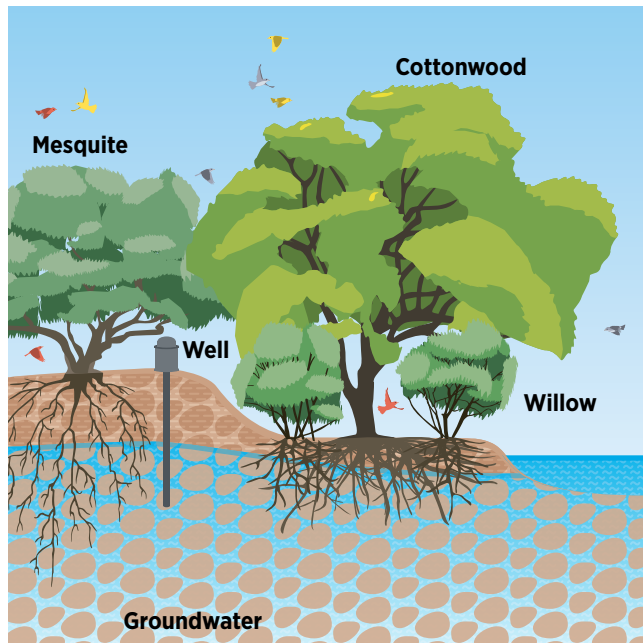


BIRDS NEED WATER

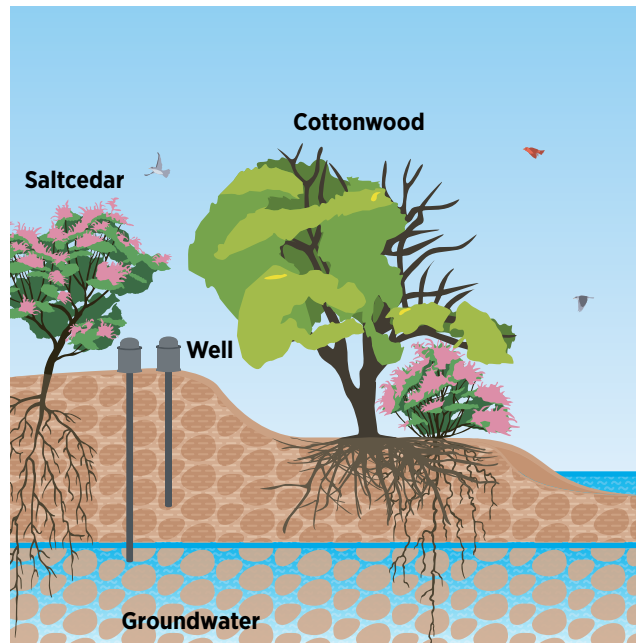
How overuse of groundwater degrades riverside habitat

Groundwater, the source for springs and wells, is found in spaces between soil, sand, and rocks. While **40% of Arizona's water use** comes from groundwater, some 1.5 million Arizonans live in an area with no groundwater protections.

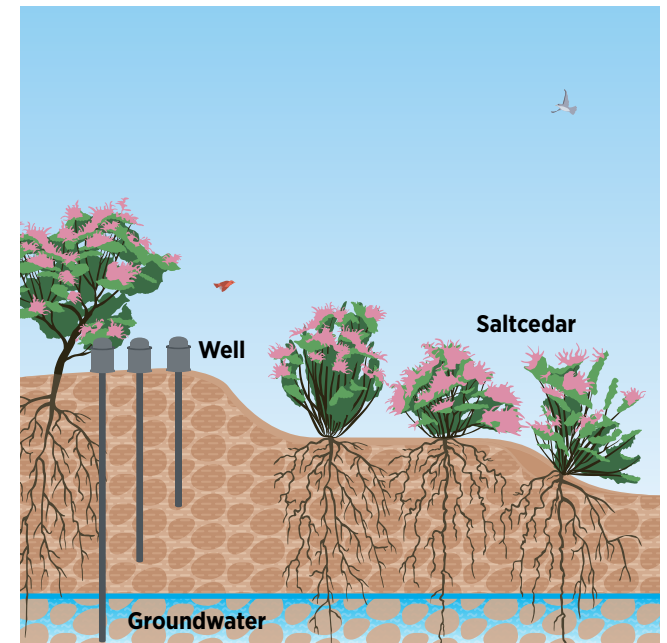
HEALTHY GROUNDWATER LEVELS support rivers and nearby habitat.



WATER LEVELS DECLINE as groundwater pumping and surface water diversions reduce flows.



DRY REACHES, which develop from overuse of groundwater, contribute to the decline of native habitat—making room for invasive species to thrive.



← MORE ————— **GROUNDWATER AVAILABILITY** ————— LESS →

Native trees—cottonwood, willow, mesquite, and others—support healthy, diverse bird communities.

As water levels decline, **only certain plant species** can survive, affecting birds and other wildlife.

With **degraded habitats**, bird populations decline.