

WEEKLY WAVE



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH CENTER



August 23, 2024 / Volume 12, Issue 20

The Water Resources Research Center - a research unit of the [College of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences](#) and an Extension unit in [UA Cooperative Extension](#) within the Division of Agriculture, Life & Veterinary Sciences & Cooperative Extension. [Land Acknowledgement.](#)

[WRRC Office Update](#)

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2024 marks the 60th anniversary of the Water Resources Research Center at the University of Arizona. Find out [more](#).

IN THIS ISSUE: 2024 Photo Contest, GRA Opening, Welcome Wildcats, USDA, Tribal Water, Border 2025

[GIVE NOW](#)

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS



WRRC 2024 PHOTO CONTEST WATER IN ARIZONA

WRRC 2024 Photo Contest: Water in Arizona

Calling all photographers! The WRRC is excited to announce its 2024 Photo Contest. This year, we are returning to the broader contest theme—*Water in Arizona*. We invite you to showcase your talent by capturing anything from nature and wildlife to industry and agriculture, including people at play and work. It's totally up to you—just make sure that all images somehow relate to water and are in Arizona. Categories include People/Pets, Nature/Wildlife, and The Built Environment. This year's Special Category is "Borders." We encourage you to use the theme of WRRC's 2025 Annual Conference, *Shared Borders, Shared Waters: Working Together in Times of Scarcity*, to inspire your photographs. Photo submissions to the "Borders" category can be from any location. Winners will be announced at the 2025 Chocolate Fest in February (date TBD) and winning photographs will be featured on the WRRC website. Photo Contest images will be used in WRRC publications and other outreach materials. The deadline to submit photos is December 20, 2024. Additional information and contest eligibility/criteria can be found on our website. We look forward to seeing your amazing photos!

- [Photo Contest Info](#)
- [Submit Your Photo\(s\)](#)
- [Rules & Guidelines](#)
- [2023 Contest Winners](#)

2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SAVE
the
DATE

WRRC 2025 Annual Conference

May 20–21

**SHARED BORDERS
SHARED WATERS**

Working Together in Times of Scarcity

EVENTS

WRRC Water Webinar: Using Green Stormwater Infrastructure Projects to Develop Partnerships, Address Stakeholder Needs, and Build to Future Work

Date: Tuesday, Sep 24, 2024



Time: 12:00 pm–1:15 pm Arizona Time

Location: [Webinar Only](#)

Speakers:

Garland Speight, *Project Manager, Water Resources Research Center*

Todd Pryor, *Town Manager, Town of Superior, Arizona*

Raluca Mihalcescu, *Water Conservation Coordinator, Arizona Water Company*

Jim Schenck, *Treasurer, Rebuild Superior & Vice President, Legends of Superior Trail*

This WRRC Water Webinar will describe how the Town of Superior and associated stakeholders have used the Coleman Alley Green Stormwater Infrastructure Project to help develop partnerships and address water issues on the Queen Creek. Panelists will provide a brief history of watershed restoration work efforts for the Queen Creek near the Town of Superior, how this group of partners won funding for this Green Stormwater Infrastructure Pilot Project, and the status of project implementation. Partner presentations will provide perspectives on how stakeholder (e.g., community, agencies, NGO) interests were incorporated into planning, highlighting the co-benefits of this project for water conservation, flood control, and climate change mitigation. The presentation will conclude with a brief description of how this project has helped build a foundation for future successes, including recent funding awards that will advance Queen Creek Restoration Planning efforts.

[Register Here](#)
[More Info](#)

Upcoming WRRC Events

- **May 20–21, 2025:** [WRRC 2025 Annual Conference: Shared Borders, Shared Waters: Working Together in Times of Scarcity](#)

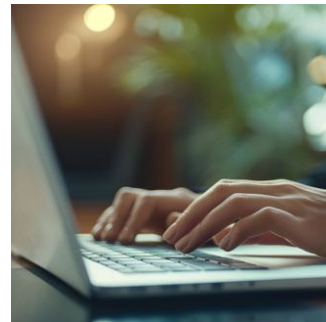
Other Events

- **Sep 9–10:** [12th Annual Tribal Water Law Conference](#)

NEWS

Graduate Students, the WRRC Needs You!

