

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:

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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.

2023 Diablo Trust Annual Meeting Report

By Norm Freeman, Owner of Freeman Farms, President of Elemental Farms LLC, AZ Game and Fish Commission Appointment Recommendation Board Member

In the world of sustainable ranching and responsible land management, the Diablo Trust meeting held in August was a significant gathering of like-minded individuals dedicated to preserving and improving the lands they steward. Among the highlights of the event were enlightening presentations by Dan Probert, representing Country Natural Beef and Grazewell™, and James Rogers of Northway Ranch Services.

As the Director of Marketing for Country Natural Beef and the co-founder of Grazewell™, Dan Probert has spent decades honing his knowledge of sustainable grazing and land management techniques. His commitment to regenerative agriculture is evident in every aspect of his work, from the practices he employs on his ranches to his dedication to educating others.

James Rogers delved into the challenges that modern ranching faces. From climate change and resource scarcity to labor shortages and market volatility, ranchers are dealing with a unique set of difficulties. James highlighted the importance of embracing technology to navigate these challenges effectively. During their presentations, Probert and Rogers shared a wealth of valuable

insights and practical advice for ranchers and land managers interested in adopting sustainable practices. Here are some of the key takeaways: **Holistic Management:** Emphasized the importance of viewing ranching as a holistic endeavor, considering the interplay between livestock, wildlife, and the environment.

Annual Meeting Report and Key Takeaways Continued on page 8



Community gathered in Mormon Lake, AZ for presentations and discussion at the Annual Meeting.

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Message from the

*By Kit Metzger, Rancher—Flying M Ranch
and Diablo Trust Board Member*



2023, what a year, with one extreme to the other! The dry lakes on Anderson Mesa had some of the highest water levels that we have seen since 1993. The drifts of snow up there were amazing, but the weight of the snow brought trees down on our fences. Lots of short fence had to be pulled back up and in many draws the fence was just washed away. Took a while to finish the spring fencing so we could brand and move cattle to the mountain. Due to that and cold temperatures we did not move cattle up to higher country until the end of May, and into June.

The spring runoff in Grapevine Canyon and Diablo Canyon ran so high we could not cross these canyons to get to our cattle for about two weeks. We were finally able to make short trips across the canyons while the water was down and returned quickly before water levels came up again in the afternoon.



Anderson Canyon, 2023 spring runoff. Credit: Kit Metzger

all over the mesa. Lots of happy critters up there. Cattle got off to a good start, antelope had fawns and the elk had lots of calves. Did not see many turkeys this year, I think the duration of deep snow was not a good thing for them.

July, the usual start of summer rains, was hot and dry. The feed in the open mesa got dry and most of the game headed up into the pines where the feed was still green. We did not get any good rain until August, and the rainstorms were few and far between. What a difference in moisture on the land in a few months. The first good rain at Ashurst Run was August 7th, the next good one was during the Annual Diablo Trust Campout! Maybe we should have scheduled that in July. Seems to usually bring rain.



Wildlife abounds on the Diablo Trust Ranchlands. Elk at the Yeager Lake area. Credit: Kit Metzger

After the annual meeting in August, we set up 6 monitoring sites for the Grazewell™ monitoring program. This monitoring is in connection with Country Natural Beef, a beef co-op that we have been participating in and have had cattle marketed for, for the last three years. This is the only monitoring that we do that includes water infiltration rates and organic content in the soil. Looking forward to the initial results. We will monitor again in five years or less in some places to see that we are moving towards our land management goals.

For our winter range, down off the mesa, the summer rains were so-so. Last year this area received 13 to 20 inches of rain, this year the area received 2 to 3 inches.

Continued on page 4

President's Message

By Ellen Parish

This summer was busy as we celebrated 30 years of Diablo Trust during community events and programs. In this newsletter you will read about the Annual Meeting and Campout, a Day on The Land field trip, recreation updates, recipes, botany, a message from the Flying M Ranch, a tribute to Norm Wallen and more. This is an action-packed newsletter with a diverse array of contributors.



