



MAY 2013 NEWSLETTER

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GOVERNMENT GOINGS-ON

Navajo Generating Station hangs by a thread. So stated David Modeer, General Manager of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD), on May 1 in Glendale. And the fate of a major portion of the reasonably priced, replenishable water supply for central Arizona hangs with it.

The Central Arizona Project has been a goal for Arizona since 1912. Arizona takes 1.5 million acre-feet each year off the Colorado River and moves it through Maricopa, Pinal, and Pima Counties. But a tremendous amount of power is needed to move that water uphill to Tucson. Navajo Generating Station (NGS) provides that power, and keeps CAP water rates reasonable. Without reasonable rates, farmers have made it clear that they

will pump mostly groundwater again, and municipal users would soon follow. All the progress that has been made since the 1980 Groundwater Management Act in moving the three most populous counties to sustainable water supplies could be undone. And it all comes to a head with NGS, which is facing a myriad of challenges to its continued existence.

NGS sits on Navajo Nation land. On Monday night, April 29, the Navajo Tribal Council discussed the proposed lease extension which would allow NGS to operate beyond 2019. They came up with a new lease (10 amendments), voted 20-1 to accept their version, and President Ben Shelly signed it. But Salt River Project, which operates NGS, has said it will not accept the changes. NGS takes 34,000 acre-feet each year of Upper Basin Colorado River water from the Navajo Nation allotment for cooling, leaving only 17,000 acre-feet for the Navajo Nation. The Navajos want all their water back. They also want more control over the plant, and want the US Bureau of Reclamation to sign the lease. SRP and the other partners believe promises of more money and jobs will prevail. SRP must continue negotiating with the Navajos - but a new lease is by no means certain. In my opinion, non-Reservation folks do not truly grasp what the Navajos want, which is control over their own natural resources and cultural traditions. This is not a situation that can be resolved with more money; both sides are operating under different assumptions. I am not hopeful that a new lease will be possible as long as the two sides talk past one another.

Just a couple of weeks ago, Nevada Power suddenly announced that they would seek legislative permission to withdraw as a partner in NGS. We already knew that Los Angeles Power and Water was withdrawing, but the Nevada announcement came out of the blue. I suspect that continuing uncertainty with the lease - and beyond that, new coal contracts, EPA visibility rule requirements costing up to \$1.1 billion in retrofits, and other challenges still unresolved - caused Nevada to decide that withdrawing would be the best option. Who will be next to bolt?

Arizona has done more water planning than any other state in the Union. The CAP canal is proof of that. Because of our water resources expertise, we sometimes think that our structure of water rights and engineering is unshakeable. It has brought us years of sustainable water at reasonable prices. Yet as David Modeer noted, uncertainty rules CAP from here on out. Only one thing is certain: the era of cheap water is over.

Alan Dulaney,

City of Peoria

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AHS 2013 SYMPOSIUM UPDATE

Call for Abstracts

The Tucson Chapter of the Arizona Hydrological Society (AHS) is soliciting abstracts for papers and posters to be presented at the AHS 26th Annual Symposium scheduled for September 18-21 at the Doubletree Reid Park Hotel in Tucson, Arizona. The Symposium is a premier event in the Southwest for hydrology and water resources science, engineering, and public policy. AHS solicits descriptions of projects and research from hydrologists, geologists, engineers, planners, water policy and legal professionals, and teachers.

Technical Session & Poster Topics

This year's technical sessions and posters will focus on the following water-related topics for Arizona and the Southwestern U.S.:

- Technical advances in modeling and GIS
- Colorado River issues
- Water issues in the mining industry
- Water quality
- Water infrastructure
- International topics
- Climate change
- Groundwater remediation
- Water-energy nexus
- Surface water / groundwater interaction
- Water law and policy
- Recharge
- Subsidence

- Tribal lands and public lands issues
- Water reuse
- Sustainability
- Watershed management

Submittal Information

The deadline to submit your abstract(s) has been extended to May 15, 2013. Abstracts should be 250 words or less and include title, authorship, and affiliations. Please include a brief biographical sketch of the primary author(s). Contributors will be notified of abstract acceptance on or about June 15, 2013. Abstracts can be submitted electronically to Greg Hess at gheiss@clearcreekassociates.com. Call Greg at (520) 622-3222 or [e-mail him](#) if you have questions.



This year's symposium provides an open forum for professionals and students to exchange information and learn about current activities and advancements in hydrologic sciences. It includes a meet-and-greet, 2 days of plenary sessions, several technical workshops, field trips, and much more.

Revenue generated by the annual symposia is the primary source for funding AHS activities, including our intern and scholarship programs. This revenue also provides the means to reach out to our membership through monthly meetings and educational workshops. The success of our symposium will be a direct reflection of the diversity and knowledge of our participants!

