



**Blue Ridge DWID Board Meeting  
August 21, 2025  
Rodney Held**



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# General Stream Adjudications

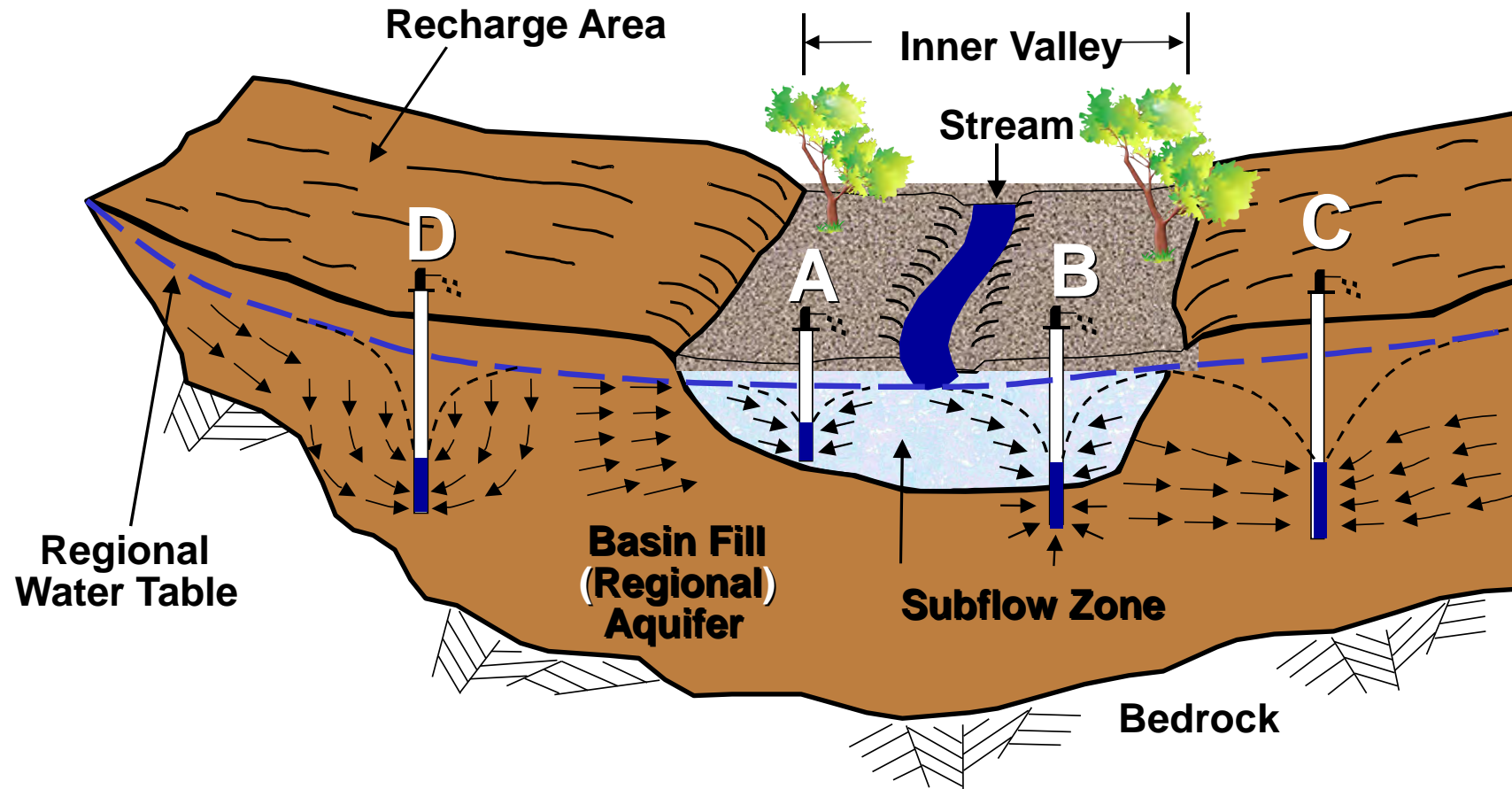
- A judicial determination establishing “the nature, extent, and relative priority of the water rights of all persons in the river system and source.”
  - Two comprehensive general stream adjudications pending in Arizona (**Gila River** and **Little Colorado River**).
- Adjudication Court generally has exclusive jurisdiction within area encompassed by an adjudication.



