

WEEKLY WAVE



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH CENTER



October 13, 2023 / Volume 11, Issue 28

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.](#)

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IN THIS ISSUE: Call for Abstracts, Saudi Land Leases, Imagine a Day Without Water, APW, TAAP, Planet Forward

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**WRRC Invites Abstracts for
2024 Annual Conference**

The WRRC 2024 Annual Conference, *Implementing Water Solutions Through Partnerships*, will be held March 12–13 at the University of Arizona Student Union. This year's conference program will focus on *how* solutions to Arizona's water resources concerns are being realized. Throughout the state and region, many in our communities are hard at work implementing solutions to a wide range of water challenges. Come join the conversation to share and learn about how we work together to solve some of our most critical water resource issues. The WRRC is inviting abstracts for conference presentations and posters describing efforts that implement solutions to Arizona's water resources challenges. In 2024, we seek to highlight projects that emphasize cooperation, coordination, and collaboration. For instructions on submitting abstracts, including information on the thematic categories for this year's call, follow the link below. Abstracts are due by November 17, 2023.

Image: Clayton B. Lyon. WRRC AmeriCorps Member Courtney Lee presents her poster at the WRRC 2023 Annual Conference.

[Submit an Abstract](#)

EVENTS

WRRC 2024 Annual Conference

*Implementing Water Solutions
Through Partnerships*

**SAVE MARCH
THE
DATES 12-13**



USGS Drought Science Tribal Engagement Event Series: Open House at UArizona – Co-sponsored by the WRRC

Date: Monday, October 16, 2023

Time: 2:00 to 5:00 pm MST

Location: UArizona ENR2 Courtyard (The Canyon), 1064 E Lowell St, Tucson, AZ 85719



Come meet and talk with USGS scientists about drought science and explore career paths! Scientists, handouts, and other resources will be available for you to learn more about drought science research at the US Geological Survey. Learn more about different perspectives and career paths at the USGS including the Office of Tribal Relations, Ecology, Hydrology, GIS, Natural Resource Management, Wildlife, and more! Learn more about USGS partners at UArizona and their work with Tribal Nations.

[More Info](#)

Building Benson Water Resilience – Co-sponsored by the WRRC

Date: Thursday, October 19, 2023

Time: 5:00 to 7:30 pm MST

Location: Cochise College Benson Center, 1025 Arizona
90 Benson, AZ 85602



Interested in learning more about how communities are adapting to water challenges? Join the upcoming water conversation in Benson, Arizona! Hosted by the WRRC and Cochise County Cooperative Extension's Water Wise program, the event will cover how water availability in an arid climate has shaped agriculture, land and water management, as well as conservation strategies being applied locally. Featured speakers include local residents presenting on regenerative agriculture and groundwater use myths and best practices with additional representation from local organizations like The Nature Conservancy and Kartchner Caverns State Park. Come join us for dinner and an evening highlighting local water!

[Register Here](#)

Upcoming WRRC Water Webinars

Time: 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Arizona Time

Oct 23: [Empowering Arizona's Water Resource Management: Navigating Equity, Economic, and Ecological Challenges with Cutting-Edge Decision-Support Tools](#)

Speaker: Abu Mansaray, PhD, *Research Project Manager, Oklahoma Water Resources Center, Division of Agricultural Science and Natural Resources, Oklahoma State University*



Oct 31: [Advancing Water Sustainability: A Vision for Research and Engagement at the University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center](#)

Speaker: Jamie McEvoy, PhD, *Associate Professor of Geography, Department of Earth Sciences, Montana State University*

Nov 2: [Capacity, Performance, and Collaborative Planning in Water Governance](#)

Speaker: Emily Bell, PhD, *Assistant Professor of Public Administration and Policy, School of Public and International Affairs, University of Georgia*

Upcoming WRRC Events

Oct 30: [ENVS Colloquium Series Featuring Dave White, Director, Global Institute of Sustainability and Innovation, Arizona State University – Co-sponsored by the WRRC](#)

Nov 7: [NVIS Fall 2023 Seminar: From Metal Mining to Data Mining: How Indigenous Data Governance Supports Indigenous Sovereignty Within an Open Science Ecosystem – Co-sponsored by the WRRC](#)

Nov 28: [WRRC Water Webinar: 104\(b\) Student Research Presentations – Save the Date!](#)

Nov 30: [WRRC Water Webinar: 104\(b\) Student Research Presentations – Save the Date!](#)

Dec 5: [NVIS Fall 2023 Seminar: Culture, Education, and Water Sovereignty in Southern California Tribal Communities – Co-sponsored by the WRRC](#)

Other Events

Nov 6–7: [Tribal Water Law Conference](#)

