

WEEKLY WAVE



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

**WATER RESOURCES
RESEARCH CENTER**



October 22, 2021 / Volume 9, Issue 31

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.](#)

[WRRC Office Update](#)

[View as Webpage](#)

IN THIS ISSUE: Reflections, After the Fire, WRRC Presentation, APW, Agricultural Conservation, EPA-BOSC



**Reflections: On the Meaning of
Indigenous Water Resilience**

Prior to the WRRRC's 2021 Annual Conference, *Tribal Water Resilience in a Changing Environment*, I penned an essay entitled "On the Meaning of Water Resilience." The concept of resilience is ubiquitous in conversations and the literature on water challenges. I questioned whether any of the commonly used definitions captured the Indigenous view of resilience. I highlighted key words from some of the cited definitions: adapt, reorganize, capacity, functions, sustainable, lifestyle, future. I noted: "Water resilience is not only about supply. It is about how the natural and human-connected systems live with the water. Perhaps a term to think about is coexistence: how we as humans co-exist with our natural water systems. Our ability to be resilient requires us to think about this co-existence in everything we do, including how we build and design our communities and their structures." And I invited the reader to attend the conference, held virtually August 30 through September 1, 2021.

[Read More](#)

EVENTS

The Case for Better Planning

Date: Tuesday, Oct 26, 2021

Time: 12:00 - 1:15 pm MST

Location: [Webinar Only](#)

Speaker:

Richard N. Morrison, *Retired Attorney; Co-Founder of the Morrison Institute for Public Policy*



Quite often events described as "Black Swans" are really not quite that. They are more like grey swans—almost black, but not quite. In other words, there are some hugely important events in life that are disproportionate in their effects but not entirely foreseeable.

There are at least three water-related examples that come to mind; events in Arizona that were almost Black Swan events, and the moral to the story in each case seems to be that we can always do a better job of planning and should try to do so.

In this presentation, Richard Morrison will discuss an example from Pinal County in some detail.

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

Upcoming WRRRC Events

Oct 29-30: [After the Fire Public Meeting](#)

Nov 10: [Brown Bag Webinar: 104\(b\) Grant Program – Student Research Presentations](#)

Sarah E. Abney, *PhD Candidate, Dept. of Environmental Science, W.E.S.T. Center*
Ammon F. Cadogan, *Water Resources Engineer, Craftwater Engineering*

Nov 17: [Water Solutions for Our Warmer World – Episode 6: Biodiversity, Water, and Climate Change in the Southwest](#)

Nov 19: [Brown Bag Webinar: Making Sense of the COP26 Climate Talks – Reporting Back from the Field](#)

Betsy Wilkening, *President, Polar Educators*

Kristen Poppleton, *Senior Director of Programs, Climate Generation*

Dec 6: [Brown Bag Webinar: The Evolution of the Water Sector in Israel: The Role of Mekorot, the National Water Company of Israel](#)

Diego Berger, PhD, *Coordinator of International Projects, Mekorot*

NEWS

After the Fire: A Public Meeting October 29-30

This year, the Telegraph and Mescal Fires impacted hundreds of lives and charred over 250,000 acres of land in central Arizona. Driven by persistent drought and exacerbated by extreme temperatures, the fires burned across Pinal and Gila Counties and San Carlos Apache Reservation, damaging dozens of structures, and causing evacuations of multiple communities. Following containment, the record monsoon season triggered floods and debris flows that threatened property and lives. Despite these hardships, natural disasters have a way of binding communities together, creating opportunities for collaboration toward recovery and resilience. On October 29 and 30, the public is invited to Bullion Plaza Cultural Center & Museum in Miami, AZ to hear from natural resource managers and community leaders about the short and long-term impacts of the fires on the landscape and watershed. The Cobre Valley Watershed Partnership is hosting this event in collaboration with Bullion Plaza Cultural Center & Museum, US Forest Service, the WRRRC, and UArizona Cooperative Extension.



[Read More](#)

Colorado River Basin Presentation Available

A 20-minute presentation, *Tackling Wicked Water Problems in the Transboundary Colorado River Basin*, is available for viewing on the WRRRC website. This recorded keynote presentation was to be shown at a conference in Morocco on October 20, 2021.

Announcement of postponement of the in-person conference arrived a few days after the recording was submitted. Due to the high interest in the low-flow conditions of the Colorado River locally, nationally, and internationally, WRRRC Director Sharon Megdal is making the recorded presentation and slides freely available. A written supplement to the presentation is Dr. Megdal's August 2021 *Reflections*, "[Adapting to a Drier Future](#)." Feel free to distribute to your networks or assign to students!



[View the Presentation](#)



Meet APW's New Tucson AmeriCorps Members

Each year, AmeriCorps offers opportunities for adults of all ages and backgrounds to serve through a network of partnerships with local and national nonprofit groups. The APW program coordinators work with AmeriCorps members to ensure the delivery of quality programs to their constituents. Please join APW in welcoming four new Tucson AmeriCorps members to its team.



