



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE RURAL WATER SYSTEM

Purpose and Need

▶ WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE (WMAT, or the Tribe) WATER RIGHTS QUANTIFICATION ACT OF 2010

The proposed action comes from the WMAT Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 (Act) Title III, Public Law 111-291, (124 STAT. 3064), December 8, 2010, in which Congress directed the US Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to plan, design, and construct the WMAT rural water system to divert, store, and distribute water from the North Fork of the White River for the use and benefit of the WMAT in east-central Arizona.

▶ PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSAL

Since the early 2000s, the Whiteriver area has experienced water outages, declining water quality, and a diminishing groundwater source. The WMAT needs a dependable and sustainable water supply for residents and businesses on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation.

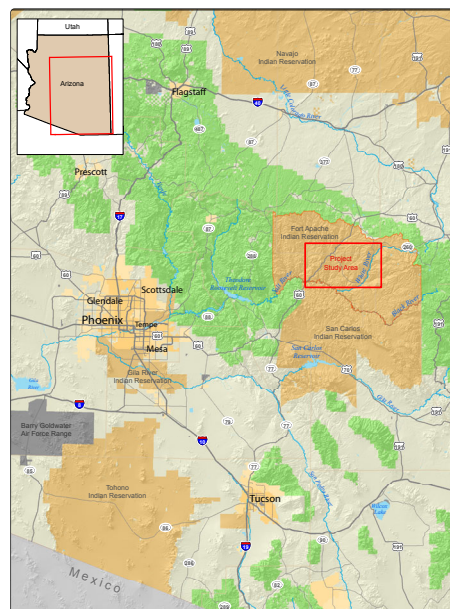
The purpose of the proposed action is to provide a long-term water supply for the WMAT. The proposed action would fulfill Reclamation's statutory requirements under the Act to plan, design, and construct the WMAT rural water system, as well as operate, maintain, and replace the water system until title is transferred to the WMAT.

The EIS also serves to support other Federal decisions, including those of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

▶ PROJECT BENEFITS



This project would replace an inadequate groundwater supply and ensure a long-term safe and reliable water supply for the Tribe for future generations.



▶ WHICH AGENCIES ARE INVOLVED IN THE EIS?



The Bureau of Reclamation is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) lead agency because of its statutory requirement to implement the proposed action



The WMAT is a NEPA cooperating agency because they have special expertise with respect to the land on which the proposed action would occur and the resources that could be affected by the proposed action



The Bureau of Indian Affairs is a NEPA cooperating agency because of its regulatory jurisdiction of rights-of-way, easements, and/or permits needed for implementation of the proposed water system



The US Army Corps of Engineers is a NEPA cooperating agency because of its regulatory jurisdiction of aquatic ecosystems that could be affected by the proposed action