Second Annual Meeting

President's Report

Duncan Patten

The Second Annual Meeting of the Arizona Riparian Council in Wickenburg on November 6-7, 1988 was a resounding success. Over 140 people attended the meeting representing agencies, academic institutions, conservation groups, and the interested public. One of the primary goals of the meeting was to bring together groups who are concerned about the status of riparian ecosystems in Arizona and throughout the Southwest.

This year we heard from The Nature Conservancy about its “Streams of Life” program and of the priority placed on riparian issues by the Commission on Arizona’s Environment. Two other aspects of the first day’s plenary sessions included talks on instream flow methodologies and riparian conservation programs being initiated by some of Arizona’s counties. It is becoming more obvious that riparian system management has become a major concern of urban and regional planners as well as scientists and resource agencies.

Contributed technical papers were given the second day of the meeting. These included topics covering areas of physiology, reclamation, restoration, management, education, forest structure, and avian habitat. The papers were presented well and were enthusiastically received. The afternoon of the second day centered on a field trip to The Nature Conservancy’s newest acquisition, the Hassayampa River Preserve near Wickenburg. The Hassayampa’s cottonwood-willow forest is the largest remaining stand in Maricopa County. The preserve offers opportunities for riparian education, interpretation, and research.

This Second Annual Meeting of the Arizona Riparian Council demonstrated that the Council is established and recognized. Council members represent a wide diversity of interests and come from all corners of the state. The Council, which is less than two years old, now has over three hundred members. We hope others will join us.
Classification and Inventory
by Bill Bayham

At the 2nd Annual Riparian Conference (ARC) at Wickenburg held in November 1987, the Classification & Inventory Committee distributed a draft system for classifying riparian habitats which was developed by the committee. The system addresses both biotic and abiotic components of riparian systems. It is hierarchical, open-ended, and digitized, which gives users the flexibility to aggregate or disaggregate information, add new elements as our knowledge becomes more refined, and organize riparian information into computerized databases.

Copies of the draft classification system have been circulated among ARC members and to representatives from land/resource management agencies for review and comments. A presentation was made and copies of the draft were also circulated at the annual meeting of the Southwestern Chapter of The Wildlife Society which was recently held Feb. 4-6, in Pima, Arizona.

Once all comments have been processed and the draft classification system is revised in final form, the committee plans to hold a vote by mail to determine whether the ARC will endorse the system. This should take place sometime in March. In addition, a meeting is being arranged to aggregate or disaggregate information, add new elements as our knowledge becomes more refined, and organize riparian information into computerized databases.

Education
by Tanna Thornburg

The most obvious achievement of the Education Committee is this publication of the first quarterly newsletter of the ARC. The editor is grateful to all those who contributed articles. The newsletter will need a steady flow of new articles and information, though, to continue to be a viable disseminator of riparian information and issues for the state.

The narrative for the riparian slide show has been polished and refined and we are just waiting for people to send in some slides to finish the program. Rich Ockenfels put out a call for slides at the conference and is still looking for your contributions; even one or two good slides will help.

The slide show, when ready, will be available for use by all ARC members. In another educational venture, Kris Randall is researching what it would take to create and publish a riparian photo calendar that ARC could use as a possible fund-raiser and educational tool.

Last year, through the committee's efforts, the ARC co-sponsored a very successful Riparian Workshop for teachers at the Muleshoe Ranch Preserve. Other sponsors were the Arizona Association for Learning in and about the Environment (AALE), The Nature Conservancy, Arizona Game & Fish Dept., U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Reclamation. Most of the agency presenters were also ARC members. This year, a similar workshop is being planned for the Hassayampa River Preserve the last weekend of April.

The first in a series of informative fact sheets is in draft stage and will be available for distribution by April. These fact sheets are developed to promote awareness of riparian issues and are aimed at the general public. If developing educational materials interests you, look over the suggestions listed below and give me a call (255-1996).

