Cross-Watershed Collaboration

Reducing Barriers to Scale Watershed Restoration Efforts in Arizona

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Federal Funding Opportunities

BILLIONS in funds available for a range of restoration and conservation efforts

- Low-tech process-based restoration
- Forest health/fuels management
- Aquatic organism passage enhancement
- Climate-smart agricultural practices
- Environmental flow enhancement
AZ Watershed Capacity Assessment

Goals:
1. Identify capacity challenges for riparian and aquatic restoration in AZ
2. Identify barriers to accessing BIL and IRA funding
3. Learn & share successful strategies to address challenges
4. Solicit policy recommendations
Barriers to Leveraging Funding → Capacity Building Strategies for Local Watershed Restoration

- Workforce Capacity
- Financial Capacity
- Funding Program Focus & Requirements
**Policy Recommendations**

**Federal**
- Continue/sustain new or expanded capacity building funding programs
- Refine focus of funding programs to cover capacity and project development
- Improve grant application timeline, process, and requirements
- Expedite permitting

**State**
- Federal Matching Grant Program
  - New Mexico legislation
- Statewide support and coordination of watershed health

Photo: Bureau of Land Management
Next Steps

Moving Forward: Arizona Cross-Watershed Network

- Build capacity through networking, cross-visits, technical assistance
- Connect projects & proponents to grants, funders, and funding navigators
- Identify collaborative opportunities to advance projects