

**Strawman of Initial Planning Objectives and Constraints for Consideration**  
**Based on identified problems and desired future conditions**  
**July 13, 2009**

7/8/09 rev*	General Desired Future Condition Statements	Problems Identified at the March 2, 2009 Implementation and Technical Committee Meeting worded as reported in SCDP.	<b>Preliminary Planning Objectives</b>  (What do you hope to accomplish and what needs would an action help meet?)	<b>Preliminary Planning Constraints</b>  (What are sideboards and limits including environmental concerns?)
<b>Water Supply</b>				
	A balance exists between water supply and demand to meet future agricultural, municipal, domestic, commercial, industrial, and ecosystem demands while assuring a sustainable water supply to support economic growth, recreation, healthy and diverse physical and biological watersheds and ecosystems, healthy human populations, fire and road safety, and drought reserve needs.	Impact of domestic wells on the Gila, San Francisco, and Mimbres rivers.	<p><i>Assess current and project future water supply and demand in each demand area through 2050 for a range of anticipated conditions.</i></p> <p>Provide <i>alternatives</i> to meet demands within each demand area through 2050.</p> <p><i>Communicate and utilize</i> best management practices for water managers and users.</p>	
	Residential, commercial, industrial and agriculture uses in the Silver City service area and the neighboring communities in the mining district have sufficient water supplies, sufficient water rights, and sufficient water distribution systems, and all of these	Too few sources of water and inadequate infrastructure to accommodate future growth.	<p><i>Identify opportunities for water-use efficiency improvements and related preservation of water rights.</i></p> <p>Promote positive working partnerships among and between water providers and users.</p>	

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	sufficiencies are supported by a sound scientific understanding of issues affecting local water management, by regulations that reward best practices, by effective working partnerships among water providers, and by adequate financing.		Utilize AWSA funding to support water supply availability <i>by considering alternatives ranging from no additional development to an annual average exchange in any 10 consecutive year period of 14,000 AF as allowed under the AWSA and the consumptive use and forbearance agreement.</i>	
		Irrigation system(s)		
		Need to recycle water.		
	<i>Preserve the ability of NM to use the annual average exchange amount in any 10 consecutive year period of 14,000 AF of water available under the AWSA and the consumptive use and forbearance agreement.</i>	Unknown future increase in water needs.		
<b>Water Quality</b>				
	Water quality is improved from current conditions.		<i>Enhance water quality to increase available supply.</i>	<i>Avoid degradation of water quality.</i>
	Water quality meets the needs described for “Water Supply” and “Ecosystem Health.”	Impact of septic tanks on the Gila, San Francisco, and Mimbres rivers.		
		Sediment imbalance in the		

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		river.		
<b>Ecosystem Health</b>				
	Watersheds are restored and protected by soil resource and natural streamflow regimes (including small and medium-level overbank events) such that human communities, healthy riparian systems with rich and diverse native plant, animal, and fish populations exist along rivers and natural waterways in the four- county area.	Maintaining a flow to sustain native-species populations and satisfy mandates agencies are responsible for enforcing.	Develop/maintain streamflow regimes in natural waterways <i>that resemble the natural hydrograph (or maintain patterns found in the natural hydrograph)</i> to sustain, restore and protect watershed, <i>riparian, and riverine</i> resources, <i>particularly</i> native species.  <i>Develop policy and river management strategies (like instream flow) that recognize the perennial nature of the rivers.</i>	Perennial marsh/cienega/spring/seep, and 1 <sup>st</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> order streams persist in the Gila Watershed.  <i>Avoid damaging short- and long-term biological integrity of Gila and San Francisco rivers.</i>
	The Gila River is an unimpaired, free-flowing river with uncompromised in-stream flows and natural flow regimes.	Maintain an adequate flow to sustain endangered species and provide for multiple uses.		
	Tree densities and arrangement provide fire patterns that avoid catastrophic (or high-intensity) wildfires.	Need for watershed restoration.		Minimize catastrophic wildfire.
		Lack of and decline in recovery of endangered species.		
		Slow recovery of riparian vegetation.		
		Protecting the ecology of the		

