

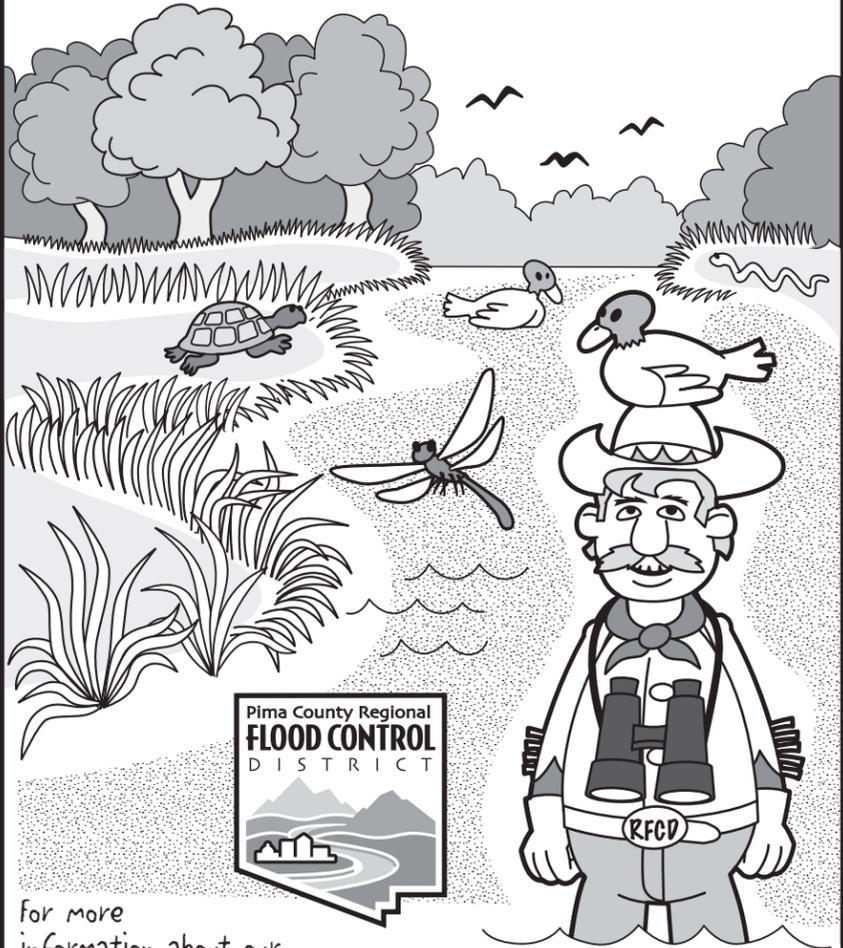
# What is a WETLAND?

WETLANDS are areas of lands where water covers the soil or is present at or near the surface of the soil all year or for varying periods of time. Wetlands naturally filter and recharge water into our aquifers.

Wetlands slow the flow of surface water and reduce the impact of flooding by acting like giant sponges. They also prevent soil erosion.

Many species of birds use wetlands during migration as resting areas. Other species of birds live in wetlands permanently. This makes wetlands a good place to go bird watching.

Turtles, frogs, salamanders, ducks and many other creatures also live there. Most of Arizona's wetlands are in riparian zones which may contain OXBOW LAKES, CIENEGAS and BOSQUES.



For more information about our desert world and flood safety, visit [www.rfcd.pima.gov](http://www.rfcd.pima.gov)