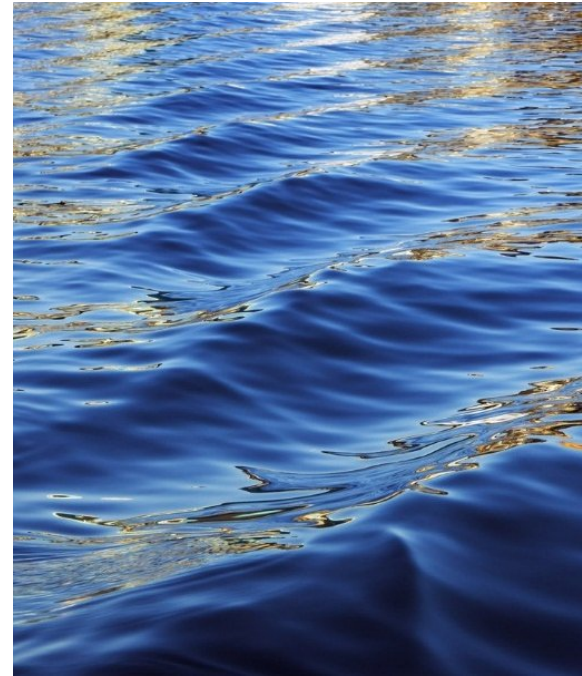


Willcox Water Project – Sulphur Springs Valley

Presented By: Peggy Judd, Cochise County Supervisor



Willcox Water Project – Sulphur Springs Valley

Mission Statement

The Willcox Water Project will gather citizens, provide education, then develop water solutions through a transparent stakeholder process. Prior to 2021 Legislative Session, community will be re-engaged to advocate for a positive change in local water policy.



Willcox Water Project – Sulphur Springs Valley

“The best-case scenario, we’re sucking out four times as much as we’re putting in,” said John Hart, president of the Cochise County Farm and Livestock Bureau.



Willcox Water Project – Sulphur Springs Valley

The community remains divided and is miles away from mounting any collective response to combat the rapid declines in groundwater levels.



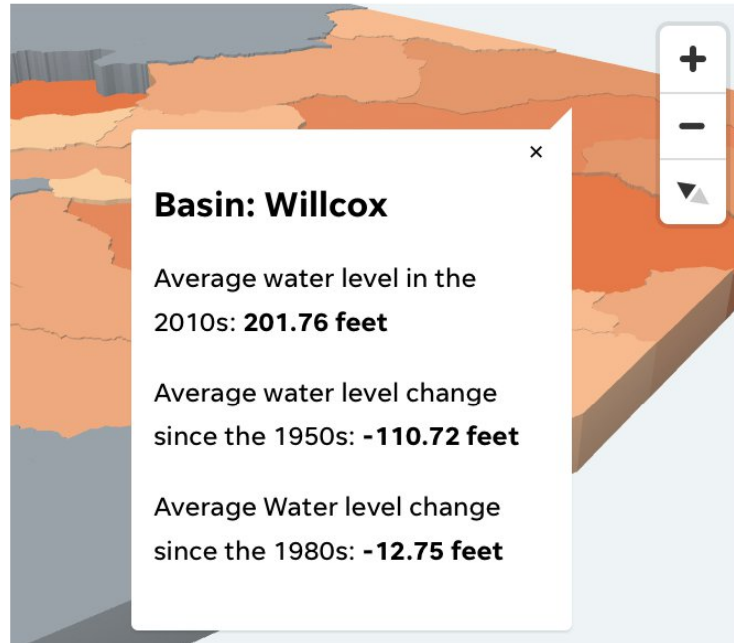
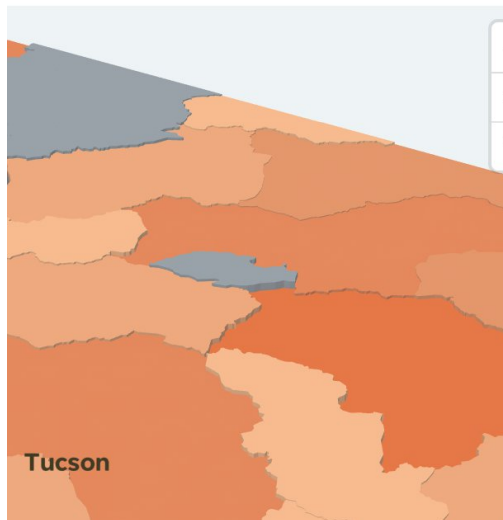
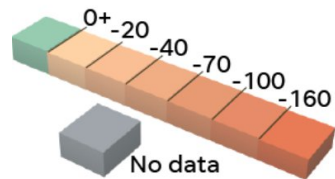
Thousands of plastic shelters for calves, called “calf huts,” spread out in rows at the new Turkey Creek Dairy. Riverview grows crops to feed the cattle at its dairies near Willcox, using groundwater to irrigate fields.

