

## ABSTRACT

What indicators to use is a persistent question in river and stream assessment and management. We employ qualitative research techniques to identify features of rivers and streams important to the general public in an urbanized watershed of the Southwestern U.S. Transcriptions and field notes from thirteen interviews and ten focus groups were analyzed and member-checked with fifteen new participants in both focus groups and interviews (ninety-eight participants total). Recurrent ecological themes were Water, Vegetation, and Fish and Wildlife; human themes were Pollution, Recreational Infrastructure, and Human Interactions. Themes are further described along with illustrative quotes across the participants. We also present participant input as metrics classes. These metrics could serve to track resource condition. The findings are particularly relevant for scientists and managers interested in the perspectives held by urban residents on rivers and streams in arid landscapes.