

# Diablo Trust News

June 2006

*An Award-Winning Northern Arizona Land Management Team, and National Reinventing Government Laboratory*



## Working To Keep Our 'Open Spaces' Open!!

*The Diablo Trust works with communities, counties, State and Federal agencies, interested organizations, and citizens to seek nontraditional sources of funding (including cost share programs, grants, in-kind contributions, and allowable fee systems) to support specific projects needed to achieve Diablo Trust's management objectives.*

### — Next Meeting: A Day on the Land —

**Date:** Friday, July 21, 2006 **Where:** Diablo Trust Ranch Lands  
Go to [www.diablotrust.org](http://www.diablotrust.org) for up-to-date information and news on everything happening at the Diablo Trust

### Notable Quotable:

"When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect".

**Aldo Leopold**

## Diablo Trust News Headlines

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### The Diablo Canyon Rural Planning Area Book Signing

The RPA signing took place at the Wine Loft in downtown Flagstaff, on Friday, June 2nd. We were very excited to celebrate this three-year collaborative process which involved the time and efforts of many Flagstaff community members.

Special thanks to the Coconino County Community Development Department, the Coconino County Board of Supervisors and all of the Diablo Trusters who helped make the Plan such a huge success!

This is a very important step forward for us — the RPA lays the groundwork for much of what we hope to achieve in the near future. To view the Diablo Canyon RPA, go to [www.diablotrust.org](http://www.diablotrust.org) or call the office at (928) 523-0588 to obtain a copy.



Carl Taylor, Norm Wallen, Mandy Metzger, Torrey Shearer & Bill Towler at the June 2nd RPA signing at the Wine Loft

### The Diablo Trust ranches (the Flying M & the Bar T Bar ) have been selected as the Region VI Winner of the National Cattleman's Beef Association (NCBA) 16th Annual Region Environmental Stewardship Award

There are six other regional winners competing for the national award to be presented in January 2007. This is a highly coveted award and a significant honor for the ranches and the Diablo Trust.

Within the next couple weeks a professional communications firm will produce a video on the Diablo Trust ranches.

Stay tuned to our website, [www.diablotrust.org](http://www.diablotrust.org) for more details!

## SAVE THE WEST — SUPPORT THE TRUST!

Despite its many achievements, widespread recognition and continued growth, the Diablo Trust is in urgent need of your financial support. Immediate concerns include a new computer, printer/scanner & up-to-date software for the office, but that's just the tip of our In-Need-of-Funds iceberg.

So please, send your tax-deductible donation to our address below or call the office at (928) 523-0588 for more information on how you can support the Diablo Trust.

No contribution is too small — or, ahem, too big. We need, and deeply appreciate, your help.

*The Diablo Trust Post Office Box 3058 Flagstaff, Arizona 86003*



## Getting to Know....

Our new Communications & Program Coordinator

**Derrick Widmark** comes to us by way of his native New York City, where he worked as a writer and director of commercials and films. “At the beginning of



this year I decided that the time had come for me to live a greener life, in a greener place, and to work on behalf of a cause – sustainability – to which I am deeply committed. I had been drawn to Flagstaff since coming through here for the first time in '93, but it was this opportunity to contribute to the Diablo Trust that closed the deal on my decision to live here. I researched a number of organizations across the country in the process of plotting out this career change, and I believe that the DT is quite unique in its integration of a wide range of programs and a truly diverse list of collaborators. Its mission and practice of integrating economy, ecology and community in an effort to secure a sustainable future for the land it encompasses and the greater Flagstaff community it enhances is, I believe, a model for an environmentally-sane way of living -- and of doing business -- that is our world's best hope for a green tomorrow.”

### Derrick's Diablo Trust Profile

**Born in** – Gotham City

**Hobbies** – Books, movies, swimming, tennis, biking, camping, cards & Scrabble

**Favorite Western** – “Butch Cassidy & the Sundance Kid”.

**Favorite Western Wear Item** – that cool old shirt I need to buy because my Grandfather never left me one.

**Favorite Ranch Recipe** – I'm thinking there should be a Bar T Bar candy bar in our future...

**If you had a home on the range, which actress would you cast in the role of your wife** – Katherine Ross (“Butch Cassidy”) or Julie Christie (“McCabe & Mrs. Miller“), I'm not picky.

