



Yavapai County Flood Control District



Newsletter

June 2012

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WWW.YCFLOOD.COM

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Websites for other related organizations:

AZ Dept of Water Resources
www.azwater.gov

AZ Dept of Environmental Quality
www.azdeq.gov

AZ Division of Emergency Management
www.dem.azdema.gov

CORPS of Engineers
www.usace.army.mil

Federal Emergency Management Agency
www.fema.gov
www.floodsmart.gov

National Weather Service
www.weather.gov

National Resource Conservation Service
www.nrcs.usda.gov

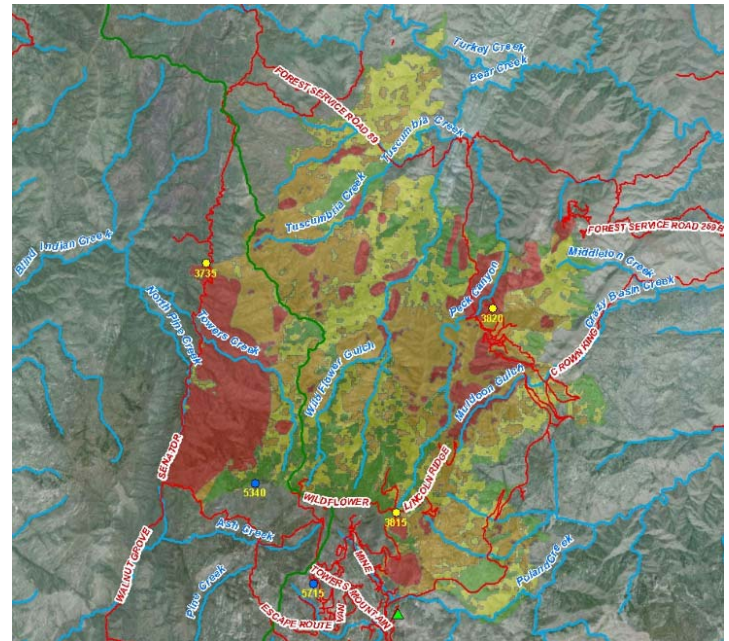
US Environmental Protection Agency Region IX
www.epa.gov/aboutepa/region9

Gladiator Fire Prompts Installation of New Gauges

The National Weather Service (NWS) has issued a Hydrologic Outlook statement based on the recent Gladiator Fire near Crown King and the approaching monsoon season. The statement reads, in part, "The burn area affects the community of Crown King as well as Crown King Road and Senator Highway in the Bradshaw Mountains. Areas downhill and downstream of the burn areas will be vulnerable to flash floods and debris flows even in moderate intensity rains lasting as little as 10 to 15 minutes. Flooding and debris flows will begin within minutes after a heavy rainfall begins. Crown King Road and Senator Highway, the main roads into Crown King, will likely be washed out after periods of heavy rainfall. Some homes will be vulnerable to flooding. Streams running out of the burn area, including Turkey Creek and Poland Creek, will likely have

much higher flows than during a typical summer rainfall, and will carry heavier amounts of sediment. People pursuing recreational activities downstream from

the Gladiator Fire burn area should be aware that flash flooding may take place even in areas miles outside the burn area." (Story continues on Page 2).



Three new rain gauges have been installed near the Gladiator Fire.

Verde River Study Enters the Post-Preliminary Phase

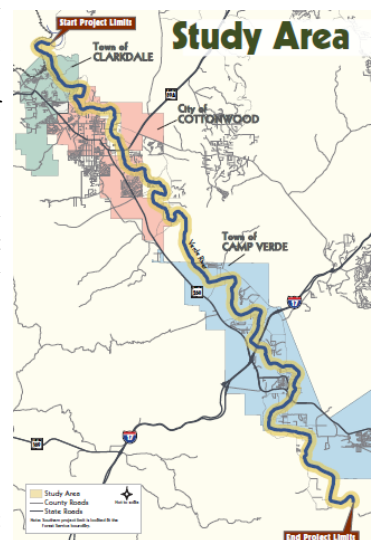
In 2009 the District embarked on a journey to study 43 miles of the Verde River. The study has been submitted to FEMA who has in turn updated 38 miles of tributary washes as they tie into the river.

