

Looking at the Future: Water Resources Planning and Coconino County



Authority to Plan

- Growing Smarter Legislation
 - Arizona Revised Statutes (§11-805) requires all counties to develop plans and implement them through zoning.
 - County has a 2003 Award-winning Comprehensive Plan
 - Current 2015 update





Governing Private Land

Guides Decision Making

Blueprints for the type and intensity of general land uses

Area Plans- specific for areas within the County

Comprehensive Plan

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Area Plans, Rural Area Plan, Energy Plan

Subdivision Regulations

Rules and process for the legal splitting of large parcels into smaller parcels

Zoning Ordinance

Determine the size of lots, property line setbacks, number of parking spaces, uses permitted, etc.

Other various ordinances: lighting, floodplain management, etc.



Comprehensive Plan Contents

- Land Ethic
- Vision for the Future
- Conservation Framework
- Code of the West
- **Elements**
 - Natural Environment
 - Energy
 - Public Safety
 - Community Services
 - Circulation
 - Parks and Rec
 - Community Character
 - Land Use
 - Growth
 - Economic Development
 - Sustainability
 - **Water Resources**



Growing Smarter Act: Water Resources Element

- Counties with more than 125,000 people
(136,000 = Coconino County in 2010)
- Element should include:
 - Known legally and physically available surface, ground, and effluent sources
 - **Demand as a result of projected population growth. X**
 - How demand will be met with current and additional water supplies



Water Resources Element: Areas of Emphasis

- *Sustainable Water Use*
- Water Sources
- Water Providers
- Water Quality Protection
- Water Conservation
 - Reclaimed water, gray water, rainwater harvesting, stormwater, education and outreach



Water Resources Element: Areas of Emphasis

- Meeting Future Water Needs
 - 25,000 AFY shortfall 2050
 - How will it be met?
- Regulatory Framework
 - County is not currently able to assess development based on assured, long-term water availability
 - Assured vs. Adequate supply
 - Create an Active Management Area?
 - Create Mandatory Adequacy Jurisdiction?



Need for Regional Water Resources Planning

- Policy: *“The County will actively participate in regional, cross-jurisdictional water planning efforts (e.g. CPWAC&WP) that address how future human water demands will be met without compromising the ecological integrity of natural systems that rely on surface and ground water”*

- Advantages of CPWAC/TAC’s continued leadership:
 - Network of technical expertise
 - Cross-jurisdictional partnership in place

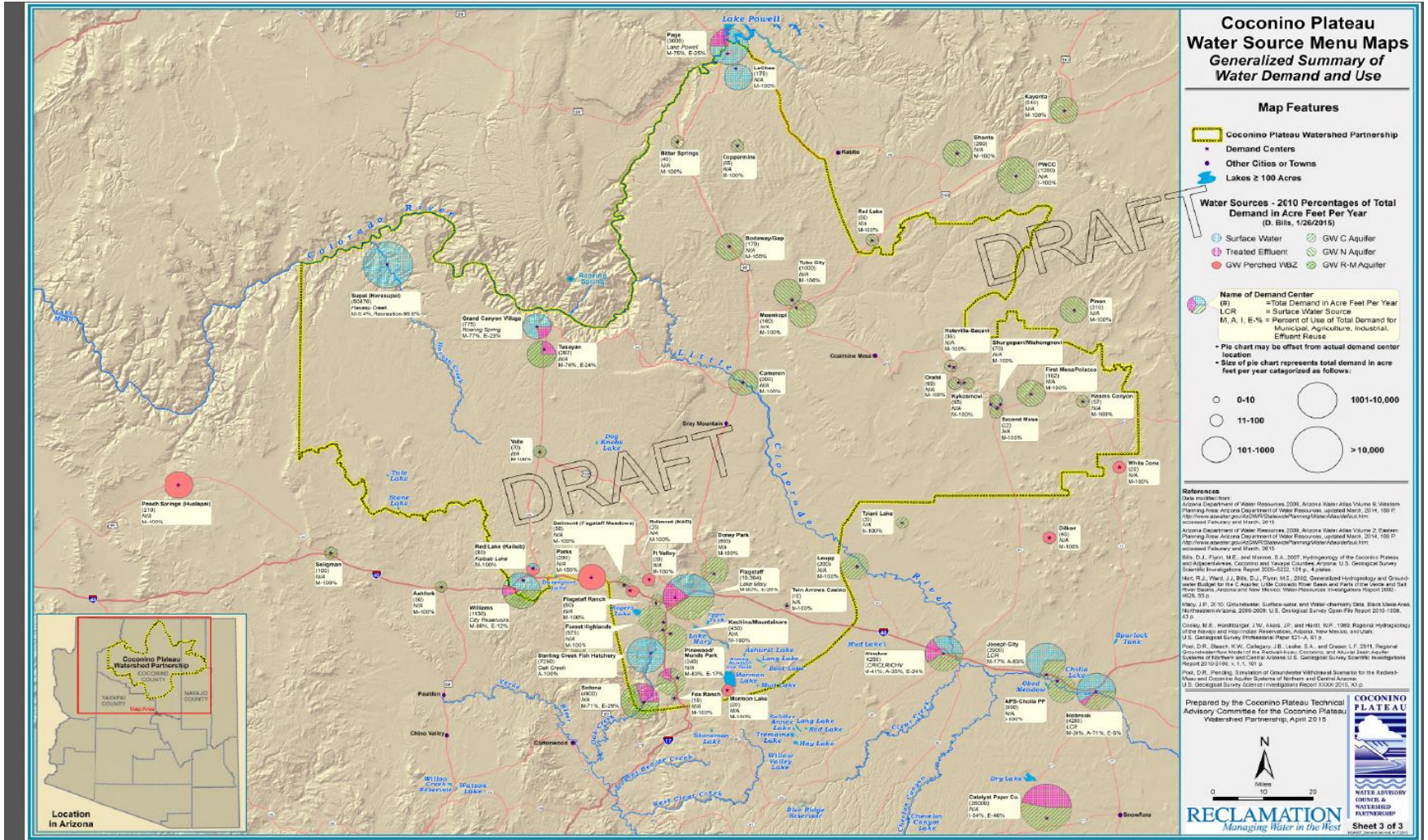


What would a Regional Water Plan Look Like?

- Identify spatially-explicit demand centers
- Likely supplies to meet those demands
- Criteria:
 - Use \leq natural recharge rate If not, secure alternate sources



CPTAC has begun the process!





We're looking for input

- Technical state of knowledge (CPTAC)?
- Policy direction (CPWAC)?
- Timeline for Plan completion:
 - Public Review May-June
 - Final Adoption Nov. 2015
- May 4th – Next draft – request for input
<http://www.coconino.az.gov/>

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