As I reflect on how Diablo Trust came to be in this place, producing this newsletter at this 30-year anniversary, I want to acknowledge the commitment of two ranching families that are the foundation of everything Diablo Trust is about. The Metzgers (Flying M Ranch) and the Prossers (Bar T Bar Ranch) of today, and the generations before them, who love and care for this land and community. In the last 30 years there have been countless supporters, partners, employees, and volunteers who have made vital contributions to the Diablo Trust mission. We look forward to continuing to work together to preserve open space through a collaborative land stewardship model.

One such notable partner is Diablo Burger, serving downtown Flagstaff, AZ since 2009, and named the best burger in Arizona by USA Today. Diablo Burger is a local foods-based burger restaurant serving 100% local, open-range raised, hormone and antibiotic-free beef from the Diablo Trust ranches. In celebration of our past 30 years and in planning for our next 30, Diablo Burger has stepped forward, to support Diablo Trust's vital work. As we kick off our end of the year fundraising efforts, Diablo Burger has committed to matching all donations up to \$10,000. As further incentive, when you donate \$1,000 (as part of this challenge grant) you will receive a \$100 gift card to Diablo Burger; donate \$500, and you will receive a \$50 gift card (all gift cards will be issued when the matching challenge donation is completed). You can find Diablo Burger in the circle on the square in downtown Flagstaff, AZ.

My heartfelt gratitude to all who support Diablo Trust,

Ellen Parish, Diablo Trust Board President

From the Office

By Corinne LaViolette

Our fall/winter issue of Ground Truth is reflective of the partnerships and community that are so important to the Diablo Trust mission. As we look back at meetings and events in 2023, we are also looking forward to



what is ahead in the coming year. One of the things that I am excited for in the coming year is promoting and facilitating sponsorship of a youth to attend the New Mexico Youth Ranch Management Camp (NMYRMC) in the summer of 2024 and sponsorship of teachers to attend the Arizona Agricultural Institute (AAI) in the winter and summer sessions of 2024. Our sponsorship is possible through a grant partnership with the Arizona Community Foundation. Information about the NMYRMC can be found on their website: <https://nmyrm.nmsu.edu/>

Updates to the NMYRMC website and registration information for 2024 programs are in progress and communications from the Diablo Trust office with updates will be forthcoming. Information about the AAI can be found on page 10 of this newsletter. If you have interest and/or questions about the NMYRMC or the AAI and Diablo Trust sponsorship for these programs, please contact me in the office at: info@diablotrust.org

On page 12 of this newsletter, you will find information about some of our upcoming events. Join us on December 13, 2023 for the Diablo Trust Christmas Party, to celebrate the season and build community! Details for events can be found on our website calendar. The 2024 Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 23rd, more details to follow! In the coming year we are looking forward to strengthening partnerships and building community during meetings, events, and through land-based learning. In this season of gratitude, I want to thank everyone who contributed to this newsletter and all who contribute time, energy, support and expertise toward our efforts in the community, on the land and in the office.

Kind Regards,

Corinne LaViolette, Diablo Trust Program Manager

info@diablotrust.org

Message from the



By Kit Metzger, Rancher—Flying M Ranch
and Diablo Trust Board Member

Continued from page 2...

We did get enough rain for plants to make seed in most areas, but I would say 20% of the range didn't get over one inch. Overall, the area is in good shape because of the good spring and there will be more than enough feed for the coming winter. The years 2016 through 2020 were really dry in this lower, winter range and we saw a big reduction in 'little' critters. Kangaroo rats, little white-tailed chipmunks, pack rats, and even rabbits had a hard time in those really dry summers. Their numbers seem to be on the rebound after two good summers and last winter, glad to see them return. These critters are important. Kangaroo rats, for instance are a big spreader of Indian ricegrass. They like that stuff in their nests underground in the winter and when spring cleaning comes, they move all the chaff and seed up to the surface. Saw lots of that this spring where we hadn't for several years.

This summer little to no water ran into dirt tanks, so we will be letting water out of Morton Lake. The ditch system, put in years ago, runs snow melt or released water about 15 miles into the winter range in the spring and in water-short years. There has been a big rock sliding down the hill for 60 years or more and this year it fell right in the ditch, blocking it. After many attempts to break it into smaller pieces and remove it, we finally got it out. Pictures don't do it justice, it was huge!



