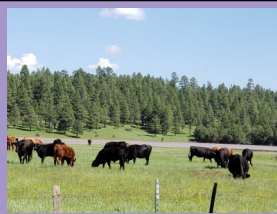


# Ground Truth

A Publication of the Diablo Trust - A Northern Arizona Collaborative Grassroots Land Management Team



The Diablo Trust is a 501(c)(3) land management team created in 1993 to promote the social, biological, and economic sustainability of 426,000 acres of intermingled federal, state, and private lands southeast of Flagstaff, AZ, by engaging in a collaborative stewardship process that is in harmony with the natural environment and the broader community.

The phrase **"Learning from the land and sharing our knowledge, so there will always be a West"** captures our mission.

Ground Truth is the publication of the Diablo Trust, mailed free-of-charge to everyone on our mailing list. If you would like to be added to or removed from the mailing list, please contact us at:

Diablo Trust  
PO Box 3058  
Flagstaff, AZ 86003  
info@diablotrust.org  
(928) 523-0588

Contributors are solely responsible for the content of their articles, and the opinions expressed in the articles, linked materials, and comments are not necessarily those of the Diablo Trust.

## Annual Meeting

### Addressing Recreation Impacts Through Collaborative Solutions

On a frigid February morning, about 50 folks gathered at the Elks Lodge in Flagstaff on a frigid Friday morning to participate in the Diablo Trust Annual Meeting. The title of the meeting "Addressing Recreation Impacts Through Collaborative Solutions" is a nod to the topic of discussions at the Recreation Summit held in August 2021. Diablo Trust recognized a need to again provide a forum

for individuals, landowners, recreationists and agencies to gather to continue discussions and focus on solutions to recreation impacts.

The program began with updates from the Diablo Trust ranches - Flying M Ranch and Bar T Bar Ranch followed by updates from Diablo Trust staff, Lisa Bolton, and Recreation Working Group chairwoman, Ellen

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Gate to Plate Tour on Bar T Bar Ranch

*By Tiffany N. Selchow, Arizona Beef Council*

The Arizona Beef Council (ABC) conducted a Gate to Plate tour with Northern Arizona University dietetic interns on May 20, 2022. This tour is the first time the ABC has conducted an in-person experience with this group of interns, and now every university dietetic intern program in Arizona has toured a ranch, feed yard, or both!

The NAU dietetic intern class is small, but no less impactful. Eight interns were welcomed to the Bar T Bar Ranch in Winslow, AZ by owner and operator Judy Prosser. Members of the Diablo Trust also joined the tour. Judy shared the ranch's history, how cattle are raised, and how beef from their cattle is

*(Continued on page 9)*



Gate to Plate Tour attendees on Bar T Bar Ranch.

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## Thank You to All of Our Donors!

Diablo Trust is a donation-funded organization, and much of what we do could not be accomplished without contributions from our caring community.

This year on AZ Gives Day, Diablo Trust raised over \$1,100! These funds will help support our efforts to address recreation impacts in Northern Arizona through our Keep Our Forests Beautiful outreach event (day and location TBD) as well as our Annual Campout at the Moqui Campground on August 20th-21st.

See the Save the Dates section below to learn more about these events and how you can volunteer at our outreach event.



We could not fulfill our mission without your generous support! Thank you!

## Save the Dates

### Info Series: Rangeland Monitoring

June  
17

Join us for our first 2022 session of our Info Series. This session will focus on Rangeland Monitoring programs. Speakers will present on Forage Resource Study Group Monitoring, Integrated Monitoring for Sustainability, Restoration Assessment and Monitoring Program for the Southwest and Rancher-led Collaboratives and the Role and Value of Monitoring. AZGFD Conference Room, 12:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

### Diablo Trust Annual Campout

August  
20-21

Please join us for Diablo Trust's Annual Campout Under the Stars on August 20th-21st at the Moqui Group Campgrounds in the Coconino National Forest. We'll begin with presentations about the Four Forest Restoration Initiative followed by the campout festivities. Enjoy a catered dinner around the campfire, camping under the stars and breakfast in the morning. To RSVP, [email info@diablotrust.org](mailto:info@diablotrust.org).

### Keep Our Public Lands Beautiful Outreach Event

August  
TBD

The Recreation Working Group is coordinating the "Keep Our Forests Beautiful" outreach event. While event location and timing are not yet confirmed, volunteers are needed to help connect with visitors about how to recreate responsibly and how to properly dispose of their camping waste. Are you interested in volunteering or want to learn more? Email [info@diablotrust.org](mailto:info@diablotrust.org) for more information.

