

UPPER GILA RIVER WATERSHED AND COBRE VALLEY

Community Planning and Oral History

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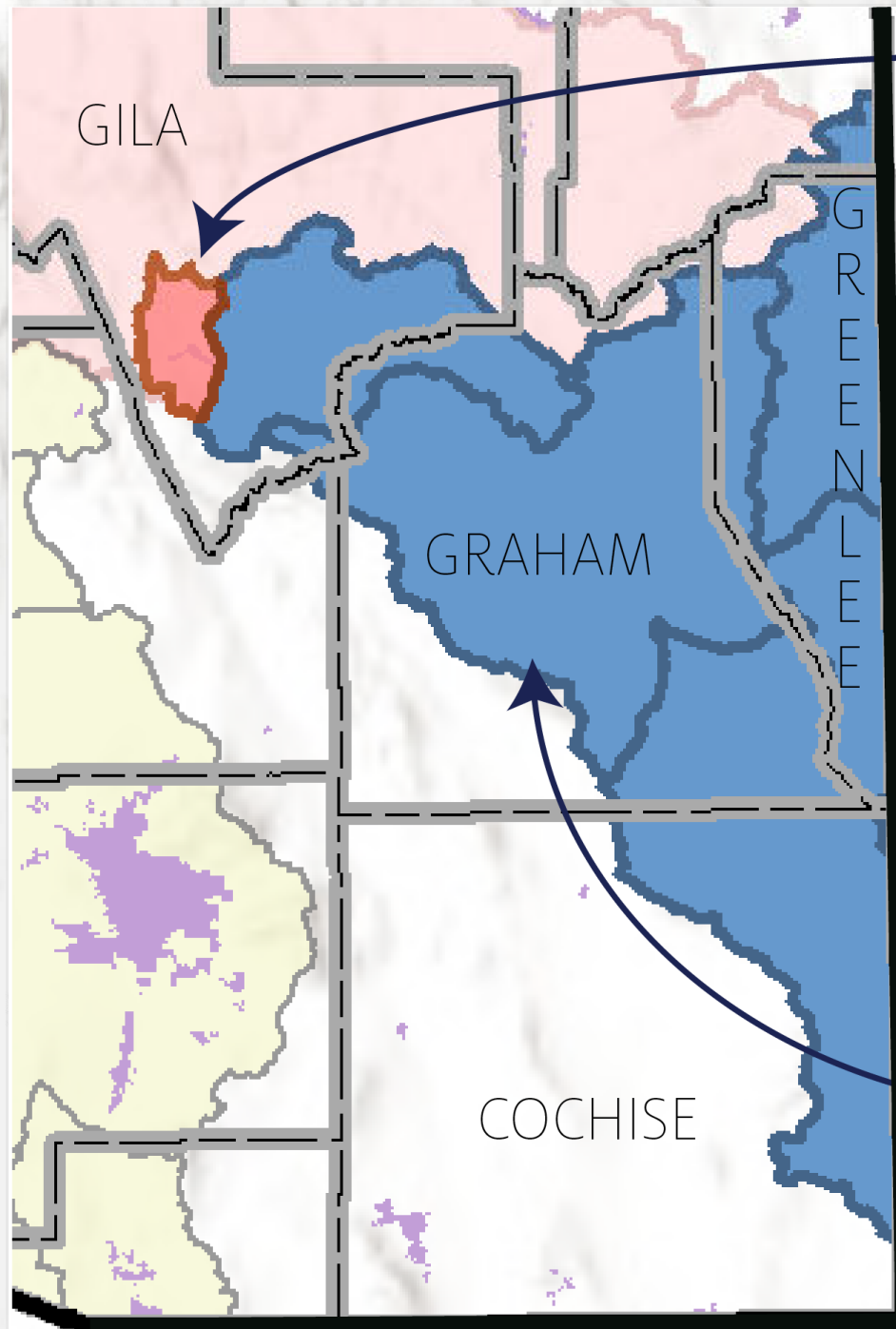
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February 1, 2019

