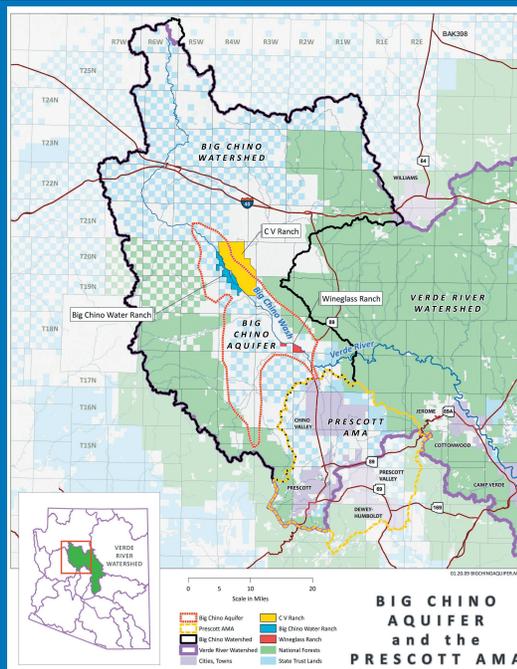


# 2026 Issue: Regional Management



# Regional Water Management

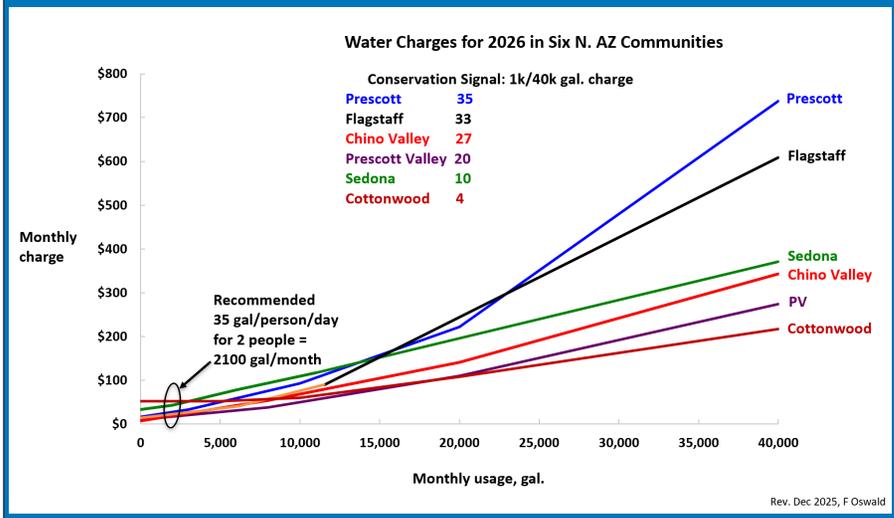
- We all share the same groundwater supply.
- CWAG has addressed all the Quad-Cities Councils.
- Currently, the political environment is favorable.
- Goal: form Steering Committee with elected representatives of Chino Valley, Prescott, Prescott Valley, Dewey-Humboldt, and Yavapai County.
- Goal: Steering Committee creates IGA to form Regional Water Management Authority and define the mission and means.



# Regional Water Management

- Board of Supervisors: Water Resources & Open Space Cmte
  - Covers entire county.
  - Good beginning effort; goals & purpose undetermined.
- Potential projects for a Regional Management Group:
  - Regional Long-term Management Plan based on a comprehensive evaluation of alternatives.
  - Stormwater collection and recharge infrastructure.
  - Regional water conservation project.
- Discussion: CWAG role and position

# Issue: PrAMA - Weak Conservation

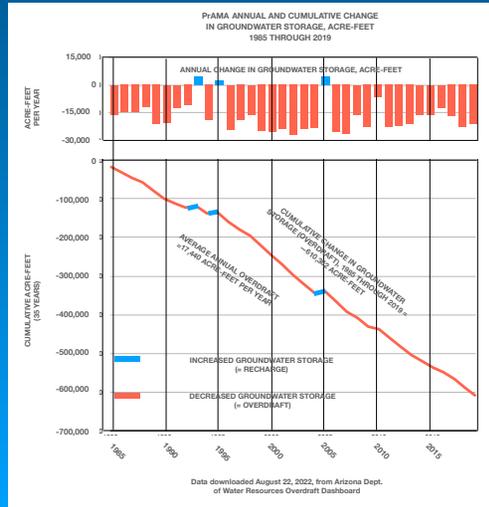




PROTECT OUR WATER  
cwagaz.org

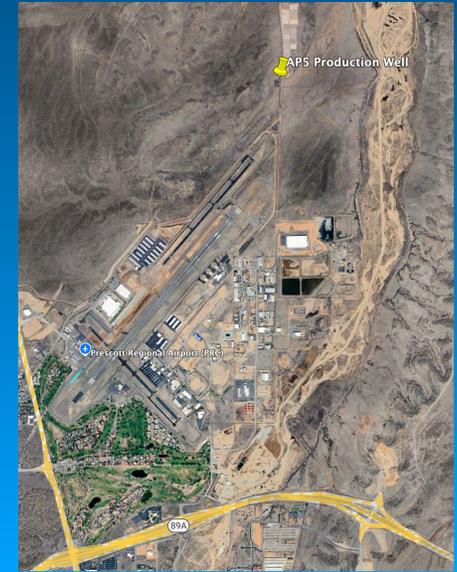
## Issue: ADWR - PrAMA

- Data missing.
- ADWR unresponsive.
- 2019 overdraft: 21,424 af
- Cumulative overdraft is growing.
- Management plan does not address goal.
- Our water supply is limited to our aquifer and we are seriously over pumping this limited resource.
- **Discussion: CWAG role and position**



