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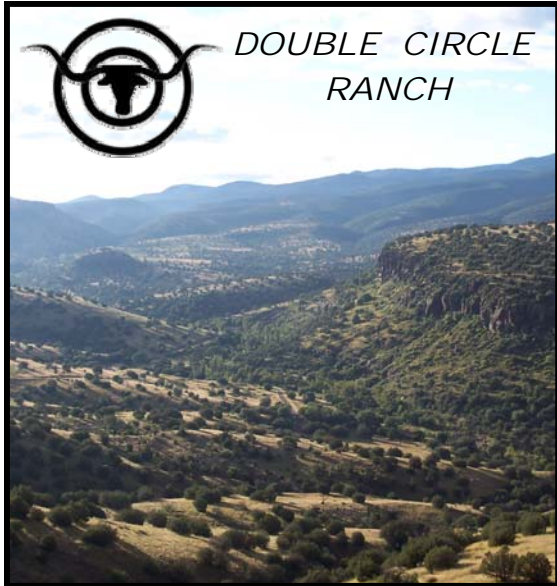
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Eagle Creek Watershed Restoration Double Circle Ranch Phase 2

STEP BY STEP PROCESS:



THE NEED

Due to the fact that the Eagle Creek Watershed in northern Greenlee County, Arizona is quite large (161,172 acres) and involved multiple ranchers and multiple practices to implement the improvement of water quality in Upper and Lower Eagle Creek, it was divided into phases. In 2006, ADEQ awarded a grant to the watershed group for the implementation of water quality improvement practices and monitoring of their impacts. This project was a continuation of that project and ADEQ awarded another grant that focused on the section of Upper Eagle Creek that flows through the Double Circle Ranch. There was a need to implement structural practices that would reduce sediment entering Eagle Creek. The Double Circle Ranch in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service maintains a grazing exclusion along the riparian area of Eagle Creek in this area. However, cattle from the neighboring San Carlos Apache Nation could enter and graze the area due to lack of a functional boundary fence.

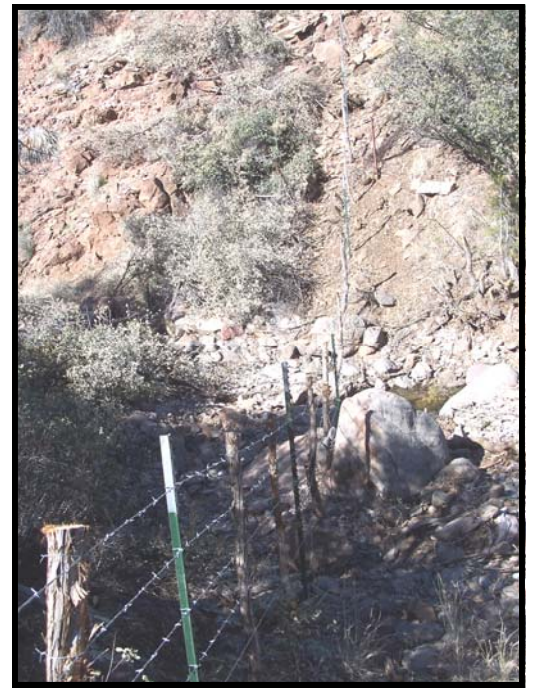
- 1) The Upper Eagle Creek Watershed Association (UECWA), and The Double Circle Ranch requested assistance from Coronado RC&D to address the problems of sediment entering Eagle Creek and cattle from the neighboring San Carlos Apache Nation entering and grazing the area due to lack of a functional boundary fence. The implementation of the boundary fence was a key component to the overall management program on the Double Circle Ranch. The Council adopted the project.
- 2) The UECWA formed a partnership among the local ranchers, residents, U.S. Forest Service, Coronado RC&D and other local, state and federal agencies and developed a draft watershed plan.
- 3) Funding: The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) awarded a grant in the amount of \$95,100.00. Volunteer labor contributed to the total project cost of \$158,500.00.
- 4) The first objective was to reconstruct the 50 year old fence along the rugged boundary to keep trespass cattle out and completely protect the riparian area.
- 5) The second objective was to install 33 low rock sediment control structures above Eagle Creek to heal gully erosion and reduce the amount of sediment moving downstream and entering the Creek..
- 6) Two workshops were held to increase the visibility of the project and provide training on erosion and sedimentation, the impact of sediment on water quality and how to construct low impact sediment barriers to facilitate the healing of gullies. An outdoor activity with each workshop focused on the importance of watershed health to wildlife populations.



***VOLUNTEERS
DONATED HOURS
VALUED AT OVER
\$63,400.00!***

- ◆ Thirty-three rock structures were installed in a workshop setting under the direction of Craig Sponholtz of Dryland Solutions. Thirty volunteers and ranch staff spent two days learning the principles of erosion and sedimentation and realistic methods for on the ground remediation.
- ◆ Work days had volunteers gathering wire from old fences as they learned about wildlife corridors, wildlife friendly fencing, grazing lands and riparian management.
- ◆ The Double Circle Ranch, Upper Eagle Creek Watershed Association and the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest are committed to the long-term goal of continually improving the health of the watershed. Long-term monitoring and evaluation will include the following low cost methods that can be undertaken by the ranchers with agency support to guide them in management decisions that benefit the watershed and Eagle Creek:

- Monitoring condition of structural practices
- Photo monitoring
- Improved aquatic habitat
- Improved Vegetative Cover
- Improved Water Quality



“Local People Making Things Happen”

All programs of the Coronado RC&D are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, national origin, age, sex, religion, political belief, marital or familial status or handicap.