

# SRP's \$20M is for birds

## Utility must provide new habitat for flycatcher

By JOE KULLMAN  
TRIBUNE

If Salt River Project ever considers adopting a mascot to hype its environmentalism, the Southwest willow flycatcher seems an obvious choice.

The water and power company is looking at costs of about \$20 million to provide new feeding and breeding grounds for the tiny endangered bird.

SRP plans to flood willow flycatchers out of the dry parts of lake beds where the birds already had made new homes during the recent drought years. Those dry areas are in what are normally parts of the reservoirs where much of the Valley's water supply is stored.

Earlier this year, SRP won federal approval to allow water to eventually fill



GEORGE ANDREJKO, GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
**ENDANGERED:** The tiny Southwest willow flycatcher needs protection.

SEE RESERVOIRS • PAGE A4

## Today's talker

Agency estimates cost of protecting endangered bird

### ALBUQUERQUE

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates a price tag of \$29.2 million to \$39.5 million a year to protect the endangered Southwestern willow flycatcher.

Last fall, the agency proposed, for the second time, designating 1,556 miles along the Rio Grande and other rivers in New Mexico, Arizona and five other states with habitat considered critical to the 6-inch-tall bird.

The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in 2001 that an earlier economic analysis was not adequate. Public hearings on the proposal are set for next month. Comments will be accepted until May 31.

The bird was listed as endangered in 1995.

Salt River Project will spend up to \$20 million to protect the bird, whose continued presence threatened to reduce storage capacity of Roosevelt Lake by more than half.

— Associated Press



Arizona Republic, April 28, 2005

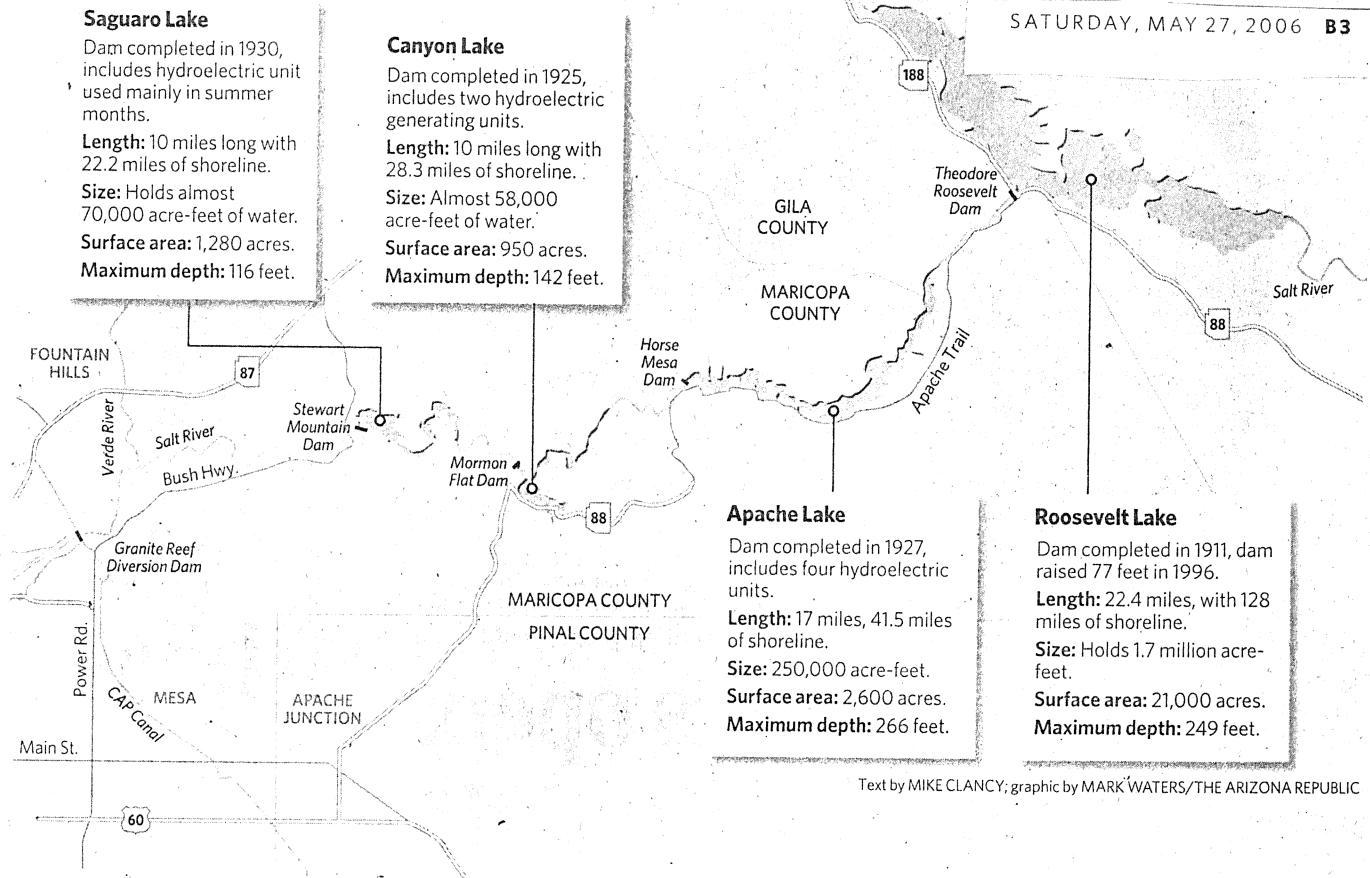
**As a result of the threat of legal proceedings by the Center For Biological Diversity, Maricopa Audubon and others, mitigation habitat for the flycatcher and cuckoo was purchased by SRP on the San Pedro, Gila and Verde Rivers.**