**Fondest Outdoor Memory** – Riding & working with Forest Service elephants in India.

**Possible Ranch Nickname** – “Slim”



### **Meanwhile, Back at the Ranches... from Kit Metzger at the Flying M**

Well it's early summer, we can all tell because the wind is blowing again. The good news is that this time it brought in some snow and rain showers. I think we got around 30 inches snow up high on the watershed to 14” or so here at Flying M HQ. We actually had MUD for a couple days and got a pickup stuck in a big snow drift. The snow was wet, but not enough to run any water. We have had off and on rain showers since that snow measuring .50 at HQ and 1.50 at Mormon Lake. It didn't take long to soak it all in. So things are looking better than they were. Water will be short up on the Anderson Mesa (Mesa) this summer with most of the tanks holding 50% or less in April. This is a year when manmade stock tanks are really important or wildlife would sure be crowded at the few springs that are still flowing. A dry wetland is just that, DRY! The soil is fairly wet and some green feed has started and will increase as the temperature comes up. Let's hope the wind doesn't really blow and dry it up like it can.

The wildlife spent most of the winter, if you can call it that, up on the mesa and only showed up in numbers with the snow in mid-March. There was some green feed up high in the pines and very little down in the winter country so on the hill they stayed. Now with this last moisture and the Squirrel tail greening up below the rim the wildlife may scatter out a little more. We have the usual bunch of antelope down in the Easter, Roosevelt Tank area, they look good and like the feed blocks and tubs we have out for the cows. We have seen as many as 56 in the bunch. Another 12 antelope running in the Flying M Melbourne area and a bunch of 18 were between Grapevine and Diablo Canyons earlier this spring. Don't know if they are still there or just up in the juniper jungle where you can't find them, or moved up on the Mesa. The globe mallow and squirrel tail has grown so that they have fresh green feed now but it's not tall enough for livestock yet. With this moisture now there might be some weed growth, (annual forbs), in the areas that were Agri-Axed this fall and winter. Should pick up more antelope in the surveys this spring and summer is this country.

The buzzards at Flying M have returned, as a matter of fact they were 3 weeks early this year. A few ducks are

dropping by, but not in the usual numbers on the tanks in the lower country. The Northwest probably looks like a better place to be this year.

We had a lot of Western bluebirds this winter and they covered anything near a stock tank or water tub with a juniper berry paste. They just might be one of the culprits of juniper expansion. Rabbits had a hard go of it with no green this winter and the prickly pear and small yuccas show a lot of rabbit grazing. They say that 7 Jackrabbits equal a cow in forage consumption so when green feed is limited their effect can really show up. Lots of the birds that go away in the winter months seemed to hang around this year, don't know if was because it was dry down south or just mild weather.

Cattle have done well through the winter, mainly because it was so mild with a short time of real cold, and frozen-over waters. When you have to chop ice so that animals can drink 32 degree water it takes lots calories to heat 10 + gallons up to body temperature. The same is true for the wildlife so anytime they can drink open water is a plus. All animals can eat snow for water but it is pretty hard on them and if you have frozen waters and no snow, like this winter they can't go without water too long. Calving has gone well so far and yes they are “cute when they are little!” We have been branding, and took time to see what happened to the fences on the Mesa over hunting season and the winter. Horn hunting is in full swing with the weekends looking like 4-wheeler rallies with road junctions as parking lots.

Flying M went up on the Mesa in May to make use of some pastures before the waters dry up. In keeping with our landscape goals for Zones 2 & 3 of increasing the cool season growers, an earlier move to the Mesa will allow the squirrel tail and needle and thread to seed this year. A lot of it looked dead a month ago but with this moisture it's coming out now. This will also leave us more options in the winter range if we have to come off the Mesa before the end of October. The forecast for the summer rains is all over the map so we will hope for the best.

What a difference a year makes!

# Let's Get Back To The Land!

## Installing Bat/Wildlife Ramps with Bat Conservation International

Diablo Trust, the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Bat Conservation International, the Arizona Game & Fish Department, and the USDI-Bureau of Land Management got together for a "community build day" to build and install wildlife escape ramps in livestock water troughs on public and private lands. This collaborative range and wildlife event took place on Saturday, June 10 at the Arizona Game & Fish Department's office on Lake Mary Rd.

