



The STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) program in the United States was started in 2006 by President Bush. With the American Competitiveness Initiative, President Bush called for an increase in federal funding for physical science programs, which would lead to an increase in science educated graduates. Following the competitiveness initiative was The America COMPETES Act. This act was intended to increase the nation's investment in science and engineering research and in STEM education from kindergarten to graduate school and postdoctoral education. The National Science Foundation recognizes several STEM disciplines including chemistry, computer and information technology science, engineering, geosciences, life sciences, mathematical sciences, physics and astronomy, social sciences, anthropology, economics, psychology and sociology, and STEM education and learning research.

The Eastern Arizona College will be hosting the first Gila Valley SciTech Festival. The event will be a celebration of the scientific and technological businesses, organizations, educational institutions and private and public research groups in the Gila Valley. These

groups are driving innovation and growing the economy for the future of the Gila Valley. The Festival is a collaboration with the Arizona SciTech movement seeking to foster student and community interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) which will carry our state's economy through the next 100 years.

The STEM event will coincide with the Mt. Graham Regional Medical Center's annual Health and Safety Fair. This event was expanded this year to enhance the existing health science activities and expand into other areas of science - such as astronomy, engineering, chemistry, solar energy, mining and outdoor sciences, including agriculture.

Dave Henson of Eastern Arizona College will be discussing his involvement with the STEM program at our General Meeting, February 11 from 7-9PM at the General Services Building.

The SciTech Festival will be held at the Eastern Arizona College's North Campus in Thatcher and Discovery Park Campus in Safford. Events start on February 26th, exclusively for the Gila Valley fourth graders. Public events begin February 27th at the College's North Campus from 7am to noon, and then continue Saturday, February 28th at the North Campus and Discovery Park Campus from 7am-9pm. The Gila Watershed Partnership is a participant in the event and will be having an activity at the Discovery Park Greenhouse on Saturday evening. All ages are welcome to the events on Friday and Saturday. For more information please see EAC's website, www.eac.edu/SciTechFestival.

Hope to see you all there!

Current Project Updates

Upper Gila Watershed Riparian Restoration

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

- Will replace invasive tamarisk with native species to restore natural habitats
- Grow outs of native plants ongoing at the Greenhouse.
- Expecting permit approval within the week.
- AZCC crew contracted to do on-the-ground work

Clifton Restroom

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

- Is installing restroom facilities in a recreational area just outside of Clifton

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
- Permitting process ongoing with USFWS

Developing Greenlee County as a Bird Watching Destination

... funded by Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold, Inc., Town of Clifton, and United Way

- Phase I grant almost complete.
- Phase II Birding grant awarded. Looking to get benches in place. Aligning funds to project needs.
- Contracts in place to line out the trails, work-up signage, and print brochures.

WRRC Water Needs Assessment and Planning

... funded by the BOR Landscape Conservation Cooperative

- Gila Watershed Planning Workshop to be held Feb 18th 9-1pm at Discovery Park Ranch House.

Discovery Park Pollinator Garden

... funded by Eastern Arizona College, US Bureau of Land Management

- Broke ground on MLK Day with the help of the community and the Gila Valley Boys and Girls Club



Watershed Riddles

What always runs, but never walks, often murmurs, but never talks, has a bed, but never sleeps, has a mouth, but never eats?

Answer: A river

Events



GWP

ON FACEBOOK TO KEEP UP WITH ALL OUR EVENTS!!

February 9-11, 2015 – Tamarisk Coalition Conference

February 18th, 2015 – Gila Watershed Planning Workshop

February 26-28, 2015 – STEM/SciTech Festival

March 11th, 2015 – Next General Meeting

Open Volunteer Hours at the Discovery Park Greenhouse Every **Thursday 8-11am**

Thank you to our partners:

Arizona Department of Agriculture
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Arizona Department of Transportation
Arizona Game and Fish Department
Arizona Geological Survey
Arizona State Land Department
City of Safford
Eastern Arizona College
Farm Bureau
Freeport McMoRan Inc.
Gila Valley Irrigation District
Gila Valley NRCD
Graham County

Graham County Chamber of Commerce
Greenlee County
Natural Resource Conservation Service
Tamarisk Coalition
Town of Clifton
Town of Duncan
Town of Pima
Town of Thatcher
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service – Apache-Sitgreaves and Coronado Forests
U of A Cooperative Extension
U of A Water Resource Research Center

Get involved in your watershed

For more information, contact Steve Eady at the
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Email us at gilawatershed@gmail.com
Like us at [facebook.com/gilawatershedpartnership](https://www.facebook.com/gilawatershedpartnership)

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