

**THE NORTHERN GILA COUNTY  
WATER PLAN ALLIANCE**

**STRATEGIC PLAN 2001**

*ADOPTED: 24 JANUARY 2001*

**Prepared by:  
The NGCWP Alliance Technical Committee**

# **NORTHERN GILA COUNTY WATER PLAN ALLIANCE STRATEGIC PLAN 2001**

## **INTRODUCTION**

**JANUARY 24, 2001**

The Northern Gila County Water Plan Alliance (NGCWP Alliance) began to formulate on Friday, September 19, 1997, when a Town Hall meeting was organized and directed, by Mr. Ron Christensen of the Gila County Board of Supervisors. Thirty-three State and Community leaders met at the R bar C Scout Ranch, northeast of Payson, to discuss the need for a more regional approach to addressing the future water requirements of the area. When the meeting was over, a Steering Committee had been established to lead the process and a Technical Committee was organized to provide staff support.

Since that time, the NGCWP Alliance participants have held regular monthly meetings, and many times more frequently, to address the serious water issues facing the greater Northern Gila County Area.

In addition, Presentations have been made to the various local Governmental boards and Public Forums. Several Technical Reports and Engineering Studies have been undertaken and completed, by Alliance participants, without direct cost to the group. Grants and other funding sources have been explored, pursued and secured. Many months were spent developing and cultivating an Alliance MOU that has been executed by the existing Steering Committee members. And many ideas and experiences have been exchanged and discussed to the benefit of all concerned.

The Northern Gila County Water Plan Alliance is working and remains dedicated to the development of a firm water supply to serve the projected area populations through the year 2050.

This five-year Strategic Plan has been developed and will continue to Outline the Goals of the Alliance, Keep our Energies Focused and Provide an Overview of the Strategies and Philosophies which guide our Efforts.

# **NORTHERN GILA COUNTY WATER PLAN ALLIANCE**

## **PROJECT PARTICIPANTS**

**JANUARY 24, 2001**

### **NGCWP – STEERING COMMITTEE**

Ronald A. Christensen (Gila County) – *Committee Chairman*  
Howard Matthews (Pine/Strawberry Improvement District)  
Lionel Martinez (Rim Trail Domestic Water Improvement District)  
Dennis Sundie (Arizona Department of Water Resources)  
Farrell Hoosava (Tonto Apache Tribe)

### **NGCWP – PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

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RJM & ASSOCIATES  
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### **NGCWP – TECHNICAL COMMITTEE PARTICIPANTS**

Robert J. Mawson (Alliance Program Coordinator) – *Committee Chairman*  
Dennis Sundie & John Fortune (ADWR Planning Division)  
Bill Steinkampf, John Parker & Don Bills (U.S. Geological Survey)  
Joe Mendoza (Gila County Community Development Director)  
Greg Kornrumpf & Jeff Ehlers (Salt River Project)  
Greg Wallace, Frank Corkhill & Bill Remick (ADWR Hydrology Division)  
Howard Matthews & Gary Hezel (Pine-Strawberry Improvement District)  
Rod Byers, Rich Martin & Grant Loomis (U.S. Forest Service – Tonto Forest)  
Tom Poulson (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation)  
Marvin Murray (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation – Retired)

# NORTHERN GILA COUNTY WATER PLAN ALLIANCE

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

**JANUARY 24, 2001**

**Date Effort Began :** **19 September 1997**

Initial meeting was held at the R-C Scout Ranch, north east of Payson, Arizona. Thirty-three (33) participants representing nineteen (19) organizations attended.

**Number of Past/Present Participating Organizations:** **Twenty-five (25)**

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ)  
Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR)  
Arizona Game and Fish  
Brooke Utilities, Inc. (*withdrew participation - 1999*)  
Central Arizona Association of Governments (CAAG)  
Gila County - Board of Supervisors  
Gila County - Community Development Division  
Gila County - Engineering Services Division  
Payson Area Well Owners Association  
Payson Economic Development Corporation  
Pine / Strawberry Water Improvement District  
Rim Trail Domestic Water Improvement District  
RJM & Associates  
Salt River Project (SRP)  
Tonto Apache Tribe  
Tonto Natural Resource Conservation District  
Town of Payson (*withdrew participation – mid year 2000*)  
United States Bureau of Reclamation  
United States Geological Survey (USGS)  
United States Indian Health Service  
University of Arizona - Cooperative Extension  
United States Department of Agriculture - Coconino National Forest  
United States Department of Agriculture - Rural Development  
United States Department of Agriculture - Tonto National Forest  
United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resource Conservation District

**Number of Participants :**

**70+**

Representing Organizations / Entities at scheduled Alliance meetings. (Does not include individuals who may have assisted in information gathering or projects at the Organization's or Entity's regular place of work)

Many members travel from Tucson, Phoenix, Globe, Flagstaff and other out-of-town locations to meet together regularly.

