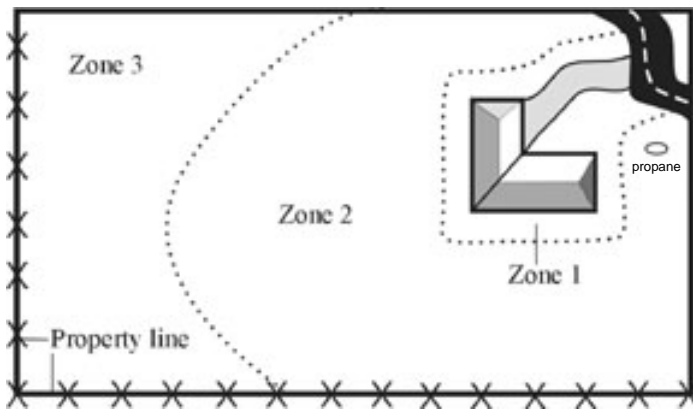


Figure 1. The three fire-defensible zones around a home or other structure.

Zone 2 is an area of fuel reduction designed to reduce the intensity of any fire approaching your home. It's a transitional area between Zones 1 & 3. The size of Zone 2 depends on the slope of the ground where the structure is built. Typically, the defensible space should extend at least 75 to 125 feet from any structures.

Selectively remove (thin) trees and large shrubs so there is at least 10 feet between crowns. Remove all ladder fuels (undergrowth) from those remaining trees. Carefully prune trees to a height of 10 feet. Thin the inner portion more heavily than the outer portions. As a rule of thumb, the recommended width of defensible space from the structure to the outer edge of Zone 2 will increase as slope percent increases.

Isolated shrubs may remain, provided they are not under

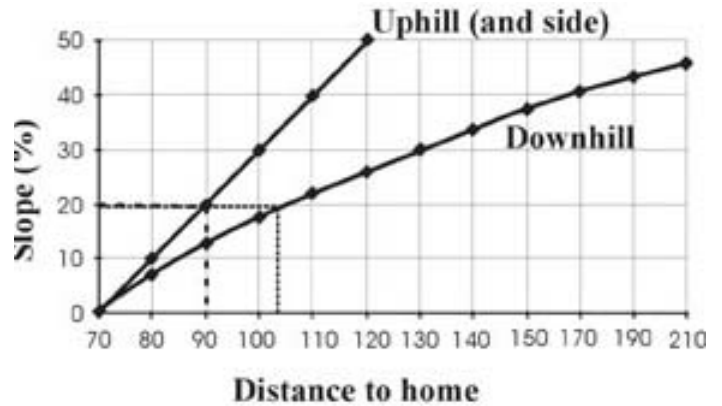


Figure 2. Minimum dimensions for defensible space from house to outer edge of Zone 2. For example, if your home is situated on a 20 percent slope, the minimum defensible space dimensions would be 90 feet uphill and to the sides of the home and 104 feet downhill from the home.

tree crowns. Prune and maintain these plants periodically to maintain growth. Remove dead branches from trees and shrubs annually. Limit the number of dead trees (snags) retained in this area. Wildlife needs only one or two snags per acre. Be sure any snags left cannot fall onto the house or block access roads.

Mow grasses as needed through the growing season at a maximum of 6-8 inches. This is extremely critical in the fall when grasses dry out and cure. Stack firewood and woodpiles uphill or on the same level as the structure, at least 30 feet away with no flammable vegetation within 10 feet of piles. Even in the winter, do not stack wood against the house or under a deck.

Locate propane tanks at least 30 feet away from any structures, preferably on the same level as the house. If the container is below your house any ignition would tend to burn uphill. Alternatively, if a container is placed above your house, and it develops a leak, the flow would be downhill into your home. As with woodpiles, keep flammable vegetation at least 10 feet away from these tanks.

The Munguia Homestead

Submitted by Jacquie Dale, Archaeologist and Cascabel Resident

Sitting amidst a thick mesquite bosque along the west bank of the San Pedro River is an old adobe home built ca. 1900. This is what remains of the homestead of Tomas Munguia, an early Mexican-American settler who came to present day Cascabel in the late 1800's. Like many of the early settlers in the area, Tomas Munguia acquired his land under the Homestead and Preemption Acts. Although quite remote, the Munguia home was large and well built, having a good strong sandstone foundation. Although the roof has long since collapsed and the trees and river are encroaching, the walls still stand majestically reminding of a long ago time when the home was occupied.

