

WEEKLY WAVE



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH CENTER



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

IN THIS ISSUE: Reflections, Simone Williams, Shrinking Reservoirs, APW, Waterloo, Trellis

[GIVE NOW](#)



Information and story sharing exchange organized by the Stockholm Sami Association hosted by the Canadian Embassy, August 25, 2024.

Reflections: On Stockholm World Water Week 2024 and Bridging Borders

Bridging Borders: Water for a Peaceful and Sustainable Future was the theme of the 2024 Stockholm World Water Week conference. Organized by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), the conference attracts global participation with its variety of session formats and content. I very much value the opportunity to participate.

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2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SAVE
the
DATE

WRRRC 2025 Annual Conference

May 20–21

**SHARED BORDERS
SHARED WATERS**

Working Together in Times of Scarcity

EVENTS

WRRRC Water Webinar: Re-Imagining Water Resiliency – The San Diego Story

Date: Monday, Sep 16, 2024

Time: 12:00 pm–1:15 pm Arizona Time

Location: [Webinar Only](#)

Speaker:

Dan Denham, *General Manager, San Diego County Water Authority*



This WRRRC Water Webinar will be an overview of how San Diego went from being almost 100% reliant on one imported water supplier to developing one of the most resilient water supplies in the southwest.

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

WRRRC 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 Queen Creek. Panelists will provide a brief history of watershed restoration work efforts for 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

- Oct 31: [WRRC Water Webinar: Living River: The Promise of the Mighty Colorado; 3–4:30 pm](#)
- 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

Spotlight on Simone Williams: New PhD Graduate

The University of Arizona (U of A) Water Resources Research Center is bidding farewell to Simone Williams, WRRC Graduate Research Associate and newly minted PhD in Arid Lands Resource Sciences. Simone brought a global perspective to her work, drawing from her extensive experience in natural resource management and sustainable development across the Caribbean and the United States. At



the WRRC, she focused on addressing critical water resource challenges in arid environments. Her research on groundwater vulnerability assessments and sustainable water management strategies contributed significantly to an evaluation of the impacts of agricultural land management practices on groundwater in the Pinal Active Management Area (AMA). Her skill in translating complex scientific data into actionable recommendations for researchers and policymakers was demonstrated in her work for WRRC programs on diversifying voices in water resources and the future of groundwater-dependent agriculture. She was the lead author of the award-winning article [Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice in Water Dialogues: A Review and Conceptualization](#), participated in national dialogues and stakeholder consultations, presented her research at national and regional conferences, and contributed to the development of the U of A Sustainability & Climate Action Plan. Her scholarship earned her multiple awards, including the Babbitt Dissertation Fellowship (2023) from the Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy and the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) Richard A. Herbert Scholarship. As Simone moves on from the WRRC, we eagerly anticipate her continued contributions to the field of water resource management. Thank you, Simone! We wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

New Study Assesses Declining Reliability of US Reservoirs

We are not alone. While our region focuses on Colorado River shortages, a recently published study analyzes long-term observations of reservoir levels across the United States. Researchers from multiple institutions, including University of Arizona Hydrology and Atmospheric Sciences Associate Professor Laura Condon, compared historical patterns and operational rule curves for 250 US reservoirs from 1981 to 2020 to investigate how droughts affect storage. They found that the maximum amount of water stored in these reservoirs is decreasing across the country, and periods of unusually low storage are becoming longer, more variable, and more severe in reservoirs in western and central states. Decreases in maximum storage from sedimentation and decreased annual storage due to changes in climate and hydrology suggest that our reservoirs may become less reliable sources of water and more vulnerable to extreme conditions. The findings of this study and ongoing reservoir monitoring efforts may help reservoir managers adapt to changing conditions. A recent video from the Central Arizona Project (CAP) provides a Colorado River shortage update, with information on how CAP has been working with partners to implement conservation measures to raise the elevation level of water stored in Lake Mead, the key storage reservoir for the lower Colorado River basin.

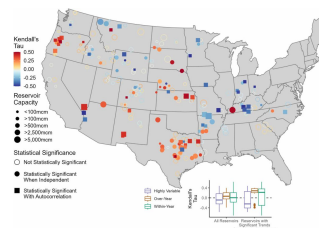


Image: Trends in annual low-storage anomaly duration. <https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1029/2024GL109476>

- [Read the Study](#)
- [CAP Video](#)
- [Water Online Article](#)



The Mountains Are Calling...



The Arizona Water Festival (AWF) Mountain Series is hitting the upland trail with the latest gear, fresh supplies, and new stories to share with old friends. Is there a verdant Arizona landscape that beckons you to volunteer at an AWF event? If so, you'll have the chance to guide 4th-grade students as they explore the Arizona water cycle, map our regional watersheds, unearth the local surface-to-groundwater connection, navigate water stewardship, and investigate the relationships between water/heat/people in our (sub)urban environments.



