



# Yavapai County Flood Control District



## Newsletter

October 2011

Volume 1, Issue 4

### Inside this issue:

<i>Sedona Gauge</i>	2
<i>Pollution</i>	2
<i>Gauge of the Month</i>	2
<i>Mescal Wash</i>	3
<i>Flood Insurance</i>	4
<i>District Information</i>	4

### Websites for other related organizations:

AZ Dept of Water Resources  
[www.azwater.gov](http://www.azwater.gov)

AZ Dept of Environmental Quality  
[www.azdeq.gov](http://www.azdeq.gov)

AZ Division of Emergency Management  
[www.dem.azdema.gov](http://www.dem.azdema.gov)

CORPS of Engineers  
[www.usace.army.mil](http://www.usace.army.mil)

Federal Emergency Management Agency  
[www.fema](http://www.fema)  
[www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov)

National Weather Service  
[www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)

National Resource Conservation Service  
[www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)

US Environmental Protection Agency Region IX  
[www.epa.gov/aboutepa/region9](http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/region9)

## Happy New Water Year!!

What is a Water Year? The U.S. Geological Survey term "water year" is defined as the 12-month period beginning October 1, and ending September 30, of the following year. The water year is designated by the calendar year in which it ends. Thus, the year ending September 30, 1999 is called the "1999" water year. The October 1<sup>st</sup> date is used as it is a period of low rainfall reducing the chance that a single storm event will be divided over two water years. In years past, technicians had to visit gauges in the field to reset the water year. With the new electronic gauges and data collection systems the water-year reset occurs automatically eliminating the mad rush to get to all gauge sites before the next storm.

Water-year data is used by a number of agencies for tracking long-term precipitation trends. Many data products from precipitation maps to drought evaluation are generated or updated using this data. As the number of

gauges grows along with more robust electronic data gathering, this ready resource provides the needed data for more sophisticated and more accurate models.

Water resources data are published by the USGS annually. Access to current and historical water data provided by the National Water Information System (NWIS) is available on their website at:

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis>.

Beginning with Water Year 2006, annual water data reports are available as individual electronic Site Data Sheets for the entire nation for retrieval, download, and printing. National distribution includes tabular and map interfaces for search, query, display and download of data. From 1962 until 2005, reports were published by state as paper documents, although most reports since the mid-1990s are also available in electronic form through this web page. Reports prior to 1962 were published in occasional reports or tabular

data. <http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/>.

Water year information is available for the Yavapai County gauge network on the County website at:

[www.co.yavapai.az.us/FloodALERT.aspx](http://www.co.yavapai.az.us/FloodALERT.aspx).

Go to the rainfall map and change the 1 day parameter to water-year. The map will then display the water-year to date total (total rainfall beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>).

### 2011 Water Year Totals

The gauge on the Verde River at Perkinsville had the highest water year total for District 1, recording 14.57 inches. The highest recorded rainfall in District 2 was at the gauge at Upper Goldwater Lake with 16.46 inches. District 3 had the highest recorded rainfall for the County at the Mingus Mountain gauge with 22.60 inches. The bucket on this gauge is heated so the total includes snow melt. For more Water Year totals for a few gauges selected from Yavapai County's 83 rain gauges, see the table on Page 3.

## Dependent Communities

The Flood Control District boundaries include all of Yavapai County including the incorporated Cities and Towns. Some communities have assumed the responsibility for compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) while the District performs this service for others through a "Dependant Community" relationship. This relationship is defined by statute and is unique to Arizona.

While offering some challenges, the Dependant Community relationship offers many benefits to

the smaller Communities. While offering the participating community a great deal, the NFIP is a jargon filled, regulation intensive program requiring thorough knowledge of the regulations and regular reporting and compliance requirements. In these challenging times of reduced staffing, the relationship allows the Communities to reap the benefits of the NFIP while the District takes care of the administrative requirements.