For the last year I have been working with the Cascabel Volunteer Fire Department, and the BLM on a wildland fire protection plan to help protect resources on both private and public lands in Cascabel. The Munguia homestead was identified as being at-risk in the event of wildfire. Creating a defensible space around the house would greatly reduce the risk of fire damage to the old home. I was commissioned to record the homestead, research the history of the family and monitor the clearing of brush around the home. The history of the Munguia property was compiled by visiting archives in Arizona, obtaining census records, interviewing local individuals who have historical connections to the Munguias, as well as accessing published family histories. Recording the site was done with the help of volunteers from Cascabel.

Don Tomas Munguia was born in Tucson in 1863 to Jesus Maria Munguia and Luisa Campa Sosa. Tomas was half brother to other Sozas who settled in the area including Antonio J. Campa Soza, Francisco Soza, Placido Campa

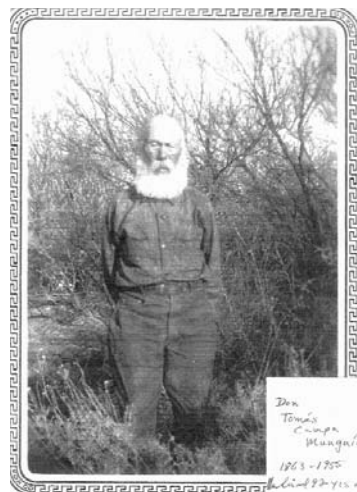


Munguia Homestead prior to brush removal. Photo by J. Dale 2005

Soza, Nicolas Campa Soza. They all shared the same mother, Luisa Campa {Soza}. Tomas's father, Jesus Maria Munguia was born in Sonora Mexico c. 1825. Jesus married Luisa Campa Soza after the death of her first (Jose Calistro Sosa) and second (Manuel Sosa) husbands. Luisa was born in Tubac c. 1826. Tomas also had a younger sister named Ramona. Tomas had a daughter with Josefa Quintero (Monica Dunbar Smith, personal communication), known as Dona Ysabel Munguia de Vasquez. Tomas later married Refugia (also known as Cuca) Lopez who had at least one son from a previous marriage by the name of Miguel Lopez. Refugia was the sister of Jesus Moreno Soza, the wife of Antonio Soza.

In 1887 Tomas Munguia purchased 160 acres of land under the Preemption Act of 1841. In 1905 Tomas and Refugia, sold a right of way on their property to the Phoenix and Eastern Railroad Company for \$125. In 1938, Tomas Munguia acquired additional parcels under the Homestead Act of 1862 making his total holdings 320 acres. According to local informants and census records, Tomas and Refugia farmed the land. Refugia passed away in 1939 and Tomas in 1955 after transferring their property to children and grandchildren. Refugia and Tomas were buried with their relatives in the Soza Family Cemetery in Cascabel. In 1959 the homestead parcel was bought by the Hughes family who built their home on the east side of the river and continued to care for the old homestead. In the 1990s the land was transferred to the BLM.

The four room house measures 53 feet by 27 feet with 10 foot high walls on a limestone block foundation. There is a central entrance way with doors on both sides. Vigas for the



Don Tomas Munguia at his ranch in Cascabel. Photo courtesy of Monica Dunbar Smith.

corrugated metal roof were supported by two large cut stone pillars, still standing. Nonarchitectural features at the homestead include a well, an outhouse, a livestock area, and a workshop area. One of the more unique artifacts at the homestead is the frame of a ca. 1919 Dodge Touring car. It now rests quietly in the mesquite trees, now a home for packrats.

A 1940 article in the Arizona Daily Star describes the house: situated just 16 feet from the river, the house had two small windows in each end with green plants growing in them. The small fenced in yard had two nanny goats and their kids. The reporter describes Munguia as "a neat little old man with long gray whiskers, dressed up in his Sunday clothes. Locals had talked about a cable that once existed to cross the river. While recording the site we found evidence of a steel cable anchored to a tree on the west side of the river. The newspaper article described how the cable was used:

Across the river is a strong cable that carries a tramway for people to cross to the other side when the river is high. The car rolls to the center itself, and from there on the passenger pulls himself by grasping the wire in front with his hands
~ Arizona Daily Star, April 18, 1940.