# THE LAKES OF THE SALT RIVER

Four lakes line the Salt River, providing recreation and water to Valley residents.

Kristina Justin, editor 602.444.NEWS (6397)  
kristina.justin@arizonarepublic.com

SATURDAY, MAY 27, 2006 B3



Text by MIKE CLANCY; graphic by MARK WATERS/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

## Lakes a magnet for recreation, wildlife

By Michael Clancy  
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

This time of year, the lakes of the Salt River glitter like jewels in the desert.

Boaters, swimmers and picnickers by the score visit the lakes every weekend for recreation. Occasionally, the visitation gets so high that the lakes are shut down for a time.

"It's the oasis effect," said Al Wirtz of the Tonto National Forest, which manages the boat ramps, picnic and campgrounds and other recreational facilities around the lakes.

"The lakes are a magnet." The lakes also are a key

source of water for the Valley; that is why the dams along the river were built in the first place. The dams also generate electricity and provide flood control. Salt River Project manages the dams and lakes.

Charlie Ester of SRP said the water supply is good now and should hold up for a while.

Roosevelt Lake, the largest and easternmost reservoir, was down to 10 percent of its capacity in 2002. A wet winter in 2004-05 filled it to 96 percent, the fullest the lake has ever been.

The fill-up inundated lands that never had been covered with water before; that is because the new Roosevelt Dam, completed in 1996,

holds back 20 percent more water.

"The fish spawn has been incredible," Ester said. "Roosevelt could now be the best bass lake in the United States."

The lakes also are good for bird-watching.

Bob Witzeman, conservation director for the Maricopa Audubon Society, said visitors to the lakes can often see eagles, osprey, a variety of water birds and even the endangered Southwestern willow flycatcher.

He said that even though the construction of the chain of lakes ruined "priceless riparian habitat," SRP has been a good conservation partner.

The utility supported the flycatcher, which lost some habitat when the lake rose, by purchasing other properties around the state where the tiny birds thrive.

Witzeman said the upper arms of all the lakes still have valuable riparian areas, known for their attraction to local birds.

But it is recreational use that really crowds the lakes on summer weekends.

"Capacity is reached when the parking lots are full," Wirtz said. "On a big weekend like this, Saguaro Lake will close as early as 6:30 a.m. But it rains in waves. We will open and close several times a day."

***We applaud SRP for their worthy Horseshoe/Roosevelt \$20 million mitigation – (even though it was in response to SRP avoiding litigation from conservationists). But it concerns us that they employed water shortage scare-tactics erroneously claiming 67,000 people would go without water if SRP couldn't inundate the endangered flycatchers, eagles and cuckoos living in their Horseshoe Reservoir.***

Board backs land trade for mining

Apr. 14, 2005 12:00 AM

The board of directors of the Superstition Area Land Trust (SALT) of which this is a member has voted to support a proposed land trade that would...

The San Pedro site... Copper Mining would swap 4,800 acres of County community of Maricopa... required for 3,155 acres of Tonto National corridor.

In addition to those two sites, Resolution is proposing to trade the Appleton Ranch south of Elgin in Santa Cruz County, the 147-acre Turkey site north of Superior, the 148-acre Tangle Creek site north of Carefree in Yavapai County and the JI Ranch northeast of Superior.

The Audubon Society, the Sonoran Institute, The Nature Conservancy and Gov. Janet Napolitano have previously sent letters endorsing the trade.

Arizona Republic, April 18, 2005

It is troubling that NAS is embracing a NEPA-exempt copper mine which inflicts potentially severe riparian impacts, destroys a most important birdwatching area, is culturally destructive to Native Americans, and has clearly unresolved endangered species impacts. We are concerned that NAS will be perceived by the public as having been bought off with the well over \$4,000,000 largesse so far proffered by the mining consortium to NAS.

LAND Outdoor, et

4-18-05

From Page A1

Some groups, such as Audubon Arizona and the Sonoran Institute, back the trade because of the lands the swap would put under federal protection.

Others, such as the Sierra Club and the Maricopa County Audubon Society, object because the exchange would sidestep any environmental review of the property the mining company seeks.

And still others, banded as Friends of Queen Creek, worry that the proposed underground-mining technique could cause the land to subside, leading to permanent loss of the climbing area and the Oak Flat campground.

Although Resolution owns the mineral rights to the ore, it needs control of the federal forest land above it for exploration and mining. A land swap through Congress is the quickest way to do that, and it would avoid the environmental review that is normally required when a federal agency enters into a direct land exchange.