Visit our website at

www.ahssymposium.org/2013

for the latest information on

- Call for Abstracts
- Sponsors and Exhibitors
- Speakers
- Workshops
- Field Trips
- Registration
- Hotel



Doubletree by Hilton Hotel - Reid Park
445 S. Alvernon Way
Tucson, Arizona

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PHOENIX CHAPTER NEWS

Phoenix Chapter Dinner Meeting

The next Phoenix Chapter dinner meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 14, 2013**, at Nello's in Tempe (northeast corner of McClintock & Southern, just north of U.S. Highway 60 (the Superstition Freeway)). Please join us for a beverage, to share business cards, and talk water!

Location: [Nello's](#)
1860 E. Southern Avenue
Tempe, AZ 85282

Event: *Assessing the Water Quality of Arizona's Streams
Using a Probabilistic Survey Design*
Jason D. Jones, Supervisor, Monitoring Unit
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

Chapter Board Meeting: 5:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Happy Hour & Dinner: 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Program: 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Cost: \$15 member, \$20 non-member, \$5 student

RSVP with Michele Robertson at mrobertson@elmontgomery.com or 480-948-7747.

Hope to see you there!

At the May Phoenix Chapter meeting, Jason Jones, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, will give a presentation on two statewide assessments of water quality in wadeable perennial streams in Arizona, completed over the last decade using randomized sample designs.

Jason Jones is the supervisor of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's Monitoring Unit, which is responsible for monitoring all of Arizona's streams, lakes, wetlands and groundwater. He is the EPA Region IX representative on the National Water Quality Monitoring Council. Jason's recent accomplishments include completing the first wetland map for Arizona, establishing surface water quality standards for macroinvertebrates and bottom deposits, and summarizing the results of over 1,400 groundwater samples throughout Arizona.

Abstract:

The Clean Water Act requires states to 'provide a description of the water quality of all navigable waters'. States have traditionally used a targeted approach to assess water quality. EPA and states began using probabilistic or randomized sample designs in 2000 in response to criticisms from the Government Accountability Office regarding the inability of targeted sampling to represent the entire state.

Two statewide assessments of wadeable perennial streams have been completed over the last decade using randomized sample designs. From 2000 to 2004, 47 sites were sampled as part of Western EMAP using EPA protocols. From 2007 to 2009, 50 sites were sampled using ADEQ protocols.

The results of the most recent assessment indicate that approximately 90 percent of Arizona's streams have water quality that is relatively good for farming, irrigation, fish consumption and recreation. In stark contrast, most of Arizona's wadeable perennial streams do not support aquatic life uses. Results indicate that aquatic organisms such as benthic macroinvertebrates are highly stressed by elevated levels of sand and silt, poor habitat quality and turbid water.

The macroinvertebrate, habitat and chemistry results of both statewide assessments will be presented. An emphasis will be made on the strengths and weaknesses of each statewide assessment approach with respect to site reconnaissance failure rates, accuracy of target populations, comparability of results, applicability to state

standards and integration with the 305(b) report.

Future Event Calendar (see also calendar on www.azhydrosoc.org)

~ **Tuesday June 14, 2013**, at SunUp Brewing Company

Brian Betcher, General Manager, Maricopa Stanfield Irrigation & Drainage District

An Irrigation District's Perspective On The CAP & Other Issues

~ **Tuesday July 9, 2013**, at Nello's in Tempe

Guy Carpenter, Carollo Engineers

CAP Update, From A New Board Member's Perspective

~ **No Phoenix Chapter meetings in August or September. Join us at the 2013 AHS Symposium in Tucson, September 18-21, 2013.**

We're starting to plan for presentations at meetings starting in **February 2014**. Please contact [Tom Walker](#), Phoenix Chapter Vice President, if you would like to give us a presentation or if you know anyone else who could use an audience.

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HERMAN BOUWER INTERN SCHOLARSHIP

Extended Deadline for Student Applications: May 16, 2013, 5:00 PM

The Herman Bouwer Intern Scholarship gives students enrolled in a hydrology-related discipline at any Arizona college or university the opportunity to gain practical experience in the multidisciplinary field of hydrology and water resources. Administered by the Phoenix Chapter, this scholarship acknowledges the extensive contributions of Dr. Bouwer to the science of hydrology and to the AHS. Known to many AHS members as "mentor and trusted friend," Dr. Bouwer is a charter member of AHS and the 1996 recipient of the [AHS Lifetime Achievement Award](#). We are honored to have him, a scientist of international stature, in our midst.

Recipients are chosen after a rigorous selection process and serve their internship with employers in the Phoenix area. The Intern is required to complete 200 hours of service with three organizations of his or her choice in government, private industry, and environmental, and water-resources consulting. The employer organizations provide a meaningful training experience that will better prepare the intern for employment in their chosen career goals. A \$3,000 monetary scholarship is included as part of the award.

