



“Nature always wears the colors of the  
spirit” –EMERSON



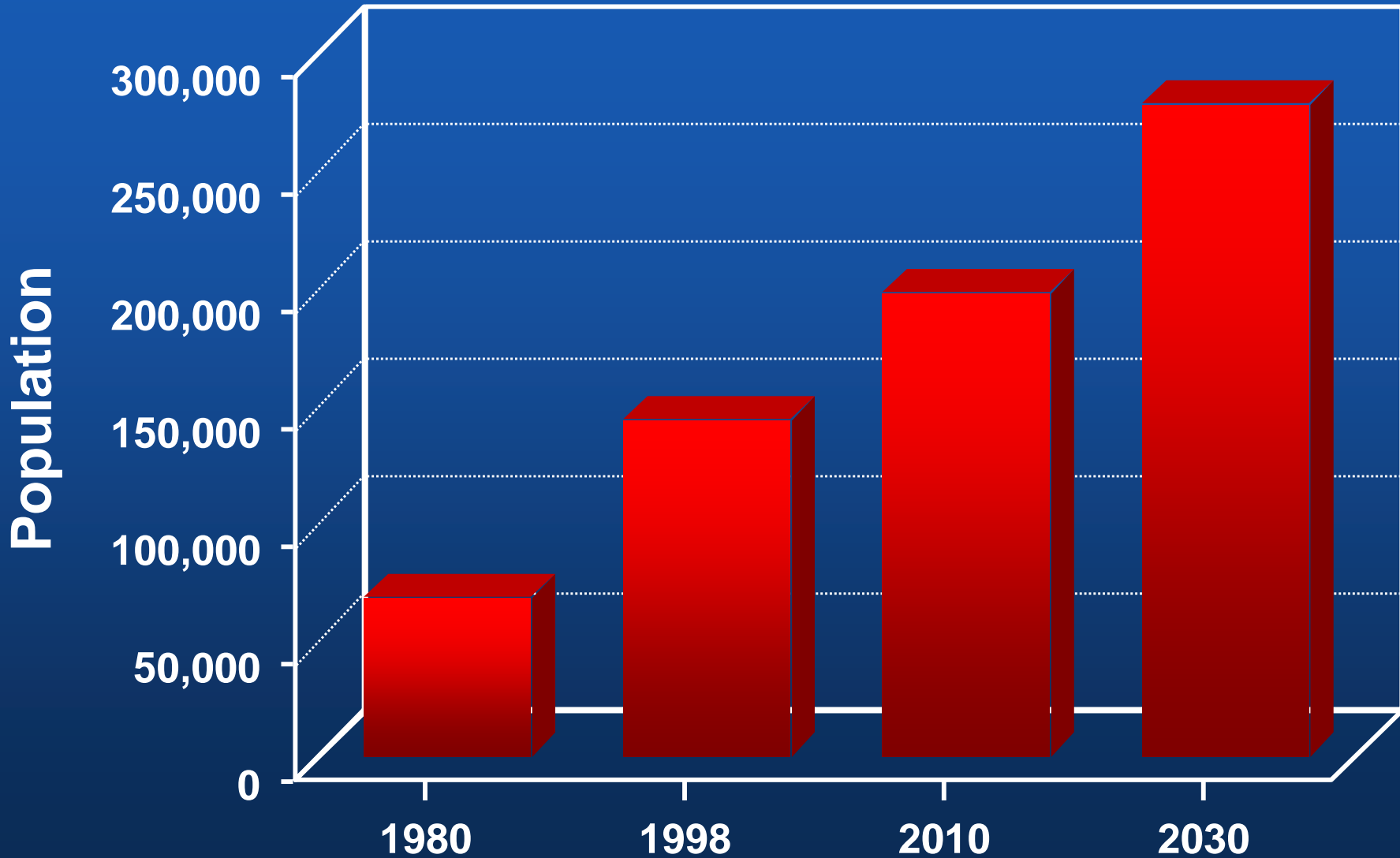
# Verde River

# Verde River

- one of the few flowing river systems left in the state
- second best native fishery in Arizona
- source of economic health for our communities



