



The Regional Report

Proudly praising the work of the men and women of the Lower Colorado Region for more than two decades.

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Binational group reviews Landscape Conservation Planning, Design pilot projects



About 30 landscape conservation professionals participated in an early October three-day Landscape Conservation Planning and Design workshop in Aguascalientes, Mexico. *Photo courtesy of Noe Santos*

Input from U.S. and Mexico stakeholders for Landscape Conservation Planning and Design pilot projects — that was the stated purpose of a binational workshop held in early October and hosted by the Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative in Aguascalientes, Mexico.

Convened at the Universidad Autonoma de Aguascalientes, the three-day workshop attracted about 30 attendees from the United States and Mexico. Among them

were Genevieve Johnson, Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative (DLCC) coordinator from the Phoenix Area Office, and Civil Engineer—River Operations Noe Santos of the Boulder Canyon Operations Office.

“The event was a three-day workshop, but the entire length of the trip was five days due to the travel schedule,” said Santos.

He added that the group identified critical environmental threats/stressors and potential pilot

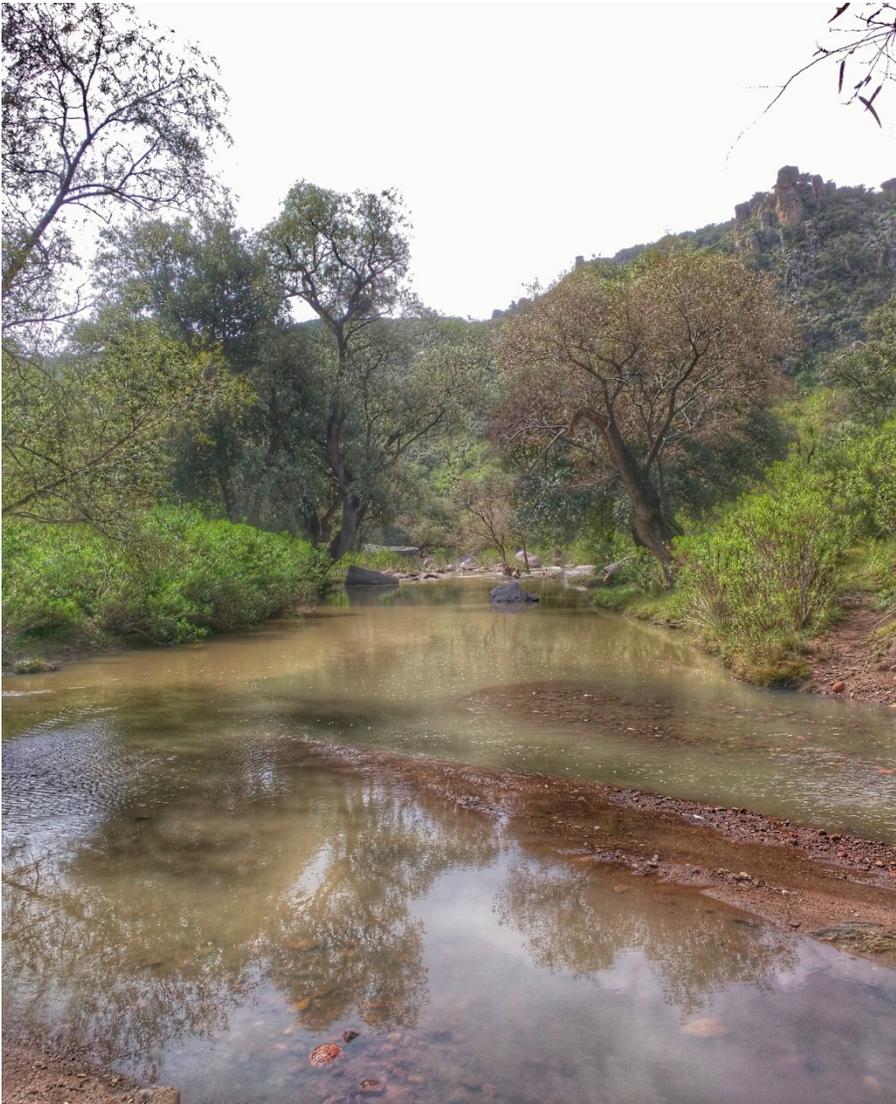


This horned lizard was one of the indigenous creatures the group encountered on one of its field trips. After the photo, it was returned safely to the environment. *Photo courtesy of Noe Santos*



study areas for the Landscape Conservation Planning and Design project. Additionally, they improved partnerships between the U.S. and Mexican agencies/entities responsible for environmental stewardship.

Santos attended the meeting on behalf of Ken Nowak, who is one of the Region's representatives on the DLCC, which is part of the Department of Interior's



WaterSMART program.

The LCCs are partnerships of governmental—Federal, state, tribal and local—and non-governmental entities.

The primary goal of the LCCs is to bring together science and resource management to inform climate adaptation strategies to address climate change and other stressors within an ecological region, or "landscape," Santos said. "The binational meeting was very successful!" he concluded.

The vistas of scenic rock outcrops and local cactus, and this perennial stream, were typical of scenes the group encountered while on a field trip to an experimental conservation area in Aguascalientes during their early October workshop. *Photos courtesy of Noe Santos*



A workshop leader gestures as he lectures to the group about the grass types and birds in the surrounding area. *Photo courtesy of Noe Santos*



Noe Santos, left, bends over to photograph a local turtle that a workshop attendee found in the stream at this field trip site. *Photo courtesy of Noe Santos*