Arizona.

Sam Campana, executive director of Audubon Arizona, calls the exchange "an outstanding package of lands."

Critics complain the lands are payola.

"It seems everybody is being bought off," said Bob Witzeman, a member of the Maricopa Audubon Society, which differs with the statewide organization and opposes the land exchange.

Witzeman and others complain the land swap forces a choice between two sets of valued lands.

"That's a false choice," said Jason Keith, a policy analyst with the Access Fund, a Colorado-based group that works to preserve access to outdoor recreation. "We're saying, 'This is public land. And Resolution is going to destroy it.'"

Keith, who is working with the Friends of Queen Creek group, says the underground block-cave mining technique that Resolution proposes will eventually cause the surface land to subside. So even if access to the land

Land swap may aid mining

By Teya Vitu Tucson Citizen

TUCSON — Two large parcels of land in southern Arizona may be part of a land swap that could pave the way for possible renewed copper mining outside Superior, the historic mining community about 65 miles east of Phoenix.

Resolution Copper Mining has proposed giving six parcels

March 26, 2005 THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

MINING Land swap proposed

From Page D1

Forest land adjoining land owned jointly by the Resolution, Rio Tinto and BHP Billiton mining companies.

Congress must approve the land swap. A bill proposing the land exchange is expected to be introduced in Congress early next month.

Gov. Janet Napolitano, the Audubon Society, the Nature Conservancy and the Sonoran Institute have all sent Hegner letters of support.



# National Audubon Society at the Crossroads

Bob Witzeman

On June 21, 2005, the National Audubon Society (NAS) sent an Action Alert! to many of its members describing the critical importance of protecting and retaining our nation's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This law, passed by Congress in 1970, is now under attack by conservatives in Congress who wish to weaken or destroy it.

NEPA is unquestionably the most effective environmental law this nation has. It enables the public to review and comment on a full range of project alternatives for any undertaking on federal land or projects built with federal funds. NEPA also requires that the U.S. Endangered Species



Gray Vireo "Watch-listed" by NAS as a bird whose status might be in jeopardy someday. This vireo is limited to dry, juniper hillsides in the southwest U.S. It is found at the Oak Flat USFS campground, a site threatened by the world's largest mining company, Rio Tinto. Rio Tinto lobbyists are asking Congress to allow their destructive, polluting copper mine to circumvent U.S. environmental and cultural protection laws. Jim Burns photo

Act (ESA) and the U.S. National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) be considered in NEPA oversight review.

Paradoxically, NAS is now

**What could possibly motivate NAS to endorse a NEPA-exempted environmental and cultural pariah? Simply put, it's about self-aggrandizement!**

apparently supporting a Congressional land swap bill that would exempt a proposed Arizona copper mine from NEPA and greatly

weaken ESA and NHPA oversight. The bill privatizes 3000 acres of Forest Service land near Superior, Arizona and transfers it to the Resolution Copper Company, a company owned by the world's two largest mining companies, Rio Tinto (British) and Broken Hill Proprietary (Australian). This highly controversial copper mine has serious land, watershed, groundwater, smelter pollution, cultural and environmental problems- making NEPA oversight vital.

The possibility that the mine would incur the collapse of "Apache Leap," a Native American historical/cultural landmark, is so likely that the bill actually has language specifically absolving the mine owners of any liability for destroying it! In 1871, 75 Apaches threw themselves off this precipice rather than face capture by the



Black-chinned Sparrow "Watch-listed" by NAS as a bird whose status might be in jeopardy someday. This species is limited to rocky, brushy, arid hillsides in the Southwest U.S. It is found at the Oak Flat USFS campground, a site threatened by the world's largest mining company, Rio Tinto. Rio Tinto lobbyists are asking Congress to allow their destructive, polluting copper mine to circumvent U.S. environmental and cultural protection laws. Jim Burns photo

U.S. Cavalry.

The mine's "block-cave" underground mining technology causes the land above the mine to collapse, obliterating not only Apache Leap, but habitat for the federally endangered Arizona Hedgehog Cactus, *Echinocereus arizonicus*, var. *arizonicus*. This plant, only found in this region of Arizona, is already impacted by past heavy mining in the area.

What could possibly motivate NAS to endorse a NEPA-exempted



# National Audubon Society at the Crossroads

continued from page 6

conservation



J Slash X ranch, 147 acres, 5200 ft. altitude, Turkey Creek. Three years ago fire burned most of this ranch including its riparian hardwoods and adjacent ponderosa forest. With both fire and decades of overgrazing few riparian hardwoods remain. The stream is intermittent (underground at times) with only a trickle on the surface, even after a record wet spring. Resolution Copper's selection of riparian habitat in a ponderosa forest, when our southwest Sonoran Desert cottonwood/willow ecosystems face near extinction, is discouraging. Resolution's other three Tonto Forest swap properties have equally marginal riparian properties. These firesale-priced ranches were abandoned by their owners years ago. They are now being grazed by USFS permittees who live on ranches elsewhere. All four ranches will probably continue to be grazed after the swap.

environmental and cultural pariah? Simply put, it's about self-aggrandizement! Resolution Copper has offered to spend \$4 million to acquire 1000 acres of private land on the northern border of NAS' Appleton-Whittell

Research Ranch located near Elgin, Arizona, and turn it over in this land swap to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. These 1000 acres are currently owned by the heirs of the recently deceased Ariel Appleton, the land donor and benefactor of that NAS ranch property. Resolution Copper's land swap bill would allow NAS to avoid having to raise the \$4 million needed to prevent Ms. Appleton's children from selling the lands they inherited from their mother to land developers.