According to **Mike Herder** of USDI-BLM, "this is a specific instance where the support of ranchers is vital to the wildlife conservation efforts of state and federal agencies, as the land management agencies just do not have the staff resources necessary to build, install, and maintain escape ramps on millions of acres of public lands without the help of the ranching community."



Kit Metzger of Flying M assists NRCS' Stu Tuttle

The ramps will be installed on the Diablo Trust ranches in time to reduce the increased chances of mortality for birds, bats, and smaller wildlife during the dry summer months.

Special thanks to Diablo Trust volunteers **Ruby Sheffer** and **Larry Bright** for coming out to lend a hand!

## The Next Day on the Land will be Friday, July 21st

If you haven't seen Melbourne yet and all of the juniper work being done out there, this is a great opportunity to check it out.

We'll take a look at the Proposed Coconino Trail Riders Route near Melbourne Dam, and the juniper work that is being done near Melbourne. We'll also take a look at the Bar T Bar juniper chaining & windrowing.

Check [www.diablotrust.org](http://www.diablotrust.org) for updated details, including where and when to meet.

## A Tour of grasslands on Anderson Mesa with certified Holistic Management Educator, Kirk Gadzia

On Monday, May 8th we got together for our first day on the land of the season and car-pooled across the Mesa, with various stops to learn more about grasslands.

**Kirk Gadzia** was there to take a look at the Diablo Trust ranch lands and help share his knowledge with the group about grassland management.

Kirk is the founder of Resource Management Services ([www.resourcemanagementservices.com](http://www.resourcemanagementservices.com)), a New Mexico based consulting, training and monitoring organization committed to assisting private and professional resource managers achieve sustainable results.

He is a Certified Educator with the Allan Savory Center for Holistic Management. He has over 20 years experience teaching the concepts of Holistic Management worldwide. Combined with his extensive international consulting work on many agricultural operations, he is uniquely qualified to help achieve land based learning objectives.



Forested grasslands on Anderson Mesa

## The Diablo Trust Annual Campout Under the Stars Is Scheduled for August 19th

If you've already been to a campout you know that you won't want to miss one!

An open pit Bar – B – Que  
Campfire stories & songs  
A ranch-style breakfast,  
cooked by the ranchers

Stay tuned to [www.diablotrust.org](http://www.diablotrust.org) for more details.

# News and Views



Sustainable  
Economic  
Development  
INITIATIVE

## Coconino County Sustainable Economic Development Initiative

Is it possible to make a good living in Coconino County? Can we do so without destroying the things we love about this unique place? Can we utilize this county's vast natural resources while protecting them for future generations?

A dedicated group of Coconino County residents has been working to address these questions. The Coconino County Sustainable Economic Development Initiative, working since September of 2005 to develop and implement a county wide sustainable economic action strategy, is aspiring to achieve and maintain the highest quality of life for the County's residents.

Understanding the characteristics of Coconino County's economic opportunities and constraints is at the core of establishing an effective sustainable economic development action strategy. For that reason, over the past several months a variety of government organizations, residents, non-profit associations, business owners, and scholars have met to identify the County's opportunities and limitations. In May a workshop reviewed and synthesized the cumulative results of these meetings. As a result the foundation for a county-wide action strategy materialized - an action strategy that fosters economic vitality, environmental health, and social equity in Coconino County.

The Sustainable Economic Development action strategy will be presented and refined at a Summit on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at Northern Arizona University's du Bois Center. Collaboration and active involvement among businesses, county residents, leaders and government agencies is essential for this sustainable economic development initiative to be effective.

To learn more about the initiative or the September 15<sup>th</sup> Economic Development Summit please visit [www.coconino.az.gov/si/](http://www.coconino.az.gov/si/) or email: [nwoodman@coconino.az.gov](mailto:nwoodman@coconino.az.gov).

*Editor's note: Supervisor Carl Taylor, a participant in the Diablo Trust, chairs the Coconino County Sustainable Economic Development Initiative*



## CSE Foraged Feast & Treasure Keepers Award

Local Food, Local Fun!

