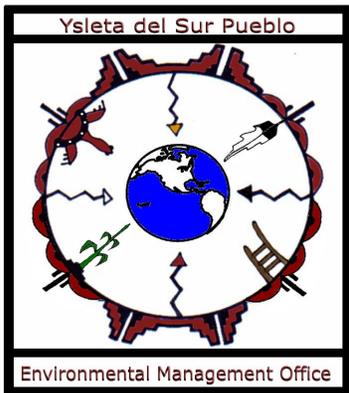


Environmental Journal

SPRING 2012

“Key Nam Key Weh E” This Is Our Mother Earth



In our continuing efforts to provide outreach to Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo community the Environmental Management Office hosted its yearly “Key Nam Key Weh E” (This Is Our Mother Earth) Earth Week Celebration. In honor of Earth Day the EMO reserved full week of events and activities for the Tuy Pathu Daycare/ Preschool, After School Program, Elders Club, YDSP employees, and the community as well. Assisting the EMO department in preparing and organizing events for the celebration was the EMO’s AmeriCorps member Ivonne Mata. Ms. Mata was assigned a number of tasks to complete for the initial planning process

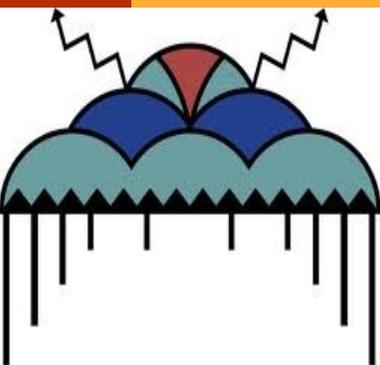
Kicking off the Earth Week celebration was the reading to our tots at the Tuy Pathu Daycare on April 16th that was intended to educate them on the effects of pollution on fish. This was illustrated by reading the story of “Freddie the Fish” and allowing the children to take part while “Freddy” travels downstream. As a department, we feel that it is important to educate the Pueblo’s youth that even the smallest lives are impacted by the decisions we make daily. The next activity was the viewing of the movie “Wow! Wow! Wubbzy!: Wubbzy Goes

Green” which taught the children what you can and cannot recycle. It is important to teach the Pueblo’s children good environmental habits that they will remember and practice as they mature. The following afternoon the department returned to the Tuy Pathu Daycare and explained to them the meaning of Earth Day, conducted a seed potting activity for the children to take home and care for.

The next couple of days the EMO held numerous activities for the children that varied from the El Paso Zoo to the El Paso Water Utilities. Our first presentation was on April 19th, the El Paso Water Utilities who was accompanied by Wilie the Water Drop. The friendly water drop taught the Pre-K a fun and interactive way about water conservation and tips about what they can do at home such as not leaving the water running when brushing your (Continued on Page 2)

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New AmeriCorps Member - Ivonne Mata

Currently, our newest enrolled Americore member is Ivonne Mata. Mrs. Mata serves in the Environmental Management Office as an Environmental Correspondent and Educator. In preparing Mrs. Mata to perform the tasks of the position she was granted, Mrs. Mata has been introduced the Tribal lands as well as the struggles and accomplishments the Pueblo people have overcome. Mrs. Mata most recently assisted in maintaining and scheduling events and activities for the EMO's largest educational outreach event of the year, Key Nam Key Weh E. The phrase, "Key Nam Key Weh E" means "This Is Our Mother Earth" in Tiwa which is our mantra for the EMO's Earth Week celebration. The program also challenged her in daily activities that allowed her to use the AmeriCorps Workbook proficiently. Ivonne is a student at the University of Texas at El Paso where she is pursuing her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a Minor in Communications. One of Mrs. Mata's main goals when seeking her choice of career was finding one that allowed her to better her community. The AmeriCorps program allows her to do so by providing outreach to the YDSP community in an environmental friendly way. It has also allowed her to challenge herself and helps her in finding her potential and motivation to keep pursuing her higher education goals. Mrs. Mata states, "It is not only a pleasure but an honor to be working for the



(Continued From Page 1) teeth. Different approaches were used to provide outreach to the children by using an earth friendly recycling game, and hands on activities such as creating Earth picture frames and coloring in the "Happy Earth Day" activities book. In these presentations the After School Program . A special surprise awaited them after when the zoo volunteers were finished with the presentations. The wild life experts introduced the children live animals from both the Chihuahuan Desert . During the time that the Earth Day activities were being held the community contest flyer was posted at all tribal buildings in order to save paper and gas as well as sent through e-mail. The contest consisted of a Poster contest with the purpose of encouraging and promoting inspiration and awareness of the duty we have to our planet. Once again, Speaking Rock was the judges for the contestant's works of art. The winners were as followed: 1st The Cano Family 2nd place Papui & Xierra, 3rd place Luna Family and Shane Avalos. We would like to thank our Elders for participating in our events as well as the YDSP community members, Tuy Pathu Daycare, the After School Program, and the YDSP staff who participated as well. We hope to improve and have additional participation next year. Hurkem!

