

WEEKLY WAVE



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

**WATER RESOURCES
RESEARCH CENTER**



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

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IN THIS ISSUE: EarthWeek, Brown Bag Recap, WTI, APW, WAM, Little Free Pantry



Student-Led Symposium Celebrating EarthWeek

Earth Day is an annual event that takes place on April 22 and strives "to diversify, educate and activate the environmental movement worldwide." In celebration of Earth Day, we reflect on EarthWeek, a student-led symposium held March 25-April 2. Every spring, graduate students in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences (SEES) participate in EarthWeek. SEES is comprised of the departments of Environmental Science, School of Natural Resources and the Environment, Geosciences, Hydrology and Atmospheric Sciences, School of Geography and Development, Arizona Institutes for Resilience, Accelerator Mass Spectrometry Laboratory, and the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research. This year, 37 students shared their research on wide-ranging topics such as water resources, geoscience, environment and society, ecology, weather and climate, and soil

physics. The event also included a live Lightning Talk competition with graduate students participating from each department. The virtual round-table discussions on "Environmental Racism 101" and "What Does it Mean to Be an Environmental Scientist" were well-attended and stimulated engaging discussions. Although EarthWeek was primarily virtual, it included two socially-distanced events in the field in which 50 SEES students joined forces to clean up a section of the Tucson Arroyo Chico Wash and remove invasive fountain grass from the Saguaro National Park.

[Watch EarthWeek Lightning Talks](#)
[More About EarthWeek](#)

EVENTS

Brown Bag Webinar - OpenET – Filling One of the Biggest Data Gaps in Water Management

Date: Wednesday, May 5, 2021

Time: 12:00 pm-1:15 pm MST

Location: [Webinar Only](#)

Speaker:

Robyn Grimm, *Senior Manager - Water Information Systems, Environmental Defense Fund - Western Water Program*



Sustainable water management is one of the most challenging issues of our time, especially in the arid western US. Maximizing the benefits of water supplies requires careful measurement of availability and use. However, one important information gap is compounding this challenge: the lack of consistent consumptive water use data for irrigated agriculture, which accounts for the majority of water use in the western US. To date, access to this data has been limited and expensive, keeping it out of the hands of most water users and decision-makers who could benefit from its use. OpenET aims to change this and support sustainable water management and innovation in water conservation. This talk will provide an introduction to the OpenET platform and the approach taken to its development and will demonstrate a few of its applications.

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

Upcoming WRRC Events

May 19: [Water Solutions for Our Warmer World series, Episode 3: The Realities of Adaptation in the Water Sector](#)

May 24-26: [International Arid Lands Consortium Virtual Conference Addressing the Environmental Challenges of Arid Lands](#)

Aug 30-Sep 1: [WRRC 2021 Annual Conference: Tribal Water Resilience in a Changing Environment](#)



NEWS



Reclaimed Water Opportunities for Tucson

On Wednesday, April 14, the WRRC hosted John Kmiec, Tucson Water Interim Director, for a Brown Bag webinar entitled “Tucson Water’s Reclaimed Water System: Providing the Right Water for the Right Use for Nearly 40 Years.” The presentation began with an overview of the legal context that gave the City of Tucson the right to 90% of the recycled water generated by its residents. In 2020, recycled water represented 12% of the city’s portfolio, Colorado River water made up 82%, and remediated groundwater, 6%. Recycled water is delivered through 173 miles of purple pipelines to more than 1,000 customers to irrigate golf courses, school fields, and parks. Recycled water is also used for managed aquifer recharge - the process of storing water in aquifers for later recovery. This method allows for the natural treatment of water as it percolates into the aquifer.

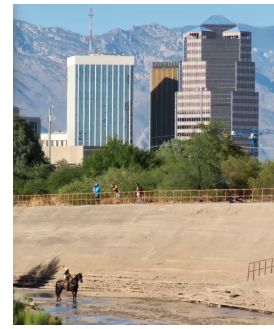


Photo: Michael Thomas Bogan

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Policy Brief on Tribal Water Rights

The Water & Tribes Initiative (WTI), a project of the Center for Natural Resources & Environmental Policy at the University of Montana, released its fourth policy brief on tribal water in the Colorado River Basin. “[The Status of Tribal Water Rights in the Colorado River Basin](#)” provides a comprehensive overview of the historical and legal context of the Basins’ 30 federally recognized tribes’ water rights. According to the brief, 22 tribes in the Basin hold recognized rights to 3.2 million acre-feet of Colorado River water annually, constituting 20-26% of the Basin’s average annual supply. The brief presents informative tables summarizing both recognized and unresolved water rights of the tribes in the Upper and Lower Basins. The [third](#) and fourth policy briefs from WTI seek to inform ongoing water management discussions as federal and state representatives, sovereign tribes, and other stakeholders negotiate the management framework that will replace the 2007 Interim Guidelines. On April 27, a webinar presented by the Getches-Wilkinson Center Natural Resources, Energy, and the Environment at the University of Colorado Boulder will feature members of the WTI leadership team for a discussion of the briefs and the role of tribes in “advancing a sustainable vision for the Colorado River.”



