

## Cross-Watershed Network (XWN) Mini-Workshop

Albuquerque, NM February 11, 2015

**Breakout Group:** Verde Watershed Restoration Coalition - Anna Schrenk

**Note taker/facilitator:** Deborah Campbell, Cross-Watershed Network Steering Committee

### Potential small group discussion topics:

- **Private landowner engagement (primary discussion topic)**
- Data management
- Training field crews
- Expanding a partnership's scope
- Streamlining grants

### Successes: (by watershed groups represented at small group discussion table)

Verde:	Increased and better private landowner engagement over a 3 to 4 year period
	Expanding work in riparian areas (in the planning stages)
	Identifying and engaging landowner champions to engage with other landowners
Lower Gila:	Good news is people (diverse stakeholders) are becoming more engaged, most recently due to challenges over the new expanded flood plain
Rio Grande:	Implemented cut stub treatment, recent designation of Rio Grande Norte as a national monument
Missouri River/Montana:	Upper Missouri Breaks designated as a national monument
	On the ground field work successes

### Challenges:

Rio Grande:	Chemical sensitivity groups are a vocal group
	Apathy on part of some partners and stakeholders
Lower Gila:	Managing vegetation and managing flood plains
Missouri River/Montana:	Getting support from land owners
	Dams upstream - restoring natural flows to the monument
Verde:	Engaging the local Yavapai-Apache tribe
	Development and economic concerns over environmental restoration
	At times stakeholders not open minded to change (new science)

Effective and timely coordinated messaging and communication

Lethargic pace of overall compliance

Budget and resources limitations

Multi-jurisdictions (coordinating and developing goals and objectives)

**Problem Solving:**

**Effective timely, coordinated communication**

- ✓ Consider professional facilitation
  - Outside mediation
  - Process design
  - Objective and neutral
  - They bring linkages, best practices and organizational development
- ✓ Find common goal of diverse group of stakeholders
- ✓ Demonstration projects to show common interests and successes
- ✓ Bring groups together (and individual discussions) to promote economic benefits to involvement and coordination
- ✓ Find win-wins
- ✓ Ask and listen to land owner concerns
- ✓ Communicate with landowners and find champions
- ✓ Reframe the message (and who's delivering the message)
  - Private landowners from area/outside the area vs. agency representatives