

## FEBRUARY 2009 REPORT



### CONSERVATION & EDUCATION

#### WATER WISE RAINWATER HARVESTING CERTIFICATE PROGRAM



Through their support of the Water Wise program, the Upper San Pedro Partnership, Cochise County, the City of Sierra Vista and Fort Huachuca helped facilitate the creation of the Water Wise Rainwater Harvester Certificate and Demonstration Program. Cado Daily, Water Wise, organized this program and plans to offer it on an annual basis.

This year, Water Wise partnered with the City of Sierra Vista and the Hereford Natural Resources Conservation District to complete three projects. The projects included:

- The installation of a 2500 gallon rain water harvesting system at the City of Sierra Vista Animal Care Center.
- The installation of a 600 gallon cistern on the University of Arizona South campus.
- The installation of a passive rainwater harvesting/erosion structure on the Hayhurst's ranch along the Babocamari River.

The rainwater harvesting system installed at the City of Sierra Vista Animal Care Center represents the first such system to be installed on any city building within Sierra Vista. The 2500 gallon pressurized system will provide approximately one third of the water needed for irrigating the courtyard (which includes the dog exercise area) at the Center.

At Mike Hayhurst's ranch, the participants were taught how to construct a straw bale gabion and loose rock structure. These stormwater management structures will revegetate eroded soil and promote groundwater recharge near the Babocamari River.

A corrugated metal pipe cistern that will hold over 600 gallons of rainwater was constructed at the University of Arizona South campus. Tom Runyon, Fort Huachuca, helped install this gravity fed system that will provide irrigation water to the adjoining landscape.

The program participants were taught how to build rainwater harvesting system and each participant built a rain barrel for use at his/her residence. The class consisted of 17 adult students who each completed classroom and hands-on instruction.



## **PLANNING, RESEARCH, MONITORING & REPORTING**

### **PAC'S VISIONING MEETING**

The Partnership Advisory Commission (PAC) held a second facilitated visioning meeting in February 2009. The purpose of the meeting was to determine how to best pursue the USPP focuses identified at the previous PAC meeting. At this meeting PAC discussed how the USPP can best pursue funding and community outreach. PAC concluded that the Executive Committee is presently in the best position to continue to lead the efforts in obtaining federal funding. PAC also discussed the need for the USPP to enhance its outreach efforts. Tice Supplee, Audubon Arizona, agreed to assemble an Outreach Committee and to act as Chair of the committee.



## **COMMITTEES & WORKGROUPS**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee approved a USPP Federal Agency Budget Request Schedule for Fiscal Year 2010. The USPP submitted Appropriation Requests Forms to Representative Giffords' office as follows:

- USDA-Agricultural Research Service: \$650,000- Scientific support for the Upper San Pedro Partnership.
- Bureau of Land Management: \$115,000 -San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, Section 321 Watershed Protection and Restoration.
- Bureau of Land Management: \$34,000-San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, Community Outreach Project.
- Bureau of Land Management: \$28,000-San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, Mexico Work Group Collaborative Exchange Projects.
- Bureau of Land Management: \$252,000-San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, Section 321 Monitoring and Verification.
- Bureau of Reclamation: \$400,000-Economic Analysis for the Sierra Vista Augmentation Alternative.
- Bureau of Reclamation: \$500,000-Identification of Recharge Locations.
- U.S. Geological Survey: \$750,000-Upper San Pedro Monitoring and Reporting.

The Executive Committee very much appreciates Congresswoman Giffords' support of the USPP and the patience of Caryn Schenewerk, her Legislative Director, in answering questions regarding the preparation and submittal of these requests.

### **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

#### **SCIENCE WITHIN THE 321 REPORT**

At the February Technical Committee meeting Bruce Gungle, USGS, distributed an Issue paper entitled "Ground Water Development-the Time to Full Capture Problem." Jeff Kennedy, USGS, gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Aquifer Storage Trends in the Sierra Vista Subwatershed, 2005-2008." Jeff compared two methods of measuring aquifer storage and explained the advantages and disadvantages of both. Jeff's analysis concluded that aquifer storage in the Sierra Vista Subwatershed tended to decrease during the years of 2005-2007 and then leveled off or increased in 2008.

Bruce Gungle led the continuing discussion on the use of indicators, thresholds and metrics in the 2009 321 Report. Bruce Gungle, Tom Runyon and Russ Scott will work collaboratively to determine how to best graph the indicators within the 321 Report and will bring these ideas back to the Technical Committee for further input.

*A lot of people like snow. I find it to be an unnecessary freezing of water. Carl Reiner*