# Yavapai County population growth



# Verde watershed

Unique situation:  
Grassland-alluvial  
basin creates the  
headwaters of the  
Verde River





# Watershed function



© Robert Winslow

- Capture water
- Infiltration system
- Water purification
- Climate control
- Erosion control
- Wildlife habitat

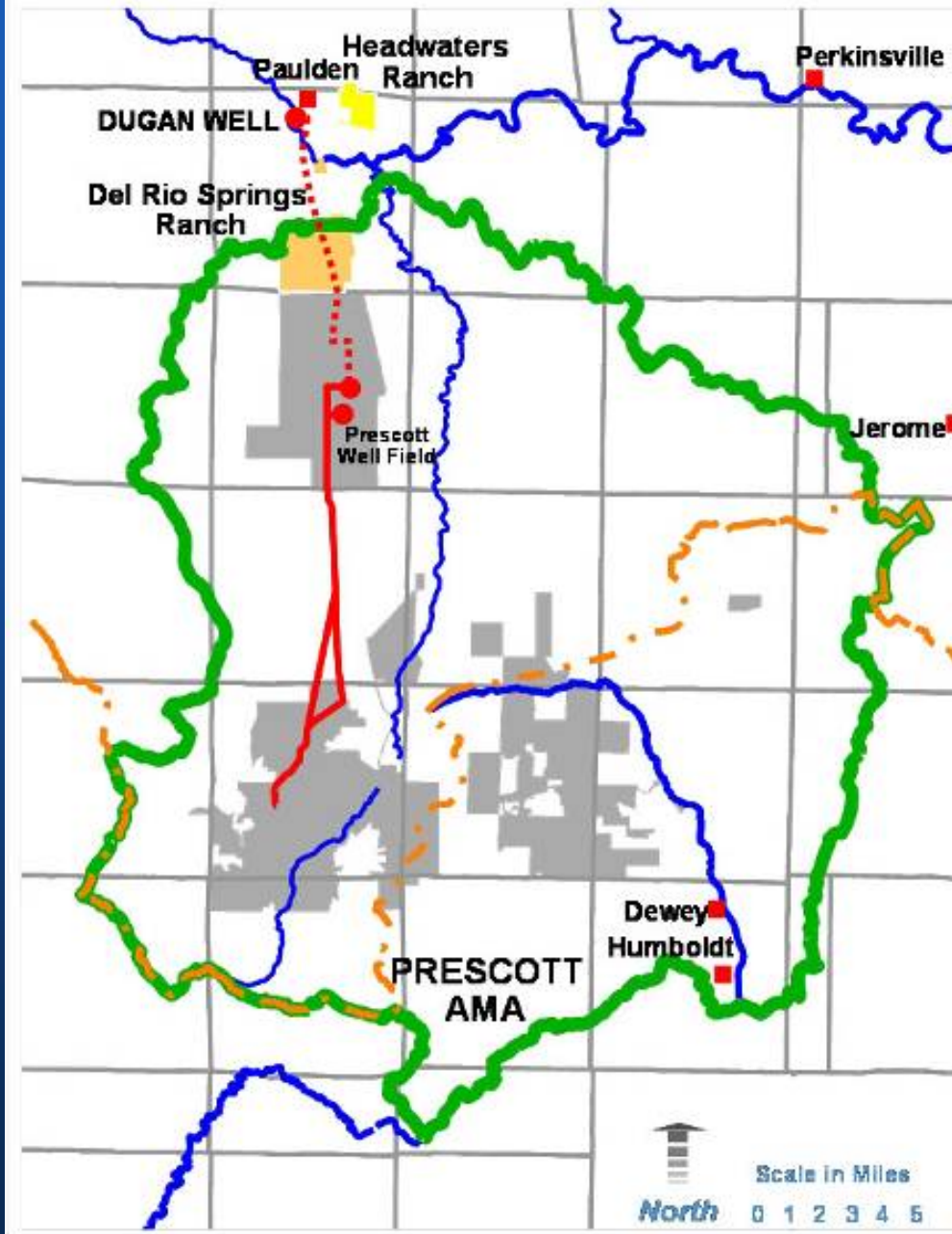


SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH

# Verde watershed: balancing act



# Prescott Active Management Area



# Water: a balancing act

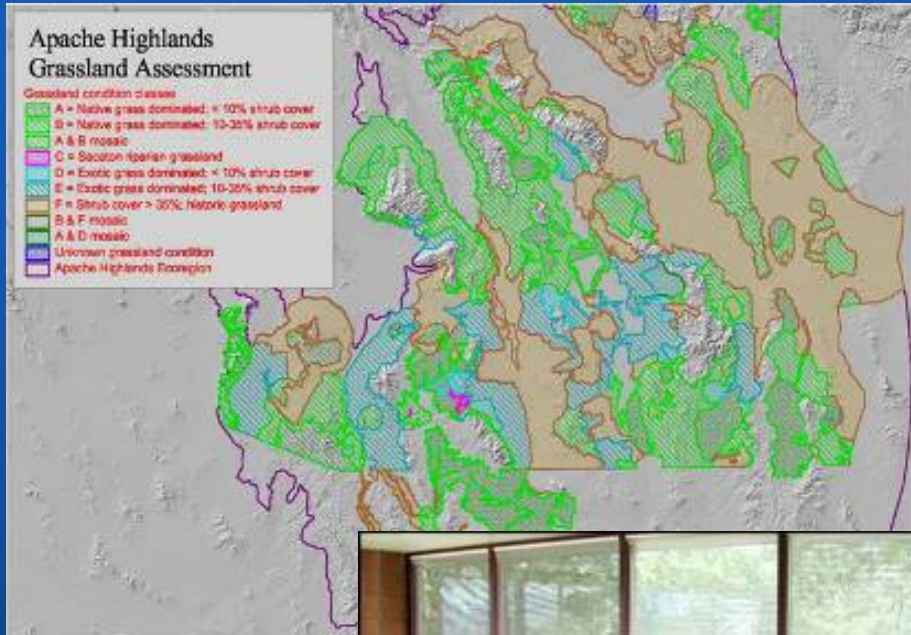
**The Nature Conservancy is uniquely positioned to:**

- **craft collaborative partnerships**
- **ensure science will inform policy decisions**





# River Protection Strategies



Science informing public policy  
— grassland assessment  
— hydrologic models







Public-private partnership  
— regional water management  
— land protection  
— aquifer protection

# Regional Water Management

**Goal:** Collective Water Resource Decisions

**Parties:** County, Cities, Landowners,  
Public Interest Groups, DWR, Others

# Upper & Middle Verde River Watershed

-  Big Chino Groundwater Sub-Basin
-  USGS Gaging Station
-  Project Area Boundary
-  Alluvial Deposits Aquifer Boundary, based on Schwab, 1995



DRAFT  
ERROL L. MONTGOMERY & ASSOCIATES, INC.

