



CIENEGA WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

Awarded the 2013 Department of the Interior Partners in Conservation Award

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If you would like to serve on the Board of Directors,

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Watershed Programs

June 2016

www.cienega.org



Preserving Native Species and Habitats—Native Frog Conservation and Monitoring:

Restoring native frogs and other native aquatic species of plants and animals and their habitats to the sky island landscapes is a multi-phase project, with significant work completed 2010-2015. Partners created new leopard frog breeding populations and took steps to eliminate non-native aquatic species such as bullfrogs and mosquitofish. Community and rancher outreach expanded partners in the effort, which was funded by a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant \$390,000 and by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) (over \$50,000). Other partners: University of Arizona, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Sky Island Alliance, AZ Game and Fish Dept. and the Phoenix Zoo. The Frog Team is now monitoring watershed waters to ensure that bullfrogs do not return spoiling years of intensive work, testing for chytrid disease and continuing to inventory and study. Link: <http://www.cienega.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/FROG-Project-Arizona-Final-Report-NFWF-Grant-18411.pdf>



Best of Watershed Science

State of the Watershed—CWP and BLM Tucson, working with partner organizations, have held workshops focused on the State of the Cienega Watershed. Topics have included: 2010 questions on the knowledge gaps, existing information, key stressors challenging sustainability, and plans for moving forward with strategies and priorities to ensure sustainable management; 2011 scenario planning introduction (looking at the risks and challenges from the standpoint of uncertainty); and, 2012 shared history of the watershed. The 2015 workshop focused on measuring and monitoring the health of the Watershed and its resources. In the 2016 workshop and following up meetings, partners have developed a list of health indicators to report on the state of the watershed in future years. Link: <http://www.cienega.org/cooperative-actions/#science>
Next Workshop: contactoutreach@cienea.org

Science on the Sonoita Plain—The 8th Science on the Sonoita Plain workshop was held June 4, 2016 at the Research Ranch, Elgin, AZ with CWP partners, the Audubon-Whittell Research Ranch and The Nature Conservancy. The 2016 morning sessions focused on general science topics followed by presentations on invasive species. Proceedings for past workshops are online at: <http://researchranch.audubon.org> but you can also view at YouTube!



Other Efforts: Climate Change Scenario Planning, and Assessing the Health of the Watershed,

Youth Engagement in the Watershed YES!

CWP and partners, the Ironwood Tree Experience, the BLM Tucson, and the Empire High School (Vail) developed YES!, a youth leadership, engagement and restoration program. In 2012 youth worked with the FROG project at Las Cienegas to develop habitat; 2013 teens transplanted wetland species to support native frogs and fish; 2014 youth built erosion structures and improved ponds. YES! 2015 students set up test plots and treated areas to test which techniques aid restoration. 2016 YES! is just underway. YES! Partners and Youth have contributed over \$75,000 in-kind work at Las Cienegas. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation with its partners BLM and Well Fargo just awarded \$38,000 for the 2016 and 2017 program. Link: <https://sites.google.com/site/yesoverview/>

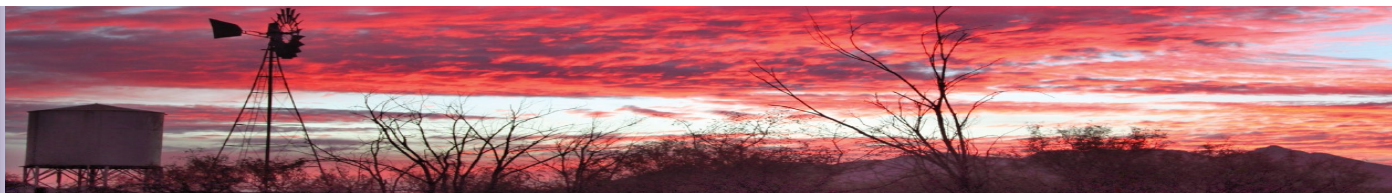


Contacting CWP:

Youth Programs:
youth@cienea.org

Programs plus:
outreach@cienea.org

CWP
P.O. Box 903



Heritage In Action: Link: <https://sites.google.com/site/cwporalhistoryproject/home>