PROJECT AREAS

-  Urban areas
-  AMAs
-  Salt River Watershed



Cobre Valley

Pop: 11,000

Upper Gila River Watershed

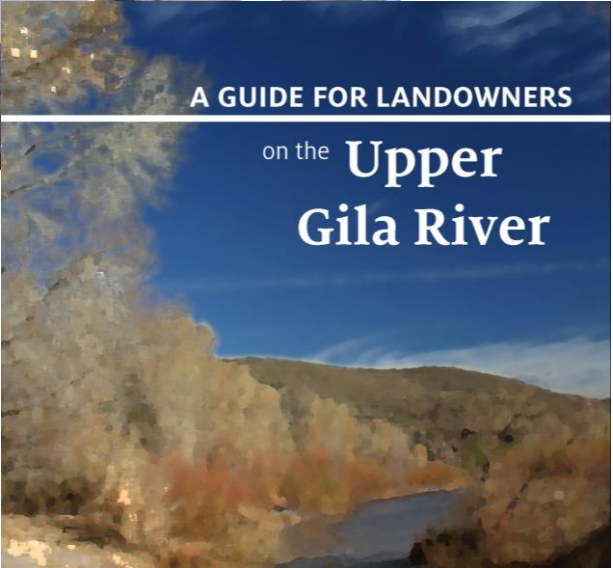
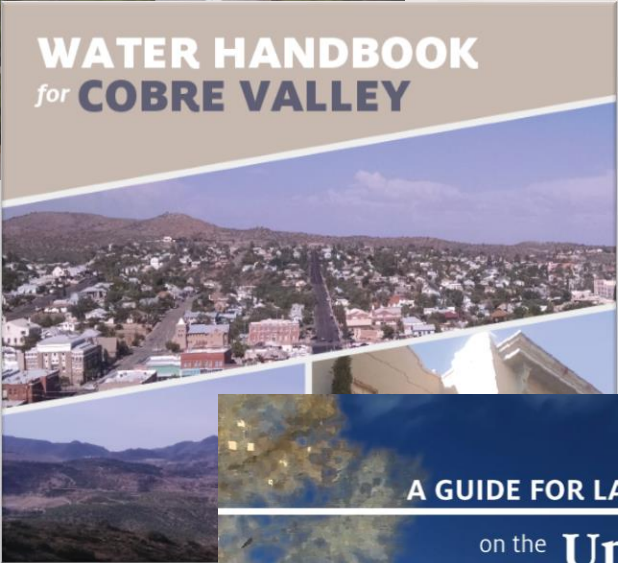
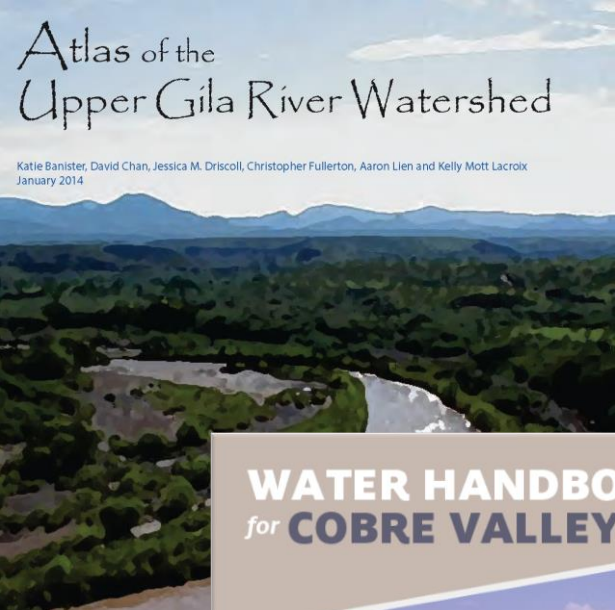
Pop: 60,000



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WATERSHED PLANNING FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



ORAL HISTORY

Participatory Place-making: Creating a Shared History of the Upper Gila River Watershed of Arizona

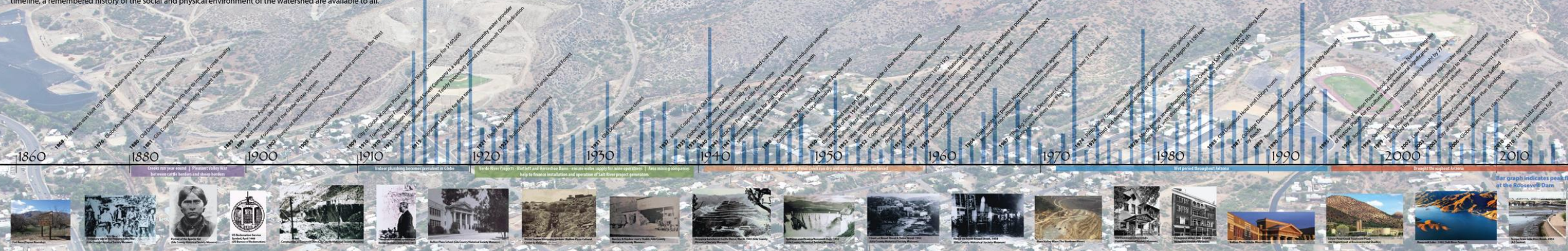


Katie Banister, Christopher Fullerton, David Chan, Jessica M. Driscoll,
Aaron Lien, Kelly Mott Lacroix, Dr. Sharon Megdal

A shared regional history was envisioned as a way of collecting and summarizing the social and environmental trends contributing to current conditions in the Upper Gila River Watershed (primarily in Graham and Greenlee counties). A facilitated workshop was held in Safford, Arizona to engage a broad variety of stakeholders in compiling a local timeline, from prehistory to the present. The comments of individuals adding to the timeline were video-recorded, and the timeline itself was brought back to the Water Resources Research Center at the University of Arizona. Archival research supported the creation of an interactive online timeline and a written historical narrative of the social and physical environment of the watershed. These work products are designed to assist the residents of the watershed as they plan scenarios for their future development.

