

Who we are

The Upper San Pedro Partnership (USPP) is a consortium of 21 agencies and organizations working together to help meet the water needs of area residents while protecting the **San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA)**. The USPP was formed in 1998 to establish sound water resource management and conservation strategies for the Sierra Vista sub-watershed.

How we work

The purpose of the Partnership is to coordinate and collaborate in the identification, prioritization and implementation of comprehensive policies and projects to assist in meeting water needs in the Sierra Vista sub-watershed of the Upper San Pedro River Basin.



The San Pedro River facing the snow-capped Huachuca Mountain range (left, photo by Jerry Jacka). Topographic Map of the San Pedro River Basin (right)



The Partnership includes agencies and organizations that: 1) own land; 2) control land or water; or 3) make policy with regard to land or water use in the Sierra Vista sub-watershed, and who will provide significant technical or financial resources to help the Partnership accomplish its purpose. This is a unique community-based organization working to fulfill the criteria of federal legislation affecting our area.

In November 2003, Congress passed legislation as part of the Defense Authorization Act of 2004, Public Law 108-136 ("Section 321") which directs the Secretary of the Interior to prepare annual reports to Congress in cooperation with the Partnership, and in consultation with the secretaries of Defense and Agriculture, identifying which water use management and conservation measures have been taken and which are needed to restore and maintain "sustainable yield" of our regional groundwater by 2011. Currently, we are pumping more water than is recharged by natural processes.

How we identify, prioritize, and implement policies & projects

To reach the overall goal of meeting the long-term water needs of area residents and the San Pedro Riparian NCA, the Partnership has defined the most important things that need to be done:

- *Develop annual water management and conservation plans* that identify specific actions that will help meet the Partnership's goal.
- *Provide leadership* by speaking with one voice to seek project funding, encourage good water policy, and support conservation efforts of member agencies.
- *Collaborate with Mexico* whenever possible. The San Pedro River flows north from its headwaters in Mexico, which underscores the need for binational cooperation.