

Arizona Department of Water Resources

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**NEWS
RELEASE**



Janet Napolitano,
Governor

Herb Guenther,
Director

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ADWR issues Draft Volume III of Arizona Water Atlas

Covers all of southeastern part of the state

The Arizona Department of Water Resources has completed draft Volume III of a nine-volume set comprising the Arizona Water Atlas, Director Herb Guenther announced today.

The new volume covers the Southeastern Arizona Planning Area, which runs from near Globe to Arizona's southeastern boundary with New Mexico and Mexico, and includes all of Cochise and parts of seven other counties. For study purposes, ADWR staff divided Arizona into seven planning areas, each containing multiple groundwater basins.

"This is a highly diverse area, with 10,000-foot mountains, valleys, riparian areas and large agricultural operations," Guenther said. "It also is much like the rest of Arizona in that we anticipate there will be a large amount of growth in the next few decades."

"We intend that this Atlas will become a dynamic project, constantly updated and revised as new information becomes available to us," Guenther added.

The latest population figures show a little less than 200,000 people reside in an area of 16,072 square miles. Analysts project the population will grow by as much as 60 percent by 2050.

Even as new development comes to the area, it still retains its agricultural character. Researchers concluded the area consumes about 550,000 acre-feet of water annually, with about 475,000 acre-feet used by agribusiness. An acre-foot of water is about 326,000 gallons.

The Atlas initiates a more systematic effort by the Department to assist Arizona water planning efforts and develop solutions to water resource problems. The objectives of the Atlas are to present a comprehensive view of regional water supply and demand conditions, to provide water resource information for planning and resource development purposes, and to identify the needs and issues facing communities.

The first three volumes are available on the ADWR website – www.azwater.gov. Because they contain considerable numbers of high-quality maps, the volumes are extremely large. ADWR recommends visitors download each item they wish to examine, rather than attempt to view them while on line. However, to address file size issues, sections of Volume III may be downloaded separately as indicated on the website.

Caution: Some of the volumes are too large to attempt downloading without broadband Internet access.

ADWR plans to complete drafts of all Atlas volumes by the end of 2007 and will make printed copies and CD-ROMs available.

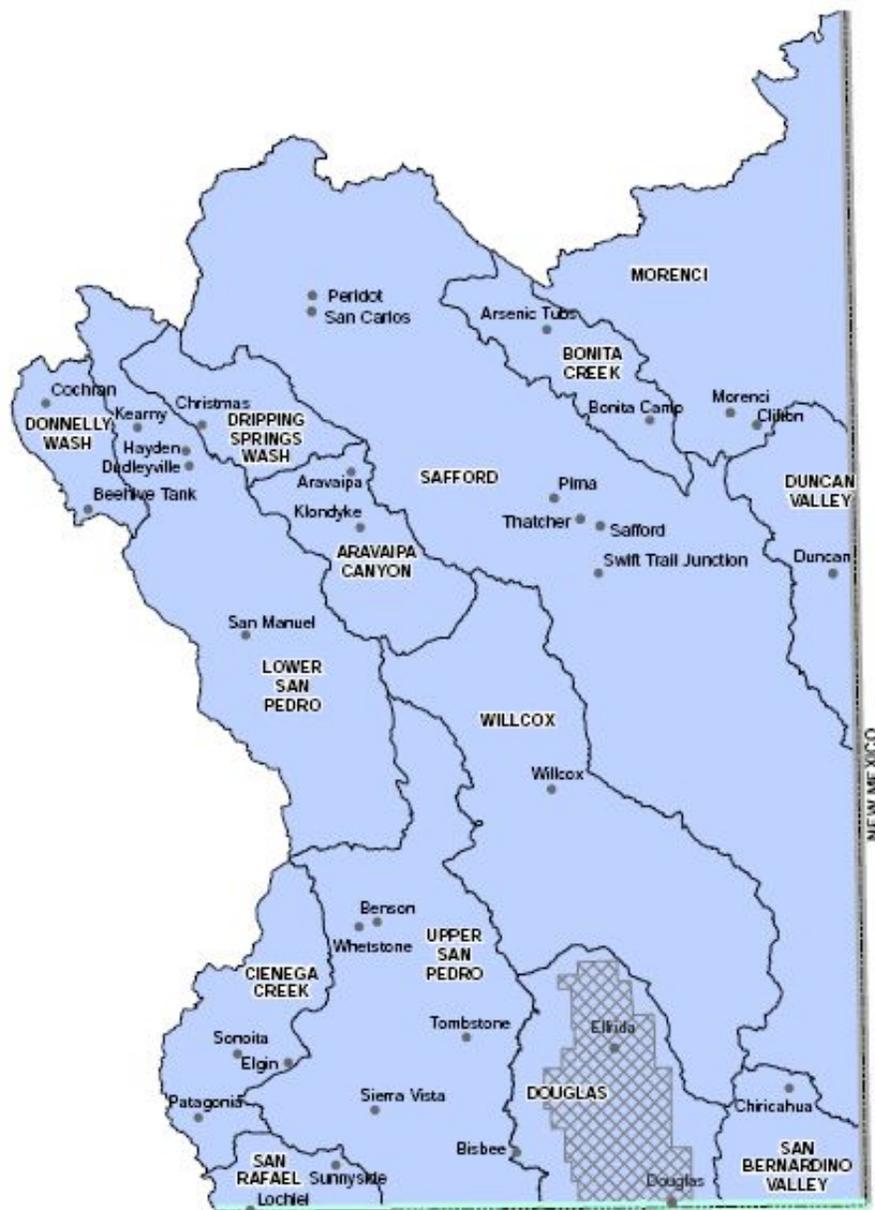
The atlas staff is seeking substantive public and professional comment on the work in progress. Staff plans to revise the Atlas, based on comments received. An electronic comment form is available on the website.

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Southeastern Arizona Planning Area (*groundwater basins marked*)