GET INVOLVED

There is room to help make the Center the premier outlet for Western natural resource law and policy issues. Whether it is hosting a ranch or facility tour, speaking to students in the classroom, mentoring a student, writing an article or a blog, or providing an announcement through the NRULPC listserv – all efforts will help make this exciting opportunity a success.

At the Natural Resource Users Law and Policy Center, we know that one of our strengths is in our passion for the land and our surroundings. We welcome all talents and interests to help share the story of the enormous contributions natural resource users make to the local, state, and national economy and American culture. Please contact the Co-Directors to contribute your time and talent.

Those supporters who can offer financial support to this unique public-private partnership can make a multi-year, tax-deductible financial commitment or a single gift in any amount through The University of Arizona Foundation. Donations to the Natural Resource Users Law and Policy Center supports litigation expenses, training opportunities, education, outreach, and operational expenses.

Your tax deductible donations can be sent to The University of Arizona Foundation:

P.O. Box 210109, Tucson, AZ 85721-0109
Fund: Natural Resource Users Law and Policy Center
Account No: 20-10-2634

“Providing Arizonaans with innovative law and policy solutions and support to promote the economic and sustainable use of natural resources”

The Natural Resource Users Law and Policy Center collaboration among Cooperative Extension, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Law is just exciting and something agriculture so badly needs. It’s interesting how so many people speak of these things but your efforts are actually making it happen. I am always open to showing any of your students or faculty our operation and more importantly, the legal challenges I fight every day.

Jim Manos, CFO, Hickman’s Family Farms
MISSION
The Natural Resource Users Law and Policy Center is a unique partnership between the University of Arizona’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cooperative Extension, and The James E. Rogers College of Law that strives to address the underrepresented law and policy needs of the natural resource community in Arizona and the West. The Center promotes innovative approaches to working with stakeholders and in creating the next generation of natural resource professionals, lawyers, agency heads, politicians, judges, etc. – those who will be making natural resources policy and legal decisions in the coming years – by creating an environment where students learn in real time by actively working on the needs of natural resource users and the community.

BENEFITING THE NATURAL RESOURCE COMMUNITY BY

- Exposing students to complex natural resource law and policy matters in real time with a hands-on approach to learning – learning by doing.
- Increasing the law and policy analysis capacity of Cooperative Extension to serve natural resource users.
- Building partnerships amongst natural resource users and with the larger community.
- Incorporating natural resource experts into classroom exercises promoting active learning and leadership on timely and relevant topics.
- Offering a public interest law clinic staffed by law students, with assistance from CALS, on matters involving the regulation and use of natural resources.
- Using the science-based knowledge of CALS students with the legal skills of law students to better serve the natural resource community.
- Sharing the history, customs, and culture of the West by teaching traditions deeply rooted in natural resource reliance, while focusing on modern solutions.
- Creating a unique approach to law and policy development by integrating STEM with law and policy.

HISTORY
The Natural Resource Users Law and Policy Center is the result of a grassroots effort by a cross section of visionaries from the Arizona natural resource community to help address legal matters, problem-solving, and policy development from a proactive perspective. Executive Directors George Ruyle (College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Cooperative Extension) and John Lacy (College of Law) ensure that both colleges have an active role in the development of the Center and its “fit for purpose” for the natural resource community.

STUDENT PROGRAMS
The collaboration includes a Natural Resource Use and Management Clinic affiliated with the NRULPC. The public interest Clinic provides educational and research opportunities in real-world situations for law and CALS students. It handles matters pertaining to water, endangered species, public lands, climate change, tribal lands and resources, and the myriad natural resource challenges that exist in Arizona and the American West. In doing so, the clinic aims to forge collaborative solutions to sustainable natural resource use that considers impacts to rural communities, economies and ecosystems. Moreover, the clinic supports the university, as a land grant institution, in its mission to bring applied research and education to the greater public. For more information, visit the Clinic website: https://law.arizona.edu/natural-resource-use-management-clinic

The NRULPC also offers an academic program. The Center’s first class was offered in the spring of 2018 and was targeted for undergraduate students. “ACBS/LAW 411: An Introduction to Agricultural Law and Policy for the Modern Day Natural Resource User” was a shared course between CALS’ School of Animal & Comparative Biomedical Sciences and the Rogers College of Law. It was taught by Joe Willis, Esq., Chair of the NRULPC Taskforce, and Celeste Steen, Esq., the instructor of record, who is the University of Arizona’s legal counsel responsible for all CALS land contracts as well as serving as a Rogers College professor of practice. Additional courses are in preparation and will be offered in upcoming semesters.

“...Our law students have gained yet another practical training opportunity, community members have a new resource to assist with previously unmet legal needs, and University of Arizona researchers and scholars can further dig in on interdisciplinary work that advances knowledge and expands our understanding in these important fields.”

Marc Miller, Dean, James E. Rogers College of Law

“...The Cooperative Extension System has a long history of bringing The University of Arizona expertise to bear on practical issues and problems encountered by citizens of Arizona. This new partnership allows us to serve even more Arizonans and contribute to the economic development of the state.”

Jeff Silvertooth, PhD, Director, UA Cooperative Extension