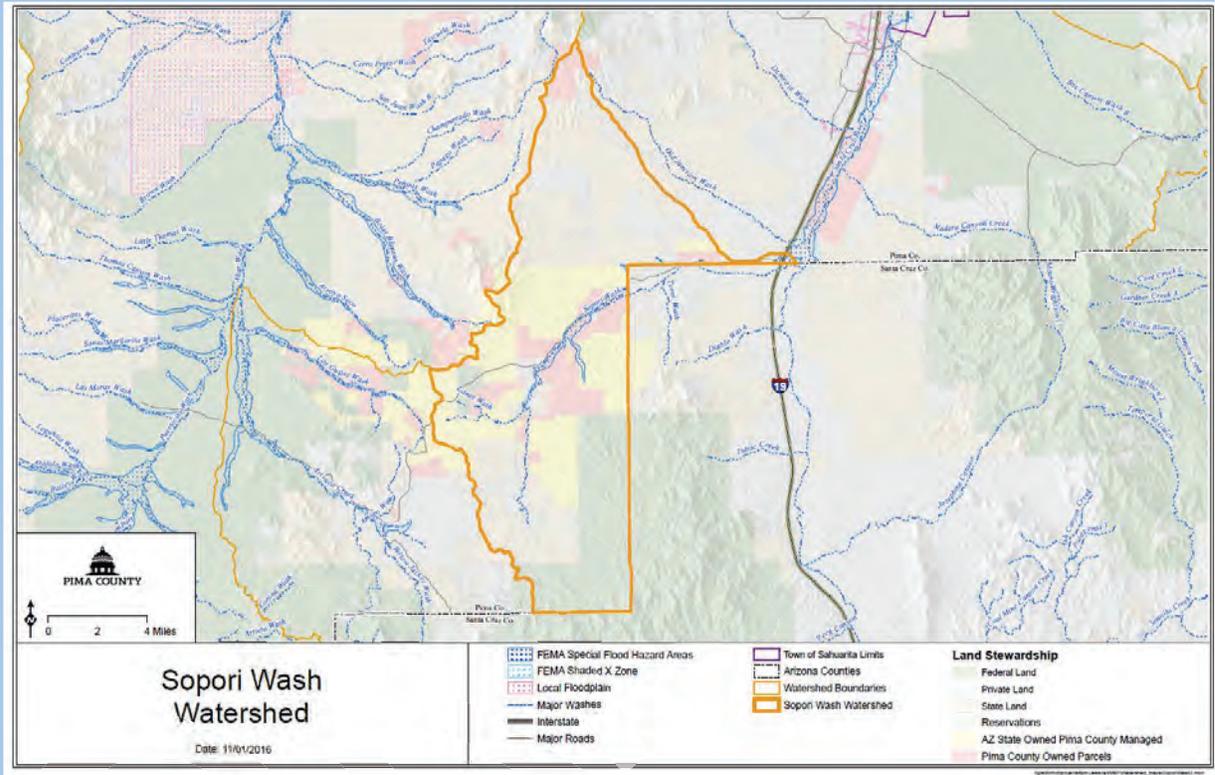


5.5.8 Sopori Wash

This watershed originates in Santa Cruz County on the western slopes of the Tumacacori Mountains, passes the eastern slopes of the Cerro Colorado, and then joins the Upper Santa Cruz River at Arivaca Junction. Within Pima County, it is comprised of 80,756 acres (126 square miles).

Figure 237 - Sopori Wash Watershed Map



5.5.8.1 Flood Characteristics

There are 1,130 acres of SFHA Zone A in this watershed. In September 2018 the community of Arivaca Junction experienced significant flooding and the District and Santa Cruz County are working on assessing these floodplains further.

Figure 238 - Sopori Wash Watershed Federal Floodplain Designations



Types of storms that caused flooding in the watershed are monsoons. The table below provides a summary of historic USGS gaging station records.

Table 66 – Sopori Wash USGS Gaging Stations

USGS Gaging Station	Sopori Wash at Amado, AZ 09481750
Period of Record	1948-08-15 to 1977-10
Watershed Area (sq. m)	176
Flood-Peak of Record (cfs)	16000
Date	08-15-1948

There are currently no Pima County ALERT gages in this watershed. The table below summarizes regulatory discharge locations within the watershed. The locations are from the District’s Table of Regulatory Discharges.