Cattle at Dry Lake. 2023 was a good year for water levels in the lakes.

Credit: Kit Metzger

We are getting ready to start fall works and weaning. The process takes a little over a month and includes: getting cows off the mesa, worked, vaccinated and cows that are not being kept, sold. The cows that we are keeping will go to the south of the ranch. Calves are weaned off their mamas and get a series of vaccinations, like flu shots for kids, and are kept separate for 45 days until they are sold. Bulls are worked and go to their separate pasture. All this activity takes place during the fall elk hunts so there will be lots of gate checking, so we don't get everybody mixed up again. There are lots of long days. Seems like we get done just in time for Christmas.

We have a new major project of a well, storage and pipeline at the headquarters for new livestock and wildlife waters for 2024. Another part of this project is about 1000 acres of brush work between Diablo and Grapevine Canyons. The juniper has been moving into grassland and we are going to open the area back up. More edge and forage are the goals. All the people and animals are well and good at Flying M and as always, the coffee pot is on. If you come out this way, please drop by.



GivingTuesday is a global day of generosity that will take place on **November 28, 2023**. Please consider supporting Diablo Trust during GivingTuesday!

Ways to Give: Donate by check to Diablo Trust PO Box 3058 Flagstaff, AZ 86003 or donate through our website: www.diablotrust.org

Remembering Norm Wallen

By Heather Green, Diablo Trust Board Member, Members of the Diablo Trust Board, and Former Diablo Trust Staff

Norm Wallen was involved with Diablo Trust for over 25 years as a long-time board member and co-chair of Diablo Trust's Science and Monitoring Pod. He retired from the board in 2020 and passed away in August of this year leaving us in gratitude for his humor, advocacy, and perseverance.

Norm wrote a piece in Ground Truth, the Diablo Trust newsletter, in 2008: In it he wrote: "Why have I stuck with the Diablo Trust for fifteen years? The usual reasons: preserving open space, improving land health, cooperation instead of litigation, etc. But the real reason is the people. Every other group I've been active in has had the psychologically needy, the big egos, the phony enthusiasts, the hidden agenda-ites, the consensus saboteurs, the tolerated incompetents, the promisers who don't deliver and the endlessly naïve, to typecast a few. I'm too old to put up with such nonsense and it is amazingly scarce in Diablo Trust. The people are real, capable, fight fairly and are fun. That's why I hang around."

Fortunately for Diablo Trust Norm hung around for the next twelve years. His background was in research design and statistics which he taught at Syracuse University, University of Utah, and San Francisco State University. He and his wife Lina moved to Flagstaff after his retirement in 1992 and he became very active in the community.

Norm described himself as a Sierra Club activist, but others recognized him as a strong advocate for Diablo Trust, a no-nonsense kind of guy, one of the original troublemakers, and a genuine fire-breathing environmentalist. He didn't have a lot of patience with the warm and fuzzy parts of Diablo Trust. In the beginning, Norm was certain ranchers were the antithesis of that in which he believed, and ranchers believed the same

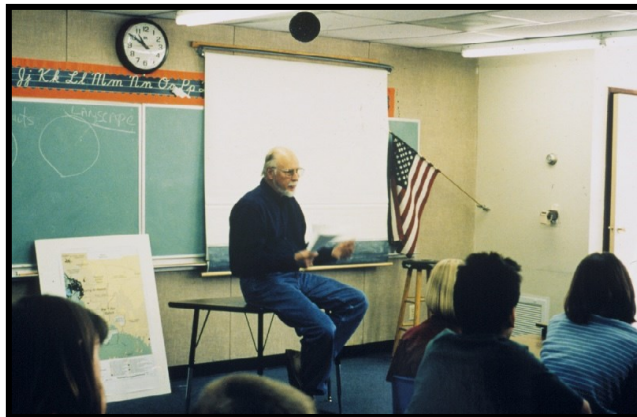
of him but together they accidentally helped shape the foundation for the Diablo Trust collaborative team which has thrived since 1993. At his request, Norm's ashes were scattered in Diablo Canyon.

