NATURAL RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION

RECENT ACTIVITIES

1. We are working with the Water Resources Program on completion of a water pipeline from the Peach Springs pump house to a storage tank at the top of the hill on Diamond Creek Road.

2. We recently submitted a proposal to EPA's wetland grant program to develop a process for prioritizing wetland habitats for protection and restoration.

3. We are in the process of finalizing the Truxton Canyon Wash/Peach Springs Canyon Watershed Management Plan.

4. Working with the Agriculture Program, we recently completed improvements to Mexican Tank to reduce erosion and improve water retention and water quality.

5. We are awaiting notification of funding from BIA regarding a woodlands improvement project to pile juniper cuttings on the west side of the reservation.

6. We continue to work with EPA on the Regional Tribal Operations Committee and other Work Groups to identify funding priorities and to improve environmental protection efforts on tribal lands.

7. We continue to serve on the Technical Work Group of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program to improve resources in Grand Canyon.

8. We continue to prepare environmental compliance documents for a variety of developments on the Hualapai Reservation including new phone lines to the water storage tanks in Truxton and Peach Springs and for proposed water drilling in Quartermaster Canyon.

9. We continue to serve on the Tribal Environmental Review Commission.

10. We are working with the Agriculture Program and GCRC to improve water availability along the Westwater pipeline.

11. We continue to oversee the budgets and on-going operations of all of the Natural Resources Programs.

The Water Resource Program, recently completed a triennial review of the Hualapai Water Quality Standards, and made changes to Appendix A: Table 1. Human Health and Agricultural Designated Use, Numeric, Water Quality Criteria. Most of the criteria numbers to protect human health are being made fairly modestly more stringent because the national average fish consumption value was amended from 6.5 grams/day to 17.5. The revisions have incorporated recommendations from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for inclusion in our latest triennial review (2012) of the Tribe’s Water Quality Standards.

Promoted Mr. Alvin Crook, Water Technician III to Assistant Water Resource Program Manager.

Substantially completed a three (3) mile pipeline project from the Peach Springs pump house to the community of Peach Springs; where water will be pumped into a 20,000 gallon water storage tank. The water can be used for construction projects, dust abatement, fire suppression and water hauling for livestock. The development of this water source will reduce the demand on our Public Water Supply System and is an implementation of an adaptive strategy toward climate change. Funding for this project was from the Bureau of Reclamation. In the final stages of the project, we had the assistance from the Public Works and the Hualapai Housing Departments and 2013 summer youth workers. In the last week of June, we were in the process of filling the tank and at approximately ¾ full, the tank shifted and burst at the seam of a weld. We are working with the tank manufacturer and wholesaler, to try to replace the ruptured tank.

Two of our Water Resource Technicians participated on a river trip down the Colorado River from Phantom Ranch to Diamond Creek. The trip took nine (9) days to complete. It was a Guides Training Seminar (GTS) trip that had several different rafting companies and our own Hualapai River Running Department had two boatmen on the trip as well. The trip was for new river guides to learn the history of the Grand Canyon. Our Water Technicians were also presenters on the trip, where they shared information about Hualapai and their work as technicians protecting the water resources of the Hualapai People for current and future generations.

An in depth survey of the diamond spring source, to further understand the geography of the spring and the canyon network around the source for possible future consideration to develop the water source for the Hualapai People.

The Water Resource Manager is a tribal representative to two Environmental Protection Agency sponsored groups; the National Tribal Water Council and the State, Tribal Climate Change Committee where there is active participation in discussions and contributions that reflect tribal water perspectives.
Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks Program
2013 Bi-Annual Highlights

JR. RODEO
We are in our 6th year of having Jr. Rodeo. We have increased the number of participants to 40 and this Year, we have several participants in the 13-15 yr. old Age group. The Jr. Rodeo Finals will be August 3, 2013. Come support the kids and watch them compete for great Prizes!

HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Predator Removal Project. The goal is to remove 10 lions Each year through direct removal. We have only removed one lion to Date in 2013. We still have the bounty program for mountain lions and Coyotes for tribal members only. We pay $450 for mountain lions and $65 for coyotes (excluding June, July, and August).

Wildlife Catchments. Replaced apron liner at #5 and #6. Repaired Pipe going in to trough at Wildhorse.

Westside Water. Working with Agriculture Program, Public Works Department, Grand Canyon West to reconnect all the wildlife and livestock waters on the westside. Installing floats and float covers on all troughs.

Brush Removal. Purpose of the brush removal project is to improve desired plan communities needed to obtain conservation Objectives in each grazing pasture for the benefit of wildlife and livestock. The scope of work is to remove junipers using mechanical methods. The goal is to Reduce the amount of pounds per acre of juniper. To date, we have removed Junipers On nearly 1,500 acres in Districts 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Trapping Program. For those tribal members who trap furbearers, we applied through the USFWS, for the Tribe to have its own CITES tagging program. We were successful. Beginning this trapping season, any bobcats that are taken can be tagged By the Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks Program.

Wildlife Ramp Building Workshop. We worked with the Agriculture Program, Tribal Roads Department, and NRCS to host a wildlife ramp building workshop. Several agencies and the Boys and Girls Club were in attendance. We learned how bats and other wildlife might drown in wildlife and livestock water troughs. So we built several ramps and learned how To install them on to water troughs. These ramps allow birds and small wildlife to escape out of the water trough if they Happen to fall in.

Wildlife Surveys. We worked with AZGFD and conducted a Black footed ferret survey. We located 1 ferret to date, on the Reservation. We also started to map the prairie dog colonies on the reservation.

