



United States Department of Agriculture

Verde NRCD – Local Work Group Meeting

NRCS's Role in the Verde Valley

Sierra Frydenlund

May 12, 2023



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History of the Agency

Soil Conservation Service

Created in 1935 under the U.S. Department of Agriculture



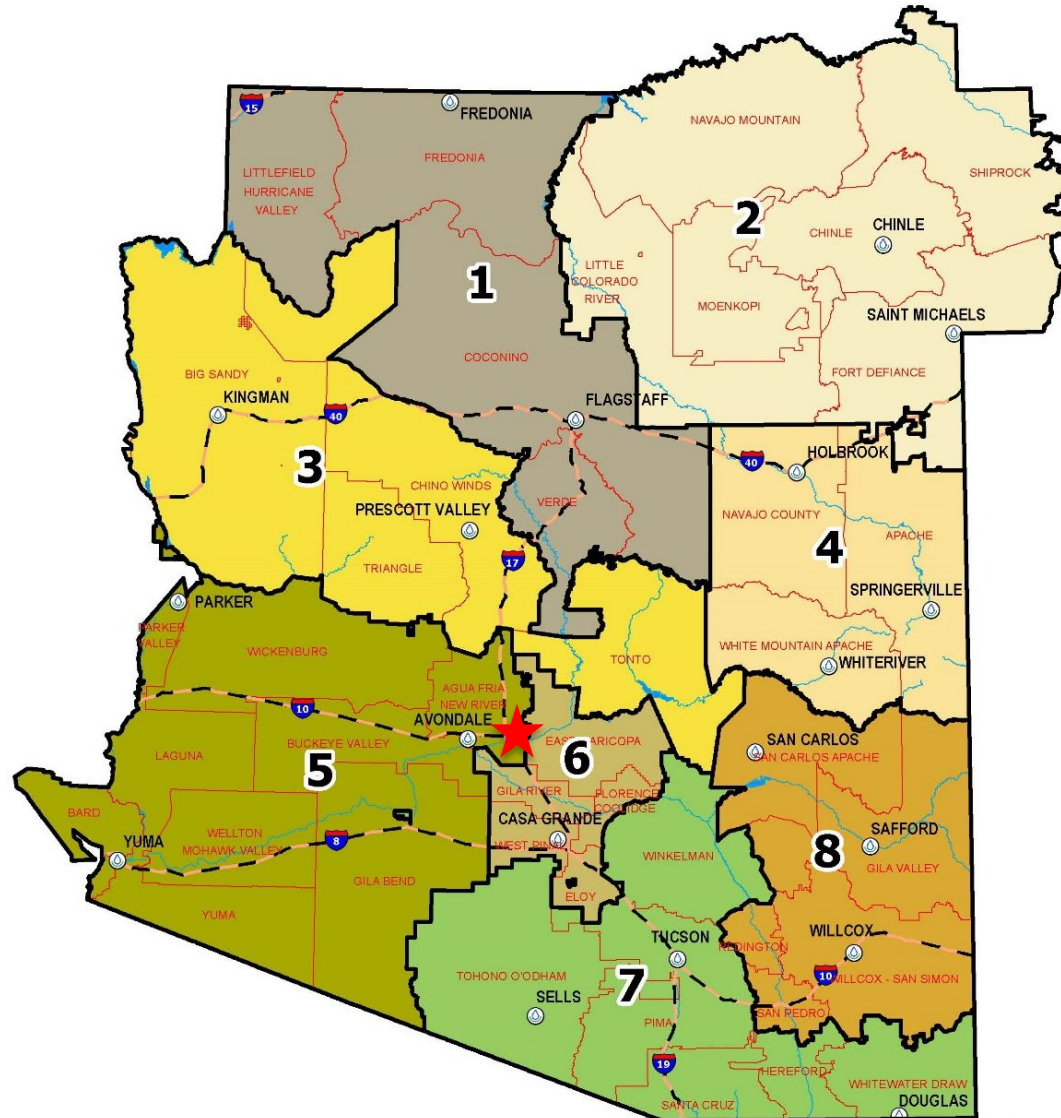
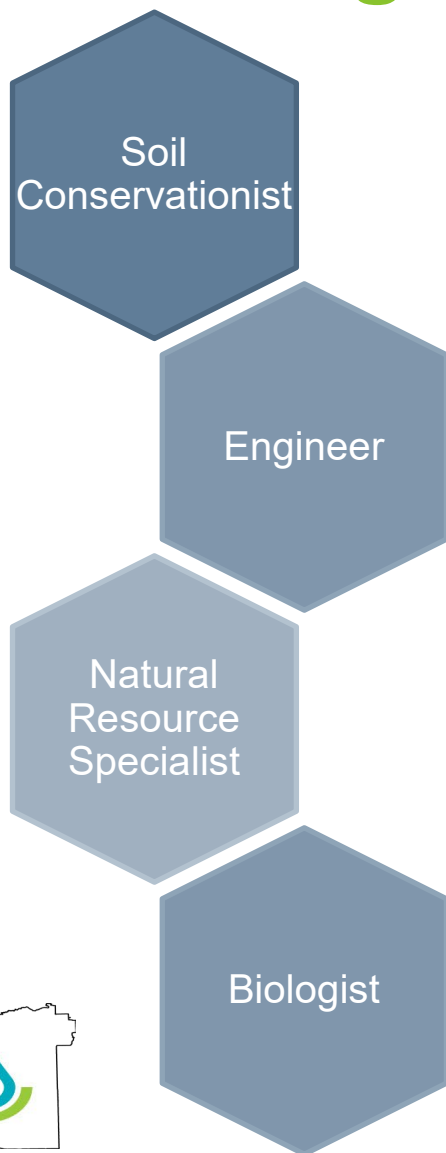
Natural Resource Conservation Service

