

NM Water Researchers Convene

The New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute convened the annual New Mexico Water Research Symposium at New Mexico Tech in Socorro in August, attended by around 100 people. The one-day program featured more than 25 talks and 27 posters. Two concurrent technical sessions featured the topics of surface and subsurface process modeling, remote sensing applications, ecosystem assessment and restoration, alternative water sources, and strategies for improved resource management.

Financial support from Sandia and Los Alamos national laboratories, the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission, and the New Mexico section of the American Water Resources Association allowed the registration fee to be waived for any student presenting a poster or talk, and kept the fee very low for other attendees. New Mexico's three state universities and the U.S. Geological Survey were additional sponsors.

Abstracts are available at wrrri.nmsu.edu/conf/nc07/program.html.

UCOWR Meeting Has Message for Researchers

Against a backdrop of drought and smoky skies, the Universities Council on Water Resources (UCOWR) and National Institutes for Water Resources convened their joint annual conference in Boise, Idaho, July 24-26 to discuss research, education, and policies related to hazards in water resources.

Plenary sessions addressed national hazards policy, floods and flood responses, and state and regional policy. Gerald Galloway, President of the American Water Resources Association, kicked off the conference with an overview of the evolution of national flood policies and a discussion of policy changes that are needed to reduce damages and costs of protection.

In the plenary session on floods and flood responses, Vic Baker of the University of

Arizona provoked considerable discussion with a talk on paleoflood events and Martian hydrology, which segued into a frontal assault on the concept of the 100-year flood. Attendees were urged to act less like engineers trying to solve problems, and more like scientists whose role is to challenge the status quo.

Two special sessions examined the potential impacts of the pending Water Resources Development Act, which authorizes more than 900 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects, and modifies 22 statutes including some of the process, policies, and principles of how water projects are evaluated. Also discussed was a proposed clarification of the definition of U.S. waters, following the recent Supreme Court ruling limiting federal jurisdiction over wetlands.

Visit www.ucowr.siu.edu.

AHS-SWH Conference a Successful Collaboration

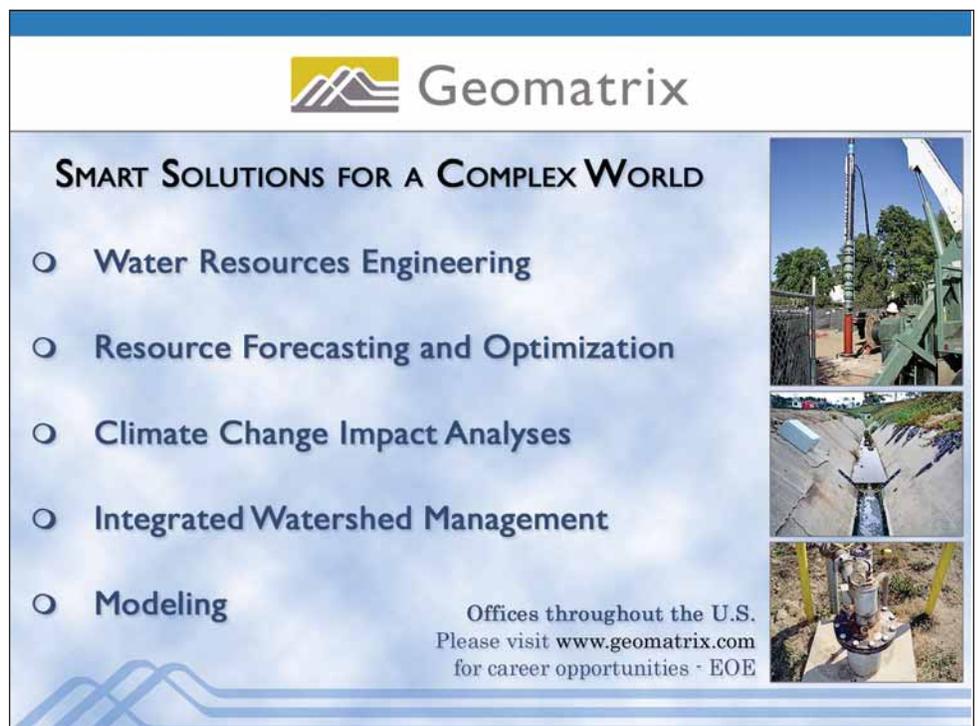
The 2007 Regional Water Symposium, a collaborative effort between Southwest Hydrology and the Arizona Hydrological Society (AHS), drew over 570 attendees to Tucson, Arizona, at the end of August.

The two hosts joined forces in recognition of the 20th annual AHS symposium and Southwest Hydrology's interest in bringing its readers together for a regional meeting.

The meeting's theme, "Sustainable Water, Unlimited Growth, and Quality of Life: Can We Have It All?" was addressed by plenary speakers Peter Gleick of the Pacific Institute and Jerome Delli Priscoli of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Institute for Water Resources, and in several technical sessions. Moderated discussions allowed speakers and the audience to hash out some of the difficult questions regarding our current and future water resources. More than 100 speakers and 40 poster presenters covered topics ranging from water policy and management to riparian restoration/preservation, water quality, water harvesting, GIS applications, energy/water relations, and much more.

In addition to the technical sessions, five optional workshops and three field trips were attended by more than 100 people. The trade show featured 45 exhibitors during the main two-day event. Attendees came from 18 different states, making it a truly regional event.

Visit www.azhydrosoc.org and www.swhydro.arizona.edu.



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