

# Diablo Trust News

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

May 2005



## DIABLO TRUST: 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 ! Wind Energy, Open Space & Water**

**Date:** Monday, May 9th at 7:00 p.m.  
**Where:** Coconino County Administrative Building  
219 E. Cherry Street

### Notable Quotable:

"It's not that we are men or women that matters, it is what we do as men and women that matters, so go out and do something that matters." **Unknown**

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## News and Views: Wind, Open Spaces & Water

**Flagstaff, Arizona --Public Meeting to be held Monday, May 9, 2005 at the County Administration Center, 219 E. Cherry Street, 7:00 p.m.**

### Diablo Trust/Bar T Bar Ranch Wind Energy, Open Space & Water Proposal

What are the water options and alternative sources in Northern Arizona? What is the difference between water rights and actual water? What is a regional solution for water and why is it so hard to achieve? What are the opportunities to help save and fund open space? A public forum described in part as a short course in Water 101 will be hosted by the Diablo Trust, a northern Arizona collaborative land management team on Monday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the Coconino County Board of Supervisors meeting room, 219 East Cherry.

With an emphasis on water, the purpose of the meeting is to present a plan proposed by the Bar T Bar Ranch, to provide wind energy, open space and water for the City of Flagstaff. According to Mandy Metzger, director of the Diablo Trust, **the proposed project will provide benefits to the public in terms of additional water supply, an alternate energy supply, conservation of open space and the maintenance of healthy watersheds.**

The Bar T Bar Ranch, owned by **Bob and Judy Prosser**, is a historic northern Arizona ranch and provides a portion of the private land base in the Diablo Trust land management area.

Speakers for the public forum include: **William Greenslade**, senior hydrologist, Southwest Ground-water Consultants, Inc. and principle investigator for ground water on the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's *Western Navajo and Hopi Water Supply Study*; **Herb Dishlip**, engineer and former ADWR Assistant Director for Statewide Planning responsible for water planning and water quality protection programs; **David Brown**, water attorney and member of the Apache County Board of Supervisors; and, **Michael Anable**, former Arizona State Land Commissioner.

"We have assembled an experienced and extremely knowledgeable team of experts to help guide the Bar T Bar Ranch in its efforts to provide sustainable open space and a good quality water source to Flagstaff residents," **Bob Prosser** said. "These are critical needs for the future of northern Arizona and we want to discuss our piece of a regional solution in an open and creative manner. Given Flagstaff, Coconino County, and Diablo Trust's outstanding statewide reputations for being on the cutting edge of collaborative resource planning, I think this project [wind, open space and water] can be a win-win for all of us."



## Getting to Know..... William Towler

**Bill Towler** was born in Pennsylvania but was brought up in Connecticut (Stamford and Cheshire), Massachusetts (Needham), and New Jersey (Chatham). His first foray to the West was in 1963 with two busloads of Boy Scouts visiting



Philmont in New Mexico. After graduation from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island in 1970 with a degree in applied mathematics, he was unable to find just the right job and decided to go on a road trip with a high school and Boy Scout friend. He and Richard spent three months in the southwest including two weeks in Death Valley and two weeks at the Grand Canyon. Bill got a job at the El Tovar in 1971 beginning his residency in Arizona.

Following a year at the Canyon and an extended trip to Europe, he returned to the area and began work as a bartender at the Monte Vista in downtown Flagstaff. After bartending and a variety of other odd jobs including a stint at the DA Ranch in Page Springs, where he learned a bit about cows and irrigated pasture, he went to Tucson and obtained a master's degree in geography from UofA. He then got a job at NACOG doing environmental planning with an emphasis on protecting water quality. In 1985 he started at Coconino County as Community Development Director, and throughout his almost 20-year career there has been interested in protecting the vast landscapes and the natural environment that draws most residents to the County.

His involvement with the ranches and with the Diablo Trust began with the county comprehensive planning process. Besides having Mandy Metzger and Bill Cordasco of Babbitt Ranches on the plan steering committee, he met with the large property owners (the ranchers) to discuss ways of keeping the ranches intact and economically viable. After the plan was done he worked with Mandy on the designation of the Diablo Canyon Rural Planning Area, and has since been working with the entire county planning staff on completing the RPA plan, "A Toolbox for Change." The project has been fun and exciting to work on, and hopefully will lead to the implementation of economic ventures that will help sustain the ranches and the Diablo Trust.