Changed the name in 1993 to reflect the broadened scope of resource concerns.



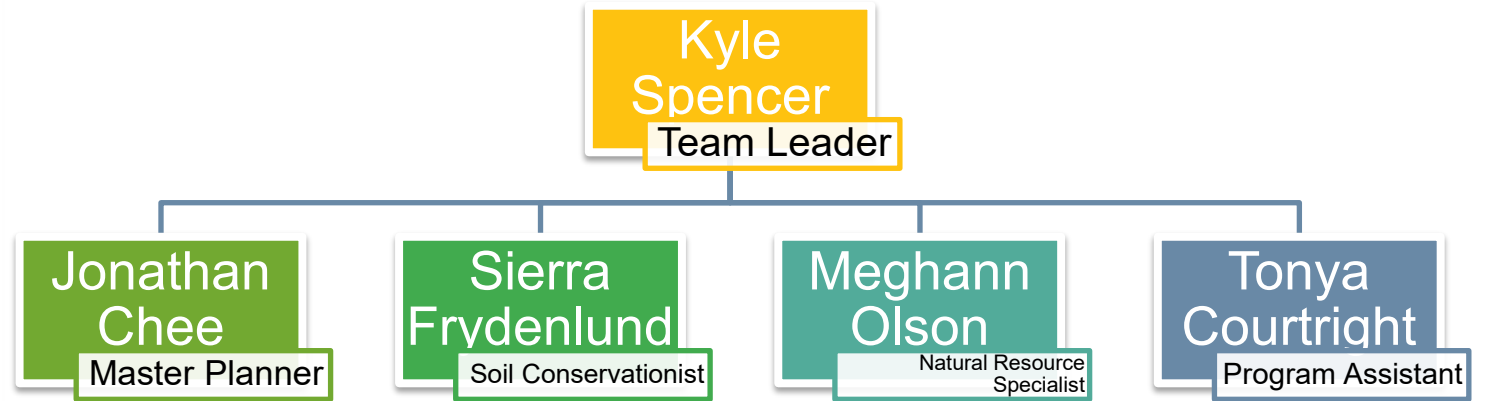
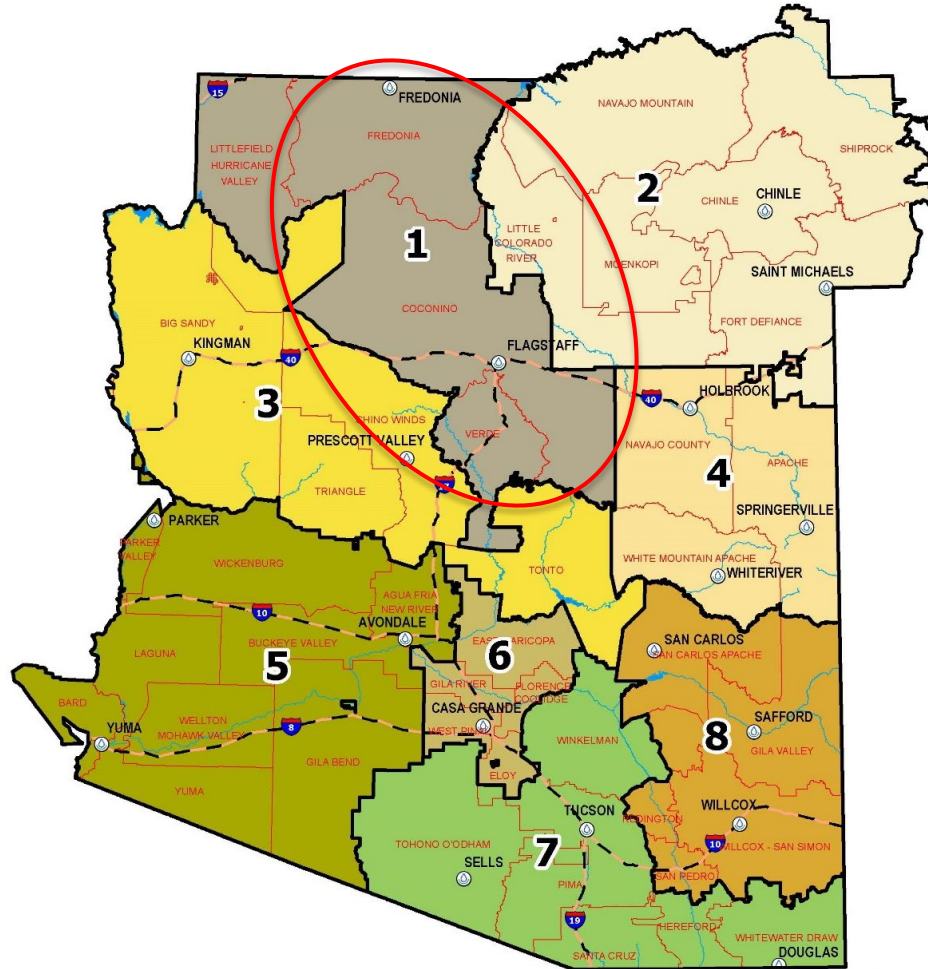
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NRCS Organization





