

# LITTLE COLORADO RIVER WATERSHED COORDINATING COUNCIL

## VISION, MISSION, GUIDING PRINCIPLES, STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS, AND GOALS

### Introduction

The LCR Watershed Coordinating Council created an alliance of agencies, communities, companies, organizations and other watershed stakeholders to facilitate and implement sound watershed resource management and conservation strategies within the Little Colorado River Watershed. This alliance agrees to work together to identify, prioritize, and implement wise and judicious watershed management strategies. Specific details of individual activities and projects will be agreed to in separate agreements as appropriate.

### **Our Vision**

*The Little Colorado River Watershed Coordinating Council envisions a healthy, sustainable, and diverse watershed perpetuated by natural ecological and judicious and intelligent anthropic processes and capable of providing sustainable economic, social, educational, cultural, and environmental benefits for current and future generations.*

### **Our Mission**

*The Little Colorado River Watershed Coordinating Council's mission is to be a progressive and proactive watershed organization dedicated to:*

- 1) protecting, preserving, promoting, enhancing, and restoring ecological health and diversity, wildlife habitats and wildlife and fisheries resources, natural features, scenic beauty, prehistoric and historic natural and cultural resources through partnering with local, state, and federal agencies, communities, organizations and other stakeholders; and promoting the implementation of wise management and conservation practices in support of the vision statement,*
- 2) enhancing and protecting the quality and quantity of water in area creeks, streams, rivers, wetlands, ponds, springs, reservoirs and lakes,*
- 3) promoting appropriate, cost effective, and sustainable recreation, economic, and financial security for present and future generations,*
- 4) advancing education of wise and sustainable watershed and land management practices, encouraging responsible stewardship and fostering communication and cooperation among stakeholders across the watershed.*

### **Guiding Principles**

Basic principles to which the LCRWCC is committed to in our continuous pursuit of a healthy watershed

1. Land management agencies, local communities, and the public work together to build support for and implement the watershed vision.

2. The watershed is managed as a model of the interdependency of all resources and acknowledging the presence and activities of people historically and currently.
3. The natural beauty and rustic character of the landscape is maintained.
4. Sustainable land management and resource use practices are used to ensure natural and cultural resources protection, resident quality of life, and quality of visitor experience.
5. An adaptable, scientifically based approach provides the foundation for informed resource decision-making and management of the watershed's resources, and scientific research in the watershed is encouraged and supported.
6. Education is a foundation for future watershed protection and stewardship.
7. Opportunities for human and cultural experiences and interaction with the natural environment are fostered.
8. People are active stewards of the watershed, and land management agencies provide guidance and expertise in promoting wise stewardship of the watershed's resources for watershed residents and visitors.

### **Strategic Focus Areas**

The following strategic factors will shape the nature and quality of the future envisioned by the LCRWCC

- Watershed Management
- Floodplain Management
- Water Quality/Quantity Maintenance and Enhancement
- Erosion/Sedimentation, Nutrient Loading, and other Pollution Processes and Management
- Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Habitat Management and Improvement
- Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species Preservation and Management
- Invasive Species Prevention, Management and Eradication
- Wise and Sustainable Use of Water Resources
- Sustainable Economic Revitalization and Development
- Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Opportunities Enhancement
- Cultural Resources Preservation and Promotion
- Ecosystem Restoration
- Sustainable Agricultural Practices
- Comprehensive Planning as well as short-term, site specific planning.
- Development (including urban/rural sprawl, shoreline development)
- Drinking Water
- Infrastructure (public sewer and water, wastewater treatment, etc.)
- Stormwater Runoff (including impervious surfaces and roadside ditches)
- Water Quality Standards and Regulations
- Watershed Education/ Outreach

### **Goals**

- Develop, complete, and implement a state-of-the-art, user friendly, watershed management plan
- Promote diverse, stable and productive fish and wildlife habitats.
- Promote protection for sensitive, threatened, endangered, and other nonlisted native species and their habitats, ensuring the continued existence of the watershed's unique faunal and floral heritage.
- Protect/restore historical or minimum water flows necessary to maintain native species populations.
- Restore/increase the proper functioning and sediment transport characteristics and capabilities of the LCR and its tributaries.
- Improve rangeland and forest health.
- Enhance the quality of life within the LCR Watershed.