# Elements of Arizona Water Law

- Doctrine of Prior Appropriation: *“First in Time, First in Right”*
  - Senior user has the better right and can take full entitlement before the junior user gets any.
- Beneficial Use:
  - **A.R.S. §45-151(A)**: Statutory beneficial uses include domestic, municipal, irrigation, stock watering, water power, recreation, wildlife, including fish, non-recoverable water storage, and mining.
- Appurtenancy:
  - Water rights attached to the land, not a particular owner.
- Forfeiture – *“Use it or lose it”*
  - *1919 Surface Water Code*: May occur after five years of non-use with some exemptions.
  - **A.R.S. §45-189.01 (2021)** – “Water Conservation Notice; No Forfeiture”: Water users can conserve water with no threat to losing their water rights/claims.

# Adjudication Subflow



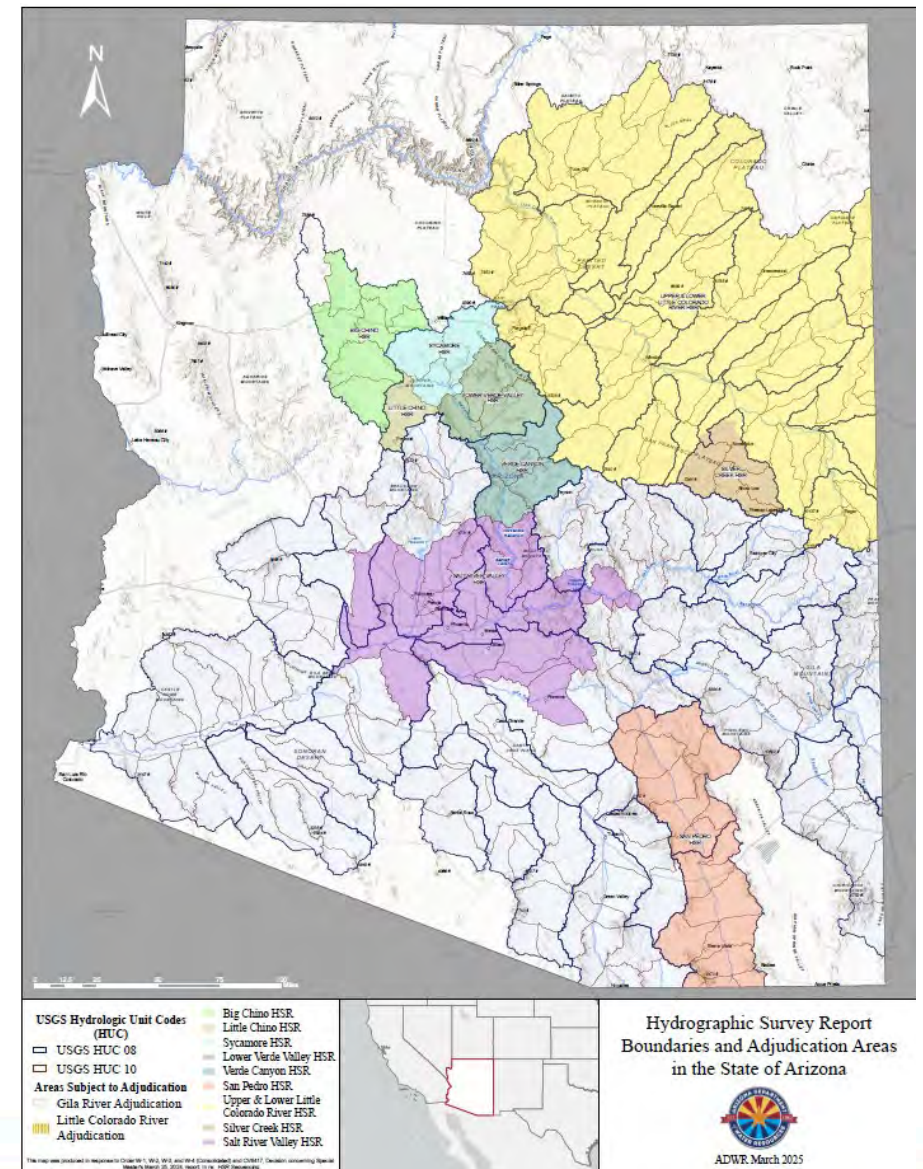
# Adjudications Planning Order

- **HSR Timing**

- 5 Verde subwatersheds completed between 2027 and 2032
- Upper and Lower Little Colorado River subwatersheds completed in 2031
- All others are beyond the planning horizon

