

Southwest HYDROLOGY

The Resource for Semi-Arid Hydrology

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March/April 2008



Too Much Salt

Southwest Hydrology
University of Arizona - SAHRA
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Announcing Some New Principals

Back in 1999, we assembled our new company on one guiding principle: that the value of our services would equal the sum of our staff.

Over the years, our success in growing our small company has been a reflection of this principle—such that the scope and range of what we provide is the result of the integrity of our collective professional capabilities.

So it is with complete confidence that we are promoting **Mike Alter**, **Don Hanson**, and **Tom Suriano** to positions as principal hydrogeologists at Clear Creek Associates, responsible for technical, contractual, and business matters.

So, three new principals; one long-standing principle; and a single priority: to provide quality-focused, very responsive, integrated hydrologic services.

Joining founding partners (from left) Doug Bartlett and Marvin Glotfelty as Principals of Clear Creek Associates in Phoenix are:

Thomas R. Suriano, R.G., joined Clear Creek in 2006, bringing twenty-two years of experience managing environmental and water resources projects.

Donald P. Hanson, R.G., joined Clear Creek in 2000 and has twenty-two years of experience managing environmental and water resources projects.



And in Tucson:

Michael L. Alter, R.G., joined Clear Creek Associates at its inception in 1999 as head of the Tucson office and brings thirteen years of experience consulting on environmental and water resources projects.

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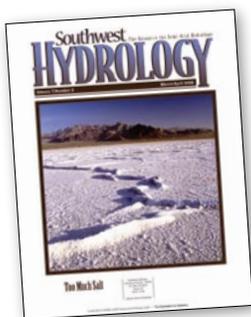
From the
Publisher

There's too much salt in our water. Too much in our drinking water, wastewater, groundwater, and river water. "Too much" means enough to warrant treatment or management due to environmental, economic, health, or taste impacts. Some of it occurs naturally, the weathering product of salt-bearing rocks and soils. Human activities—agricultural, municipal, and industrial practices—are responsible for the rest. And as more humans use more water—and reuse it—the salinity concentrations increase. We can (and do) remove the salt from water, but then where will it go? This issue won't go away any time soon.

We are very pleased to recognize Southwest Hydrology's first sponsors in this issue (see page 9). Advertisers have supported a significant portion of the magazine's costs since its inception six years ago, with the balance being covered by a grant from the National Science Foundation. Over the next two years, NSF support will be phased out and replaced with sponsorships from federal and state agencies and organizations, and water providers. Together, the new sponsors and our advertisers will enable us to continue to produce Southwest Hydrology and distribute it for free. We thank the following inaugural sponsors:

*Biosphere 2
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Betsy Woodhouse, Publisher



The Bonneville Salt Flats in western Utah are the remnant of ancient Lake Bonneville. Evaporation of the lake left behind this 30,000-acre salt deposit, up to six feet thick in places.

Southwest Hydrology

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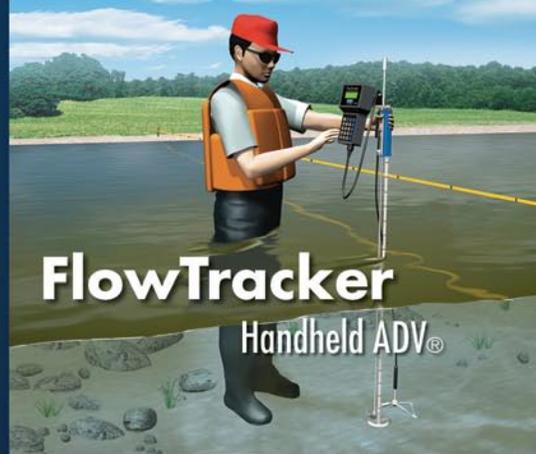
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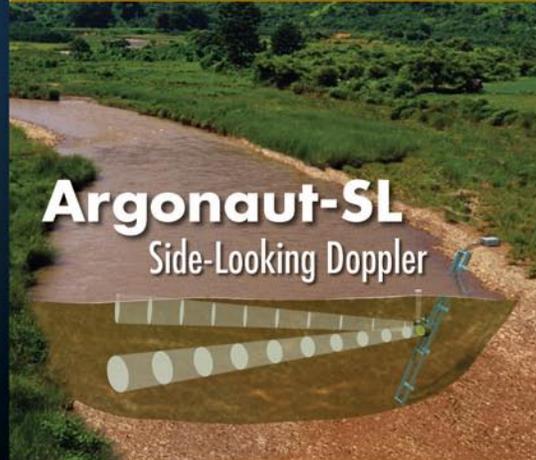
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Too Much Salt

Salinity levels are creeping up in our fresh water, groundwater, and surface water. High salinity reduces crop productivity, corrodes machinery and pipes, and harms wildlife, not to mention that it tastes bad and may raise blood pressure. Is desalination the solution? Perhaps, at least for municipal and industrial use, but it's too expensive for farmers and won't help the fish in the rivers. And its waste stream must be dealt with... Read about how salts enter our waters, and how various groups are attempting to manage salinity either by preventing this intrusion or by removing and disposing of the salt once it is already present.

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How do we get rid of desalination waste? For El Paso, the solution is to pipe it 22 miles away and inject it several thousand feet down. Favorable hydrogeology made this the most economically feasible option.

Correction

The article on page 10 of the Jan/Feb 2008 issue of *Southwest Hydrology* incorrectly stated the Lower Colorado River Basin states' allocation of Colorado River water. Their allocation is 7.5 million acre-feet per year.

Publishing **Southwest Hydrology** furthers SAHRA's mission of promoting sustainable management of water resources in semi-arid regions.