[E-mail us](#) if you would like more information about the Herman Bouwer Intern Scholarship Program. [You can also download an application by clicking here](#).

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ARIZONA SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR

Each year since 2004, the Arizona Hydrological Society (AHS) and Central Arizona Project (CAP) have awarded \$400 to selected science projects in water, environmental and hydrologic sciences at the Arizona Science and Engineering Fair. I would like to thank DeAnne Rietz of SWCA and Derek McGregor of Freeport-McMoran for their help in judging the projects. The projects were very impressive and reflect a lot of hard work and dedication by the students. Each student will receive an award certificate and a cash award for selected projects will also be awarded as indicated below.

Paul R. Plato, R.G.

Senior Hydrogeologist
Clear Creek Associates

Senior Division:

1st Place: \$200 to S-EV-13-AzSEF-1847 - Stephen Yao, University High School, Tucson, Arizona, for "*An Experimental Study of Vadose Zone Flux Meter*"

2nd Place: \$50 (\$25 each) to S-EM-13-AzSEF-1372 - Yasmine Hassan and Catherine Strickler, Paragon Science Academy, Chandler, Arizona, for "*Watershed Investigation*"

Junior Division:

1st Place: \$50 to J-EV - 13-AzSEF-1527 - Myra Khan, Basis Peoria, Peoria, Arizona, for "How do Oil Spills Effect the Environment?"

Honorable Mention: J-EA-13-AzSEF-1592 - Dayton Larson and Daniel Cunningham, Willis Junior High School, Chandler, Arizona, for "Building Up or Down"

Elementary Division:

1st Place: \$50- E-EV-13-AzSEF-1895 - Lahari Samak, Basis Peoria, Peoria, Arizona, for "Controlling Nitrate Contamination of Groundwater in Arizona"

1st Place: \$50 - E-EA-13-AzSEF-1867 - Michael Hughes, Satori Charter School, Tucson, Arizona, for "Groundwater Recharge"

Honorable Mention: E-EV-13-AzSEF-1106 - Kristine Kayser, Taylor Hicks Elementary School, Prescott, Arizona, for "Is Lake Water Safe to Drink?"

Honorable Mention: E-EA-13-AzSEF-1829 - Julia Kassa, Sonoran Science Academy, Tucson, Arizona, for "Soil Liquefaction by an Earthquake"

Honorable Mention: E-EA-13-AzSEF-1610 - Emma Quintana, Candeo Schools, Peoria, Arizona, for "Seismograph: Whole Lot of Shaking Going On"

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TUCSON CHAPTER NEWS

There will be no regular Tucson Chapter meeting in May. Please contact [Damian Gosch](#) or [Greg Hess](#) if you have any suggestions for upcoming meeting topics.

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FLAGSTAFF CHAPTER NEWS

The next meeting of the AHS-Flagstaff Chapter is planned will be on Thursday 09-May-2013 from 1800 to 2000 MST at Peabody Energy, 3001 W Shamrell Boulevard, Suite 110, (West side of Pulliam Airport), Flagstaff, AZ 86001. There will be three main topics, the first being a special presentation by Mr. Russell (Rusty) Tweed, Executive Director of the Willow Bend Environmental Education Center (<http://www.willowbendcenter.org/index.html>) in Flagstaff. Rusty will present an overview of the Education Center and then we will open the discussion up to members with ideas of how AHS and Willow Bend might work together to meet education and outreach goals and objectives. Following this discussion, there will be a brief discussion about the upcoming AHS-Flagstaff Field Trip to Blue Canyon (see below). Finally, we will finish up with the status of the 2014 Symposium planning efforts. Please contact [Mike Tomlinson](#) for details.

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BLUE CANYON (HOPI NATION) FIELD TRIP (18-MAY-2013)

Thanks to the efforts of the AHS-Flagstaff Secretary, Mr. John Cochran (Peabody Energy), the AHS-Flagstaff Chapter will be sponsoring a unique field trip to Blue Canyon located within the Hopi Nation (attached flier). The tentative agenda will be to meet at the parking lot at Peabody's Southwest Offices (3001 W Shamrell Boulevard, Suite 110, on the west side of Pulliam Airport) at 7:30 am on Saturday (18-May-2013), drive to Kykotsmovi, and meet Norman Honie, our guide, at the store there at 9:00 am. We will then drive to the park and arrive around 10:00 am, and spend several hours there checking things out and perhaps listening to an impromptu discussion or two on the geology and hydrogeology from one or more volunteers.

