



#### Why do we care about the Verde River?

For about a thousand reasons Including...





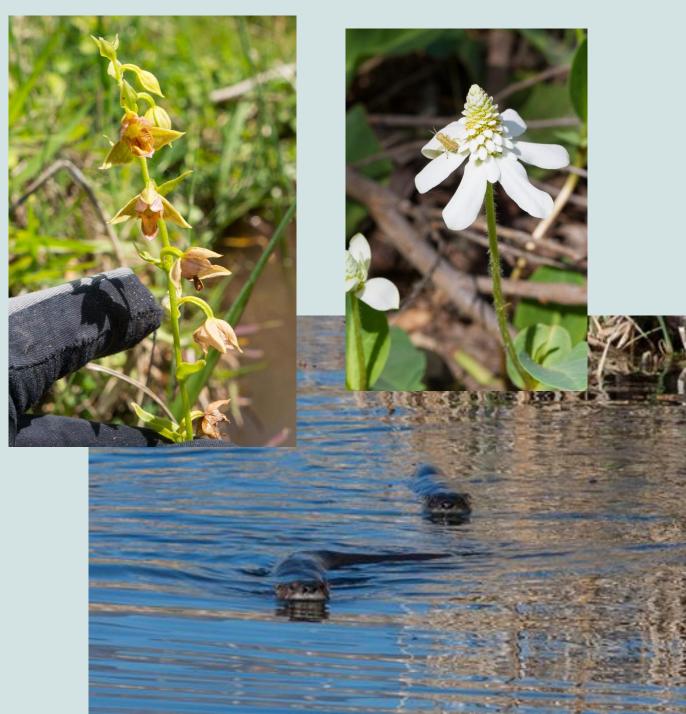
Local Agriculture



#### Biodiversity

About 2/3 of all life forms in Arizona live in the riparian zone

More than 240 species of birds are here because of the Verde



#### Sustainable Recreation and Economic Development

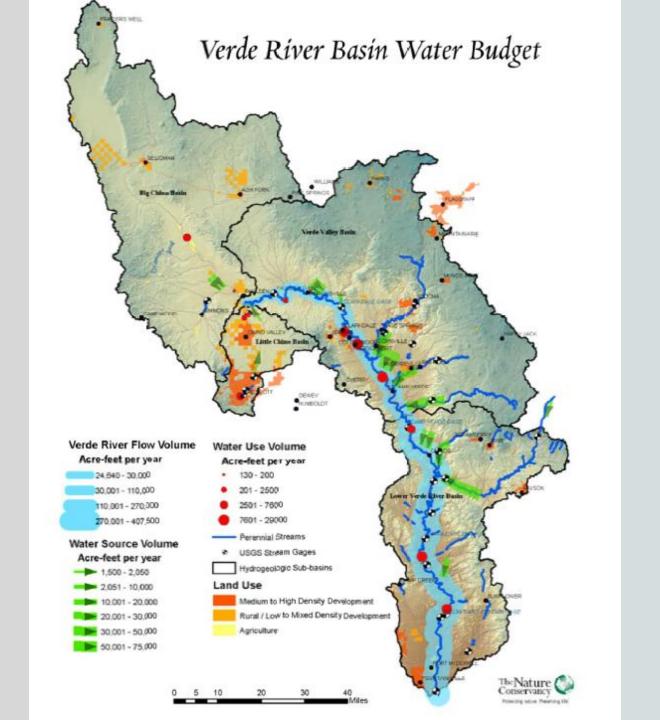


Verde Front String of Pearls Nat Geo Ecotourism River Runner/Outfitters



- The Verde River is the last river in Arizona still flowing all year long for its entire length. Seven other Arizona rivers no longer flow perennially because of groundwater interception and diversions of their surface flows, and the Verde must not become the eighth!
- The Verde River supplies fresh drinking water to more than 2 million people in Maricopa County, and it is the least expensive water supply in that county.
- The Verde River supports more than 700 jobs and \$100M in economic activity in the Verde Valley
- As one of the last living rivers in Arizona, the Verde is unique for its scenery, riparian forest, recreational potential, wildlife, biodiversity, endangered and threatened species, and cultural importance to the people who love it.





## Verde Watershed Native grassland with low shrub cover Native grassland with low shrub cover & shrub-invaded native grassland with restoration potential Shrub-invaded native grassland with restoration potential Shrub-invaded native grassland with restoration potential & historic or former grassland Historic or former grassland Unknown

# Upper Verde Grasslands

- Provides baseflow for upper 24 miles of the river
- Both Big Chino Aquifer and Little Chino Aquifer are important contributors
- Aquifers are supplied by rainfall on the aquifer – but only a small portion of rainfall actually infiltrates to aquifer

## Forested Areas Main Stem River Etde River Watersheds Tributary Stream Glendale Salt River Gila River

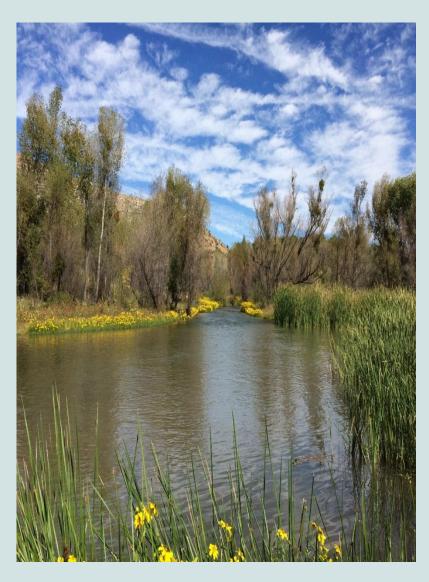
## Forests

- Cover a significant portion of the watershed
- Serve to infiltrate water into the aquifers





## What is Baseflow?



- Low flow period that is not influenced by storm run-off typically in early summer and winter
- most sensitive to stresses associated with other threats such as water temperature impacts, pollution, and predation
- base flow trends do reflect long-term climate cycles
- Paleozoic aquifers contribute to flows in Middle Verde
- Big and Little Chino Aquifers contribute to Upper Verde

## Why Baseflow Matters



- Provides year-round habitat and refuge for aquatic organisms, including variable water depth and velocity
- Maintains suitable water conditions for varied life history requirements of native organisms (velocity, temperature and dissolved oxygen)
- Supports alluvial aquifer levels sufficient to maintain riparian community growth and survival
- Enables connectivity of stream habitats and refuge for aquatic organisms
- Supports hyporheic functions and organisms, including macroinvertebrates

### What are Flood Flows?

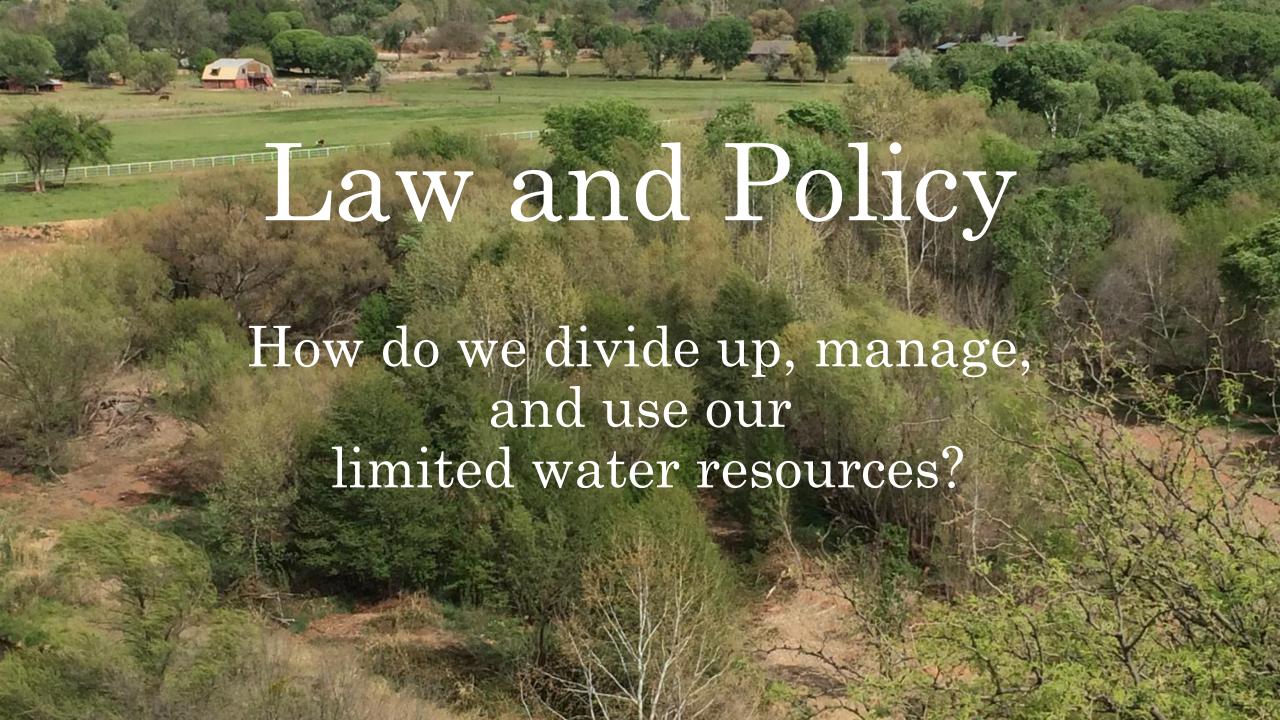


- High flow events of varying magnitude
  - Frequent smaller events
  - Large events less often
- Impacted by watershed condition grazing, urbanization, forest health etc.
- Trends potentially reflect long-term climate cycles
- Can be stored for future use

## Why Flood Flows Matter



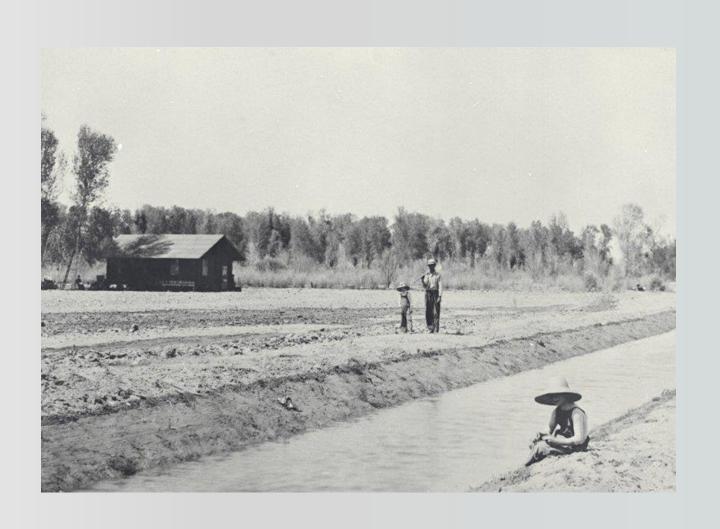
- Stream power necessary to scour the channel bed and maintain instream habitat
- Sorting and deposition of sediments that form channel bar and riffle habitat
- Flushing of finer sediments to clean channel gravels
- Deposition of fines on bars provides substrate for germination of native riparian plants
- Provide surface and alluvial aquifer conditions conducive to seed distribution, germination, and recruitment of native riparian woody species





# Prior Appropriation

- First in time, first in right
- Beneficial use & notice required
- "Appurtenancy"—rights attached to the land

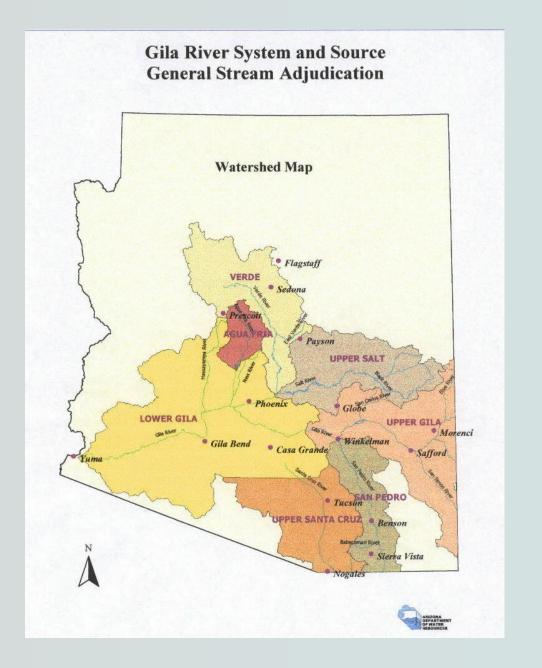


# Why Prior Appropriation?

- "Custom" of miners, irrigators
- Confirmed by state legislature
- A law for taking water
   out of the stream &
   putting it to use

#### Gila River General Stream Adjudication

- Quantifies, validates, & confirms priority dates of surface water rights
- >38,000 parties
- Ongoing since ~1974



"The subflow zone is defined as the saturated floodplain Holocene alluvium. DWR, in turn, will determine the specific parameters of that zone in a particular area by evaluating all of the applicable and measurable criteria set forth in the trial court's order and any other relevant factors. All wells located in the lateral limits of the subflow zone are subject to this adjudication. In addition, all wells located outside the subflow zone that are pumping water from a stream or its subflow, as determined by DWR's analysis of the well's cone of depression, are included in this adjudication. Finally, wells that, though pumping subflow, have a de minimus [sic] effect on the river system may be excluded form the adjudication based on rational guidelines for such exclusion as proposed by DWR and adopted by the trial court."