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

What a difference a year makes! It has been since 1998 that we have seen this much water in the tanks and the ditches. With around 20 to 24 inches in the high country and 10 to 15 inches in the lower country things look a lot different that last year. It's still a little early to know what kind of growth spring will make on the mountain, but in the lower country the cool season grasses and the browse are really getting with it.

March 17 is known as the "wearing of the green" day, but on the ranches it is the start of the "chasing of the green" days. This time of year when the old feed has lost most of its nutritional value and the green feed has started growth but doesn't have much volume yet due to cool temperatures, both livestock and wildlife quit the old feed and start running from green plant to green plant. Sort of like kids at an Easter Egg hunt, by the end of April the temperature and volume have caught up and everybody is happy.

Anderson Canyon ran water for around 60 days and as of April 16, Kinnikinick ditch is still running a small head. The Kinnikinick canyon ditch has run for over 100 days! I don't think that has happened much in the last seven years. So to all the Diablo Trusters and other volunteers who have been so much help in the last few years with the water hauling, tank setting up, pumping and bog fencing, take a well deserved year off. Thanks so much, and let's all get together this summer and just stand and look at full waterholes.

Calving is in full swing and even beginning to slow down now, with a lot of little calves racing around. Can branding and moving up the mountain be far behind? With a good calf crop, good cattle prices, water and green grass, 2005 will probably be a year to remember.

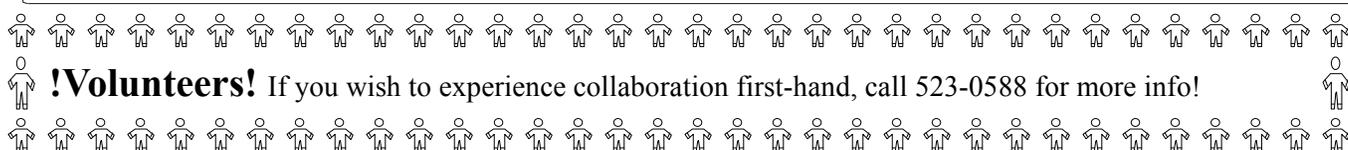
On Flying M we saw the first antelope fawn on April 14<sup>th</sup>. One of the does had twins last year so we are keeping our eyes out for her again. All the antelope we have seen all winter have looked in good shape and they've had green filleree and other Forbes high enough to graze since February. Deer looked good all winter and the elk came off the mesa, then went up, only to come down again. When Anderson Mesa gets a good cover of snow the elk will come off in pretty big bunches, and then go back up soon as the snow melts back a little.

Some of the Habitat Projects started last year had to hold off for a while this winter due to wet ground conditions, but resumed this spring. Chaining on Bar T Bar is done, and the Agri-Axe work is going again around Melbourne and Chavez Pass area. AG&F had their hand crews in that area last fall working up or "down" some of the small junipers. With more and more of the grassland restored, it will be interesting to watch the movements of the antelope, and how they use the new open areas.

Now we all look forward to getting the cattle up on the mountain, and good summer rains. The land will make a big step back in condition on this winters moisture, but one wet winter will not erase all of the effects of the years 1999-2002. It didn't take long to make a leap backwards on our land goals but with good steps and planning we will be able to steadily work our way back and forward again. After all nothing stands still in nature so we better be ready to move with it again.

## Recap of Recent Diablo Trust Meetings

The **Annual Meeting** on February 25th and 26th was one of our best ever. Over seventy people were in attendance to participate in information sessions and a round table discussion on the topic of "Common Cents: Avoiding the Tragedy of the Commons through Collaboration". Facilitator, **Dennis Moroney** of the Cross U Ranch has been with the Trust since day one helping our annual meetings run smoothly and this was no exception. Presentations from many agency experts, NAU faculty and local artists, showed past, present and future collaborative efforts. We left with newfound hope for the future and a long list of things to do. (Continued on page 4)



**!Volunteers!** If you wish to experience collaboration first-hand, call 523-0588 for more info!

## Let's Get Back To The Land, Folks

The Diablo Trust Monthly Meeting in May will be the first of many to get us all back out on the land.

**Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.** we'll meet out at the Flying M Ranch Headquarters .

We will begin the day, "Learning About Livestock". Come see a day in the life of a rancher and their best friend, the cow.

We will also be learning about the marketing and breeding programs of the Bar T Bar and Flying M Ranches.