Memorial Quotes: "In our lifetimes, we meet people who become punctuation marks in our stories. Norm was definitely an exclamation mark for me. Outspoken, demanding, determined, and intellectually honest, he sought answers and commanded respect for his values and beliefs. I cared what Norm thought and weighed his opinions with regard. He brought fire and a special friendship to Jack, and to me,

and to many others. A bonus of his friendship was his choice to rest eternally in the depths of Canyon Diablo where he will be remembered for how he lived and how he made a difference in this wonderful place located on the high desert plains of Arizona." - Mandy Metzger, former Diablo Trust Executive Director



*Norm at the Diablo Trust Annual Campout, 2007.
Credit: Diablo Trust Archives*



Norm presenting Diablo Trust's environmental science education program in a local classroom, circa mid-1990s. Credit: Diablo Trust Archives

"Norm taught me how to listen. I admired him for his ability to listen and learn another point of view. If he believed in what we were doing, he became a serious advocate." - Judy Prosser, Bar T Bar Ranch

"I remember introducing Norm to a young community organizer in Flagstaff a few years ago; he was delighted to meet a kindred spirit, and she was inspired to meet someone who'd long carried the same torch she was so passionate about keeping

afire. Norm's easy smile and quick laughter were as indelible as his deep commitment to justice, fairness and an abiding respect for the natural world; he was a humanist in the deepest sense of the word, and I will miss him." - Derrick Widmark, former Diablo Trust Communications

Coordinator

Continued on Page 10

Ecology and Value of Buckwheats

By Barbara Phillips, PhD, retired U.S. Forest Service Zone Botanist
and Research Botanist with the Museum of Northern Arizona

Every morning when I eat buckwheat (*Fagopyrum esculentum*) pancakes I think of the other animals that enjoy eating various members of the buckwheat (*Polygonaceae*) plant family. On Diablo Trust lands several species in the wild buckwheat genus *Eriogonum* are present, according to a flora (Diablo Trust IMfoS Project) prepared by Kirstin Olmon Phillips, Museum of Northern Arizona, several years ago. *See references at bottom of page*

Wild buckwheats can be early colonizers of disturbed and harsh sites and are most commonly associated with dry sunny sites where tree cover is absent or low in woodland, or thinned or burned forest ecosystems. This fall, red-root wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum racemosum*) was common to abundant in the openings in the Ponderosa pine forest and pinyon-juniper woodlands along the Kinnikinick road, whereas the tall rangy winged wild buckwheat (*E. alatum*) was common in the grasslands around Mud Lake toward Kinnikinick Lake.



Red-root wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum racemosum*).
Credit: Barbara Phillips

Wild buckwheat species provide forage for a variety of ungulates, small mammals and livestock. Use of sulphur-flower buckwheat (*E. umbellatum*) by deer and elk and livestock occurs in summer, fall and winter,

but rarely makes up a large proportion of total diets. They are also eaten by sheep and pronghorn at a low level. Wild buckwheats are high protein forbs and inflorescences are preferred over leaves.



Red-root wild buckwheat flowers.
Credit: Barbara Phillips

The flowers of wild buckwheats attract a variety of insects making them important to insect-feeding song and game birds. Wild buckwheats are important nectar sources, providing bees with late-season nectar, and larval hosts for a variety of pollinators. These pollinators are in many insect families, including native ground-nesting bees, bumblebees, flies, hoverflies, and swallowtail and blue butterflies. A very tasty honey is produced by European honey bees. Wild buckwheats also attract predatory wasps and metallic wood-boring beetles.

Many wide-ranging uses of wild buckwheats have been described in ethnobotany literature (Reveal 2005). Some are used commercially as landscape plants and for revegetation or erosion control, to reduce heat island effects on roofs, and to provide wildlife habitat.

References:

([https://swbiodiversity.org/seinet/checklists/Diablo Trust IMfoS Project](https://swbiodiversity.org/seinet/checklists/Diablo%20Trust%20IMfoS%20Project))

(*E. umbellatum*) has had a lot of research due to its widespread distribution (<https://westernforbs.org/species/sulphur-flower-buckwheat-eriongonum-umbellatum>).