#### --AZ Supreme Court, 2000

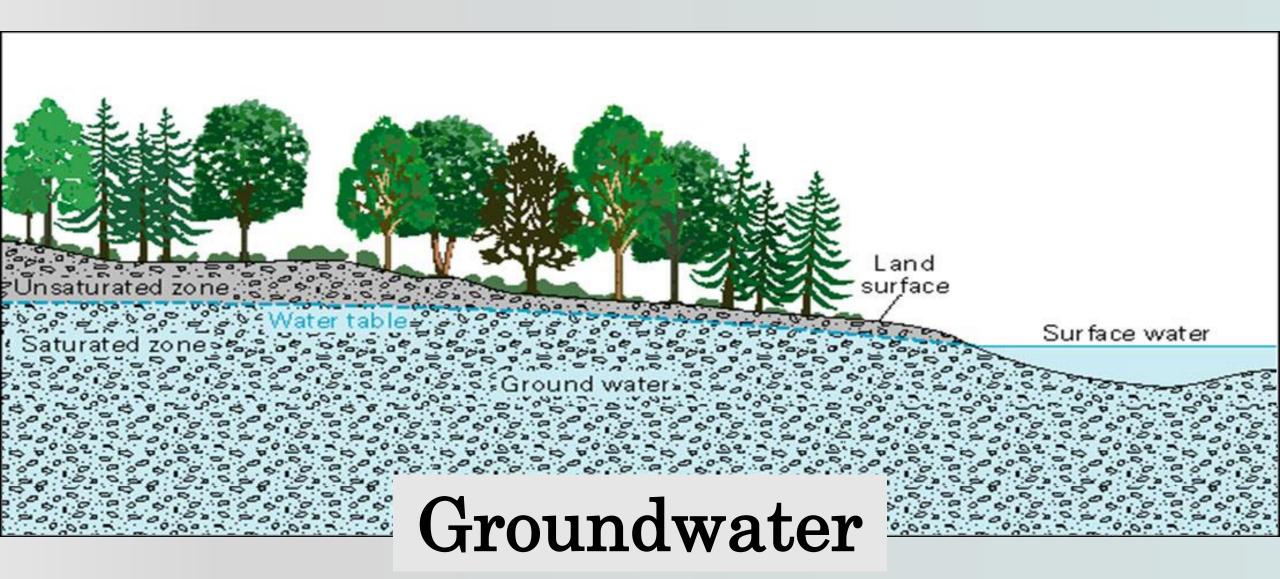
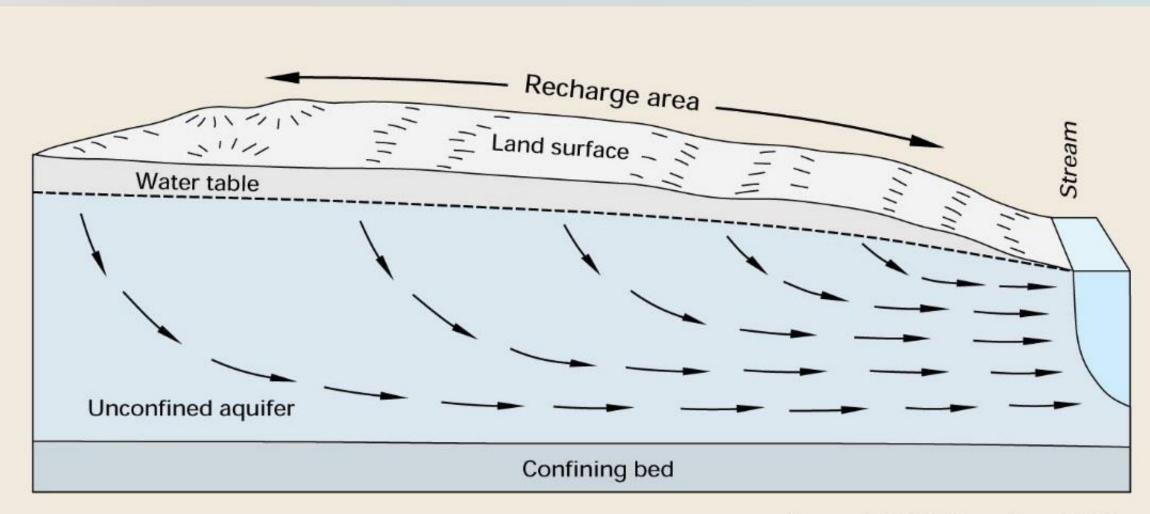