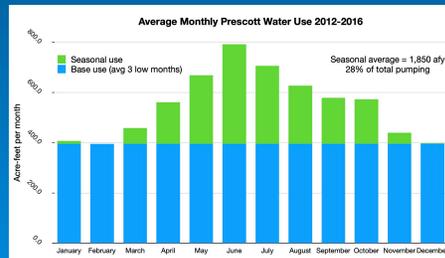
## 2026 Issue: Water Quality

- Arsenic in some wells
- Aquifer contaminated with PFAS from:
  - Wastewater recharge?
  - Airport fire fighting foam?
- PFAS control:
  - Blending
  - Studies in progress
- **Discussion: CWAG role and position**



## 2026 Issue: Prescott

- Approx 15,000 new housing units are currently approved for water. Every new house consumes groundwater and depletes the aquifer.
- Long-term water plan in progress.
- Pending renewal of Designated Assured Water Supplier.
  - Supports population growth to > 81K by 2040, a >4% growth rate.
- CWAG Strategy: Focus on future demand/supply.
- **Discussion: CWAG role and position**



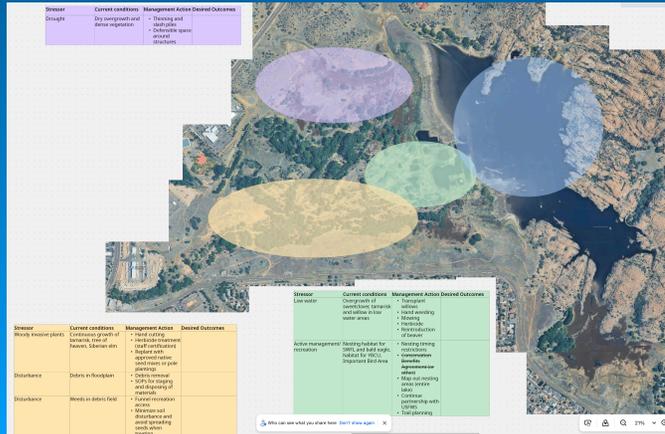
## 2026 Issue: Lakes

Water Quality Dashboard



# 2026 Issues: Lakes

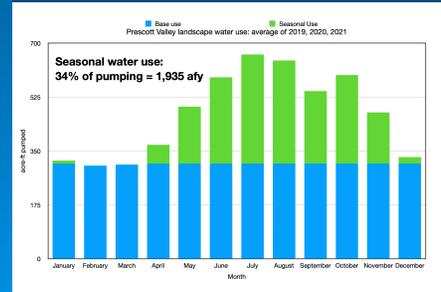
## Willow Lake Habitat management



# Issues: Prescott Valley

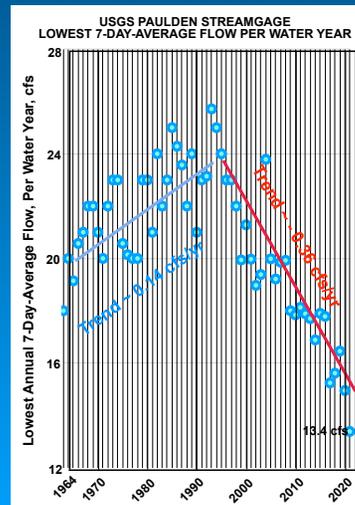
- Behavior Change: more realistic.
- Planning:
  - Stormwater Infrastructure
  - Improved conservation
  - PFAS removal
- Needs water to support aggressive growth goal.
- Discussion: CWAG role and position

## Landscape Water Use



# 2026 Issue: Verde River

- Base flow: sharp decline due to groundwater pumping and climate change.
- The upper Verde River is now ecologically degraded - critical condition
- Big Chino Pipeline is an existential threat.
- Discussion: CWAG role and position



# Issue: Big Chino Pipeline

- Prescott Valley and Rep. Nguyen request AZ Leg to seek federal funding
- CWAG opposes:
  - Created without public input
  - Bypasses Prescott Charter
  - Premature: no engineering
  - Downplays mitigation
  - Bypasses regional solutions
  - No evidence that this is the best solution!
- Actions:
  - Sent letter to Prescott Council
  - Met with elected officials - city, county, state
- Discussion: CWAG role and position