**Funding Developed (Aug 2000):**

**\$329,000.00\***

State of Arizona Rural Watershed Initiative	\$185,000
United States Forest Service Planning Grant	\$ 29,000
United States Geological Survey	\$ 15,000
Pine/Strawberry Water Improvement District	\$100,000

- \* Does not include Program Coordinator funding by Gila County Government
- \* Does not include in-kind service costs or special project technical research and assistance generated and provided by alliance participants.

# **NORTHERN GILA COUNTY WATER PLAN ALLIANCE**

## **STRATEGIES**

**JANUARY 24, 2001**

### **STRATEGY ONE:**

Continue to Develop, Cultivate and Expand the Regional Water Plan Alliance

### **STRATEGY TWO:**

Continue Geological Exploration and Investigation to determine Sub-surface Characteristics and Potential Water Aquifer Development Opportunities

### **STRATEGY THREE:**

Continue Hydrologic Exploration, Water Source Investigation & Water Source Development Assistance

### **STRATEGY FOUR:**

Assist and Encourage Efforts to Protect and Conserve Existing Water Supplies

### **STRATEGY FIVE:**

Assist in Developing and Improving Water-Harvesting & Effluent Recycling Efforts

### **STRATEGY SIX:**

Assist in Increasing Water Conservation and Usage Education

# NORTHERN GILA COUNTY WATER PLAN ALLIANCE

## PROJECTS COMPLETED

JANUARY 24, 2001

### **Hydrogeologic Study of the Northern Gila County Area (First Year)**

First year of five-year study of the geology, surface and sub-surface hydrology of the greater Northern Gila County Area.

Purpose -	Data collection, development and study
Conducted By -	USGS and Alliance Participants (as needed)
Total Estimated Cost -	\$1,000,000.00 (over five years)
Status -	First year of study completed June 30, 2000 Second year in progress
Estimated Cost (1 <sup>st</sup> year) -	\$ 103,800.00
Estimated Cost (2 <sup>nd</sup> year) -	\$ 240,000.00

### **NGCWP Borehole #1 - Drilling**

Exploratory borehole drilled to investigate the deep geology and hydrologic potential of a portion of the Northern Gila County Study Area

Purpose -	To provide much needed information for consideration in the USGS study mentioned above and other Alliance Projects.
Conducted By -	Gila County and Alliance Participants
Total Estimated Cost -	\$ 142,500
Status -	Completed – Actual Cost \$132,173.81

### **Feasibility Study and Cost Estimates for Blue Ridge Reservoir Pipeline**

Preliminary Study and Cost Estimates for three potential pipeline routes from Blue Ridge Reservoir to Pine/Strawberry and Payson.

Purpose -	To determine potential costs associated with the possible routing of water from Blue Ridge Reservoir.
Conducted By -	Bureau of Reclamation, Gila County and the Town of Payson
Estimated Cost -	Undetermined (completed with in-kind services)
Status -	Complete

## **Technical Committee Report and Recommendations**

### Initial Technical Report and Recommendations to the Steering Committee

Purpose -	To identify a study area and establish a planning focus for the effort by identifying population and water use projections through the year 2050, identifying potential available water sources, potential environmental and legal restrictions to securing said water sources, potential funding sources, and existing historic and engineering data sources for the area.
Conducted By -	Alliance Technical Committee Participants
Estimated Cost -	Undetermined (completed with in-kind services)
Status -	Complete

### **Alliance Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

Development of a Memorandum of Understanding for the formation and operation of the Alliance.

Purpose -	To officially organize the Alliance and establish an organizational structure, identify the purpose of the Alliance, and identify general operating guidelines.
Conducted By -	RJM & Associates and Alliance Participants.
Estimated Cost -	Undetermined
Status -	Completed and Executed by Initial Steering Committee Members. Alliance expansion continues to be a priority.

# NORTHERN GILA COUNTY WATER PLAN ALLIANCE

## CURRENT & FUTURE PROJECTS

JANUARY 24, 2001

### **Alliance / Study Area Expansion Plan**

Working with potential partners in Central and Southern Gila County to expand the Alliance and Regional Study Area to encompass all of Gila County.