The Water Resources Research Center (WRRC) is seeking a Graduate Research Assistant to support our stakeholder outreach and engagement efforts. The WRRC acts as a bridging organization between academia and water managers throughout the state, providing stakeholder outreach, facilitation, and research to support communities in their water management efforts. From working with university academics to performing independent research (e.g., interviews, literature reviews, GIS analyses, and other types of research activities), the WRRC supports science- and data-based decision making in communities throughout the state. Under the direction of staff, the student will help coordinate and facilitate meetings and workshops, including identifying additional stakeholders, assisting with meeting logistics, taking notes and actions, and performing research in support of answering community questions. The WRRC uses a co-productive approach for community assistance, working iteratively with partners and stakeholders to answer pressing water questions. The student



may also assist with interviews, survey development, data analysis, literature reviews, and other tasks used to address stakeholder needs. The student will also contribute to WRRC communication efforts on our community engagement work (e.g., write short stories for the *Weekly Wave*). For a better understanding of programs, please navigate through <https://wrrc.arizona.edu/programs> to learn more about the communities and partners with whom the WRRC works. Additionally, new projects and new opportunities are being developed.

[Continue Reading](#)

Welcome Back, Wildcats!

Welcome, new and returning Wildcats, to the 2024–2025 academic year! Classes begin on Monday, August 26, and the University of Arizona campus is already bustling with activity. We hope you are all rested and refreshed; ready to learn and do more amazing things this year. For many, the beginning of a semester brings excitement and eagerness to start something new. The WRRC will be welcoming new graduate students, AmeriCorps members, and collaborators to its team this fall. We look forward to seeing both new and returning faces around campus and invite students to participate in the WRRC's fall events. Subscribe to our *Weekly Wave* newsletter and visit our website to stay up-to-date on all our activities and programs. We wish everyone a successful and fulfilling semester!



- [Subscribe to the Weekly Wave](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [WRRC Website](#)

USDA Announces Water Savings Commodity Program

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced new funding to support irrigation districts and producers in implementing water-saving practices and technologies. The USDA will invest \$400 million with at least 18 irrigation districts across the West. With an anticipated 50,000 acre-feet of water savings across 250,000 acres of irrigated land, the Water Savings Commodity Program seeks to create sustainable new market opportunities and help farmers continue commodity production while conserving valuable water resources. The irrigation districts preliminarily selected for potential participation in the program include two in Arizona: the Central Arizona Irrigation and Drainage District and the Maricopa–Stanfield Irrigation and Drainage District. Additional districts may be identified for inclusion later depending on funding availability. Preliminarily selected districts may receive up to \$15 million each from the Water Savings Commodity Program, and will then enter into sub-agreements with participating producers in the irrigation district. Farmers and other producers will receive payments in exchange for voluntarily reducing their water usage while maintaining commodity production. A statement from the Maricopa-Stanfield Irrigation and Drainage District noted that the District “is pleased to be working with USDA to implement practices and projects that save water and improve efficiencies at a time when the historic drought in the southwest has put so much pressure on our agricultural producers. Investing in agriculture is an



investment in America.” USDA is also working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs on a subsection of the program that would fund up to \$40 million for similar water conservation efforts on Tribal lands, with additional information to be announced in the coming weeks.

[More Info](#)

Historic Actions Taken to Settle Arizona Tribal Water Rights



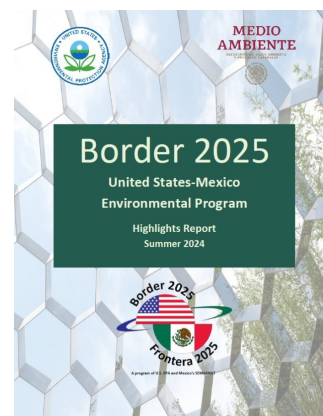
One more Arizona Tribal water rights settlement reached the US Congress in August. The Yavapai-Apache Nation Water Rights Settlement Agreement has joined the recently signed Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Agreement awaiting congressional ratification. Both agreements settle long-outstanding Tribal claims to water and provide the means to bring secure supplies of water to Tribal communities and businesses. Resolution of these claims required complex negotiations on a series of issues, including inter-Tribal agreements and the reversal of state policy linking water rights with trust lands. There were 17 parties to the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Agreement, which dealt with the water rights of the Navajo Nation, Hopi, and San Juan Southern Paiute; 39 parties representing interests in the Verde Valley worked to reach agreement with the Yavapai-Apache Nation. The settlements include provisions relating to multiple water supplies, water governance, substantial funding for infrastructure, and waivers of some previously asserted rights, among others. In addition, they required some major policy adjustments, which may also facilitate water rights agreements for the six remaining Tribes lacking complete settlements. More details can be found in the news articles linked below.