NRCS Organization



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What does a Soil Conservationist do?



CONSERVATION PLANNING

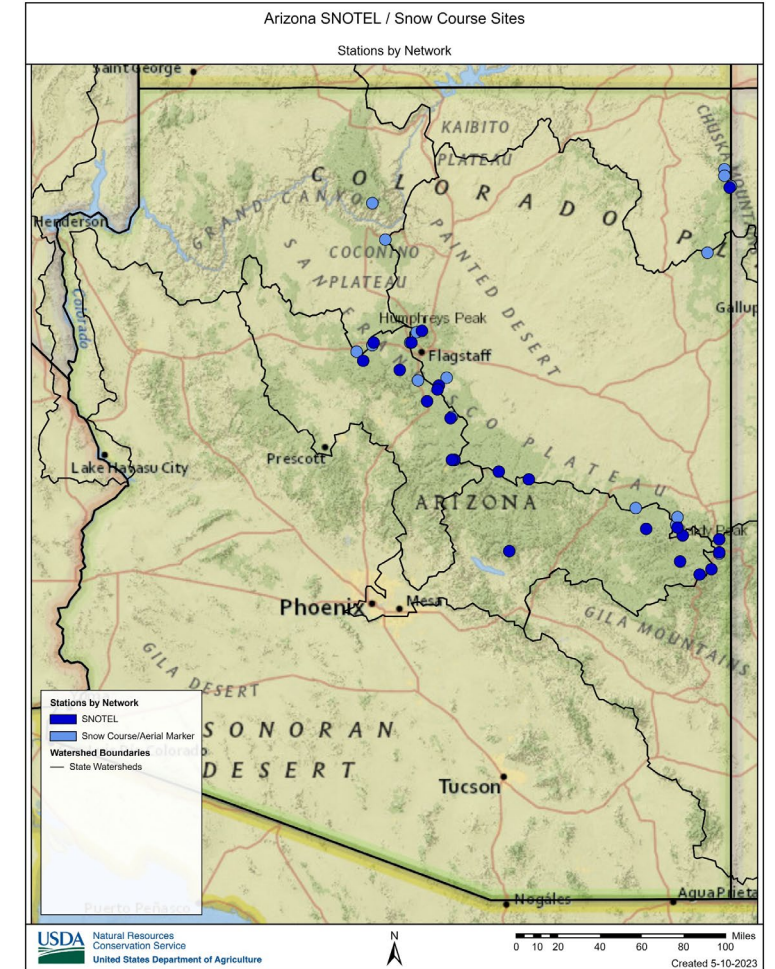
- Technical Assistance
 - Soil Surveys
 - Water Conservation Plan
- Financial Assistance
 - Environmental Quality Incentives Program
 - Regional Conservation Partners Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, Inflation Reduction Assistance, etc.



