

Arizona Navigable Stream Adjudication Commission (ANSAC)

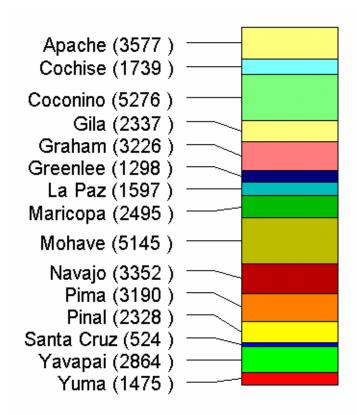
Information Bulletin III



NUMBERS OF SMALL AND MINOR WATERCOURSES BY COUNTY

The beds, not the water, of watercourses that were Not Navigable at Statehood are subject to Private Property Rights, private ownership, by the person across whose property the watercourse travels. The statutory mission of the Arizona Navigable Stream Adjudication Commission is twofold, first to determine which of the estimated 39,039 Arizona watercourses were navigable at time of statehood, February 14, 1912. The need to determine navigability of Arizona's watercourses is to clear-up an estimated 100,000 clouded property titles. The second part of the mission is to determine the public trust value of each watercourse that was navigable at statehood and the beds to these watercourses are subject to government ownership. (The work of the Commission has nothing to do with water use, water ownership, water allocation, or water diversion. These issues are controlled by many other laws.)

The Commission has held more than 150 hearings to determine navigability, including in every Arizona county.



NOTE: While there are approximately 39,039 watercourses in Arizona, the above number totals more than 39,039 because many small and minor watercourses border or travel through more than one county, and hearings are held in each county into which a watercourse travels to encourage participation by residents of each appropriate county.

Prepared by George Mehnert, Director, ANSAC