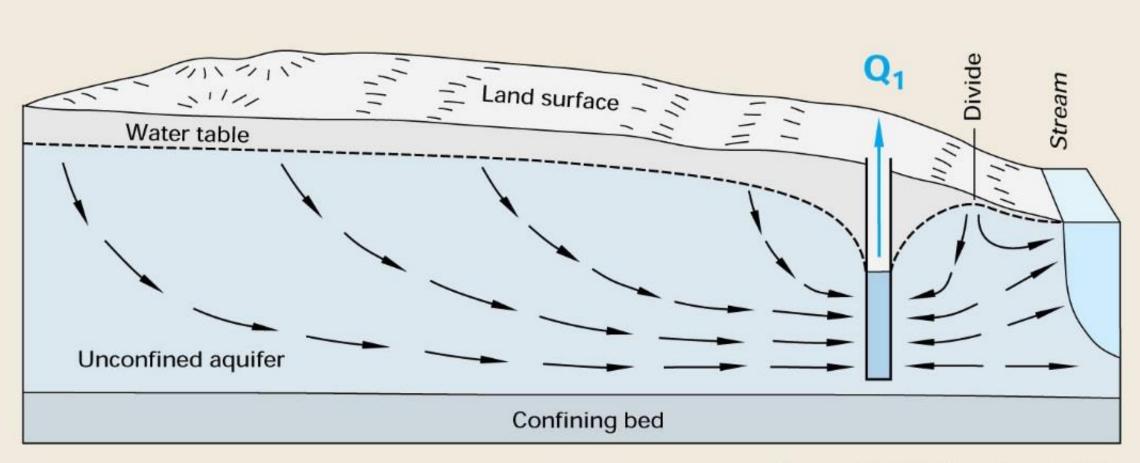
Image: USGS



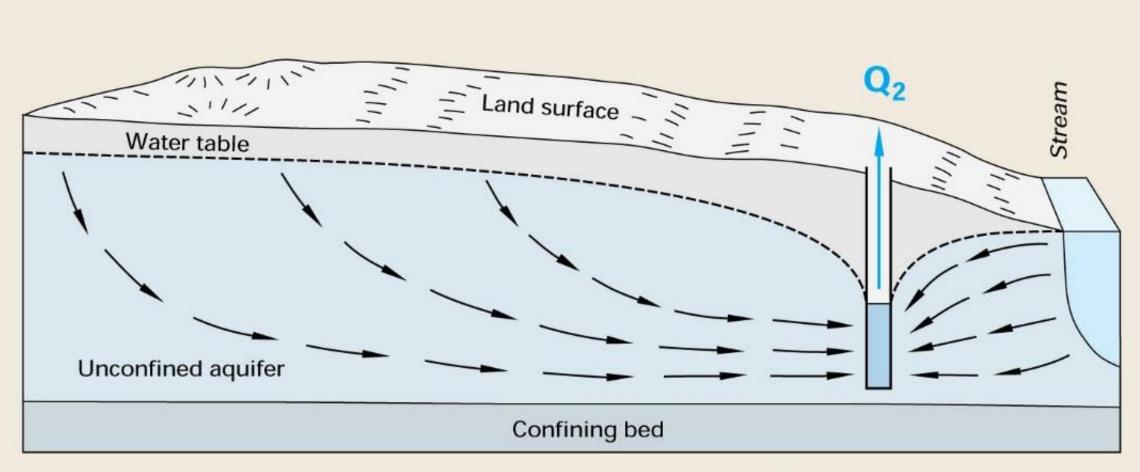




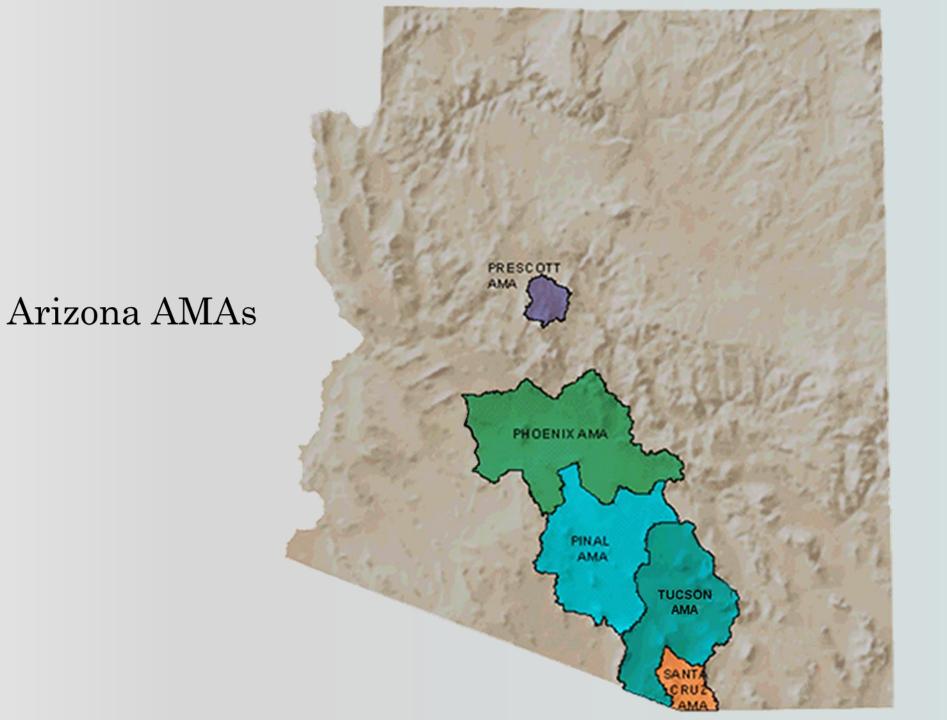
From USGS Circular 1139



From USGS Circular 1139



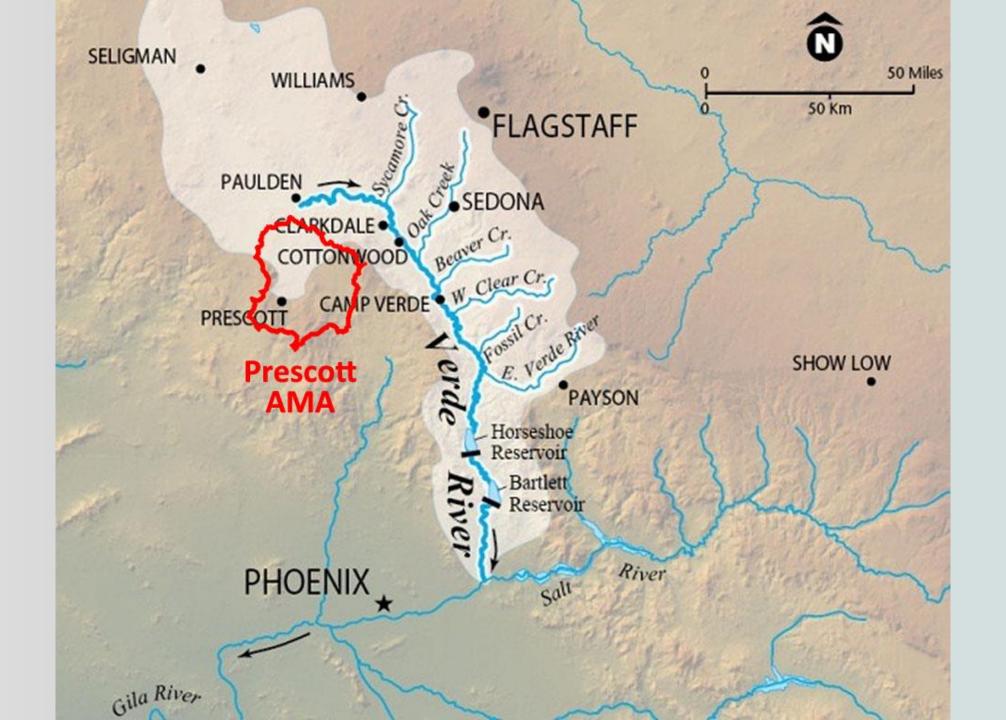
From USGS Circular 1139



Data: ADWR

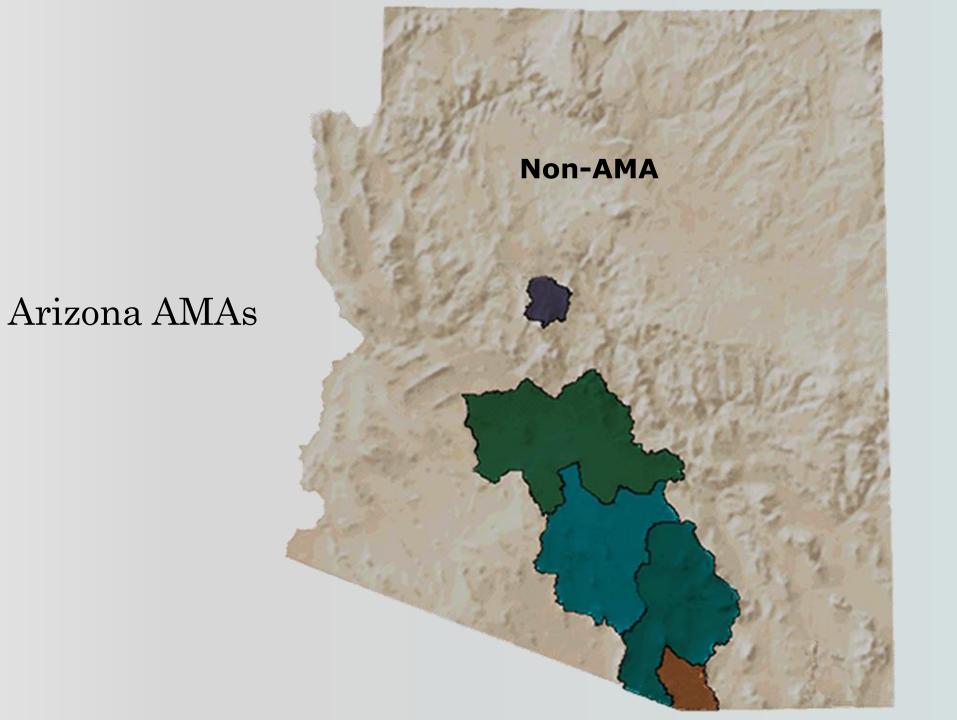
## AMAs: Key Features

- Groundwater rights & withdrawal permits
- Management plans with conservation, monitoring, and reporting requirements (& goals)
- "Assured Water Supply" program
- Non-expansion of irrigation



"The Fourth Management Plan (4MP) programs were developed within current statutory guidelines. However... full implementation and complete compliance with the conservation requirements outlined... are unlikely to reverse the groundwater overdraft currently experienced in the basin and result in the achievement of the Prescott Active Management Area (PRAMA) goal to achieve safe-yield by the year 2025."

> --Arizona Department of Water Resources, Prescott AMA Fourth Management Plan, 2014