Note: a photo of winged wild buckwheat in fruit can be seen on the upper left corner of page 1 of the newsletter. Credit: Barbara Phillips

Campout Reflections

By Carol Harder

Any trip out of Phoenix in August is always something to look forward to, so it was an easy decision to attend the Diablo Trust Annual Campout Under the Stars the weekend of August 12! Having never attended before, I was looking forward to the weekend events and to camping out at Ashurst Run on the Flying M Ranch.

We arrived just in time for the Regenerative Ranch Monitoring information session and an hour-long deluge of rain, which was honestly a treat after not having seen rain since March in Phoenix. The session was informative, and we started to meet the other attendees, who were an incredibly diverse group of people of all ages. My favorite thing...meeting very interesting people in a gorgeous setting.

Ashurst Run at the Flying M Ranch is truly breathtaking. We found a perfect spot to pitch our tent on the edge of the trees, overlooking a green meadow with old homesteads to



explore. Kit Metzger, with the ranch, explained the history of these homesteads, which painted a picture for me of what it must have been like to be on this incredible land at least a hundred years ago. We then enjoyed a walk out to the meadow at sunset and said “hi” to the ranch horses on the other side of the fence. It’s hard to put into words how magical this all was to someone who a lifetime ago grew up riding horses in a very rural area...the smell of rain in a grassy meadow and the leftover scent of horse in my nose.

Then back to camp to get to know everyone a little better and to enjoy an amazing dinner catered by AZ Sunshine Kitchen, followed by a warm campfire and s’mores. The following morning, we woke up to the smells of breakfast (again by AZ Sunshine Kitchen) and packed up to head south again. I am very grateful to Diablo Trust and Flying M Ranch for hosting such a unique event and

I am looking forward to next year!

Image at center: horses at Ashurst Run, 2023 Campout. Credit: Carol Harder



Recipe from Deana Tatro, Owner of AZ Sunshine Kitchen and On-site Campout Chef!

Roasted poblano, pineapple & corn relish:

3 red onions chopped and caramelized with chopped garlic (1 whole garlic bulb, we use cast iron to caramelize)

1 can black beans drained

5 shucked whole corn cobs grilled & roasted

1 pineapple cut in spears & grilled

5 poblano peppers grilled or roasted (put directly in a plastic bag and into freezer for 10 minutes, the skins will loosen & you will be able to remove the skins)

Chop up and mix ingredients together with salt

Serving size: family size or dinner party



Community gathered at Ashurst Run on the Flying M Ranch, for the Diablo Trust Campout in August of 2023. In this photo folks are gathered and getting ready for dinner after rain in the afternoon. The sky cleared for dinner and night sky visibility provided for Perseid meteor shower sightings.

Matching Campaign! Double the Impact of Your Contribution!

Diablo Burger and another generous donor have stepped forward to support Diablo Trust as we move into our third decade with a commitment toward our mission:

Ensuring 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.

Matching Grant Challenge—Diablo Burger will Match all Donations up to \$10,000!

As further incentive, when you donate \$1,000 (as part of this challenge grant) you will receive a \$100 gift card to Diablo Burger; donate \$500, and you will receive a \$50 gift card (all gift cards will be issued when the matching challenge donation is complete)



Diablo Burger is a local foods-based burger restaurant serving 100% local, open-range raised, hormone and antibiotic free beef from the Diablo Trust ranches, the Bar - T - Bar and the Flying M; serving downtown Flagstaff, AZ since 2009, named the best burger in Arizona by USA today

Ways to Give: Donate by check to Diablo Trust PO Box 3058 Flagstaff, AZ 86003 or donate through our website: www.diablotrust.org

Another generous donor has added a \$2000 matching gift, making our matching campaign goal \$12,000!

Your donation can help us make our match by December 31st, 2023!

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

Annual Meeting Report *By Norm Freeman,* *Key takeaways continued from page 1...*

Data-Driven Ranching: Stressed the importance of harnessing data for smarter decision-making. Northway Ranch Services has been developing custom software that allows ranchers to collect and analyze data on everything from cattle health to pasture conditions. By leveraging data, ranchers can optimize their operations, reduce waste, and improve animal welfare.

Rotational Grazing: Emphasized the benefits of rotational grazing, a practice that involves moving livestock through different paddocks or pastures to prevent overgrazing and allow for natural plant regeneration.

