

Arizona Water Protection Fund Successes

Examples highlighting the benefits of AWPf projects

Socioeconomic Benefits

- *Black Canyon City Community Association Restoration Project* employed over 30 people to remove invasive species, plant native species, install irrigation, install the creek structure, and conduct site maintenance.
- For the *Watson Woods Riparian Preserve* project, 20,000 native trees and shrubs harvested from the local area were planted to revegetate the area.
- Due in part to the *Kaler Ranch Project*, the ranch is now worth 4x as much due to projects designed to restore riparian area and provide alternative livestock water.
- *Picture Canyon Rio De Flag Meander Restoration Project* has provided employment opportunities and generated revenue for numerous local businesses, including Natural Channel Design, Inc., American Conservation Experience, Envirosystems Management, Fred Phillips Consulting, Inc., Sign O Rama, Inc., Flagstaff Native Plant and Seed, RSC Rentals, Mayorgas Welding and others.

Water Supply Improvements

- Through the *Gila Watershed Water Conservation Project*, residents, businesses, towns and counties have saved \$92,000 in water saving to date.
- Through the *Gila River Water Conservation Education Program*, Graham County has been able to decrease the water used in county parks and fairgrounds by **one-third** after program recommendations were implemented.

Fish & Wildlife Habitat Improvements

- The *Restoration of the Gila River at Apache Grove* project demonstrated to the farming community that they can live with a previously-reviled endangered species - the Southwest willow flycatcher - with only minor adjustments in their farming operations.
- Through benefits of the *Watson Woods Riparian Preserve* project, Watson Woods has been designated as part of an *Important Bird Area* by the National Audubon Society for the high quality of habitat found there.
- In 2011, at the Yuma East Wetlands, seven endangered Yuma clapper rail were detected using the restored wetlands and the highest number of migrating endangered southwestern willow flycatcher were detected using the restored habitats as compared to any other year surveyed.

Miles Of Stream/Acres of Improvement

- *Black Canyon City Community Association Restoration Project* restored 22 acres of riparian habitat and benefitted 0.5 miles of stream along the Agua Fria River in Black Canyon City.
- In the first phase alone, the *Hunter's Hole Restoration Project* will restore 36.75 acres of riparian and wetland habitat, while improving habitat quality and increasing border security.
- With the *Watson Woods Riparian Preserve* project, 4 reaches of Granite Creek along 1 mile have been realigned to a proper geometry to enhance flow and allow for spreading to the floodplain. 6 ephemeral wetlands have been created to provide stormwater cleansing.
- The *Montezuma Well Riparian Pasture Restoration Project* has restored approximately 40-acres of riparian habitat adjacent to 1.2 miles of Wet Beaver Creek, a tributary to the Verde River in central Arizona, by enlarging the riparian corridor at the National Park Service Montezuma Castle Monument, Montezuma Well Unit.
- Approximately one mile and 15 acres of riparian habitat improvement have resulted from the *Picture Canyon Rio De Flag Meander Restoration Project*.

Ability To Leverage Other Funding Sources

- For the *Watson Woods Riparian Preserve* project, Arizona Water Protection Fund grant funds have been leveraged against other private and government grants for a total of \$1 million.
- The National Park Service contributed \$ 265,925 in matching Funds for the *Montezuma Well Riparian Pasture Restoration Project* and volunteers for the project donated \$34,500 in in-kind services.
- For the *Picture Canyon Rio De Flag Meander Restoration Project*, \$120,000 was obtained from USFWS Partners Funds, Coconino County, COF pre-grant and \$5,000 in donations from the public and other organizations.

Public Outreach

- 15 stakeholder groups, including federal, state and local agencies, Indian Tribes and non-profit organizations are involved with the *Hunter's Hole Restoration Project*.
- With the *Watson Woods Riparian Preserve* project, ~1,500 volunteers over the last 8 years have invested nearly 13,000 hours into the restoration and monitoring.
- The *Montezuma Well Riparian Pasture Restoration Project* provides outstanding educational and interpretive opportunities to the 180,000 annual visitors to the Monument through restoration of the riparian flood terrace.
- Since 2005, the Picture Canyon Working Group, a group of volunteers representing over a dozen organizations, has organized clean-ups and invasive weed pulls, helped to establish easements and build trails, assisted in finding grant money to restore the Rio de Flag, and was instrumental in getting Picture Canyon listed on the National Register.
- Cleanup, planting and weeding have been aided by a large cadre of volunteers. Several hundred volunteer hours have been utilized on two major organized work parties for the *Picture Canyon Rio De Flag Meander Restoration Project*.

Look at the difference on a watershed scale

Projects in the Upper Gila Watershed

- Water quality improvements in the San Francisco River, impaired due to E. Coli, and Eagle Creek, also on the 303(d) list due to excessive sediment.
- Over 25 miles of streams have benefitted from AWPf projects since 1995.
- Approximately 1,200 acres of riparian habitat have been improved with AWPf funds.
- Benefitted one or more of these threatened and endangered species: Gila chub, Gila topminnow, Gila trout, Loach minnow, Razorback sucker, Southwestern willow flycatcher, Spikedace, Yellow billed cuckoo, Mexican spotted owl, and the Mexican gray wolf.
- Leveraged over \$2,400,000 in additional funding from other private, state and federal sources
- Reached all of the 45,657 residents of our community in both Graham and Greenlee counties through outreach. Over forty articles have been published in the local newspapers.

For detailed accounts of these success stories, visit www.azwpf.gov/savethefund