

Clean Water Plan Development: Upper San Pedro River

ADEQ is initiating a Clean Water Plan for keeping polluted runoff out of the Upper San Pedro River (USPR). This plan combines a traditional Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study with a Watershed Implementation Plan and will identify the following:

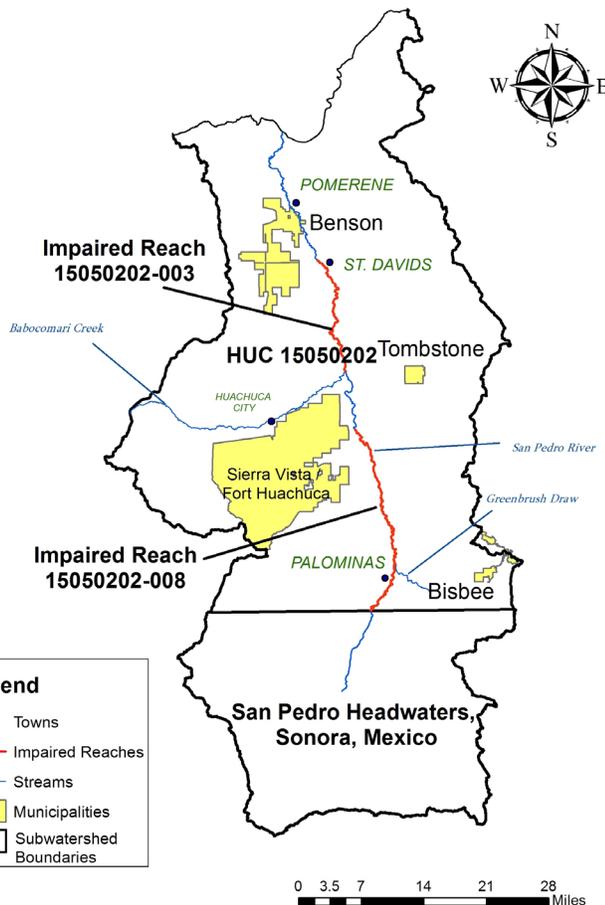
- How much pollution needs to decrease so that the river meets water quality standards
- Geographic sources and current land use activities contributing to water quality standard exceedances
- Voluntary actions (best management practices, or "BMPs") that can be undertaken to both decrease pollution and improve land use

The San Pedro River begins in the mountains near Cananea, Sonora, Mexico, and flows north more than 150 miles through the southeast corner of Arizona to join the Gila River near Winkelman, Arizona.

The watershed drains approximately 4,500 square miles, 3,770 of which are in Arizona. Elevations range from 1,920 feet at the confluence of the San Pedro and Gila rivers to 9,466 feet at Miller Peak in the Huachucas. Sierra Vista is the largest city in the San Pedro watershed, with a population of 43,888 and the watershed is lightly populated with approximately 130,000 people, according to a 2010 census. Fort Huachuca, a major military base in the region, is located on the outskirts of Sierra Vista.

Pollutants currently exceeding standards in the USPR and its tributaries

Pollutant (Year Listed)	Extent	Segment/ Assessment Unit
E. coli and copper(d) (2010)	28 miles	San Pedro River Mexico border to Charleston 15050202-008
E. coli (2004)	17 miles	San Pedro River Babocomari Creek – Dragoon Wash 15050202-003



Want to Learn More?

Contact us if you would like to participate in this watershed planning effort, stay up to date on project progress, or just learn more about Watershed Implementation.

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