A Shared History of the Cobre Valley

This shared history is a way of collecting and summarizing the social and environmental events that have contributed to current conditions in the Cobre Valley. In the spring of 2016, over 50 local community members came together, many of them multi-generational Arizonans, to share their memories at the Bullion Plaza Museum and Cultural Center in Miami, Arizona. The result was the compilation of this local timeline, starting in 1858 with the establishment of Fort Reno and continuing to the present. The comments of individuals adding their stories to the timeline were video-recorded, and the timeline itself was brought back to the Water Resources Research Center at the University of Arizona. With the creation of an interactive online timeline, a remembered history of the social and physical environment of the watershed are available to all.



Building common ground and shared knowledge



COOLIDGE DAM



David Chan, University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center

Depression era terracing on BLM land above the Gila River.

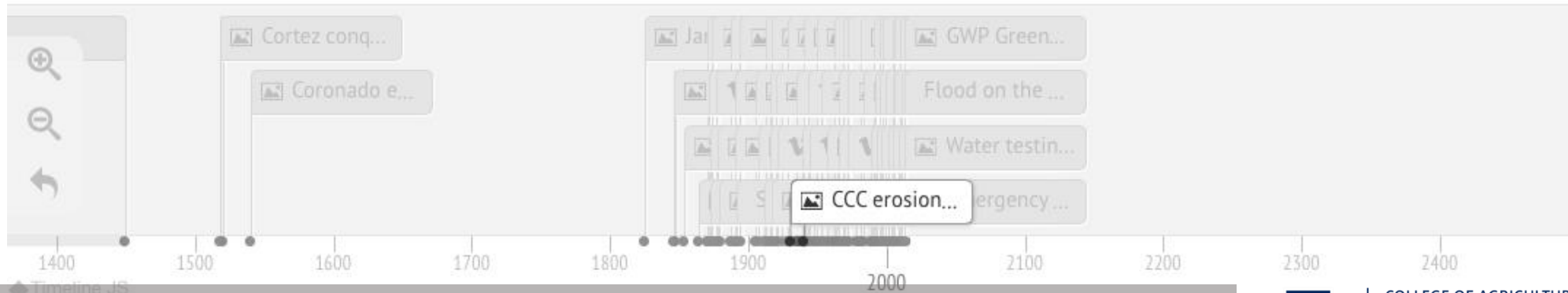
1930 – 1941

CCC EROSION CONTROL WORK

During the Great Depression, young men worked to stop erosion across the country. In the Upper Gila Watershed, they installed watershed structures and terraced hillsides. Much of their work is still in place today.



GLOBE EQUITY DECREE



wrrc.arizona.edu/Upper-Gila-Watershed



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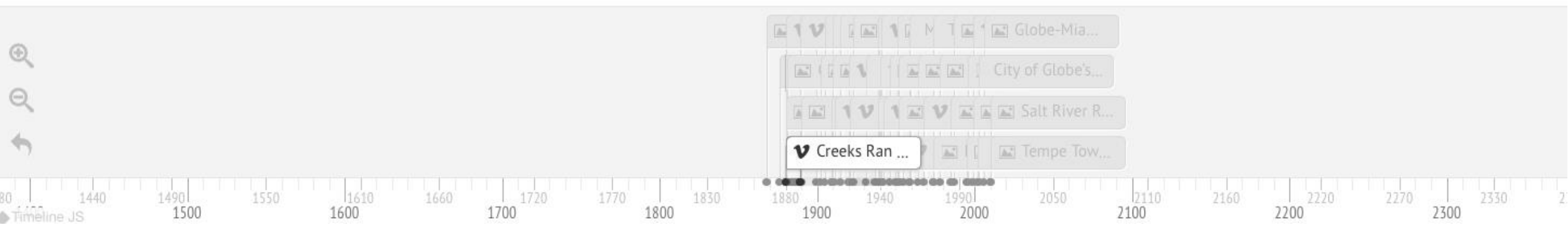
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1880S