Flagstaff's Fourth Annual Foraged Feast is coming! This exciting event will be held on Thursday, June 22 at the Museum of Northern Arizona in the beautiful Branigar/Chase Discovery room. We invite you to join us in enjoying wild foraged and local foods from the Four Corner's area and an evening jam packed with activities and events that are sure to entertain the entire family. Over the past three years hundreds of people have come to the Foraged Feast to have fun, taste delicacies of the Colorado Plateau, and learn more about where their food comes from (and how some of it grows in their neighborhood). With the help of renowned chefs from around the state, the Foraged Feast offers delectable treats that are as intriguing as they are delicious.

The festivities will begin at 4:00pm with a Nature Walk led by ethnobotanist **Kevin Dahl** author of Native Harvest. This knowledgeable guide is sure to be both fascinating and most definitely educational. At 5:00pm, the Center for Sustainable Environments will be awarding their annual Treasure Keeper awards to important community members who have demonstrated remarkable attention to upholding sustainability in the Colorado Plateau region. The Foraged Feast begins at 6:30pm with music by **Matthew Henry Hall**. Then at 7:30pm, attendees will be treated to the stylings of the regionally famous "Petey Mesquitey" who will tell stories of his experiences living on the banks of the ol' Guajolote in SE Arizona as a knowledgeable and witty horticulturist.

Cost for the Feast is \$20 per adult, \$10 for children ages 5-13 and free for children under 5 years of age! We are expecting to sell out, so please purchase tickets in advance from **Julie Evans** at (928) 523-0602 or call (928) 523-0637.



## News from Arizona Game & Fish

This year AZGFD and the Forest Service are asking again for volunteer help with workdays to cut young juniper and pinyon out of historic grasslands near Mud Lake. This **volunteer work will help restore pronghorn habitat**. The dates we will cut trees with volunteers are: June 17, July 22, August 19, September 23, and October 14. Meet at the Arizona Game and Fish Department Office on Lake Mary Road at 8:30 AM. We will provide the tools, but bring water, sunscreen and a hat, and wear long pants and a long sleeve shirt. We normally end the work about 1PM.

AZGFD is also hosting a year-long speaker series. Here are some of the upcoming topics:

**6/14: Hummingbirds**- Rick Miller (Flagstaff) - **6/24: Big Game Capture**- Larry Phoenix (Flagstaff)  
**7/11: Wildlife of the AZ Strip** -Todd Buck and Luke Thompson (BLM Strip Field office- St. George, UT)

**7/22: Beginning Birdwatching** - Andi Rogers and Susi MacVean (Flagstaff)

**8/14: Boating Safety** - Jes Antolik (- Page – call the Flagstaff office for details on location)

**8/26: Northern Arizona Elk Viewing** - John Goodwin (Flagstaff)

all Flagstaff talks held at 3500 South Lake Mary Road Weekdays-6:30 pm

\*\*Except the Elk Viewing talk, which will be held at 4:30 pm\*\*

Saturdays 10:00 a.m. plus a possible field trip – Saturday talks require sign-up, **Call (928) 774-5045**

# Diablo Trust President's Report



The Diablo Trust has overcome change and challenges, experienced financial famine and celebratory feasting – and through it all we have always had good people pulling the load.

Sadly, this year we lost **Don Cox** at age 95; he supported Diablo Trust from its inception both with scientific expertise and professional wisdom. A few other Diablo Trusters have moved away: we missed **Cathy Taylor, Matt Loeser, Larry Sears, and Jerry Gonzales** at the Diablo Trust Annual meeting. But we have welcomed **Gary Hase** back with gusto and made new friends who will now take their turn at the Diablo Trust table (or on Anderson Mesa, as **Rick Miller** well knows!) That is the ebb and flow of life in our mountain community.

In that spirit, it is with a mixture of sadness and best wishes that I have to report that our Administrative and Program Manager for the past three years, **Hadassah Holland Ziegler** (she married during her tenure at the Diablo Trust) is moving on to what we hope will be an exciting and prosperous new venture – **Hadassah** and her husband, **Matt**, are expanding their business, **Greenhouse Productions**. She will now use her free time to help Matt carry the load. I know you all join me in wishing them well. I will certainly miss Hadassah's enthusiasm and bright spirit in the day-to-day operations of the Trust. She has promised to stay involved as a volunteer, and we plan to hold her to that promise.