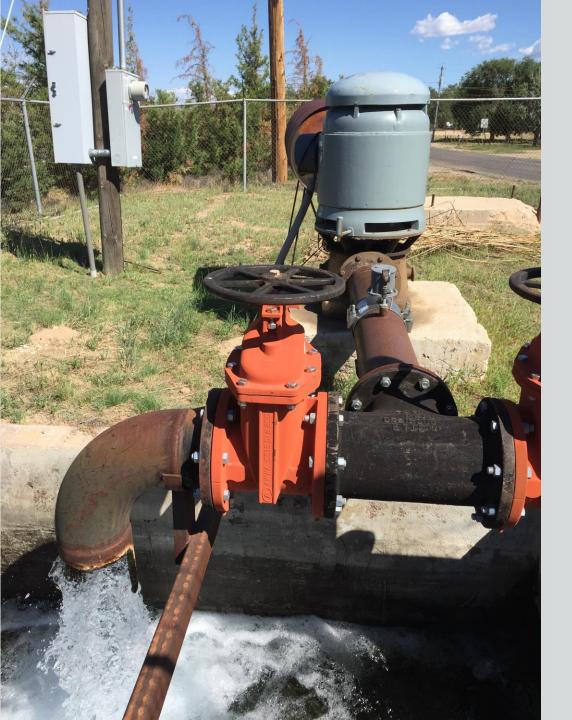
Data: ADWR









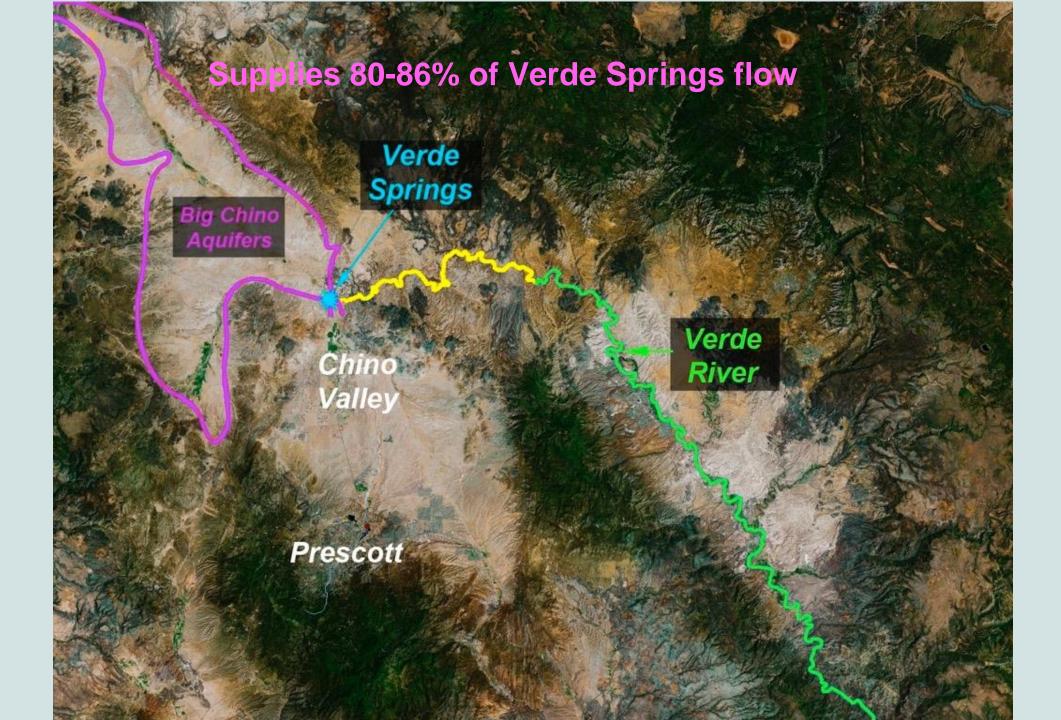


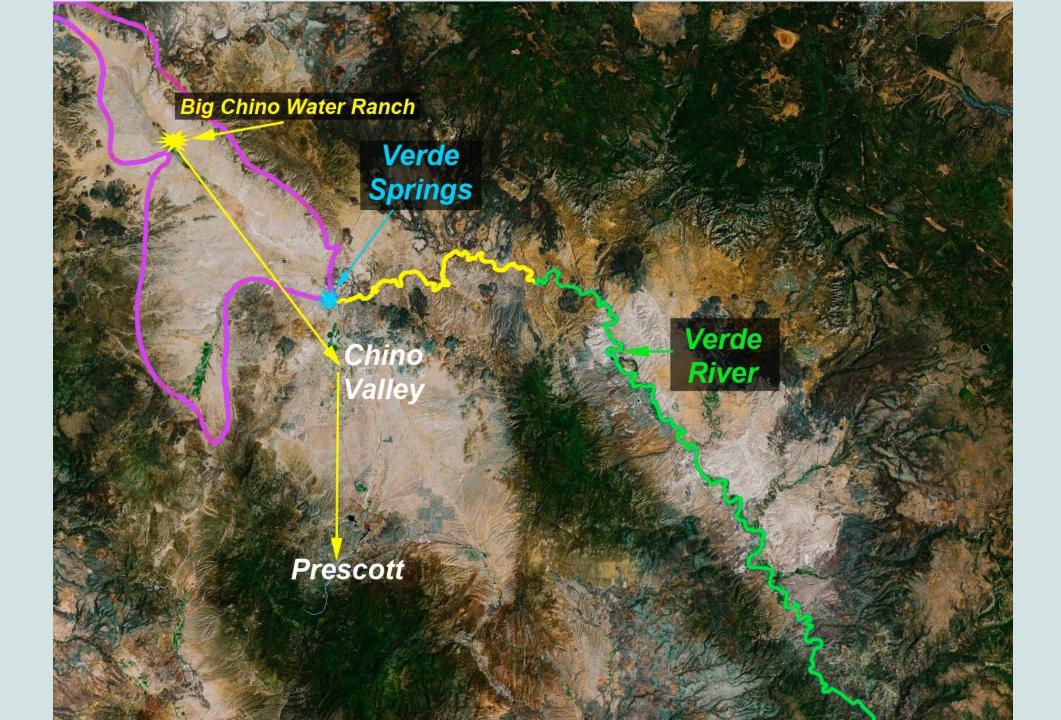
# Unconstrained Groundwater Pumping

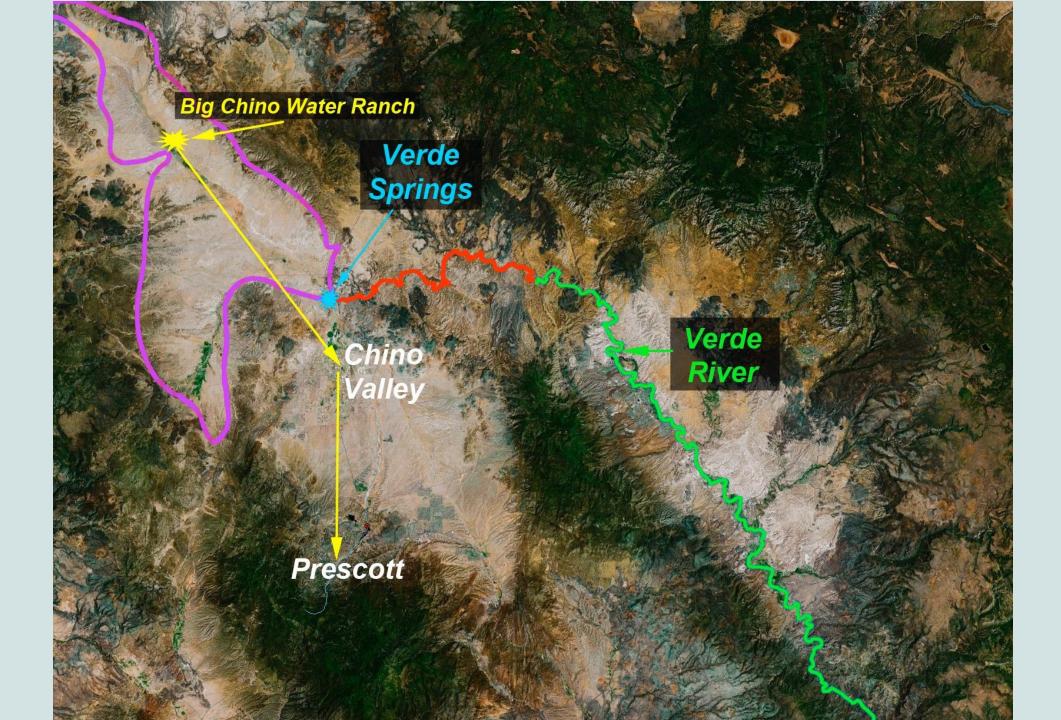
- Longview Pumped Storage Project
- Big Chino Water Ranch
- Expanded agricultural irrigation
- Growth and development









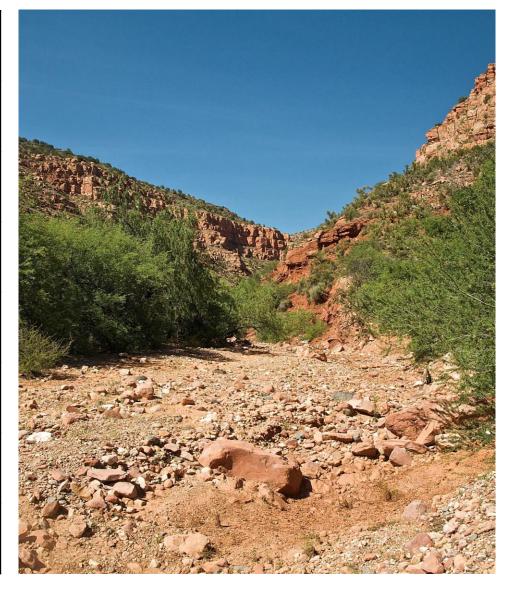


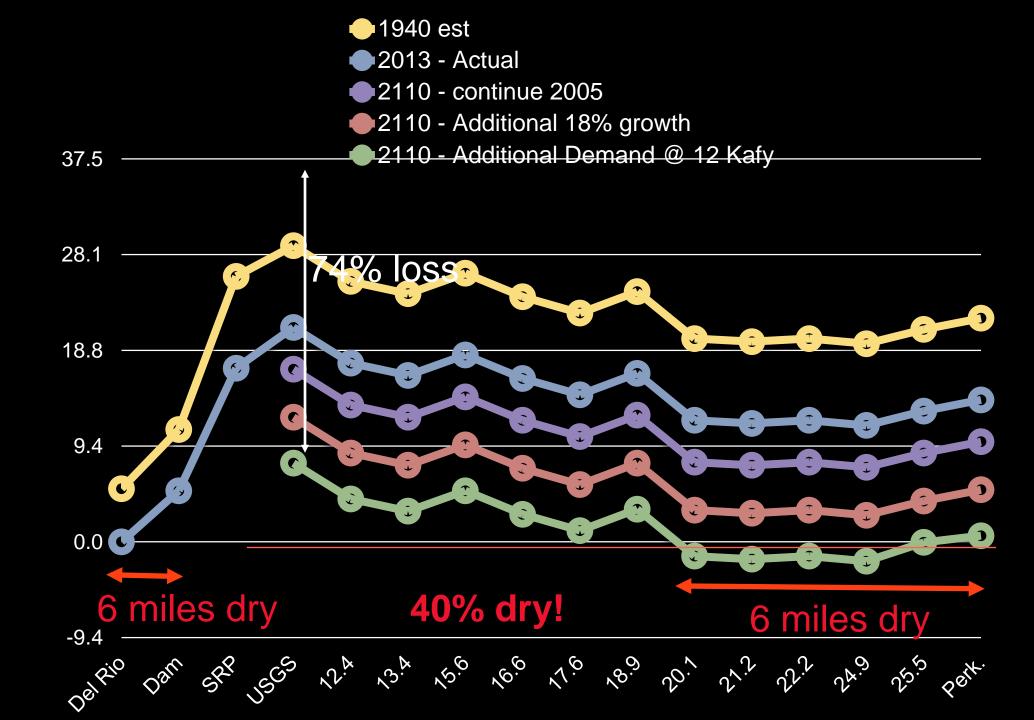




## Groundwater Demand - Kafy

	Now	Future
Longview	0	2 - 17
Big Chino Water Ranch	0	8
Historically Irrigated Acreage Exports	0	10.8
Irrigation	~ 3	20
Domestic uses	~ 3	10 - 30
Total Pumping	~ 6	50 ???
Base Flow: USGS Paulden	<15	0

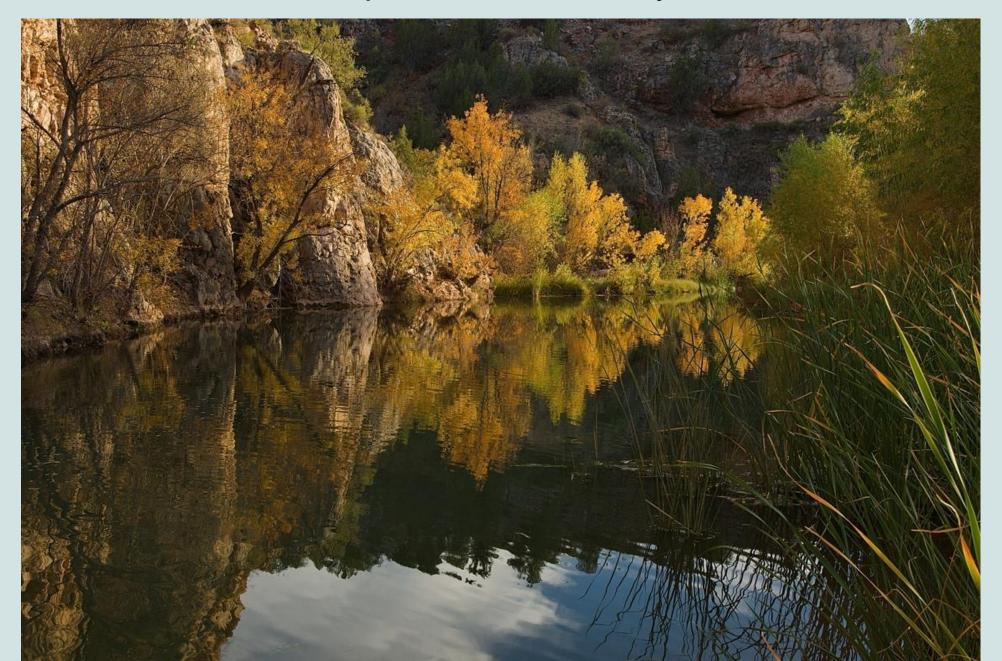




Dry 2110



## Sandtrap Tank, rm 24: Dry 2110

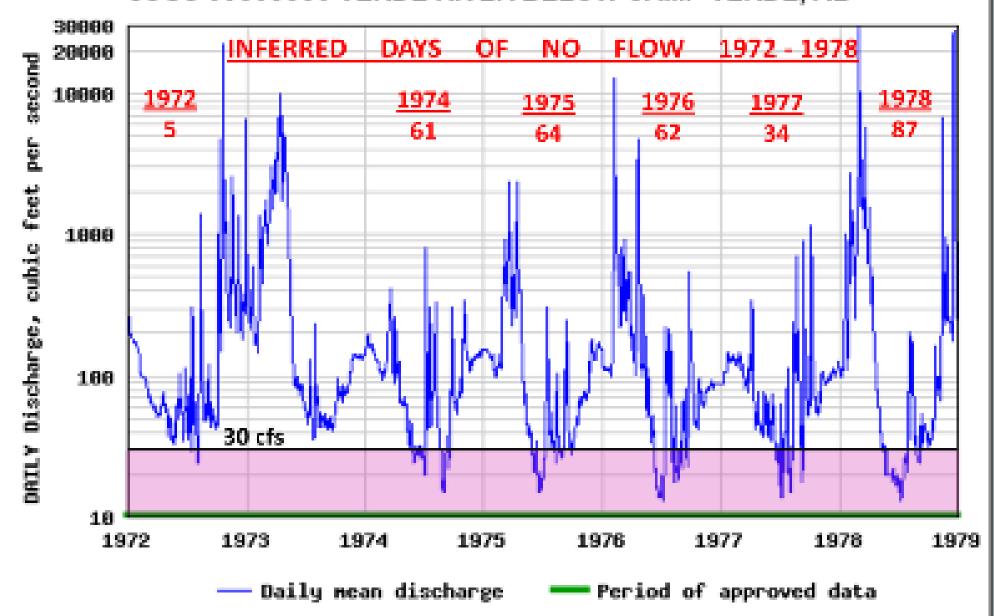


### Perkinsville Bridge, rm 26: Dry 2110



## **⊠USGS**

#### USGS 09505550 VERDE RIVER BELOW CAMP VERDE, AZ



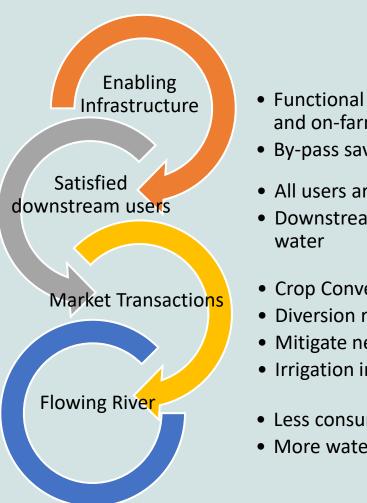


# Conclusions

- Verde River is healthy now.
- Currently permitted groundwater pumping in the Big Chino will dry the upper Verde.
- Future groundwater pumping in the Verde Valley will dry the river in summer months.
- Groundwater pumping will degrade the sole surviving perennial river in Arizona.
- Groundwater pumping must be constrained in order to protect base flow.