Table 67 – Sopori Wash ALERT Gages

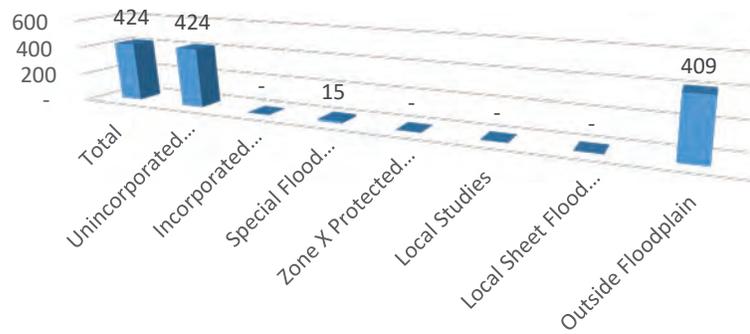
Watercourse	Regulatory Discharge, cfs 1% Return Frequency	Drainage Area, sq. miles	Source of Discharge Information
Sopori Wash @ U.S Highway 89	19,990	164	FEMA, Flood Insurance Study

A special consideration for Sopori Wash was made as the floodplain limit, when nearing West Fontage Road, crosses outside the study are and into Pima County. Under this condition it was determined that to provide a conservative estimate of the base flood elevation, it would be assumed that the Santa Cruz/Pima county boundary would serve as a virtual floodwall.

5.5.8.2 Existing Development & Infrastructure Trends

The chart below shows population distribution between incorporated and unincorporated areas. This chart also shows the distribution of residents within known floodplains.

Figure 239 - Sopori Wash Watershed Population Distribution



This watershed is mostly vacant with grazing and small mining operations along with recreation being the most common land uses surrounding the small community of Arivaca Junction along the wash corridor.