NEWS

AZ Moves to Terminate Saudi Farms' Land Leases

On October 2, Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs announced that the state is terminating state land leases to a Saudi-owned company. This move will prevent the company, Fondomonte Arizona, from pumping what Hobbs described as “unchecked amounts” of groundwater in the drought-stricken state to grow water-intensive alfalfa to support the dairy industry in Saudi Arabia. According to the announcement, the Arizona State Land Department is moving to immediately terminate one lease covering 640 acres of land and has decided not to renew three other leases when they expire in February of next year. Collectively, the leases cover 3,500 acres in Butler Valley, west of Phoenix. For years, land planners have raised concerns about the best use of groundwater in the Butler Valley basin. Butler Valley is one of three groundwater transportation basins in the state, where Arizona law allows groundwater to be transported to an initial Active Management Area. Despite the lease terminations, this is not the end of Fondomonte in Arizona. The company owns land in Vicksburg and has a separate lease of state-owned land in the area. Fondomonte also has the option to appeal the lease cancellation, according to a letter sent to the company by the State Land Department.



[Washington Post Article](#)

Imagine a Day Without Water: National Day of Action

On October 19, 2023, the US Water Alliance will be recognizing its 9th annual campaign for *Imagine a Day Without Water*. This year, the WRRC will be participating by sharing a data-driven story on Arizona’s water security in the October 20 *Weekly Wave*. Stay tuned! More than two million Americans have little or no access to clean running water. To combat this reality, the US Water Alliance created the *Imagine a Day Without Water* national education campaign, which includes nationwide events, resolutions, student contests, social media advocacy, and more to promote investment in reducing water insecurity. Organizations can sign up to participate using the campaign’s resources to inform communities about the importance of local and regional water systems. Ways to participate include engaging on social media, hosting an event for your community, and bringing the campaign to the



classroom. There are multiple resources for these actions under the resources tab on their website linked below. To learn more about the value of water, we recommend the 2021 National Geographic film, *The Water Crisis*, which is free to watch on YouTube.

- [Imagine a Day Without Water](#)
- [The Water Crisis Documentary](#)
- [US Water Alliance](#)



APW Offers Opportunities to Join their Team

Every year Arizona Project WET (APW) engages thousands of educators, schoolchildren, and community members, developing water stewards through student-centered instruction and Arizona-specific content. APW is on the ground in multiple counties throughout the state, bringing the UArizona and stakeholder-driven programs to the people. In partnership with local water providers, APW delivers advanced, objective-focused curricula to classrooms and the broader community.

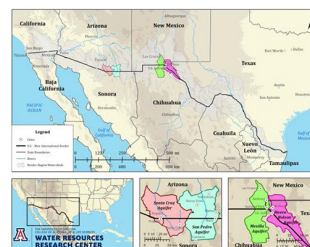


Are you an experiential, environmental educator who's ready for a new water-based adventure? Are you excited to meaningfully engage curious learners while having fun in and around Tucson, Arizona? If so, consider joining APW as a [Community Outreach Professional II](#) (APW Coordinator). Would your current team describe you as a thoughtful, encouraging, hard-working leader? If so, consider applying for this supervisory position as a [Community Outreach Professional III](#). APW Coordinators are part of a dynamic, purposeful team that collaborates with local, regional, and state partners and educational communities to further the understanding and conservation of our water resources. APW tells Arizona's water story.

[Community Outreach Professional II](#)
[Community Outreach Professional III](#)

AZ and NM Representatives Introduce Bill to Reauthorize TAAP

Last week, US Representatives Juan Ciscomani of Arizona and Melanie Stansbury of New Mexico introduced legislation to reauthorize the Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Program (TAAP). Originally authorized in 2006 by the Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Act, TAAP is a collaboration between the USGS Arizona Water Science Center, Water Resources Research Institutes at the University of Arizona (WRRIC), the University of New Mexico, and Texas A&M, and partner universities and agencies in Mexico. TAAP supports binational research on the quantity, quality, and security of groundwater in border communities. In a press release, Representative Ciscomani asserted, "This legislation will allow the crucial research between our countries to continue, ultimately benefitting water security in both the United States and Mexico." Emphasizing the importance of this work, WRRIC Director Sharon B. Megdal noted, "Because groundwater cannot be seen, studies or assessments are needed so that water users have information about groundwater quantity and quality." She



says continuing research “will provide critically important information about the reliability of the groundwater supplies on which border communities depend.”