#### **Achieving Goals**



- Functional Infrastructure conveyance and on-farm
- By-pass saved water
- All users are fully satisfied
- Downstream users do not need "saved"
- Crop Conversion agreements
- Diversion reduction agreements
- Mitigate new uses
- Irrigation infrastructure
- Less consumptive use
- More water in critical reaches

#### **Fallow Agreements**

MAKING DO WITH THE LAWS WE HAVE

#### 1. Full season fallowing

-Takes land out of production for full year

#### 2. Summer fallowing

-Water in the river in summer when most needed

-Land in production a portion of year (pasture or crop)



#### **Crop Conversion**

ECONOMICS TO DRIVE RIVER CONSERVATION

#### 1. Subsidize conversion

-Low water use, low water crops

#### 2. Develop market interventions

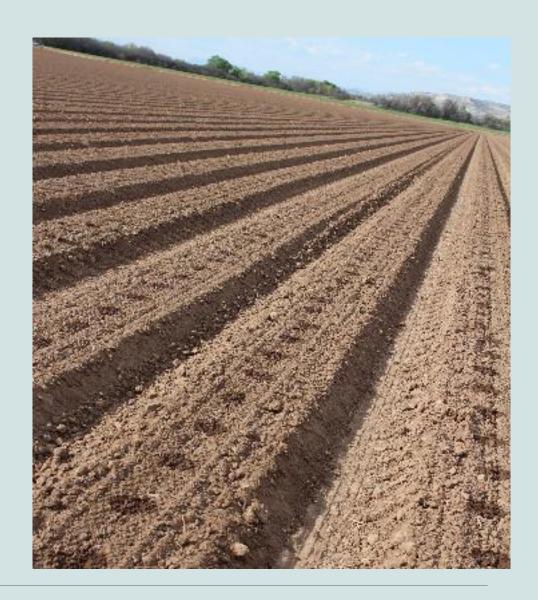
- -Malt house
- -Partnerships with growers from other regions



#### **Irrigation Infrastructure**

- THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT TO DO THE JOB
- 1. Conveyance Infrastructure
- piping, lining, controls,monitoring, check structures

- 2. On Farm
- Allows crop conversions
- Decreases water demand



#### **Forbearance Agreements**

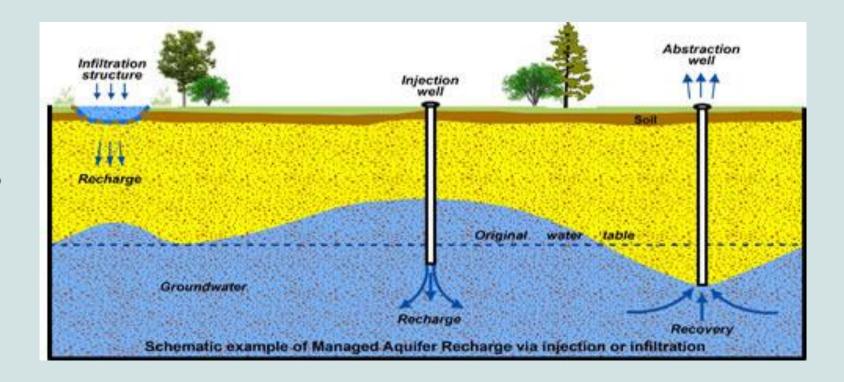
- PAY FOR PERFORMANCE
- 1. Ditch flow targets
- Encourages sharing of shortages within users
- Buffers from climate variability
- 2. River Flow Targets
- Increased risk for ditch
- Encourages sharing of shortages



#### **Aquifer Recharge**

UTILIZING ALL OF OUR RESOURCES

- 1. Aquifer Recharge
- Injection or infiltration
- Actively done by Sedona,
   soon Cottonwood
- Use effluent in Verde
   Valley but potential for
   enhanced urban runoff











### **FVRG** Mission and Vision

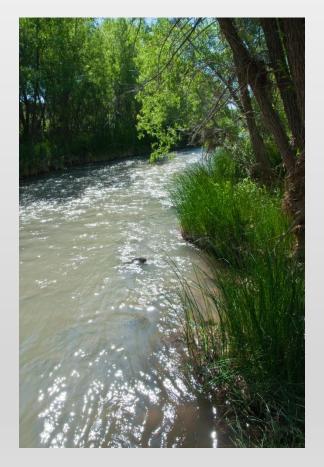
Friends of Verde River Greenway works collaboratively to restore habitat, sustain flows, and promote community stewardship to support a healthy Verde River system.

We envision a healthy, flowing Verde River and tributaries that support our unique environment, vibrant economy, and quality of life for future generations.

### FVRG Role in Watershed Restoration





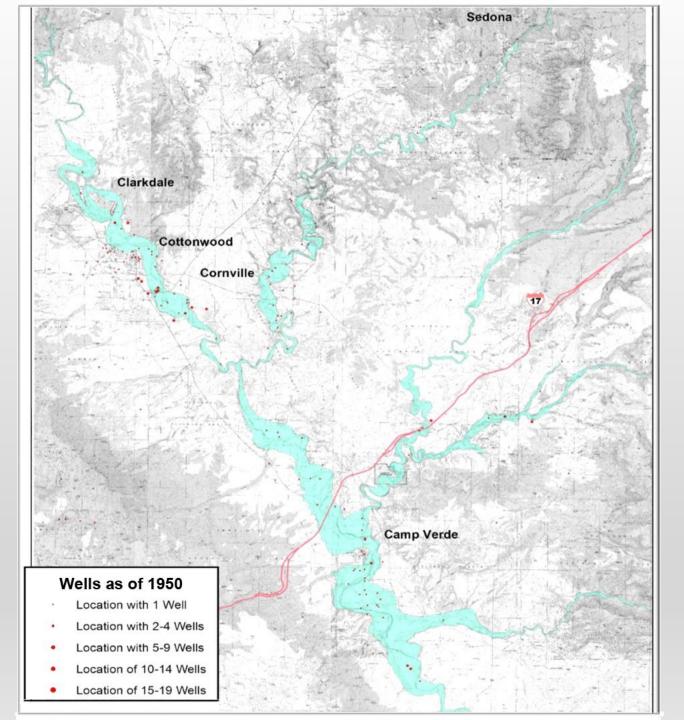


"Boots-on-the-Ground" collaborative projects to promote and implement watershed stewardship

## FVRG Programs Include...

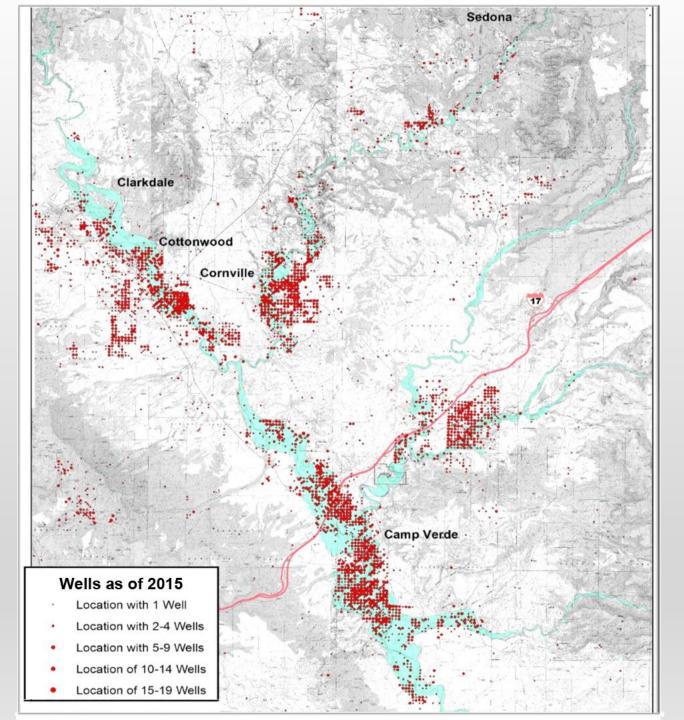






# 1950

Images Courtesy Of Salt River Project



# 2015

Images Courtesy Of Salt River Project



# Program Origin, Values

- Implement actionable local solutions that work in the larger AZ water rights and water politics picture
- Respect local economic, environmental and social values
- Preserve property rights and individual water users' autonomy



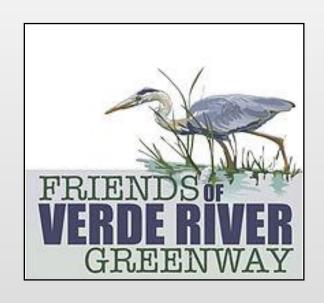
# Program Origin, Values

- Ensure collaboration and shared stewardship among water users and community members from different sectors
- Focus on a positive, voluntary and proactive approach
- Begin to address underlying long-term issues



## Partners













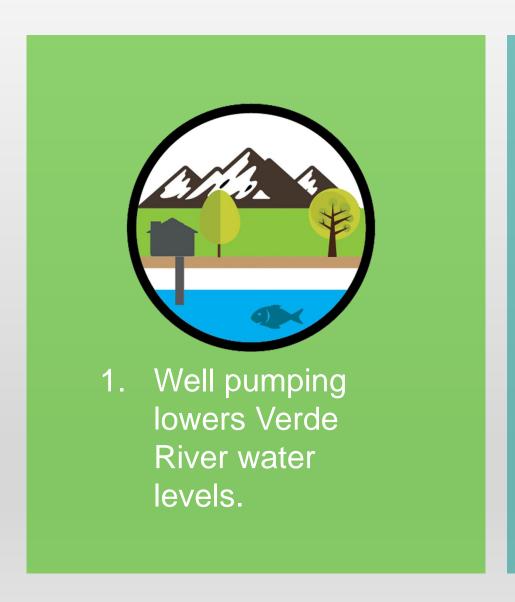
# What is the Verde River Exchange?



Provides a mechanism for groundwater users to "offset" the impact of their groundwater pumping on the Verde River