After lunch we will take a short tour to see Yeager Lake. We went in 2004, but the lake was dry, so we want to take a look at it this year after all of the winter precipitation.

So bring a sack lunch and be prepared to learn a lot and have fun too!

**Directions to the Flying M Ranch Headquarters:** Get off I-40 at the Twin Arrows exit head south on dirt road approximately 16 miles to the Y in the road where the sign points left to Flying M and go 2 miles to the Headquarters. The corrals are south of the house so just drive through the yard, by the shop building and down to the corrals. It takes about one hour from Flagstaff. We will be in the corrals.

**Stay tuned because we have more exciting days scheduled to get us all out of the office and back out on the land!**



## More News and Views:

### Sunshine Wind Park Receives County Approval



Northern Arizona is poised to take a leadership role in achieving the Western Governors' Association goal for clean, secure and diversified energy. During a five-hour public hearing Tuesday evening, the Coconino County Board of Supervisors unanimously supported the 60-megawatt Sunshine Wind Park 35 miles east of Flagstaff. "Coconino County needs to be a leader in renewable energy," said Board Chair **Elizabeth Archuleta**. "This is an incredible opportunity for our County and the right thing to do." The Board deliberated on balancing scenic corridors with renewable energy, and ruled 3-2 to uphold the Planning & Zoning Commission's unanimous position to approve turbines on both the north and south sides of I-40. Supervisors Archuleta and Hill dissented, preferring to limit turbines for the wind park south of I-40.

The proposed Sunshine Wind Park will be Arizona's first utility-scale wind power facility. Forty state-of-the-art wind turbines will generate over 130 million kilowatts of clean energy per year, equivalent to two-thirds of Flagstaff's residential needs. The wind park will be located on private lands leased from the **Bar-T-Bar Ranch, The Hopi Tribe and landowner Mitch Buckingham**. Entitlements on State Trust Parcels are under consideration. Sunshine Wind Park will be approximately 35 miles east of Flagstaff along I-40 near the Meteor Crater exit. Supervisor Hill emphasized that "we need to move renewable energy forward for the benefit of everyone on the planet." Supervisors Ryan and Taylor complimented the County Planning and Zoning Commission for their unanimous recommendation of approval for the project, concurring that they could also make the findings which the Commission affirmed on January 25. They also stated that they did not see detrimental impact to property owners in the vicinity of the project. Representatives of Sunshine Wind Park cited data from two independent studies that found no evidence that wind parks harmed property values within a five-mile viewshed. This data included an independent analysis of over 24,000 property sales within a five-mile radius of 10 wind parks in seven states, and analysis of assessed values based on interviews with county assessors from 13 counties in eight states.

The Sunshine Wind Park location was selected after two years of study for its strong wind resource, close access to an APS transmission line, dry desert habitat and associated minimal impact to wildlife, and opportunities for mixed land use including grazing, agriculture and wind energy. Ecological, avian, archaeological, cultural, historical, noise, telecommunications and aviation studies have been conducted and additional field work is being done to finalize turbine siting. For more info contact **Amy LeGere** at [amy.legere@netgenuitybiz.com](mailto:amy.legere@netgenuitybiz.com), [info@sunshinewind.com](mailto:info@sunshinewind.com)



## MORE THOUGHTS ON ARIZONA ANTELOPE FOUNDATION'S FUTURE

We remain a species specific organization, targeting Arizona's pronghorn as our primary emphasis and working on a set group of goals to help achieve those results. Along the way, we have begun to develop some partnerships with different groups that aren't just for sportsmen and women, but have the same goal of preserving places for pronghorn. This has begun to take us outside the narrow single species focus started in 1992. Is that a bad thing, - hardly - as long as we can keep our goals and objectives in mind in the process!

In 1991 the **North American Pronghorn Foundation (NAPF)** was begun, seemingly a national response to what the AAF was to embark upon locally. While remnants of the NAPF apparently remain, the organization has been essentially dormant for some time now.

Then in 2003, at least partially in response to the inaction of the NAPF, the North American Pronghorn Association (NAPA) was formed. NAPA looked like it had some early momentum, and a great looking website, but they are no longer on the web, and they too appear to have either dissolved or gone dormant. While keeping our goals in focus, the AAF has branched out with input on pronghorn inquiries around the West. We have helped sponsor the National Pronghorn Workshops held every other year, and have been recognized for our efforts here in Arizona.