- Reduce risk and economic impacts from floods and other natural disasters within the LCR Watershed.
- Preserve, protect and promote the cultural and historical heritage of the LCR Watershed.
- Maintain and/or improve water quality and quantity for wise and sustainable uses within the LCR Watershed.
- Promote sustainable economic growth of our natural resource industries.
- Encourage and aid communities in recognizing, preserving and promoting their unique natural, cultural, and historic heritages, values and assets.
- Enhance sustainable tourism and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.
- Increase opportunities for conservation and multiple-use of existing water resources of the LCR Watershed.
- Enhance networking, communication, technology transfer, and sharing of watershed related information among individuals, agencies, organizations, and other stakeholders.
- Broaden citizen's knowledge and encourage their active participation in watershed issues.

### **A brief History of the LCR Watershed process**

July 2004: Ron Smith hired as Watershed Project Director by the Little Colorado River Plateau RC&D

July 2004: Met with LCR MOM personnel to discuss a ecosystem restoration project on the LCR near Winslow Arizona

July 2004: Met with US BOR to discuss an MOU with the LCR MOM to conduct various projects

Aug. 2004: Met with US ACE to discuss project history in LCR and determine project applicability

Aug. 2004: Met with Congressman Renzi to discuss project funding in the LCR

Aug. 2004: Formed a Winslow Project Committee and met to discuss the project

Sept. 2004: Met with several state and federal agencies to discuss possible projects and funding issues.

Sept 2004: LCR MOM meeting

Oct. 2004: Spoke to Navajo and Apache Co. Mayors and Town Council Members Association meeting concerning watershed issues

Nov. 2004: Reorganization meeting of LCR MOM. Started the reorganization process.

Dec. 2004: the Little Colorado River Watershed Coordinating Council came into being.

Jan. 2005: Began writing draft bylaws, mission, vision, organization chart, goals, etc.

Feb. 2005: Formed Technical Advisory Team for the LCR Watershed Management Plan.

March 2005: Finalized LCRWCC bylaws, mission, vision, organizational chart, goals, etc.

April 2005: Began writing draft LCR Watershed Management Plan skeleton and Winslow Project Prospectus

May 2005: Completed above. Wrote Partnership Agreement for the LCRWCC Contributors

June 2005: MOU with BOR to fund the LCR Watershed Management Plan signed and implemented.

July 2005: Began issuing contracts for LCR Watershed Management Plan. NEMO to perform multi-layered GIS mapping of Watershed. NAU to determine available data.

Aug. 2005: Winslow Project funded by Arizona Game and Fish Department

# Little Colorado River Watershed Coordinating Council

## Partnership Agreement

This document serves as a Partnership Agreement between the various units of government, special interest groups, and private sector organizations, collectively termed “contributors”, interested in the biological, chemical, geological, social, economic, and cultural issues of the Little Colorado River Watershed. This agreement documents those areas of common interest of the Partnership’s contributors.

The contributors signing this Partnership Agreement are united in putting into action the vision, mission and guiding principles of the Little Colorado River Watershed Coordinating Council (LCRWCC) and in the identification, prioritization, and implementation of recommendations and projects to assist meeting water related needs in the Little Colorado River Watershed.

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LCRWCC contributors are recognized as independent, have their respective responsibilities, yet recognize the need to cooperate and coordinate as a federal, state, tribal, local, and special interest partnership for the benefit of the Little Colorado River Watershed.

### **Contributor Roles and Responsibilities**

The parties to this agreement agree to the following:

- A. Support the vision of the LCRWCC.
- B. Support the mission of the LCRWCC.
- C. Support the guiding principles of the LCRWCC.
- D. Participate in LCRWCC meetings, functions and projects.
- E. Assist in identifying sources of funding to meet the objectives of sound water management in the watershed.
  
- F. Provide significant resources to the LCRWCC in the form of time, funds, equipment, expertise, or etc on projects and functions that benefit the signatory.
- G. If a government unit, special interest group, or private sector organization, provide a liaison to represent the unit, group, or organization to the LCRWCC. The liaison will be responsible for briefing their management and coordinating within their individual unit, group, or organization.
- H. This agreement establishes an enduring basis for cooperation and assistance between contributors to achieve LCRWCC vision and mission. Authority to carry out specific projects or activities will be carried out by separate agreements.

### **Limitations**

Nothing in this agreement shall be construed as limiting or affecting the legal authorities or decision-making of any of the participants of this Agreement, or require expenditure of funds. Any party to this agreement may cancel their participation in the Agreement by written notification at least 30 days prior to the termination date.