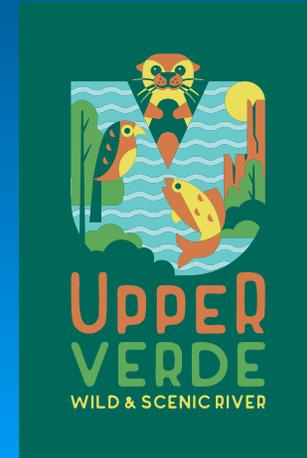


# 2026 Issue: Verde River Base Flow Protection Act

- Base flow: from groundwater
- Prescott & PV promised to mitigate impacts to base flow.
- Groundwater Model incomplete, repeatedly postponed, no public info.
- After 15 years, CWAG submits public records request - poor response!
- Estimated BCWR costs to date: \$50,000,000.
- *Estimated 2023 additional final cost - without mitigation: \$340,000,000 (2023)*
- Bliss sponsors addition to ARS 45-555:
  - Defines mitigation
  - Defines base flow
  - Requires ADWR to certify mitigation plan
  - Requires annual monitoring and reporting
  - Does not affect existing water rights.
- **Discussion: CWAG role and position**

# 2026 Solution: Upper Verde Wild and Scenic River

- Massive support: all elected officials in Yavapai County, plus tribes and State officials
- Legislative proposal submitted to Senator Kelly & Gallego.
- Rep Bliss strongly supportive and helpful.
- Blocked by Eli Crane
- [www.wildverderiver.org](http://www.wildverderiver.org)
- Application for Outstanding Arizona Water submitted to ADEQ
- **Discussion: CWAG role and position**



## Environment Day at the Capitol

Meet our legislators. See the Legislature in action.  
 Wednesday Feb 11. [info@cwagaz.org](mailto:info@cwagaz.org)

## Legally Authorized "Paper" Water Facilitates Population Growth

*Estimated minimum* population for legally authorized water @ 0.20 afy/home, 2 occupants/home. Does not count recycling of recharged treated effluent or multifamily housing water use.

	Population 2020	Estimated 2020 Legal "Paper" Water afy	Max. Legal Potential Population	Big Chino Water, afy	Max. Legal Population w. Big Chino
Prescott	44,439	DAWS	81,307 <i>&gt;4%!</i>	4,356	124,867
Prescott Valley	46,785	500	51,785	3,711	88,895
Chino Valley	13,020	1,128	24,300	648	30,780
Available Credits HIA + E.C.		11,400	114,000		114,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>104,244</b>		<b>271,392</b>	<b>8,715</b>	<b>358,542</b> <i>84 yrs @ 1.5%</i>

# Legislative History

- Created loopholes and exemptions for municipal water
  - No consideration of environmental impacts
  - No consideration of supply/demand balance
- Awarded legal rights for enough “paper” water to increase PrAMA population:
  - 2.6 times 2020 pop to >271,400 without Big Chino
  - 3.4 times 2020 pop to >358,500 with Big Chino

# 2026 Issues: AZ Government

- Bliss: supportive:
  - Sponsored Verde River Base Flow Protection Act
  - Active support for Upper Verde Wild and Scenic River
- Nguyen: unresponsive
- Finchem: unresponsive
- Legislature:
  - Rep. Griffin blocks good bills, creates bills to support agriculture and development
  - Failure to pass Rural Management
- Gov. Hobbs: has created new AMAs
- AG Mayes: settlement with Willcox pumpers, litigating Fondomonte
- **Discussion: CWAG role and position**



# Misinformation

- Prescott Pulse and Prescott Truth
  - Prescott has 50 (or 100, or 300) years of water
  - Supply and demand are in balance
- Kading column in Courier:
  - Drought is the problem - not pumping
  - CWAG is “chicken little”, using scare tactics
- Brandolini’s Law: “The amount of energy needed to refute BS is an order of magnitude bigger than that needed to produce it”
- **Discussion: CWAG role and position**



# Misinformation

Home / FAQ / Myths vs Reality

## Myth vs Reality

Click on the question to see CWAG's answer.  
If you have a question that is not answered here, please ask us by using the Contact button above.

- Myth: Arizona's laws and regulations will protect our region's water supply.
- Myth: Safe Yield will protect our water supply.
- Myth: Because COP/PV follow current laws and regulations, we will achieve safe yield.
- Myth: There is plenty of water in the aquifer to last a long time.
- Myth: We do not need to be concerned about whether we will have enough water for the future.
- Myth: Exempt wells are the main cause of water levels going down across the Prescott Active Management Area.
- Myth: The Big Chino pipeline will assure that we have a sustainable water future for the Quad Cities region.
- Myth: Prescott and PV officials claim that our water supplies are OK because they recharge 65-95%.

**FAQ**

- Myths vs Reality
- Water Quality
- Drinking Water Contaminants
- Arsenic
- Water Adequacy
- Verde River and Del Rio Springs
- Big Chino Water Ranch
- Safe Yield & Water Resource Management

**Quick Links**

- Join-Renew-Donate
- Sustaining Donations
- Video Archive
- Events Calendar

# Open Floor: Discussion & Questions

**What should CWAG do?**

**Thank you for your support!**