- **Subflow**

- Lower Little Colorado River on September 5, 2025
  - Objections due March 4, 2026
- Upper Little Colorado River completed in 2028





# C. C. Cragin Reservoir



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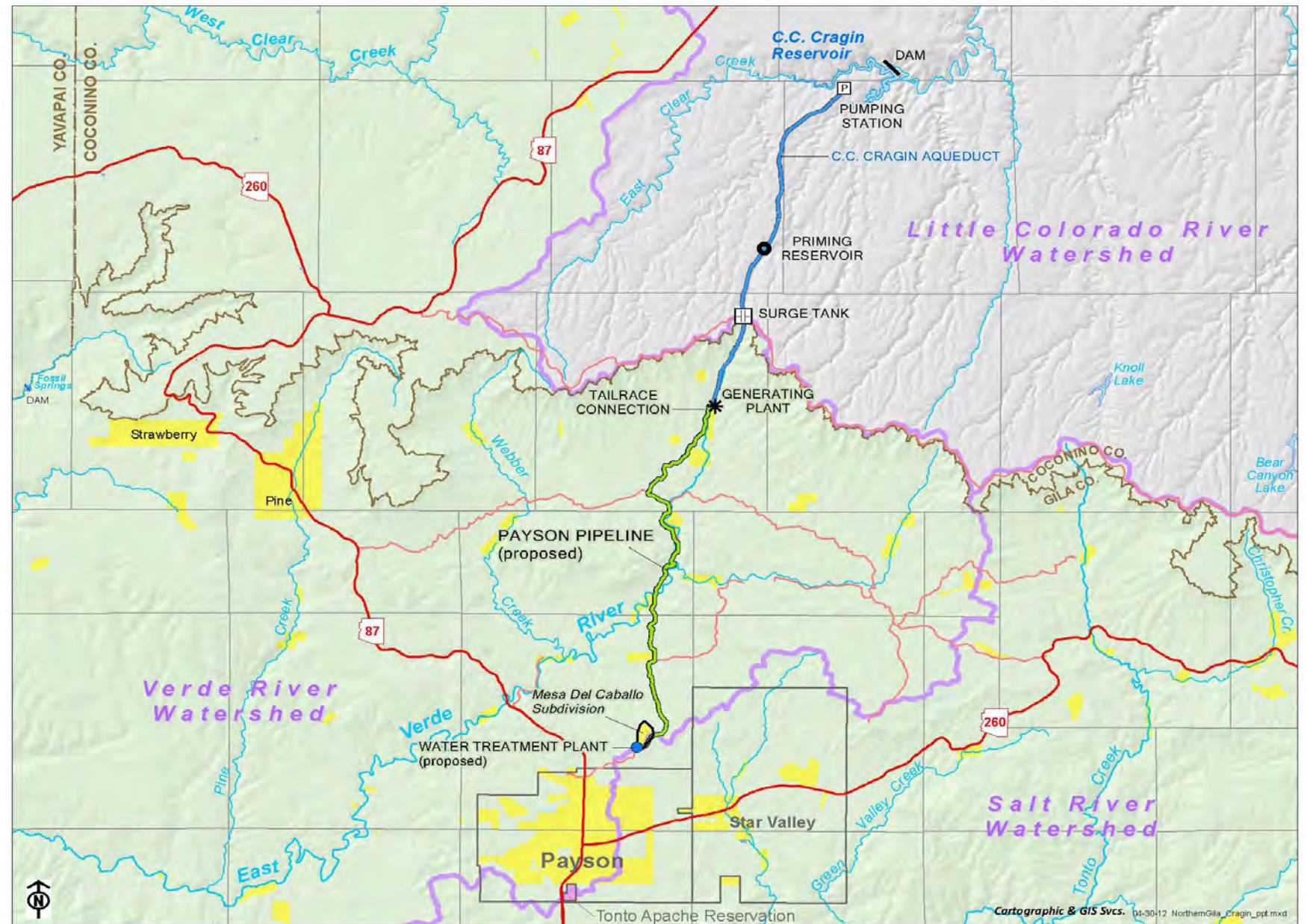
# C.C. Cragin Water Right Agreements