## President's Message

By Ellen Parish

Life is all about relationships. The Diablo Trust mission is “to ensure the long-term economic, social and ecological sustainability of the Diablo Trust Land Area by providing a forum for active community participation in a collaborative land stewardship process.” This guiding statement is based on important relationships that we value deeply and it is these relationships that are the focus of what we do.



Our relationship with people is what makes it all possible. The Flying M and Bar T Bar Ranch families, the hardy folks who work on the land daily, county, state, and federal agency employees, private business owners, students, hunters and recreators of all kinds, local citizens, and visitors from afar, anyone who eats beef, breaths air and drinks water. These healthy relationships are the foundations of our work and without them, none of us get to pursue this work we love so much.

These relationships are at the center of our many events and activities throughout the year. Over the past two years, we have adapted our activities to accommodate the changing situations with COVID but it has not stopped us from continuing our work. Land monitoring field days have continued, our annual meeting, annual campout, and meetings with cooperating agencies have all continued. In 2022 we plan to also offer additional opportunities to return to the land in groups; share experiences and observations, questions and information, thoughts and ideas; as we continue to build and maintain the relationships that are at the foundation of all we do.

We welcome you to join us for our Annual Campout August 20th-21st and any of our other events. The Recreation Working Group is planning an event for this summer where we will be sharing information with folks about the impacts of recreation, recreation ethics and offering free trash disposal to recreationists. Our monitoring events are always open to the public and we will be announcing other opportunities to spend the day on the land so keep an eye out for those announcements.

Ellen Parish, Board President  
Contact: [president@diablotrust.org](mailto:president@diablotrust.org)

## From the Office

By Lisa Bolton

While all seasons offer change, spring signals new beginnings and new opportunities. This spring's shift feels more dramatic than years past, and I am not talking about the wicked wind and never-ending pollen. After so many years of the world starring in a pandemic-fueled Groundhog Day, these emerging spring days feel fresh, new and full of opportunity. With exciting events this summer and fall, we look forward to getting together with friends new and old, and making room to connect. In this newsletter, we share stories about ushering in the next generation of stewards, preparing for the future, moving past conflict toward collaborative solutions and introducing some new features to strengthen community connections.



I recently learned of the New Mexico Youth Ranch Management Camp on KNAU's Earth Notes feature (see page 5). I was inspired to not only include the information in this newsletter but also to pursue grant funding to help send a high school youth from the Flagstaff area to attend this unique opportunity. What a fun and inspiring way to teach the leaders and stewards of tomorrow! While we still don't know if our grant will be funded, please reach out if you know a local youth interested in this opportunity.

Similarly, a recent Gate to Plate Tour of Bar T Bar Ranch (cover story) introduced NAU master's students to how a ranch operates and the ins and outs of raising nutritious, range-fed beef in Northern Arizona. It was inspiring to hear from the NAU students how they intend to carry their education forward to help children and communities.

In an effort to strengthen community connections, this issue of Ground Truth includes two new features: Coconino County Supervisor Connections and USFS Ranger Files, both on page 8. With these features, we hope to keep them in each newsletter and offer a rotation of County Supervisors and USFS District Rangers a space to connect with the community. Thank you Supervisor Horstman and Deputy District Ranger Mustoe for penning our inaugural articles!

Last but not least, I want to thank all of our Diablo Trust supporters and partners. It is because of your support that we are able to offer and pursue new and exciting opportunities to move forward to a better tomorrow.

Lisa Bolton, Program Manager  
Contact: [info@diablotrust.org](mailto:info@diablotrust.org)



## Getting to Know...

*Matt Caldwell, Tread Lightly! Executive Director*



Matt Caldwell became Executive Director of Tread Lightly! in October of 2020. Tread Lightly! is a national nonprofit organization with a mission to promote responsible motorized recreation through stewardship programs and ethics education to ensure recreational opportunities are accessible for future generations.

As Executive Director, Matt is responsible for the strategic direction, operations, partnerships and overall leadership of Tread Lightly!

Matt's career has included time at global brands including Adidas and Michelin, but for the last 16+ years, he had spent time in the advertising, marketing and design agency world, working with clients in the automotive, automotive aftermarket and sports + entertainment sectors.

Matt was born in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania and grew up in New England (Vermont and Massachusetts). After attending college in Florida, he settled in the Upstate of South Carolina for nearly 21 years. Despite being an "East Coast Guy", Matt and his wife relocated to Utah in 2016 and then to Arizona in September of 2021. The time in Utah further deepened Matt's love for outdoor recreation. Matt enjoys hiking, camping, off-roading and exploring all this great land has to offer.

