

Watershed Management Group-Cienega Watershed Partnership Restoration Prioritization Project

Report of 23 September 2016

A steering committee was formed to guide the development of a flow chart for decision making for upland, arroyo and riparian restoration, and use our collective knowledge to ID areas to investigate. Example criteria included high risk, important/resource value, position in watershed, scale of impact, achievability, knowledge, land owner sensitivities, accessible, management/jurisdiction, affordable, clearances. Shela McFarlin, Mead Meir, Gita Bodner, Ben Lomeli and Dave Murray participated.

With the help of Amanda Smith, UA graduate student and PAG summer intern, we produced a draft GIS map of issues and opportunities. In addition with help of Amanda we developed a modelling approach to help weight factors in the decision making process and a site-specific knowledge acquisition form. Please see attached.

Using the LCNCA Technical Teams we conducted four meetings with experts to review data, criteria and provide input on implementation. The cultural theme group included Shela McFarlin(CWP), Allison Bunting(Empire Ranch Foundation), Courtney Rose (Pima Co), Gita Bodner(TNC), Amanda Smith(PAG), and Carla Kerekes Martin (ERF). The landscape theme group included Larry Fisher (CWP), Carianne Campbell (SIA), Dave Murray (BLM), and Amanda Smith (PAG). The riparian theme group include Jennifer Varin (CNF), Scott Wilbur (AZLWT), Doug Duncan (FWS), Frank Postillion (PC RFCD), Don Carter (PC PNR), Iris Rodden (PC PNR), Hans Huth and Ron Tiller (ADEQ), Ben Lomeli (BLM), and Amanda Smith. The upland theme group included Phil H (ARS), John Milliken (AAF), Linda (ARR), Alix Rogstad (State Forestry), Brian Powell (PC OCS), Gita, Doug Siegel (PC PNR), and Vanessa Prileson (PC PNR).

The project was presented at Science on the Sonoita Plain Symposium, and at the Sentinel Landscape Restoration Partnership meeting. The CWP watershed indicators and State of the Watershed processes are also important to this project.

Next steps include collaborating with wider partnership (CWP) for peer review and site specific knowledge acquisition efforts. This includes meetings with the FROG project personnel, the US Forest Service, more BLM personnel, and local landowners. Ground truthing will be conducted where needed to improve map. We will finalize the knowledge acquisition form and model/flow chart to represent prioritized and achievable projects as a results of feedback from Steering Committee and Restoration Assessment Teams. We will also document the whole process to guide our efforts related to erosion control, riparian restoration, training, and outreach to people living, working and recreating in the watershed.