Our visit to Blue Canyon, which is a Tribal Park, will take the form of a special use permit with conditions that we must meet, such as keeping to existing roads and trails, limited access to other areas of the park, **no photographs**, etc. This permit will allow up to 25 people with 5 to 6 vehicles to participate on a first-come, first-served basis. So please e-mail John Cochran (JCochran@PeabodyEnergy.com) no later than **10-May-2013** if you would like to attend, how many people in your party, your phone number, and if you are willing to drive, how many people you can comfortably accommodate. John will send a confirming e-mail on 11-May-2013.

AHS-Flagstaff will provide cold soft drinks and water for all participants on this field trip. Please bring your own lunch, snacks, additional water, light hiking boots or walking shoes, hat, sun block, and jacket in the event of inclement weather. Also, if you have registered and learn prior to the trip that you cannot attend, please contact John at your earliest convenience. There is no charge for this field trip but we would appreciate people volunteering to carpool with their vehicles.

[Please click here for flyer with additional details!](#)

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OAK CREEK- MORMON LAKE GRABEN FIELD TRIP WRAP UP

Cruisin' the Oak Creek - Mormon Lake Graben

Members and friends of AHS, the Oak Creek Watershed Council, Sustainable Arizona, Friends of Oak Creek and the Verde River Watershed Partnership spent a beautiful spring day cruising the Oak Creek-Mormon Lake graben. The April 20th field trip was led by Paul Lindberg of the Flagstaff AHS Chapter.

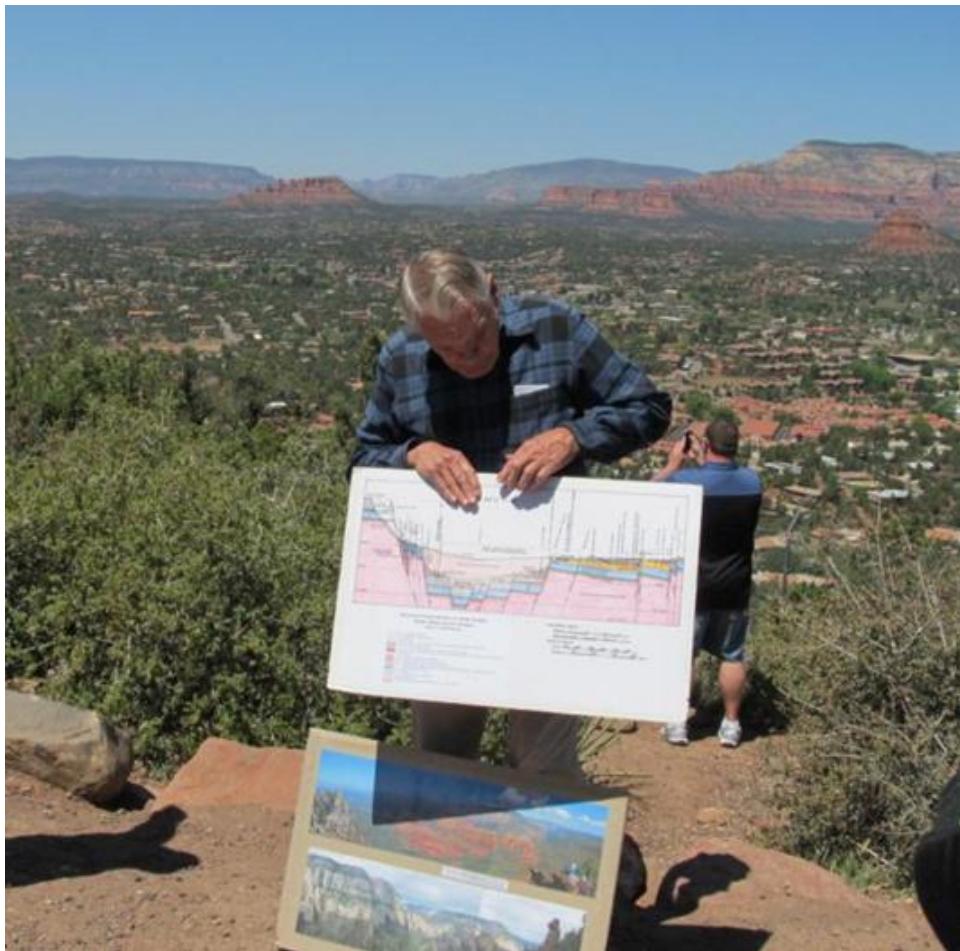
The group spent the day circumnavigating the northern portion of what may be the youngest basin and range graben to dissect the Mogollon Rim. Oak Creek Canyon forms the western margin and Mormon Lake-Lake Mary form the eastern margin of the Oak Creek-Mormon Lake graben. Mormon Mountain and the Miocene basalt volcanics (which form the Highway 17 ramp north of Sedona) lie within the core of this newest graben.