NAS should raise the \$4 million, instead of tarnishing itself by complicity in this circumvention of an environmentally and culturally destructive copper mine that vitiates our nation's NEPA, ESA and NHPA laws.

It is hypocrisy for NAS and Audubon Arizona (NAS' state office in Arizona – which actively supports this land swap) to ask its members to defend NEPA while supporting this NEPA-exempt land exchange bill. NAS and Audubon Arizona should not let venality cloud their judgment.

Our Maricopa Audubon Chapter, and Audubon chapters nationwide, would surely rather help in fundraising appeals from NAS for land acquisitions to their Research Ranch, than see NAS supporting legislation trashing the very law NAS' Action Alert! calls "the

Magna Charta of environmental protection."



7B Ranch, Lower San Pedro River (5/16/05), alt. 2400 ft. This 3072 acre historically overgrazed ranch consists of seven miles of bone dry San Pedro riverbed devoid of visible water. It is devoid of the San Pedro's lush willow, cottonwood, ash, sycamore or walnut riparian galleries! This is no gift to the beleaguered San Pedro riparian ecosystem, despite its 800-acre, even-aged, monoculture of upland mesquite on its east bank. The west bank is ecologically sterile, consisting of the dying mining town of Mammoth and huge piles of defunct mine tailings. This swap property lacks habitat for threatened Southwestern Willow Flycatchers and Western Yellow-billed Cuckoos, as well as for Zone-tailed, Black, and Gray Hawks, Mississippi Kites, Summer Tanagers, Hooded and Bullock's Orioles, and the many other birds which nest or use this important north/south flyway. Resolution Copper is unloading this dry riverbed property they currently own, rather than spending money to purchase: (1) quality San Pedro riparian habitat like SRP and TNC do, or (2) to purchase adjacent farmland (whose groundwater pumps suck the river dry).

Environmental organizations fight for

# DESERT BALD EAGLES

By SHANNA HOGAN  
TRIBUNE

Bald eagles find the Sonoran Desert a tough place to raise their young.

Nationally, the majestic winged symbol of America has made a strong comeback in recent years after its population was decimated by a now-banned pesticide.

But experts agree the desert bald eagles just aren't thriving like their counterparts. What to do about it is another story.

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service, which is planning to take bald eagles off the endangered species list, wants to rely on voluntary programs to maintain eagle habitats.

Another idea is to get the desert bald eagles classified as a distinct subspecies and keep them listed as threatened. Last month, the Maricopa Audubon Society and the Center for Biological Diversity filed a lawsuit against the wildlife agency to do just that.

"There are lots of bald eagles, but there are no bald eagles like the Arizona bald eagles," said Bob Witzeman, conservation chairman of the Maricopa Audubon Society. "Our population is a(n) . . . isolated, genetically distinct population of

SEE EAGLES • PAGE A2

# EAGLES: 'This is a very rare population'

FROM PAGE A1

eagles."

The desert nesting bald eagle has adapted to the hot weather and evolved into a nonmigrating resident of the Southwest, he said.

Many nest in the Tonto Forest northeast of Scottsdale, along the Verde River southeast of Fountain Hills and along the Salt River northeast of Mesa.

Arizona's current 39 desert nesting pairs spend their lives within a limited area, breed earlier and do not interbreed with the estimated 300 other bald eagles that only spend winters in Arizona.

"This is a very rare population," Witzeman said. "It's worthy of protection under the Endangered Species Act because there's so few of them."

The legal action by the two groups follows a petition submitted in 2004 to reclassify the desert eagles. The groups said the petition received no response. Under the Endangered Species Act, agencies should respond to petitions within 90 days and provide a final determination within one year.

According to the petition, if Arizona's eagles are taken off the endangered list, federal agencies would no longer be forced to consult on bald eagle and habitat issues.

"The biggest problem that we'll have is we'll lose habitat protection," said Robin Silver, board chairman of the Center for Biological Diversity and author of the petition.

"Losing Endangered Species Act protection dooms the bald eagles in Arizona to certain extinction," Silver said. "We filed the petition to try and increase protection instead of decrease it."

U.S. Fish and Wildlife officials said they will be investigating the petition this year. Currently, the agency's posi-

tion is the desert birds are the same species as other American bald eagles.

Regardless of the outcome, Jeff Humphrey, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife spokesman, said Arizona eagles will retain a high level of protection even if they are removed from the list through the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Both protect bald eagles by prohibiting killing, selling or otherwise harming eagles, their nests or eggs.