June 1, 2012 marked the beginning of a 30-day period known as the comment period. Community officials have until the end of June to comment on minor edits needed to correct the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panels, such as street names and community information.

Once the maps are updated, the

public will have an opportunity to appeal. The District will hold a series of public meetings once the appeal period begins. Part of the public outreach will include providing maps to show the changes in the mapped special flood hazard area since the last FIRM. This will allow property owners to see the impact of the new study on their property.

FEMA now also has a website that provides the status and applicable maps of projects they are working on. To see the progress of the Verde River study, visit www.r9map.org.



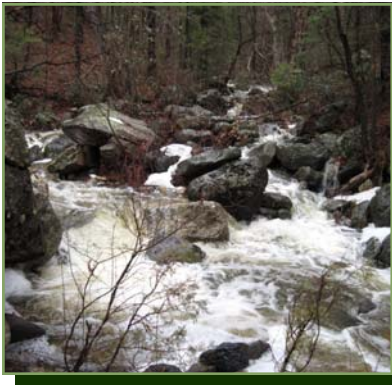
Summing it Up: Preventing Pollution Starts with You

Over the past twelve months, we have passed on rules and suggestions for keeping our watercourses clean. For our last newsletter of the fiscal year, we are passing on an overall list of what you can do to prevent pollution.

Pollution prevention and good stormwater management is essential to protecting water quality. All activities from agriculture, urban development, industrial, and residential activities influence how much stormwater will enter our water sources and what potential pollutants it will carry. EVERYONE is responsible for working to reduce the impacts of stormwater runoff.

Remember these pollution solutions:

- Do **not** dispose of household hazardous wastes in sinks, toilets, or storm drains.
- Use a commercial carwash that treats or recycles its wastewater, or wash your car on your lawn so that water infiltrates the ground. Washing your car and degreasing auto parts in your driveway can send detergents and other contaminants through storm sewer systems.
- Do **not** dump automotive fluids into storm drains. In some cases this has the same result as dumping these materials directly into a water body.
- Repair leaks and dispose of used auto fluids and batteries at designated drop-off or recycling locations.



- When walking your pet, remember to pick up wastes and dispose of them properly. Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local waters. Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method.
- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. Excess fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawns and gardens wash into storm sewers and pollute streams.
- Do not water your lawn too much, as it causes runoff.
- Compost or mulch yard wastes. Yard clippings and leaves can wash into storm drains and contribute nutrients and organic matter to streams.
- Use non-colored mulch from native trees whenever possible.
- Use pest control methods minimizing pesticide applications whenever possible.
- Cover piles of dirt or mulch used in landscaping projects.
- Inspect your septic system every 3 years and pump your tank as necessary. Leaking and poorly maintained septic systems release nutrients and pathogens—bacteria and viruses—that can be picked up by stormwater and discharged into nearby water bodies. Such pathogens can cause public health problems and environmental concerns.
- Volunteer in your County's next litter clean-up event.
- Attend public hearings or meetings on stormwater so that you can express your concerns.
- Report all stormwater violations to the County.

Gladiator Fire, cont...

The District has been working with the NWS, NRCS, Yavapai County Emergency Management, and the National Forest Service BAER Team to assess the damage and potential flooding in the area. As a result of the combined efforts, Mark Massis, Flood Warning Program Manager at the District, has installed three new rain gauges in the area to assist in monitoring the rainfall so that the NWS can more closely monitor the rain activity and issue the appropriate warnings. The gauges are spread out to cover the areas with the greatest burn intensity. The Tuscombria Mountain Gauge is near Senator Highway and lies

north of Towers Mountain. The Lincoln Ridge Gauge is near the south end of the burn area. The Peck Mine Gauge is near the northeast side of the burn area and monitors rainfall near the ridge of the Turkey Creek watershed and upstream of Crown King Road as it approaches town.