We have also begun to work on habitat projects with groups considered non-traditional in the sporting sense. Groups like the **Diablo Trust** and **Grand Canyon Trust** come to mind, which we have worked with on habitat enhancement projects on Anderson Mesa. And as we move into 2005, we are working on some collaborative efforts with the **Arizona Wildlife Federation**. We remain a species specific organization, targeting Arizona's pronghorn as our primary emphasis and working on a set group of goals to help achieve those results. Along the way, we have begun to develop some partnerships with different groups that aren't just for sportsmen and women, but have the same goal of preserving places for pronghorn. This has begun to take us outside the narrow single species focus started in 1992. Is that a bad thing, - hardly - as long as we can keep our goals and objectives in mind in the process!

The AAF reached some new heights in 2004, notably the enormous undertaking of our own fundraising banquet. By all accounts our "First Ever" was a fantastic success! Our Second Annual Fundraiser is set for August 6, 2005, and we anticipate this event will be as good as or better than our first! We have opportunities out there we could use some help on.

So if you're inclined contact us at [azantelope@cox.net](mailto:azantelope@cox.net) and to read this article in full, please see our website.

**JIM UNMACHT, AAF**

## Recap of Recent Diablo Trust Meetings (continued from page two)

VALLEY OF THE GODS - By: Mary Rabe

What feels intimate with an expansive vista? A meeting of Diablo Trust?

Well, yes, that, and the view from the veranda at the Valley of the Gods Bed and Breakfast. The Valley of the Gods Bed and Breakfast is a remote retreat. It is nestled at the base of Cedar Mesa at the bottom of the Moki Dugway on Utah Rt. 261 in the Valley of the Gods, claiming Monument Valley and Mexican Hat as neighbors.

In early April, Diablo Trust members met at the Valley of the Gods B&B with Colorado Ranchers and Monument Valley environmentalists to discuss holistic ranch management. Our hosts were Claire and Gary Dorgan, two of some of the original Diablo Trust posse'. We huddled around a kitchen table in this 1933 home-steaded ranch-house, sipping coffee and sharing our individual and collective visions about our respective local lands. We gave voice to various practical and impractical methods of resource management and the rewards and risks of new ranching ventures. Most interesting were the diverse challenges facing each from the Mogollon Rim to Utah's Four Corners and the Animas Valley in Colorado. We ended our meeting our bellies full of James Ranch beyond-organic beef and cheese.

The beauty of the valley might have been missed if we hadn't taken time to drive the lone 17-mile loop traversing dry washes and passing rays of red dirt darting from the main road inviting us to explore more. With this year's abundant winter rains the orange and red Indian Paintbrush, and violet Scorpion were just beginning to flush. Along the loop, just off Utah Rt. 261, we took a side road that ended at Goose Necks State Park. We stood at the edge of the overhang leaning into the high winds to peer at the San Juan River, a muddy ribbon beneath vibrant ocher and umber stripes of sandstone.

Back at the Valley of the Gods B&B we warmed ourselves by the fireplace and made plans to return. Thank you to Claire and Gary Dorgan for a wonderfully warm welcome and filling our hearts with memories we'll keep stoked until our next visit.



Valley of the Gods Bed and Breakfast: Valley of the Gods Road, Mexican Hat; [www.valleyofthegods.cjb.net](http://www.valleyofthegods.cjb.net).



## Diablo Canyon Rural Planning Area Update,

by Bill Towler, Coconino County Community Development

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, the final draft of the RPA plan was presented at the Diablo Trust Annual Meeting. All those in attendance were encouraged to provide comments. The agenda item was entitled “**A Toolbox for Change**“, an appropriate title since it is really not a plan as much as a description of a variety of viable economic options that rural property owners could use to provide alternate sources of income. Economic options include **value-added beef, tourism, recreation and education, wood products, energy development, and limited housing development.**

**Energy Development** is already moving forward with the County Board of Supervisors approval on April 5th of a wind farm on Bar T Bar lands (See page three of this newsletter for more details).

**Value-Added Beef** most likely means the formation of a cooperative with use of a marketing plan such as that developed by **Gary Nabhan** of **The Center for Sustainable Environments**, to sell beef at a premium through special controlled cattle production techniques and direct-marketing of the final product.

**Tourism** opportunities include: equestrian activities, jeep or other tours, limited lodging opportunities, for example use of line shacks or small cabins for hunters or use of ranch buildings as B&B’s, and festivals and special events. There is also the potential for a museum or cultural or scientific center to showcase the history of ranching, archeology, or alternative energy.