Misc. Prepared NEPA documents for many tribal homesites and projects.
Staff attended National Tribal Wildlife Society Meeting. Working with USFWS to obtain grant to conduct Eagle surveys on the Reservation.
We worked with HGFD and presented Harvest and Hunting Regulations to Tribal Council.
We also work with HGFD, HCRD, and River Runners and attend Coordination Meetings regarding 24-70.
Staff have been certified as Hunter Safety Instructors through the AZGFD.
Upcoming Natural Resources Youth Training Camp will be July 22 – 26, 2013. We will be offering Hunters Safety class for Youth ages 10 and older.

NATIVE/SPORTFISH UPDATES
We are renovating the 2.5 acre pond at the Native Fish Rearing Facility. The pond will be deepened to allow better drainage of the Upper ½ acre ponds.

We have installed more water storage tanks And repaired and replaced several water and Air lines to improve delivery through out the Facility.

Received a grant to replace the solar well pump At Pine Springs so that fresh water can be Delivered to the earth tank to support sportfish.

Sportfish have been stocked at several earth Tanks including Thorton Tank, Thompson Tank, Park Dam, and Twenty Pines.
1. Continuation of meetings regarding the West Water Pipeline to Grand Canyon West (GCW), new 6 inch line and the 3 inch original line, first of 200,000 gallon tanks at GCW filled, second tank half full; old crew from GCW laid off or quit, therefore no work has been done on the old 3 inch line, air vents still missing, no water in laterals, storage tanks still not hooked up properly, no water in the line; all materials needed to restore the line to its original status to be purchased or paid by GCRC; subsequent meetings, at least three more and still no water in the line today; major repairs still being made!

2. District III/IV boundary line restarted in April and now just completed to end of line to the ridge at Pocomate Springs; eight miles completed.

3. Quarter Master boundary pasture fence line repair & replaced, completed; 4.5 miles

4. Clay Springs Allotment boundary fence line completed; 5 miles

5. Jeff Canyon pasture cross fence, started, 3 miles out of a 6 mile project completed

6. 4-H projects, steers, pigs and lambs; 4 steers started in January, but only have one member still in the steer project; 8 swine, 4 sheep and 2 goats

7. NRCS projects: D2-Horse Trough pit tank clean out-pending; Rock & Brush project-cancelled; Juniper brush removal-ongoing in Plan Tank pasture; D2/D3 boundary fence line repair and replace-ongoing; D4-Juniper brush removal in Pipeline Pasture-ongoing; D5-Juniper brush removal Southeast pasture-pending

8. Annual Livestock Meeting-February; out of this meeting produced the need to do a complete livestock inventory of livestock in all the Districts, aerial survey completed and now ongoing cattle counts during the spring round-ups and branding in all Districts; and the Rancher’s Round Table also initiated, April held the first meeting, Ord. 2B revision priority, along with the Districts’ By-laws and management plans;

9. Two Junior rodeos held for the youth

10. Rounded up 14 head of feral horses in Bull Pasture; took to Sun Valley Auction, Sun Valley, AZ

11. Three head of cattle brought in from Nigel Turner ranch, sold at Prescott Livestock Auction, Chino Valley

12. Revised Hualapai Reservation wide Weed Management Plan, ready for Tribal Council adoption; awarded/received $25,510 for additional noxious weeds work

13. Completed Range Vegetation Survey for District IV & V, ready for Tribal Council adoption, received/awarded additional $115,000 for surveys; Music Mountain ranch, Clay Springs allotment and Cholla Ranch

14. Attended various state, federal and tribal meetings and conferences, conduct range workshops for local districts/associations

15. Assisted in construction of pipeline from Peach Springs-pump house to top of Peach Springs community, north end

16. Participated in APS 500kv line herbicide spraying of right-of-way, keeping community members and ranchers notified of hazards of the herbicides

17. Completed Black Canyon Fire BAER annual report submitted; receiving additional $25,000 for noxious weeds eradication

18. Ongoing zebra-tailed lizard surveys down at Diamond Creek, with Dr. Christensen

19. Participating and planning bat surveys on the Hualapai Reservation

20. Range Water program spent the majority of their time in District V, since December, due to frozen waterlines breaking, storage tanks left overflowing, thus Thorton Tower storage tank being drained, floats on troughs constantly being replaced (at least ten times from #11 to Red Dike tank), spent nearly $8,000 on supplies and materials alone in this area

21. Routine maintenance and repairs of waterlines, storage tanks in Districts I, II and III; no major problems in these areas, except floats being taken from troughs and gates left open, can’t keep livestock in proper designated pastures
I. Timber and Woodland Sales

A. Timber Sales – continue to remark previously prepared timber sales. This is necessary in order to maintain the statistics on the Sales. There has not been any response in our efforts to sell timber as there is no market at this time.

B. Woodland Sales – administrated 95 commercial permits in 2012. These include permits for 380 cords of fuelwood, 2000 stays and 40 juniper posts. Also issued 22 free-use permits for individuals married to Hualapai members for their home heat and to various organizations collecting wood for rarmadas or fuelwood for tribal offices.

II. Forest Development

We hired a six man thinning crew starting at the beginning of this season. The crew has a goal of thinning close to six hundred acres this year. Our two forestry technicians have been busy marking pre-commercial trees for the thinning crew and have completed approximately 700 acres so far this year.

III. Hazardous Fuels Reduction

In addition to the thinning, which is mostly funded by Hazardous Fuels Reduction money, it also funds for archaeological surveys ahead of prescribed burns. The actual burns are carried out by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. We are scheduled to complete a survey in Compartment #1 this year. This will leave only one more compartment to go before the entire forest has been surveyed. Thinning and prescribed burning are the most effective strategies for combating negative climate change effects on ponderosa pine forests.

IV. Other Duties – Maintained the Tribe’s 401(k) Pension Plan