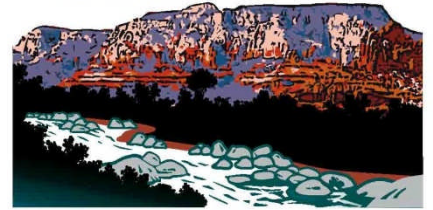


OAK CREEK CHRONICLES

...a newsy letter about our watershed

Oak Creek Watershed
COUNCIL



Project Update: The Impairment of Oak Creek
April 5, 2010

December 7th, 2009 was a day to remember in more ways than one. It was indeed wet and snowy, but the weather didn't stop the first meeting of the Stakeholder Coalition and a large first step was taken towards developing the Oak Creek Watershed Improvement Plan (OCWIP).



After an informative PowerPoint presentation on the impairment of Oak Creek by Rex Bergamini, Principal Investigator and Project Manager, the Coalition members divided into four breakout session groups and were tasked with identifying potential sources of concern for *E. coli* contamination; potential sampling locations; potentially limiting / confounding factors; BMPs; as well as resources and services Coalition members can contribute.

Although the breakout groups filled several flipchart pages that helped our grant team to assemble initial data, as well as planning for field volunteers, we are still open to feedback on additional areas of concern that may have been thought of since the meeting, or even in the days ahead.



As mentioned before, this project is community-driven, and up to 20 members of the Coalition will comprise the Watershed Improvement Committee (WIC) who will make decisions on various aspects of the Plan, as well as give direction to our management team.

The main focus at this time is on the development of the WIC, and field volunteer force, as well as providing both with training and education. Our call for volunteers now goes out to the community, as well as all who have indicated a willingness to help, and we have a special need for the following:

1. A clerical/administrative volunteer to assist in completing human resources activities and tasks, and data input/management for reconnaissance and social surveys.
2. Reconnaissance survey volunteers to conduct site assessments.
3. Water quality assessment volunteers to conduct sample collections.
4. Sampling Crew Leader; Field Recon & County Records Researcher; and Volunteer Coordinator

If you would like to become a member of our Volunteer Force, please contact us and we will send you a Volunteer Skills and Resources Survey that should be sent back to us at your earliest convenience.



If you chair a community organization that has members who have the time to volunteer their services, please let us know.

If your community organization has a website, we would appreciate your help by posting, or paraphrasing, our information to it.

Our volunteer needs are immediate, and should you have any questions, please call Barry Allan at (928) 554-5460 or email barry@oakcreekwatershed.org

Did you know? The Oak Creek Watershed comprises approximately 300,000 acres, and includes five major tributaries between the headwaters in Fry Canyon and the confluence with the Verde River south of Cornville.



Apart from involvement in the Oak Creek Watershed Improvement Plan grant, our group meets on the second Friday of every second month in the Vultee Room, City of Sedona complex (9:30 a.m.- noon) to discuss general issues in the Oak Creek Watershed.

The next meeting is on April 9th and if you would like to receive the meeting agenda and learn more about the Oak Creek Watershed Council activities, please let us know.

Charlie Ester, Co-Chairman of the Oak Creek Watershed Council is pleased to announce that we are partnering with the UA Cooperative Extension to develop a Master Watershed Steward Program (MWS) in the Sedona area. The mission of the Master Watershed Steward program is to educate and train citizens to serve as volunteers in the protection, restoration, monitoring, and conservation of their water and watersheds. Our group will also be offering scholarships through the Joe Swavely Master Watershed Steward Education Fund.

Last, but not least, our Keep Oak Creek Canyon Beautiful (KOCCB) anti-litter/pollution program is expanding this year to include Mile 360 to 361 in the ADOT Adopt-a-Highway program.

We hope you will join with us to help make a difference...

Barry Allan, Executive Director / Grant Administrator