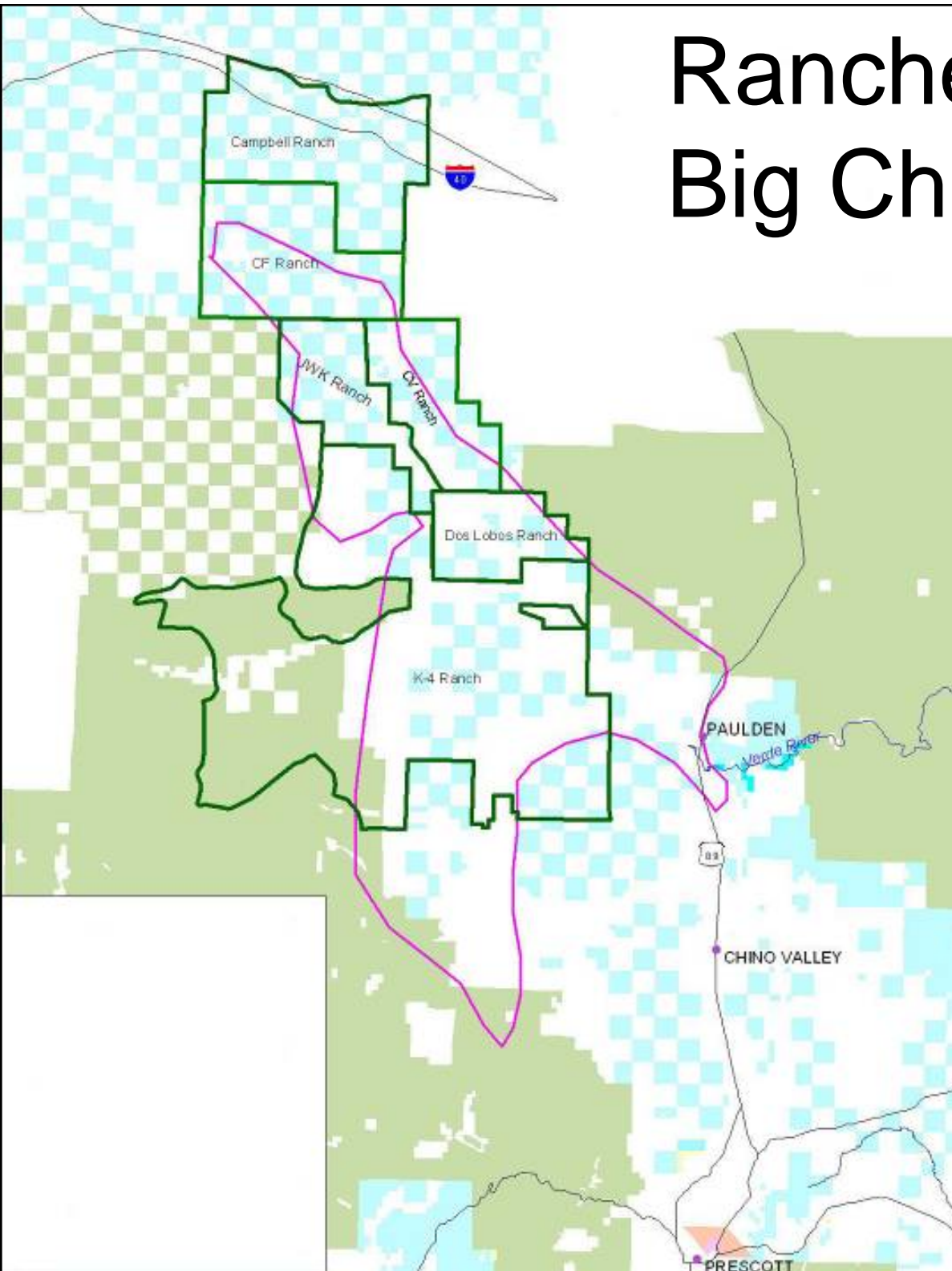
(Modified from ADWR, 2000)