**Wood Products** offers not so much an opportunity to generate significant amounts of revenue as for the means to pay for tree removal and range improvement and grassland restoration. Options include firewood, logs and poles, provision of wood for specialty products such as furniture, and sale of wood for bio-mass energy development.

**Housing Development** could mean the sale of a very limited number of home-sites where the purchasers would enjoy some right to use the remaining ranchlands and purchasers would buy into a program to provide sustaining funds for the management of the lands. The idea is that a very small amount of land is sold in order to retain the vast majority of open space.

A map has been produced that outlines the areas on each ranch that could be utilized for each of the above uses, especially energy development, tourism and housing that could change the character of the lands. The remainder of the lands could be designated for conservation.

After goals, policies and an action plan are incorporated into the **Toolbox for Change**, the final document should be completed this summer.

### Odds’ N’ Ends: Diablo Trust Report

We are pleased to announce that **Jack Metzger** was appointed to the **Governor’s Forest Health Oversight Council** !

We feel indeed fortunate to announce that **Mary Rabe** has joined the lean, mean Diablo Trust staff on a part time basis. Mary will work primarily with **Mandy Metzger** in the area of Resource Development.

The **Diablo Trust IMfoS (Integrated Monitoring for Sustainability) Project** is underway. We have covered and discussed a lot of material on the utility of the monitoring tool - the Holistic Ecosystem Health Indicator (HEHI) -and its relevance to Diablo Trust goals; reached an understanding and agreement on the categories included in the tool; and agreed to work together to implement it over the next year. We have many upcoming volunteer opportunities available, so if you want some hands on range monitoring experience, give us a call at 523-0588. Thanks to **Tischa Munoz-Erickson** and the **NAU Sisk Lab** for all of your hard work!

The **Environmental Impact Statement for Bar T Bar and Anderson Springs Allotment Management Plan** is still at the regional office awaiting final editing and printing. We will keep you posted!

We’d like to thank everyone who has helped with the Diablo Trust Website: **Tom Gewecke** for hosting and updating for many years. **John Grahame** for designing the new site. And **Aspect One** for housing the new website as a public service.

To see our new look go to [www.diablotrust.org](http://www.diablotrust.org)!

### **!MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!**

**May 9** – Public Meeting on Wind, Open Space & Water (see page one for details)

**May 13** – DT Monthly Meeting/ Day on the Land

**June 10** – DT Monthly Meeting /Science & Monitoring Day

**July 8** – DT Monthly Meeting/ Monitoring Day on Land

**August 19** – DT Monthly Meeting/Campout

**September 9 &10** – Range Health Workshop w/ Kirk Gadza hosted by the Hyde Mountain Vista Group

*For more detailed information about upcoming events, please visit our website at [www.diablotrust.org](http://www.diablotrust.org)*

### Money Matters

Your donations enable the Diablo Trust to continue its efforts to provide the community with a “Living Laboratory” - to welcome diverse points of view, promote research, and explore innovative ways to help all of us live in harmony with the land.

*Tax-deductible donations may be sent to:*

*The Diablo Trust  
Post Office Box 3058*

### *Diablo Trust Working Groups and Chairpersons*

Education – **Norm Wallen/Norm Lowe**

Website – **Tom Gewecke**

Watershed – **Jack Metzger & Bob Prosser**

Economic Diversification – **Norm Lowe**

Wildlife – **Cathy Taylor**

Science and Monitoring – **Tom Sisk/Norm Wallen**

Maps – **Doc Smith**

Rural Planning Area – **Carl Taylor**

Diablo Trust Artists Program – **Rachel Wilson**

Operating Team – **Carl Taylor, Bill Towler, Norm Lowe, Norm**

**Wallen, Mandy Metzger, Flying M Ranch, Bar T Bar**

Roads – **Jack Metzger**

# The Diablo Trust



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

The Diablo Trust  
*The Diablo Canyon Group, Inc.*  
P.O. Box 3058  
Flagstaff, AZ 86003  
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Flagstaff, AZ  
Permit No. 387

## *Mark Your Calendar!*

**Water Meeting: May 9 @ 7pm at  
The Board of Supervisors mtg room  
For a Day on the Land: May 13**

## *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:**

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[www.diablotrust.org](http://www.diablotrust.org)**

Norm Lowe, President   Mandy R. Metzger, Director   Hadassah Holland, Administrative & Program Manager   Mary Rabe, Resource Development

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