Hadassah's departure brings **Derrick Widmark** into the fold. You can read about Derrick, in his own words, in the Getting to Know section of this newsletter. Armed with a new title, Communications and Program Coordinator, Derrick brings outstanding communication expertise and skills to the day-to-day work of the Diablo Trust. He drove 2,500 miles from New York City, arriving just in time for his first interview – and has rolled up his sleeves and jumped enthusiastically into his job to help Diablo Trust shoulder the load. Please welcome him when you meet him at one of our many summer events, or if and when he just comes knocking on your door.

Happy Trails!

## — Hadassah says Goodbye —

It was a tough decision to leave the Diablo Trust, as this has been a very rewarding employment opportunity for me. I am proud of the work that I have done, expanding my skills on many different and important levels including management, organization, collaboration, relationship-building, multi-tasking, event planning and coordination. I also value the creativity that I have been allowed, which has added fresh energy and excitement to my time with the Diablo Trust. The past three years have brought me a diverse group of friends and colleagues and I remain 100% supportive and compassionate about the work that the Diablo Trust is doing. Thank you all for allowing me to learn and grow along with the Trust; you have made me feel like a crucial part of the organization and my time here has been much more than just a "job."

I think you all will really like my successor, **Derrick Widmark**; he will bring new talents and energy and I feel confident that he will help carry out our mission with hard work and enthusiasm.

Sincere thanks and best wishes for the future!

## Diablo Trust Working Groups & Chairpersons

Diablo Trust Artists Program – **Rachel Wilson**  
Economic Diversification – **Norm Lowe**  
Education – **Norm Wallen/Norm Lowe**  
Maps – **Doc Smith** Roads – **Jack Metzger**  
Science and Monitoring – **Tom Sisk/Norm Wallen**  
Rural Planning Area – **Carl Taylor**  
Watershed – **Jack Metzger & Bob Prosser**  
Website – **Tom Gewecke & John Grahame**  
Wildlife – **Henry Provencio**  
Operations Team – **Carl Taylor, Bill Towler,**  
**Norm Lowe, Norm Wallen, Mandy Metzger,**  
**Derrick Widmark, Flying M Ranch, Bar T Bar**

## CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

There's a lot happening at the Diablo Trust this summer and we would truly appreciate the help of some qualified people with experience in the following areas:

- music promotion     event planning
- photography     event support     printing
- office work [filing, mailing, etc.]

If you are willing and able to pitch in, please call the office at 523-0855 or email us at [info@diablotrust.org](mailto:info@diablotrust.org)

And thanks in advance for your support.

## *About the Diablo Trust*

The Diablo Trust, a not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation, is an Arizona Land Management Team and National Reinventing Government Laboratory. Land-specific to 426,000 acres of mixed ownership lands, the Trust began in 1993 when two long-time Arizona ranchers, of the Bar-T-Bar and the Flying M Ranch, called together people they knew cared for the land. The ranchers asked people for ideas to assist them in the protection of open spaces and healthy habitats. Today, the Trust, open to everyone, provides a forum for the community to actively participate in a land stewardship process. Additionally, the ranch lands provide "hands-on" proving grounds for new, collaborative land management ideas and land research.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PARTICIPATE, PLEASE CONTACT:**

**The Diablo Trust  
Post Office Box 3058  
Flagstaff, Arizona 86003  
Phone: (928)523-0588 Fax: (928)523-8223  
[www.diablotrust.org](http://www.diablotrust.org)**

Mandy R. Metzger, President/Director    Derrick Widmark, Administrative & Program Manager    Norm Lowe, Chairman of the Board

*If you wish to be removed from this mailing list, please contact us at the above number.*

**The Diablo Trust**

*The Diablo Canyon Group, Inc.*

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Flagstaff, AZ 86003

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*Mark Your Calendar!*

**Campout Under the Stars  
August 19 – Details Inside**

**The Diablo Trust**



**"Learning from the land -  
and sharing our knowledge ...  
So there will always  
be a West"**