

# 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

[WRRRC Office Update](#)

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**IN THIS ISSUE:** Reflections, Honoring Veterans, Gila Topminnow, Climate Assessment, APW-Water Conservation, Miguel Moreno, River Rights



**Reflections: The Importance of Dialogue,  
Process, and Participation**

I write this after participating in the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) annual conference, which was held November 9-11, 2020. Though delivered virtually, the highly engaging conference had all the richness and much of the structure of an in-person event in terms of schedule and sessions, as can be seen by visiting the [conference website](#). Alongside the live plenary and featured panel sessions were topical sessions, which were a combination of pre-recorded presentations and live question and answer discussions. I congratulate the conference committee and staff for making the complex pivot to virtual delivery. As an AWRA board member, I contributed in a limited way: In addition to the interactive panel I organized on Wicked Water Problems, I recommended two University of Arizona (UArizona) colleagues, Dr. Diana Liverman and Dr. Karletta Chief, as speakers for two other panels. Now that the conference is over, I am struck by how our three distinct panels addressed some of the same fundamental issues of dialogue, process, and participation. However, before I address some key take-aways, I will offer comments on the conference experience itself and, given that I am involved in planning multiple conferences, invite you to share with me ([smegdal@arizona.edu](mailto:smegdal@arizona.edu)) some of your experiences with virtual conferences now that we are eight months into the COVID-19 pandemic.

Animas River Before and After the Gold King Mine Spill of 2015.

Photo: modified from <https://images.app.goo.gl/Wx8ueh4wjs4eK9T99>

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## HONORING VETERANS

To honor the very special veteran in our household, I thought that I'd share this photo. A few years ago, the Maricopa VFW attended a Veteran's Day Celebration at the Legacy School in Maricopa, Arizona. While we were there, a sweet little girl came up to my husband Jack and asked if he was a veteran. When he said he was, she saluted him – and I was lucky enough to be ready with the camera. I love this photo, and I am so proud of my husband, who served two tours in Vietnam as an Air Force medic.



*by Jean E. McLain*

11/11/2020

## WRRC EVENTS

### **Brown Bag Webinar: *Southwestern Navajo Rural Water Appraisal Study***

**Date:** Wednesday, November 18, 2020

**Time:** 12:00 - 1:15 p.m.

**Location:** [Webinar](#)

**Speaker:** Kevin Black, Sr., *Planning Program Manager, US Bureau of Reclamation - Phoenix Area Office*

The Bureau of Reclamation, in cooperation with the Navajo Department of Water Resources, completed a regional water resource investigation in the southwestern Chapters of the Navajo Nation. Federal partners, local Chapter representatives, private contractors, and a health care steering committee collaborated over two years to complete a comprehensive plan to develop water to meet domestic and commercial demands. This presentation will include the qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection used and highlight the public/Tribal/private partnership organized to complete a report of findings.



[Register for the Webinar](#)

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## Upcoming Webinars

### **Dec. 2 – *Balancing Water for People and Nature: The Upper San Pedro River***

Scott Deeny, *Arizona Water Program Lead, The Nature Conservancy*

Holly Richter, *Arizona Water Projects Director, The Nature Conservancy*

### **Dec. 9 - *Balancing Environmental, Municipal, and Agricultural Needs in the Edwards Aquifer: A Farmer's Perspective***

Adam Yablonski, *President, Comanche Creek Farms*

### **Jan. 14, 2021 – *Transferring Water in Arizona***

Patrick J. Cunningham, *Public Affairs Consultant and General Counsel, HighGround*

Michael J. Pearce, *Partner, Gammage & Burnham*



## NEWS

### **Gila Topminnow Returns to Downtown Tucson**

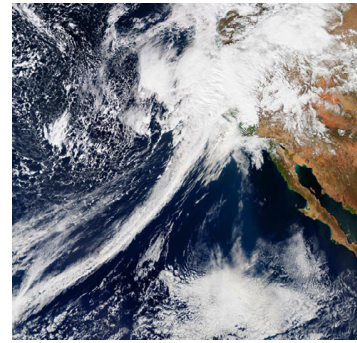
“It’s a win for the city of Tucson, a win for wildlife and the environment, and it’s a win for the river,” said Tucson Mayor Regina Romero as she reintroduced the Gila topminnow into a section of the Santa Cruz River in downtown Tucson last month. Although the diminutive fish has been found in other stretches of the Santa Cruz River on October 26, the Santa Cruz River Heritage Project made history by returning the endangered Gila topminnow to a section of the river it has not swum for over 100 years. Michael Bogan, an aquatic biologist at UArizona, said, “this is what we have been dreaming about the last year and a half” since Tucson Water began pumping reclaimed water into the river channel to restore riparian habitat and recharge the aquifer. Not only does this reintroduction mark an important step toward the restoration of the endangered species, but the Gila topminnow also plays an important role in the overall health of the riparian ecosystem. According to Bogan, the fish will help eat mosquitos and serve as a food source for birds and other wildlife.