# Land Protection



**Goal: Maintain & Restore Healthy  
Grassland Over the Big Chino Aquifer**

- Purchase of Development Rights
- State Trust Land Reform

# Ranches of the Big Chino Valley



Ranches of the Big Chino Valley

-  Major ranch boundaries
-  Big Chino alluvial aquifer

## Land Management

-  Private
-  State Trust
-  USFS

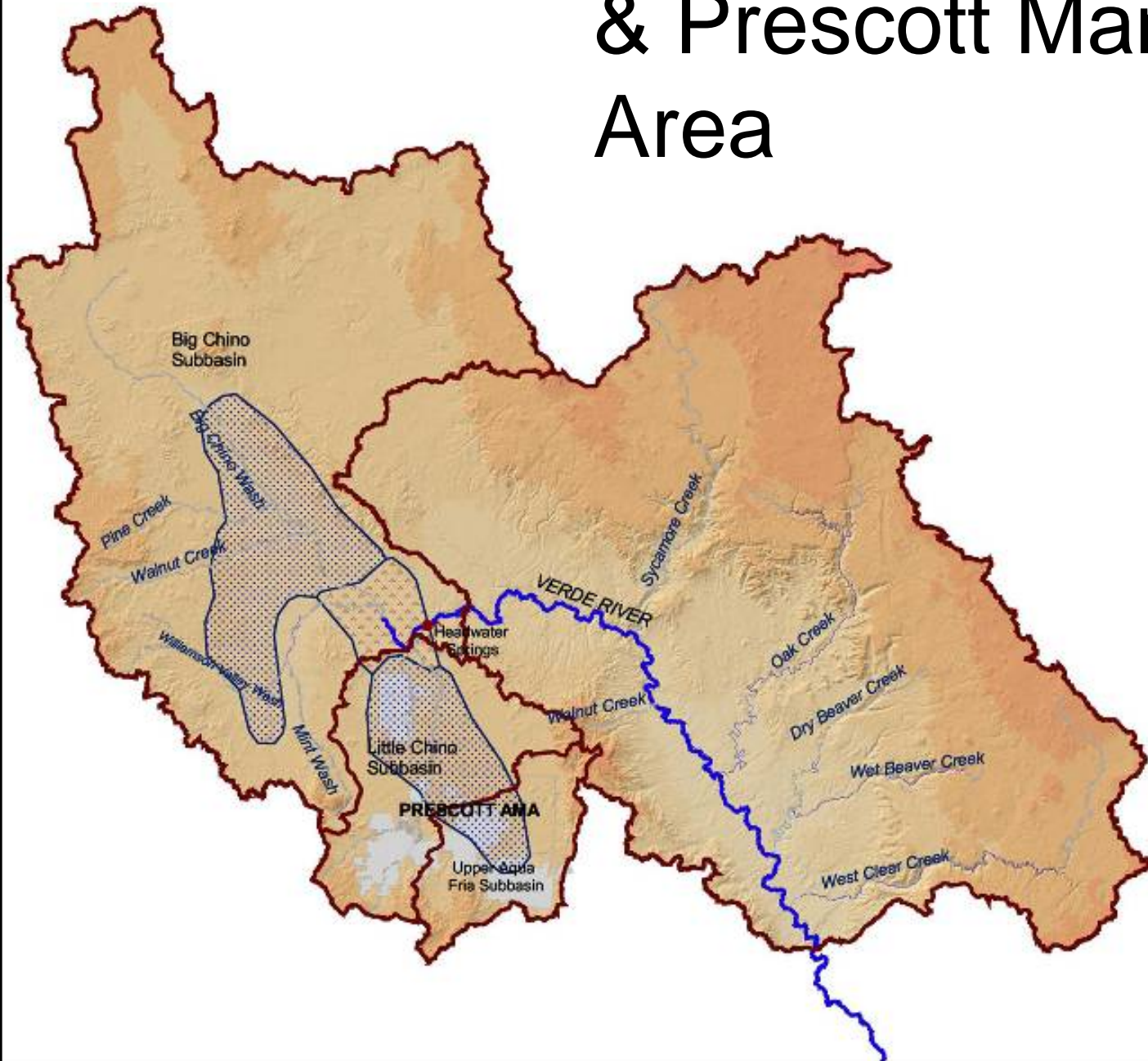


# Aquifer Protection




**Goal:** Sustainable water use to meet the needs of people and flow in the Verde River

- Mitigate Export of Water from Big Chino
- Limit Depletion of Aquifer
- Enhance Recharge of Aquifer



# Upper Verde River Basin & Prescott Management Area

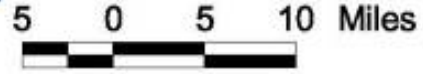


### Verde Basin Streams

-  Ephemeral
-  Perennial
-  Formerly Perennial

### Aquifers in Big and Little Chino Valleys

-  Sand and gravel
-  Volcanic





SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH

# Verde River: an Arizona Legacy