CREEKS RAN YEAR-ROUND

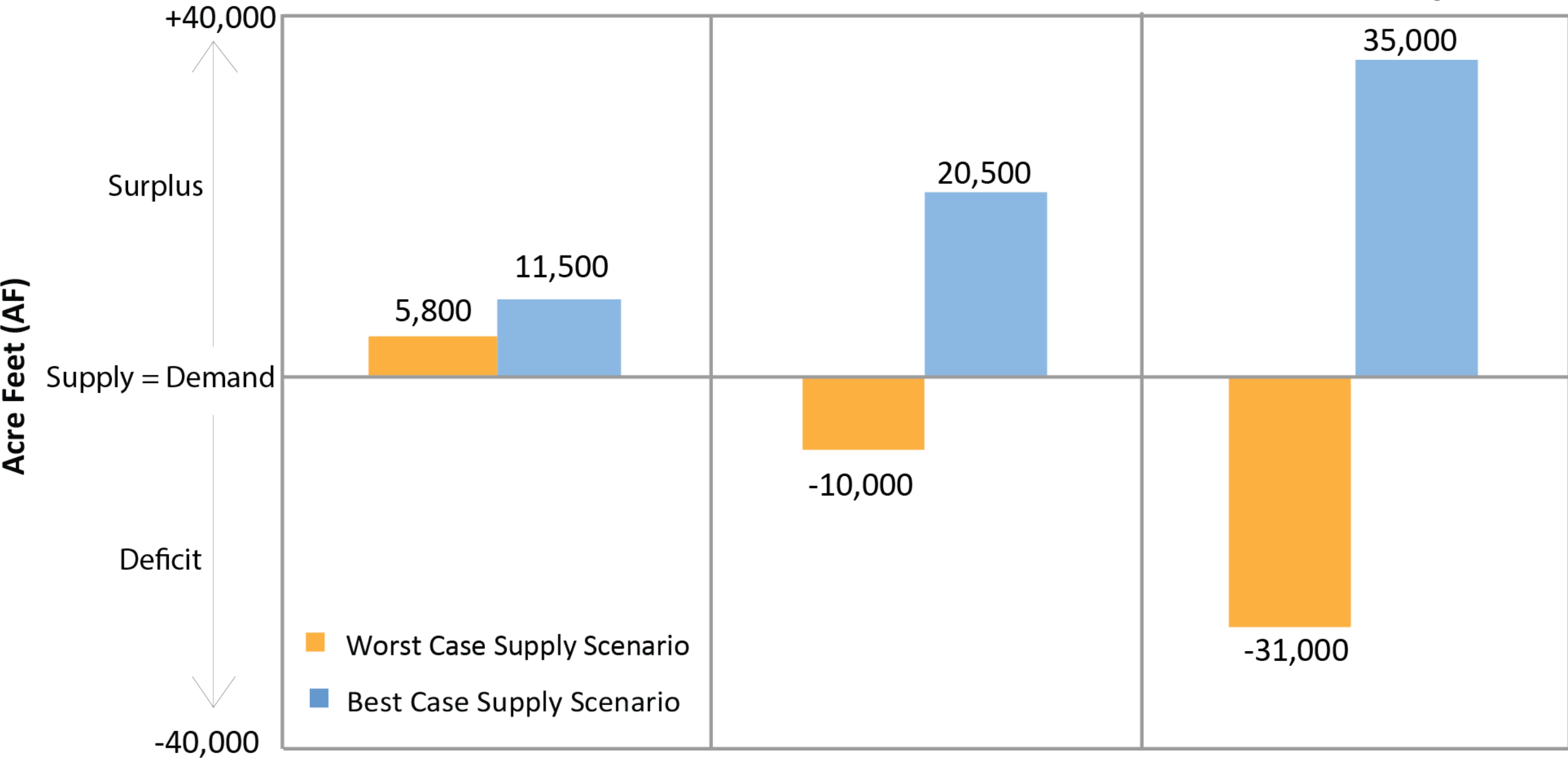
Owning land along the creek was important for early settlers, as it was often the only tillable land. In the late 1800s, creeks often ran year-round in the region.



Morenci/Clifton Region

Duncan Valley

Gila Valley



UPPER GILA STATE OF THE WATERSHED 2017



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**Cooperative
Extension**

Graham County





Scenario Planning allowed us to see what our community would look like if we keep going the way we're going.

- Bill Brandau, Graham County Cooperative Extension

COBRE VALLEY FORUM ON WATER 2018






**SECOND COBRE
VALLEY FORUM
ON WATER**



April 9, 2019

A lush green landscape with a river and two ducks in the foreground. The background is filled with dense green foliage and trees. In the foreground, a river flows over a rocky bed, and two ducks are visible near the water's edge.

Thank you!
**And thanks to all of our amazing
community partners!**

Please contact me with questions or comments.

Ashley Hullinger

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