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Governor



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## **ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

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### **Water Resources Development Commission (HB 2661) Environmental Mapping Subcommittee – Notes: January 21, 2011 Meeting**

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#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Lynn Bredimus (SRP)  
Aaron Citron (ALWT, by phone)  
Val Danos (AMWUA)  
Rebecca Davidson (SRP, Subcommittee lead)  
Nicole Eiden (AZGF)  
Santiago Garcia (USBR)  
Karen Henrikson (ADWR)  
Amelia Homewytewa (GRIC)  
Doug Kupel (City of Phoenix)  
Jim Renthall (BLM)  
Dennis Rule (CAWCD, by phone)  
Linda Stitzer (ADWR)  
Matt Tsark (Strand Assoc. Inc.)  
Dave Weedman (AZGFD)

#### **INTRODUCTIONS:**

Introductions were conducted and the agenda reviewed

#### **UPDATES ON NEW DATASETS STORED ON THE FTP**

- There are some mapping issues related to the use of different spatial projections and format of the datasets provided e.g. the data may not align perfectly.
- Most of the identified datasets have been collected for analysis. For those remaining, coordinate with Rebecca
- The only new data identified is a riparian mapping project on the Verde River available from Sharon Masek-Lopez. These data are extremely detailed and so would not be comparable with other riparian data.

#### **DISCUSSION OF THE RIPARIAN ANALYSIS:**

- Paul Beier at NAU has conducted riparian vegetation analysis by lumping certain vegetation types together from the Southwest ReGap. This analysis is more extensive than the Wetland Inventory, which does not cover the whole state. It was suggested that the Beier cover be combined with the 1993 AZGF cover. The Beier cover was displayed showing the Lower San Pedro and it was noted that in this area it appears to over estimate the extent of riparian vegetation. After considerable discussion it was recommended that the agricultural land category be removed from the 1993 AZGF cover, that this be combined with the Beier cover but buffered along streams based on stream order to address the potential to over estimate the extent of riparian vegetation.
- It was noted that the USGS ET data needs to be folded into this analysis as appropriate, lumping riparian vegetation rather than splitting between classes.

#### **DISCUSSION OF DATA QUERIES:**

- An analysis of perennial stream miles has been conducted using an ADEQ dataset from the late 2000s. This has been compared to the TNC Freshwater Assessment and the AZGF 1993 data and it is relatively close. The ADEQ dataset somewhat underestimates miles because it does not pick up the short perennial reaches, but it is considered the most comprehensive estimate. An alternative, or bin item, could be to group all the datasets to show commonly perennial reaches.
- A query of Congressional designated (or Presidentially proclaimed) federal lands that intersect with perennial waters needs review by various agencies. There was discussion of what to include in the compendium table since some waters may have multiple overlapping environmental designations. It was noted that these designations provide additional justification for protecting perennial flows and need to be included. It was agreed to identify those lands with formal designations within the body of the table and where these waters also have other protections, include these in the head notes.

#### **DISCUSSION OF MAPPING GEOGRAPHIES, FORMAT AND CONTENT:**

- Maps at the county scale and basin scale showing a number of water features were distributed. Comments included: fade the landownership cover so that the water features are more prominently displayed; use the same color to denote certain protected areas; display more towns; widen some of the designations along streams so that they display more clearly; change instream flow key to "ISF Application" and "ISF Certificate".
- Wildlife catchments, which number about 1,000 statewide will not be displayed on maps but should be discussed in the report
- Revised maps will be generated for the next meeting where the group will need to determine how best to convey our message.

#### **NEXT STEPS AND MEETING DATE:**

- There was a brief discussion on data and document sharing and the ability to now use DocuShare in addition to the FTP site. Linda will provide DocuShare information and it was suggested that Karen Henrikson be asked to make a presentation to the full Workgroup.
- Next meeting Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2:30-4:00 pm at the ADWR office