

Protect our state's waters

The Arizona Water Protection Fund (AWPF) is the primary source of funding for protecting rivers, streams and riparian habitats in Arizona. It's the ONLY dedicated funding source to protect and restore riparian resources, and helps to improve our state's water supply and Arizona's sustainable future.



This funding is in jeopardy!



Agua Fria River at the Horseshoe Ranch Wildlife Area

Streams of Life

Less than **0.5%** of Arizona's total land area is classified as riparian. And, approximately **75%** of Arizona's resident wildlife species are dependent on these habitats to sustain their populations.



Photo courtesy of Fly Rod + Reel



Photo courtesy of USFWS

In 2011, the Legislature voted to permanently eliminate general fund appropriations for the program.

Without funding, on July 1, 2012, the AWPF Commission will not be able to award new grant projects. Worse yet, the Arizona Department of Water Resources will not have adequate funding to continue managing the 30 multi-year projects that are currently underway.

These budget cuts could derail years of progress in water restoration, and losing these valuable riparian areas means a permanent loss of Arizona's biodiversity. We must act now to protect the state's water supply and sustainability goals.

The Arizona Water Protection Fund protects Arizona's most precious resource, water, through:

- Revegetation, erosion control and channel stabilization to maintain, enhance and restore rivers and riparian resources
- Innovative research
- Water conservation

Please help save the Arizona Water Protection Fund!

Call or send an email to your legislator. Tell them how important the program is to protecting Arizona's most precious resource. For legislative contact information and a sample letter, visit www.azwppf.gov/savethefund.

QUESTIONS:

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Protect the fund that protects our state's waters

Just look at the benefits



During restoration



Six months after restoration

A great success story - Yuma East Wetlands

(photos from Quechan Indian Nation Project)

AWPF funded five riparian/wetland restoration projects and three research projects at the Yuma East Wetlands (YEM). A total of 171 acres have been restored along two miles of the Lower Colorado River.

Highlights:

- 3000-4000 people pass through the wetlands every year on the birding nature trail.
- Over 150 local people were employed to complete the eight different Yuma East Wetlands projects.
- Over 500 students have participated in wildlife research, planting, invasive species weeding and seed collection.
- 100 college students per year use the YEW as their outdoor classroom.
- Funding from AWPF projects (~ \$2.5 million) was leveraged to raise an additional **\$8 million** for wetland and riparian habitat restoration, back water channel restoration, interpretive signs and kiosks, trails, and parks.



Today

AWPF \$\$\$ at work...



Here's what people are saying:

With AWPF funding, we have been able to leverage over \$2,400,000 in additional funding from other private, state and federal sources.

- Jan Holder, Gila Watershed Partnership

Without the AWPF's help, this ranch may never have become the model of sustainable agriculture and education it is now. There are other people and places that need this same chance.

- Wilma Jenkins, Double Circle Ranch

Approximately 1,500 volunteers over the last 8 years have invested nearly 13,000 hours into restoration and monitoring. This volunteer time is the equivalent of an additional \$267,525 (Independent Sector report) added to the project.

- Michael Byrd, Prescott Creeks Preservation Association

Our state has benefited greatly through improvements in water quality and quantity, in-stream flows, biodiversity, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, flood control and overall watershed health. Through project implementation, jobs are created and revenue streams in local economies increase.



Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Project—Backwater Wetland



Initial construction and final product for one eroding bank on the LCR Demo Project