The morning began in chilly Flagstaff, followed by a welcome warm descent into Oak Creek Canyon on Highway 89A. A quick hike along Oak Creek revealed upturned beds of the Schnebly Hill formation.

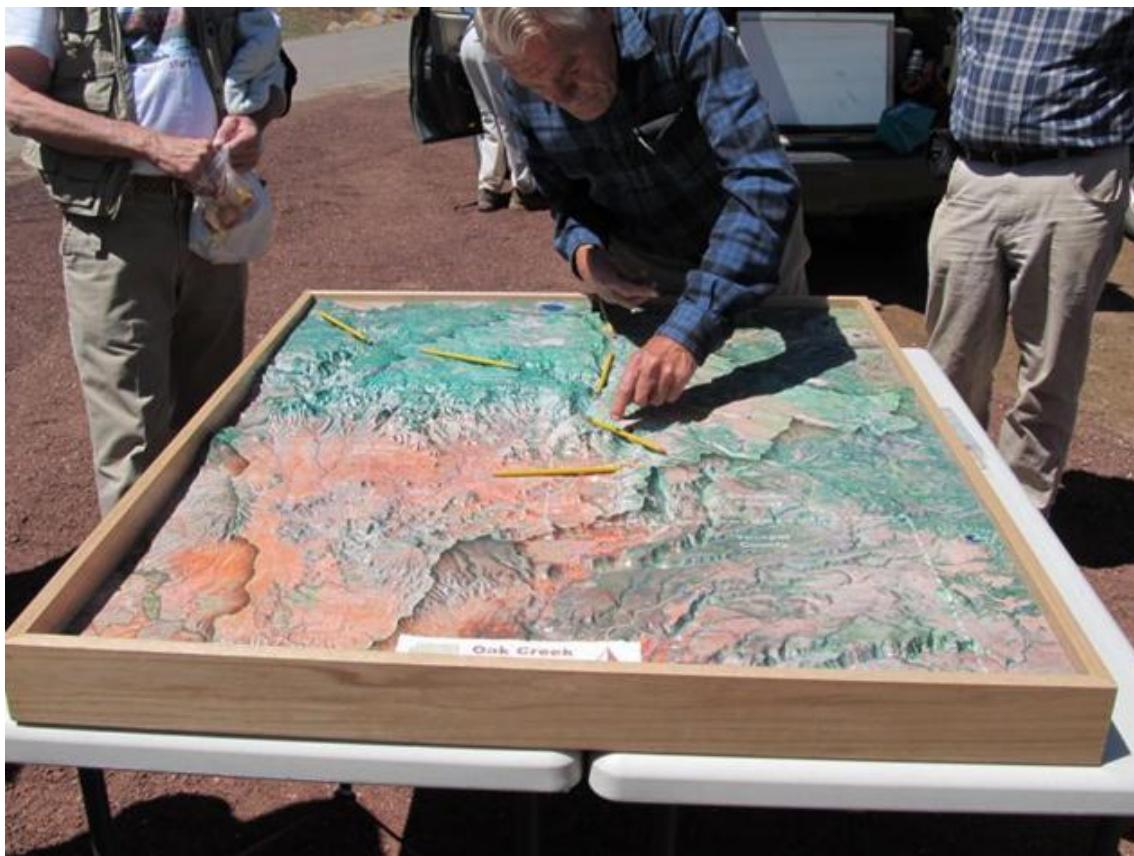


The vertical strata are indicative of Laramide Orogeny reverse faulting. Just to the east of this outcrop, subsequent normal faulting related to basin and range extension has juxtaposed horizontal beds of the Coconino Sandstone against the Schnebly Hill Formation.

The group then traveled to the Sedona Airport mesa where Paul presented a spectacular overview of the genesis of the Verde graben, erosion and drainage reversal of now dry, former river-cut valleys, and the successive development of a series of grabens that dissect the Mogollon Rim.



The group then cruised over to Munds Park, where the Oak Creek Watershed Council (OCWC) presented their wonderful Oak Creek watershed model.



The model was developed as a teaching tool to raise awareness regarding preserving the integrity of the fragile

ecosystem of Oak Creek. Studies have shown that Oak Creek has suffered numerous *E. coli* exceedences over the past 40 years, with little progress made in remediating this threat to human and environmental health. The OCWC is dedicated to maintaining a standard of excellence for watershed stewardship, as well as preserving the integrity of Oak Creek and its tributaries.



The trip culminated at the beautiful Mormon Lake viewpoint, which provides one of the best vantage points of the San Francisco Peaks in northern Arizona.

The Flagstaff Chapter of AHS would like to extend our gratitude to Paul Lindberg for leading the trip and sharing his vast knowledge of this fascinating area. Special thanks also to the Oak Creek Watershed Council, the Verde River Watershed Partnership, the Friends of Oak Creek, and Sustainable Arizona, for their efforts towards raising awareness towards preserving the water sources of life and beauty in northern Arizona.



