

2019 Accomplishments

Projects and Monitoring

1. Accomplished all major goals and objectives of initial 5-year road map in 4 years. A new 5-year roadmap will be developed in early 2020 to guide actions through 2024.
2. Recharged approximately 2,900 acre-feet this year and continued the permanent retirement of 2,600 acre-feet of historic pumping, while also precluding approximately 400 acre-feet of future pumping at CCRN sites near the San Pedro River.
3. Recharge at the Sierra Vista Environmental Operations Park (EOP), which has been operating since 2002, has recharged a total of 11 billion gallons of treated effluent (33,000 acre-feet). EOP operations are included in the total amount recharged by CCRN since 2015.
4. Cochise County and the City of Bisbee signed a historic agreement for an option to purchase effluent for use at a future recharge project site near the San Pedro River.
5. Completed the second year of operation of Horseshoe Draw Sediment Control and Stormwater Recharge project.
6. Palominas Flood Control and Recharge Pilot Project operated for a fifth year, testing various water infiltration methods.
7. Engineering design was nearly completed at the Coyote Wash project site on Bella Vista, to recharge urban enhanced runoff (UER) from Sierra Vista, through a grant from the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
8. Comprehensive surface water and groundwater monitoring has been established at all CCRN project sites. Baseline hydrologic monitoring is ongoing at Bella Vista, Babocomari River, Three Canyons, and Riverstone project sites. Project performance monitoring is ongoing at Horseshoe Draw, Palominas and Sierra Vista EOP.
9. Transferred ownership of the 104-acre Babocomari River parcel near Huachuca City from TNC to Cochise County, with a conservation easement retained by TNC. This land acquisition was made possible through funding provided by the U.S. Army's Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) Program.
10. TNC constructed perimeter fencing at the Babocomari River parcel with the help of volunteers, before transfer, to reduce trespass vehicle use and improve watershed condition.

Funding

1. The City of Sierra Vista, Cochise County, and TNC continue to jointly fund the CCRN Hydrologic Monitoring Program that encompasses all CCRN sites.
2. A \$560,000 grant from the USDA NRCS Watershed and Flood Protection Program to Cochise County is funding the engineering design of the Coyote Wash UER Recharge Project.

3. Funding was secured to initiate baseline groundwater monitoring at the Babocomari parcel, and to begin a new collaboration with the Salt River Project to utilize “flowtography” for surface water monitoring on Coyote Wash.

Outreach

1. The CCRNSanPedro.org website, hosted by the City of Sierra Vista, has been expanded and is frequently updated with current news.
2. CCRN Fact Sheets were developed for the three current infrastructure projects, and a summary of findings by the Hydrologic Monitoring Program was produced. All four fact sheets are posted on the website.
3. Sierra Vista’s EOP effluent recharge project and Cochise County’s Palominas stormwater recharge project were featured as case studies for enhancing aquifer recharge in the recently published “Long-term Augmentation Options for Arizona” study released by the Governor’s Water Augmentation and Innovation Conservation Council (GWAICC).
4. CCRN members continued to participate in the Sentinel Landscape Restoration Partnership.
5. Tours at the Palominas Flood Control and Recharge Projects were conducted for Maricopa Flood Control District, City of Surprise, City of Buckeye, the Chief Science Officers from the Willcox Unified School District, and international engineering staff from Freeport McMoran, to learn about how to integrate flood control with the recharge of stormwater.
6. Tours of the City of Sierra Vista’s EOP effluent recharge facility and the Babocomari were conducted for Scott Feldhausen from BLM and Senator Sinema’s staff.
7. CCRN members provided periodic updates to the Upper San Pedro Partnership Technical Committee, including a presentation on the 2018 CCRN Hydrologic Monitoring Program results.
8. Public presentations by CCRN members included: University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center Annual Conference in Phoenix, Desert Rivers Symposium, and AZPM radio stories.