However, he said that some habitat protection will be lost.

"When it comes to how we can guarantee that there will be a good source of water for

bald eagles and for their prey — we will lose that," Humphrey said. "Those kind of broad habitat protections would go away with the delisting."

For example, eagle nesting and breeding areas will continue to be protected, but development, road construction and stream dewatering could be permitted nearby.

The American bald eagle was near extinction 30 years ago when the national symbol became one of the first species to be protected by the Endangered Species Act.

## DESERT NESTING BALD EAGLE

- Smaller than the northern bald eagle
- Their eggs have a membrane which provides protection from humidity
- They breed earlier
- Nesting population does not migrate south for the winter
- Do not interbreed with northern bald eagles

SOURCE: Maricopa Audubon Society and Center for Biological Diversity

**The following 31 pages represent some of the educational materials produced jointly by Maricopa Audubon and other groups**

**Water Scarcity Mythology**

Arizonans have yet to learn that there is no shortage of water in Central Arizona! Arizonans have been subjected over the past many years to a barrage of propaganda from the special-interest backers of the CAP who have disseminated a water scarcity scare-mythology. Even ardently pro-CAP Arizona Governor Jack Williams in 1972 admitted that there was enough annually renewable water (from rainfall) in central Arizona to support a population of ten million people - the present population of the area is less than two million. Despite all of the doomsday prognostications of an impending water shortage by CAP hucksters, central Arizona has sustained a remarkable growth picture; the population has grown astronomically, with no shortage of water for golf courses, swimming pools, fountains, and dozens of fashionable residential lakes. During the same period of growth, agriculture has actually expanded its acreage from 1.2 million acres in 1963 to 1.4 million acres in 1973.

**Water Waste**

If constructed, CAP's four huge reservoirs and lengthy desert canals will annually lose well over 100,000 acre-feet (AF) of water to evaporation. CAP's Charleston Dam, for example, would evaporate half of the water which would flow into its reservoir.



Zone-tailed Hawk

**Energy Waste**

Much water would be consumed in producing the massive amounts of electricity required to pump the CAP waters uphill from the Colorado River through a rugged mountain range into central Arizona (see electric pumping stations in centerfold map). Also ironical is the fact that large amounts of Colorado River water are required to generate the electricity at the CAP's coal-fired Navajo power plant.

**Air Pollution**

The Navajo plant located next to lake Powell will burn strip-mined coal which, despite stack scrubbers, will nonetheless increase the visual air pollution of the Grand Canyon and the other scenic areas and national parks of the four corners region.

**Food Waste**

If there were really enough water in the Colorado to regularly supply the CAP allotment (which there is not - see addendum page 11), it would be far more rational to use the CAP water allocation to develop a western Arizona Project on the millions of acres of unused arable land in Western Arizona to increase our food production. Using the water close to the river rather than transporting it to central Arizona, would (1) save billions of dollars in construction costs, (2) minimize evaporative and transmission losses of water, and (3) conserve electrical energy.

**Lawsuit Filed**

The Maricopa Audubon Society and a coalition of individual citizens have united behind a local organization, the Citizens Concerned About the Project (CCAP), in that group's effort to obtain a restraining order to halt work on the project. On the next page are news clippings describing some of the recent court actions. The next court session is scheduled for late this fall. This second round of litigation will also involve major costs because of the research and technical data required.

**Tax Waste**

Since the U.S. Congress must each year approve funding for the CAP, and will do so again this fall, our lawsuit will be timely. Failure of Congress to appropriate the required funds for the CAP each year could effectively kill the project without official congressional deauthorization. But such hopes must be viewed with pessimism due to the mutual back scratching practices traditional with federal public works projects on Capitol Hill. This year was the first time major congressional appropriations have been allocated for the CAP. Our litigation to halt work on this project may prevent the waste of millions of future taxpayers dollars which might be spent on this largest ever-to-be-authorized federal water project.

**Please Help Us**

Your contribution is tax deductible. This is an environmental lawsuit based upon the failure of the Bureau of Reclamation to comply with the provisions of the National Environmental Protection Act. Your contribution will be placed in an account solely used in the CAP effort and will not co-mingle with the general funds of the Maricopa Audubon Society.

Please consider how much it is worth to you to: (1) save those last remnants of Arizona's and New Mexico's Sonoran Desert streamside habitat; (2) halt the extirpation of the Gray Hawk from the U.S.; (3) prevent further attrition of the Black and Zone-tailed Hawk; and (4) preserve a unique Bald Eagle population.

We are one of the less populous states and yet we must contend with the momentum of the largest authorized federal water project in the nation. In the abovementioned lawsuit the Bureau of Reclamation has at its disposal the full legal and financial resources of the U.S. Attorney General.

Your check should be made payable to **CAP Fund - Maricopa Audubon Society**. If you misplace the enclosed self-addressed envelope, mail your contribution to Monica A. Szostak, Treasurer, Maricopa Audubon Society, 4242 N. 32nd St., Phoenix, AZ 85018.

