



PEE POSH WETLANDS RESTORATION

The Gila River Indian Community Department of Environmental Quality – Water Quality Program has completed multiple restoration projects in the Pee Posh Wetlands during 2012 through 2014. Funding for these projects was from US EPA Non Point Source Grants.

Pee Posh Wetlands

The Pee Posh Wetlands is characterized by a cottonwood-willow gallery of riparian and wetland habitat. This valued wetland supports an array of wildlife and was placed into a Tribal environmental easement in 2010. The wetlands have increasingly become susceptible to environmental impacts from external sources. These impacts include salt cedar encroachment, illegal dumping, and trash and sediment loading from conveyance flows into the Wetlands. The goal of the restoration projects is to improve water quality through effective saltcedar management practices and remove trash and sediment.



Figure 1 Pee Posh Wetlands

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Pee Posh Wetlands Site Activities

Removal of Saltcedar Vegetation in Pee Posh Wetlands

A total of 6 acres of saltcedar was removed from the Pee Posh Wetlands. Saltcedar removal was completed by whole tree root-ball extraction. The extracted saltcedar was then mechanically chipped (mulched) in preparation for follow-up revegetation work.



Figure 2 Saltcedar Removal - Root Ball Extraction



Figure 3 Saltcedar Chipping/Mulching

Sediment Removal in Pee Posh Wetlands

Accumulated sediments within the wetlands were removed from 1,300 feet of the Wetland's channel.



Figure 4 Sediment Removal in Pee Posh Wetlands



Figure 5 Pee Posh Wetlands Channel After Work

Trash Removal in Pee Posh Wetlands

Approximately 3 tons of trash and floating debris were removed.



Figure 6 Trash in the Pee Posh Wetlands



Figure 7 Trash Cleanup

Revegetation in Pee Posh Wetlands

A total of 1,523 native plants were installed along cleared areas of the Wetlands channel. Native plants installed included cottonwood, goodding willow, desert willow, palo verde, mesquite, iron wood, wolfberry, seep willow, coyote willow, saltbrush, brittlebush, alkalai sacaton, and native bulrush.



Physical Barriers to Mitigate Illegal Dumping in the Pee Posh Wetlands

Physical barrier installation to key access routes into the Pee Posh Wetlands was completed.

Approximately 1,280 feet of cable fencing and access gates were installed at key access routes along the eastern, southern, and western boundaries of the Wetlands.



Figure 8 Cable Fence and Gate Installations