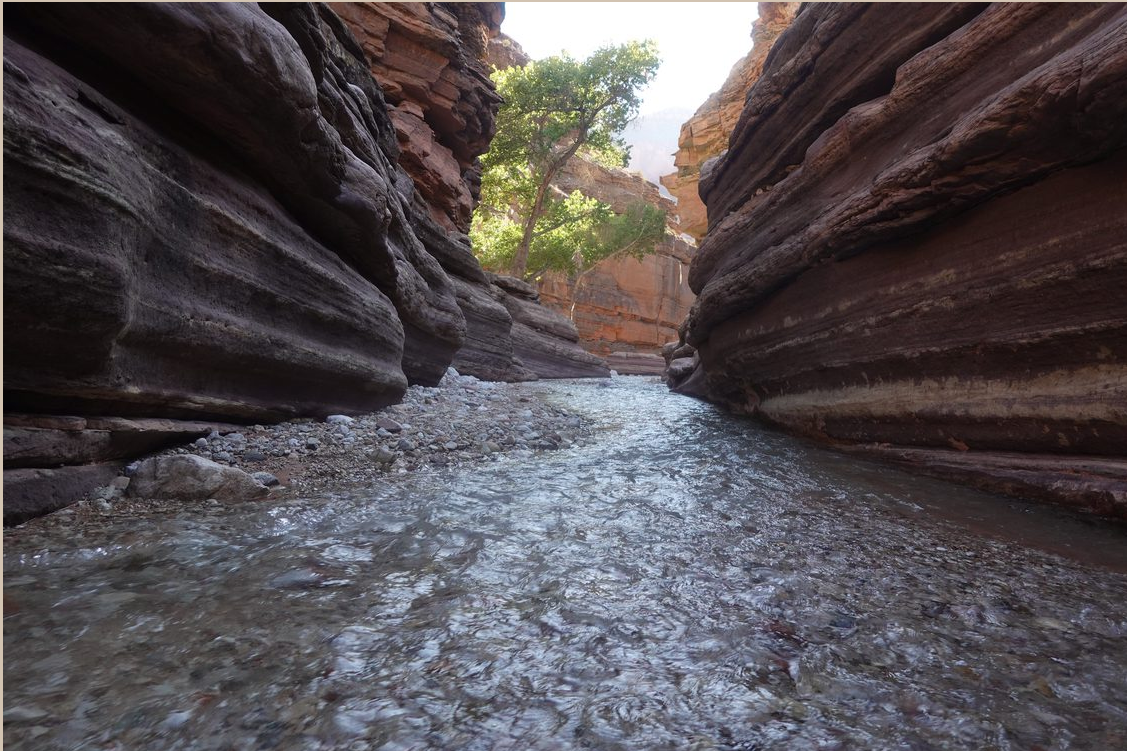


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October 2021 Newsletter



Greetings Fellow Arizonans!

Welcome to the first edition of the Water for Arizona Newsletter! The Water for Arizona Coalition is dedicated to ensuring that water policies and programs support reliable, equitable, and clean water supplies for all people, flowing rivers and streams, and healthy, vibrant communities. The purpose of this newsletter is to share timely information about water in Arizona and how you can act to support water security in our state.

The Water for Arizona Coalition works on many different water issues, but in this edition we're going to focus on rural groundwater, which is essentially unregulated outside of the mostly urban areas in and around Phoenix and Tucson and sovereign tribal lands. Consequences of unrestricted groundwater pumping are becoming more prevalent across rural Arizona – including drinking wells going dry and streams drying up – and more community leaders, residents, and businesses are calling for change.

State Representative Regina Cobb (R-Kingman) is hosting important public meetings this fall to discuss groundwater and how the state might authorize communities to plan and use more options and tools to secure their water. **The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 27. You can support state action to protect rural groundwater supplies by attending in person or watching online** (see links below).

introduced again next year, and it is important for all concerned residents, community leaders, businesses, and others who have a stake in long-term water security across the state to get involved.

Please read on to learn more about the importance of groundwater, particularly in rural communities, and stay tuned for updates on state legislation and how you can get involved.