Spring on the San Pedro

Submitted by Ralph Waldt, Naturalist & Cascabel Resident

This and many other stories have made the Munguia homestead much more than just an historic site to me. In recording the Munguia house I had the pleasure of engaging with relatively recent and long-time residents of Cascabel as well as the family of Tomas Munguia. I am inspired by both the hardy settlers who lived here before me and by the people who now live here and care for both the natural and cultural resources. It is wonderful to live and work in a community that has so many people interested in the history of this place they call home. Living in Cascabel can sometimes be



Inside of the Munguia home. Photo taken by J. Dale 2005.

a challenge, with wash-board roads, monsoon floods, and no store for thirty miles, but many of us wouldn't trade it for anywhere else.

This project would not have been completed were it not for the help of volunteers from Cascabel who helped

record the house over the course of two days. Thank you for all of your hard work and enthusiasm. Thanks also to Jack and Norma Hughes who provided access through their property to the Munguia homestead, the Soza family for providing me with genealogical history and allowing me to visit their family cemetery, Rudy, Ray and Julie Gamez for sharing their stories and memories about the Munguias and Sozas, Maria and Gene Troutner for putting me in touch with all the right people, Helfrich's for measuring the walls and windows of the whole house (twice!) and Mick Meader of the University of Arizona Geosciences Department for helping track down the quarry location for the foundation. The State's Wildland Fire Crew out of Douglas did a wonderful job removing brush and limbs from around and inside the house, helping to protect the home from future fire damage and erosion. Your hard work and respectful attitude and interest in preserving the historic structure was greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Monica Dunbar Smith, great granddaughter of Don Tomas Munguia, for providing family history and photos for my research and to Mary Taylor who first told me about this homestead in her historic writings of the area.

This article is a revised version of one that was published by the author in *Glyphs: The Monthly Newsletter of the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society* 56(11):6-7. May, 2006.

One of the best aspects of living in this valley is the coming of spring. On an early morning in April just a few weeks ago, my wife and I took a walk through the riverbottom forest along a flowing stretch of the San Pedro. Shortly after daybreak, the river was a memorable sight, a glinting ribbon of green and silver gliding quietly through the trees, bordered with emerald growths of watercress and tall stands of Rabbitfoot grass. Another kind of stream filled the valley floor that morning as well, an olfactory river of perfume from blooming mesquites, catclaw, and more. Insects were buzzing, and tall willow trees were covered with eye-catching splays of gold catkins. There were many things heralding the season of spring, but one in particular drew our attention. There were birds *everywhere*.

Birds were visiting the water's edge, drinking and foraging along the banks. The forest was alive with sound from several dozen species. It was not just the variety that drew our attention, but the sheer numbers. We must have seen hundreds of Wilson's Warblers, tiny, blazing yellow birds with a satin black cap. There were large numbers of other species, too, like Yellow Warblers, Yellow-rumped Warblers, various sparrows, hummingbirds, tanagers, orioles. We sat along the edge of the river for a while and watched as bird after bird appeared, most of them looking for food in the foliage or on the ground. I have been paying close attention to birds during all of my adult life, but there have been few times, indeed, when I have witnessed such a concentration of migratory birds in one small area.

For years I have been hearing that the San Pedro River is one of the most important routes for migratory birds in western America. Some people say that there are no other inland flyways west of the Mississippi that host as many traveling birds as does the San Pedro River. Any way that you put it into words, the San Pedro is of tremendous importance to bird life. Not mere hundreds, nor thousands, but *millions* of birds funnel through this flyway. The birds follow the river's green ribbon northward every spring, stopping along the way to obtain much-needed food and shelter in the forest that attends the river. It would be no mistake to say that many of the songbirds that populate the mountains and valleys of Utah, Idaho, Montana, and western Canada might not make it to their breeding grounds if they did not have places like the San Pedro along the way for rest and refueling.

All of us are lucky to live in this valley, a place bestowed with a rich variety of bird life, friendly neighbors, and the uncommon beauty of a desert river.