Matt was born in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania and grew up in New England (Vermont and Massachusetts). After attending college in Florida, he settled in the Upstate of South Carolina for nearly 21 years. Despite being an "East Coast Guy", Matt and his wife relocated to Utah in 2016 and then to Arizona in September of 2021. The time in Utah further deepened Matt's love for outdoor recreation. Matt enjoys hiking, camping, off-roading and exploring all this great land has to offer.

Childhood hero: My Dad

Current hero: Still My Dad

Favorite things to do: Hiking, camping or off-roading with my wife

Favorite western wear item: Ariat Lacers and my pink ribbon, see the story below

Fondest outdoor memories: The first time visiting Yellowstone National Park, absolutely amazing

Favorite course/subject: Business Law

Favorite western movie: Tombstone

Fun fact: My wife showed APHA and AQHA for years. I had never even been around horses, barns or tractors until we got married, but after 27 years of marriage, I have plenty of experience now. Years ago, we were at a local show and she thought it would be fun if I entered the walk/jog class on her palomino. I placed 5th out of 13 and received a pink ribbon. Since I got a ribbon in my first class, I determined it was best to immediately retire and savor my success. Haven't shown since.

## Talk from the

*By Bob and Judy Prosser*



By the time you get this, our Annual Bull Sale will be over, but as we write this, we are counting down to 7 days away. This bull sale generates mixed feelings: pride in the sale offering, anxiety over what a crowd will pay for a bull in any given year, fatigue from the exhaustive pre-sale to-do list, and excitement to see friends we haven't seen for a year. It also generates multiple prayers for the wind to stay silent for two consecutive days ... That's a big order!

The bulls that are about one-year old weigh about 1200-1300 lbs. They have been analyzed to the "nth-degree" as Evelyn (Judy's mother) would say. We have all the important traits documented for the



*Bar T Bar spring branding at Black Rock.*

buyers and DNA run on most of these traits. Lord only knows how many megabytes of computer-generated data have been expended—and are now on a spreadsheet posted on our website. If you are inclined to look, you can find this information at [www.bartbar.com](http://www.bartbar.com). When your eyes glaze over, you can always call us, and Judy will hand the phone to Bob to explain what you are seeing.

Seriously, these bulls have been tested for fertility, gone through an ultrasound for meat quality, and a PAP (Pulmonary Artery Pressure) test.

Besides the data, which these dedicated potential buyers study for a week or more in advance, individual videos have been taken of the cute little bulls (all 195) and they are also on the website. The only thing I can compare this to would be buying a house or real estate of some sort, where one analyzes all the intricacies of the offering to see if they fit with the criteria of the order. (Bob just added that if the wife doesn't like the bulls you picked, all the analysis doesn't matter—just flush it.) Ranchers have JOINT OWNERSHIP in this and don't believe anything different. Husbands tend to get into the more lofty traits, like carcass quality, growth, and good udders. Typically, the spouse is more concerned about birth weight, mothering ability, and disposition. This stems from the amount of time she loses not seeing her husband during calving season.

The disposition part is indicative of past experience where the bull has put her on the fence in the sorting pen. She prefers the one that comes up to her for a scratch on the rump. When all is said and done, it is not unusual to

*(Continued on page 5)*

## New Mexico Youth Ranch Management Camp

*Earth Notes Segment By Rose Houk, Published April 6, 2022*

*Reprinted with permission from KNAU Arizona Public Radio*

There are many challenges in Western ranching these days—among them is whether a new generation will want to pursue the life.

The New Mexico Youth Ranch Management Camp aims to attract young people with an interest in working in livestock and agriculture. The camp accepts thirty 15- to 19-year-olds with varying backgrounds from New Mexico and surrounding states.

Participants gather for a week in June at the CS Cattle Company Ranch near Cimarron. But this isn't your typical crafts and canoeing summer camp. It's as much about computers and spreadsheets as roping and roundups.

It's been run by New Mexico State University for almost a decade. The intensive college-level curriculum kicks off on day one with a hands-on beef butchering session, providing food the students will eat each day during camp. Participants also learn about ranching economics and marketing, and wildlife and natural resources. Thursdays are "range days," when campers spend time on the land, studying grasses and ways to raise cows sustainably.

And on the last day, each team presents a ranch management plan to a panel of judges.

Not all the students will go on to buy their own ranches, or even work on one. So camp organizers introduce

them to career paths in related fields—like veterinary medicine, wildlife tourism, and range management. The main thing they hope to do is get young people excited about future prospects in a land-based way of life.



Jane Moorman/New Mexico State University

## Talk from the Bar T Bar

*(Continued from page 4)*

see spouses giving each other gazes of disapproval or the "What were you thinking?" looks during the sale.