In addition to the gauges, the National Forest Service is laying mulch and seed in vulnerable areas to minimize erosion and debris flows where slopes in the burn area are steep and upstream of residential areas.

See Page 3 for photos of the burn area and gauges.

Gauge of the Month



THUMB BUTTE TANK

Gauge ID: 340

Gauge Type: Precipitation

Watershed: Verde River

Sub-basin: Granite Creek

Location: West side of Prescott

Installed: 9/10/1991

Gladiator Fire Continued from Page 2...



Tuscumbria Mountain Gauge, above.

Peck Mine Gauge, below.



View of Towers Mountain and surrounding burn damage from the Tuscumbria Mountain Gauge site, above. Remaining slurry from the fight against the Gladiator Fire, below.



Lincoln Ridge Gauge, below.



Burn area to be covered in mulch, below.



Flash Flood Safety

At the risk of repeating messages, the Flood Control District would like to remind Yavapai County that the monsoon season has great potential to bring flash flooding—and not just downstream of the Gladiator Fire area.

Flash floods can strike any time and any place with little or no warning. In mountainous or flat terrain, distant rain may be channeled into gullies and ravines, turning a quiet streamside campsite or wash into a rampaging torrent in minutes. City streets can become rivers in seconds. Observe these flash flood safety rules. They could save your life.

- Keep alert for signs of heavy rain (thunder and lightning), both where you are and upstream. Watch for rising water levels.

- Know where high ground is and get there quickly if you see or hear rapidly rising water.
- Be especially cautious at night. It's harder to recognize the danger then.
- Do not attempt to cross flowing water which may be more than a foot deep. If you have doubts, don't cross.
- Don't try to drive through flooded areas.
- If your vehicle stalls, abandon it and seek higher ground immediately.
- Never let children play near a wash during or after a rainstorm, even if the storm occurs upstream.

During threatening weather listen to commercial radio or TV, or NOAA Weather Radio for Watch and Warning Bulletins.

Flash Flood Watch means it is possible that rains will cause flash flooding in the specified area. Be alert and prepared for a flood emergency.

Flash Flood Warning means flash flooding is occurring or is imminent in the specified area. Move to safe ground immediately.

For additional information, and for weather alerts in your area, visit the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrator's (NOAA) National Weather Service page at www.weather.gov.

Being prepared and aware can save lives.

Yavapai County Flood Control District

500 S. Marina St.
Prescott, AZ 86303

Phone: 928.771.3197
Fax: 928.771.3427

The Yavapai County Board of Supervisors also serve as The Board of Directors for the District.

10 S. Sixth St.
Cottonwood, AZ 86326

Phone: 928.639.8151
Fax: 928.639.8118

The initial floodplain ordinance was adopted December 1981, and has been revised over the years.

Please visit the County website for more information:

- Applications, Forms and Instructions
- Building Codes
- Community Plans
- Drainage Criteria Manual
- Fees/Impact Fees
- Flood Hazard Status Reports
- Flood Protection Information
- General Plan
- Ordinances
- Regulations
- Storm Water Management Program
- Related Links & More

<http://www.yavapai.us>

COUNTY TOLL FREE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ash Fork, Bagdad, Seligman, Yarnell 800.771.2797
Black Canyon City and Phoenix Area 602.495.8800

COUNTY SWITCHBOARD NUMBERS

Prescott 928.771.3100 - Verde Valley 928.639.8100

The Drainage Criteria Manual, was first adopted November 1998, and revised August 2005. The current Ordinance and Drainage Criteria Manual are available on line at the County website or may be purchased at the Prescott and Cottonwood District offices.

Services Performed

The District is available for assistance or technical advice on the following topics:

- National Flood Insurance Program
- District ALERT System
- Flood Insurance Rate Maps
- Flood Status Information on a Parcel of Land
- Flood Protection & Safety
- Local Flood Hazard
- Development & Permitting within the 100 year floodplain
- Construction in or adjacent to a significant watercourse
- Storm Water Quality and Pollution Control

Flood protection information and links to other agencies are available on the County website. Go to www.ycflood.com for archived issues of this newsletter.