[Read More](#)

Paying Farmers Not to Grow

In a new water conservation program, farmers in Southern California are paid to leave some of their fields unplanted. Water that would be used to irrigate the fields is left in the Colorado River (in Lake Mead), helping to slow the decline of the critical reservoir. The program, funded by the US Bureau of Reclamation, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Southern Nevada Water Authority, and the Central Arizona Project (CAP), will pay \$38 million to farmers over the course of three years and is estimated to result in three feet of additional water in Lake Mead. In a recent article from the LA Times, Chuck Cullom, manager of Colorado River programs at CAP says, “We all share the river, we all share the risk. As the system becomes more vulnerable, we need all of the sectors to work together.” As fields are fallowed, the payments farmers receive provide stable income that is not subject to price volatility. CAP is also supporting a similar program in Arizona. Farmers are supplied with drip irrigation systems that use significantly less water to irrigate a field. A pilot project in 2020 with the Colorado River Indian Tribes tested the drip irrigation system on 40 acres of sorghum. The result was that the crop used half the water and was of slightly higher quality. CAP has expanded the program to include more acreage in 2021 and plans further development going forward.



Image: USBR

[LA Times Article](#)
[Drip Irrigation in AZ](#)

EPA Seeks Nominations for Committee of Scientific Advisors

EPA is seeking nominations for experts to serve on the Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC), which advises EPA's Office of Research and Development. The BOSC is composed of distinguished non-EPA scientists, engineers, and economists who are experts in their fields. The EPA Administrator appoints members for a term of up to six years. They serve as Special Government Employees for the purpose of providing independent expert advice to EPA. In May 2017, however, the federal administration began implementing its decision to suspend EPA's BOSC, announcing that the contracts of more than half of its 18 members would not be renewed. Currently, BOSC operates under a charter stating that the committee will be composed of approximately 20 members and will meet approximately two to three times a year. According to its announcement, “EPA will consider nominees from industry, business, public and private research institutes or organizations, academia, government (federal, state, local, and tribal) and non-government organizations, and other relevant interest areas.” Nominations are being accepted until November 12, 2021.



Individuals and organizations can nominate themselves or others via the [BOSC website](#). More information on the expertise sought and selection criteria can be found at [Federal Register: Request for Nominations of Experts to the EPA Office of Research and Development's Board of Scientific Counselors](#).

WATER JOBS

- State of Montana, Dept of Natural Resources & Conservation [Water Rights Bureau Chief](#)
- Global Water Resources [Water Resources Specialist](#)

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Oct 23:** [Avondale Tres Rios Cleanup](#)
- **Oct 26:** [WRRC Brown Bag Webinar: *The Case for Better Planning*](#)
- **Oct 28:** [ASU Kyl Center for Water Policy at Morrison Institute Webinar: *Groundwater Level Changes in Arizona*](#)
- **Oct 29-30:** [After the Fire Public Meeting](#)
- **Oct 31:** [AWRA 2022 Spring Conference – Call for Topical Sessions Deadline](#)
- **Nov 1-5:** [AIWW 2021: *Connect & Act to Make Water Work*](#)
- **Nov 8-10:** [AWRA 2021 Annual Water Resources Conference](#)
- **Nov 10:** [UCOWR Fall 2021 Virtual Roundtable Series: *Communicating Agricultural Irrigation Research to Stakeholders*](#)
- **Nov 10:** [WRRC Brown Bag Webinar: 104\(b\) Grant Program – Student Research Presentations](#)
- **Nov 12:** [EPA Accepting Nominations for Board of Scientific Counselors – Deadline](#)
- **Nov 15:** [Arizona Growing Water Smart Workshop – Application Deadline](#)
- **Nov 17:** [Water Solutions for Our Warmer World – Episode 6: *Biodiversity, Water, and Climate Change in the Southwest*](#)
- **Nov 18:** [A Meeting of Sacred Waters \(*Te Huinga Wai Tapu*\)](#)
- **Nov 19:** [Brown Bag Webinar: *Making Sense of the COP26 Climate Talks – Reporting Back from the Field*](#)
- **Nov 20:** [17th Annual Research Insights in Semiarid Ecosystems \(RISE\) Symposium](#)
- **Dec 6:** [WRRC Brown Bag Webinar: *The Evolution of the Water Sector in Israel: The Role of Mekorot, the National Water Company of Israel*](#)
- **Dec 7-8:** [2021 NGWA Groundwater Summit](#)
- **Dec 9:** [UCOWR Fall 2021 Virtual Roundtable Series: *Remote Sensing and Consumptive Use Measurement*](#)
- **Dec 13-17:** [AGU Fall Meeting Session H057: *Groundwater Response to Climate Change and Variability*](#)
- **Dec 17:** [WRRC 2021 Photo Contest: *Aridity, Shortage, and Resilience – Submission Deadline*](#)
- **Feb 23-24, 2022:** [The Third International Congress on Desert Economy: *Energy Economics between Deserts and Oceans \(Dakhla, Morocco\)*](#)
- **Mar 1-3, 2022:** [Arizona Growing Water Smart Workshop](#)
- **Mar 8-10, 2022:** [GCSE 2022 Virtual Conference](#)
- **Apr 11-15, 2022:** [11th International Symposium on Managed Aquifer Recharge](#)
- **Apr 24-27, 2022:** [AWRA 2022 Spring Conference: *Water Risk Under a Rapidly Changing World - Evaluation & Adaptation*](#)

- **Jun 14-16, 2022:** [UCOWR/NIWR 2022 Annual Water Resources Conference](#)
- **Sep 11-15, 2022:** [IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition - *Water for Smart Liveable Cities* \(Copenhagen\)](#)

OTHER NOTICES

[The Phoenix Water Wrangler Institute Program is Recruiting Conservation Volunteers](#)

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

[Contact us here](#)

Visit our Website