MARY LATA
Fire Ecologist
US Forest Service Tonto National Forest

A native Iowan, Dr. Mary Lata’s fire career started in 1993 with three seasons of mostly tallgrass prairie restoration on an internship with The Nature Conservancy. From 1999 to 2001, she worked for the National Park Service at Badlands National Park in South Dakota and as a fire effects monitor out of Bandelier National Monument in New Mexico, which included an assignment on a Wildfire Use Fire - where she became addicted to the study of fire. She did her PhD research on a full-ride fellowship, then accepted a permanent job as the fire ecologist for the Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands before completing it. There she managed the fuels, watershed and botany programs. She ultimately completed a PhD in Geoscience at the University of Iowa, while working full time. In 2010, with an eye to improving the management of fire regimes on a landscape scale, she moved to Flagstaff as the fire ecologist on the core team for the Four Forest Restoration Initiative. Desiring to get to get back on the ground, in May 2018 she became the fire ecologist for the Tonto National Forest in Arizona.

JIM MORGAN
Fire Chief
Pinetop Fire District

Jim has been serving in the Arizona Fire Service since 1979 starting his career with the Apache Junction Fire District (Now the Superstition Fire and Medical District). He retired in 2004 from Apache Junction moving on to the City of Casa Grande where he served as their Assistant Fire Chief until July 2014. In July 2014, Jim was selected to serve as the Fire Chief for the Pinetop Fire District. Jim holds a master’s degree in Fire Administration from ASU. He was conferred his Executive Fire Officer designation in September 2015, and He received his Certified Fire Officer designation in April 2014. Jim is also a graduate of the International Association of Fire Chiefs “Fire Service Executive Development Institute. Jim is a certified fire Instructor, certified paramedic, and Certified Haz Mat technician. He has taught Leadership and ethics as part of supervisory leadership in the community college system. Recently, he has presented at several statewide associations. Jim is a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Arizona Fire Chiefs Association, and serves as Vice President for Northeastern Association of Fire Chiefs. Jim is also the Chair for the Northeast Arizona Regional Dispatch Center, a Member of the North Regional Advisory Council, and the Area 1 AFDA Director.
Carrie “CC” Sage Curley is an artist, activist, educator, and now groundskeeper whose reach extends throughout the U.S. through her live art, murals, commissioned work, and speaking engagements. Her heart and her roots, however, are with her community in San Carlos and Peridot, where she was raised and lives.

CC is involved in various local community projects, including conducting art workshops where she teaches and mentors youth who look up to her as a positive, traditional role model. She is also active in the Apache Stronghold effort to Save Oak Flat.

CC got her AA degree from Gila Community College – San Carlos in 2015, where she also worked as a custodian and began live painting at Poets on the Rez. She has found and nurtures life in working with the earth.

Nalwoodi Denzhone Community (NDC) team is a collective of tribal and non-tribal members invested in the San Carlos Apache community. Some of the team were born and raised in the region, while others have come from all over the U.S. to work in healthcare, art, education, corrections, and other public service areas in San Carlos. What they all share is a great love and appreciation for this beautiful and strong community of people who stand in the face of generations of trauma and injustice. Learn more about NDC here: apachendc.org

Carrie Curley created the art pieces shown above to inspire the logo for the Cobre Valley Watershed Partnership (CVWP). The CVWP is beyond grateful to Carrie for sharing her beautiful work that will help shape the Partnership’s connection to this unique and stunning piece of the natural world.
DAY 1 SPEAKERS (listed alphabetically)

BENJAMIN DOWNER
Program Coordinator
FCHS, University of Arizona Gila County Cooperative Extension

Benjamin Downer is a Program Coordinator for family programs at the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Gila County. He enjoys exploring the trails and public lands of the Cobre Valley and is passionate about helping others connect with the outdoors. Benjamin is involved with a variety of local organizations, including the Cobre Valley Watershed Partnership. He also monitors trails and springs on a volunteer basis for the Tonto National Forest. Benjamin received his Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering from Michigan Technological University.

SAMMY GONZALES
Mayor
Town of Miami

Sammy Gonzales was born and raised in Miami, and has lived there for 50 years. He worked at a Chevy/Cadillac dealership for 25 years in the parts department. In July 2011 he made a major career change and became a public school teacher. He began teaching on the San Carlos Apache Reservation at the Junior-Senior High School but wanted to teach in his hometown. He achieved his objective and currently teaches history at Miami Junior-Senior High School.