## Objectives

- Resolve water right conflicts
- Provide sustainable source of water supply
- Develop water delivery and use agreements
- Partial severance and transfer of water rights to community water service areas
- Water providers obtain a legal right to surface water



# C.C. Cragin Water Rights Agreement – Town of Payson

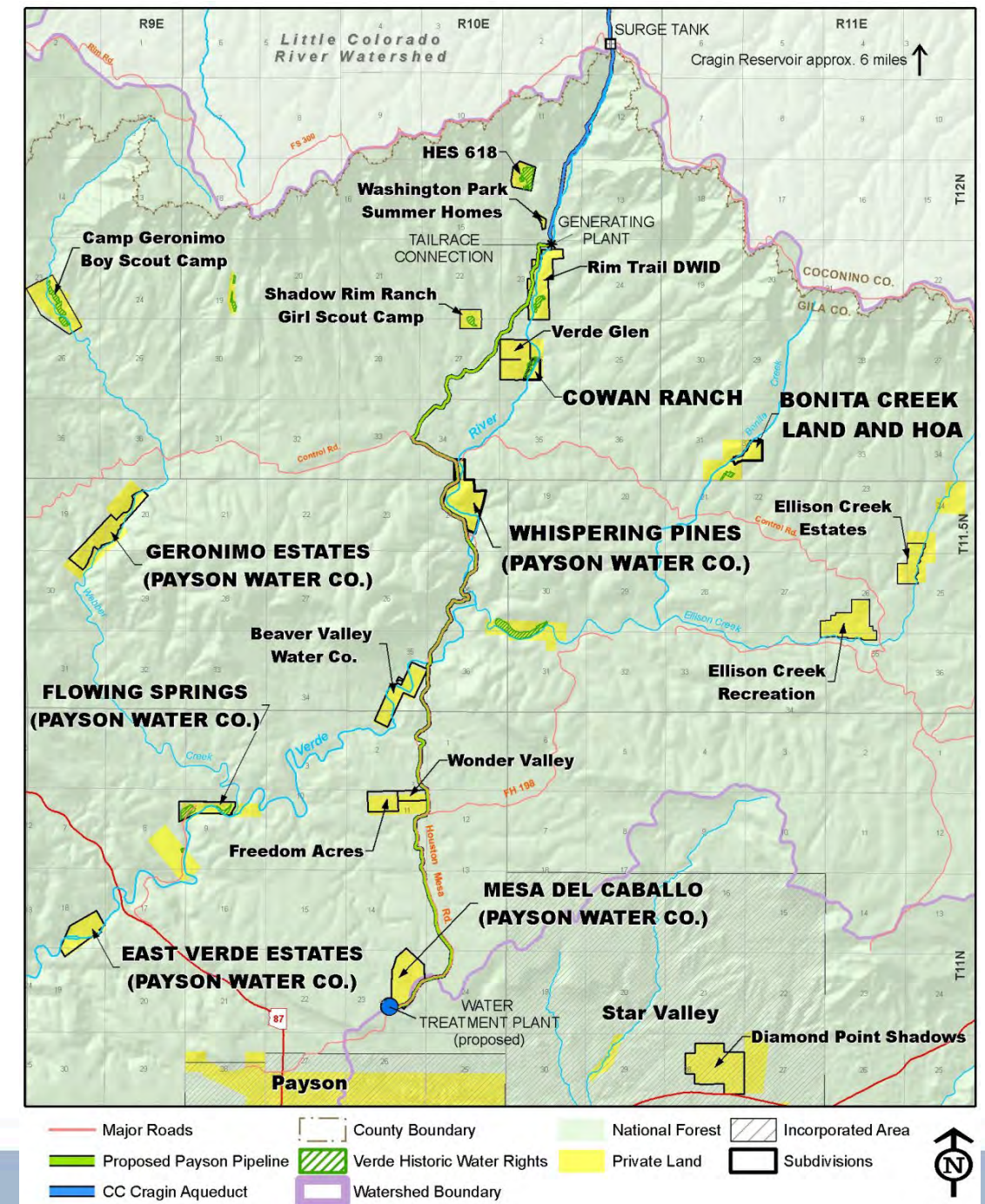




# C.C. Cragin Water Right Agreements

## Long-term Solutions

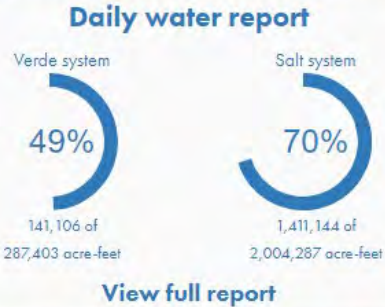
- Town of Payson
  - 27.2% or 3,000 af/yr average
  - S&T approved by ADWR
- Mesa del Caballo (Payson Water Co.)
  - 0.64% or 70 af/yr average
  - S&T approved by ADWR
- Bonita Creek Water Company
  - 0.14% or 15 af/yr average
  - Exempt water exchange provision
  - S&T Pending
- Cowan Ranch HOA
