

Drought Impacts on Flow Extent Along Lower Cienega Creek

Marsh Station Bridge Streamflow Site on Cienega Creek



June 2013



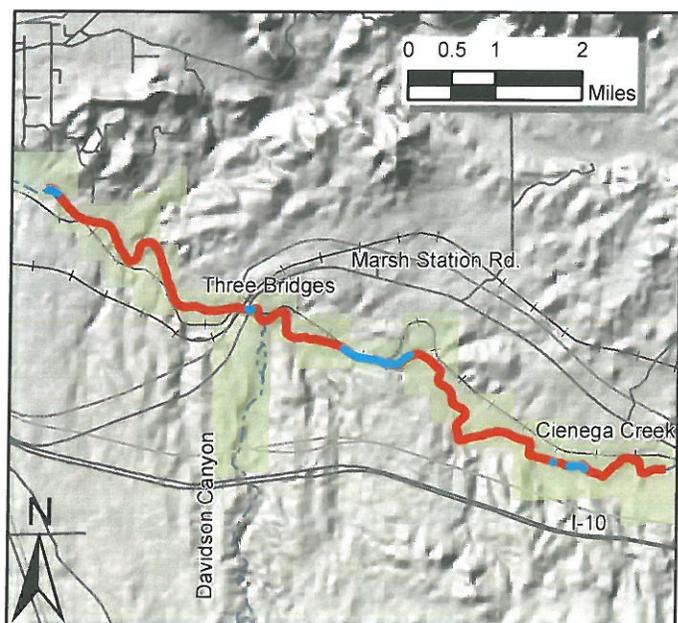
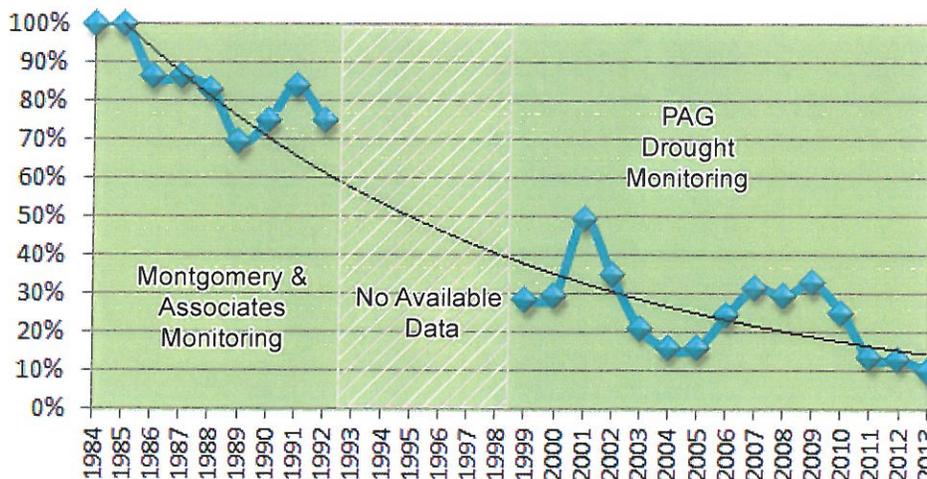
June 2009

Cienega Creek experienced record breaking drought conditions in summer 2013. Prolonged drought impacts the creek by decreasing flow volume and extents.

PAG monitors streamflow quarterly in the Pima County Natural Preserve. The flow extent is measured during the PAG walk-through of the Preserve from the I-10 overpass to the dam. May-July is the driest season in Arizona, making it the best time to estimate the minimum perennial streamflow.

The perennial flow extent was reduced to 0.93 miles in June 2013, the lowest flow extent on record and 0.31 miles shorter than the previous June. This is only 10% of the flow extent compared to the wet years in the mid 1980s when fully 9.5 miles flowed in Preserve during the dry season.

Percent Flowing (Wet) from June 1984 - 2013



Driest Year - June 2013