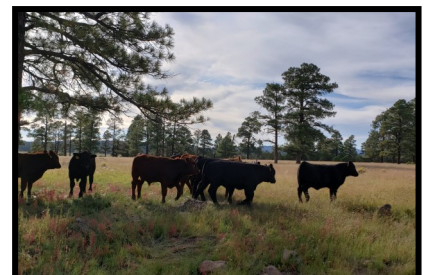
The Friday before the sale is often the day when people come to the ranch to make selections. They have the opportunity to walk through the pens to ground-truth the choices they have made on paper. We have lunch available at the Bunkhouse, prepared by faithful volunteers. This is followed by a Sunset Social, where Laura Chamberlin provides a wonderful evening meal.

Saturday lunch is catered by Diablo Burger, featuring our beef. Janielle Buckley finishes off the meal with her wonderful homemade cakes. The Sale starts at 1 p.m. It is held in our shop, where the other 364 days of the year, we are repairing equipment. We have rented bleachers, tables, and chairs from the fairgrounds, and the American Flag hangs above the auction block, as well as from the flagpole outside. A loud auctioneer calls the sale as videos of each of the bulls are shown on TVs in front of the buyers. All this is available online as well, so buyers from distant locations can bid at the same time as the ones in the

"shop". This concludes around 3:30 and then we start thanking all the shoppers, taking a deep breath, and being appreciative that it is over for another year. Almost over—we will be delivering these bulls to all parts of the West for the next two weeks.

On another note: although our winter out here and in the high country has been pretty slim, we did have almost an inch of rain here at the Crater Ranch in several different March weather events. We are growing locoweed like crazy! Along with that, we are seeing globe mallow, squirrel-tail and needle and thread being pretty enthusiastic. We are grateful for what we have growing.

It has been an interesting winter for us as we removed a lot of cattle from the main ranch. We sent most of our yearlings to wheat pasture in Kansas and native



Cattle on Bar T Bar Ranch.

*(Continued on page 10)*



## Annual Meeting...

(Continued from page 1)

Parish. We then heard from three presenters sharing information on ongoing issues, recent legislative efforts and regional solutions-based programs. We ended the program with a rich, dynamic group discussion - sharing ideas, engaging in partnerships and carrying the momentum forward towards collaborative and impactful solutions.

### Ongoing Issues

Tim Holt, Arizona Game and Fish Department Field Supervisor, presented on “Challenges to Off-Highway Vehicle Management in Arizona.” The striking before and after photos tell a story of exploding use and the need for more education, engineering and enforcement.

### Legislative Efforts

Todd Madeksza of Elevated Advocacy, LLC, presented on recent bills introduced into the legislature. There has been a lot of interest and momentum in the last six to twelve months to work at the state level to help mitigate recreation impacts.

### Regional Campaigns

Matt Caldwell, Tread Lightly! Executive Director, spoke to the group about his organization’s efforts across the west to help educate users on more responsible recreation ethics and provide consistent messaging.

### Collaborating for the Future

The group wrapped up the program with a great and productive group conversation. Questions were asked of our presenters and participants shared ideas on how to better approach solutions to recreation impacts.

Presentation slides and more Annual Meeting information is available on the [Diablo Trust website](#). Thank you to all those who presented and attended our Annual Meeting.



Group conversation during the Annual Meeting.

## Plant Spotting



### **Common Name:**

*Stansbury cliffrose, Quininebush or Buckbrush*

### **Scientific Name:**

*Purshia stansburyana*

### **Family:**

*Rosaceae (Rose Family)*

### **Ecology:**

*Found on dry, rocky slopes, plateaus in grasslands, sagebrush, and pinyon-juniper woodlands, ponderosa pine forests from 3,000-8,000 feet elevation. Flowers April through September and fruit bears a long plumose tail. Forage is browsed by deer, elk, pronghorn, and cattle.*

Photos and information: SEINet (Clockwise: M. Licher, P. Alexander, L. Makings)

# Working and Wild Landscapes: Making Room for Wildlife on Grasslands

*Excerpt from the Diablo Trust Working and Wild Landscapes Booklet*

The presence of all kinds of animals big and small is integral to healthy land, plus the public gets great enjoyment in observing wildlife in their natural habitats. Grasslands, for instance, provide places for smaller burrowing animals like prairie dogs, burrowing owls, ground squirrels, gophers, and snakes to live. They also furnish food for larger grazing animals like pronghorn, elk, deer, bison, and livestock.



