



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
June 29, 2011

JULY 14 PUBLIC MEETING IN BISBEE TO DISCUSS ISSUES AFFECTING THE SAN PEDRO RIVER

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has scheduled a public meeting of the Southeast Arizona Citizens Forum for Thursday, July 14, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room, Cochise County Complex, Building G, 1415 W. Melody Lane in Bisbee, Arizona. The purpose of the forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community regarding Commission projects and related activities in Pima, Cochise, and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona.

Ben Lomeli, Hydrologist with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, will discuss issues associated with the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, which covers nearly 57,000 acres of public land in Cochise County, Arizona between the international border and St. David. The riparian area, where some 40 miles of the upper San Pedro River meanders, was designated by Congress as a Riparian National Conservation Area in 1988. The primary purpose for the special designation is to protect and enhance the desert riparian ecosystem.

Gilbert Anaya, Division Chief of the USIBWC's Environmental Management Division, will give an update on the San Pedro Aquifer Study, which is being conducted as part of the Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Program. The USIBWC is participating in a binational study to collect additional information for the San Pedro aquifer. This project is being funded and conducted in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey, University of Arizona's Water

Resources Research Center, the Mexican Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission, and the University of Sonora. A presentation of the project and current progress will be provided.

In other business, Jenny Neeley, Conservation Policy Director with the Sky Island Alliance, will give a presentation about borderlands issues, focusing on the Sky Island Alliance's concerns about environmental impacts of border infrastructure and security activities.

A complete agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may call 520-281-1832 or e-mail sally.spener@ibwc.gov.

For more information:

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SOUTHEAST ARIZONA CITIZENS FORUM

Thursday, July 14, 2011

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

**Board of Supervisors Hearing Room
Cochise County Complex, Building G
1415 W. Melody Lane
Bisbee, AZ**

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions – Citizens Forum Co-Chairs
- San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area Issues - Ben Lomeli, Hydrologist, U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Program, Update on San Pedro Aquifer Study – Gilbert Anaya, Division Chief, Environmental Management Division, USIBWC
- Sky Island Alliance Borderlands Presentation – Jenny Neeley, Conservation Policy Director, Sky Island Alliance
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion/Suggested Future Agenda Items

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time. For information, call 520-281-1832 or e-mail sally.spener@ibwc.gov.

Directions from Tucson: Take I-10 east to Exit 302/AZ-90 S toward Ft. Huachuca/Sierra Vista. Take AZ-90 south to Sierra Vista. At Sierra Vista, stay straight to go onto Buffalo Soldier Trail. Continue southeast on Buffalo Soldier Trail to AZ-92. Turn right onto AZ-92 and continue 27.3 miles to Melody Lane on right.