

Draft Vision Statement as of March 12, 2008

Mayer (Agua Fria)

As stewards of the upper Agua Fria Landscape, which provides beauty, bounty and sustenance, we envision a sustainable future of health and continued abundance through considerate, wise use of its resources.

Good water quality and adequate water supply in our watershed directly effects our success and survival. We encourage and support projects to minimize run-off of rainfall and prevent erosion, increasing water retention within our watershed. Along riparian zones, we support projects to preserve topsoil, control invasive plant species and maintain plant and animal diversity. Projects which slow perennial stream flow and control runoff conserve land which would otherwise disappear. Low impact recreational use is to be encouraged in these areas.

Healthy forests and rangelands are keys to sustainability. We support least-impact timber management practices and managed grazing to control excess combustible vegetation. We support ranching practices that utilized renewable forage resources in a sustainable fashion, and that develop and maintain range improvements. Ranching and farming allow for preservation of open space, limiting housing and industrial encroachment.

We support projects to ensure stable, noninvasive wildlife populations. Maintenance and development of permanent water resources, interagency cooperation on hunting and education, and enforcement of allowable motorized vehicle access provide us with the open space needed to respectfully experience wildlife, especially important in times of drought. We support efforts to control the invasion of feral hogs and request continued research into the effects of the increasing population of elk and its expanding habitat in our watershed. We recognize fire as a management tool and respect its role in the evolution of the forest and a critical component of forest health. We desire continued research in to the potential positive and negative effects of fire on the lands. Recreational opportunities abound on our forest. We support and desire the maintenance of trails and signage, control of trash accumulation and illegal dumping, and designation of motorized vehicles to roads and specific "OHV use areas".

The increasing demand on our natural resources compels us to keep abreast of conservation practices that prove to be more efficient, sustainable, nonpolluting and respectful of diversity. As these improved practices become available, we support their timely implementation, with our vision remaining optimistic for the future.