*Pronghorn.*  
*Photo: Ken Folwell (NPS Flickr)*

Healthy, productive grass and rangelands display perennial native grasses, wildflowers, and shrubs, while the deep root systems of grasses bind the soil in place and help conserve moisture. But grasslands face threats in the form of overgrazing; lack of fire; invasive species, especially cheatgrass; and tree and shrub encroachment. Woodland trees like pinyons and junipers are a valuable plant community throughout the Southwest. When those trees edge into grasslands they suck up moisture and crowd out native grasses.

Private landowners and public agencies are thinning pinyon and juniper to open up grasslands for wild and domestic grazing animals. In other efforts, a wildlife working group has studied declining pronghorn populations and helped develop a management plan on Anderson Mesa and several other areas in the county. Others are concerned that corridors remain intact for animal movements and migrations.

The Diablo Trust Working and Wild Landscapes booklet highlights five components of what keep our landscapes of Coconino County wild and working:

- Restoring Healthy Forests
- Recreating for Land Health
- Seeking Land-Based Knowledge
- Building Water and Climate Resilience
- Making Room for Wildlife on Grasslands

This newsletter feature presented the “Making Room for Wildlife on Grasslands” section. Previous newsletters include “Recreation for Land Health” and the “Building Water and Climate Resilience” sections (Spring 2021) and “Seeking Land-Based Knowledge” (Fall/Winter 2021). Look for “Restoring Healthy Forests” in Fall 2022.

A special thank you to Coconino County Board of Supervisors for funding the Working and Wild Landscapes booklet. Also, thank you to Shine Creative Industries, Norm Lowe, Rose Houk and Arizona Lithography for your work in writing, designing and producing the booklet.



*Native grasses have a deep web of roots that builds soil, slows erosion, and helps hold moisture. Encroaching junipers and shrubs push out native grasses, rob the soil of nutrients, hurt wildlife habitat, and obstruct animal movements across the land. When ranchers rotate livestock grazing with long rest periods, grasses recover and are healthier.*

*Photo: Julie Sullivan*



*Left: Historically, livestock maintained grass cover. Photo: Sedona Heritage Museum. Center and Right: Overcrowded junipers destroy habitat (left) and lead to soil deterioration choking out native grasses. Thinned junipers (right) provide space for grasses to flourish. Sustainable rangeland management supports healthier landscapes for future generations. Photos: Dan Dagget*



## Coconino County Supervisor Connections

By Supervisor Patrice Horstman, District One

This year, Northern Arizona's fire season arrived early when the wind-driven and drought-fueled Tunnel Fire ripped through our grasslands and the forested communities of Fernwood and Timberline, destroying thirty homes and numerous structures. It will take years to rebuild and recover from the devastation and the fire has subjected the affected residents to the threat of post-wildfire flooding. The Coconino County Flood Control District is already working on mitigation efforts simultaneously with continuing the county's efforts on flood mitigation for the Museum Fire neighborhoods.



The hundreds-of-millions of dollars spent for fire suppression and post-wildfire flood mitigation, not to mention the personal devastation and loss, is not sustainable. Severe drought, together with fire-exclusive practices have created unhealthy forests that have subjected Coconino County to wildfire and post-wildfire flooding. Coconino County has embarked on investing in forest restoration and forest management through the Forest Restoration Initiative program designed to reduce vegetation and create healthier forests through tree thinning and other measures. The county's Forest Restoration Initiative is a unique undertaking by an Arizona county government and is a first step in a lengthy process to bring forest restoration to Northern Arizona. The county's Forest Restoration Initiative and the example it sets for Arizona earned the county the 2022 Environmental Excellence Award from Arizona Forward.

Coconino County is also a partner in the Four Forest Initiative (4FRI) which engages in landscape-scale forest restoration projects and is committed to assisting with the development of sustainable forest industries. The newly passed Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act includes \$5.6 billion for forest restoration, fuel reduction, and vegetation management across the country and specifically commits \$54 million to Coconino County's Forest restoration projects through 4FRI.

Recently, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act allocated money to the Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program which allows entities to conduct forest fire reduction measures on private property on behalf of homeowners. Coconino County is awaiting guidelines on eligibility and

*(Continued on page 9)*

## USFS Ranger Files

By Nicholas Mustoe

USFS Deputy District Ranger

The Flagstaff Ranger District was incredibly busy in 2021 managing a multitude of forest visitors. At Locket Meadow alone, we made over 5,000 contacts during its busy fall season. Throughout the year, the recreation program focused on education, engineering, and enforcement – the three Es – to increase visitor compliance with forest regulations.

