

Fire in the Superstitions: Real or Possible Effects of the Woodbury Fire on Water Delivery From Arizona's Salt River Dams and Reservoirs

SALT's very popular "Fire in the Superstitions" series has been extended to include two presentations on hydrological effects of the Woodbury Fire.

The first of these talks will be THURSDAY, JAN. 9, at 7:00 PM in Rm. B117 in the Apache Junction Multigenerational Center, 1035 N. Idaho Rd. (Note that this is not our typical Wednesday time slot.). ALSO, because of a very recent family emergency, the two hydrology speakers have agreed to switch dates - Andrew Volkmer of SRP will present on Jan. 9th while Tonto National Forest's Kelly Mott Lacroix now will present on Jan. 22nd.

Hydrology has evolved as a science in response to the need to understand the complex water system of the earth and help solve water problems. The Woodbury Fire changed the hydrology of the Superstition Mountains and thus challenges previous understanding of this watershed. A good portion of the altered watersheds flow into Roosevelt Lake and the Lower Salt River reservoirs managed and operated by the Salt River Project (SRP). Volkmer will give an overview of these reservoirs and how they are typically operated for hydrogeneration and water supply. He will then explain how the Woodbury Fire has already effected reservoir operations from recent storms, and discuss how this fire and catastrophic fires in the future could affect the Valley's water supply moving forward.

Volkmer is a certified professional engineer (P.E.), has both B.S. and M.S. degrees. and is a member of SRP's operations team. His experience ranges from **a)** hydrology and hydraulic (H&H) modeling for mine reclamation projects, and environmental monitoring and sampling on open pit mine sites; **b)** studying the effects of no-till agriculture practices on runoff and infiltration; **c)** H&H modeling and design for drainage projects including roadway, land development, and bridge applications; **d)** to watershed monitoring, event-based and seasonal runoff forecast, reservoir monitoring, routing, and flood operations now with SRP.

On Wednesday, Jan. 22nd at 6:30PM, the SALT Speakers Series will return to its normal time for the remainder of the 2019-20 season with Kelly Mott Lacroix discussing "Fire In The Superstitions: Short and Long Term Effects of the Woodbury Fire on Soils, Water, and Watersheds". Lacroix, PhD, is Forest Hydrologist and Watershed Program Manager for the Tonto National Forest.

"Fire in the Superstitions" is part of the SALT Speakers Series, which is co-sponsored by the Superstition Area Land Trust (SALT) and the Apache Junction Parks & Recreation Department. Talks are typically held at 6:30 at the above location on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, October-April. ALL are free and geared for the public.

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