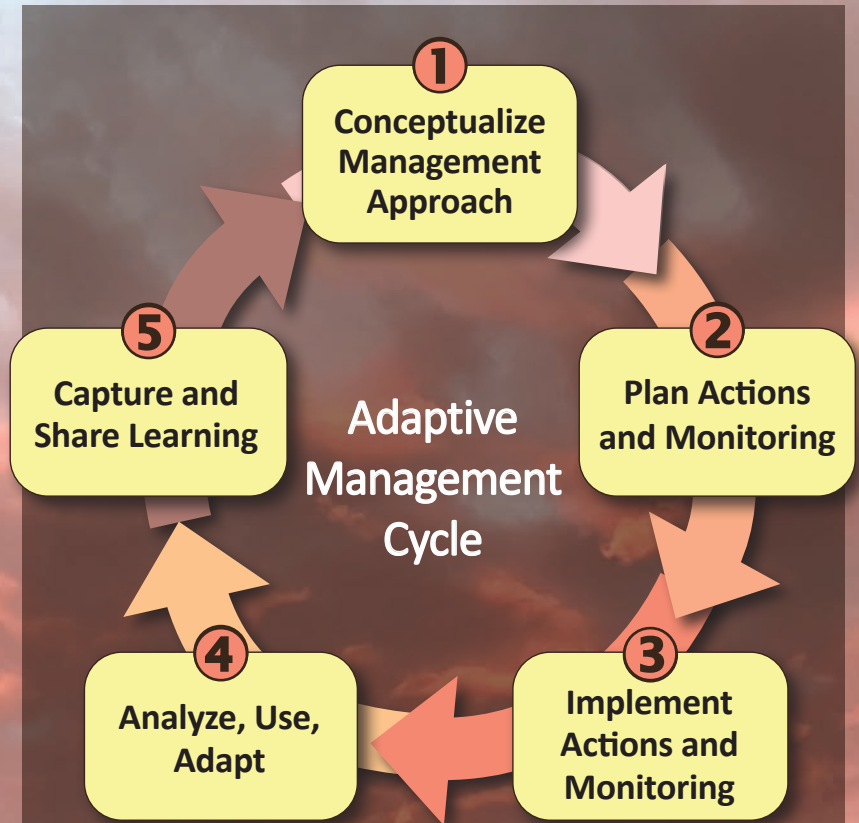


Partners in Adaptive Management of the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area

The San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA), established by Congress in November 1988, contains almost 57,000 acres of public land and 40 miles of the San Pedro River in Cochise County, Arizona, between the international border and St. David, Arizona. The primary purpose for the special designation is to protect and enhance one of the most important riparian areas in North America.

Since its designation 35 years ago, dozens of local, state and federal agencies and other organizations, along with hundreds of volunteers, have developed collaborative science and projects to protect the limited water supplies that sustain the SPRNCA.

- **The Upper San Pedro Partnership**, established in 1998, laid the foundation for adaptive management by building the needed hydrologic science to inform decision making.
- **The Cochise Conservation and Recharge Network** formed in 2015 to manage thousands of acres of adjacent lands to reduce pumping and increase recharge to the aquifer in key locations.
- **The SPRNCA MOU** for Cooperative Monitoring and Management was signed in 2021 to ensure that through a robust monitoring and adaptive management approach, long-term land and water management projects are sufficient to meet the needs of residents and the goals of the SPRNCA resource management plan into the future.



The science-based adaptive management process of the SPRNCA MOU will ensure that monitoring programs track the health and water needs of the riparian ecosystem over time. This information will be used to measure the progress of existing water recharge and conservation projects and to inform future direction.

Partners in Adaptive Management



Bureau of Land Management



Fort Huachuca



City of Sierra Vista



County of Cochise

The MOU is designed to help these partners in conservation to achieve a series of shared goals to ensure the following:

- A healthy San Pedro River and ecologically viable SPRNCA.
- Adequate long-term water supplies to meet the reasonable needs of the area's current and future residents and property owners as well as the SPRNCA, while managing the impacts of groundwater pumping.
- Opportunities for continued economic growth and development in Cochise County and Sierra Vista.
- An operationally secure Fort Huachuca that can accomplish its national defense missions, have a safe and adequate water supply, and comply with all obligations under the Endangered Species Act.

The collaborative, science-based approach of the SPRNCA MOU allows for flexibility under a changing climate, decision making based on shared science, and effective collaboration for regional water management across the boundaries of the SPRNCA and the neighboring cities, towns, and military installation.



The Horseshoe Draw Erosion Control and Recharge Project (top) and the City of Sierra Vista Environmental Operations Park (bottom) are two of several water management projects initiated through the efforts of the Cochise Conservation and Recharge Network that increases groundwater recharge near the river. The benefits to the SPRNCA from these and other projects will be monitored over the long term through the MOU process.



uspartnership.org



Cochise Conservation
& Recharge Network

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