Over the years the District has maintained particularly good

relationships with the Dependent Communities. We owe a big thanks to our County Supervisors, as well as, the elected officials and staff from the various communities for fostering an environment where the program can not only survive, but thrive. Through this relationship we have administered the NFIP, partnered on a number of improvement projects, provided funding for studies and projects within the communities and worked as a team to provide FEMA map review information.

## Sedona Gets a New Rain Gauge

The Flood Control District's rain gauge network currently totals in excess of 80 gauges in and around Yavapai County. We plan gauge locations based on a number of factors, the primary factor being the location within the watershed. To provide effective flood warning we need to track the amount and intensity of rainfall in the upper reaches of the watershed. This information is used to predict stream flow and flooding potential downstream.

The County has partnered with a number of agencies and communities to expand our flood warning system and use the system to provide other data products. Recent partnerships include the Agua Fria National Monument to provide stream flow data and the V bar V Ranch to provide a wide array of solar, temperature and soil moisture

data. All gauges include rainfall measuring to add much needed data points to our network.

A new gauge was installed this month in Sedona on City owned property in cooperation with City staff and the Flood Control District. This gauge will add an important data point to our network providing the Weather Bureau and the Colorado Basin Forecast Center additional data for their flood prediction models. Flood and other hazard information are available via weather radio. NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office. NWR broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



Mark Massis, Senior Hydrologist, installed the new Sedona rain gauge.

## Stormwater 101: What You Can Do To Prevent Non-Point Source Pollution

Keep litter, pet waste, leaves and debris out of street gutters and storm drains—these outlets drain directly to lake, streams, rivers and wetlands.

Apply lawn and garden chemicals sparingly and according to directions.



Dispose of used oil, antifreeze, paints and other household chemicals properly—not in storm sewers or drains. If your community does not already have a program for collecting household hazardous wastes, ask your local government to establish one.

Clean up spilled brake fluid, oil, grease and antifreeze. Do not hose them into the street where they can eventually reach local streams and lakes.

Control soil erosion on your property by planting ground cover and stabilizing erosion-prone areas.

Encourage local government officials to develop construction erosion and sediment control ordinances in your community.

Have your septic system inspected and pumped, at a minimum every three to five years, so that it operates properly.

Purchase household detergents and cleaners that are low in phosphorous to reduce the amount of nutrients discharged into our lakes, streams and coastal waters.