Mayor Gonzales began his first term as an appointed Councilmember in 2011. In 2012 he ran and was elected to City Council, serving until 2016. In 2016 he was re-elected, elected Vice Mayor by the Council, and served as Vice Mayor from 2016 until 2020. And in April 2020 the City Council elected him Mayor. His priorities include helping the youth of the community, bringing new businesses and housing to Miami, and enhancing Miami’s public safety services.

Mayor Gonzales has a daughter, Samantha, who will graduate high school in 2021 then attend Western New Mexico University on a full athletic/academic scholarship for softball. Mayor Gonzales has a fiancé Karen who works in public administration. He earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Northern Arizona University.

VICTORIA HERMOSILLA*
Hydrogeologist
Montgomery & Associates

Victoria is a hydrogeologist and water policy specialist in the Tucson office of Montgomery & Associates and was hired by the Gila County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) to help establish the Cobre Valley Watershed Partnership. She recently earned her master’s degree in hydrology that includes a certificate of water policy from the University of Arizona in 2019. She currently serves as the water partnership’s Facilitator & Outreach Coordinator.

*Organizer and facilitator for the Third Annual Water Forum
DAILY SPEAKERS

ASHLEY HULLINGER*
Research Analyst
University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center (WRRC)

Ashley Hullinger is a Research Analyst at the WRRC and manages the Water RAPIDS Program (Water Research and Planning Innovations for Dryland Systems), which extends through several counties in Arizona. Much of Ashley’s work revolves around developing accessible tools and approaches to understand complex water resources situations and promote sustainable water management throughout Arizona, especially in rural watersheds. As part of the Cooperative Extension, she works directly with communities looking at issues that span beyond physical water resources to work toward collaborative water projects. Ashley holds a M.S. in Urban Planning, with a concentration in Water Resources, from the University of Arizona and B.A. degrees in History and Geography from the University of Kansas.

CHRIS JONES*
Extension Agent
University of Arizona Gila County Cooperative Extension

Christopher Jones began working as a Cooperative Extension agent for the University of Arizona in Gila County, Arizona, in 1999. He has been involved in extension work since graduating with a B.S. degree in Forestry at Northern Arizona University in 1988, the same year he joined the Peace Corps. He went on to earn an M.S. degree in Renewable Natural Resources at the University of Arizona in 1995. Chris is responsible for Agriculture and Natural Resources extension programming in Gila County, Arizona. His programs include Master Gardeners, Firewise and Forest Health, Noxious Weeds, and Climate and Natural Resources.

PAUL LA FARGA*
Graduate Assistant
University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center (WRRC)

Paul La Farga is a graduate student, Coverdell Fellow, and Research Assistant at The University of Arizona where he is pursuing a master’s degree in Urban Planning through the College of Architecture, Planning, and Landscape Architecture (CAPLA). While at the WRRC Paul has been assisting with outreach and geospatial research to support Cobre Valley Water Research Initiative project. Prior to starting his current academic career at the University of Arizona, Paul received his interdisciplinary undergraduate degree in International Affairs at the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2015. Soon afterwards he entered the United States Peace Corps in 2017 to complete two-years of service as a Community Economic Development Specialist in the South American Republic of Paraguay. After Paul’s expected graduation in May 2021 he hopes to continue pursuing a professional career in environmental planning.

*Organizer and facilitator for the Third Annual Water Forum
GLEN LINEBERRY
Principal
Miami High School

Glen Lineberry is principal at Miami Junior-Senior High School, a rural school serving 6th through 12th graders. Miami has worked to rebuild the academic curriculum; establish a full range of CTE programs, including the planting of a native fruit and nut orchard on campus; and, to build a school culture that prepares students for life after high school. Lineberry additionally serves as director of the Arizona Student Opportunity Collaborative, a grassroots effort to network rural Arizona schools to exchange curriculum and instruction. AzSOC is supported by the Arizona Rural Schools Association, the Yavapai Education Service Agency, the Arizona Department of Education, and the Helios Education Foundation.

