



Management Plans - ADWR <managementplans@azwater.gov>

DAMA Draft First Management Plan

1 message

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To: Management Plans - ADWR <managementplans@azwater.gov>

ADWR DAMA Team,

Comments on the Draft of the First Management Plan for the Douglas Active Management Area:

Page 11, Management Goal. I think the reduction of 340 acre-feet per year for a total of 3,400 af over ten years is too low.

Page 24, 2.2.2.2 Grazing, 1106 grazing cattle seems very low. Arizona Department of Ag should have this information. From the ranchers that I know in the area its probably more like 3,000.

Page 25, 2.2.3, Agriculture Sector. How many acres were irrigated in 1990 that used 32,500 af?

Page 38, 3.3.2, last sentence. I don't think there are surface water adjudications in the DAMA.

Chapter 4 Agriculture:

On page 25 it states that the agriculture water demand has doubled since 1990 from 32,500 af to 61,469 af in 2022. The goal of 340 af/year reduction is only half a percent of the 61,469 af. I think the minimum goal should be 1% a year increase cumulative over 10 years so that by year 10 it would be 10% reduction for year 10. This would then be 33,825 af reduction over the 10 years. The reduction would be for all with a less percentage for the small farms of 150 acres or less. This reduction would then be a management decision by the farmer to change crop type, improve irrigation efficiency, soil management or fallow irrigated land.

The groundwater table has been declining in the DAMA since the 1930s. This year some well levels have declined between 5 and 10 feet.

Agriculture is the major economic industry for the rural area of the DAMA and needs to be preserved. Water is essential for growing food and the irrigated agriculture in the DAMA contributes to food security of our country. We need to be more efficient on how we can optimize the use of our groundwater while keeping the farms economically viable. Groundwater use is one of today's most pressing global issues for food security.

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