Ecosystem Services: Highlighted the concept of ranches providing ecosystem services, such as proposed carbon sequestration, water efficiency, and wildlife habitat. These services may not only benefit the environment but can also lead to new revenue streams for ranchers.

Local Collaboration: Discussed the importance of collaboration between ranchers and local communities, highlighting the success of initiatives like Grazewell™, which connect consumers with sustainable “high value” beef producers.

Adaptive Management: Encouraged ranchers to adopt adaptive management practices, continuously monitoring and adjusting their strategies to meet their sustainability goals.

Dan Probert’s and James Rogers’ presentations at the Diablo Trust meeting were informative and inspired hope for the future. It reminds us that our connection to the land and livestock requires us to seek out cutting-edge solutions to improve ranching practices, while increasing sales and value to the consumer. By doing this we continue to preserve our Western heritage and ensure both sustainability and profitability for generations to come.

On the Ground with Diablo Trust

In 2023, we gathered with community for: meetings, the annual campout, presentations, monitoring, research and land-based learning! Here we highlight a few of those events...

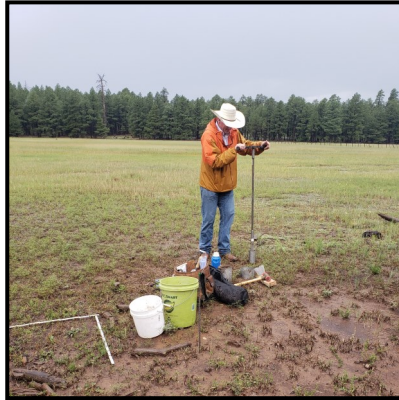
Ranch Monitoring Info Session: a monitoring demonstration lead by James Rogers from Northway Ranch Services and Country Natural Beef's Regenerative Ranching Program followed discussion at the Annual Meeting.



Gathering and greeting at the start of the 2023 Annual Meeting.



Discussion following presentations at the Annual Meeting.



During the Info Session, James Rogers, demonstrated monitoring techniques used to measure soil carbon, soil infiltration rates, ground cover, and biodiversity of grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees.



Presentation and Day On the Land with Audubon: community engaged in a collaborative two-part educational event with Diablo Trust and the Northern Arizona Audubon Society.



Image above: Kay Hawlee, board president of the Northern Arizona Audubon Society (NAAS) presenting at the AZ Game and Fish Department Office in Flagstaff, AZ.



Image above at center: John Coons, international birding field guide, sets up a spotting scope at Mormon Lake.



Image above: birding at Mud Lake.



Image to right: birding group.



Image to left: John Coons, international birding field guide, sets up a spotting scope at Mormon Lake.

Note: trip reports and bird lists can be found on the NAAS website and Facebook page.

Getting to Know...

Laura Shriver, USGS RAMPS Coordinator

Hello! My name is Laura Shriver. I became the



Restoration, Assessment, and Monitoring Program for the Southwest (RAMPS) coordinator out of the U.S. Geological Survey's Southwest Biological

Science Center in Flagstaff, Arizona in 2023. I'm originally from Massachusetts, but I've travelled around the country to study and work with native plants and have fallen in love with the diverse habitats and plants of the southwest. Most recently, I earned a Masters in Ecology from the University of Nevada, Reno, working with Dr. Beth Leger to explore the effects of fire and herbicides on native Great Basin plants. In my current position I coordinate RAMPS: a restoration program that serves as a hub to produce and communicate applied restoration science in collaboration with land managers and landowners. RAMPS projects explore restoration techniques and develop monitoring protocols to understand the effects of past, present, and future land use practices. Our program RestoreNet tests restoration treatments across an environmentally diverse network of sites in the southwest, including sites on the Bar T Bar and Flying M Ranches, which were established in 2018. I am excited to continue working with Diablo Trust and other ranchers and landowners in the southwest, and identify cost-effective strategies to restore degraded drylands.

Favorite outdoor memories: Backpacking in the White Mountains in New Hampshire, Wind River Range in Wyoming, and Ruby Mountains in Nevada. I love to watch the plant community change as you gain elevation.

Favorite course/subject: I'm very interested in plant genetics, and how they relate to conservation and restoration.

