

# Building a Restoration Economy in the Verde Valley



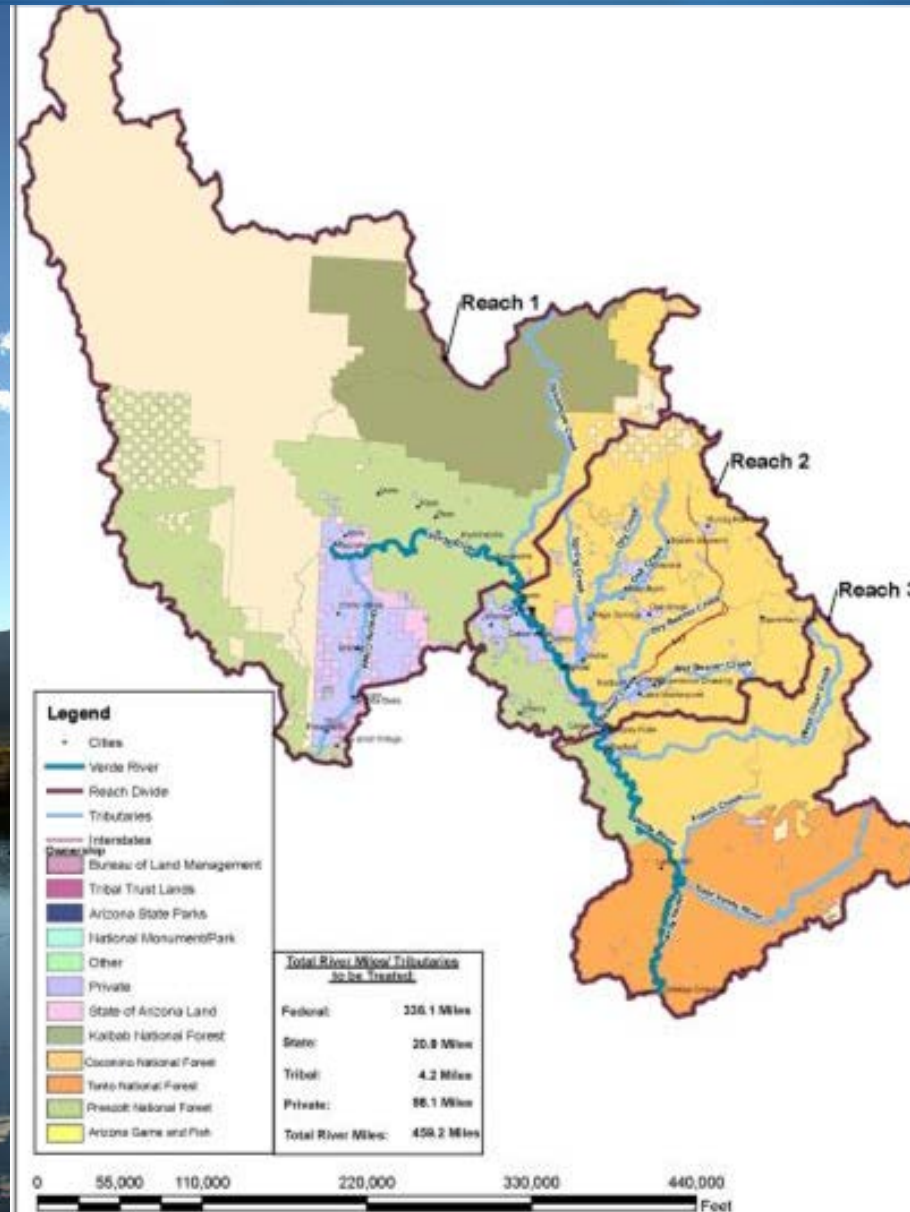
Anna Schrenk and Kate Watters, Friends of Verde River Greenway

# Overview

- 💧 VWRC History
- 💧 Accomplishments
- 💧 Moving Beyond the Weeds...
- 💧 Vision for a Restoration Economy



# Verde River Watershed



# Verde Stakeholders Finding Common Ground

## Issues

- Health and Sustainability of the Verde Watersheds Riparian Areas

## Needs

- Strategic approach for controlling riparian invasive plants
- Increase collaboration and communication among stakeholders,

## Actions

- Stakeholder Workshops
- Verde Cooperative Invasive Plant Management Plan developed
- Implementation Begin...



# Moving Beyond the Weeds: VWRC Strategic Planning

- ◆ **Expanded Mission:** To support the *values* and the *functions* of riparian lands in the Verde River Watershed
- ◆ **Strategies**
  - ◆ Monitoring
  - ◆ Streambank Stabilization
  - ◆ Volunteer Network
  - ◆ **Native Plant Materials/Tree Replacement Program**
  - ◆ Multiple Species Approach
  - ◆ Flow Restoration
  - ◆ Watershed Education
  - ◆ State of the Watershed-Annual Event



# The Need for Native Plant Materials



A centralized, coordinated, regional effort has many benefits

# Not Another Native Plant Materials Partnership...



Provide a regional source of native genotypes (seed and plants) for restoration and research purposes in the Verde watershed

# A Unique Place and Opportunity





# Stabilize Native Plant Market



Align projected needs with grower capacity, and reduce the risk of growing plant materials on speculation to improve efficiency and lower costs

# Strategic Seed Collection



# Native Plant and Seed Production



# Pollinator Research

## Hypothesis: Local is better

1. Most Local Variety



2. More Abundant Plant Growth



3. More Pollinator Interactions



4. Produce More Seeds



# Common Garden Research



How will climate change alter the productivity of foundation species?

# Outreach and Education



# Building a Restoration Economy with Native Plants



# Thanks to Our Partners



NORTHERN  
ARIZONA  
UNIVERSITY

*The*  
WALTON FAMILY  
FOUNDATION



The Nature  
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