

## Gila Watershed Partnership Undergoing Giant Transition

By Deana Stone, Office Administrator, Gila Watershed Partnership



Most of you know that Jan Holder the Executive Director for the Gila Watershed Partnership has resigned and moved on to a new and exciting adventure with Sky Island Alliance in Tucson. Jan devoted 11 years of very hard work to the Gila Valley. We are very sad to lose her. She will be missed by all.

The Gila Watershed Partnership is searching for a new Executive Director. In the mean time Michael Smith has stepped up to play the role of interim ED to satisfy our funders and to assist in the transition. The GWP has hired three new Coordinators: Rachel More-Hla, Justin Johnson and Shawn Stone. Please welcome them to our community. The GWP staff would appreciate if you would please bear with us during this transition. There is more work than the mind can handle right now and a lot of adjusting to do.

Deana Stone would like to thank everyone for their assistance and for checking in to see how she is faring. You have all been very supportive and the GWP staff are very grateful. Hang in there with us!



## Current Project Updates

**FOR MORE INFO, SEE [WWW.GILAWATERSHEDPARTNERSHIP.COM](http://WWW.GILAWATERSHEDPARTNERSHIP.COM)**

### **Upper Gila Watershed Riparian Restoration**

*...funded by The Walton Family Foundation (WFF)*

- Will replace invasive tamarisk with native species to restore natural habitats
- Recently upgraded the irrigation for the coppice fields
- Held planning meeting to decide what permitting will be needed on the five identified beginning restoration sites
- New staff hired to coordinate the project

### **Clifton Restroom**

*...funded by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ)*

- Is installing restroom facilities in a recreational area just outside of Clifton
- Restroom is purchased and constructed and awaiting shipping instructions
- Greenlee County to complete ground work soon

### **San Francisco River Restroom**

*... funded by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ)*

- Will install a second restroom for recreation on the San Francisco River Greenlee County and reduce the E.coli levels on the river and make river recreation safer for our community

### **Eagle Creek Riparian Restoration at Filleman Crossing**

*...funded by the Arizona Water Protection Fund (AWPF) and the U.S. Fish and the USFW Partners program*

- Will construct a river crossing to stop frequent wash-outs, benefiting both residents and wildlife
- Cultural clearances are complete and construction will begin soon

### **Menges Ranch Water System Maintenance**

*... funded by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and the Arizona Water Protection Fund (AWPF)*

- Will replace diesel pumps with solar and add a telemetry system to reduce E.coli in the San Francisco and Gila Rivers
- Cultural clearances are complete

### **Youth Pathway**

*...from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Great American Outdoors Grant, and USFW Partners program*

- To encourage careers in conservation and land management through on-the-ground activities for school age kids high school through college
- A youth summit was a big success for April 22nd at Discovery Park
- Curriculum is being packaged and overall program will then be packaged for use in other communities

### **Water Conservation**

*... funded by Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold, Inc.*

- This project is performing home and business water evaluations to help us all save water and money
- Call and set up a free appointment today!

### **Upper Gila Water Appraisal Study**

*... funded by the US Bureau of Reclamation, with the study to be completed by the WRRC*

- The WRRC will help us to better understand the water demand and supply in our watershed

### **WRRC Water Needs Assessment and Planning**

*... funded by the BOR Landscape Conservation Cooperative*

- The WRRC will help us assess our future water needs and help us to be sustainable

## Developing Greenlee County as a Bird Watching Destination

... funded by Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold, Inc.

• Steve Ahmann is holding a birding workshop this month with speakers Eric Swenenson on the movement of water and Phil Ronnerud on watershed characteristics



“Understanding the difference between perception and reality can help you to live a happier life.”  
-Unknown

## Calendar of Events

**September 10<sup>th</sup>, 7 P.M.** – Gila Watershed Partnership Meeting, Scott Cooke, with the BLM will present on Fire Suppression.

**October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014** – Gila Watershed Partnership Meeting, WRRRC will present on the results of the Scenario Planning project.

## Our partners include:

Arizona Department of Agriculture	Eastern Arizona College
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality	Farm Bureau
Arizona Department of Transportation	Gila Valley NRCDC
Arizona Game and Fish Department	Graham County Chamber of Commerce
Arizona Geological Survey	Freeport McMoRan Copper and Gold Inc.
Arizona State Land Department	Graham County
Bureau of Land Management	Greenlee County
City of Safford	Gila Valley Irrigation District
Town of Thatcher	Natural Resource Conservation Service
Town of Pima	University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
Town of Clifton	University of Arizona NEMO Project
Town of Duncan	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
	U.S. Forest Service – Apache-Sitgreaves and Coronado Forests
	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
	And many community members

## Get involved in your watershed

For more information, contact Deana Stone at the Gila Watershed Partnership, 711 S. 14th Avenue, 85546, or email [gilawatershed@gmail.com](mailto:gilawatershed@gmail.com)

[www.gilawatershedpartnership.com](http://www.gilawatershedpartnership.com)