Dryland Agroforestry in the Southwest: Can We Combine the Old with the New?
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Outline

• A Little Context
  • Personal
  • The Southwest

• Natural Forest-Based Approaches

• Homestead/Homegarden-Based Approaches

• Future Directions
Why Focus on the Reservations?

- Very large land base
- A substantial population
  - High poverty rate
  - High incidence of diabetes
- History of sustainable land use/manipulation
- Not much research to date?

Hybrid Poplar Research
NMSU Agricultural Science Center

Mick O’Neill (l) and Sam Allen (r)
“The understory of oak groves is burned to retard new growth of oak and other trees and plants that would compete with the existing oaks. This results in higher yields of acorns and also in some fruit-producing shrubs”

Crop Production within Forest and Woodlands: Clearings, Swales, and Understory?

Rarámuri (Mexico)

Hopi

Photo by Citlali Cortes Montáno
Homestead/Homegarden-Based Approaches

Orchard and Cliffs, Havasu Canyon, Grand Canyon 1910-1924, NAU Special Collections

[Image links to Flickr page]
Hopi farming is in a constant state of adaptation.
Reservation Schools: Potential Agroforestry Partners?
Future Directions

• Homestead and Farm Surveys
  • Focus on Native American practices
• Build Connections with and among Existing Organizations
• Research Trials and Demonstration Sites
• Southwest Agroforestry Working Group?
• Agroforestry on Public Lands?
Questions?

Thom Alcoze