

Campomocho

In late 2002 and early 2003, ADEQ awarded a \$300,000 Water Quality Improvement Grant to construct seven flood control structures on State leased land within the Campomocho and Sacaton washes. The primary purpose of these structures was to control sediment runoff and reduce flow velocity that during high rainfall events impacted the City of Willcox, which lies directly downstream of these washes. Additionally, the structures were to provide water to stock and wildlife on the ranches involved. Construction was completed on the structures in mid 2005.

Unfortunately, shortly after the structures were completed, extremely heavy storm events occurred in the watershed. These rainfall events exceeded the design capacity of the structures causing severe erosion to the structures and resulted in failure of two of the structures.

During fiscal years 2008 and 2009, the ASLD conducted a comprehensive technical investigation of the earthen dams on the grazing leases involved. The project included an extensive dam safety review, discussions with affected parties about design of the structures, discussions with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) regarding the possibility of funding for repairs necessary to bring the structures into compliance, and discussions with the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) for modifications to Permits to Appropriate Public Water and issuance of Certificates of Water Rights upon completion of the improvements. The project also required coordination with the Natural Resource Conservation District, the Campomocho-Sacaton Watershed Group, and the lessees.

The two failed structures have been reconstructed, and extensive repairs to the highly eroded structures were sufficient to meet or exceed minimum engineering and safety standards. All structures have been inspected by both the ASLD and the ADWR, and Certificates of Water Rights have been issued.