Habitat Development at Chilicote Ranch

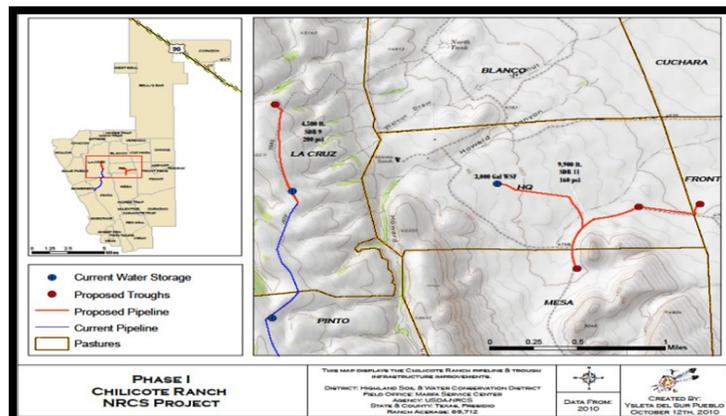
The Environmental Management Office has been working with the Chilicote Ranch manager in providing technical support in the areas of planning, budget development rental client support and grant participation. As part of these efforts, the department has continued to work closely with partner agencies at both the State and Federal level. One important partnership has been with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and an agency managed under it, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The Ranch has been successful in participating in NRCS projects that have helped fund water Infrastructure expansion at the Ranch. By participating in the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), the ranch has improved watering facilities in in many pastures that had little or no water resources. The inclusion of water infrastructure included the installation of nearly 5 miles of polyethylene water lines, four 500 gallon capacity concrete watering troughs, and one 5,000 gallon capacity water tank.

Currently, the Environmental Management Office is working with the ranch in applying for additional EQIP funding to fund the retrofit of water wells so that they can run on solar power. The Ranch recently retrofitted a water well with solar panels, instead of making additional expenses for repairing a problematic windmill that needed a great deal of work. The Ranch Manager contracted a local contractor to conduct the retrofit. Additionally, the department and the ranch are applying for EQIP funding to help fund the application of an herbicide that will control for creosote in areas that are very dense with this invasive bush. Controlling for creosote with this this herbicide is a safe option for the environment and will help to promote the growth of native grasses and shrubs normally choked out by the dense creosote root system.

The Environmental Management Office is also working with the Ranch to apply for and participate in another NRCS project called the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Under this program the ranch will receive annual payments for operation-level environmental practices. Through this program, the Ranch will receive payments for undertaking conservation activities and improving, maintaining and managing existing conservation activities. The Ranch is planning on participating in the following activities:

1. Water quality enhancement activities- specifically the rotation of supplement and feeding areas for livestock
2. Animal Enhancement Activity- Monitoring nutritional status of livestock using the Nutritional Balance (Nutbal Pro) system
3. Animal Enhancement Activity- Retrofitting watering facilities for wildlife escape
4. Animal Enhancement Activity- Grazing management to improve wildlife habitat

As the applications for participation in the EQIP and CSP program progress the department will continue to share these developments. Should you have any questions please feel free to call the Environmental Department offices at 915-859-7913.





Chilicote News

Summer is just around the corner and the Chilicote Ranch is scheduled to open in the month of June for Tribal Members to utilize! Originally, the Ranch was scheduled to open in May, but was postponed and placed under Wildfire Advisory due to the surrounding wild fires in the Jeff Davis County. These fires were triggered by two lightnings and charred 24,000 acres in drought-stricken West Texas and with winds associated with thunderstorm activities it made it difficult to hold the fire, threatening many homes, buildings, wildlife, and surrounding ranches. We are happy to report that conditions have improved and the ranch has received some rainfall! Hopefully, these conditions will remain, but remember, Mother Nature is known to change her mind!

Rental Season is June - September. As it has been in the past, weekends are available by Raffle selection to ensure that every Tribal Member, Head of Household receives a fair chance. (all entries were to be submitted by April 26th, 2012). Week days (Monday - Thursday) are available on a first come first serve basis. The Rental Fee is \$250.00 and a deposit of \$150.00 is required on all reservations.

We look forward to the opening of the Ranch and promote safety for tribal members and their guest visiting and wildlife at the Ranch. Should you have additional concerns or questions, you may call the **Environmental Management Office at (915) 859-7913** or by email at egomez@ydsp-nsn.gov.