LINDA ODDONETTO
Economic Development Director
City of Globe

As the Economic Development Director for the City of Globe, Linda has led and assisted in all kinds of community development efforts, ranging from improving educational opportunities, to increasing the inventory of quality affordable housing and developing accessible recreation opportunities. Linda is one of the co-conveners of the Cobre Valley Collaborative, which includes residents and leaders from the communities of Globe, Miami, and San Carlos. The Collaborative embraces leadership from multiple sectors such as government, small business, education, the arts, youth and heavy industry. Linda continues to encourage and search out various avenues for the region to grow and prosper.

MICHAEL SERONDE*
Program Coordinator Senior
University of Arizona Water Resource Research Center (WRRC)

Michael Seronde is a program coordinator at the WRRC. He holds a Master of Public Policy from the University of Arizona. His academic focus was on policy analysis, program evaluation, and stakeholder engagement in natural resource management. Seronde is a program coordinator at the WRRC where his responsibilities include the planning, coordination, and implementation of Center outreach efforts. As a member of the Water RAPIDS team at the WRRC, Seronde works on stakeholder-driven watershed planning projects. Using both in-person and virtual meeting formats, the Water RAPIDS team conducts regionally relevant research that is guided by robust stakeholder input.

*Organizer and facilitator for the Third Annual Water Forum
MELISSA STEELE
Economic Development Specialist
City of Globe

Melissa has worked as the Economic Development Specialist with the City of Globe for going on one year. She assists in the management of core economic development functions including business retention, business attraction, business expansion, marketing, tourism, and coordination with local and regional partners. Before the City of Globe, Melissa worked with the Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center as a public relations specialist and graphic designer. She has degrees in media arts, graphic design, and film and video production. Melissa is also a mother and her delightful baby is a welcome participant on many virtual meetings.

THEA WILSHIRE
Owner & CEO
Acorn Consulting

Dr. Thea Wilshire is Acorn Consulting’s owner and CEO. She is passionate about quality of life promotion, which is reflected through 35+ years of experience in behavioral health and almost 20 years of work in community development. She is an expert in rural and tribal psychological interventions and has received numerous state and national awards from organizations like the American Psychological Association, Indian Health Services, and the Arizona American Indian Integrated Care Committee. Dr. Wilshire has received multiple honors for community development, leadership, supporting the arts, and historic preservation.

JESSICA ASBILL-CASE
Water Resources Program Manager
US Bureau of Reclamation

Jessica Asbill-Case has worked for the Bureau of Reclamation for 18 years. She started her career in 2002 as a water quality specialist in Klamath Falls, Oregon and for the past 5 years has been working as a Water Resources Program Manager for the Phoenix Area Office. Her duties include managing the WaterSMART Grant Program, Water Conservation Field Services Program, and Drought Program. She received her Bachelors in Environmental Science from Northwest College in Kirkland Washington in 2001 and her Master’s in Environmental Science from the University of Idaho in 2010.
ADAM BROMLEY
District Ranger
US Forest Service – Tonto National Forest

So, I’m Adam. Just for a little work background, prior to becoming the District Ranger for the Globe Ranger District on the Tonto National Forest, I spent 5 and half years as a Timber Management Assistant on the Medicine Bow- Routt National Forest and Thunder Basin National Grassland in Northwest Colorado and Southern Wyoming. Prior to that I worked on the Pike and San Isabel National Forests as a timber sale administrator and a Fuels Forester, as well as the Superior National Forest and the Huron-Manistee National Forest where I worked in recreation and timber management. As you can see, I have spent the majority of my career in timber and fuels management. I started my career just down the road from where I grew up on Michigan’s west shore surrounded by Oak and Pine and lakeshore dunes on the Huron Manistee National Forest. I went to College in Michigan’s Upper peninsula at Michigan Technological University where I majored in forestry before I began the interesting ride that has brought me to this point. Aside from being a Forest Service employee I am a husband to my awesome and very understanding wife Liz, and a dad to 5-year-old Sam and 7-year-old Hannah who are in kindergarten and second grade, respectively. When I’m not at work we undertake a multitude of family outdoor activities especially camping, hiking, and fishing. On the occasions when I’m on my own I enjoy backcountry hunting, fly-fishing and mountain biking.