Very sincerely yours,

*Robert A. Witzeman* Robert A. Witzeman, M.D., President Maricopa Audubon Society Phoenix, Arizona  
*George Pickard* George Pickard, President Northern Arizona Audubon Society Sedona, Arizona  
*Edward L. Chalif* Edward L. Chalif, President Tucson Audubon Society Tucson, Arizona  
*James R. Stowe* James R. Stowe, President Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society Silver City, New Mexico  
*Carroll A. Peabody* Carroll A. Peabody, President Huachuca Audubon Society Sierra Vista, Arizona

**News Clippings of Lawsuit**

Tuesday, July 8, 1975 The Arizona Republic A-5

**Court asked to halt CAP-siphon preparation**

*The Phoenix Gazette* Wed., June 11, 1975

## Suit Seeks To Block CAP Dam

More about CAP opponents file suit

Continued from Page B-1

They alleged Orme Reservoir will displace an Indian tribe, imperil endangered species of wildlife, and degrade the Phoenix water supply by conmin-gling it with salty Colorado River water.

The government is negotiating relocation of about 200 Apaches who live on the Ft. McDowell reservation.

The suit is aimed at stopping construction of siphons that would carry

said their construction would not pre-clude the consideration of alternatives as demanded by the plaintiffs.

Francis J. Welsh, executive director of the CCAP, said, "We're saying stop, don't spend any tax money until you look at alternatives to Orme Dam."

Welsh and other plaintiffs called a news conference in the Phoenix Club to explain why the suit

Citizens Concerned About the Project (CCAP), a group opposed to the Central Arizona Project, sought a federal court restraining order Monday to halt preconstruction preparations for aqueduct siphons until its suit against the proposed Orme dam is decided.

The dam and the siphons north and east of Phoenix are part of the CAP system to bring Colorado River water to Maricopa. Pima and

Saturday, July 11, 1975

*The Arizona Republic*

## CAP foes ready to battle aqueduct projects in court

By TOM KUHN

Opponents of the Central Arizona Project will attempt in federal court Monday to get an order to halt work on three aqueduct siphons leading to the proposed Orme Dam east of Phoenix.

Citizens Concerned About the Project (CCAP), the Maricopa Audubon Society and others say they want to prevent any construction that would permit the government to build Orme Dam before an environmental impact statement is filed next year.

The CCAP motion asks for a restraining order an dam injunction against the aqueduct project. The motion will be heard by U.S. District Judge

According to the plaintiffs, the government is disregarding other, cheaper alternatives to Orme Dam. Those alternatives, they said, would be outlined in the impact statement required by law.

less of the location of Orme Dam," Assistant U.S. Attorney John F. Flynn said Friday. He will defend the Bureau of Reclamation's authority to proceed with the \$4 million siphon contract.

Meanwhile, the Army Corps of Engineers said it will study whether Orme Dam provides better flood protection for metropolitan Phoenix than other alternatives that include a Salt River floodplain benefit.

"We will compare the costs of buying property and removing houses with the costs of building Orme Dam," said Maj. H. W. Worthington, special assistant to the district engineer.

Worthington said the corps' conclusions will be included in the Bureau of Reclamation's environmental impact statement due in December 1976.

"I'll guarantee that we don't go into this study with preconceived notions,"

Environmental groups said today they have filed suit in U.S. District Court in an attempt to block construction of the Orme Dam segment of the Central Arizona Project.

They conted the multi-billion dollar structure would unnecessarily ruin wildlife habitats, including nesting areas for six bald eagles; cost far more than it is worth; inundate 15,000 acres of three-fourths of the Ft. McDowell Indian Reservation; and eliminate almost all tubing on the Verde and Salt rivers.

J. D. "DAVE" Campbell, chairman of Citizens Concerned About the Project (CCAP), announced the suit this morning at a press conference. He said it was filed jointly by CCAP, Maricopa Audubon Society, and county residents

Adversaries say the money the government has earmarked for Orme Dam could be spent instead to acquire property for a recreation greenbelt with lakes in the floodplain, which would not be flooded but once in 100 years.

Frank Welsh, engineer, CCAP officer and principal spokesman for the group suing the government over the siphons, said he prefers the greenbelt.

As for storage of CAP water, Welsh said his group will request that the government use three Army Corps of Engineers flood-control dams and take

Charles C. Rogers, John Will Carolina Butler.

Federal bonds of \$36 million for construction of the Agua Fria siphon, 8,700-foot S siphon and 5,776-foot New River along the proposed Granite Ridge duct could be prevented by Campbell said.

Construction of the siphon begin within the next two years give those supporting the Or project a "point of no return" to build the dam, CCAP board Frank J. Welsh said.

CLIFFORD A. PUGH, U.S. Reclamation Arizona director, to comment on the suit this saying that he had only a fe

As a multipurpose reservoir, would store water flowing aqueducts from the Colorado Parker, and collect floodwaters from the Salt and Verde rivers the metropolitan area. Bureau mation officials said the dam id generate hydroelectricity.