[Water & Tribes Initiative Briefs](#)
[GWC Webinar Flyer](#)



AZ Environmental Teams Strategize to Solve Shortages

"We can go the distance" was the theme for Trivium students from Goodyear participating in this year’s Arizona Envirothon. And they did just that, winning the competition! Trivium coach Kelly Briggs noted how incredibly motivated her students were to take part in a competition that promotes the environment, science, and engaged learning in this truly

odd year. This year's competition theme was "Water Resources Management: Local Control & Local Solutions." Environmental science students from around the state proposed a series of water conservation strategies to preserve long-term water supplies for a hypothetical Arizona community. A plan to use water-saving technologies in municipal, industrial, and agricultural applications won the day for Trivium.



[Read More](#)

Fun Facts About AZ Water Use

April is Water Awareness Month (WAM), and the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) has a website devoted to information and activities that promote "Arizona's success in managing its water resources" and "encourage Arizonans to be conscious of every precious drop." The WAM website is nestled within the content-rich [Arizona Water Facts](#) site, which provides a wealth of Arizona water resources and information. Speaking of interesting Arizona water facts, in their April 19 newsletter, ADWR published an article answering the question, "How Many Homes in Arizona, on Average, Share an Acre-Foot of Water Each Year?" According to the article, over the last several months, various news stories included statements about the number of households an acre-foot of water supplies, ranging from an average of one to two homes. Digging into this question, ADWR researchers found that an acre-foot of water supplies as many as *three* Phoenix-area households, on average. This number increases to 3.5 when including data from all five of Arizona's Active Management Areas. While there are many variables at play in this statistic, ADWR partially credits residents who are conservation-minded, highlighting the value of educational water information and campaigns such as WAM.



- [WAM Website](#)
- [Arizona Water Facts](#)
- [ADWR Article](#)

WRRC Staff Member Helps Tucson Community

One of our newer team members, Rose Veneklasen, who joined the WRRC last August, volunteered to have a Little Free Library (LFL) installed on her property in 2019. When the pandemic hit last year, she chose to convert her LFL to a Little Free Pantry (LFP) due to the potential health risks of sharing books and to better serve her community during this difficult time. Over the past year, she has become more resourceful in coming up with ways to keep her LFP stocked and wants to thank those who have donated non-perishable food and hygiene items to keep things running. Her intention is to eventually return to sharing books, however, she feels she will likely function as both library and pantry in the future. Reporter Shawndrea Thomas of KGUN 9 News recently contacted Rose to ask about her LFP – the link to the video and story is below.



[Rose's LFP on KGUN 9](#)

WATER JOBS

City of Buckeye [Water Education and Conservation Specialist](#)

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Apr 23-Apr 29:** [Programming for Geospatial Hydrological Applications](#)
- **Apr 24:** [Rio Earth Day Salt River Cleanup](#) (Rio Earth Day Cleanup Week Apr 17-24)
- **Apr 25-May 9:** [Re-envisioning the Middle East Ecosystem: Desert Ecology and Environmental Diplomacy](#)
- **Apr 29:** [Joint Colorado River Shortage Preparedness Briefing](#)
- **Apr 30:** [NWRI Fellowship Program 2021 – Application Deadline](#)
- **May 5:** [UCOWR 2021 Virtual Roundtable Series: Green Infrastructure for Stormwater Management](#)
- **May 10-12:** [International Conference on Water Energy Food and Sustainability](#) (ICoWEFS 2021 - Leiria, Portugal)
- **May 18-20:** [11th International Conference on Sustainable Water Resources Management: Effective Approaches for River Basins and Urban Catchments](#) (Milan, Italy)
- **May 18-20:** [French American Innovation Days: Facing the Predictably Unpredictable](#)
- **May 19:** [5MP Agricultural Subgroup Meeting](#)
- **May 19:** [Water Solutions for Our Warmer World series, Episode 3: The Realities of Adaptation in the Water Sector](#)
- **May 21:** [30th Annual Desert Horticulture Conference](#)
- **May 24-26:** [International Arid Lands Consortium Virtual Conference Addressing the Environmental Challenges of Arid Lands](#)
- **May 26-27:** [Problematic Groundwater Contaminants: More than PFAS Forum](#)
- **Jun 1:** [2021 Central Arizona Project Award for Water Research – Application Deadline](#)
- **Jun 4:** [Global Environmental Sciences Summit](#)
- **Jun 8-10:** [UCOWR/NIWR Annual Water Resources Conference](#)
- **Jun 14-17:** [ACE21 - Registration Open](#)
- **Jun 22-23:** [WEF SWI Stormwater Summit 2021](#)
- **Jun 22-23:** [Fate of PFAS: From Groundwater to Tap Water](#)
- **Jul 1:** [Women in Water Scholarship - Application Deadline](#)
- **Jul 19-21:** [AWRA 2021 Virtual Summer Conference Connecting Land & Water for Healthy Communities - Registration Open](#)
- **Aug 30-Sep 1:** [WRRC 2021 Annual Conference, Tribal Water Resilience in a Changing Environment](#)
- **Sep 13-15:** [GRA 4th Annual Western Groundwater Congress](#)
- **Sep 15-17:** [2021 AHS Symposium](#)
- **Oct 20-21:** [The Third International Congress on Desert Economy: Energy Economics between Deserts and Oceans](#) (Dakhla, Morocco)
- **Oct 21:** [Imagine a Day Without Water](#)
- **Nov 1-5:** [AIWW 2021: Connect & Act to Make Water Work – Save the Date](#)
- **June 14-16, 2022:** [UCOWR 2022 Annual Water Resources Conference – Save the Date](#)
- **Sep 11-15, 2022:** [IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition - Water for Smart Liveable Cities](#) (Copenhagen)

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