- What is "riparian?"
- Riparian systems - an endangered habitat
- Importance of riparian systems - functions and values
- Wildlife and riparian habitats
- Importance of water to riparian systems
- Instream flow
- Evapo-transpiration/Phreatophytes
- How to use a riparian area sensitively
- Riparian areas are in high demand - conflicting uses
- Riparian Management - agency responsibilities

Land Use
by Bruce Roundy

The main goal of the Land Use Committee has been to encourage proper management of riparian areas. Some past and ongoing activities include:

1) Compile a list of ongoing wildlife or livestock related riparian research projects in the state (list compiled in 1986, available from Bruce Roundy, 325 Biological Sciences East, U of A, Tucson, AZ 85721).

2) Distribute a questionnaire to land managers and ranchers soliciting information on successful wildlife and livestock riparian management approaches. The land manager questionnaire was prepared and responses summarized by Patti Fenner. We are currently sending response summaries to all respondents. We plan to continue to solicit
and distribute information about riparian management to improve communication among agencies with similar problems.

3) Conduct a tour showing livestock management alternatives in riparian areas. Bobbie Holaday has arranged for a tour to be conducted by the Arizona Chapter of Holistic Resource Management (HRM). The tour is to be April 16-17 and will include riparian areas on the Conway and 76 ranches on the Tonto National Forest. All ARC officers and Land Use Committee members are invited to attend. We will be sending out detailed invitations shortly. Anyone interested in attending may contact Bruce Roundy at 621-7259.

4) Distribute a questionnaire on off-road vehicle problems in riparian areas and possible solutions. Phil Guertin, Watershed Management, U of A, has agreed to prepare this questionnaire to be directed to land management agencies. The questionnaire will be used to improve communications among management agencies as well as with the riparian management questionnaire above.

Policy
by Andy Laurenzi

The Policy Committee report was not received in time for publication.

Protection and Enhancement
by Knifty Hamilton and Kris Randall

The Protection and Enhancement Committee met informally in Thatcher during The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting the first weekend in February. The committee reports that it has completed 44% of the articles submitted for the annotated bibliographies for riparian papers and publications. We would like to complete this project by August 1988; anyone interested in assisting with this endeavor please contact Kris Randall at 965-4642 or 965-2975. Volunteers to do even 2-3 articles would be greatly appreciated and it would help the ARC to have this report published this year.

Water Resources
by Marty Jakle

Several members of this committee serve on the Arizona Department of Water Resources (DWR) Task Force on Instream Flow. The Task Force submitted its recommendations on methodologies to DWR last April, but have not received any response. The issue of instream flow seems to be stalled within DWR. The committee will meet in mid-March to reassess the issue and determine the best approach to "unstall" the issue. In the meantime, the committee will take a new look at the big issues within the state and plan strategies for the next challenge.

If you have an interest in participating in any of the committees, please contact the committee chairs (phone numbers are listed on the back page).

Treasurer’s Report
by Chuck Hunter

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Total Attendance-
1st Annual Meeting (1986) 115
2nd Annual Meeting (1987) 142

Calendar of Events

* The Society of Wetland Scientists is holding its annual meeting on May 31-June 9, 1988 at the Georgetown Hotel in Washington D.C. Last year’s theme was western riparian issues; this year the theme is Chesapeake and its landscape.

* A California Riparian Conference is planned for September 22-24, 1988 at Davis, University of California. This will be California’s second conference, following up the very successful one held in 1981. Contact Dana L. Abell, Riparian Conference Coordinator, University Extension, University of California, Davis, CA 95616.

* In the early fall of 1988 there will be a National Conference on River Preservation in Columbus, Ohio. Contact John Kopec, Planning Supervisor, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves for the Scenic Rivers Program, 614-265-6458.