Figure 240 - Sopori Wash Watershed Ownership in Acres

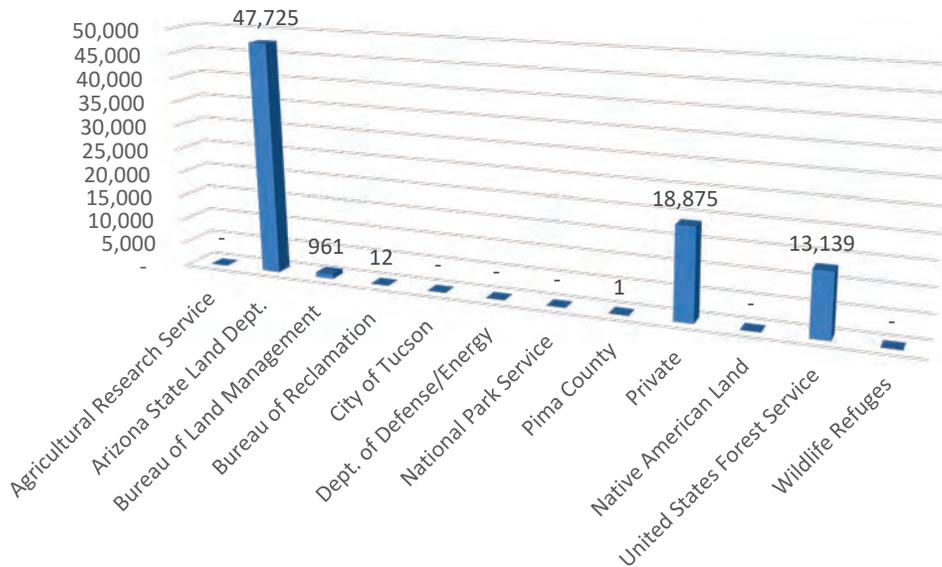


Figure 241 - Sopori Wash Watershed Land Use in Acres

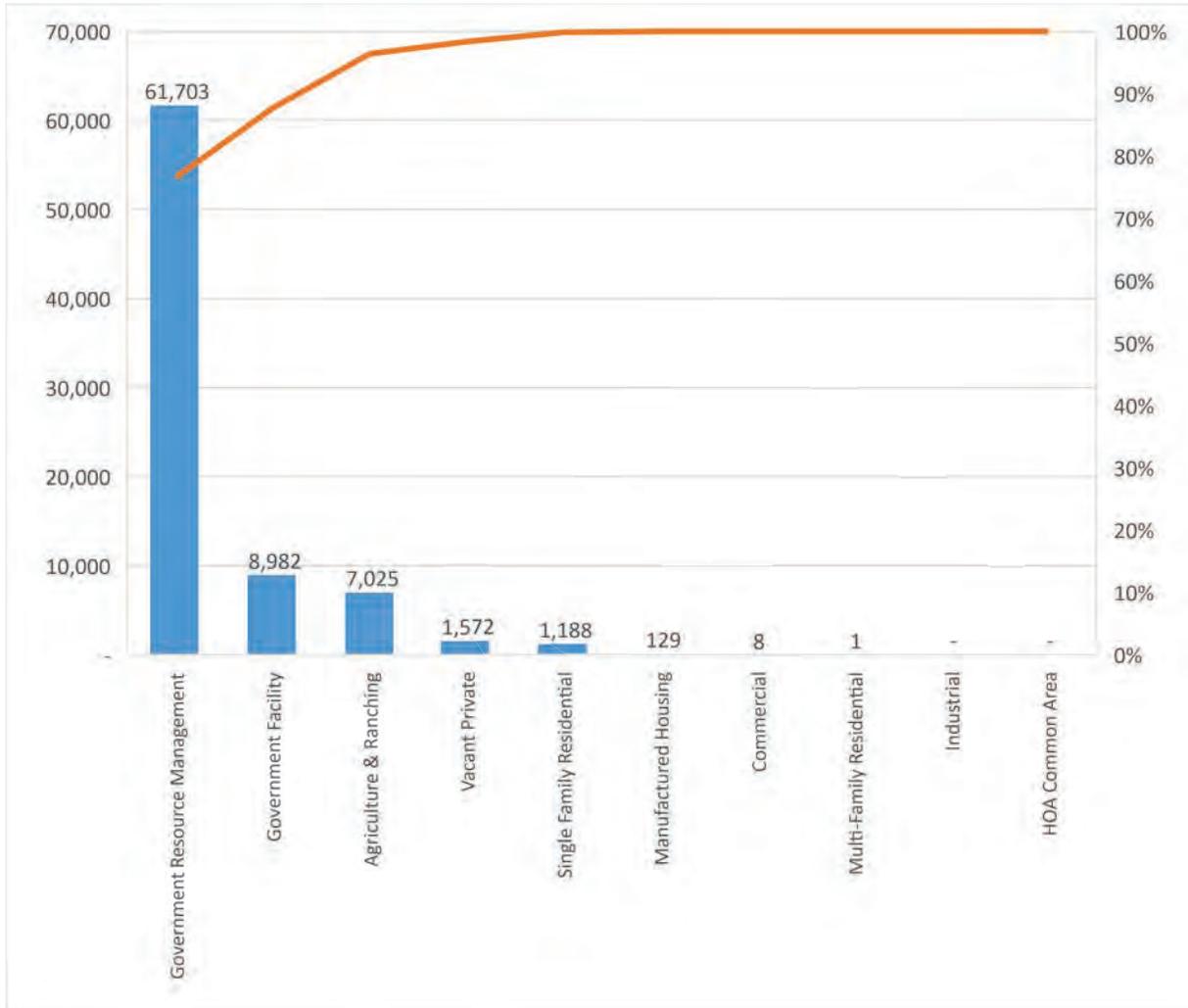
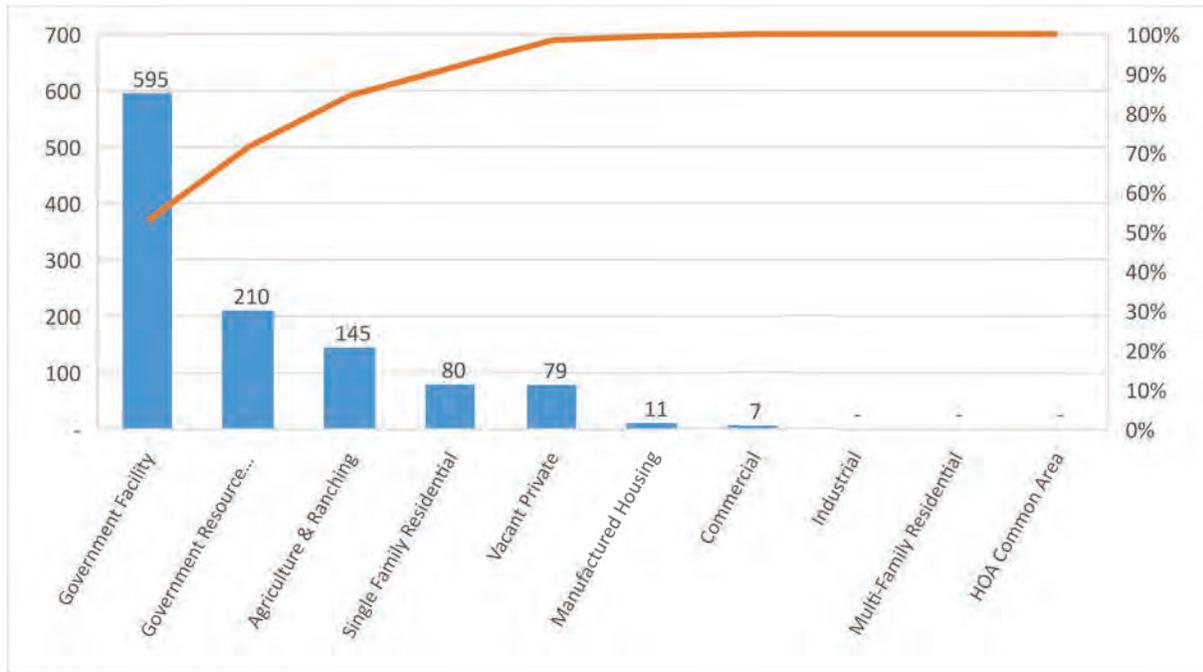


