



## WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE RURAL WATER SYSTEM

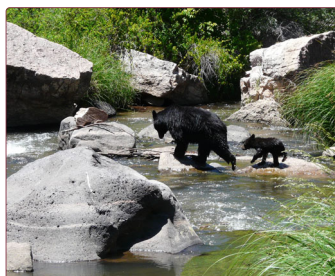
### The National Environmental Policy Act Overview

► **The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)** is our national mandate for making informed decisions while considering environmental impacts. When Federal agencies propose projects having the potential to significantly impact the environment, NEPA requires the following process be undertaken as part of the planning process before final decisions are made:

- Evaluation and consideration of potential environmental consequences for proposals that may significantly impact the environment.
- Consideration of public and government agency comments.

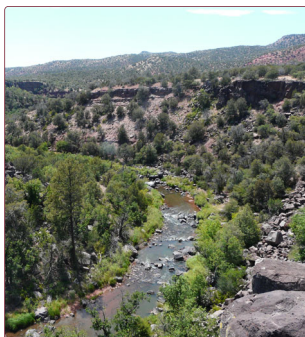
Where the potential for significant environmental impacts exists, this evaluation is presented in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which:

- Identifies and describes the affected environment.
- Evaluates the potential environmental consequences from a range of reasonable alternatives.
- Identifies environmental permits and specific mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for environmental impacts if required.



#### ► Notice of Availability of the Public Draft EIS

The EIS process began in April 2021 with publication of a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register* to prepare an EIS. The NOI provided basic information on the proposed action, invited the public into the decisionmaking process, and determined the scope of issues to be addressed.



The Draft EIS is now available for public review. Reclamation invites comments on the proposed action, including the adequacy of the Draft EIS and the merits of the alternatives. Reclamation encourages substantive comments that reflect how the proposed action could affect you. Comments can also provide new information that is relevant to the project.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) ESTIMATED TIMELINE

- Opportunities for Public Involvement
- Where we are now

*Federal Register* Publication of the Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS  
April 19, 2021



**EIS Scoping Period**  
April 19 - May 19, 2021



**Preparation of the Draft EIS**  
May 2021 - July 2022



*Federal Register* Publication of the Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS  
July 2022



**Draft EIS Public Comment Period**  
July - September 2022



**Preparation of the Final EIS**  
September 2022 - March 2023



*Federal Register* Publication of the Notice of Availability of the Final EIS  
Spring 2023



**30-day Final EIS Waiting Period**  
Spring 2023



**Record of Decision**  
Spring 2023

#### ► Your involvement and participation are essential to the EIS process

Please take this opportunity to:

- ✓ Review the Draft EIS
- ✓ Share your comments
- ✓ Make sure you visit the website often

#### Public Comment Period

Submit comments on the project website or by mail to:

Phoenix Area Office, Bureau of Reclamation  
Attn: WMAT RWS NEPA Project Manager  
6150 West Thunderbird Road  
Glendale, Arizona, 85306-4001

or e-mail: [bor-sha-LCB-WMAT-EIS@usbr.gov](mailto:bor-sha-LCB-WMAT-EIS@usbr.gov)

Comments must be received by **September 12, 2022**