Favorite pet: I have a dog named Ellie who loves to explore the outdoors by eating grass, rolling in the dirt, and drinking from yucky puddles. She's a gross little angel.

Calling all Educators!

Through a grant partnership with the Arizona Community Foundation, Diablo Trust can sponsor two northern AZ teachers to attend the 2024 Arizona Agricultural Institute. Reach out to info@diablotrust.org to find out more!

The winter Arizona Agricultural Institute will include two days of farm tours. Teachers will come together to learn about Arizona's diverse agricultural production operations. Our goal is to make each day informative and provide valuable lessons and resources that connect AG & STEM as well as highlighting why AG is the original STEM career.

Note: See flyer below

Registration form link:

<https://forms.gle/oUQvmu3Nn56RS4Wb9>

Remembering Norm Wallen,

Continued from page 5...

"Norm exemplified the radical center, showing how to fit progressive environmental values with the collaborative nature of Diablo Trust and the community. Especially as I was preparing to leave DT and Flagstaff, Norm and I would meet for conversation and company at his house. His brusque attitude seemed to be limited to board meetings - during these visits he shared with me stories from his life, lessons learned, and experiences had, and he had had a lot of them. He is deeply missed but his impact on the conservation community of Northern Arizona will last for many, many years to come." - Jeremy Krones, former Diablo Trust Program Manager

Mogollon Rim Ranger District OHV education and ambassador efforts

By Brady VanDragt, District Recreation Program Manager, Coconino National Forest, Mogollon Rim Ranger District

District Recreation staff with the generous support of volunteers ramped up OHV education efforts over the 2023 summer season. Contact stations rotated between two sites, Clint's Well and Happy Jack Lodge, with 9 dates between the Memorial and Labor Day holidays. Additionally, volunteers had an opportunity to "Rove with a Ranger" in four priority areas. A total of 17 volunteers contributed with a total of 310 hours. Outside of these volunteer opportunities, recreation staff spent countless hours every weekend roving while making educational contacts primarily with the OHV community.

Pop-up booths were well received by the public. Information such as Leave No Trace Ethics, TreadLightly! Ethics, State OHV Laws, Travel Management Rule, protection of resources, fire information, forest information, recreation opportunities, Motor Vehicle Use Maps, importance of respecting local neighborhoods, wildlife, and livestock were disseminated or spoken to. Countless con-

tacts were made through these efforts. Although we don't have the ability to "stop" traffic, well over 2,500 contacts were made through roving efforts.

As a finale for the season, Forest Service partnered with TreadLightly! and Arizona Plasma to install two new double panel kiosks on FR's 149 and 211 in September. The panels include a locator map, geological, recreation, wildlife, and OHV education. The district intends to install more of these throughout the district next spring and plans are underway.



Moving into the future, we hope to learn, adapt, and build on the success of this pilot program. Pop-up booths and volunteer efforts to support this will start up again Memorial weekend 2024. I want to thank all of our partners including Diablo Trust, TreadLightly!, Arizona Plasma, Happy Jack Lodge, and volunteers who made this possible.

Image at center: double panel kiosks. Credit: Brady VanDragt

Order Local Diablo Beef

Range raised and fed on native, wild vegetation on a family ranch in northern Arizona

Diablo Beef is offering ground beef directly to the public. This range-fed beef from the Bar T Bar Ranch is featured in some of our favorite local restaurants such as Diablo Burger and Wil's Grill.

To order, contact Ellen Parish at:

localazmeats@gmail.com



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

Find more information on the

Diablo Beef Website:

<https://diablobeefaz.com/>

Diablo Trust



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Upcoming Diablo Trust Events

Forage Resource Study Group (FRSG) Dates:

- FRSG November 17th & 20th - Flying M Ranch (north and south of Diablo Canyon)
- FRSG November 21st & 22nd - Bar T Bar Ranch (eastern and western portions)

Save the Date! **Christmas Party** - December 13th, 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm
at the Towler/Johnson Home in Flagstaff, AZ

Save the Date! **2024 Annual Meeting** - February 23rd, 2024
9 am to 12 pm at Serendipity in Flagstaff, AZ

Visit our website calendar for more event details! www.diablotrust.org/calendar



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