

RWI Stakeholder Presentation

Upper and Middle Verde River
Watershed



Base from U.S. Geological Survey digital data, 1:100,000, 1982
 Universal Transverse Mercator projection, Zone 12



Regional Water Issues

- Groundwater Pumping
- Legal Right to Water
- Meet Demand of Growing Population throughout County
- Protect Rivers and Streams
- Maintain or Improve Regional Economy
- Plan Locally or the State/Feds will do it for us (or do it to us)

What are our unique issues

- “and” as in Upper and Middle Verde
- Two different management regimes: the AMA and the non-AMA areas
- 12 governmental jurisdictions
- 20 +/- Water Groups (about 10 very active)
- 0.5 million acres of developable land
- Stakeholders have similar goals, but hope for different outcomes
 - Reduce or stop growth to Create Sustainable Supplies
 - Create Long-term water supplies to anchor economic growth

Challenges

- Improving the understanding of water resources
 - Avoid broad generalizations, information has to relate
 - Be honest about what we know, what we think we know and WAGs
 - Qualify whether differences are small or large
- Making informed & politically acceptable decisions
 - Don't Polarize the issues
 - Develop questions, then answer them
 - Scientifically Supported,
 - Financially supported
 - Community supported

How can RWI contribute

- Continue or expand role of facilitator
 - Local groups and SWAG
- Assistance with Legislative/policy changes
- Financial support for discovery