Strategies Involved -	Strategy One & Four
Priority -	High
Purpose -	To expand regional Alliance and increase opportunities for water planning
Duration -	6 to 12 Months
Estimated Cost -	Undetermined

### **Detailed Water Demand & Supply Study**

Detailed assessment of water supplies and water demands, specific to sub-regions of the study area, as projected to the year 2050

Strategies Involved -	Strategy One, Three, Four, Five & Six
Priority -	High
Purpose -	Data collection & Planning Statistics
Duration -	12 to 18 Months
Estimated Cost -	Undetermined

### **NGCWP Borehole #1 (Pine-Strawberry) - Testing and Monitoring**

Follow up investigation and monitoring of water level, quality and quantity to determine feasibility of sub-surface water source development in the Strawberry area.

Strategies Involved -	Strategy Three
Priority -	High
Purpose -	Data collection, development & study
Duration -	On-going Effort
Estimated Cost -	\$30,000.00 to \$40,000.00

### **Preacher Canyon Feasibility Study & Monitoring Baseline**

Working with US Forest Service to determine Feasibility of continuing, expanding and converting the Preacher Canyon Well Field Project (currently providing construction water for Highway 260 road improvements) to a domestic water supply once road construction is complete.

Strategies Involved -	Strategy Three, Four & Five
Priority -	High
Purpose -	Study of existing water sources and determine possible conversion for future domestic use.
Duration -	6 to 12 Months
Estimated Cost -	Undetermined

### **Spring & Surface Flow Monitoring Program**

Strategic Instrumentation Installation and on-going monitoring of Spring and Surface Water Flows in the Northern Gila County Study Area

Strategies Involved -	Strategy Three, Four & Six
Priority -	High
Purpose -	Data collection, resource monitoring and planning statistics
Duration -	Undetermined
Estimated Cost -	Undetermined

### **USGS Hydrogeologic Study of the Northern Gila County Area (2<sup>nd</sup> Year)**

Second year of a proposed five-year study of the geology, surface and sub-surface hydrology of the greater Northern Gila County Area.

Strategies Involved -	Strategy Two and Three
Priority -	High
Purpose -	Data collection, development & study
Duration -	Yearly commitment
Estimated Cost -	\$240,000.00

## **Well Monitoring Program for Existing Water Wells**

Strategic Instrumentation Installation and on-going monitoring of water levels and quality of developed water wells within the study area

Strategies Involved -	Strategy Three, Four, Five & Six
Priority -	High / Medium
Purpose -	Data collection, resource monitoring and planning statistics
Duration -	Undetermined
Estimated Cost -	Undetermined

## **Blue Ridge Reservoir & Back-up Well Field Study**

Study to explore the feasibility of utilizing the Blue Ridge Reservoir and proposed back up Well Field to supply water to the Northern Gila County Area. Water Rights Adjudication still pending.

Strategies Involved -	Strategy One, Two and Three
Priority -	High / Medium
Purpose -	Data collection & feasibility study
Duration -	Undetermined
Estimated Cost -	Undetermined

## **Alliance Web Site Production and Development**

Production and on-going development of an Alliance Web Site capable of delivering water data, study information and educational information to the Alliance participants and the general public. Internet presence and accessibility.

Strategies Involved -	Strategy One, Three and Six
Priority -	Medium
Purpose -	Internet presence, increased communication and increased public access to information
Duration -	12 to 18 Months to Full Access
Estimated Cost -	\$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00

## **Water Allocation, Water Banking & Water Credit Options**

Study of options available to the Alliance in regard to existing or procurable water allocations, water banking & water credit program opportunities.

Strategies Involved -	Strategy Three, Four & Five
Priority -	Low
Purpose -	Study of existing and potential water sources for planning purposes
Duration -	Undetermined
Estimated Cost -	Undetermined

## **NGCWP Borehole #2 – Drilling Project**

Exploratory borehole #2 to probe the deep geology and hydrology of the Northern Gila County Study Area. Location and scope of work to be determined at a future date. Borehole will be located to supplement USGS Study currently underway.

Strategies Involved -	Strategy Two and Three
Priority -	Low
Purpose -	Data collection, development & study
Duration -	Undetermined
Estimated Cost -	\$150,000.00 - \$200,000.00

## **Rim Trail – Water Diversion Relocation Study**

Relocation study and facilitation for extending pick up location approximately one mile north of present location in East Verde River.

Strategies Involved -	Strategy Three, Four & Five
Priority -	Medium
Purpose -	Cleaner water pick up location
Duration -	Undetermined
Estimated Cost –	Undetermined

## **Rim Trail – East Verde Restoration Project**

Study of existing section of well-camped area on East Verde River near Rim Trail Subdivision for the purpose of investigating potential restoration activities

Strategies Involved -	Strategy Three, Four & Five
Priority -	Medium
Purpose -	River Restoration
Duration -	Undetermined
Estimated Cost –	Undetermined