[Press Release](#)

[TAAP](#)

WRRC Meets with Planet Forward College Students from Around the Country

Guest Author: Kevin Bonine, Director of Education and Outreach, Biosphere 2

The University of Arizona is a Pillar consortium member of Planet Forward, engaging diverse college students from across the country who use storytelling, media, and educational events to tell the stories of innovation that can move our planet forward. A group of ten Planet Forward students, some from UArizona and others from around the country, convened in Southern Arizona in early October to learn firsthand about the future of food, water, and local communities in the face of a changing climate. Their short time in the region included visits to the Bayer crop production facility in Marana and to Biosphere 2, where they learned about research in the Landscape Evolution Observatory (LEO), using a Freight Farm vertical container food production facility, and Agrivoltaics. Students also engaged in conversations with campus experts including WRRC Director Sharon B. Megdal and Michael Johnson, faculty in the School of Natural Resources and the Environment and Hopi farmer. The students asked probing questions and shared their interdisciplinary perspectives on solving the world’s greatest environmental challenges. One of the exciting initiatives of the UArizona and Planet Forward partnership is the Indigenous Correspondents Program (ICP), created to empower the next generation of Indigenous scholars to share environmental stories and resilient solutions of relevance around the world. Several of the Planet Forward students participating in the recent visit are part of the ICP cohort. Look for their stories soon on Planet Forward’s website.



Image: Kevin Bonine

[Planet Forward](#)

[ICP](#)



WATER JOBS

- City of Mesa [Water Conservation Specialist](#)
- Oklahoma Water Resources Center [Senior Research Specialist](#)
- San Francisco Estuary Institute [Resilient Landscapes Program Director](#)
- UArizona (APW) [Community Outreach Professional II](#)
- UArizona (APW) [Community Outreach Professional III](#)
- Washington State Dept of Health [Senior Hydrogeologist](#)

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Oct 13:** [US Water Alliance One Water Summit 2023 – Final Registration Deadline](#)
- **Oct 14:** [Avondale Tres Rios Cleanup](#)
- **Oct 16:** [USGS Drought Science Tribal Engagement Event Series: Open House at UArizona – Co-sponsored by the WRRC](#)
- **Oct 17:** [Governor's Water Policy Council Assured Water Supply Committee Meeting](#)
- **Oct 18–19:** [Southwest Vegetation Management Association Fall 2023 Conference: Habitat Enhancement Along Arizona's River Corridors](#)
- **Oct 19:** [CAP Board Meeting](#)
- **Oct 19:** [University of Arizona Field Day](#)
- **Oct 19:** [Building Benson Water Resilience – Co-sponsored by the WRRC](#)
- **Oct 19:** [Imagine a Day Without Water](#)
- **Oct 20:** [Arizona Game and Fish Department Community Planting Event](#)
- **Oct 21:** [19th Annual Research Insights in Semiarid Ecosystems \(RISE\) Symposium](#)
- **Oct 23:** [WRRC Water Webinar – Empowering Arizona's Water Resource Management: Navigating Equity, Economic, and Ecological Challenges with Cutting-Edge Decision-Support Tools](#)
- **Oct 23:** [BSMAR18 — Abstract Submission Deadline](#)
- **Oct 25:** [Water Education Foundation's 39th Annual Water Summit: Taking on the Improbable in Western Water](#)
- **Oct 27:** [Arizona Water Protection Fund Fiscal Year 2024 Grant Applications – Deadline to Submit Public Comments](#)
- **Oct 30:** [ENVS Colloquium Series Featuring Dave White, Director, Global Institute of Sustainability and Innovation, Arizona State University – Co-sponsored by the WRRC](#)
- **Oct 31:** [WRRC Water Webinar: Advancing Water Sustainability: A Vision for Research and Engagement at the University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center](#)
- **Nov 1:** [Arizona Sustainability Alliance 2023 Sustainability Celebration: Tree Equity](#)
- **Nov 2:** [WRRC Water Webinar: Capacity, Performance, and Collaborative Planning in Water Governance](#)
- **Nov 2:** [Driving Towards Sustainable Water Management: Challenges and Strategies for Water Utilities](#)
- **Nov 3:** [Estrella Mountain Regional Park Pollinator Garden Planting Event](#)
- **Nov 4:** [Tree Planting Event at City of Tempe Public Schools](#)
- **Nov 5–9:** [AWWA Water Quality Technology Conference](#)
- **Nov 6–7:** [Tribal Water Law Conference](#)
- **Nov 6–8:** [AWRA 2023 Annual Water Resources Conference](#)
- **Nov 6–9:** [Amsterdam International Water Week 2023](#)

