Developing Opportunities and Growing Businesses of Limited-Resource and Native American Beginning Farmers and Ranchers in Arizona

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Key Goals

- Reach Beginning Rancher (BR) Audiences and continue with Beginning Farmer (BF) Audiences from a 2014 BFRDP Project Requesting more Assistance
- Address business planning and marketing issues, rangeland and watershed management, and managing/matching livestock within different environmental regimes of the 42 Arizona Association of Conservation Districts.
- Expand upon requests for more field days, networking opportunities, and one-on-one assistance and personnel resources.
- Management schools, financing, and opportunities for collective production and marketing from the PD’s last BFRDP project.

Target Audiences

- Native Americans (9 of 17 locations)
- Limited-Resource Producers, Ranch Hands
- Veterans and other BF and BR participants

Key Delivery Strategies

- Each participant will attend a management school every quarter.
- To develop synergies between BFs and BRs, content relevant for both producer groups will be provided when possible (e.g., FSA loan programs, niche marketing, etc.).
- Combined management schools will provide from 7 to 12 hours of training (over 2 days when field day trainings occur).
- Non-profits of Future Forward Foundation and Arizona Association of Conservation Districts plus 6 University of Arizona Cooperative Extension and 6 Tribal Agricultural Agents will be instrumental in providing one-on-one support and in facilitating long-lasting mentorship relationships.

Key Results

- Expect to reach at least 355 unique BFs and BRs.
- 100 BRs will implement new management practices for the rangeland, livestock and finances that will enhance their conservation and future success.
- 85 BFs will secure finances and increase their production and sale of specialty crops through mentorship and management schools provided.
- Expect to have 18BR and 7BF new startups from project.

Project’s Proposed Management School Locations

Crops
Livestock
Tribal
Management School Locations

Regions

Arizona Association of Conservation Districts

Southwest Indian Agricultural Association, Inc.