



## WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE RURAL WATER SYSTEM

### NEPA Issues

#### ► Environmental Impacts

The Draft EIS analyzed potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed action, including construction and operation of (1) the dam and storage reservoir, (2) diversion intake facilities and pumping plant, (3) existing water treatment facility upgrades, and (4) a 50-mile-long water distribution system that would provide water to communities located on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation in east-central Arizona. The proposed action could result in a combination of adverse and beneficial impacts. Some of the identified NEPA issues include:

- Stream flows and water temperature changes affecting the protected fish species, popular recreational sport fish species, and fish hatcheries.
- Inundation of the new reservoir and construction of project facilities impacting wetlands and floodplains, cultural resources, Indian trust assets, and habitats for wildlife.
- Short-term increases in traffic over a 3- to 4-year period related to delivery of new equipment, materials, and workers to and from the various construction sites as well as intermittent lane closures.
- Short-term employment and local economic benefits associated with construction as well as a small increase in long-term employment related to the new water system.
- Water system operations resulting in a reliable and sustainable water supply to WMAT residents and businesses and reduced reliance on inadequate groundwater sources.

You are encouraged to review the Draft EIS for more information and provide your thoughts and views on the project.

