

# Scarcity, Challenges, and Community-based Solutions

University of Arizona

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# Community-Based Solutions

- Overview:
  - Historical Perspective
  - CRIT Experience the past few years
- Building bridges



# History of community based solutions

- First known treaties are water sharing agreements
- “Since 1948, history shows only 37 incidents of acute conflict over water, while during the same period, approximately 295 international water agreements were negotiated and signed.”  
(UNECE/UNESCO 2015)
- Aaron Wolf, PhD,  
Transboundary  
Waters, Oregon State
- The Tragedy of the Commons does not apply to water. Communities have a history of sharing.
- Common property can be effectively managed by user associations.
- Elinor Ostrom, PhD,  
Economist

# Colorado River Basin

- Model of cooperation
- Multi-levels of community
  - Interstate
  - International
  - Within each state
  - Within irrigation districts
  - Within tribal jurisdictions
- Among many different levels of community
- **DCP Negotiations in Arizona**
- Multi-level and diverse
  - New Communities formed
  - Understanding and trust led to new relationships

OUR WATER, OUR CULTURE,  
**OUR WAY OF LIFE.**



## Water within the Community of the Colorado River Indian Tribes

- Information sharing—community forums
- Recall effort
  - Fear of loss
- Increased community involvement by elected leaders, elders, young people
- Community Referendum to approve a Water Code
  - Community forums and meetings
  - Tours of the water facilities on-reservation
  - History pamphlet and films





**Beyond All Boundaries: Our Land, Our Water (2016)**

## CRIT Information

- [CRIT-NSN.GOV](http://CRIT-NSN.GOV)
  - News and government
- [CRITFILMS.ORG](http://CRITFILMS.ORG)
  - In Our Voice: The Chemehuevi, Hopi & Navajo Perspectives
  - The Marking of a Milestone: Commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Establishment of the Reservation

**Questions?  
Thank you.**