## Experiences of a National Climate Assessment Author

*The US Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) has announced a call for author nominations (due Saturday, November 14, 2020) for the 5th National Climate Assessment (NCA). Gregg Garfin, UArizona Associate Professor/Extension Specialist, University Director, Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Center, and Deputy Director for Science Translation and Outreach, Arizona*

*Institutes for Resilience, reflects here on his experiences heading extraordinary teams of authors on the Southwest chapter of the 3rd (2014) and 4th (2018) NCAs. He notes the challenges and rewards of participation in the creation of these authoritative documents. Garfin wrote:*



What first impressed me was the rigor of the process. In a 24-month period, the 4th National Climate Assessment (NCA4) went through an 8-step review, including reviews by the public, federal agencies, the National Academies, technical staff, and USGCRP. Each review required that the authors provide a detailed response for every review comment, in addition to editing and rewriting text. The reviews are overseen by a Review Editor, whose job was to ensure that the responses really answered the reviews' questions; it was not a rubber stamp process.

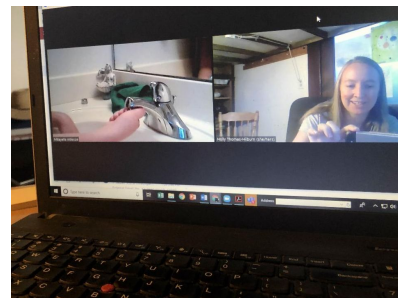
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## Water Conservation: One Remote Learner at a Time

Remote learning brings teachers into their students' homes. With APW's Water Scene Investigation (WSI), we're making those homes a little more water efficient, one aerator at a time. It's the perfect time to engage students in investigations inside their own homes that can help save water. In the WSI, students interview family members about water use, measure the baseline flow rates of their faucets, and then change out the aerators for higher efficiency ones that reduce their overall water use. As we begin playing "Water Conservation Technology Trivia" and working with students, it's been fun to Zoom into their homes and help spread water conservation! So much so, that when Ms. Schiffman's 4th graders had questions about the assignment, APW Water Educators Zoomed into their classroom and helped students individually with math problems, AND device installation!



[APW](#)

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## Initiating the Indigenous Water Dialogue Project

Miguel Moreno, a third-year law student at UArizona James E. Rogers College of Law, has been helping WRRRC Director Sharon B. Megdal with the WRRRC's Indigenous Water Dialogue project. As part of the Haury Program Tribal Initiative, Moreno is helping plan the 2021 WRRRC Annual Conference by serving as a liaison between indigenous people and the WRRRC. About her collaboration with Moreno, Megdal said: "I have enjoyed working with and getting to know Miguel, who has been so helpful in initiating the Indigenous Water Dialogues project. I hope it is not too long before we get to meet in person!" The Indigenous Water



Dialogues project is building on concepts and opportunities flowing from the 2015 WRRRC Conference [\*Indigenous Perspectives on Sustainable Water Practices\*](#). One of the objectives of the Indigenous Water Dialogue project is to raise awareness of the importance of cultural services that water provides to Native Nations across state lines. Moreno is part of the Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program. He is hoping the Indigenous Water Dialogue project will remain a long-lasting platform for promoting the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

### [Haury Program](#)

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## **Rivers Granted Legal Rights in Orange County, FL**

On November 3, 2020, 89% of the residents of Orange County, Florida approved the Right to Clean Water Charter Amendment, which prohibits the pollution of all water bodies within the county. This piece of legislation, drafted by the environmental group Speak Up Wekiva, states that rivers and waterways in Orange County have the right to exist, to flow, to be protected against pollution, and to maintain a healthy ecosystem. The amendment also specifies that all citizens of Orange County have a right to clean water by having the waters of orange county protected against pollution. Residents can now bring lawsuits on behalf of water bodies to address environmental degradation, even if they have not been personally harmed by the pollution. This amendment, also called the Wekiva River and Econlockhatchee River Bill of Rights, puts Florida at the forefront of the rights for nature movement in the US.



