



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES

**Soil, Water and
Environmental Science**



SWES Colloquium Series 2015-2016
Department of Soil, Water and Environmental Science

Reclamation, revegetation, cattle grazing, and erosion: tangled motivations and outcomes for southern Arizona.

The goal of reclaiming or revegetating recently disturbed lands can come from legal requirements, the result of social pressure, or the desire for good stewardship. No matter the underlying impetus or amount of funding only a few revegetation practices (such as site preparation, seeding, and adding mulch) remain practical and these do not guarantee success. While revegetation appears straightforward, many small differences among sites, timing, rainfall, funding and practices control the outcome. A series of years with good rainfall timing and amount can overcome even the poorest practices to result in success while a series of poor rainfall years (too much, too little, bad timing) can result in revegetation failure no matter how well-designed or well-funded the project. Practices such as choosing appropriate plant species and adding mulch to the soil can change the plant species abundance and composition in both desirable and undesirable ways. Vegetation, especially grasslands, can reduce erosion, increase capability for reuse, and be aesthetically pleasing but this maybe a short term effect without ongoing management. The future challenge is to combine robust re-vegetation while maximizing long-term site stability.

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Monday, March 7, 2016 -- 3:00pm

Marley 230

Refreshments at 2:45



School of Earth and Environmental Sciences