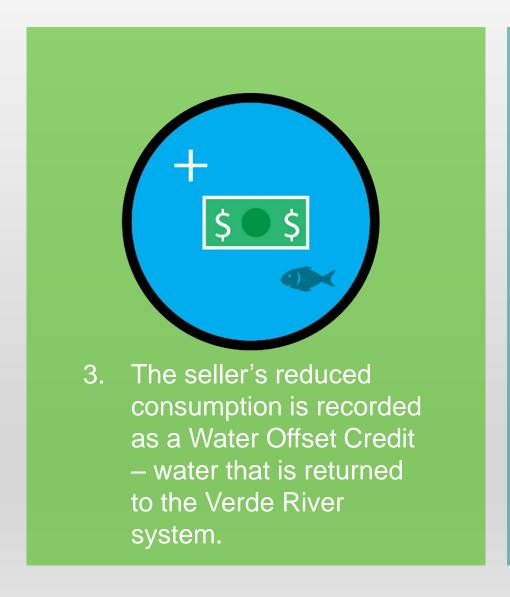


### How Does It Work?



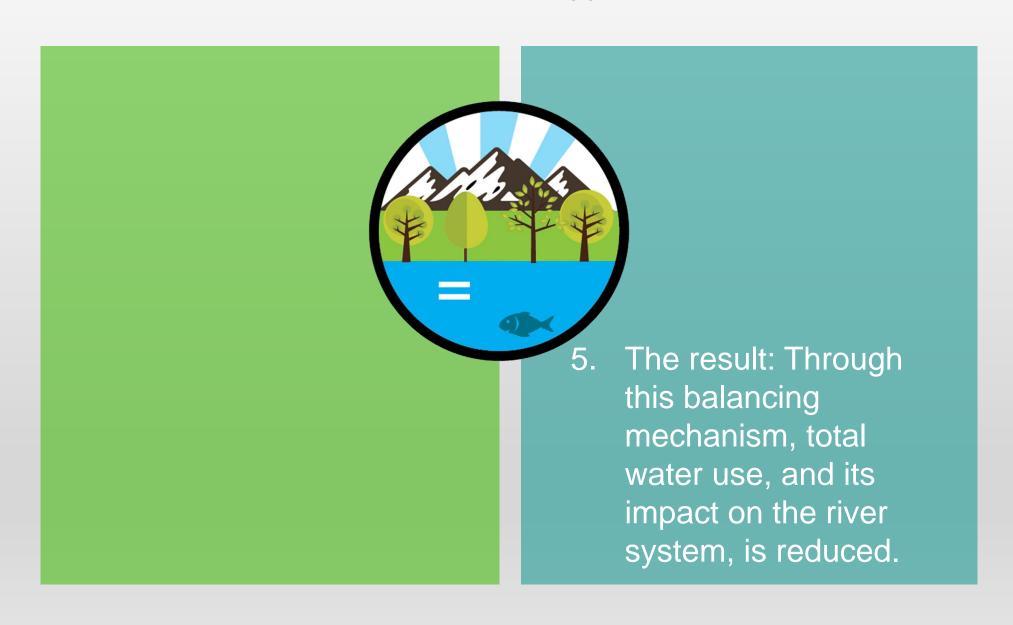


## How Does It Work?



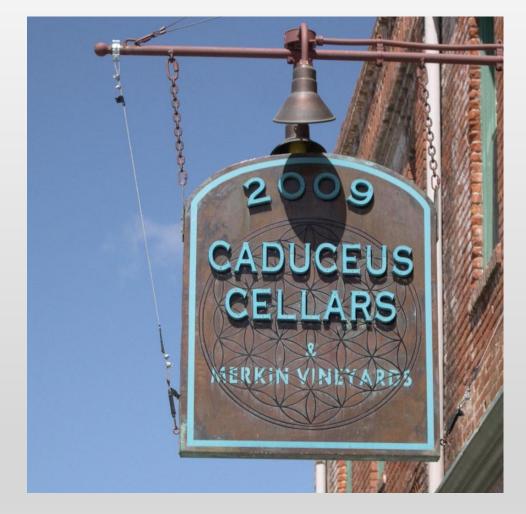


## How Does It Work?











Verde River Exchange Water Offset Program

#### THIS CERTIFICATE IS PROUDLY PRESENTED TO

#### Page Springs Vineyards & Cellars

FOR OFFSETTING

1.369,000 GALLONS OF WATER

ACRE-FEET

#### TYPE OF USE OFFSET: Irrigation of Vineyard

Our livelihoods and quality of life depend on ensuring a healthy river system for all. This Water Offset Certificate is helping to preserve a flowing Verde River and to protect the local water supplies that sustain our community by reducing our collective use of the river and its connected groundwater systems. The Verde River is treasured by the Arizona communities that rely on it, and your participation in the Verde River Exchange Water Offset Program demonstrates your commitment to preserving the flowing waters and the green heart of the Verde Valley.

CERTIFICATE NO. 1

July 15, 2016	<u> </u>
DATE	Chip Norton, President



#### THIS CERTIFICATE IS PROUDLY PRESENTED TO

#### Caduceus Cellars & Merkin Vineyards

FOR OFFSETTING

1,369,000 GALLONS OF WATER

ACRE-FEET

TYPE OF USE OFFSET:

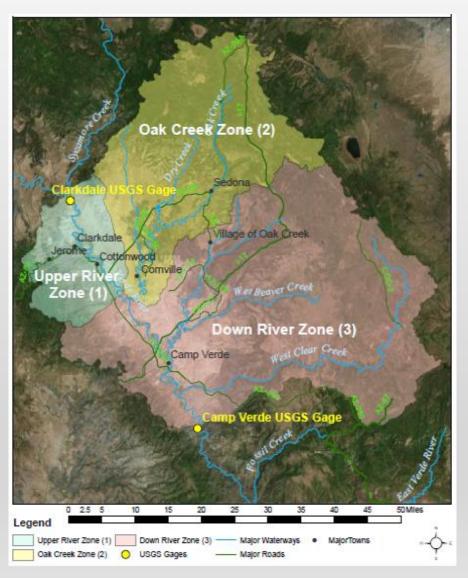
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CERTIFICATE NO. 2

July 15,2016	
DATE	Chip Norton, President

# Who Can Participate?



 Eligible residents, businesses in project area

Matched by zones



# Who Can Participate?

- "Buyers" in the Verde River Exchange program are businesses, farms, or homes that continue to use the water they need—but purchase "Water Offset Credits" to help offset the impact of their groundwater withdrawal.
- "Sellers" in the Verde River Exchange program are water users in the Verde Valley who have recently and historically been using water but agree to cease or reduce their use temporarily, in return for a modest payment.

# Why Participate?

- To promote sustainable water supply for the future of the Verde Valley's communities and its economic health
- To enhance the Verde River as an environmental, recreational, and scenic asset
- To reduce your business's water footprint and share the story of your part in promoting a sustainable water future
- Community stewardship is good for business



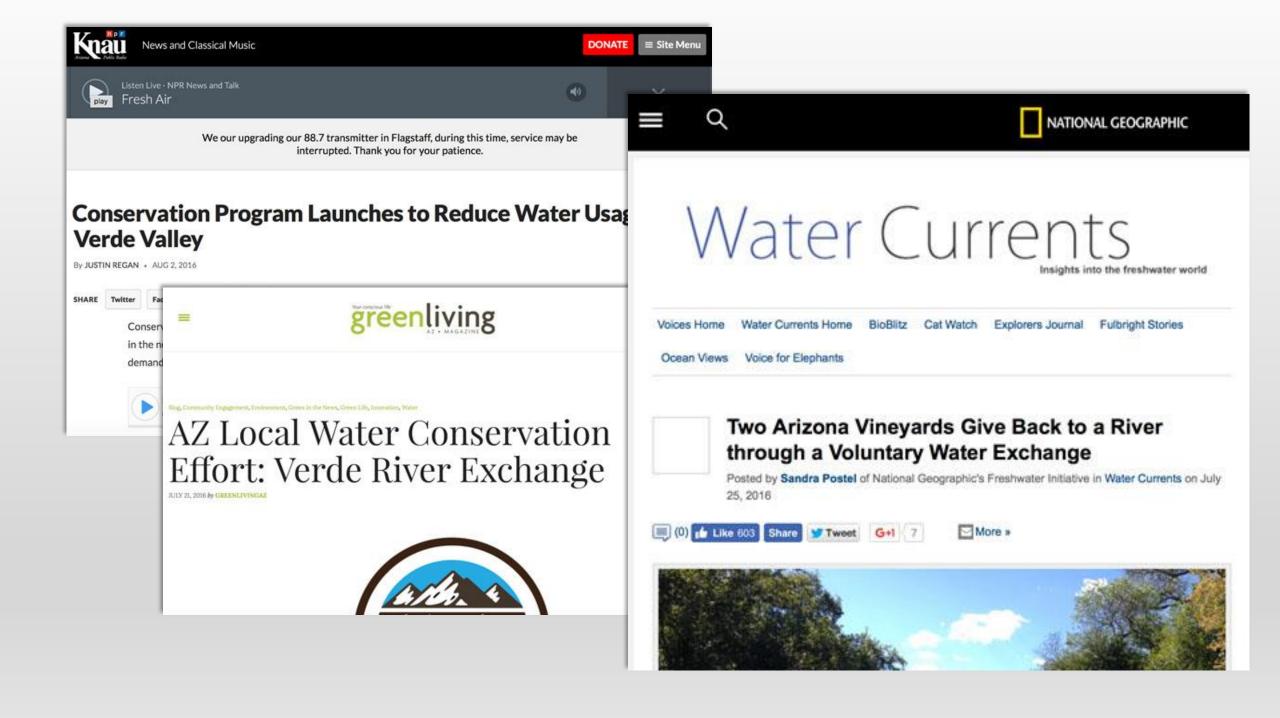
# Why Participate?

- A valuable investment in the Verde Valley's future
- Brand enhancement supported by recognition of support, promotion of participant businesses
- Visibility in the Verde Valley, including annual event with network of other leaders









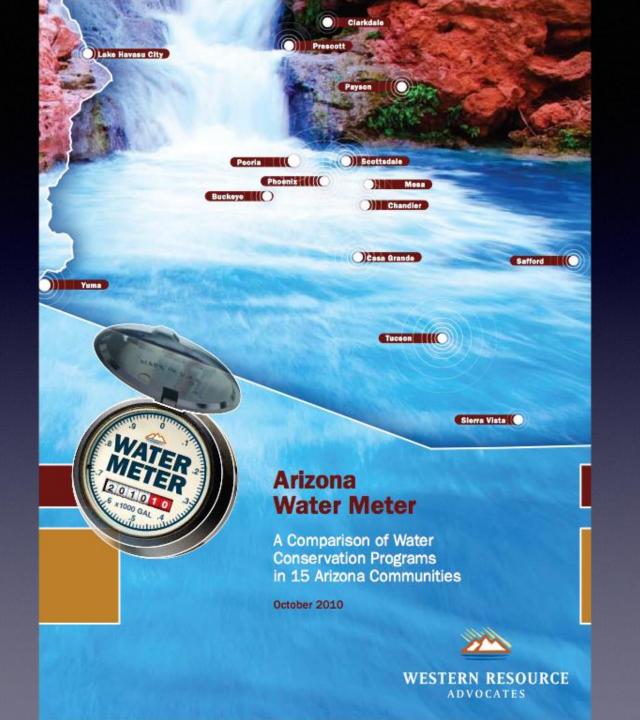






# Why Conserve?

- Its the right thing to do.
- Consumers save on water & sewer bills.
- Least expensive, quickest, & easiest to implement.
- Few legal impediments.
- Can reduce size and cost of expensive importation projects.
- Can prolong use of existing groundwater resource.
- Can help protect the Verde River.



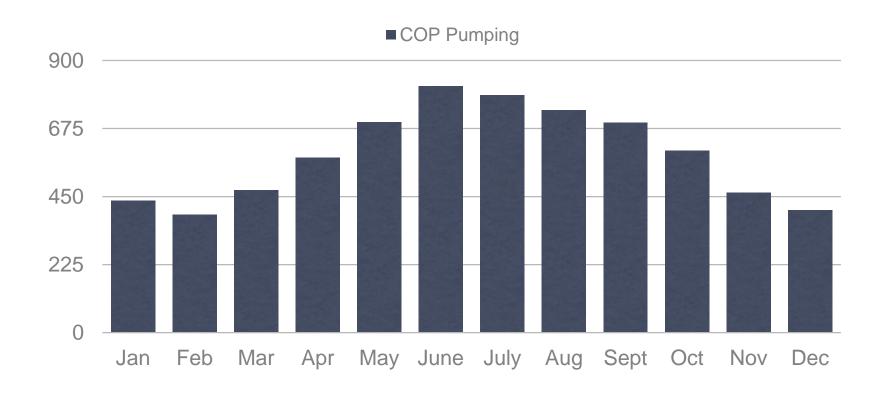
### **SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL GPCD**

	2008 SFR GPCD	Population Change*	Adjusted GPCD
Buckeye	61	555.0%	400
Casa Grande (AWC)	99	50.2%	149
Chandler	142	23.1%	175
Clarkdale	73	2.2%	75
Lake Havasu City	124	10.8%	137
Mesa	130	4.8%	136
Payson	66	6.5%	70
Peoria	125	39.2%	174
Phoenix	123	10.7%	136
Prescott	98	11.4%	109
Safford	175	0.0%	175
Scottsdale	249	7.5%	268
Sierra Vista (AWC)	105	9.4%	115
Tucson	102	7.5%	110
Yuma	150	0.3%	150

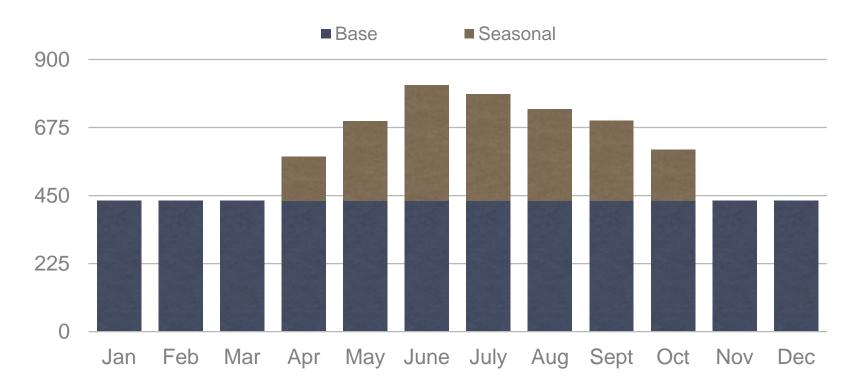
## **Unrealized Potential**

- Why does gpcd vary?
- Now, some residents at 20 gpcd
- Future: Net-Zero Groundwater?