Focusing on education, the recreation program conducted trial runs of its new education initiative, Operation Outreach. The program discussed forest trash management and extinguishing campfires with hundreds of dispersed campers.

Our engineering efforts with the help of volunteers included approximately a mile of new logworm fence and boulders placements in areas of concern across the district to prevent motorized intrusions. Six road gates were installed and repaired to protect resources during forest closures and keep traffic off forest roads when they are most susceptible to damage.

Five recreation employees and seven wildfire prevention employees served as Forest Protection Officers. These employees wrote warning notices, incident reports, and violation notices. In addition, we are fortunate to have two law enforcement officers assigned to the district. These officers assist not only the Flagstaff Ranger District but also serve across the nation when called upon for wildfires and special assignments.

Dispersed recreation management remains just one of the many components of what our recreation program accomplishes in a year. The recreation program also runs two cabin rentals, manages Highway 180 winter closures, oversees Arizona Snowbowl and Nordic Village operations, patrols Kachina Peaks, Strawberry Crater, and Sycamore Wildernesses, and holds over 30 volunteer events a year.

The district remains incredibly grateful for the many partnerships we have in working to address challenges around recreation. First among these is Diablo Trust's Recreation Working Group for organizing discussions and efforts to improve recreation management on the Coconino National Forest. We also thank the National Forest Foundation for their help strategizing and implementing cleanups along the Highway 89A corridor. These cleanups were followed with enforcement actions by Forest Service law enforcement and Arizona Game and Fish.

As we move into the busy time of year for recreation, personnel and resources will again be under enormous burdens to use the three E's to successfully provide quality visitor experiences. Yet, I remain positive that through shared goals and shared solutions we can find ways to improve outcomes for everyone.



## Gate to Plate Tour...

(Continued from page 1)

distributed. Topics of interest covered pasture rotation to conserve and use forage wisely and water development projects to ensure water was accessible in many areas of the ranch, allowing cattle (and wildlife) to distribute across the landscape and prevent overgrazing in areas around limited water sources.

Lunch was catered by Chef Dineh Tohe and Diablo Burger, a local Flagstaff restaurant, that serves beef from the Bar T Bar Ranch. Following lunch and great conversations, the participants loaded back on the bus bound for the NAU campus. There participants heard from Riley Peterson, RDN, of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, a contractor to the Beef Checkoff, about beef and its role in a healthy diet. Riley and ABC staff fielded many hard-hitting questions, leaving participants with facts and resources to take out into their careers to help answer the same questions from clients.

Arizona's Gate to Plate Tour Series is funded by the Iowa Beef Industry Council to reach beef consumers in high population states. Dietetic interns are graduate students who are studying to become registered dietitians and will serve clients in many fields including hospitals, schools, health and wellness, and private practice.



*Clockwise from top left: 1) Judy Prosser speaks to tour attendees on the bus. 2) Diablo Burger's Dineh Tohe and volunteers prepared a delicious lunch. (Photo: Tiffany Selchow) 3) Lunch catered by Diablo Burger. (Photo: Tiffany Selchow) 4) Linnaea Bolton bottle feeds an abandoned calf, Henry, during the tour at Bar T Bar Headquarters.*

## Coconino County Supervisor Connections

(Continued from page 8)

how we can apply to assist our property owners and implement community wildfire protection plans.

The megadrought is also affecting our water supplies—water levels in both Lake Mead and Lake Powell have dropped to historic lows that have resulted in the first-ever shortage of Colorado River water allocations. Coconino County has joined other rural counties in calling for the governor and legislature to implement legislation to create Rural Water Management Areas that would allow rural communities to develop plans to conserve, protect and

manage groundwater resources and plan for community development with water availability as part of local decision making.

Preparing and planning for our climate-change-fueled drought future by undertaking forest restoration and managing our water resources is a responsibility we all must take seriously. As summer approaches and with windy, dry conditions continuing, I encourage everyone to be fire smart and be proactive in creating a defensible space around your home. Together, we can create a sustainable future both environmentally and economically.

Onward, together!

## Talk from the Bar T Bar

(Continued from page 5)

pasture in New Mexico. We leased another ranch in Apache County from our veterinarian and we have a lot of cows at the Black Rock Ranch. We are hoping spring rest will help this country heal up from the limited moisture of recent years. We will use the Red Gap Ranch again this summer.

The Prosser Family is going through a transition, with the goal to move the business to the next generation.

It is important to us that we keep the land base of the main ranch intact. And we hope our sons and their kids will find some pleasure or worth from having done that. We have a team developed to help us analyze the business, its needs and potential changes for the future. We think we all will be pleased with the outcome. We shall keep you informed as we go along.