US Fish and Wildlife: Tribal Wildlife Grant

The Environmental Management Office (EMO) was recently awarded a US Fish and Wildlife: Tribal Wildlife Grant (TWG) in the amount of \$188,273.00. This project will permit the EMO to create a formal Conservation Plan for Mule deer and Pronghorn antelope populations within Chilicote Ranch through establishment of systems for baseline inventories and designation of conservation/rehabilitation areas for the Mule deer and Pronghorn antelope populations. This will make funds available for the Pueblo to assist to maintain and further develop habitat support for populations of these species. This grant will also let the EMO purchase much needed equipment such as solar powered water wells, utility vehicle, passive wildlife water guzzler, supplemental deer feeders, and wildlife cameras for monitoring. The project will also allow the EMO to build capacity by means of training through partnerships with the Texas Parks and Wildlife and Sul Ross University.

Through these trainings the Pueblo will be better equipped to manage wildlife populations more efficiently and direct a more successful Mule deer and Pronghorn antelope management program. Other partnerships include the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) who will assist the Pueblo with grazing caring capacities for cattle, vegetation and land classifications. YDSP partnerships include Chilicote Ranch, Tribal Youth Council, Tribal Police and Traditional Council/Historic Preservation Office; all partners are vital to the success of this project. The project will begin in fall of 2012; the EMO will be looking for youth that are interested in environmental and natural resource sciences to aid in the installation of wildlife cameras and execution of wildlife inventories. Future announcements for these opportunities will be made available as the project work begins. For more information please contact, Andrea L. Everett at 915-859-7913.



Introducing Shanon Connelly, GIS Technician!

The Ysleta del Sur Environmental Management Office welcomes Shanon Connelly to her role as GIS Technician. Ms. Connelly recently moved to Texas from Tampa Bay, Florida. She holds a Master of Science degree in Environmental Science & Policy and a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science & Policy degree with a minor in Geography, both from University of South Florida St. Petersburg. She has previous experience using GIS for cultural resource management and archaeological investigations. In addition to GIS and geospatial analysis work, Ms. Connelly has also taught introductory environmental science courses at universities in Florida.

In her role as GIS Technician, Ms. Connelly is responsible for assisting with the maintenance as well as the coordination and development of current and new spatial and non-spatial databases of the Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo's Geographic Information System. She authored the land and property database section of the Integrated Resource Management Plan project, which will improve the efficiency and accuracy of Tribal land and property management by utilizing geographic information systems (GIS). She also contributed to the recent Earth Week activities, most notably the "Smart Shopping" demonstration for YDSP employees and the Elder's Club.

Ms. Connelly lives in El Paso with her husband, a lieutenant in the U.S. Army at Fort Bliss. She has 3 Labrador Retrievers and is active with dog rescue and adoption efforts.





Environmental Code Development Project Update

The Environmental Management Office continues to develop an Environmental Code that will best serve the Pueblo through proper environmental land use and resource protection in order to create a healthy environmentally safe place for the people of Ysleta del Sur Pueblo. We continue to work with the Environmental Code Development Committee (ECDC) to develop a code that is concise and suitable for the community and Tribal agencies to enforce. We are specifically addressing issues of permitting for businesses and contractors to assure that solid waste and construction waste is disposed of properly.

The committee is also finalizing the authority of the Environmental Regulatory Commission (ERC) that will be a commission comprised of the Office of Environmental Management, Office of Fire and Safety, Department of Housing and Department of Grounds and Maintenance. This commission will be tasked with implementing and enforcing the environmental code and regulations. The commission will also conduct inspections that are required within the Environmental Code and investigation when a complaint is observed or received by members of the ERC or another Tribal agency. The ERC will have the authority to issue citations to individuals and businesses for any violations under the code.

The ECDC is working on developing recycling language for the Environmental Code, as well as making recycling mandatory within all Tribal buildings and Tribal businesses. We are also working towards permitting for Tribal community members that will have to adhere to regulations on vehicle repairs in order to maintain vehicles and not allow them to become a "junk vehicle". A junk vehicle policy is being developed and will be enforced once the Environmental Code is complete. Through our baseline surveys we established that this is an issue that is very important to the Tribal Community.

Lastly, we have begun working on the Natural Resource and Energy Efficiency section of the Environmental Code. This section will include energy efficiency standards for Tribal buildings, hunting and harvesting, protection of plants that are of cultural significance to the Pueblo, procurement standards for plants that are indigenous and conserve water, water regulations, prohibition of ATVs in residential areas, and air standards. Councilman Trini Gonzalez has also joined our committee. Welcome Councilmen Gonzalez. We look forward to working with you. If you would like more information on the Environmental Code Development project please contact Andrea L. Everett at 915-859-7913 or by e-mail at aeverett@ydsp-nsn.gov.

