



Arizona Game and Fish Department's Coldwater Vision

Julie Carter
Aquatic Wildlife Branch Chief



Coldwater Vision 2019-2029

Purpose: To establish the state of Arizona as one of the most desired coldwater fishing states in the Nation, providing a wide variety of coldwater fishing opportunities

- **VISION** documents = contains core goals & objectives
- Specifics are provided
 - # waters with management concepts (including miles/acres)
 - Waters identified per management concepts (e.g., blue ribbon, quality, basic yield)

<https://www.azgfd.com/fishing-2/hatcheries-fisheries-management/>

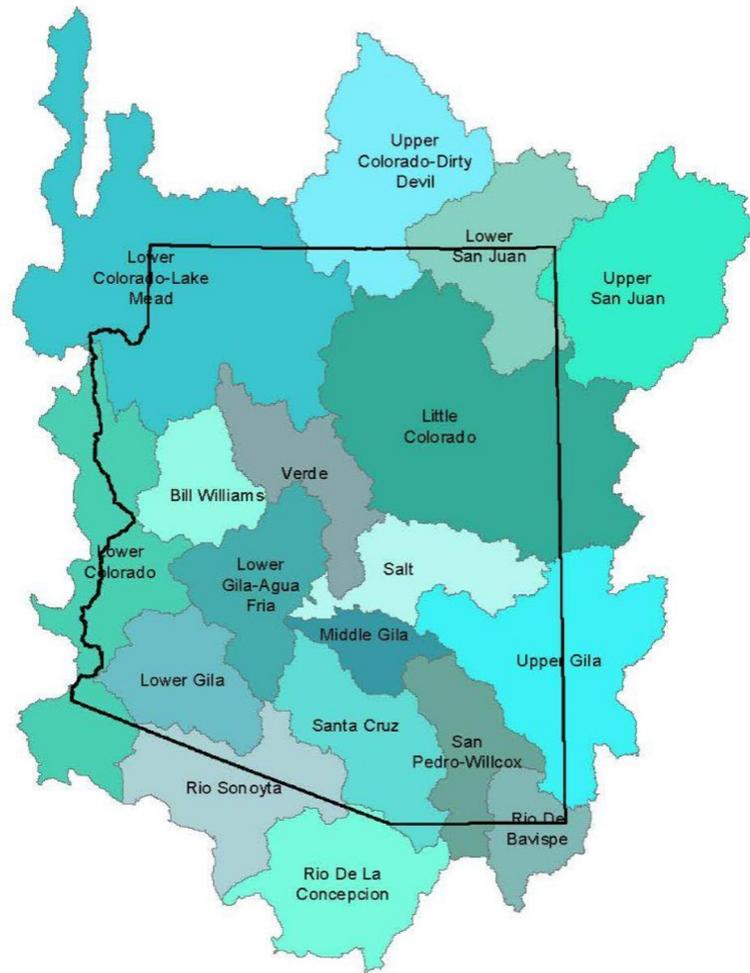


Watershed Management Plans

Purpose: Plans a framework and decision making guidance by which the Department can make watershed-based, aquatic wildlife management emphasis decisions that balance the dual mandates for sport fish opportunities and native aquatic species conservation

- Concept began in 2009, first watershed plan was the Verde River - 2015
 - <https://www.azgfd.com/fishing-2/hatcheries-fisheries-management/fisheries-management/verde-river-watershed/>
- Developed for 11 watersheds (HUC6): Agua Fria, Bill Williams, Little Colorado, Lower & Middle Gila, Lower Colorado, Lower Colorado-Lake Mead, Salt, San Pedro, Santa Cruz, Upper Gila, Verde, Yaqui (in development)
- Key elements by water, identifies: current fish assemblage, desired management emphasis, desired species, management and/or conservation actions needed
 - Prioritizes actions - e.g., waters with undetermined status
- Developed in partnership and co-leadership with the USFWS





Water-specific Management Plans

<https://live-azgfd-main.pantheonsite.io/fishing-2/hatcheries-fisheries-management/lake-management-plans/>

- Currently 118 completed and signed plans
- Information included:
 - Desired management prescription (e.g., intensive use rainbow trout fishery)
 - Desired angler satisfaction rate & desired catch rate
 - Trigger points to address unmet objectives
 - Strategies if objectives not met
 - Water description
 - Current species assemblage
 - Water quality
 - Habitat
 - Access
 - Angler satisfaction & catch rate history



Coldwater Vision - Wild & Native Trout

Objective: Provide anglers the opportunity to catch fish that are naturally reproduced in the wild

Objective: Half of the designated Wild Trout streams will be recovery streams for Gila and/or Apache Trout

Current proposed designation in plan: 248 miles designated for wild trout; 248 miles designated for native trout

- Not necessarily reflective of current conditions due to drought, wildfire, etc.

Next two years - 5 year update to both visions and removing specifics on locations - those will be in the site specific management plans



Questions?

Vision document lead: Curt Gill, Statewide Sportfish Program Manager, cgill@azgfd.gov