April 20th Oak Creek-Mormon Lake graben field trip participants.

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HYDRO-NEWS

ARIZONA GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING

Federal lands and mineral resources: Colorado Plateau uranium deposits and the Sonoran Desert Heritage

Jon Spencer
Arizona Geological Survey

Sheraton Tucson Hotel and Suites,
5151 East Grant Road (at the intersection of Grant and Rosemont on the North side of Grant)
in the *Pima Room*, the Pima room is located on the second floor in the
northwest corner of the hotel

Lecture at 8:00 PM
Tuesday, May 7, 2013

Reservations are required for the dinner. Admission to the talk only is free. Please also note that although there is limited surface parking around the hotel, there is ample parking in the garage beneath the hotel.

SCHEDULE: CASH BAR @ 6:00 PM, DINNER @ 7:00 PM, TALK @ 8:00 PM. WITH RESERVATION: MEMBER = \$27.00, GUEST = \$30.00. If you do not have a reservation, an extra \$3.00 will be charged. Also, without reservations you may not get dinner. To make dinner reservations please call the AGS answering machine at (520) 663-5295 or reserve online at <http://www.arizonageologicalsoc.org/meeting-information/dinner-reservations> by 11:00 A.M. on the Thursday before the meeting. Leave name, number of attendees, and whether a vegetarian or low-salt meal is required. This number can also be used for field-trip reservations and leaving messages for Society officers. Please cancel your reservation via the answering machine if you find that you will be unable to attend.

Abstract

Many times during Arizona's 100-year history, federal lands have been reclassified in ways that prevent further mineral exploration and mining. This AGS talk will outline mining and mineral-resource issues associated with a recent federal-land reclassification intended to stop uranium mining in three areas in northern Arizona, and a reclassification that is under consideration that would prevent mining in parts of western Arizona.

A 2012 decision by former U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar to remove a million acres of federal land in northern Arizona from new mining claims for 20 years was based significantly on concerns about contamination of Colorado River water by runoff from areas of uranium mining (none of this land is within the Grand Canyon, which is already protected). More than a thousand circular features on the Colorado Plateau in northwestern Arizona have been mapped as breccia pipes or possible breccia pipes. Some breccia pipes are known to contain economic uranium deposits. Total current and historic production is approaching 15,000 tons of U_3O_8 from about ten pipes. The deposits are typically small, deep, dry, and high grade. The deposits are mined underground and the ore is trucked to Utah for milling. Post-mining restoration involves filling the mine shafts with rubble and restoring the land to its approximate original form. Concerns about contamination of the Colorado River are overblown. Trucks hauling 30 tons of 1% uranium ore (0.3 tons U_3O_8), even if they poured their entire load directly into the river and all the ore dissolved, would add trivially to the natural dissolved-uranium river load of approximately 60 tons per year.

A proposal to withdraw ~750,000 acres (~1170 square miles) of western Arizona federal land from drilling and mining, as currently envisioned in the "Sonoran Desert Heritage" plan, is being prepared for consideration by Congress without evaluation of mineral-resource potential. (The 2001 creation of the 496,400-acre Sonoran Desert National Monument under the Antiquities Act was done without Congressional consent and without an assessment of mineral-resource potential, as was the 2000 creation of Ironwood Forest National Monument which includes 128,700 acres of federal land.) The geology of almost all of the land within the Sonoran Desert Heritage proposal area was mapped by geologists at the Arizona Geological Survey during the past 30 years. An evaluation of mineral resource potential based on mapping and related studies, as well as past mining activity, indicates that the Harquahala - Big Horn Mountains area has high potential for future base and precious metal mineralization, high quality aggregates, and manganese.

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SAVE THE DATE: ARIZONA WATER REUSE CONFERENCE JULY 2013



LOW SNOW LEVELS IN ARIZONA, WEST PORTEND WATER STRUGGLES

By Doug Esser

Associated Press

Sat Apr 6, 2013 9:36 PM

SEATTLE - The mountain snowpack in Arizona is at 40 percent of normal, and the Southwest is in "tough shape" regarding its water outlook for the rest of the year, a specialist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service said Friday.

Washington state is 112 percent of normal and the best in the West, where the average for other states is about 75 percent of normal, said Scott Pattee, who works for the U.S. Department of [Agriculture](#) service in Mount Vernon.

The service compiled reports from measurements taken April 1 - usually the peak time for the mountain snowpack. The "normal" figures are based on 30-year averages.

"The 'so what' on this story is that 70 to 80 percent of surface water in the Pacific Northwest comes from mountain snowmelt," Pattee said.