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		river(s).		
		Availability of adequate water to support endangered species.		
		River is getting drier and drier.		
		River runs dry during a drought.		
		Keep river from drying up.		
<b>Flood Protection</b>				
	Adequate flood protection for personal property and other purposes exists along the Gila and San Francisco rivers.	Flood plain is inadequate to mitigate floods.	Reduce flood damage along the Gila and San Francisco rivers.	
	Adequate erosion protection exists for lands adjacent to the Gila River.	Need for adequate flood control.		
<b>Species Protection</b>				
	Manage for well-distributed biodiversity and maintain or improve habitats for extant and other threatened and endangered species, native species including restoration of extirpated native species where applicable, and other wildlife and fish		Manage habitats for well-distributed biodiversity and protection of threatened, endangered, and native species.	Perennial marsh/cienega/spring/seep, and 1 <sup>st</sup> through 5 <sup>th</sup> order stream habitats persist in the Gila watershed to sustain viable and resilient populations of resident Species of Greatest Conservation Need and

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	populations, including game species.			Federal and State listed threatened and endangered species.
<b>Recreation Opportunities</b>				
	Provide for <i>diverse</i> recreation activities.	Decline in recreational opportunities on the river.	Provide recreation activities.	
<b>Water Rights</b>				
	Restore water rights previously lost as a result of the 1964 AZ v. CA decree.	Need to rectify the injustice to Gila/San Francisco water basin residents due to the Supreme Court ruling of 1968 and its related impact.	Identify <i>legal validity</i> of “lost” rights and explore avenues to restore losses.	
	Assure water rights can be fulfilled.		<i>Preserve and fulfill existing water rights.</i>	
		Too few water rights.		
		Federalized water rights.		Minimize potential risks to supply associated with diversions managed by Interior.
		Potential export of water supplies.		Avoid export of water supplies to outside the 4-county area.
		A threat from an entity in the state that says it already owns the water.		
<b>Economic Factors</b>				
	Opportunities exist for economic			<i>Avoid actions that would</i>

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	growth in a healthy regional economy including maintaining a diverse, robust, and sustainable agricultural community compatible with area ecology.			<i>limit economic growth in the area.</i>
		Need for lowest possible water cost.	<i>Develop cost effective alternatives.</i>	
<b>Community Values</b>				
	Maintain the local, rural character, customs, culture, and values in the Gila Valley including livestock, farms, and recreation.			Avoid actions that substantially alter local, rural character, customs, culture and values.
	Create or maintain a region where residents can obtain adequate food, shelter, and livelihood while protecting the environment and its communities.		<i>Develop ecologically appropriate and sustainable alternatives.</i>	
	Private property owners can operate and manage farms and land to maintain the desirable ecological and environmental climate along the river.			<i>Preserve the ability of private property owners to implement best management practices to preserve ecological and environmental health.</i>
	AWSA benefits contribute to the general welfare of the residents		Create benefits for each county.	

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	of Catron, Grant, Hidalgo, and Luna counties.			
<b>Other</b>				
	Elected officials make all decisions concerning present and future water management.			
	Cooperative relationships exist between state and federal resource agencies and private entities to promote conservation and other common efforts.		Promote positive working partnerships among and between all resource managers, public and private.  <i>Develop creative mechanisms to resolve existing conflicts related to land use and riparian management.</i>	
	A regulatory framework exists to accommodate and reward best water management practices.			
	The four-county area has a plan for distributing future revenues from the AWSA to support locally generated water supply/demand projects.	Identifying how to maximize opportunities under the AWSA.	Recommend a preferred set of water supply and demand management options to the Interstate Stream Commission for consideration when distributing the benefits of the AWSA.  Recommended options should	

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			include conceptual design and preliminary cost/benefit estimates.  Identify data gaps that limit the extent that promising alternatives can be determined, and recommend additional data collection to be conducted to reduce these uncertainties.	

Draft List of Planning Objectives for June 4 2009 mtg rev1.doc

NOTE: These objectives and constraints will likely continue to evolve throughout the process as additional technical information becomes available.

\* Changes to this revision from the previous are italicized.