Image: Yavapai-Apache Nation Chairwoman Tanya Lewis and Director Buschatzke and members of the Yavapai-Apache Nation delegation and representatives of Arizona water users

- [AZ Central Article](#) (Yavapai-Apache Nation Water Settlement)
- [AZ Central Article](#) (Navajo Nation Water Settlement)
- [ADWR Article](#) (Tribal Water Rights Settlements)

Border 2025 Environmental Program Releases Binational Highlights Report

On July 18, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Mexico’s Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources released the Border 2025 mid-term Highlights Report, which summarizes the binational Border 2025 program’s recent efforts, including more than 50 projects from 2021–2023. Border 2025 is the latest US-Mexico environmental program implemented under the 1983 La Paz Agreement. Its guiding principles emphasize regional approaches to decision-making and prioritization, encouraging meaningful participation from communities and local stakeholders to address environmental and public health problems. Improving water quality is one of the program’s four primary goals, which also address air pollution, materials and waste management, and hazardous chemical risks. This report highlights the Border 2025 program’s accomplishments thus far and recognizes future challenges.



- [Read the Highlights Report](#)
- [About Border 2025](#)
- [EPA Press Release](#)

WATER JOBS & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

WRRC Seeks AmeriCorps Members for Outreach

The WRRC is seeking part-time AmeriCorps service members with interest and experience in communications, water, and/or environmental topics to assist with our varying outreach programs. [Apply Here](#)

The WRRC is a Host Institution for the Accelnet PEER2PEER 2024 Fellowships

The Accelnet PEER2PEER program seeks non-US-based graduate students, postdocs, and researchers to complete fellowships focused on transboundary water resource management from Fall 2024 through Spring 2025. Fellows will spend 2–4 weeks at a host lab participating in ongoing work while also exploring their own interests under the guidance of lab directors and staff. The deadline to apply is August 30. [Apply Today](#)

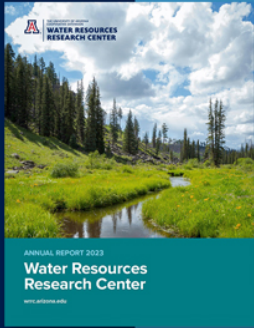

- Bureau of Reclamation [Project Manager](#)
- Illinois State Water Survey [Director and Principal Research Scientist](#)
- Santa Cruz Watershed Collaborative [Watershed Coordinator & Planning Lead](#)
- University of Guam [Assistant Professor — Wastewater Scientist](#)
- University of Minnesota Water Resources Center [Extension Educator — Urban Stormwater](#)

Please visit [WRRC's website](#) for a complete listing of water jobs and opportunities.

NOTICES, PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA

THE WRRC 2023 ANNUAL REPORT AND HIGHLIGHTS NOW ONLINE

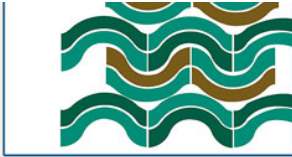
[Learn More](#)



CALL FOR PAPERS

Water Scarcity Solutions for Irrigated Agriculture in the Warming Western U.S.



Extended to Nov. 1, 2024

Submission Info

Register Now for Free Online Registration to World Water Week 2024!

[World Water Week 2024](#) (Aug 25–29) is centered on water cooperation, for peace and security in its broadest sense. The theme, *Bridging Borders: Water for a Peaceful and Sustainable Future*, asks us to recognize the regional and global interconnectivity of communities and nations, and underscores the collaborative effort needed to achieve a peaceful and sustainable future. [More Info](#)

2025 Operating Conditions for Lakes Powell & Mead

The Bureau of Reclamation has released the Colorado River Basin [August 2024 24-Month Study](#), which determines the operating tiers for the coordinated operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead for 2025. [More Info](#)

New Western Water Article on Photovoltaic Shades

“Solar-Paneled Canopies Over Canals Catching on in Southwest” excerpt: An intensifying but unseen force is stealing precious water from rivers in the arid West, but it’s hardly a thief in the night. The midday sun is one of the more aggressive guzzlers of the Colorado River. Between its high Rockies headwaters and its Sonoran Desert delta, 1 to 2 million acre-feet of water evaporates each year in the Colorado River Basin.

