

Funding Opportunities

The Arizona Water Protection Fund supports projects that:

- ◆ Develop or implement on the ground measures that directly maintain, enhance, and restore Arizona's river and riparian resources (e.g. revegetation, erosion control, and channel stabilization)
- ◆ Conduct innovative river and riparian research



- ◆ Implement water conservation measures or programs outside of the five Active Management Areas
- ◆ Acquire Central Arizona Project water or effluent to restore and maintain rivers and riparian habitats



Arizona Water Protection Fund

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Arizona Water Protection Fund



Protecting Arizona's River and Riparian Resources



www.azwpcf.gov

Purpose of the Arizona Water Protection Fund

The Arizona Water Protection Fund (AWPF) was established in 1994 by the Arizona State Legislature. The primary purpose of the AWPF is to provide an annual source of funding for the development and implementation of measures to protect water of sufficient quality and quantity to maintain, enhance, and restore rivers, streams, and riparian habitats throughout Arizona.



The Arizona Water Protection Fund operates from a grass roots approach to encourage individuals and groups to propose local solutions that generate broad based support.

The AWPF is overseen by a Commission comprised of nine (9) members of the public who fund projects based on a competitive grant process.

Commissioners represent a variety of land, water use, and riparian issue perspectives.

Eligible Applicants

Any person, agency, or organization can apply for a grant. All projects must be located in Arizona, be consistent with state water law, and support the overall goals of the Arizona Water Protection Fund.



What is Riparian Habitat

Riparian habitat is defined as an ecosystem found between aquatic and upland environments that is dependent on the existence of a perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral water source. Soil and vegetation in riparian areas have distinct characteristics that make them different from surrounding areas.

Riparian Habitat Functions

Riparian habitats serve many essential functions such as:

Water Quality Improvement -

Riparian areas trap sediments and nutrients from surface water runoff, provide nutrient cycling, and increase streambank stabilization.

Water Quantity Improvement -

Riparian areas store water in stream-banks, which is slowly released to maintain base flows.

Flood Control -

Riparian areas slow and absorb flood waters, resulting in reduced flood damage and increased groundwater storage.

Recreation -

Riparian areas are highly valued for recreational purposes such as fishing, camping, hiking, wildlife viewing, and picnicking.



Biodiversity and Wildlife Habitat -

Riparian areas are typically high in plant and animal species diversity. Wildlife depend on riparian areas for food, shelter, relief, and as travel corridors. Aquatic species also depend on riparian areas to help stabilize water temperatures.

Economic Benefits -

Riparian areas provide economic benefits by increasing property values, improving water supplies, reducing flood damage, filtering pollutants, and supporting recreational activities.