Figure 242 - Sopori Wash Floodplain Land Use



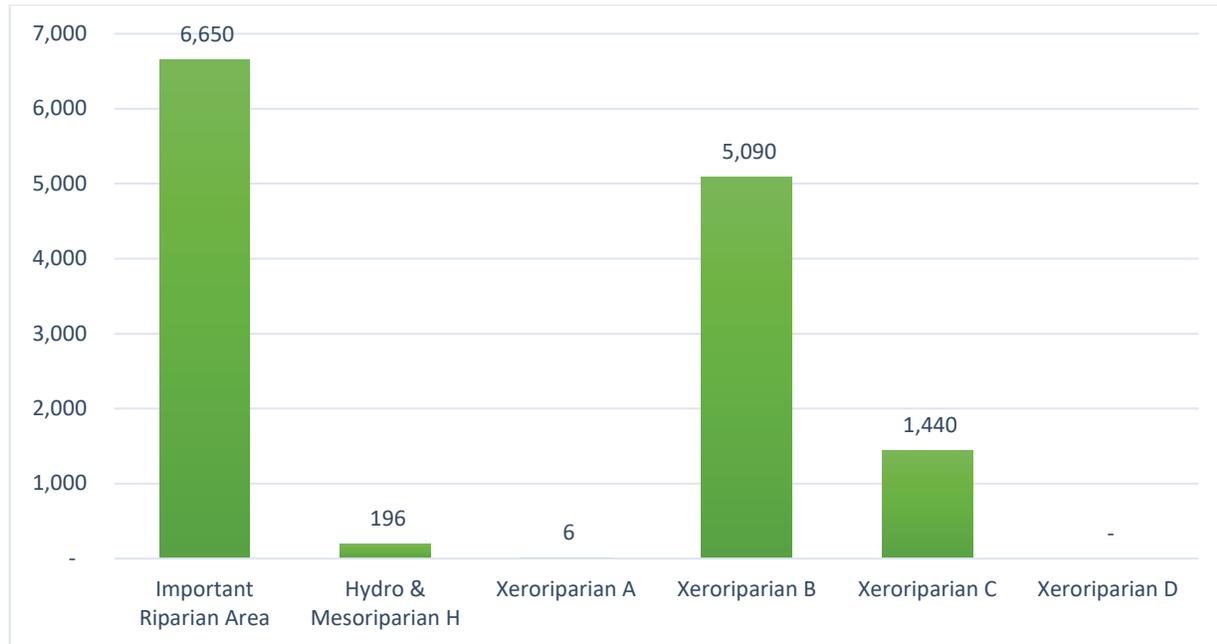
Agriculture is by far the most significant floodplain land use in this watershed. While landowners have sought entitlements to attract increased development it has largely not occurred and planners do not expect this to change in the near future. As with all rural watersheds discussed in this report accessibility during times of flooding will likely remain the primary concern, along with flooding in the commercial center.



5.5.8.3 Riparian Habitat and Natural Areas

As shown on the figure below, there are 13,359 acres of Pima County Regulated Riparian Habitat in this watershed, and 6,650 acres of IRA. There are also 45,180 preserved acres in this watershed, including 805 in regulatory floodplain.

Figure 243 - Sopori Wash Watershed Riparian Habitat in Acres



5.5.8.4 Historic Floodplain Management Approach

There are 30.8 acres of natural drainageways in this watershed that the District is responsible for.

5.5.8.5 Needs – Capital Improvement

The District completed no projects during the prior five years, and none planned for the next five years. The 2019 Flood Response Manual identifies no specific items of concern in this watershed.

5.5.8.6 Floodplain Management

Future needs identified by District staff include:

- Rural use complaints (fencing, grading rip)
- Unpermitted residences
- Riparian disturbances rural uses
- Lack of topo and accurate discharges
- Identification of flood risks at Interstate 19

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