*Photograph by D Ramey Logan, CC BY-SA 4.0*

### [River Rights Amendment](#)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Student Position at WRRRC**

The WRRRC is hiring a part-time student employee to help our team with an ongoing data organization and cataloging project. See the full position description [here](#). Submit a letter of interest, resume, and two references to Michael Seronde at [seronde@arizona.edu](mailto:seronde@arizona.edu).

- [Maricopa Association of Governments Seeking Volunteers](#)

- [City of Tempe Municipal Utilities Program Coordinator](#)
- [Town of Gilbert Water Conservation Intern](#)
- [Arizona State Land Department Water Resources Specialist III](#)
- **POSTPONED** [Research Insights in Semiarid Ecosystems \(RISE\) Symposium](#)
- **Nov. 13-15:** [Canal Convergence: Water + Art + Light](#)
- **Nov. 14:** [Fifth National Climate Assessment - Author Nomination and Scientific/Technical Input Deadline](#)
- **Nov 16-18:** [The 7th International Conference on Drylands, Deserts & Desertification \(DDD\) Feeding the Drylands: Challenges in Changing Environment](#)
- **Nov 17:** [AZ Water Association Fall Pretreatment Webinar](#)
- **Nov 17-Dec 9:** [ADWR 5MP Subgroup Meetings - Municipal Subgroup Meeting, Turf Breakout Meeting, 5th Management Plans Work Group Meeting](#)
- **Nov 18:** [First CAP University Course: Introduction to CAP](#)
- **Nov 19:** [RiversEdge West 19th Annual Research and Management Conference - Abstract Deadline](#)
- **Nov 19:** [Stewart L. Udall's Environmental Diplomacy Legacy: A Virtual Centennial Birthday Celebration](#)
- **Nov 19:** [Southwest Basin Roundtable Forests and Water Workshop](#)
- **Nov 30:** [Hydrology 2021 Travel Awards - Application Deadline](#)
- **Dec 1:** [WEF SWI Stormwater Summit 2021 – Abstract Deadline](#)
- **Dec 1:** [ADWR Public Meeting – Governor's Water Augmentation, Innovation, and Conservation Council \(GWAICC\)](#)
- **Dec 2:** [AZ Water Association InfoShare: Water Conservation Goes Virtual: COVID-19 Adaptations & Challenges](#)
- **Dec 6:** [The Third International Congress on Desert Economy: Energy Economics between Deserts and Oceans \(Dakhla, Morocco\) - Call for Papers Deadline](#)
- **Dec 10:** [2021 Ford Foundation Fellowship Programs - Dissertation and Postdoctoral Application Deadlines](#)
- **Dec 17:** [2021 Ford Foundation Fellowship Programs - Predoctoral Application Deadline](#)
- **Jan 5-9, 2021:** [NCSE Drawdown 2021 Conference Research to Action: Science and Solutions for a Planet Under Pressure](#)
- **Jan 15, 2021:** [Resources 2021 Travel Award - Application Deadline](#)
- **Feb 1, 2021:** [AWRA 2021 Summer Conference Connecting Land and Water for Healthy Communities \(July 19 – 21\) Denver, CO - Special Session Submission Deadline](#)
- **Mar 15-25, 2021:** [36th Annual WaterReuse Symposium: Resilience Redefined: health.economy.environment](#)
- **Apr 1, 2021:** [Special Issue of the Journal Water \(ISSN 2073-4441, IF 2.544\) - Advances in Transboundary Aquifer Assessment - Manuscript Submission Deadline](#)
- **Apr 1-Jul 1, 2021:** [Women in Water Scholarship - Applications Accepted](#)
- **Apr 6-8, 2021:** [AZ Water 2021 Annual Conference](#)
- **May 9-14, 2021:** [IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition - Water for Smart Liveable Cities \(Copenhagen\)](#)
- **May 18-20, 2021:** [11th International Conference on Sustainable Water Resources Management: Effective Approaches for River Basins and Urban Catchments \(Milan, Italy\)](#)
- **Jun 8-10, 2021:** [UCOWR/NIWR Annual Water Resources Conference](#)
- **Jun 13-16, 2021:** [ACE21 - Save the Date](#)

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