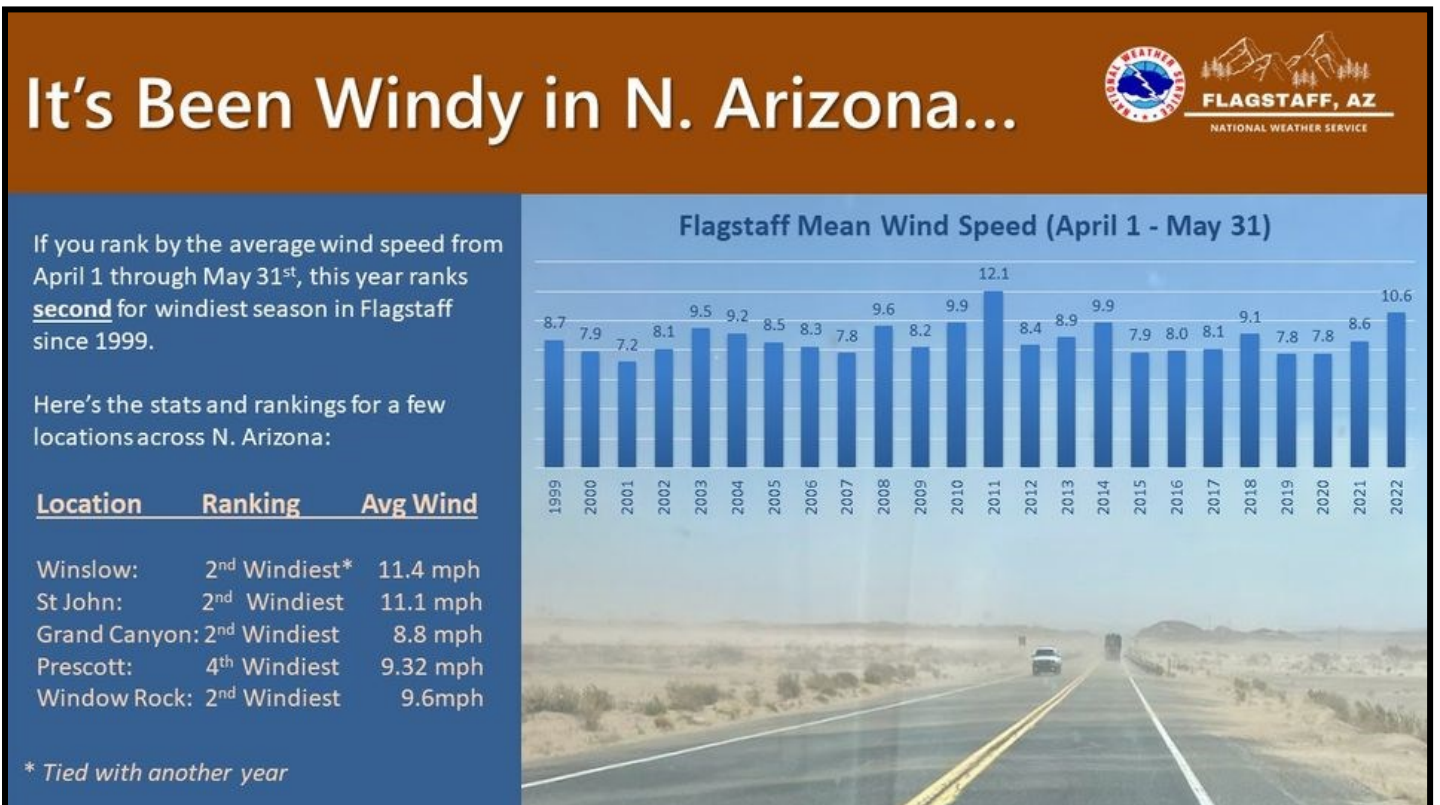
We must acknowledge that the desire to keep the main ranch a working ranch is at least partially due to our

association with Diablo Trust, and many of you as individuals. Thank you for being good friends for many years and for your consistent support of Diablo Trust and its values.



Cattle near Turkey Track Mountain at Black Rock.

## Wind Weather Records



Wind has been the hot topic recently in the world of weather here in northern Arizona. Here's a little insight on where several locations rank this year in terms of average wind speed from April 1st to May 31st.

Graphic and text from [US National Weather Service Flagstaff Arizona](https://www.facebook.com/NWSFlagstaffAZ), posted on Facebook, June 2, 2022.