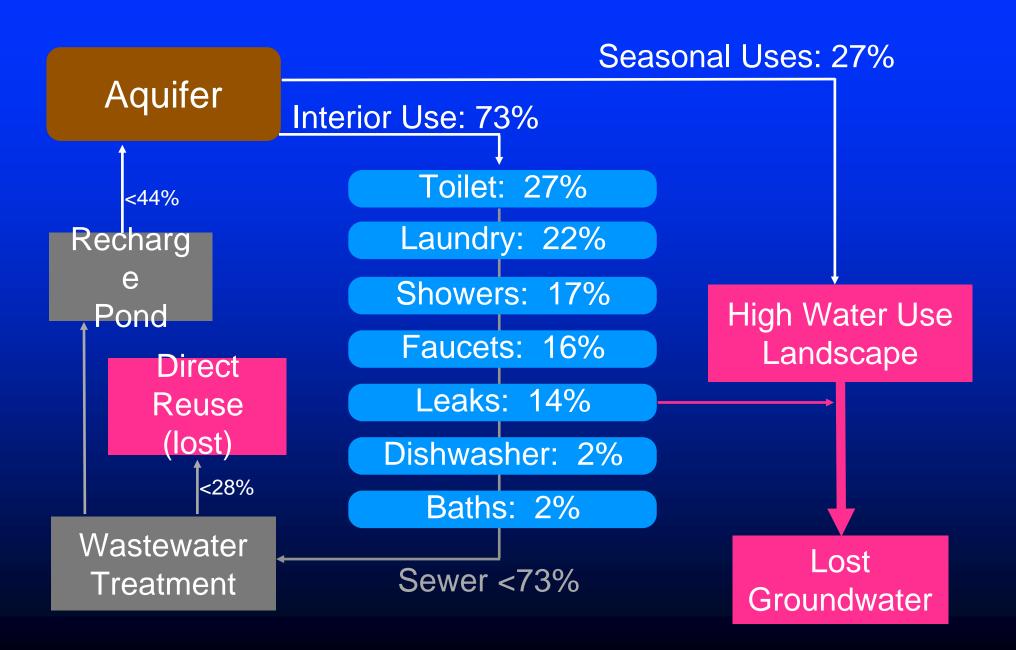
## AVERAGE PUMPING 2007-2011 7071 AF



# AVERAGE PUMPING 2007-2011 62% INCREASE OVER BASE SEASONAL USE27% OF ANNUAL PUMPING ~1890 AFY



### Urban Home: Municipal Utility (water & sewer)







FOR LANDSCAPE USE

PATRICIA H. WATERFALL Extension Agent, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension/Low 4 Program

Second Edition, October 2004 Revised 2006









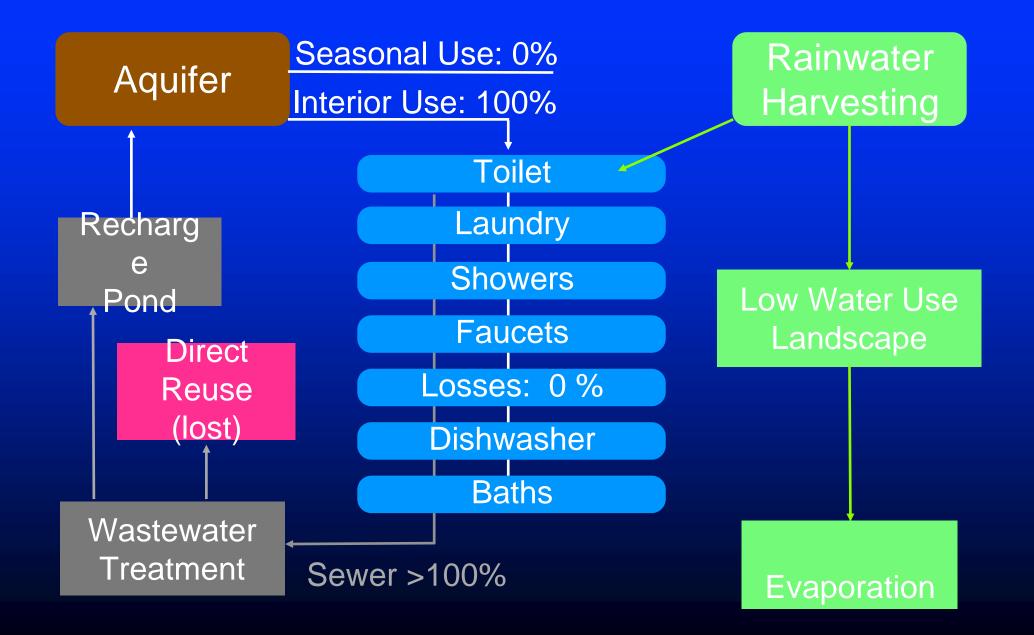
# Look for this logo:





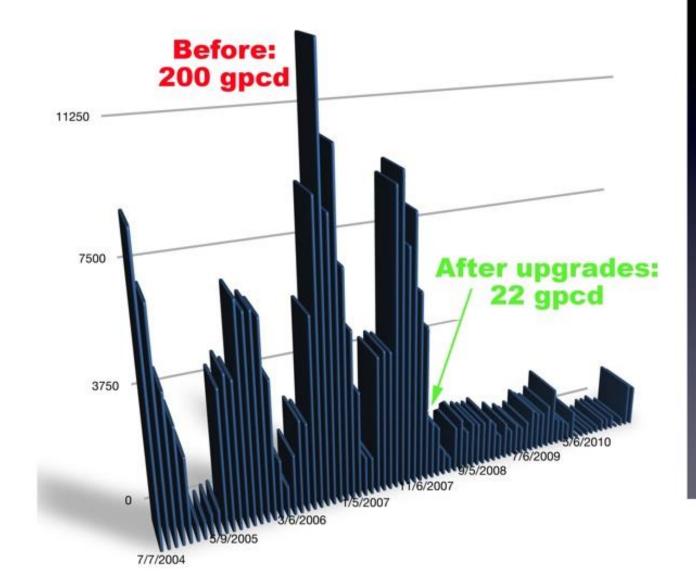


### Urban Home: Municipal Utility + Conservation



# **Conservation Savings**

15000

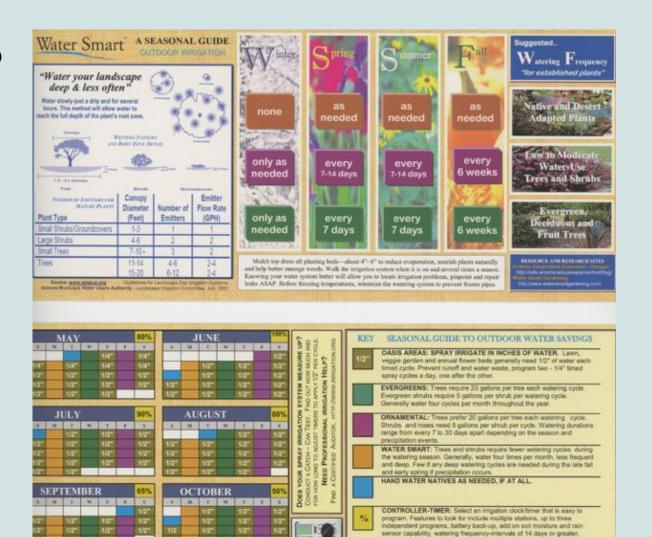


# Conservation Checklist

- Install rainwater harvesting system.
- Update landscaping.
- Install interior water conservation devices: low-flush toilets, efficient laundry, faucts
- Change personal behavior.
- Result: 22 gpcd

# Why Homeowners Conserve

- Education/Voluntary:
   slightly effective
- Economic incentive:
   effective
- Regulations:very effective



edule water cycles in the cool early morning or evening. Adjust waterin

four hour run time schedules features and an easy to use budget % setting

Upper Verde River Watershed Protection Coalition - http://www.uvrwpc.org

Arizona Cooperative Extension - http://cals.arizona.edu/yavapai/annhort/byg/ 928.777.1130

Water Smar

# Voluntary: Personal Responsibility

- Moral Sense is rare, small scale (inadequate)
- Education can help



## **Economic Incentives**

- Utility rebates: e.g. turf removal, fixture upgrades, rainwater harvesting.
- Device based:
   effectiveness depends on
   amount.
- Tax Credits
- Block Rates

#### **Water Conservation**











Water Use Health Check



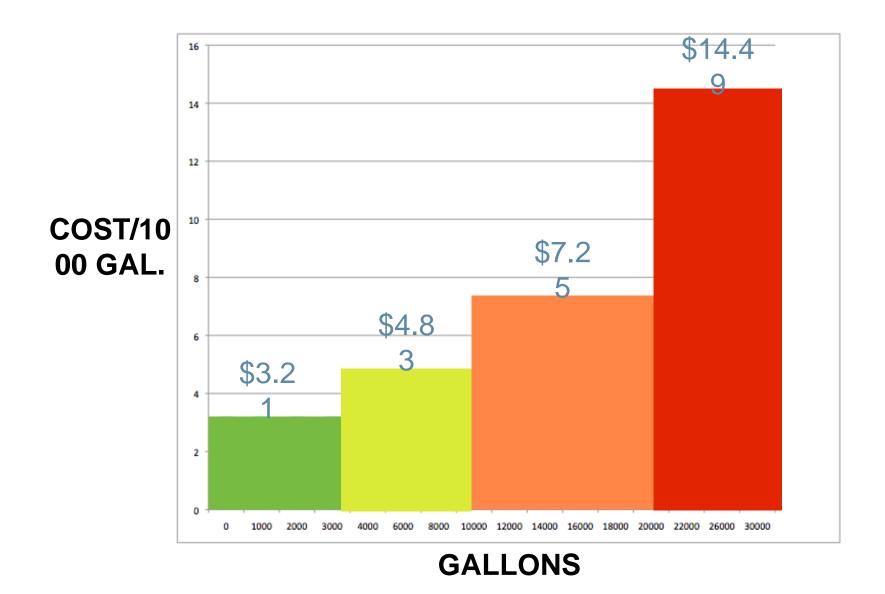
WaterSmart Landscaping



### **Water Conservation Rebate Program**

Practicing a low water-use lifestyle is a way everyone can help ensure a long-term, sufficient water supply. Efficient water use helps meet current and future needs, results in cost savings, decreases energy use, and helps preserve the environment. To help customers reduce water use, the City of Prescott offers residents and business rebates through the Water Conservation Incentive Program. Thank you for doing your part to live Water Smart!

