

JANUARY 2009 REPORT

CONSERVATION & EDUCATION

USPP MEXICO WORK GROUP TOUR



On January 16, 2009, the USPP Mexico Work Group hosted the San Pedro Binational Commission of Mexico to a tour of watershed management projects in southeastern Arizona. The featured projects included tours of the Brookline Ranch, the 47 Ranch, the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area and the San Jose Ranch.



Mike Hayhurst, Hereford NRC, briefed the group on best management practices for the chemical removal of invasive deep-rooted shrubs and the restoration of native grasslands. The participants toured acres of rangeland that had been restored. Similarly, Dennis Moroney generously shared his expertise regarding rangeland restoration projects and the use of solar and wind energy for ranch operations.



Jim Mahoney, BLM, hosted the group to a prescribed burn site located south of Palominas in the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area. BLM's goal was to reduce invasive mesquite and to restore the health of native sacaton grasslands. The participants were briefed on best management practices for a prescribed burn.



Jack Ladd briefed the group on rangeland restoration practices using mechanical methods. The group toured rangeland on which invasive mesquite had been removed by grubbing or root-plowing. The group also viewed the end result of these rangeland management practices- thousands of acres of healthy, native grasslands.

The purpose of the tour was to share information with our ranching neighbors in Mexico on watershed management projects that conserve water and prevent soil erosion. The USPP Mexico Work Group also seeks to further its working relationship with the San Pedro Binational Commission. The participating ranchers graciously shared their expertise, time and resources with the USPP and our guests from Mexico. The USPP Mexico Work Group is very grateful to these ranchers for their dedication and support.



Photos courtesy of Jim Mahoney, BLM

PLANNING, RESEARCH, MONITORING & REPORTING

PAC'S VISIONING MEETING

The Partnership Advisory Commission (PAC) held a facilitated visioning meeting during the month of January 2009. The following ideas emerged as PAC's priorities for 2009:

- Identify and pursue funding opportunities with one voice.
- Outreach to inform and involve citizens.
- Support the use of tools (e.g., groundwater model, Capture Map, etc.) in the planning and monitoring of member agencies' projects.
- Support the Water District.
- Further explore the question, "what does it mean to have enough water for the people and the river?"

PAC will hold a second facilitated meeting in February at which it will explore, "how to best pursue the USPP focuses identified for 2009?"



COMMITTEES & WORKGROUPS

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

SCIENCE WITHIN THE 321 REPORT

The USPP Technical Committee discussed the use of indicators, thresholds and metrics in the 2009 321 Report. To date, the Technical Committee has agreed that the report should include progress toward sustainability rather than merely reporting a black and white metric that sustainability has or has not been met. In addition, the Committee agreed that the analysis should be conducted throughout the entire Sierra Vista subwatershed but that different regions could be assessed independently (e.g., Hereford/Palominas area; Sierra Vista/Fort area). The Technical Committee will further discuss this issue and will bring its recommendations to PAC at a future meeting.

When the well is dry, we know the worth of water. Benjamin Franklin, 1746