LORI BROWN
Owner, Brown Ranch
Board Member, Tonto Natural Resource Conservation District (NRCD)

Lori’s favorite duties are on the ranch: riding, branding, feeding, and loving the animals. She shares these experiences freely and widely through her many volunteer activities. She is a 4-H leader for an Ag education program in Gila County, teaching kids where their food comes from. Specifically, 6,800 students a year in Gila County come to the ranch to get the ranch life experience: branding, branding a sign, stick horse ranch rodeo, mining for gold, planting a plant, roping, petting zoo, wagon rides, tractor rides and much more! She also sponsors local rodeo and gymkhana events at the Brownsville arena for her County and community. On top of all this, Lori owns a salon, where you can find her one to two days a week, and she has her contractors license as owner of Black Mountain Excavating with her boys.

STEPHEN FLORA
Senior Hydrologist
Surface Water at Salt River Project (SRP)

Stephen Flora is a Senior Hydrologist with Surface Water at Salt River Project (SRP), a water and power utility serving much of the Phoenix metropolitan area. His responsibilities focus on watershed monitoring, streamflow forecasting, forest health activities, flood emergency reservoir operations, and drought preparedness planning in support of the sustainable management of Arizona’s water resources. Stephen works to promote SRP’s watershed stewardship role through involvement in collaborative forest restoration projects such as the Four Forest Restoration Initiative and Northern Arizona Forest Fund as well as awareness efforts regarding the importance of a healthy forest to our water supply. Prior to working at SRP for the past 7 years, Stephen worked 10 years as a Hydrogeologist for environmental consulting firms and as a Hydrologist with the Arizona Department of Water Resources. During that time, he worked on various projects related to well installation and testing, groundwater modeling, surface water monitoring, water quality sampling, and hydrologic field data collection and analysis. Stephen holds a Master of Science degree in Geology from Northern Arizona University, is a Registered Professional Geologist in Arizona, and previously served as a board member of the Arizona Hydrological Society.
**TIM R. HUMPHREY**  
**District 2 Supervisor**  
**Gila County Board of Supervisors**  

Elected to the Board of Supervisors on November 8, 2016, Tim R. Humphrey began his term on January 4, 2017. Supervisor Humphrey was born in New Mexico, but has spent most of his life in Gila County and he calls it home. Supervisor Humphrey’s experience as a small business owner for over thirty years brings a businessman’s point of view to running Gila County Government. He is proud to have served his community on the Gila County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) Board, the Advisory Committee for Gila Community College, the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club, Globe-Miami Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and as a member of the Freeport McMoRan Community Investment Grants Program. He is also a member of the Miami Rotary Club. As a member of the Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Humphrey also serves on the Correctional Officers Retirement Plan Local Board for Sheriff’s Office Detention Officers & Non-Uniformed Officers, Gila County Local Emergency Planning Committee, CAG (Central Arizona Governments) Regional Council, Gila Community College Allied Health Care Advisory Committee, Gila Community College Industry and Mining Advisory Committee, and the National Association Counties (NACo) Transportation Steering Committee. Supervisor Humphrey is father to two beautiful daughters and grandpa to a handsome grandson.

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**CARL MELFORD**  
**Emergency Manager**  
**Gila County Health and Emergency Management**  

After graduating from Globe High School in 2008, Carl began his public safety career as a Detention Officer with the Gila County Sheriff’s Office. Within his first 6 months of employment, Carl was promoted to Classification Specialist, and had written his first evacuation plan, all at the age of 18. In 2011, Carl graduated from the Southern Arizona Law Enforcement Training Center and was hired as a Police Officer with the Globe Police Department. During that time, His focus was on building resilient communities, and emergency planning. In 2015, Carl was hired by Gila County Emergency Management, where he began serving many roles in the Emergency Operations Centers across the state, as well as implementing Gila Counties own Emergency Notification Program. In 2017, Carl was promoted to Emergency Manager. Since then, Carl has taken pride in improving the mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities of Gila County.

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**DEE RANDALL**  
**Forest Manager**  
**San Carlos Apache Tribe**  

Dee Randall, Forest Manager for the San Carlos Apache Tribe, started his career working as a ranch hand for the Ash Creek Cattle Association at age 9 and throughout high school during the summer months. Seeing the country from an early age strengthened his interest in natural resources. Dee’s forestry career started in Fire Management and later working as a Forestry Technician for the Tribe. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Arizona in 1989, he started his career as the Forest Development, Timber Sales and as the Silviculturist for the San Carlos Forest Resources Program. Dee and his wife of 37 years Victoria are both employed with the San Carlos Apache.