Thank you for signing up to receive these updates from the Water for Arizona Coalition and your interest in building more resilient water supplies in our state.

Sincerely,

Chris Kuzdas


Senior Water Program Manager
Environmental Defense Fund
ckuzdas@edf.org



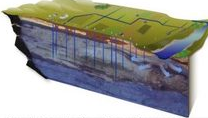
Haley Paul

Policy Director
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Arizona Rural Groundwater: Get the Facts 

Groundwater is water found underground in the crevices and spaces in soil or rock, supplying springs and wells. It is a vital water supply in Arizona, making up about 40% of the water used within our state in a typical year. **In many Arizona communities, especially rural communities, groundwater is the primary or even only supply of water.** It is a critical source of water for residential use, businesses and industry, agriculture, and fish and wildlife. It is also the source of the year-round flow in most of Arizona's rivers and streams, and for springs across the state.



Groundwater and surface water are often connected. Changes in one can affect the other.

How Groundwater Is Managed



Outside of Arizona's "active management areas" (AMAs)—in what is often referred to as "rural Arizona"—groundwater is largely unregulated. At least outside of sovereign tribal lands, rural Arizona has few tools for its management and no limits on how much can be used.

In practice this means that large new groundwater uses are allowed to occur even if they cause a neighboring well to go dry or require deepening; even if overall there is more groundwater taken out of the ground than put back in; and even if groundwater use depletes flows in neighboring rivers or streams, diminishing supply for other established water users.

Factsheet: Dip your toe into rural groundwater

If you are unfamiliar with how Arizona manages groundwater, check out our short factsheet for a quick primer. For additional resources, check out our rural groundwater webpage [HERE](#).

Webinar Series: Dive into rural groundwater

The Water for Arizona Coalition recently held a three-part webinar series on rural groundwater. We first heard from a panel of local voices on why groundwater is important to their community, then we examined the impacts of groundwater overuse, and finally we looked at groundwater governance and the management tools used across the Western United States.

WATCH NOW

GROUNDWATER'S IMPORTANCE TO COMMUNITIES:

A Panel of Local Voices

SEPTEMBER 22 | 12 P.M.

Moderated by **Jamie Kelley**, General Counsel for the
Mohave County Water Authority



Chairman Jon Huey, Yavapai-Apache Nation
Supervisor Travis Lingenfelter, Mohave County
Mayor Clarinda Vail, Town of Tusayan
Erin Young, Water Resources Manager for the
City of Flagstaff

Get involved!

We encourage you to attend one of the upcoming meetings:

Mohave West Basin Water Users Study Committee Hearing

Wednesday, October 27, 2021, 10 a.m.

The agenda will be available [HERE](#), and you can watch live [HERE](#).

Non-Active Management Area Groundwater Committee Meeting

January 6, 2022, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Agenda and viewing information is available [HERE](#).

What we're reading

Indigenous people find barriers to protect sacred spaces off tribal lands

Arizona Republic

Tourists speeding north on Arizona State Route 64 toward Grand Canyon National Park rarely notice the rocky protuberance that juts above the flat expanse of the Coconino Plateau about 2 miles to the east. But to the Havasupai Tribe, or "People of the Blue-Green Water," the isolated hill forms the center of their lands and spiritual life.

READ MORE

A mega-dairy is transforming Arizona's aquifer and farming lifestyles

High Country News

In 2018, Lauralynn Cornelsen moved out of her mobile home in an unincorporated community in southeast Arizona. After more than six years, she was tired of hauling water for drinking and bathing, and she couldn't afford to drill a well — certainly not one deep enough to survive the impending squeeze once a nearby mega-dairy began to operate.

READ MORE

Water for Arizona Coalition is a group of five conservation organizations — American Rivers, Audubon Southwest, Business for Water Stewardship, Environmental Defense Fund, and Western Resource Advocates — that supports policies and innovative practices to ensure a reliable water supply to meet the state's needs. Collectively, we have over 60,000 Arizona members, as well as hundreds of hunter, angler, business, and outdoor recreation partners around the state. The coalition was recognized as an Arizona Capitol Times "2020 Leader of the Year" for our efforts to protect Arizona's most valuable resource.

Learn more at waterforarizona.com.



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