

MALPAI BORDERLANDS GROUP



Volume 1, #1
June, 1994

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

In the past 30 years that we have been on the Malpai Ranch, we have had neighbors meet here about various problems that have faced us as rural ranchers.

Working together, as a neighborhood, we have been able to get telephones, school bus service, and rural electricity. We have become a neighborhood that has worked against huge obstacles and succeeded.

About 3 years ago, we were sitting on the porch with a neighbor and discussing the problems we have communicating with people outside our way of life. People that control what we do.

We were especially concerned about the lack of understanding by policy makers in the government, of how we work and survive; the lack of any fire management programs that we could have any say about; the subdivisions eating up the open spaces; the expense of improving our grasslands, through brush removal and re-seeding; the change in the weather and lack of rain; the loss of ranchland and cattlemen from our community; the fact that our children could look forward and see they wouldn't be able to make it ranching because opposition

to ranching has grown; the overall ignorance about our way of life, causing bad publicity, bad laws, and bad feelings about our occupation.

Our neighbor advised us to get together; although we couldn't influence the rains, we could work together to change the other problems. We could be effective as a group. We could enlist the help of the very people who misunderstood us.

From this began a series of small discussions. Our group of neighbors got bigger. The involvement was spread farther. We began to see progress in a big way when we got a major fire program under way.

Our group had very important backing from the state and federal agencies. We decided that we needed to get some official entity together before we got out of control with the paperwork, lack of funding, and large meetings. We needed to be some designated group that had a name, a home, and credibility.

We can go on and on, because of all the exciting accomplishments. The bottom line is: We are incorporated as The Malpai Borderlands Group. We are awaiting our designation from the IRS as a tax exempt organization that can receive donations to the programs we

want to carry out to help solve so many of the problems.

We could not have gotten this far without the thousands of hours, miles, meals, phone calls and ideas DONATED by people who have faith in what we are doing.

We are doing this in a businesslike manner, which takes time. We get impatient sometimes, because the wheels of progress seem to turn slow, but looking back, it is hard to believe how far we have come.

We have tried to keep the number of people involved in the planning and meetings, to a small, workable, size. It is hard because so many people want to help, and want to be included. We sincerely appreciate the wonderful response and patience from all the surrounding neighborhood.

We are working on several projects now, for future information gathering, and models. We will make mistakes, and we will learn. We will go forward! We have many people committed to helping each other.

We hope to have news and updates often. At this time, we are sending out this letter to bring all the interested people up to date. We want you to know that no one is left out unless they want to be. No one is obligated unless they choose to be. Any ideas are gratefully received. We can't do everything for everyone, but we are trying to do the best we can for the land and our life's work for now and the generations to come.

Sincerely,

Warner and Wendy Glenn

THE MALPAI BORDERLANDS GROUP

Questions and Answers

Q...What is the Malpai Borderlands Group?

A...We are a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to maintaining or increasing the health of our rangeland, and to keeping our ranching livelihoods.

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Q...Who controls the group?

A...The Board of Directors has complete authority and control over the programs and actions of the group. Our founding board is Bill McDonald, Wendy Glenn, Bill Miller, Jr., Ed Roos, Ross Humphreys, Tom Peterson, Drum Hadley, Seth Hadley and Ray Turner. Board members serve annual terms on a voluntary basis and will receive no compensation at any time for serving; new members may be added by board vote.

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Q...What will the Malpai Borderlands Group do?

A...We are developing a number of programs and projects which will provide the knowledge, tools, and financial incentives to improve the productivity and health of our rangelands. In addition, we are seeking to establish constructive and effective working relationships with public agencies and other organizations at all levels in achieving our goals.

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Q...What means are the group using to increase the health of the rangeland?

A...We are using many tools including fire, re-seeding, grazing deferment, and good management practices.

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Q...Who funds the Malpai Borderlands Group?

A...We are seeking both private donations and public funds to further our programs on a case by case basis.

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Q...Who is eligible for the Malpai Borderlands Group programs?

A...We are interested in working with any rancher in our area.

Any involvement with the Malpai Borderlands Group is strictly on a voluntary basis.

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Q...Is the Malpai Borderlands Group part of any government agency?

A...No. We are completely private, independent, and have no regulatory authority of any kind. As a non-profit group, we are not allowed to engage in political lobbying or activity.

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Q...Is The Nature Conservancy involved with the Malpai Borderlands Group?

A...Yes..., and so are many other organizations such as the University of Arizona and the Soil Conservation Service. The Malpai Borderlands Group will need the support of other individuals and organizations in order to achieve its goals. We are fortunate to have the experience, advice, and expertise of John Cook and Mike Dennis, who are employed by The Nature Conservancy. They have been extremely supportive and helpful in advising us during our start up period.

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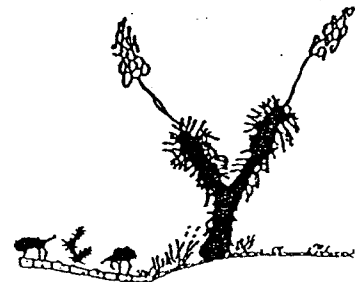
Q...How do we join or get more information?

A...Contact:

Malpai Borderlands Group
P.O. Drawer 3536
Douglas, AZ 85608
(602) 558-2470
FAX (602) 558-2314

Office and Newsletter Crew:

Administrative Assistant:
Linda Stanear
Domestic Engineers:
Margi Cureton
Kelly Glenn-Kimbro
Artist: Anna Magoffin
Coordinator: Wendy Glenn



THE MALPAI BORDERLANDS GROUP

Our goal is to restore and maintain the natural processes that create and protect a healthy, unfragmented landscape to support a diverse, flourishing community of human, plant and animal life in our Borderlands Region.

Together, we will accomplish this by working to encourage profitable ranching and other traditional livelihoods which will sustain the open space nature of our land for generations to come.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BILL McDONALD	Sycamore Ranch, Douglas, Arizona
WENDY GLENN	Malpai Ranch, Douglas, Arizona
BILL MILLER, Jr.	Post Office Canyon Ranch, Rodeo, New Mexico
ROSS HUMPHREYS	Baboquivari Peak Ranch, Sasabe, Arizona
TOM PETERSON	Peterson Ranch, Douglas, Arizona
ED ROOS	Roos Ranch, Rodeo, New Mexico
DRUM HADLEY	Guadalupe Canyon Ranch, Douglas, Arizona
SETH HADLEY	Canyoncito Ranch, Animas, New Mexico
RAY TURNER	Ecologist, USGS (ret) Tucson, Arizona

BILL McDONALD	Executive Directors
JOHN COOK	

MIKE DENNIS	Legal Counsel
RON BEMIS	SCS Project Coordinator
LARRY ALLEN	USFS Project Coordinator

COOPERATORS

Ranching Community of Hidalgo & Cochise Counties
U.S.D.A. Forest Service Coronado National Forest
U.S.D.I. Bureau of Land Management,
Safford and Las Cruces Districts

The Animas Foundation
Arizona State Land Department
New Mexico State Land Office
Soil Conservation Service, Arizona and New Mexico
The Desert Laboratory at the University of Arizona
Hidalgo Soil and Water Conservation District
Whitewater Draw Natural Resource Conservation District
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Arizona Game and Fish
The Nature Conservancy

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