  - 0.036% or 4 af/yr average
  - S&T Pending
- Yavapai Apache Nation (settlement pending approval)
  - 26.45% or 3,410.26 af/yr average





## PARTNERS IN WATER SCIENCE

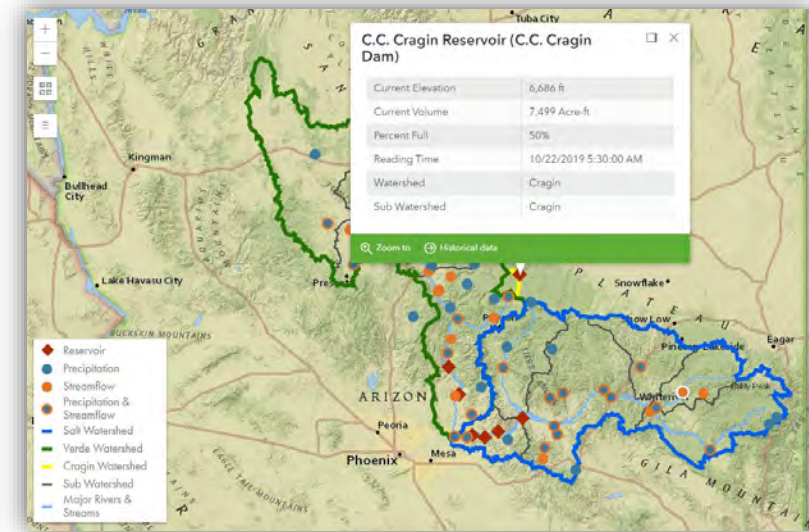
SRP, USGS team up on tech project to help save water



### Streamflow, precipitation info



[View map ▾](#)



### Saving Cragin

Decision clears way for prescribed burns, thinning to protect vital reservoir



### A Healthy Watershed

SRP invests in 'Future Forests' to reduce wildfire risks



### Protecting Native Species

SRP celebrates anniversary of wildlife conservation efforts

### Resources

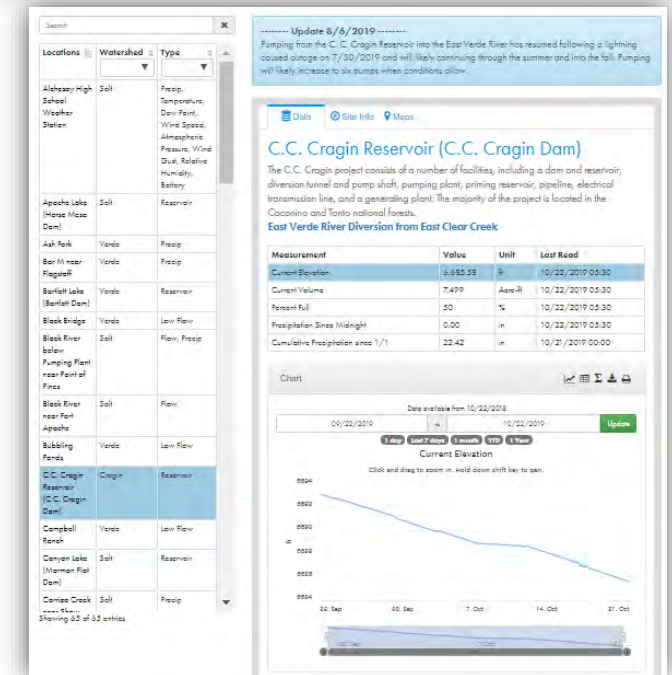
Teaching water safety [🔗](#)  
 SRP's delivery system [🔗](#)  
 Verde and Salt rivers reservoirs [🔗](#)

