



MARCH 2009 REPORT



LEGISLATION

OMNIBUS PUBLIC LANDS BILL

On March 25, 2009, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act that included the Sierra Vista Subwatershed Feasibility Study Act. This Act has already been passed by the U.S. Senate. Senator Kyl sponsored the bill, Senator McCain cosponsored the bill and Representative Giffords supported the bill. The passage of this bill represents years of hard work by Partnership members including Eric Holler, Bureau of Reclamation and Chuck Potucek, City of Sierra Vista, who testified in Washington D.C. in support of this legislation. The bill authorizes the expenditure of Federal funding to finance 45% of the cost of the Feasibility Study. The other 55% must be paid with a nonfederal match. The purpose of the Feasibility Study is to determine viable means of augmenting the local water supply. Such options could include stormwater management, effluent recharge and importation. The formation of a Water District will be necessary to implement the project(s) that is selected.



CONSERVATION & EDUCATION

WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH CENTER 2009 ANNUAL CONFERENCE Best Practices for Stakeholder Engagement in Water Resources Planning

The Water Resources Research Center (WRRC) hosted its annual conference on Water Resources. This year, the conference focused upon engaging stakeholders in water resources planning issues. The topics included: Natural Resources Decision Making-Adaptive Management of Skills and Roles, Lessons from the Trenches, and Integrated Water Resources Management and Technology in the participatory process. The Partnership submitted a poster entitled "Upper San Pedro Partnership: Working Towards Sustainability". USPP members Jim Leenhouts, USGS, and Eric Holler, Bureau of Reclamation attended the conference. Susan Bronson, Administrator, attended on behalf of the Partnership. Jean Calhoun, The Nature Conservancy, was a guest speaker at the conference.



LOCAL AUTHORITY: SAN PEDRO WATER DISTRICT

MARCH MEETINGS

The Water District Organizing Board continued work on its comprehensive planning document. The Organizing Board proposes to issue an RFP for the services of a communications consultant. This consultant will create a communications plan for the Organizing Board which will guide its outreach efforts. The Organizing Board

anticipates conducting an extensive outreach campaign including numerous public participation meetings and citizen polling.



PLANNING, RESEARCH, MONITORING & REPORTING **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT MONITORING WELLS**



BLM, with the help of the USGS Central Region Drilling, constructed 5 additional monitoring wells in and adjacent to the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area. The new monitoring wells will expand the understanding of subsurface geology and will improve the existing monitoring well network within the basin. The knowledge gained from these newly constructed wells will help guide resource management decisions in the future (i.e., locations for recharge projects).

Photo courtesy of Nate Dieterich, BLM



COMMITTEES & WORKGROUPS **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee (ExCom) is exploring new federal and private funding sources for the Partnership. ExCom will update the Upper San Pedro Partnership Strategic Plan Action Items with a summary of the progress that has been made toward completing these action items. ExCom will also provide input on the creation of an Executive Summary of Partnership projects that will be used for Outreach purposes.

If I Could Be Water

If I could be water, I wouldn't be a pond; muddy and brown,
I wouldn't be an ocean; big and alone,
I wouldn't be rain; falling again and again,
I wouldn't be ice; cold and frozen,
I would be a river; long, wide and free.

Bailey Bystry, age 11

