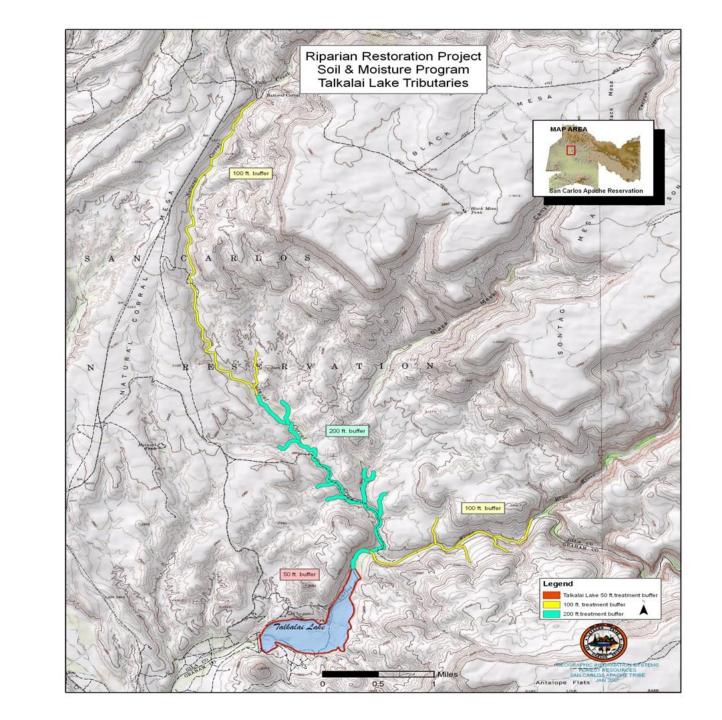
Riparian Restoration: Outcomes, Challenges, & Partnerships on the San Carlos Apache Reservation



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Why is it important for the Tribe to Conduct Riparian Restoration?

- As with all people, water is life for Apache culture, but to a much more intimate degree in SW Tribal communities.
 - Cottonwood and willow cuttings are used in virtually every ceremony
 - Traditional burden baskets are made from willow species on and off of the reservation
 - Holy grounds and dance grounds are often located near a river or water body

Cultural Importance Continued

- Sweat lodges are made of riparian woody species and require water from the river
- Wickiups, the traditional homes built by Apaches, are made of willow poles.
- An Apache clan is named for the cottonwood tree while other clans are associated with the willow
 - Several clan names are descriptions of being near the water (i.e. the Cottonwood by the River People)
- Tamarisk has absolutely no traditional significance or use in Apache culture.



Riparian Restoration Challenges

- Human infrastructure in the rivers
- Cost: Benefit considerations
- Responsibly resuming traditional uses
- Funding gaps for project maintenance
- Federal priorities for invasive funding
- Political/legal concerns with water rights
- Revegetation predation
- Upland project priorities
- Anticipating Tamarisk Leaf Beetle arrival

The Importance of Partnerships

- Jobs creation and leadership potential
- Access to a large workforce
- Technical & scientific assistance
- Funding application assistance
- Physical resources available
- Budgeting & resource needs
- Shared lessons learned







Thank You!