* "Riparian Resource Management: An Educational Workshop" is the theme of a conference planned for May 9-12, 1989 in Billings, Montana. The workshop is being sponsored by a consortium of organizations and agencies. Abstracts are due March 1, 1988. Contact Chris Hunter, Program Chair, OEA Research, Box 1209, Helena, MT 59624.
**SCCORP Update**  
by Tanna Thornburg

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) currently being prepared by Arizona State Parks and the Arizona Outdoor Recreation Coordinating Commission is scheduled for completion in 1989. These plans have helped to determine priorities for the use of over $40 million received by Arizona since 1965. The SCORP is the state's policy plan with respect to the outdoor recreation delivery system and provides analysis of the supply, demand, needs, deficiencies, participation rates, and issues relating to outdoor recreation resources and opportunities in Arizona.

The 1989 SCORP is taking a new approach compared with previous studies. The planning process will consider short-term and long-term effects but will focus mainly on long-term issues and strategies to carry us into the next century. Several studies (such as the Rivers, Streams, and Wetlands Study; Natural Areas Study; and Trails Plan) which will feed into the SCORP will be available for distribution early this spring. State Parks is also working with the Game & Fish Department to incorporate a wildlife component into the document.

Each of the three resource-based studies mentioned above are being guided by working core groups composed of representatives from involved agencies and interested organizations. The Natural Areas Study has concentrated on redefining the existing state natural areas program and identifying a more focused approach. Based on a review of other state programs and a pressing need in Arizona to protect critical, threatened natural areas, the study will outline a program to identify and protect, through a variety of mechanisms, the state's critical areas. The majority of the 335 identified sites on the natural areas inventory are riparian communities, which reflects the critical situation the state's wetlands and riparian areas are facing.

The Rivers, Streams, and Wetlands Study has three main objectives: 1) conduct a baseline inventory of the state's stream and wetland resources; 2) formulate a conceptual plan that will lay the foundation for a statewide management program for these resources; and 3) develop a list of interim management priorities, pending a future statewide program, that will set Arizona's priorities for the use, protection, and study of streams and wetlands.

The Core Group has identified issues, trends, and possible action plans concerning the recreational use and protection of the state's rivers, streams, and wetlands. Future discussions will center on a proposal for a rivers and wetlands conservation program and state rivers system for selected streams that meet the system criteria.

The diversity of user groups and management agencies for the various river, stream, and wetland resources of the state, coupled with complex land ownership patterns, suggests that some statewide program coordinating the management of these aquatic resources should be formulated. The principal purpose of the study is to provide a framework for a balance of aquatic uses reflecting resource attributes and statewide priorities and to provide a consistency in management policy to protect those resources and designated uses.


**Commission on Arizona’s Environment Tackles Riparian Concerns**  
by Jackie Rich

The Commission on Arizona’s Environment has formed an Ad Hoc Committee on Riparian Habitat to address what the Commission and its Advisory Council believe to be the most important environmental problem facing the state.

The Ad Hoc Committee, whose membership is open to all interested people, intends to produce two reports by the end of 1988: an inventory of riparian areas in Arizona and a description and analysis of riparian issues in the state.

At this point, the Committee intends to publish a riparian inventory based on the rivers, streams, and wetlands inventory that is being produced under the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning (SCORP) process by State Parks instead of compiling a separate inventory. State Parks supports the publishing of this report since they do not have the funds to do so. The Committee also plans to work with Arizona Highways to publish a riparian issue that can be used to familiarize Arizonans with our riparian lands.

Three regional subcommittees (northern, central and southern Arizona) will be used to collect information on Arizona’s riparian issues for the second report. Members of the regional subcommittees will meet with land managers, land owners, and user groups to assess the condition of the riparian areas along the rivers and streams and identify conflicts and opportunities.