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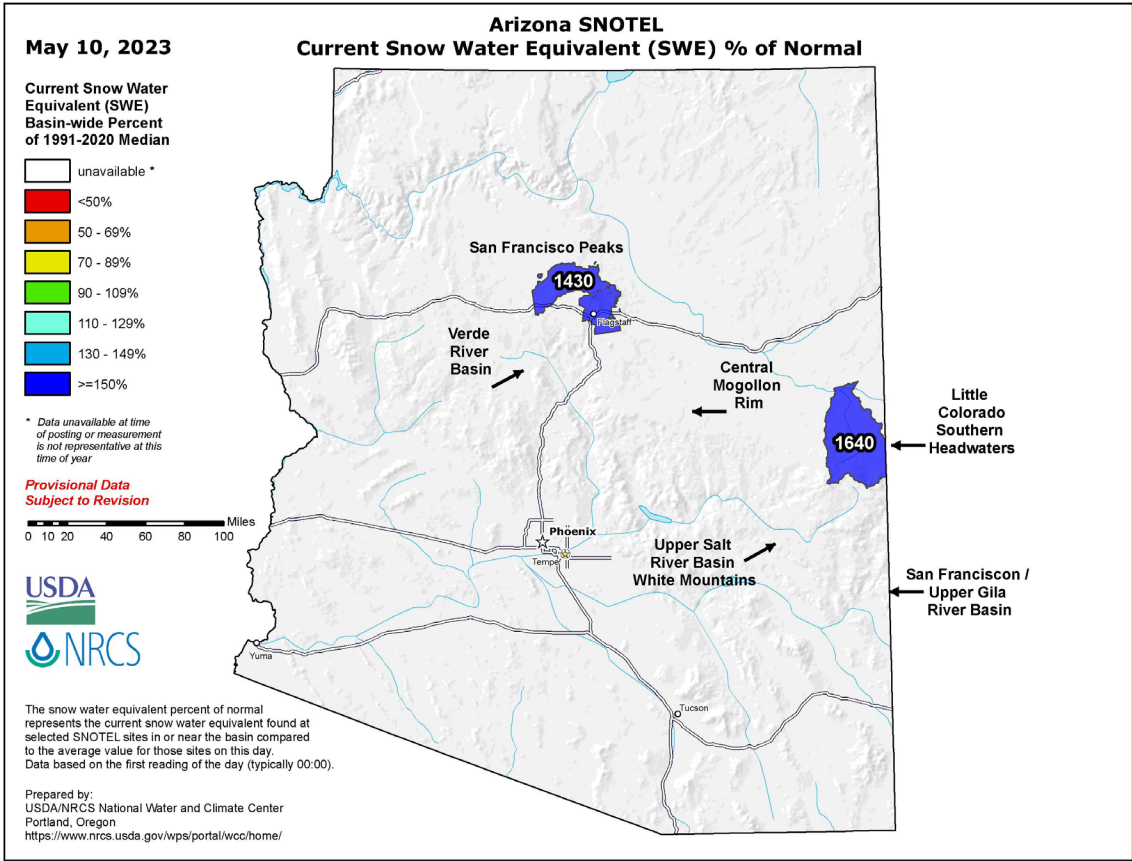
Snow Survey



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Snow Survey



Emergency Watershed Protection Program



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Emergency Watershed Protection Program

- Museum Fire EWP (Coconino County)
 - Grade stabilization structures and alluvial fan in Mt. Elden Estates
 - *Currently working on:* Sediment basin in Paradise Hills
- Pipeline Fire (Coconino County and City of Flagstaff)
 - Sandbags and concrete barriers in Timberline neighborhood
 - *Currently working on:* shotcrete channels in Timberline neighborhood
 - Sediment retention basins in Schultz Creek



Emergency Watershed Protection Program



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History of the NRCS and NRCD in the Verde Valley