The Orme Reservoir site is 20 miles east of Phoenix on the Ft. McDowell Indian Reservation. It is proposed as a holding basin for CAP water that will be brought overland by aqueduct from the Colorado River starting in the late 1970s.

**THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC**

Thursday, June 12, 1975  
o (Section B) Page 1

## CAP's foes sue to block siphon work

By TOM KUHN

Opponents of the Central Arizona Project sued the government Wednesday to stop construction of \$4 million worth of aqueduct siphons until an environmental-impact statement is completed for Orme Reservoir.

The Orme Reservoir site is 20 miles east of Phoenix on the Ft. McDowell Indian Reservation. It is proposed as a holding basin for CAP water that will be brought overland by aqueduct from the Colorado River starting in the late 1970s.

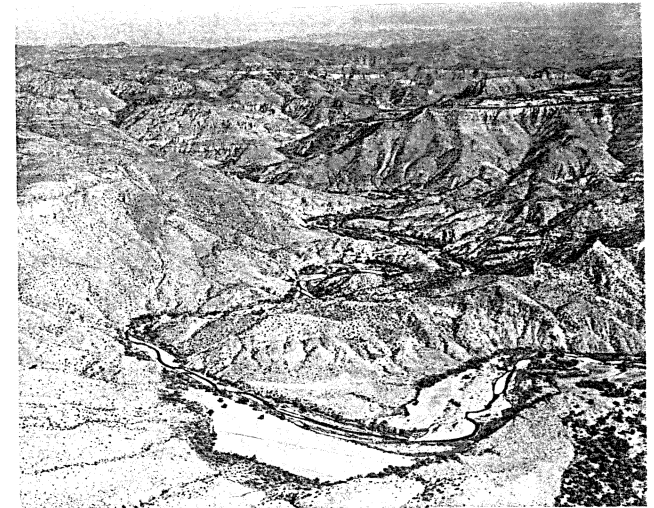


*Photo courtesy of the Bureau of Reclamation*

**CHARLESTON DAM SITE** — on the San Pedro River  
 This beautiful, free-flowing river meanders northward from the Mexican border for 120 miles until it joins the Gila River. Its water provides sustenance for a great variety of wildlife and birdlife which find nesting sites and/or cover in its lush stands of mature cottonwoods and willows. At least 100 miles of the San Pedro's riparian ecology will be disrupted as a result of this Bureau of Reclamation project.

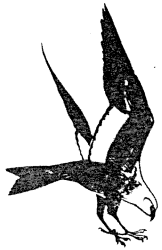


Gray Hawk

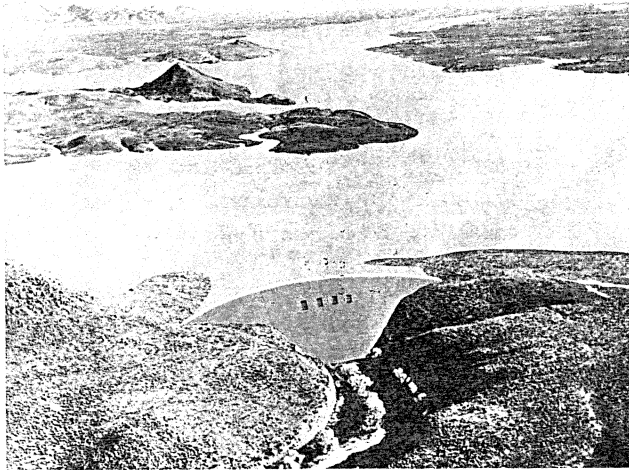


*Photo courtesy of the Bureau of Reclamation*

**HOOKER DAMSITE**  
 The magnificent Gila Wilderness can be seen in the background. This was the first Wilderness Area to be dedicated in the United States. The Gila River provides New Mexico's only Sonoran Zone riparian habitat.

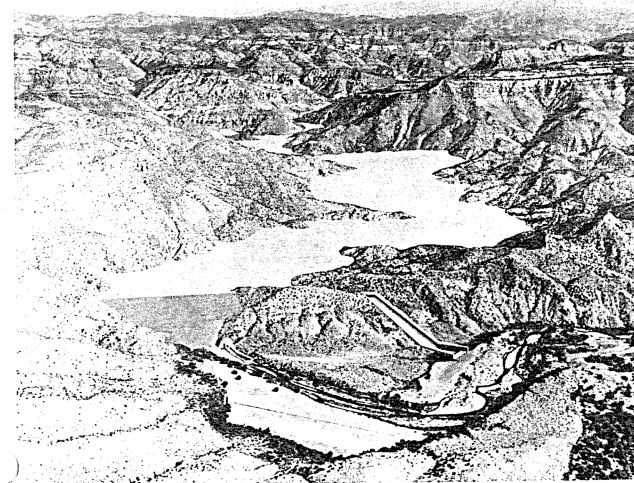


Mississippi Kite



*Photo courtesy of the Bureau of Reclamation*

**CHARLESTON DAM AND RESERVOIR (Artist's Conception)**  
 Damming the San Pedro River will destroy five out of an estimated total of 26 pairs of Gray Hawks which still remain in the U.S. Already largely exterminated by the encroachments of man and reclamation in Arizona, 25 nesting pairs remain in suitable fragments of riparian habitat in southern Arizona. The only other pair of U.S. nesting Gray Hawks is in New Mexico. Charleston Dam will also destroy a fine colony of Mississippi Kites which nest in cottonwoods on the San Pedro River.



