



The Quivira Coalition Bulletin

The mission of The Quivira Coalition is to foster ecological, economic, and social health on western landscapes through education, innovation, collaboration, and progressive public and private land stewardship.

What's New at our Rainbow Ranch Project?

What's new at the Rainbow Ranch? Grass, riparian vegetation, and water! All good things if you are in the ranching business—and even if you aren't.

How did this happen?

Sunny Hill and Rochelle Williams, two of the owners of two miles of the Dry Cimarron River close to its headwaters, approached us for help in restoring the riparian area, which comprises the bulk of the Rainbow Ranch. We applied for and received a Clean Water Act 319 grant from the EPA and New Mexico Environment Department and began working to restore the riparian area, develop a grazing plan, and use the project as an educational tool in reaching ranchers, environmentalists, public land managers, and others.

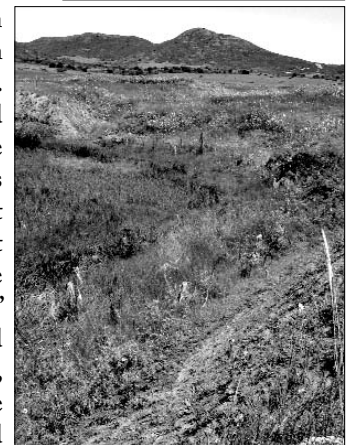
We have used our Riparian Outdoor Classrooms to help implement the riparian restoration in an innovative on-the-ground educational experience. We have installed simple in-stream channel improvements using induced-meandering principles developed by Bill Zeedyk that are initiating channel

evolution from a Rosgen Channel Type F towards a C Channel Type. The plan was that at least 7000 feet of the approximately 18,000 feet of stream length on the Rainbow Ranch would be restored by installing structures and planting 2000 cottonwoods and willows.

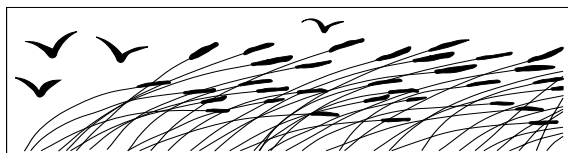
Volunteers worked through snow one weekend to plant the willows. Since then, we have held 3 workshops on Rainbow, the latest in June of this year, installing 20 instream structures and 20 upland erosion control structures. And then we had help from the elements. Sunny says that they have had 15 inches of rain since our June 11-12 workshop! "My parents are moving to the Northwest because we have too much rain at the ranch!" Sunny jokes. But the rain resulted in 5 "storm events," which is what causes the induced meandering structures—weirs, post vanes, and baffles—to change the sinuosity of the river and hold water in the soil, bringing back riparian vegetation.

Work was designed in part to reduce a headcut on the eastern portion of the River. That headcut has been totally eliminated. Sunny says the headcut "would have been much worse without the structures given the amount of rain we've had." There is also a headcut on the western portion of the River,

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[Top] Vane installed October 2002. [Bottom] August 2004. Vegetation has overgrown the vane.



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4th Annual Conference, January 13-15, 2005
Half Private, Half Public, One West:
Innovation and Opportunity Across Boundaries

To ensure the long-term vitality of the values that we all cherish in the West—open space, wildlife, water, culture, and economy—we need to unite our efforts and manage land as if fences didn't matter. This conference will explore issues and strategies that aim at improving economic and ecological health for all by honoring the public while respecting the private.

Tentative Agenda

January 13, 2005 (Thursday) 9 am-3 pm

Pre-Conference Symposium #1: *Like Water In The Bank: The Promise of Alluvial Storage*

Co-hosted by the National Riparian Team

What if we stored water where it most naturally can be “protected”—in the banks of creeks and rivers? What if landowners and were compensated financially for land management practices that created a healthy hydrological cycle for creeks and rivers, resulting in increased storage in alluvial systems? What if we redesigned urban growth so as to protect natural recharge zones, so that storm water becomes a resource to the community rather than a nuisance?

Pre-Conference Symposium #2:

New Mexico Range School: Looking at Land From the Ground Up

Co-hosted by the Society for Range Management, New Mexico Section

Speakers: Robbie LeValley, Colorado State University Extension; **Dave Bradford**, U.S. Forest Service; **Floyd Reed**, U.S. Forest Service

2:00 pm – Conference Registration Opens

3:00-4:30 pm – Annual Meeting of the **Southwest Grassfed Livestock Alliance (SWGLA)**

6:30-9 pm

Opening Event: ***Minor Breeds, Major Possibilities, a Celebration of Animals***

“Minor” breeds of livestock have it all: taste, profit, performance, habitat enhancement

Co-Hosts, Deborah Madison, author, chef, and Slow Food advocate, and **Gary Nabhan**, author, ethnobotanist and Director, Center for Sustainable Environments at Northern Arizona University

January 14, 2005 (Friday)

8:20 am – *Welcome* by **Courtney White**, Executive Director of The Quivira Coalition

8:30 am – *Opening Comments* by **Senator Pete Domenici** (invited)

8:45 am – 12:15 pm

General Session: ***Uniting Common Ground and Common Good***

We need to integrate public and private land management for all our benefit

- **Dan Kemmis**, Director, Center for the Rocky Mountain West
- **Fred Provenza**, Utah State University
- **Sumner Erdman**, rancher, Maui, Hawaii – *Managing for Endangered Species*