Photos from 1960s to 1990s



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Verde River Days 9/30/1989



Taken by Jim Alam



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Verde River Days 9/30/1989



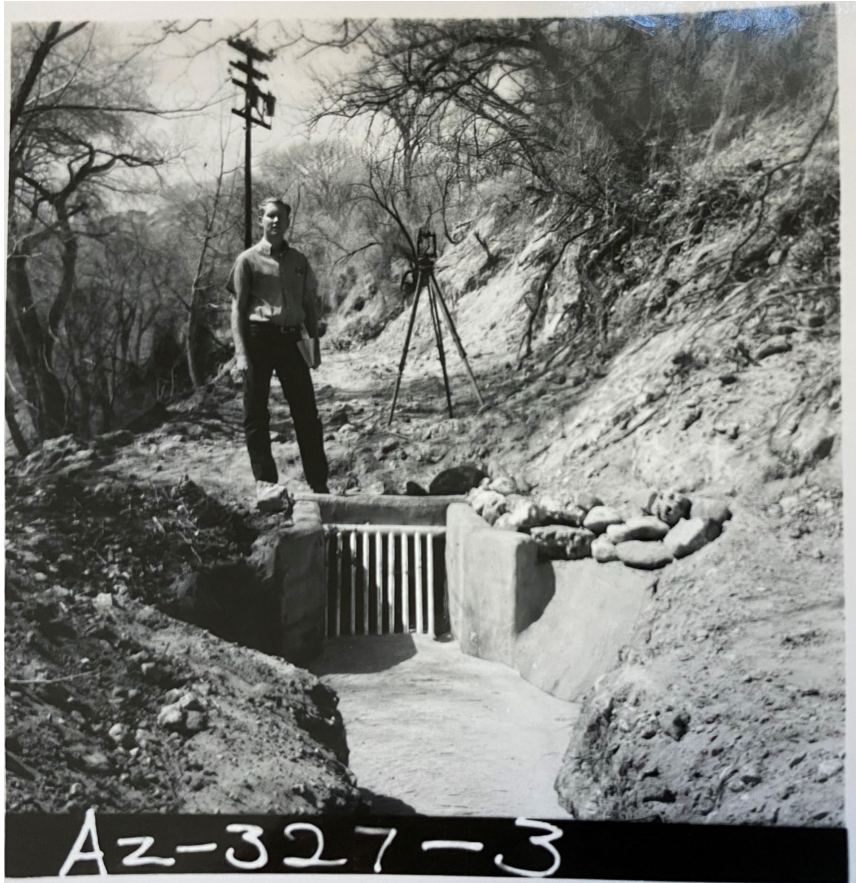
Taken by Jim Alam



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Girdner-Merritt Ditch March 1964



Taken by Charles G. Van Gorder

LEFT: Ron Whitely, SCS Engineer. Water had just been turned back into the ditch following completion of the underground pipeline.

RIGHT: Trench back-filled covering 20" concrete irrigation pipeline. Trench is about 3 ft deep. View is upstream

LOCATION: 6 miles east of Cottonwood

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Girdner-Merritt Ditch March 1964



Taken by Charles G. Van Gorder

LEFT: Dale Girdner opening gate to let ditch water escape in canyon. Glenn Gibbs on left. Flood water from canyon and hill to the rear passes under the concrete pipeline.

RIGHT: Back hole excavating a 3 ft. trench in preparation to laying 20" concrete pipeline. Soil was very sandy and quite wet due to numerous springs.

LOCATION: 6 miles east of Cottonwood

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Girdner-Merritt Ditch March 1964



Taken by Charles G. Van Gorder

Laying 20" underground concrete pipe. Note the man inside the pipe sealing the inside joints. The contractor on this job was George Stewart of Phoenix. About 725 ft of pipe was installed.

LOCATION: 6 miles east of Cottonwood

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Flood Damage November 24, 1965



Taken by Charles G. Van Gorder

Verde River in flood stage. The diversion dam is completely submerged. It consists of 40 car bodies filled with rocks. The water level is about 5 ft below dam. A dense thicket of blackberry vines are doing a good job of holding the bank. The ditch company plans to put in a rail-rock structure for the headgate next spring.

LOCATION: Diamond S Diversion Dam

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Flood Damage November 24, 1965



Taken by Charles G. Van Gorder

Campers had been down in river bottom and were unable to get their car out. Car was finally cabled to trees, but the force of the water turned it over on its side. For all purposes the car was ruined and a total loss.

LOCATION: Bridge south of Camp Verde

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Flood Damage January 7, 1966



Taken by Charles G. Van Gorder

View taken from side of hill west of Rhoton Farm. This is a “Before picture”. Trees and debris need to be cleared off of flood plain. A new channel 100’ wide needs to be made.

LOCATION: Ross Rhoton Farm and Cornville Ditch. Looking Upstream.

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Flood Damage October 1972



Taken by Joe Knisley Jr.

Silt and debris deposited by Verde River floodwaters. Verde River on left.

LOCATION: Jack Jorgensen Farm,
Cottonwood

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Questions?



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