Western Rivers Action Network

Protecting rivers across the Colorado River Basin

The Little Colorado River

- **The Little Colorado River (LCR)** is one of only two major tributaries to the Colorado River in Arizona.

- The LCR drains 27,000 square miles - nearly 20% of Arizona’s total land area.

- Due to diversions and groundwater pumping, many **reaches of the LCR are dry below Lyman Lake**, a large reservoir and State Park in the White Mountain community of St. Johns.

- The Upper Little Colorado River Watershed Important Bird Area, which encompasses nearly 27 miles of the LCR from its headwaters on Mount Baldy, **provides habitat for several bird species of conservation concern** including Mexican Spotted Owl, Northern Goshawk, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, and Bald Eagle.

- **Many of Arizona’s native fish still persist in the LCR** including the Apache trout and the endangered humpback chub.

- **Flow in the LCR** is directly connected to the health of over 5,000 acres of streamside habitat that ranges from high elevation woodlands and meadows to lower elevation deserts and cottonwood-willow forests.

- **Several endangered species depend upon the habitats within the LCR basin** including the Mexican gray wolf and black-footed ferret.

- **Reductions to flow** caused by groundwater pumping, loss of native vegetation due to lowering water table levels, and extended wildfires fueled by drought conditions continue to threaten the LCR.

http://az.audubon.org/conservation/western-rivers-action-network
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More Information:

- Audubon Arizona
  az.audubon.org
- Western Rivers Action Network - Arizona
  az.audubon.org/western-rivers-action-network-0
- White Mountain Audubon Society
  whitemountainaudubon.org
- Northern Arizona Audubon Society
  northernarizonaaudubon.org
- Trout Unlimited - Arizona
  az-tu.org
- Arizona Wildlife Federation
  azwildlife.org
- Upper Little Colorado River Watershed IBA
  http://aziba.org/?page_id=648