The final report to the public and the Legislature will include a discussion of regional and state issues, recommendations for federal, state, and local action, and examples of...
update on the instream flow task force
by Mary Wilkosz

The Instream Flow Task Force of the Arizona Department of Water Resources (DWR) has met three times since its formation on Dec. 17, 1986. The last meeting was held on Apr. 8, 1987 and included 24 representatives from the following agencies, institutions, and organizations: DWR; Arizona Game & Fish Department; Arizona State Land Department; Bureau of Reclamation; Tonto National Forest; National Park Service; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Pima County Transportation and Flood Control District; The Arizona Nature Conservancy; University of Arizona; Arizona State University; Solicitor’s Office of the U.S. Department of the Interior; Salt River Project; and Dames and Moore. A few of the representatives are also members of the Arizona Riparian Council.

The Biological Assessment Study Group of the Task Force has submitted a report recommending appropriate instream flow methodologies for fish and wildlife management purposes. The Hydrological Assessment Study Group has not yet submitted its report to the Task Force, but the major portion of that report is finished and was presented this past October at the American Water Resources Association Symposium, “Instream Flow: Rights and Priorities.”

The primary author of the hydrologic report, Tom Perry, hydrologist at DWR, hopes to have the report completed and submitted for review sometime this spring. He is attempting to produce a document which will form the basis of DWR guidelines for evaluating and granting instream flow permits, and which can be used as a “cookbook” by local agencies and private entities seeking to file such a claim. According to Perry, DWR intends to promulgate formal rules for the instream flow permitting process by the end of this year. This will involve some form of public participation according to DWR administrative procedures.

As of Jan. 8, 1988, 39 minimum instream flow permits have been submitted to DWR. Two of these applications have been permitted, both to The Arizona Nature Conservancy (for Ramsey and O'Donnell Creeks). The status of the remaining applications is listed by DWR as: “application” (9); “defective application” (3); “candidate for permit” (3); “withdrawn” (1); or “protested” (21).

Game & Fish Takes A Dip
In Aquatic Education
by Mary Gilbert

There is a new aquatic resources education program in place within the Education Branch of the Arizona Game & Fish Department. We embarked upon this voyage in early 1987 with funding generated by the 1984 Wallop-Breaux Amendment to the Federal Aid In Sportfish Restoration Act, which levies taxes on various types of fishing equipment, boats, and motorboat fuels. Our mission is easily described—to enhance public awareness and appreciation of Arizona’s diverse and valuable aquatic resources. The mechanisms we are using to move toward this destination, this “awareness,” are more complex.

The renovation of our Tonto and Page Springs hatcheries, with the attendant development of new interpretive rooms, signage, and nature trails will help us reach the more than 50,000 people who visit these facilities each year. Interpretive efforts will address the hatchery process, why we need hatcheries, and the natural history of the area (especially the riparian vegetation). The Tonto site should be completed this fall, to be followed by Page Springs in early 1989.

Another educational adventure we’ve begun is a series of sport fishing clinics for beginning fishermen. We especially strive to reach young people who may not have any other opportunity to learn about fishing. Classes are usually held at a lake or pond where our instructor can stress an understanding of aquatic ecosystems and the importance of the ethical and responsible use of our fisheries resources. Casting, knot-tying, fish cleaning, and safety are, of course, included in the instruction.

Those who are familiar with Project WILD, a collection of materials and activities developed to help teachers incorporate wildlife/environmental concepts into their established curriculum, will be pleased to know that we now have available a 240-page Aquatic Supplement. We are currently implementing its use through workshops given to people already trained to use the original Project WILD materials.

In addition to these varied programs, we are also creating aquatic-oriented handout materials, an Arizona fish identification booklet (to be issued free of charge), an educational riparian poster, and children’s puzzles and games. Through ARC, AALE (Arizona Association for Learning in and about the Environment), and State Parks, we hold an annual Riparian Natural History Workshop to acquaint educators with these valuable habitats. We plan to hold similar workshops in the future on native fishes, fish management, and other aquatic topics.