### Other watershed initiatives

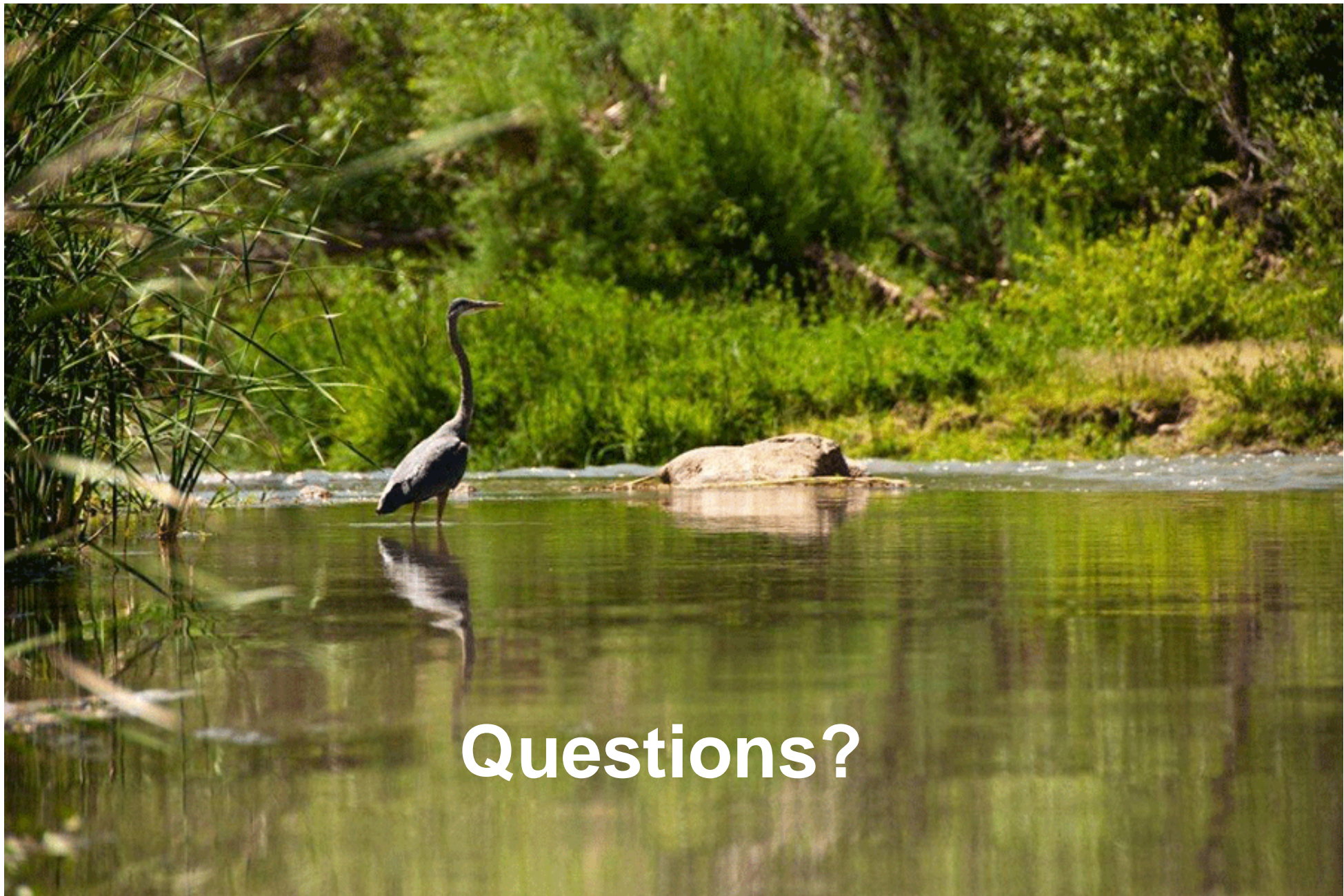
Northern Arizona Forest Fund  
 Annual bird surveys  
 Trees for Change

### SRP websites

SRPnet.com [🔗](#)  
 SRPwater.com [🔗](#)  
 DroughtFacts.com [🔗](#)







Questions?