

## **Fire in the Superstitions: Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) after the Woodbury Fire**

The November 13th edition of the fall 2019 SALT Speakers Series will be “Fire in the Superstitions: Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) after the Woodbury Fire”, presented by Mike Martinez.

Mike is Ecosystem Staff Officer for Tonto National Forest, and led the Woodbury BAER Team. BAER assessment plans and implementation are a cooperative effort between multiple federal agencies along with various state and local entities. Teams are staffed by specially trained professionals: hydrologists, soil scientists, engineers, biologists, vegetation specialists, archeologists and others, who rapidly evaluate the burned area and prescribe emergency stabilization treatments. A BAER assessment usually begins before the wildfire has been fully contained. Within 7 days of fire containment, the BAER Imagery Support Program provides satellite images, burn area severity classifications, and other critical data to BAER teams. One of the team's first tasks in the field is to create a soil burn severity map using data provided by the BAER Imagery Support Program. Vegetation condition is classified as high, moderate, low and unburned.



Mike will specifically discuss the BAER Team’s findings and recommendations for the Woodbury Fire. This will include the extent of post-Woodbury hydrophobic soils that are resistant to absorbing water, thus increasing risk of flooding and the ability of the Tonto to provide ecosystem services (and what that is).

Michael Martinez earned a B.S. degree in Renewable Natural Resources from the University of Arizona. He then spent over 19 years with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a Fish and Wildlife Biologist before moving to Tonto National Forest in January 2017.

The series will continue Nov. 20th and Dec. 11th. Topics still to come include how the various ecosystems and plant life were impacted and are expected to recover; and how wildlife were directly affected by the fire and will continue to be over the next several decades. Might there be some positive outcomes?

“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 held in the Apache Junction Multigenerational Center, 1035

N. Idaho Rd. from 6:30-7:30 PM in Rm. B-117 on most 2nd and 4th Wednesdays October-April. ALL are free and geared for the public.

SALT is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. You can learn more about us, what we do, and how to join and/or contribute at [azsalt.org](http://azsalt.org)