[Read More](#)

Waterloop Episode: Tracking Evapotranspiration From Space

Managing water resources effectively is crucial, especially in regions facing scarcity and drought. The OpenET platform, developed through collaboration between NASA, the Environmental Defense Fund, and other partners, offers a groundbreaking solution by leveraging satellite data to measure evapotranspiration. [Play the Episode](#)

Water Leadership Institute: Community Without Boundaries

The Water Leadership Institute invites the next generation of water leaders 18+ to explore water challenges in their communities and beyond. Through hands-on engagement and knowledge exchange, participants can develop leadership skills, learn about water careers, and contribute to conversations about water advocacy and community care. The application deadline is September 16. [More Info](#)

Registration Open for 2024 AWRA, UCOWR, NIWR 60th Anniversary Joint Conference

Join the American Water Resources Association, the Universities Council on Water Resources, and the National Institutes for Water Resources in bringing together a professional community of 60 years! Attendees from each organization will have a unique opportunity to experience higher-level networking, engagement, and learning through the theme *Celebrating the Past and Planning for the Future of Water*. [Register Here](#) The Early Bird Deadline is September 10. [More Info](#)

CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [Aug 23: ABWC 2024 Annual Meeting & Water Conference: Murky Water in Arizona](#)
- [Aug 25–29: World Water Week 2024: Bridging Borders: Water for a Peaceful and Sustainable Future](#)

- **Aug 30:** [Arizona Water Protection Fund FY2025 Grant Cycle – Application Deadline](#)
- **Aug 30:** [Accelnet PEER2PEER 2024 Fellowships – Application Deadline](#)
- **Sep 9–10:** [12th Annual Tribal Water Law Conference](#)
- **Sep 9–11:** [NSS National Conference: Innovation, Implementation, and Workforce Development for Sustainability](#)
- **Sep 10:** [2024 AWRA, UCOWR, NIWR 60th Anniversary Joint Water Resources Conference – Early Bird Deadline](#)
- **Sep 16:** [Rural Groundwater Resilience Workshops – Submission Deadline](#)
- **Sep 16:** [PEER2PEER Seminar Series: Transboundary Water Governance and the Colorado River](#)
- **Sep 16:** [AIDA Webinar: Cooperating Over Shared Freshwater Resources Using International Law](#)
- **Sep 16:** [Water Leadership Institute: Community Without Boundaries – Application Deadline](#)
- **Sep 17:** [USGS Western Geographic Science Center Seminar – “The Root Zone as a Reservoir For Plants and Streams” with Dr. Dana A Lapides](#)
- **Sep 24:** [WRRC Water Webinar: Using Green Stormwater Infrastructure Projects to Develop Partnerships, Address Stakeholder Needs, and Build to Future Work](#)
- **Sep 30–Oct 2:** [2024 AWRA, UCOWR, NIWR 60th Anniversary Joint Water Resources Conference: Celebrating the Past and Planning for the Future of Water](#)
- **Oct 11:** [2025 UCOWR/NIWR Annual Water Resources Conference – Special Session Proposal Deadline](#)
- **Oct 17:** [Imagine a Day Without Water](#)
- **Oct 21:** [ASU Flow 2024: A Water Year Event for Researchers and Practitioners](#)
- **Nov 1:** [Water Scarcity Solutions for Irrigated Agriculture in the Warming Western U.S. Manuscript – Submission Deadline](#)
- **Feb 24–26, 2025:** [NIWR 2025 Annual Conference – Save the Date!](#)
- **Apr 28–30, 2025:** [AWRA 2025 Spring Conference: Development Risks & Challenges in Changing Climate Conditions](#)
- **May 20–21, 2025:** [WRRC 2025 Annual Conference: Shared Borders, Shared Waters: Working Together in Times of Scarcity](#)
- **Jun 3–5, 2025:** [2025 UCOWR/NIWR Annual Water Resources Conference](#)
- **Jul 8–11, 2025:** [One Water Summit 2025](#)

Do you have a story idea, water job announcement, or event to share?

[Contact us here](#)

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