



CORONADO RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT (RC&D)

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WORKSHOPS FOR SMALL ACREAGE LANDOWNERS IN SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA

FORMAT:

- ◆ We conducted a monthly series of five different one-day workshops, beginning in February 2010 and culminating with the final workshop in June 2010.
- ◆ Each workshop had a different theme and, although each theme could ‘stand on its own’ as an interesting subject, each subject also built somewhat on the previous one. In this way, we hoped to encourage people to attend each workshop in the series.
- ◆ Each workshop followed a similar format:

9:00-9:30 a.m.	Registration, Welcome & Introductions
9:30-10:30 a.m.	Presentations
10:30-10:45 a.m.	Break with refreshments
10:45-12:00 p.m.	Presentations
12:00-12:30 p.m.	Catered Lunch
12:30-1:30 p.m.	Presentations
1:30-2:00 p.m.	Wrap-up
- ◆ We charged \$15.00/person or \$25.00/couple registration fee for each workshop to cover lunch and refreshment costs
- ◆ We held each workshop at two different locations on consecutive days, to make it easier for people to attend all of them in a series.
- ◆ Apart from the presentations themselves at each workshop, another important objective was to compile a binder of quality handouts, guides, and reference material for each theme and topic presented.
- ◆ Part of each workshop was “hands-on”, with some outdoor time to give the participants a chance to examine soil structure, take a closer look at live plants, how to mix herbicide and apply it to invasive weeds, etc.

THE NEED

The face of rural Arizona has been greatly changed over the past couple of decades, as population growth continues to go hand-in-hand with the desire to live outside city centers. These changes will continue to present challenges; to cropland agriculture, to ranching and open rangeland, to the wildlife populations, and to the resource base that supports them.

The large number of rural landowners makes one-on-one assistance impractical. However, taken as a group they represent many acres of land and if these acres are not properly cared for, the result is extensive degradation of the resource base. Along with that concern, many landowners want to improve their holdings and need information and suggestions about how to do so effectively.



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.



Jack Ladd opening in the "Know Your Soils" Workshop



Participants testing their own soil samples



Cado Daly, Water Wise Program, gave a presentation on Landscaping & Water Needs during the "Know Your Native Plants" workshop

PARTNERS

Coronado RC&D

NRCS

U of A Extension

Hereford NRCD

Whitewater Draw
NRCD

Cochise County

Water Wise
Program

Mike's Cowboy BBQ

Palominas Fire Dept.

City of Willcox

Double Adobe School

San Simon School

Cochise College

Robinett Rangeland
Resources

FUNDERS

NRCS

U.S. Fish & Wildlife
Service

Arizona State Forestry

WORKSHOP TOPICS

WORKSHOP #1—KNOW YOUR SOILS (PART 1): The first in a series of five workshops. The focus was to learn about the physical, chemical and biological factors of your soil. A hands-on use of a "Soil Quality test Kit" gave the participants results of the three factor.

WORKSHOP #2—KNOW YOUR NATIVE PLANTS: Participants learned to:

- ◆ Identify common native grasses, flowers, shrubs and trees
- ◆ How soils influence how and where plants grow
- ◆ Landscaping possibilities
- ◆ Plants that attract wildlife
- ◆ Seeding native grasses

WORKSHOP #3—KNOW YOUR SOILS (PART 2): Participants learned how to use the NRCS Web Soil Survey and the Plants Database and other information services.

WORKSHOP #4—POISONOUS PLANTS & NOXIOUS WEEDS: Participants learned about plants that can harm your property, livestock, pets, and people.

If participants had any of the following five noxious weeds on their property (*Onionweed, Malta Starthistle, Yellow Starthistle, African Rue, Russian Knapweed*), they were required to take the Cochise County Invasive Weed Rapid Response Program training on how to treat the invasive weeds. If they attended, then they were eligible for free herbicide.

WORKSHOP #5—YOUR LIVESTOCK AND YOUR LAND: The participants gained insight on the following.

- ◆ You and the Law on Endangered Species and native Plant Law
- ◆ Open Range and Livestock Health Laws
- ◆ Grazing Native Pastures: what and how much do animals eat and the importance of resting pastures
- ◆ Irrigated Pasture
- ◆ Pest Control Options
- ◆ On-Hands in the Field: How livestock eat and monitoring your pasture

All the workshops were well attended and people stated that they received very valuable and useful information. Survey's gathered at the close of each session rated materials and presenters as EXCELLENT!



Thank you to all that helped make the workshops for small acreage landowners a HUGE SUCCESS! We appreciate everyone's willingness to take time from their busy schedule to insure that the workshops were informative.

"Local People Making Things Happen"