



NOVEMBER 2008 REPORT



CONSERVATION & EDUCATION **DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR LYNN SCARLETT**



On November 14th, Deputy Secretary of the Interior, Lynn Scarlett, visited the Upper San Pedro Partnership. The USPP hosted Deputy Secretary Scarlett to a tour of the City of Sierra Vista's Environmental Operations Park (EOP) and the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA).

Richard Cayer, City of Sierra Vista Operations Manager and Jerry Whelan, Supervisor of Wastewater Treatment, explained the construction and operations of the EOP. The EOP recharges approximately 2,000 acre feet of treated effluent annually. Cindy Alvarez, Acting Manager of the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area led Deputy Secretary Scarlett on a birding hike along the San Pedro River. The SPRNCA provides habitat for approximately 400 avian species, 80 mammalian and 60 reptilian/amphibian species.



Photos courtesy of Mark Levy, Sierra Vista Herald

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY/ARIZONA GAME & FISH and U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE



The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™



In November 2008, The Nature Conservancy and the Arizona Game and Fish Department with support by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service purchased 122 acres of land just north of the Mexico/U.S. border that is proximate to the San Pedro River. The Arizona Game & Fish Department noted that the type of habitat found on this property supports among the highest known nesting bird density of any habitat in North America. The property was purchased by a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service grant and from funding given to The Nature Conservancy from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.



LOCAL AUTHORITY: SAN PEDRO WATER DISTRICT WATER DISTRICT ORGANIZING BOARD NOVEMBER MEETINGS

The Water District Organizing Board held a work session and a monthly meeting during November. The Board received information about public outreach opportunities from Marie Hansen, City of Sierra Vista Communications and Marketing Division Manager. The Board also continued its review of sections of the draft Comprehensive Plan as provided by the Arizona Department of Water Resources.



PLANNING, RESEARCH, MONITORING & REPORTING U.S.G.S. CAPTURE MAP

The United States Geological Survey published a report entitled “Simulated Effects of Ground-Water Withdrawals and Artificial Recharge on Discharge to Streams, Springs, and Riparian Vegetation in the Sierra Vista Subwatershed of the Upper San Pedro Basin, Southeastern Arizona.” This report is commonly called the “Capture Map”. ‘Capture’ refers to the changes in inflow or outflow to or from an aquifer as a result of groundwater pumping. The maps depict the responses, over large areas of the aquifer, to the withdrawal of groundwater or to its recharge. This information can be used to guide policy makers and the public regarding water management decisions in the Sierra Vista subwatershed.





COMMITTEES & WORKGROUPS

321 REPORT WORK GROUP

The 321 Report Work Group discussed means to improve the 2009 321 Report. The Work Group examined indicators, thresholds and metrics that could be used in addition to the water budget.

The following indicators are being considered:

- Water Budget
- Regional Aquifer Levels
- Aquifer Storage Change
- Near-Stream Vertical Gradient
- Near-Stream Groundwater Levels
- Streamflows
 - 7 Day Winter Low Flow
 - 7 Day Summer Low Flow
- Spring Discharge
- Removal of Key Areas from Future Pumping

The next 321 Work Group meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2008.

*The world turns softly not to spill its lakes and rivers
The water is held in its arms and the sky is held in the water;
What is water, that pours silver, and can hold the sky?
Water, Hilda Conkling*