Come for a mid-morning Festival but stay for an all-day adventure! Consider journeying to an Arizona Water Festival that's set against a spectacular backdrop in one or more of these nearby locations:

- [Payson](#), September 26
- [Prescott](#), October 3
- [Sedona](#), October 10
- [Verde Valley](#), October 10

You can explore the [Water Festival Adventure](#) story map or learn more about [volunteering](#) at an Arizona Water Festival on the Arizona Project WET website.

Image: Adriana Greisman. Prescott, AZ. WRRRC 2020 Photo Contest

Podcast Episode Features Emerging Water Leaders

A recent Waterloop podcast episode highlights seven emerging leaders in water. The WaterNow Alliance annually presents Emerging Leader awards to recognize and support promising and creative mid-level water sector professionals from under-represented backgrounds who are driving change in sustainability, equity, and community engagement. The podcast episode presents brief interviews with each of the 2024 winners, discussing their impactful work in water management. Of the seven winners, two work for Tucson Water. Xochitl Coronado-Vargas serves as the Public Outreach Coordinator for Tucson's Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) program. She has led initiatives to advance racial equity within Tucson Water and advocated for equitable distribution of investments of GSI as a Departmental Equity Coordinator. Amanda Jones serves as a Project Manager for Tucson Water's Enterprise Asset Management Program and is also a Departmental Equity Coordinator. She is a trustee-at-large on the AZWater board of directors, co-chair of the AZWater Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and a member of the Diversity and Member Inclusion Committee for the American Water Works Association. In Jones' previous role at Marana Water, she developed an affordability program and advocated to eliminate shut-offs for non-payment during COVID-19.



- [Listen to the Podcast](#)
- [YouTube Video](#)
- [WaterNow Alliance 2024 Emerging Leaders](#)



Exciting News: The Weekly Wave is Moving to a New Platform!

This fall, we're transitioning to Trellis, the University of Arizona's Constituent Relationship Management (CRM) system, to deliver our *Weekly Wave* e-news digest. If you're already subscribed, no action is needed—we'll automatically transfer your subscription. Stay tuned, more details coming soon!

WATER JOBS & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

WRRC Openings

- [AmeriCorps Members](#)
- [Graduate Research Assistant](#)

External Job Postings

- Arizona Water Company [Water Conservation Specialist](#)
- The Nature Conservancy [Water Program Policy Specialist, Arizona](#)

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

OTHER NEWS

- [Defining Water Terminology](#)
- [U of A Campus Sustainability Fund Mini Grants](#)
- [U of A Campus Sustainability Fund Indigenous-Centered Mini Grants](#)
- [ABWC Water Management Certificate Program — Only a few seats left!](#)
- [Updated Brackish Groundwater Report](#)
- [Santa Cruz River Dragonfly Festival Info](#)
- [Register for the AWRA, UCOWR, NIWR 60th Anniversary Joint Water Resources Conference](#)

**CALLING ALL
PHOTOGRAPHERS**
WRRC 2024
PHOTO CONTEST
WATER IN ARIZONA

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS!



CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **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 12:** [Public Policy Exchange Webinar: Keeping the Environment Clean by Regulating Pesticide Use: How Small Farms and Industrial Agriculture Can Protect the Environment By Transitioning Away From Toxic Chemical Use](#)
- **Sep 14:** [Biosphere 2 Annual Symposium: Opportunities for Research and Education at Biosphere 2: Finding Solutions for Resilience](#)
- **Sep 16:** [WRRC Water Webinar: Re-Imagining Water Resiliency - The San Diego Story](#)
- **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](#)
- **Sep 18:** [Santa Cruz River Dragonfly Festival Event: Bugs & Bites](#)
- **Sep 19:** [Santa Cruz River Dragonfly Festival Webinar: Dragonflies: Their Lives Before Adulthood](#)
- **Sep 24:** [WRRC Water Webinar: Using Green Stormwater Infrastructure Projects to Develop Partnerships, Address Stakeholder Needs, and Build to Future Work](#)
- **Sep 24:** [WestWater Forum: How Public–Private Partnerships Maximize Arizona’s Water Resources](#)
- **Sep 26:** [One Water Webinar: Leadership Lessons on Transforming the Water Workforce and Advancing Equity](#)
- **Sep 28:** [Santa Cruz River Dragonfly Festival Event – Guided Dragonfly Tours](#)
- **Sep 30–Oct 2:** [2024 AWRA, UCOWR, NIWR 60th Anniversary Joint Water Resources Conference: Celebrating the Past and Planning for the Future of Water](#)

[More Calendar Announcements](#)

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

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