# 2015 Prescott Tiered Rates



#### CHAPTER 3-10: WATER CONSERVATION CODE

# Regulatory Policy

- New Construction very effective
  - eg water conserving
     landscaping & building codes
- Politically problematic:
  - •Restrict landscaping, irrigation, etc.
  - Metering wells = revolution
- No policy guidance from ADWR

#### SECTIONS:

3-10-1:	ADOPTION OF A WATER CONSERVATION CODE:
3-10-2:	PURPOSE:
3-10-3:	REGULATIONS:
3-10-4:	DEFINITIONS:
3-10-5:	ARTIFICIAL LAKES WITH CITY WATER PROHIBITED:
3-10-6:	VARIANCES:
3-10-7:	TERMINATION OF WATER SERVICE FOR VIOLATION:
3-10-8:	INCENTIVE PROGRAM:
3-10-9:	SPRAY TYPE FOUNTAINS PROHIBITED:
3-10-10:	PROHIBITION AGAINST POTABLE WATER FLOWING UPON
	STREETS:
3-10-11:	RESTRICTIONS DURING WATER SHORTAGES:
3-10-12:	PENALTIES:
3-10-13:	SEVERABILITY:

#### 3-10-1: ADOPTION OF A WATER CONSERVATION CODE:

This chapter shall apply to any legally adopted plumbing code approved by the mayor and council of the city. (Ord. 1596, 9-13-1982)

TIME OF DAY-OUTDOOR WATERING RESTRICTIONS:

#### 3-10-2: PURPOSE:

The purpose of this chapter is to establish maximum rates of flow for plumbing fixtures and other devices in order to conserve water, and to regulate the use of water from the municipal water supply within the city of Prescott and its water service area. (Ord. 1596, 9-13-1982; amd. Ord. 1884, eff. 6-11-1987)

#### 3-10-3: REGULATIONS:

- (A) Scope: The provisions of this section shall apply to all new construction and replacement of fixtures in all existing structures. (Ord. 2377, eff. 6-11-1992)
- (B) Water Closets: Water closets shall be designed, manufactured, and/or installed so as to be operable and adequately flushed with not more than 1.6 gallons of water per flush. (amd. Ord. 3357, eff. 6-22-1995)
- (C) Urinals: Urinals shall be designed, manufactured, and/or installed so as to be operable and adequately flushed with not more than 1.0 gallons per

## Effectiveness of Municipal Water Restrictions During Drought in Colorado

TABLE 3. Water Savings During	Water Restrictions	(May through August, 2002).
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	Basis of Percent Savings Calculation <sup>1</sup>									
Municipal Water Provider	Ent	Entire Study Period			Voluntary Restrictions Period			Mandatory Restrictions Period		
	Net Use (%)	Per Capita Use (%)	Expected Use Per Capita (%)	Net Use (%)	Per Capita Use (%)	Expected Use Per Capita (%)	Net Use (%)	Per Capita Use (%)	Expected Use Per Capita (%)	Model Skill (r2)
	1	Providers L	imiting Lawn	Watering	to Once Eve	ry Three Day	s (2-1/3 tir	nes/week)		
Thornton	-8	1	9	-7	2	10	-	_	_	0.71
Aurora	-8 9	12	16	_	-	_	13	15	18	0.72
Denver Water	7	10	13	2	5	7	14	16	21	0.67
Westminster	4	7	14	2 3 0	6	11	17	19	27	0.70
Average <sup>2</sup>	3	7	13	0	4	9	14	17	22	
			Cities Lin	niting Lav	vn Watering	to Twice a W	eek			
Fort Collins	9	13	18	3	7	12	17	20	24	0.63
Boulder	24	24	27	3	-2	4	29	28	31	0.62
Louisville	39	39	41	-	-	-	43	43	45	0.77
Average <sup>2</sup>	24	25	29	0	2	8	30	31	33	**
			Cities Lin	niting La	wn Watering	to Once a We	ek			
Lafayette	46	49	50	-	-	-	53	55	56	0.69

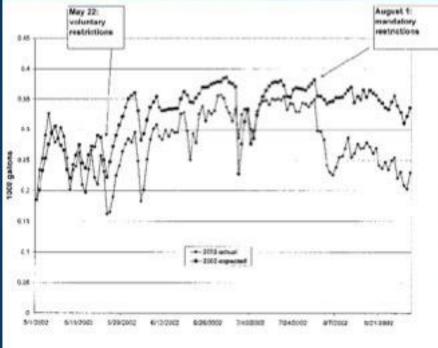


Figure 1. Comparison of Actual and Expected Per Capita Water Use for the City of Westminster From May 1 to August 31, 2002.

- Greatest savings in the cities with greatest mandatory restrictions<sup>11</sup>
- Mandatory restrictions were an effective means of reducing demand and water use<sup>11</sup>
- Voluntary restrictions were of limited value<sup>11</sup>

Social Implications

Least responsive to voluntary conservation: Wealthy educated Anglo republicans<sup>18</sup>



During later mandatory stages: people with higher income and education responded best<sup>18</sup>

## Conclusions

- Potential savings:
   enormous.
- Required: Municipal& Utility policies
- Needed:
  - Data collection
  - Research
  - Policy guidance





## Why Integrate Land & Water Use Planning?

By 2050 Population almost triples to 594,000 Water demand increases by 45,300 af



## Local Land Use Planning Toolbox

- Integration options for city/county governments
- ✓ Planning Comprehensive and Drought Resiliency
- ✓ Regulations, Guidelines, and Standards
- ✓ Incentives & Voluntary Programs
- Tools for demand reduction, reuse, water capture, resiliency
- 42 local, state and western case studies



## **Local Land Use Planning Toolbox**

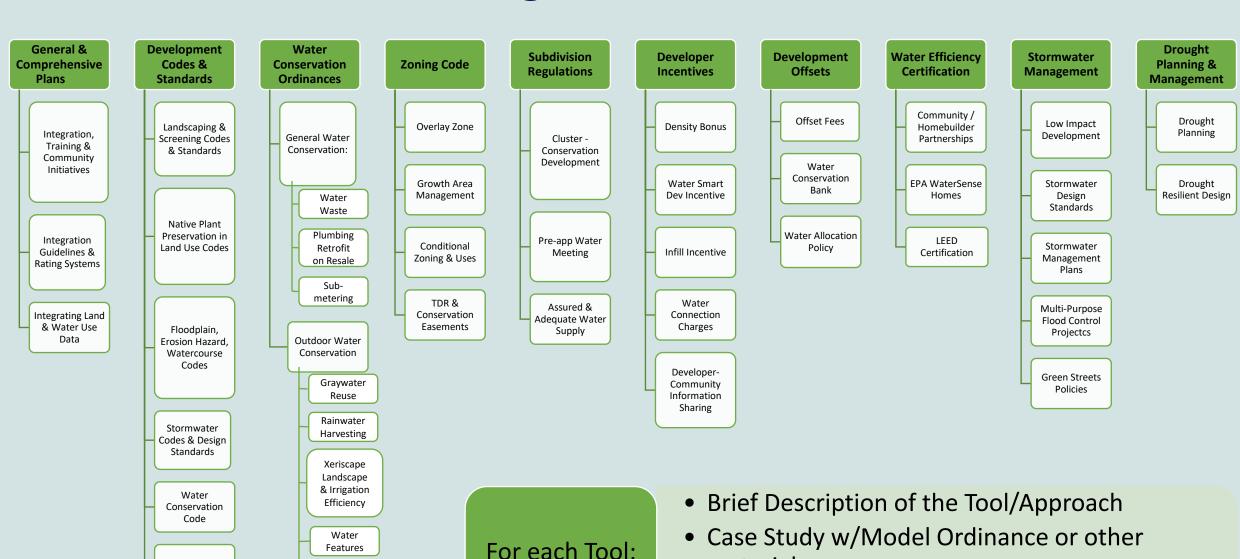
Golf Courses &

Large Landscape

Areas

**Green Streets** 

Policies

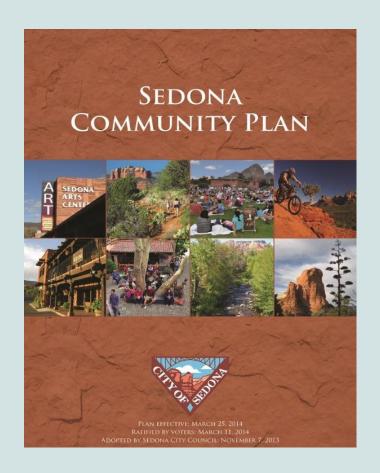


Additional Resources

materials

# Planning (4)

- **► Tool: Guidelines and Rating Systems**
- ✓ Case Study: APA guidelines for sustainable comprehensive planning and self-scoring procedure
- Water-related best practices
  - Provide and protect green infrastructure
  - Water conservation
  - Plan for a lasting water supply
  - Plan for infill development
  - Establish implementation benchmarks
- Plan-scoring procedure to compare plans against a national standard



# Development Codes (7)

- ➤ Tool: Landscaping and Screening Codes and Standards
- ✓ Case Study: Flagstaff Sustainable Landscape Code



- Plant list, incentives for natives, efficient irrigation
- Reclaimed water for fields, golf courses in designated zone
- LID practices required "slow spread and sink" stormwater
  - Integrated rainwater harvesting for irrigation
  - Parking areas designed to capture water runoff

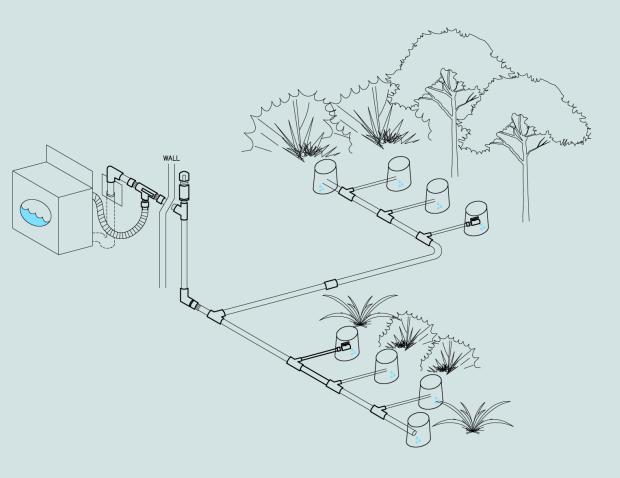




## Water Conservation Ordinances (8)

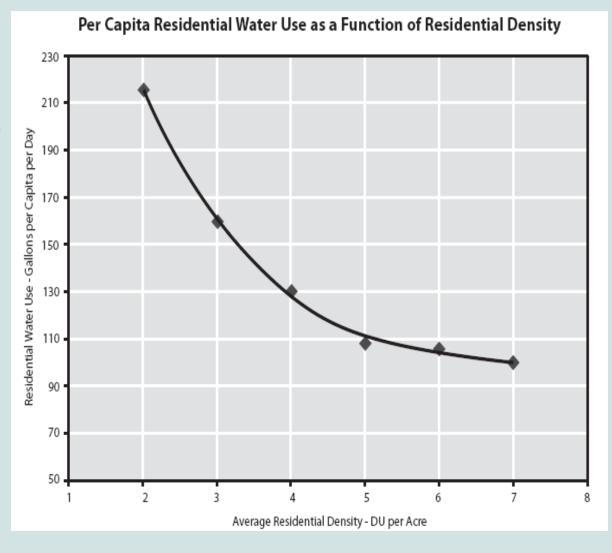
- **➢ Tool: Graywater Reuse Ordinance**
- ✓ Tucson Residential Graywater Ordinance

- Up to 35 gallons/day savings
- ADEQ BMPs for safe graywater use
- New homes must be graywater plumbed with "stub-out" for voluntarily connection to a graywater system
- + \$1,000 rebate incentive



## Developer Incentives (5)

- **► Tool: Density Bonus**
- ✓ Case Study: Yavapai Co. Zoning Code -Open Space and Sustainable Development Option
- Developer selects water conservation options (rainwater harvesting, LWU landscaping) in exchange for rezoning to higher density and preserving open space
- Higher density = more homes = less road & utility costs = more \$\$ for developer



Source: Tim Watkins, Envision Utah

## Water Efficiency Certification/Green Building (3)

- **➢ Tool: LEED Certification**
- ✓ Case Study: REI Distribution Center, Goodyear AZ

- Green building rating system: energy/water/materials points
- New pilot credit program allows use of Water Restoration Certificates to earn LEED points
- REI applied Certificates in Verde Watershed to:
  - establish a conservation easement to avoid future subdivision;
  - fund water conserving irrigation infrastructure;
  - remove invasive plants/restore natural vegetation

## What's Next?

- Initial meetings + new feedback
- Early Summer: building online toolbox FVRG website
- Mid-summer: pilot testing website
- Fall: Final
- State & Federal Lands Toolboxes for Watershed Protection

