



JUNE 2009 REPORT



FUNDING

FEASIBILITY STUDY

Congresswoman Giffords supported the Upper San Pedro Partnership's appropriation request for the Bureau of Reclamation Feasibility Study of Water Augmentation Alternatives in the Sierra Vista Subwatershed. This June, the U.S. House of Representatives' Water and Energy Subcommittee recommended that \$600,000 be appropriated for the Feasibility Study. The request will next be considered by the full House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

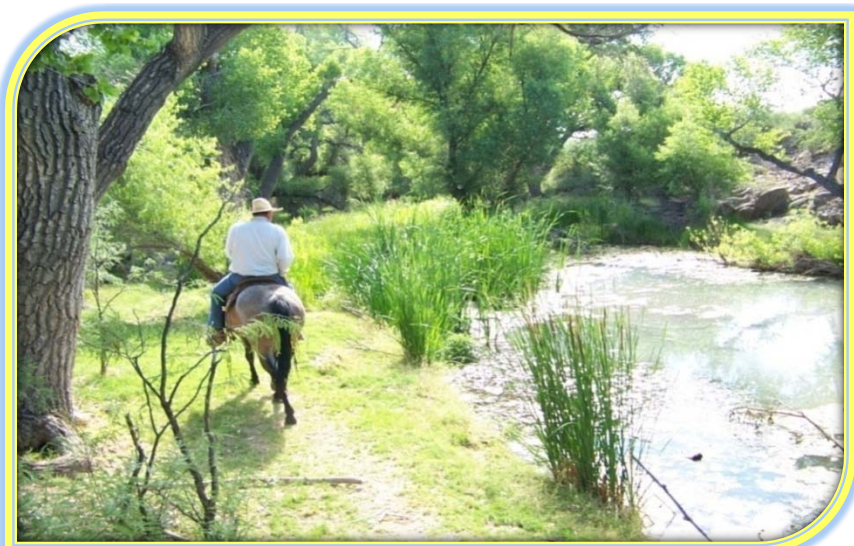


PROJECTS

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY AND THE BLM WET/DRY RIVER MAPPING

Each June, The Nature Conservancy and the Bureau of Land Management, with the help of the Friends of the San Pedro, lead the wet/dry mapping of the San Pedro River and its major tributaries in the Sierra Vista Subwatershed. Additional participants including the Community Watershed Alliance of Benson, Arizona and the CONANP, BIDA and Naturalia in Mexico, map other reaches of the San Pedro River in the United States and Mexico. The data provides important information on the amount of surface water that is present in the river each year. A comparison of the data from year to year can provide insights into the causes of the fluctuations in river flows. This year, over 100 volunteers and agency members in the United States and Mexico participated in approximately 150 miles of wet/dry river mapping. For additional information please refer to the following website:

<http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/arizona/features/art28951.html>



Mike Hayhurst, river mapping along the Babocomari River, a major tributary to the San Pedro River..

CONSERVATION & EDUCATION

DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS TO ENHANCE RECHARGE

Tom Runyon, Fort Huachuca, and the City of Sierra Vista hosted a mini-seminar entitled “Drainage Solutions to Enhance the Recharge of Stormwater”. Guest speaker, Roger Williams of Torrent Resources, explained how drywell drainage systems are designed, installed and operate. Fort Huachuca recently installed a drywell drainage system that is incorporated into a rooftop rainwater harvesting system at the R.W. Bliss Health Center. This system is designed to manage up to a two-year storm event.



USDA-ARS FUTURE SCIENTISTS MINI-INSTITUTE

On June 9-10, 2009, the USDA-ARS Southwest Watershed Research Center sponsored and hosted a program for local teachers in the ARS/Texas A&M program for training future scientists. Using hands-on, inquiry-based activities and seminars from ARS scientists, the project introduces actual USDA research into local schools and communities as it helps to inspire the next generation of research scientists. The topics included rainfall and run-off, estimation of infiltration using a rainfall simulator, plant water use and erosion as a function of surface cover.

MONITORING & REPORTING

BASEFLOW AT THE CHARLESTON GAGE DURING THE LOW-FLOW SEASON

The 2009 June San Pedro River low flow at the Charleston gaging station, monitored by the USGS, is higher this June (typically the driest time of the year) than in any previous year since 2001. Some of the primary reasons for the higher June low flow in 2009 were the unusually cool and occasionally damp weather and the reduced evapotranspiration that occurred during June.



LOCAL AUTHORITY: SAN PEDRO WATER DISTRICT ORGANIZING BOARD **JUNE MEETINGS**

The San Pedro Water District Organizing Board set a tentative date on which citizens will vote whether to form the San Pedro Water District. If the vote occurs at a general election, the tentative date is November 2010. If the vote occurs at a special election, the date proposed is in the spring of 2011. The Organizing Board continued discussions regarding the Comprehensive Plan and the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Organizing Board and Cochise County that would provide a means for retaining an Outreach Consultant.



COMMITTEES & WORKGROUPS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee is updating the Partnership's Strategic Plan. This committee is prioritizing its goals and the action steps associated with fulfilling these goals.



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Russ Scott and Lainie Levick, Technical Committee members from ARS, completed a preliminary map that delineates where invasive, deep-rooted, shrubs might be accessing groundwater. This preliminary work will be expanded. Ultimately, this mapping could be used to guide private and public landowners as to where the removal of invasive, deep-rooted shrubs could save groundwater, thereby benefitting the Subwatershed.

321 REPORT WORK GROUP

Bruce Gungle, Chair of the 321 Report Work Group, included six indicators in the draft 2009 321 Report. These indicators show trends in the attainment or non-attainment of sustainability. Bruce Gungle and other members of the Work Group have also strived to create a "user-friendly" report by including a summary in narrative form and an appendix. The appendix will include detailed scientific graphics. The draft report will be reviewed by the Technical Committee, the 321 Work Group and the Partnership Advisory Commission before being forwarded to the U.S. Department of the Interior in September 2009.



How could drops of water know themselves to be a river? Yet the river flows on.

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Antoine de Saint-Exupery