*Photo courtesy of the Bureau of Reclamation*

**HOOKER DAM AND RESERVOIR (Artist's conception)**  
 Miles of upstream and downstream riparian vegetation, excellent nesting habitat for Zone-tailed and Black Hawks, will be destroyed as a result of the construction of this dam on the Upper Gila River. Hooker Dam will inundate six miles of pristine river-bottom vegetation in the Gila Wilderness. This wilderness provides raptor nesting habitat free from human disturbances such as homes, roads, mining and grazing.



Black Hawk



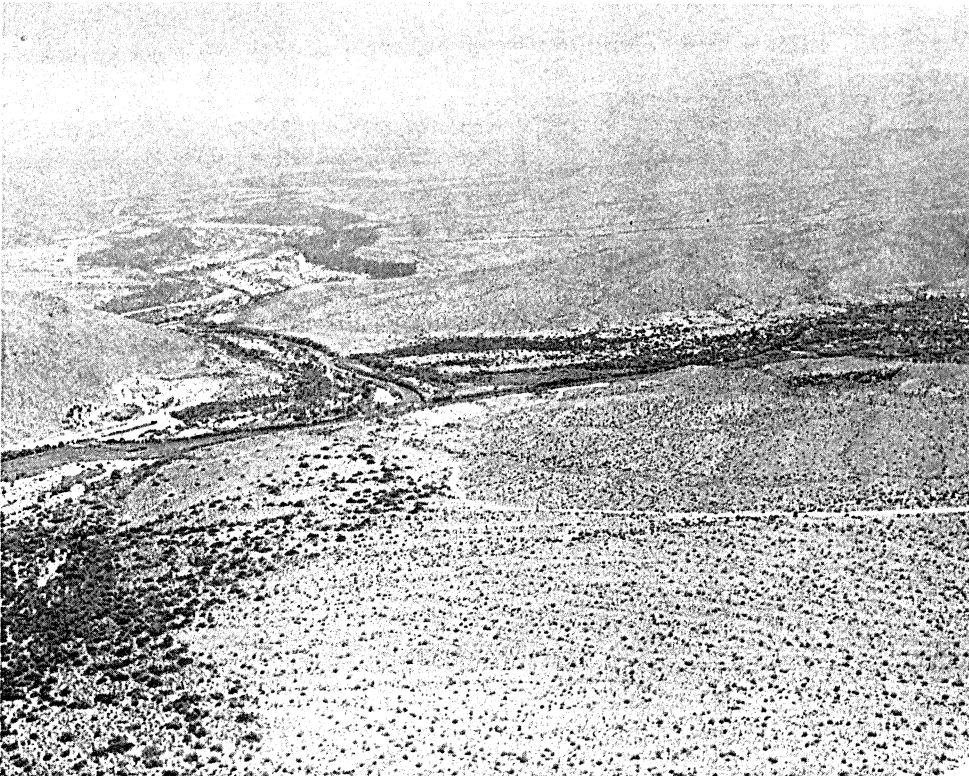
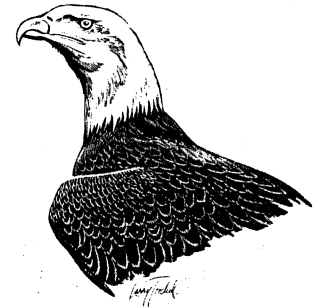


Photo courtesy of the Bureau of Reclamation

**ORME DAM SITE**

This is a panorama of the lush confluence of the Salt and Verde Rivers — the finest Bald Eagle nesting area in Arizona. Due to the ready supply of both fish and mammals, the area has provided habitat for up to three of the estimated fifteen pairs of Bald Eagles which nest in the state. The broad flood plains are wide enough to provide secluded nesting areas. At the same time these Salt and Verde River watercourses are also able to offer thirty miles of inner tube floating trips for thousands of youngsters and adults every summer.



Osprey



Photo courtesy of the Bureau of Reclamation

**ORME DAM AND RESERVOIR (Artist's conception)**

Orme Reservoir will regularly become a hideous bath-tub-ring mudhole because of the widely fluctuating water levels due to the uncertainties of Colorado River water availability and the reservoir's flood control function. The Bureau of Reclamation has insisted upon the Orme Dam site for storage of the pumped-up Colorado River waters despite the fact that a number of less costly and environmentally preferable (non-riparian) sites are available nearby. This damsite is also touted by the Bureau to be a flood control structure for Phoenix yet the Bureau has always refused to consider the less expensive and aesthetically more desirable alternative of **open space**. For much less than the \$100+ million price tag of Orme Dam, open space could be acquired in the Salt River flood plain along with several flood-proof bridge crossings. This would permit urban residents to enjoy a broad, park-like area, not the narrow little channel which is all that would remain if Orme Dam were built.