Willcox Water Project – Sulphur Springs Valley

Babbitt noted in an interview, “The first, most important thing to do is to persuade the people to realize a regulatory framework is needed to protect their water supplies.”

Willcox Water Project – Sulphur Springs Valley

Change in average groundwater levels in feet since the **1950s** ▼



“In the past, people couldn’t afford to chase the water”

Willcox Water Project – Sulphur Springs Valley



“

Mark my words. It's just the beginning.

Bruce Babbitt, the former Arizona governor who signed the 1980 Groundwater Management Act into law, on industrial agriculture's unchecked use of rural groundwater



Willcox Water Project – Sulphur Springs Valley

Wells drying up around Willcox, where an effort to change rules failed

In southeastern Arizona, farms are drilling wells up to 2,500 feet deep. Water levels are dropping and some homeowners are struggling with the costs.

MARK HENLE, THE REPUBLIC

9:21 a.m. MST Dec. 5, 2019


Willcox Water Project – Sulphur Springs Valley

ARIZONA'S NEXT WATER CRISIS

In southeastern Arizona, farms drill a half-mile deep while families pay the price

Ian James, and Rob O'Dell, Arizona Republic
Updated 4:12 p.m. MST Dec. 6, 2019

Former governor Babbitt speaks on county water issues

By Shar Porier shar.porier@myheraldreview.com
Nov 29, 2019 

Earth fissure north of city up to 30-feet deep; Desiccation crack may be due to drought

By CAROL BROEDER/Arizona Range News
Jul 21, 2004  0



Willcox Water Project – Sulphur Springs Valley

In these predominantly conservative communities, the ethos is to take care of yourself and be wary of government regulation.

Willcox Water Project- Sulphur Springs Valley

The only thing that they can do is to require that wells be drilled in conformance with well construction standards and by a licensed well driller and that they'd be registered with ADWR





Willcox Water Project – Sulphur Springs Valley

"That's our challenge, how to build up enough support among the stakeholders that we can get something passed at the Legislature" Bushatzke



Willcox Water Project – Sulphur Springs Valley

“Why shouldn’t county governments regulate ground water? The state could enact rural groundwater management legislation, then delegate authority to the counties.” Buschatzke

Willcox Water Project – Sulphur Springs Valley

I am honestly befuddled at the seeming lack of action to protect the average resident from the damage caused to their private property rights, which I believe includes reasonable use of the water, not unlimited use, when it so negatively effects their neighbors. Even without the question of "how deep is too deep" policy is needed that would anticipate and help prevent the physical damage in the form of fissures and subsidence all over the valley now, not 5 or 10 years from now when the damage will be done.

Mark Spencer, Cochise resident

Workshops - Four Sessions

January 8, 2020

Project Kick off Meetings

Sunsites Community Center – 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Willcox Community Center – 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Topics: Workshop Parameters and Goals:

Prehistory and History of the Sulphur Springs Valley

February 12, 2020

Sunsites Community Center – 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Willcox Community Center – 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Topics: What is Aquifer?

Private Well Ownerships

Workshops – Four Sessions

March 11 – 2020

Sunsites Community Center – 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Willcox Community Center – 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Topics: ADWR Research and Water Availability and Use Models, Residential and Agriculture Water Conservation, Recharge networks of Cochise County

April 8 – 2020

Sunsites Community Center – 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Willcox Community Center – 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Topics: Legislation and Advocating for effective change in water policy

Willcox Water Project – Sulphur Springs Valley

Stakeholder Group

A group of local stakeholders will be gathered at the culmination of the Seminar.

Bi-weekly and Professionally Moderated sessions will create a plan from all ideas:

- Learned in Seminar,
- learned by former efforts to create legislation,
- ideas submitted in the “Seminar Suggestion Box” and
- any discovery during the stakeholder process.

The process could take several months. When that is complete we will hold a final Session of the Sulphur Springs Valley Community Water Seminars and present our discoveries and final idea to the group. Seeking their approval and support. This idea will be presented to the Legislature and a request for help will be made.

Project Budget

General cost:

Shirts and Portfolios	\$3,500
Venue Rental	830
Informational Video	2,000
Website	1,200
Project Management	8,500
Suggestion Box	50
Paper and Printing	100

Project Budget

January Costs: No Charge for instructor
\$250 food/ water

February Costs: \$750 two paid instructor / per diem
\$250 food/ water

March Costs: \$750 two paid instructor / per diem
\$250 food/ water
\$ 50 printing

April Costs: \$750 two paid instructor / per diem
\$250 food/ water

Project Budget

Moderated Stakeholder Meetings Cost:

\$3,000 Moderator

400 per diem for above


Final Session with Stakeholder Meeting Results Cost:

\$250 food/water

100 printing

295 venue rental

Total Project Cost - \$22,325.00



Thank You from
District 3

