What good is a ranch if you don’t raise cows?

Linda Kennedy, Ph.D., Director
Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch
National Audubon Society
You can produce DATA!
And
PUBLISH
And
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch

8000 acres +/-

National Audubon Society
U.S. Forest Service
Bureau of Land Management
Resolution Copper Company
The Nature Conservancy
The Research Ranch Foundation

Ariel and Frank Appleton’s Vision and Generosity
Where do the researchers come from?

- P.I.s last 12 months
  - 6 agencies
  - 12 colleges and universities
  - 3 independent
  - 2 NGOs

P.I. only
Why conduct research at the Research Ranch?

8000 acre exclosure, surrounded by ranches, some development
= opportunities for cross-fence comparison

Reference area
Control site
Range of habitat types

Elevation
1417 m - 1541 m

San Pedro /Babacomari Watershed
Biologically Rich

- 586 Plant Species (+1)
- 38 Grasshopper Species
- 231 Bird Species
- 51 Herp Species
- 46 Mammal Species
Apacheria Fellowship Program

Travis Naumann –
Univ. of Arizona

Pedro Chavarria –
Texas A & M
Support for Research

Meteorological information
National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration
USDA-ARS
Soils and Ecological Site Descriptions
On site herbarium w/flora
Annotated bibliography
Fire history
Monitoring
  – Precipitation
  – Depth to groundwater
  – Vegetation
Housing Available on Site

- Bunkhouse
- Swinging H
- Casita

Wi Fi (most of the time!)
Grazing

Domestic Livestock

Native Herbivores
Invasive Species

Audubon Research Ranch Exotic Grasses

1985 Landsat Image Classification

2000 GPS Collected Classification
Exurbanization
Fire
What’re the results so far?

179 Publications in our library
Peer Reviewed
Thesis or Dissertations
Books or Chapters

Plus Agency Reports
Conference Posters and Presentations
Publications associated with the Research Ranch

- Plants: 61
- Insects: 15
- Birds: 53
- Mammals: 16
- Herps: 13
- Other: 21

http://researchranch.audubon.org/library
OUTREACH

Living Gently on the Land

Potluck & Presentations
Ron Pulliam

Ecology and Distribution of Desert Grassland Birds
Coming Attractions!

- Mark Stromberg & Ward Brady
  - What the Ranch was like in the ’80s
- Jake Weltzin
  - Phenology Network
- Gary Nabhan
  - Something Interesting
The Sonoita Valley Planning Partnership (SVPP) is a voluntary ad hoc association, created in 1995 in response to BLM's initiation of a collaborative planning process for Las Cienegas National Conservation Area. The Science on the Sonoita Plain symposiums bring together and share the results of scientific investigations relevant to the SVPP.

Quarterly Meeting of Sonoita Valley Planning Partnership
June 4, 2011
At the Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch of the National Audubon Society
8:30am Sign in, enjoy coffee and light refreshments
9:00am Welcome - Linda Kennedy, Director, Research Ranch
SVPP announcements - Nettie Sletkids
CWP announcements - Jeff Williamson, Shela McFarlin
9:15am Assessing Ecological Water Needs for Arizona, Joanna Nadeau, University of Arizona
9:50am Intermittent and Ephemeral Streams - Their "Day in the Sun." Julie Stromberg, Arizona State University; Michael Denslow; Gabriele Katz
10:45am Back Then: Enriching our understanding of the watershed through their stories. Shela McFarlin, Cienega Watershed Partnership; JJ Lamb, Vail Preservation Society, Alison Bunting, Empire Ranch Foundation
11:20am Desert Pupfish Reintroductions. Ross Timmons, Arizona Game and Fish Department
12:00 Pupfish Release, followed by Lunch and Poster Session in the Barn
1:20pm 25 Years of Science and Management Cooperation - BLM and Audubon
Linda Kennedy, Director, Research Ranch; Tom Dabbs, District Manager, BLM
With special guests: Dean Bibles, Henri Bisson, Glen Collins
2:00pm Celebratory Cake and Ice Cream!
2:25pm Constructing Regional Scenario Narratives to Confront Deep Uncertainty. Holly C. Hartmann, Director, Arid Lands Information Center, University of Arizona
3:50pm Scenario Planning Discussion
4:15pm Wrap Up

Arizona's water needs are discussed by Nadeau. McFarlin, Bunting and Lamb share progress on oral history project. Stromberg explains the importance of streams that are not perennial. Hartmann and Briggs lead discussion on scenario planning. Participants enjoyed the poster session and lunch in the barn.
http://researchranch.audubon.org