12:15 pm-1:30 pm – Lunch

1:30 pm-2:30 pm – Keynote Speaker: **Allan Nation**, publisher of the *Stockman Grass Farmer*
What Works: Profiting from Ranching in Nature's Model

3 pm-5 pm – Special Sessions. Theme: ***Thinking Big***

- *Keeping the Family in Family Ranching* – **Doc & Connie Hatfield**, Oregon Country Beef
- *Managing Landscapes Collaboratively* – **Todd Graham**, Sun Ranch, Madison Valley, MT
- *Public and Private Land Conservation* – **Dave Bradford**, USFS, Paonia, CO



4th Annual Conference *(con't from page 2)*

- *Working with Predators* – **Nina Bradsaw**, Defenders of Wildlife

7:30 pm – 10:00 pm

Social Hour/Dance

January 15, 2005 (Saturday)

8:30 am – Opening Comments

8:45 am-noon – General Session: ***The Shape of the Future: New Directions***

What the Lessons Learned from Research and Practical Solutions Can Teach Us

- **Lynn Huntsinger**, social scientist – *The Shape of the West to Come*
- **Dick Richardson**, South African rancher (co-sponsored by The Savory Center)
- **Parick Lucy** and **Cori Barraclough**, AquaText, Victoria B.C.

12:15 am-1:30 pm – Lunch

1:30-3pm – Workshops

- *Safe Harbor Agreements* – **Tim Sullivan**, Environmental Defense
- *Educating the “New Rancher”* – **Jim Thorpe** and **Jack Hagelstein**, ranchers, New Mexico
- *Monitoring for all Types of Land*

3:30-5 pm – Workshops

- *How to Obtain Grants* – **Jim Crosswhite**, rancher, **Matthew McQueen**, attorney
- *“Virtual Fencing”* – **Jornada Experimental Range**
- *Conservation Easements*
- *Recognizing Birds* – **Andrew Rominger**, Valley High School

7:30 pm-10:00 pm

Clarence Burch Awards Banquet

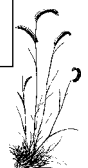
Red Canyon Ranch Update

We have completed the needed road and erosion control work on Red Canyon Ranch and are ready for our first public excursion. Those of you who contributed to our Red Canyon fundraiser are invited to come and see the work on September 26. Call the office (505-820-2544) and speak to Sheryl (0#) if you wish to attend this tour.

The weekend before, September 17-19, the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation will be on the Ranch constructing wildlife drinkers. If you would like to volunteer to help them, please call the office for information.

Please consider helping The Quivira Coalition by becoming a Friend (\$50-\$500), Supporter (\$500-\$1000) or Patron (\$1000-\$5000) of the Conference. Your contribution will help defray costs and allow us to offer scholarships.

Executive Director Courtney White has a regular column in Headwaters News. If you would like to read it, go to www.headwatersnews.org/p.white/index.html or check out the Headwaters News home page. Courtney is writing another monthly column entitled “The New Ranch” for the online magazine New Farm. To find the column visit newfarm.org and type “Courtney White” into the search engine.



What's New? *(con't from page 1)*

which we did not work on. It has moved upstream by 42 feet! We recently met with Sunny to discuss expanding our work onto that headcut next season.

The owners of Rainbow Ranch were required to “match” some of the money for the 319 grant. Sunny said that they “would have had to spend three or four times as much money” to fix the erosion that would have been caused by the rains this year, if the structures hadn't been in place. And “you can't put a value on how much water is being stored in the river's banks and is now available for plants,” says Sunny. Although Tamara, our Projects Manager, thinks there may be too much water available. There were so many plants when she went out to take pictures of the work that she had trouble getting to the areas where the structures were! Sunny is hoping to reap the rewards of this management change this winter when the cows graze the riparian areas.

Kirk Gadzia, working with Sunny, developed a new grazing plan whose main focus is to graze areas with old, underutilized standing forage to allow for fresh growth during the growing season. The plan includes frequent moves to different pastures. Cows grazed the riparian area during the dormant season last year and will do so again this coming winter. New upland and riparian fencing was installed in 2003. There were originally only 6 paddocks but with new dividing fences there are now 15. The riparian area was fenced off and can now be managed as its own paddock.

Other work at Rainbow included reinstalling two old meanders in the river.

The idea behind this project was to: •show grazing and riparian health are compatible by increasing both forage resources and species diversity; •emphasize a collaborative effort using non-profit organizations and the private ranching community; •reduce erosion; •educate ranchers, public land managers, environmentalists, and others about riparian restoration methods; •increase channel stability, raise groundwater levels, and increase habitat for riparian-dependent and aquatic species.

We think it has been pretty successful on all of those levels. If you want to see these results in person, we will be having another workshop at Rainbow Ranch next year.

[Left] Post vane installed on the Dry Cimarron, October 2002. (The “before” pictures here and on page 1 are courtesy of Courtney White.)

[Right] August 2004. A vane slows down the water near an eroding bank; this allows more water to soak the bank; therefore more vegetation grows along the bank; continued bank erosion stops. (The “after” pictures here and on page 1 are courtesy of Tamara Gadzia.)



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