The snowpack measurement tells utility managers how much power they can expect hydroelectric dams to generate, tells [farmers](#) how much irrigation water they can expect to pour on crops and tells fishery managers whether migrating salmon will have sufficient stream flows.

Other states don't have as much water in the snow bank.

Read more at <http://www.azcentral.com/news/free/20130406low-snow-levels-arizona-west-water-struggles.html>

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NORTHEAST PHOENIX-AREA RESIDENTS FIGHT WATER-COMPANY MANDATE

By Philip Haldiman

The Republic | azcentral.com

Fri Apr 12, 2013 12:49 PM

An unexpected mandate from their water company has upset a number of Northeast Valley residents.

The discontent stems from a recent decision and the manner in which it was issued by the Desert Hills Water System to require certain customers to install a new device to their home's water system. Some customers say the device is not necessary and contradictory to information on the water company's website.

Utility officials say they are only enforcing what has always been on the books.

The Desert Hills Water System, which is owned by Cave Creek and has 1,700 customers, serves portions of unincorporated Maricopa County in the Northeast Valley.

In February, about 200 customers received a letter requiring them to install a backflow preventer to their home's water system within 30 days or their water would be shut off.

The fixture is required to prevent contamination when backflow into the public water system is likely to occur, preventing a health hazard, according to the town.

Officials say that in order to comply with code, customers must have a testable backflow preventer, which prevents cross connection, or the possibility of introducing non-potable water into the potable-water system.

Read more at <http://www.azcentral.com/community/nephoenix/articles/20130404northeast-phoenix-residents-fight-water-company-mandate.html>

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'PREVENTER' FLAP FORCES RETURN OF CAVE CREEK WATER BOARD

By Philip Haldiman

The Republic | azcentral.com

Mon Apr 22, 2013 9:12 AM

Customers of a Northeast Valley water company who have felt underrepresented in the utility's decisions scored a victory at the Cave Creek Town Council meeting this week.

After customer opposition to the Desert Hills Water System's mandate for some customers to install a backflow preventer to their home's water system, the council has voted to reinstate the Cave Creek Water Advisory Committee, which was dissolved last year.

The preventer has been priced at up to \$1,000 for parts, installation and labor - causing a panic in many customers, who have said their voices haven't been heard since the panel was dissolved.

The Desert Foothills Water System is owned by the town of Cave Creek and serves 1,700 customers.

Town officials say the Water Advisory Committee was dissolved because of lack of attendance.

However, Desert Hills resident Barbara Middleton, who has spearheaded the push to resurrect the committee, said, "It's basically been taxation without representation."

Read more at <http://www.azcentral.com/community/scottsdale/articles/20130416prevention-flap-forces-return-cave-creek-water-board.html>

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SLIDE ROCK RESTROOM IN PLAN TO CUT HUMAN WASTE

by **Associated Press** - Thur Apr 25, 2013 6:47 AM

SEDONA - The Oak Creek Watershed Council has been awarded a grant to build a restroom near Slide Rock where poor water quality has led to shutdowns of the tourist area.

The water problems at Slide Rock in Oak Creek largely are due to improper trash disposal and human waste. The amount of E.coli bacteria in Oak Creek has reached 500 times what the state says is acceptable in the past.

The \$253,000 grant from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality will go toward a restroom near Midgley Bridge, which is north of Sedona on U.S. 89A. The department says more than 400,000 tourists a year access hiking trails from that parking area.

The grant also will fund 20 pet waste stations, and a video and guidebook on pollution.

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CAVE CREEK THIRSTY FOR WATER FROM CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT

By **Philip Haldiman**

The Republic | azcentral.com

Fri Apr 26, 2013 9:28 AM

Cave Creek is jumping at the chance for an allocation of Central Arizona Project water that is being made available to Arizona municipalities.

Utilities Manager Jessica Marlow said the town is applying to the Arizona Department of Water Resources for 1,300 acre-feet of Central Arizona Project water at a cost of \$1,388 per acre-foot.

Marlow said the price is a good deal - an acre-foot can cost multiple thousands of dollars. The Department of Water Resources is expecting to get so many applications that most municipalities will probably get less than what they request, she said.

"We should take advantage of this opportunity now that we have it," Marlow said. "There will be a rush of people applying for this water. If we get half of what we ask for, I'd be happy."

In 2004, the Arizona Water Settlements Act and the Arizona Water Settlement Agreement provided for the reallocation of about 96,000 acre-feet of Central Arizona Project water. This water has been reallocated to the Arizona Department of Water Resources and is now being made available to Arizona municipalities.

The town's two water companies - Desert Hills Water Company and Cave Creek Water Company - provide water services to Cave Creek as well as parts of Carefree and unincorporated Maricopa County in the Northeast Valley.