## Recipe Corner

### *Thai Basil Beef*

- 2 tbsp. olive oil or vegetable oil
- 1 bell pepper, thinly sliced
- 1 sweet onion, thinly sliced
- 1 lb. Diablo Beef ground beef
- 6 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 cup loosely packed fresh basil leaves, divided
- Fresh cilantro (optional)

### *Thai Basil Beef Sauce*

- 1 tbsp chili paste
- 2 tbsp soy sauce (or tamari or gluten free alternative)
- 1 tbsp fish sauce
- 1 tbsp brown sugar
- 2 tbsp fresh lime juice

1. In a small bowl, combine chili paste, soy sauce, fish sauce, brown sugar and lime juice incorporated, set aside.
2. Heat oil in a large skillet set over medium high heat. Add the ground beef and cook until browned, breaking it up with a spoon and stirring often, about 6 minutes.
3. Add the bell pepper, onion and garlic to the beef and cook until vegetables start to soften, about 5 minutes.
4. Pour the sauce mixture along with the fresh basil (reserving a fresh few leaves for the top) and continue cooking until basil starts to wilt.
5. Serve over rice topped with fresh basil and fresh cilantro. Enjoy!

*Yield: 4 servings*

*Adapted from The Modern Proper: <https://themodernproper.com/thai-basil-beef>*



**THE REASON GOD MADE FIRE.  
ARIZONA RANGE RAISED BEEF**

### *Order Local Diablo Beef*

*Range raised and fed on native, wild vegetation on a family ranch in N. Arizona*

Diablo Beef is offering ground beef directly to the public. The 50-pound case contains 24 vacuum-sealed packages of ground beef, each weighing two pounds. This range-fed beef from the Bar T Bar Ranch is featured in some of our favorite local restaurants such as Diablo Burger, Wil's Grill and Happy Jack Lodge. One 48-pound case is \$288.

To order, contact Ellen Parish at [localazmeats@gmail.com](mailto:localazmeats@gmail.com).



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This holiday season, when you shop with this link

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Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to Diablo Trust.





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

### Upcoming Events

- Fri, Jun 17: **Info Series—Rangeland Monitoring Programs** • 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at AZGFD Conference Room  
*Presentations about FRSG, IMfoS, RAMPS, RestoreNet and other monitoring programs in the Southwest*
- Sat, Jun 18: **Cinder Hills OHV Area Cleanup and Rehab Work Day** • 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Cinder Hills Area  
*Join Tread Lightly! For a cleanup at the Cinder Hills OHV Area on the Coconino National Forest*
- Tues, Jul 05: **FRSG Monitoring: Flying M North** • 6:45AM—5:00PM • AGFD Offices, 3500 S. Lake Mary Road
- Wed, Jul 06: **FRSG Monitoring: Flying M South** • 7:15AM—5:00PM • AGFD Offices, 3500 S. Lake Mary Road
- Tues, Jul 12: **FRSG Monitoring: Bar T Bar East** • 6:45AM—5:00PM • AGFD Offices, 3500 S. Lake Mary Road
- Thu, Jul 14: **FRSG Monitoring: Bar T Bar West** • 6:45AM—5:00PM • AGFD Offices, 3500 S. Lake Mary Road
- Mon, Jul 18: **Recreation Working Group** • Via Zoom 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (email [Diablo Trust](mailto:Diablo Trust) for Zoom info)  
*RWG meets regularly to collaborate and engage in solution-based discussions for recreation impacts in Northern Arizona.*
- Aug 03-05: **Rural Policy Forum** • Exact times and locations vary but all events held in Winslow, AZ  
*Connect with over 300 rural leaders and stakeholders, for capacity-building sessions, receptions, hands-on workshops and keynote presentations. For more details visit: [www.localfirstaz.com/rural-policy-forum](http://www.localfirstaz.com/rural-policy-forum)*
- Sat, Aug 20-21: **Pre-Campout Speaker Series** • Moqui Group Campground, Coconino National Forest  
*All ages are invited to this multi-speaker series to hear all about the Four Forest Restoration Initiative. Stay afterwards for the Campout!*
- Sat-Sun, Aug 20-21: **Annual Campout Under the Stars** • Moqui Group Campground, Coconino National Forest  
*Catered dinner around the campfire at 5:30 p.m. and breakfast in the morning at 7:00 a.m. All ages welcome!*
- Sat-Sun, TBD **Keep Our Forests Beautiful Outreach Event** • Location TBD  
*Volunteers needed! Help us connect with visitors to N. AZ about how to recreate responsibly. Email [info@diablotrust.org](mailto:info@diablotrust.org) to sign up to volunteer.*

Please visit our website [www.diablotrust.org/calendar](http://www.diablotrust.org/calendar) for more event details or email [info@diablotrust.org](mailto:info@diablotrust.org)