Local Classifieds

Bull Canyon & Boer Goat Ranch

Eggs, Feathers, Meat, Crafts
Don & Toni Looney

(520) 212-2900

bcogr@hughes.net

Saguaro-Juniper Grass Finished Beef

jeannine85602@yahoo.com

(520) 212-7333



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Redington Natural Resource Conservation District Meeting Schedule

Unless otherwise notified, Redington NRCD Board meets the 4th Saturday of every month at the Cascabel Community Center

Next Meeting:

Saturday May 27th 9 AM at CCC

Annual Meeting:

Saturday June 24th 9 AM at Carlink Ranch,
Redington

All agendas are posted 24 hours in advance at the Game and Fish kiosks along the Cascabel/San Pedro River Rd. If you would like email notification of the agenda please email Stefanie Smallhouse carlink@hughes.net

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Hydrogeologic Investigation of the Middle San Pedro
Watershed, Southeastern Arizona: A Project of the Rural
Watershed Initiative

The middle San Pedro watershed is a northwest-southeast trending basin in Cochise and Pima Counties in southeastern Arizona. The watershed includes parts of two ground-water basins designated by the Arizona Department of Water Resources: the southern part of the Lower San Pedro Basin and the northern part of the Upper San Pedro Basin. Benson is the largest city in the watershed and had a population of about 4,900 in 2005. The population of the watershed has grown moderately by a factor of about 1.5 during the past 20 years (Arizona Department of Water Resources, 2005; U.S. Census Bureau, 2006), but it is expected to rapidly increase during the next 20 years as residential developments are constructed for retirement communities or for satellite communities of nearby Tucson, Arizona. If the approved and planned developments are constructed as scheduled, the population of Benson is expected to increase to more than 50,000 by 2025 ("Arizona Daily Star," 2005).

Ground water is the primary source of water and is essential to support a growing population, agriculture, industry, and the riparian habitat of the San Pedro River. The city of Benson, Cochise County, the public, and other interested parties are concerned about the future availability and sustainability of the water supply. Increased ground-water pumping could have several undesirable consequences, such as (1) loss of available ground-water storage, (2) increased cost of pumping, (3) need for deepening existing wells, (4) need for new wells, (5) decreased quality of southeastern Arizona drinking water, (6) land subsidence, and (7) damage to the riparian habitat of the San Pedro River.

To be effective and acceptable to all interested parties, planning and management of the ground-water supply needs to be guided by an objective and comprehensive scientific understanding of the ground-water system.

In 2005, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) began an investigation of the hydrogeology of the middle San Pedro watershed in cooperation with the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR). This project is part of the Rural Watershed Initiative (RWI), which is a program established by the State of Arizona and managed by the ADWR. Other RWI projects that started in 2005 include an investigation of

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several basins in Mohave County in northwestern Arizona and an investigation of the Willcox and Douglas Basins in southeastern Arizona. RWI projects that started in 1999 include studies of the Coconino Plateau in northern Arizona, the Mogollon Highlands in central Arizona, and the upper and middle Verde watersheds in central Arizona (Arizona Water Science Center, 2003).

The primary objective of this project is to improve the understanding of the hydrogeology of the middle San Pedro watershed. Specific objectives are to:

1. Assess the current state of knowledge of the ground water system
2. Describe and quantify the hydrogeologic framework.
3. Describe and quantify the ground-water flow system, including recharge, discharge, water in storage, and historical changes in the system.
4. Construct a predictive numerical model of the ground water system that can be used to help guide decisions by planners and water managers about future development.

(partial reprint of the U.S. Department of the Interior / U.S.G.S. Fact Sheet 2006-3034 April 2006) for more information and the entire fact sheet, visit <http://az.water.usgs.gov>

MISSION STATEMENT

The legislation establishing the Conservation Districts in Arizona described their mission as follows: ARS Title 37, Chapter 6 37-1001

It is declared that the policy of the legislature to provide for the restoration and conservation of lands and soil resources of the state, the preservation of water rights and the control and prevention of soil erosion, and thereby to conserve natural resources, conserve wildlife, protect the tax base, protect public lands and protect and restore this state's rivers and streams and associated riparian habitats, including fish and wildlife resources that are dependent on those habitats, and in such a manner to protect and promote the public health, safety and general welfare of the people.

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