



CONSERVATION & EDUCATION

ARIZONA PROJECT WET WATER FESTIVAL

On October 23rd approximately 538 Sierra Vista and Fort Huachuca fourth graders, 25 teachers and 42 community volunteers participated in the Arizona Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) Water Festival. Hank Huisking, Upper San Pedro Partnership representative and City Council member, served as the coordinator for this interactive event at which school children learned about watersheds, the water cycle, groundwater, and water use and conservation.



The goals of this experiential-based project are to increase students', teachers' and the community's knowledge of water, to learn new ways to conserve water and to heighten enthusiasm for further education about water. The event was held on National Water Education Day to further expand awareness as to the uses, value and importance of water.



WATER RIGHTS

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES SUBFLOW REPORT

The Arizona Department of Water Resources gave a public presentation in Sierra Vista on its Subflow Zone Delineation for the San Pedro River Report. The presentation included a background of the subflow issue, the procedure for filing objections to the subflow delineations, a summary of the subflow zone criteria, subflow maps and a summary of the future steps in the Gila River Adjudication regarding the subflow zone.



RESEARCH & MONITORING

BROWN & CALDWELL GROUNDWATER MODEL

On October 14th, Brown & Caldwell Environmental Engineers and Consultants, presented an updated groundwater model of the Sierra Vista Subwatershed to the Partnership's Advisory Commission. The Brown & Caldwell groundwater model is based upon the U.S. Geological Survey groundwater model but pumping and recharge data have been updated through 2007. The calibration has also been updated. Brown & Caldwell's PowerPoint presentation is accessible at the Upper San Pedro Partnership's website at www.usppartnership.com.



PROJECTS

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT TAMARISK CONTROL



Tamarisk is an invasive plant with deep roots that depends upon groundwater for its water supply. One mature tamarisk can consume approximately 7.7 acre/feet of groundwater annually. These plants out-compete native species such as cottonwood and willow. Dense stands of tamarisk can lower groundwater levels, dewater springs and seeps, potentially reduce surface water flows in adjacent stream channels, replace desirable native species, secrete salt on surrounding soils and contribute to the frequency of riparian wildfire. Infestations of tamarisk within riparian zones can also negatively affect wildlife. The scale-like leaves offer little suitable forage for browsing animals. Further, its' habitat is not favored by birds. Studies along the lower Colorado River indicate that tamarisk stands supported only four species of birds per hundred acres, compared to 154 species of birds per hundred acres that are supported by native vegetation. The good news: BLM has initiated an aggressive tamarisk control project within the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area that will target the removal of this invasive plant. This program is based upon an environmental and biological assessment, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, of the problem and potential solutions. To date, specialists have mapped and surveyed approximately 100 acres of the San Pedro River floodplain beginning at the border with Mexico and continuing northward approximately 1.5 river miles. This project is ongoing.