Back Then began as the CWP **Oral History Work Group** which inventoried and converted over 200 tapes and made stories available online. Over \$30,000 in donated time from the Amerind Foundation, Empire Ranch Foundation, Colossal Cave Mountain Park, and CWP matched a BLM Grant. “**Back Then**” attempts to understand present ecosystems through past land uses and decisions. Partners are identifying key tools and approaches to move forward ranging from digitizing old maps to interviewing key individuals. **CWP has internships available for summer 2016 to support oral history and historic documentation.** <https://sites.google.com/site/cwporalhistoryproject/home>

The **Cienega Timeline Project** was initiated as a shared history in November 2012 and has become a database with over 700 noted events. In partnership with the USDA Agricultural Research Center (Tucson), the Timeline is an interactive, researchable timeline complete with images and links for scientists, managers, educators, students, and others to use and refine. <http://apps.tucson.ars.ag.gov/cienegatimeline/>

The **Multi-Watershed Shared History Project** was completed in 2015. The program involves youth in history and oral history in two school districts: Elgin and Altar Valley. Teachers, students, and community elders were heavily involved in oral histories, digital storytelling and shared timeline work. Funding was provided by the Southwestern Foundation for Education and Historical Preservation.

Living Within the Watershed: Arroyo Erosion Control, Water Monitoring, and Conservation Activities

Partnering with the BLM and Sky Island Alliance, CWP offered opportunities at Las Cienegas to develop skills in fixing arroyos (washes) and evaluating landscape treatments to increase resiliency. CWP partners like the BLM, the Pima Association of Governments and the Pima County Flood Control district have long-term water monitoring programs in place. CWP plans to partner with land owners and managers to develop standards, measures and methods to complete this needed stewardship through a diverse group of partners, volunteers, and students. **Next opportunities: more erosion workshops are planned for 2016; contact outreach@cienega.org**

Cienega Watershed Partnership

We facilitate cooperative actions that steward the natural and cultural resources of the Cienega Watershed while enabling sustainable use.

We put our core values into actions: ecosystem approach, diverse stakeholder involvement, collaborative partnerships, adaptive management practices, sustainable use, science-based actions, and active stewardship

The Cienega Watershed, SE Arizona

Community Involvement

Since 2005, CWP has enabled forums, workshops, events and opportunities.

CWP has room for:

YOU!

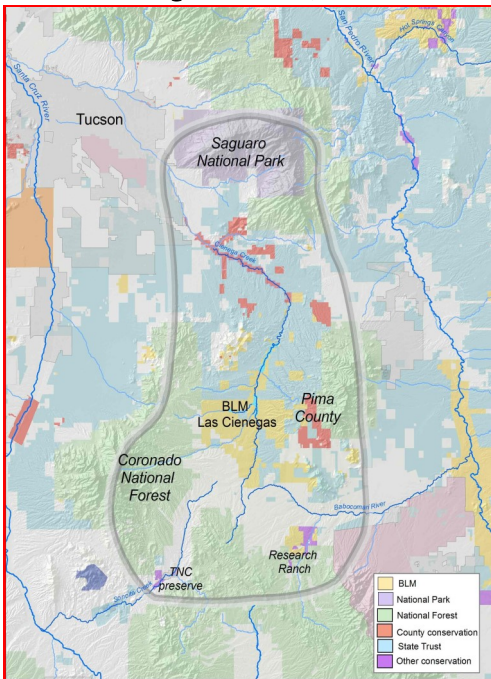
Next Opportunities to Engage

Summer 2016 YES! for Youth

Fall Watershed Tour

Go to www.cienega.org Or contact,
outreach@cienega.org
youth@cienega.org

The Website Cienega.org is being redesigned but look for it in late summer.



Partners, Partners, Partners

Too numerous to list below, CWP only succeeds in programs through partners who bring resources, staffing, expertise, funding, volunteers, students, and vision to the watershed.

- Federal, state, county and private landowners and managers
- Non-profit organizations, schools, youth groups, foundations
- Residents, scientists, educators, ranchers, hikers, artists, volunteers, students

In 2014, CWP and 29 Partners were awarded the 2013 Department of the Interior Partners in Conservation Award in Washington, DC.

Images: Dennis Caldwell, Shela McFarlin, Annamarie Schaecher, Gita Bodner

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