- **Nov 7:** [NVIS Fall 2023 Seminar: From Metal Mining to Data Mining: How Indigenous Data Governance Supports Indigenous Sovereignty Within an Open Science Ecosystem – Co-sponsored by the WRRRC](#)
- **Nov 14–16:** [US Water Alliance One Water Summit 2023](#)
- **Nov 16:** [ASU Flow 2023: A Water Year Event for Researchers and Practitioners](#)
- **Nov 28:** [WRRC Water Webinar: 104\(b\) Student Research Presentations – Save the Date!](#)
- **Nov 30:** [WRRC Water Webinar: 104\(b\) Student Research Presentations – Save the Date!](#)
- **Dec 5:** [NVIS Fall 2023 Seminar: Culture, Education, and Water Sovereignty in Southern California Tribal Communities – Co-sponsored by the WRRRC](#)
- **Dec 5–7:** [AWWA North American Water Loss Conference & Exposition](#)
- **Dec 11–15:** [AGU23: Wide. Open. Science](#)
- **Dec 13–15:** [2023 Colorado River Water Users Association \(CRWUA\) Annual Conference](#)
- **Dec 15:** [WRRC 2023 Photo Contest: Water Scarcity & Extreme Weather – Submission Deadline](#)
- **Dec 30:** [Water Quality Research Foundation – Poster Submission Deadline](#)
- **Jan 1, 2024:** [RiversEdge West 2024 Conference – Poster Presentation Abstract Deadline](#)
- **Jan 9, 2024:** [Desert Agriculture Research Symposium on Soil Health – Save the Date!](#)
- **Jan 22–24, 2024:** [Growing Water Smart: Integrated Water and Land Use Planning Workshop](#)
- **Feb 11–13, 2024:** [AWWA/WEF Young Professionals Summit](#)
- **Feb 26–28, 2024:** [Water Resources Management & Sustainability: Solutions for Arid Regions 2nd International Conference](#)
- **Feb 27–29, 2024:** [2024 Southwest Adaptation Forum – Save the Date](#)
- **Mar 5–7, 2024:** [RiversEdge West 2024 Conference – Restoration for the Future: Promoting Resilience in Our Rivers and Communities](#)
- **Mar 10–16, 2024:** [National Groundwater Awareness Week](#)
- **Mar 11–14, 2024:** [AWWA WateReuse 2024 Symposium](#)
- **March 12–13, 2024:** [WRRC 2024 Annual Conference – Save the Date!](#)
- **Mar 25–27, 2024:** [AWRA 2024 Geospatial Water Technology Conference](#)
- **Apr 3–6, 2024:** [BSMAR18](#)
- **Apr 8–10, 2024:** [AWRA 2024 Spring Conference](#)
- **Jun 10–13, 2024:** [AWWA 2024 Annual Conference & Expo \(ACE24\): Transforming Our Water Future](#)

PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA

Arizona Irrigation Leader Magazine Releases October 2023 Issue

In this month's cover interview, Sharon Megdal, the director of the University of Arizona's Water Resources Research Center, shares some interesting insights from the university's new report, *The Future of Agriculture and Food Production in a Drying Climate*. [Read the Full Issue](#)

OTHER NOTICES

University of Arizona Field Day

You are invited to participate in the University of Arizona Field Day on October 19, 2023, from 7:30 am – 11:00 am at the Campus Ag Center in Tucson to rate plants in the

UArizona Landscape Plant Irrigation Trial. This trial evaluates plant material to identify low water-use plants for Arizona. Space is limited. Please [RSVP here](#). A reminder along with a map to the site will be sent by email the week of the event.

Arizona Growing WaterSmart Workshop

There are openings remaining for the January Growing WaterSmart workshop (GWS), and the Sonoran Institute is accepting additional team applications through October 20. This workshop brings water and land use decision-makers in your community together as a team to collaborate on long-term water security. Gain or enhance a range of public engagement, planning, communication, and policy tools to ensure your team can realize its water conservation, watershed health, and community resilience goals. [Apply Here](#)

Apply to Host the Southwest CASC!

Qualified organizations are invited to apply to host and, as applicable, serve as consortium partners for the North Central and Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Centers (CASCs). Proposals are due February 1, 2024, by 4 pm ET. [More Info](#)

Coalition Update: Water Utility Service Area Boundaries

Last year, the [Environmental Policy Innovation Center](#) (EPIC), SimpleLab, and the [Internet of Water Coalition](#) released a provisional national map of drinking water service area boundaries to support the design and implementation of water and climate programs at the federal, state, and community levels. In eight months, they built a high-quality understanding of where 173 million people — i.e. more than half of the US population — get their water. Since that launch, they have been encouraged by the level of interest in this data — and the commitment from partners across academia, technology providers, and the public sector to improve the data. [Learn About the Project](#) or [Read the Update](#).

Water Quality Research Foundation: Call for Poster Submissions

Interested in drinking water quality? Undergraduates through postgraduates can submit to the first-ever Water Quality Research Foundation Poster Competition, intended to stimulate research concepts for students of environmental, engineering, education, or other science-related fields. The featured categories are research and community projects/education. The Top 2 finalists will earn travel reimbursement and hotel accommodations and present their findings at the annual Water Quality Association's Convention in Orlando, Florida on March 5, 2024. Questions and completed submissions should be sent to Foundation@wqrf.org. The submission deadline is December 30, 2023. [More Info](#)

Do you have a story idea, water job announcement, or event to share?
[Contact us here](#)