Read more at <http://www.azcentral.com/community/scottsdale/articles/20130423cave-creek-thirsty-water-from-central-arizona-project.html>

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TREAT WATER LIKE BLOOD

By **Editorial board**

The Republic | azcentral.com

Mon Apr 29, 2013 7:52 AM

You turn on the faucet. What if there were no water?

You drive to a riparian area. What if the river were dry?

This desert state luxuriates in water from provided by nature and remarkable engineering. Dams and the Central Arizona Project keep the water flowing.

The promise, the intent of water experts and politicians is to continue that flow.

But Arizonans should pay attention to the costs and consequences of water usage.



The non-profit group American Rivers recently named the Colorado as the nation's "most endangered" river. This was an echo of a federal report from months earlier.

There is no shortage of Colorado River water now, the state's water experts tell us.

But demands on the Colorado, the lifeblood of the Southwest, will exceed the supply by 3.2 million acre-feet by 2060 if population grows as expected. This is according to the Bureau of Reclamation's Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study, released in December. An average household uses an acre-foot of water in a year.

The report involved Arizona and the other six Colorado River Basin states that sink their straws into the mighty river. It called for coordinated and cooperative long-term planning among all users to avert shortages.

The ideas under discussion range from conservation to desalination to bringing flood waters from the Mississippi River.

Really? The Mississippi? It's probably no more fanciful an idea than the Central Arizona Project was at its inception. But it is predicated on the belief there's always water to bring from somewhere.

Read more at <http://www.azcentral.com/opinions/articles/20130425treat-water-like-blood.html>

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GRAND CANYON URANIUM MINING SET TO GO AHEAD DESPITE BAN FROM OBAMA

Energy Fuels Resources has federal approval to reopen its mine six miles south of the canyon's South Rim entrance

*Leslie Macmillan [guardian.co.uk](#)
Tuesday 30 April 2013 07.39 EDT*

Uranium [mining](#) on the doorstep of the Grand Canyon national park is set to go ahead in 2015 despite a ban imposed last year by Barack Obama.

[Energy Fuels Resources](#) has been given federal approval to reopen its [old Canyon Mine](#), located six miles south of the canyon's popular South Rim entrance, which attracts nearly 5 million visitors a year.

The Canadian company says that the [Obama administration's ban on new hard-rock mining over 1m acres](#) doesn't apply because its rights date from when it closed over 20 years ago.

However, its approval is based on an environmental study the US Forest Service conducted more than 25 years ago, in 1986.

Several environment groups - including the [Grand Canyon Trust](#), the [Sierra Club](#) and the [Centre for Biological Diversity](#) - and the [Havasupai tribe](#) filed suit in March [against the Forest Service](#), arguing that the study is badly outdated.

Curtis H Moore, a spokesman for [Energy](#) Resources, disagrees. "The Forest Service looked at that review with modern eyes and determined that it's adequate. And 1986 was not that long ago. These are [tiny mines](#) - about 20 acres."

Read more at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/apr/30/grand-canyon-uranium-mining>

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FLAGSTAFF MOVES FORWARD ON THE WATERSHED PROTECTION PROJECT

By Clark Mindock Special to the Daily Sun

April 30, 2013 11:48 am



The Hardy Fire scorched southeast of Flagstaff in June of 2010, drawing dangerously close to several neighborhoods and forcing Flagstaff Fire Department officials to implement mandatory evacuations. Luck would have it that forested areas around the Little America hotel had been treated to diminish fire intensity, allowing firefighters to contain the fire that had, at one point, jumped across a nearly eighth of a mile Rio De Flag drainage. After several days, when firefighters had containment in their sight, the

Hardy fire's big sister peeked out as black smoke rising above mountains to the north--- the Schultz fire had begun it's run.

The days that followed serve as a sharp reminder of the devastation forest fires can present. Nearly 50 homes northeast of the city were damaged by the subsequent flooding and 15,000 acres of forest were destroyed. City of Flagstaff officials, realizing the necessity of forest treatments near the city to avoid a more disastrous repeat of the Schultz fire, began a public awareness campaign in 2012 that culminated in the passage of proposition 405 in November to allocate \$10 million of taxpayer money on what is now known as the Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project (FWPP).

Read more at http://azdailysun.com/news/local/flagstaff-moves-forward-on-the-watershed-protection-project/article_80695e24-b1c6-11e2-b3e9-001a4bcf887a.html

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<http://www.azhydrosoc.org/>

Membership may be renewed by credit card through the AHS website or by mailing a check to the Arizona Hydrological Society, P.O. Box 1882, Higley, AZ 85236. Dues remain at \$45.00 year for regular membership and \$15.00 for students. Please remember that your 2011 membership was included in the 2010 Symposium registration fee!