As you can see, we have plenty to keep us busy. If you want more information about any of these programs, contact Mary Gilbert at 942-3000, ext. 240.
Riparian Management a High Priority with BLM
by Beaumont C. McClure

The Bureau of Land Management has been very successful in acquiring significant Arizona stream segments since beginning a land exchange program in cooperation with the state, private concerns, and user groups. BLM’s accomplishments are as follows:

* Acquired 30 miles of rare southwest broadleaf riparian habitat on the San Pedro River.

* Eight miles of riparian habitat have been acquired along Aravaipa Creek, making a total of 34 miles of that stream under public ownership.

* Thirteen miles of mixed broadleaf riparian habitat were acquired along Hot Springs Creek on the Muleshoe Ranch.

We have also provided protection for 68 miles of stream through fencing and grazing management. We have planted 7,000 trees along a number of different streams throughout the state. We look forward to active involvement with the ARC and other riparian interest groups in the improvement and management of Arizona’s riparian resources.

BLM Evaluates Riparian Zones
by Ted Cordrey

The Phoenix District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is embarking on a program to inventory, evaluate, and provide baselines for monitoring of all riparian areas on the 7 million acres of public lands under its administration. Preliminary estimates are that nearly 1,000 miles of potential riparian zones course through the district which extends in roughly a backwards “7” from the New Mexico border to the Nevada border and south nearly to Mexico.

The goal is to attempt evaluating all riparian areas on district lands by the end of 1992.

One of the major benefits of this effort will be to allow priority setting and to provide objectives for riparian protection and rehabilitation. Additionally, all areas will be classified to the extent that they will be compatible with the ARC’s proposed classification scheme. Riparian inventory, evaluation, and monitoring data will be stored on a database available to other governmental agencies and groups.

Although riparian issues have been a high priority in BLM for years, site-specific analysis of riparian resources have been made in only a few areas. BLM-wide guidance and methodologies for riparian inventory and monitoring have recently been drafted, allowing for consistent methodologies in BLM.

Work on Bill Williams Riparian Management Plan Announced
by Jim Nye

The BLM’s Yuma and Phoenix Districts are in the initial phase of developing and coordinating a riparian management plan for the Bill Williams River between Lake Havasu and Alamo Dam. BLM is a major landowner along the Bill Williams River, and has long recognized the need for a well-defined riparian management plan for this important area.

In November 1987, the two Districts formed a riparian planning team consisting of resource specialists from both District offices, and from the Havasu, Kingman, and Lower Gila Resource Area offices. The team is tasked with the initial objectives of inventorying the Bill Williams River riparian values, developing the basis for a riparian management plan, and coordinating the development of a draft riparian management plan with concerned agencies, interest groups, and individuals.

After several internal coordination meetings, an interagency meeting involving the BLM, USFWS, US Army Corps of Engineers, USGS, Arizona State Parks, and the Arizona Game & Fish Department was held in February 1988, to discuss issues, concerns, and ongoing agency involvement in and adjacent to the Bill Williams River.

Although a lot of work remains to be accomplished, the initial phase of the planning is well underway. Public involvement to address additional concerns and issues in the development of the management plan will be sought in the near future. For more information, contact the Yuma District Office, 3150 Winsor Ave., Yuma, AZ 85365.
Streams of Life
excerpted from
The Arizona Nature Conservancy
Streams of Life publication

In the last 100 years, Arizona has lost 90% of its premier biological resource: riparian ecosystems. The Arizona Nature Conservancy (TANC) has initiated a mission to protect the state's remaining wetlands. TANC has launched an ambitious three year campaign called "Streams of Life" whose purpose is to raise between three and a half and four million dollars to ensure the future of 19 significant natural areas in Arizona. The high priority areas that have been targeted for immediate protection include:

*Cottonwood-Willow Riparian Forests
   Hassayampa River Preserve
   Verde River Greenway
   Ariyaca Creek
*Rare Fish Habitat
   Hassayampa River Preserve
   Palm Lake Project
   Aravaipa Canyon
   Leslie Spring
   Lower Redfield Canyon
   Empire Ranch
*Mixed Broadleaf Deciduous Forests
   Leslie Spring
   Turkey Creek
   Cave Creek
*Cienegas
   Saint David Cienega
   Canelo Hills Cienega
   Babocomari Cienega
   San Rafael Cienega
*Mesquite Bosques
   San Pedro River Riparian Conservation Area
   Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Sanctuary Preserve Addition
   Tanque Verde
   Sabino Creek

The objectives of the Streams of Life campaign are outlined below:

1) Establish at least six new preserves which protect a cross section of critical Arizona wetland habitat types.
2) Assist in the acquisition of at least eight cooperative projects on behalf of federal agencies better able to provide for the long-term stewardship of major wetland preserves.
3) Assist state government to identify, acquire, and manage important riparian areas.
4) Secure funding for the Public Lands Protection Program.
5) Develop a Landowner Registry Program.
6) Cooperate with concerned Mexican scientists and conservationists in the protection of watersheds and waterways which headwater on either side of our common border.
7) Develop a visitor center at the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Sanctuary.
8) In general, create greater public awareness of the need to protect Arizona's critical wetlands.

Water Transfer Legislation?
by Mary Wilkosz

A number of bills dealing with water transfers were submitted to the Arizona State Legislature this year. According to Representative Larry Hawke, there is yet no consensus on either the scope or substance of the water transfer bills so it is too early to determine what effects the proposed legislation might have with regard to riparian lands in Arizona. In a week or two, the popularity of one or more of these bills might be better gauged. Potential intrabasin and interbasin surface water and groundwater transfers could detrimentally impact some of the rivers and wetlands of Arizona, so this is undoubtedly an issue which Arizona Riparian Council members should keep apprised.

EPHEMERAL NEWS

- Draft wetland maps of the San Pedro River are available for review from the USFWS Wetlands Coordinator, Warren Hagenbuck, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, NM 87103.
- The Isaac Waltann League is offering assistance (labor, materials, $) for riparian enhancement projects.
- The Western Division of the American Fisheries Society is asking the USFS and BLM to nominate project areas which successfully demonstrate excellence in riparian management. Contact the AFS, 3410 Grosvenor Ln., Suite 110, Bethesda, MD 20814-2199.
- The Safford District of the BLM is cutting cottonwood poles for spring plantings on Bonita Creek, Gila River, detention dams on the San Simon River, and isolated springs in the Gila Mountains. All are target areas for riparian enhancement. Also, the BLM has completed a land exchange with the State Land Department involving one and a half miles of Bonita Creek.
The Arizona Riparian Council (ARC) was formed in 1986 as a result of increasing concern over the alarming rate of loss of the State's most threatened natural ecosystems—riparian systems. It is estimated that less than 10% of the State's original riparian acreage remains in a natural form. These habitats are considered Arizona's most rare and threatened natural communities.

The purpose of the ARC is to provide for the exchange and transmittal of information on the status, protection, and management of riparian systems in Arizona. For the purpose of this Council, the term "riparian" is intended to include vegetation, habitats, or ecosystems that are associated with bodies of water (streams or lakes) or are dependent on the existence of perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral surface or subsurface water drainage. To put it more simply, riparian habitats are the green ribbons of trees and shrubs growing along watercourses.

The ARC newsletter is published quarterly and is an effective medium to communicate current events, issues, and impacts that involve Arizona's riparian systems as well as detailing the happenings of the ARC. To contribute articles and information or address comments to the ARC, please send all materials to:

Tanna Thornburg, ARC Editor
Arizona State Parks
800 W. Washington, Suite 415
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Any person or organization interested in the management, protection, or scientific study of riparian systems, or some related phase of riparian conservation is eligible for membership upon written application. There are no dues, however, contributions ($5, $10, $25) are gratefully accepted. For more information about the Arizona Riparian Council or to join, write to the return address below.

ARIZONA RIPARIAN COUNCIL
Tempe, Arizona 85287-1201