## Gauge of the Month



### **CHICK ROAD DETENTION POND**

Gauge ID: 185

Gauge Type: Precipitation/Stage

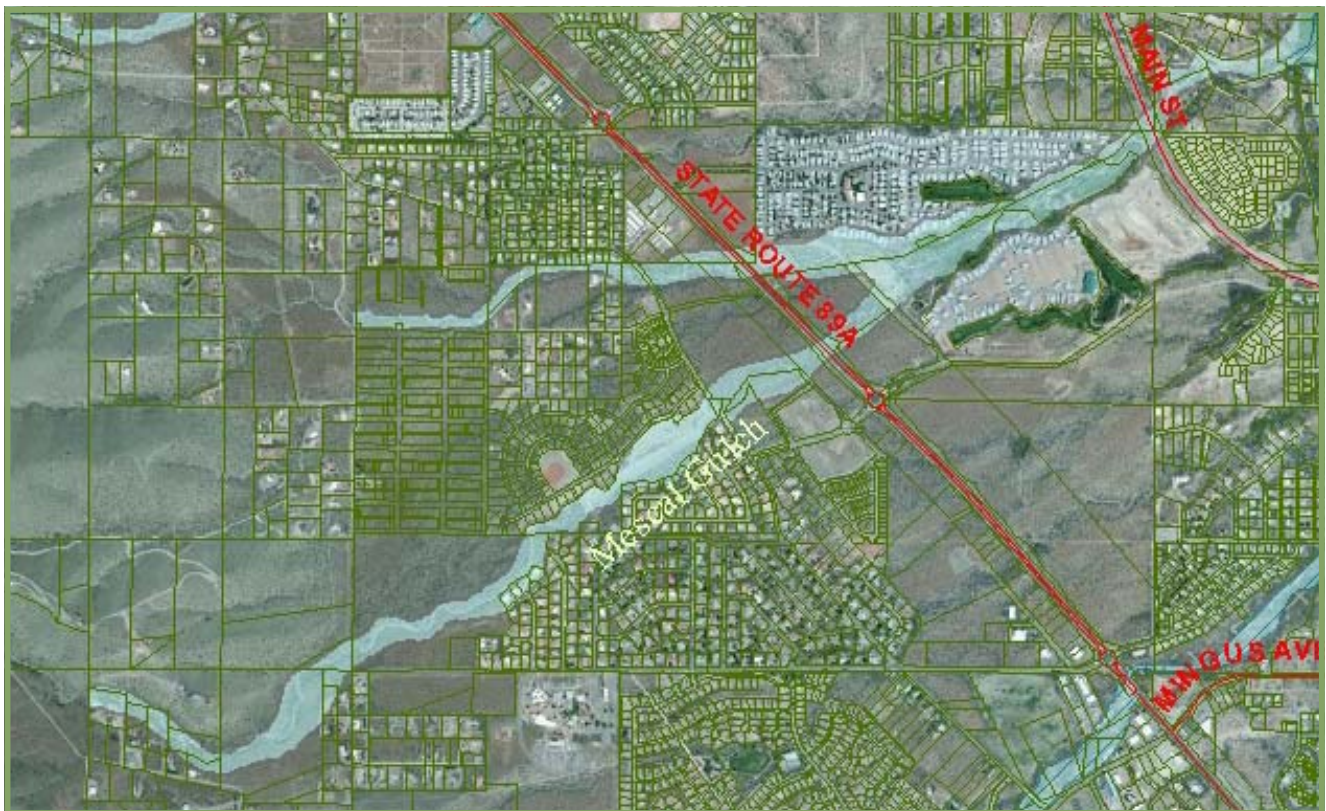
Watershed: Oak Creek/Verde River

Installed: 12/15/2000

Location: Town of Cornville

## *2011 Water Year Totals at Selected Gauges*

GAUGE NAME		WATER YEAR TOTAL (inches)	MONSOON TOTAL	MAXIMUM MONTHLY TOTAL	MONTH	MAXIMUM DAILY TOTAL	DATE
District 1	Seligman Airport	11.38	3.69	4.96	Oct-10	2.44	10/04/10
	Chino Valley	12.17	7.12	3.27	Jul-11	1.18	09/10/11
	YCFCD (Prescott - Marina St)	14.41	5.67	2.52	Aug-11	1.38	08/12/11
	Verde River @ Perkinsville	14.57	6.19	3.54	Oct-10	1.18	10/06/10
District 2	Bagdad Airport	12.09	1.69	2.48	Dec-10	1.61	10/05/10
	Upper Goldwater Lake	16.46	4.85	2.95	Dec-10	1.06	02/19/11
	Lynx Creek Levee	12.48	6.25	3.11	Dec-10	1.34	10/06/10
	Black Canyon City	8.54	2.01	3.27	Dec-10	1.50	10/29/10
District 3	Cottonwood	13.78	6.03	2.91	Oct-10	1.65	10/06/10
	Dry Creek Levee	11.93	2.29	3.19	Oct-10	1.10	02/19/11
	Mingus (heated)	22.60	9.14	6.02	Oct-10	2.05	10/30/10
	Jacks Canyon	17.13	4.33	3.78	Oct-10	1.22	10/20/10



### *Mescal Gulch, Clarkdale*

A portion of Mescal Gulch in Clarkdale was recently restudied as part of a development in Clarkdale. In the current fiscal year, the District is expanding that study to the edge of town. Please contact the District at (928) 771-3196 or go to [www.ycflood.com](http://www.ycflood.com) if you are interested in obtaining a flood status report on your property.

## Flood Insurance

Did you know that homeowner insurance policies do not cover damage from floods? Although the floodplain covers the area impacted by a 100-year event, there is a 26% chance that a house in the floodplain will flood during the life of a 30-year mortgage. Because Yavapai County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy. This insurance is backed by the federal government and is available to everyone, including properties that are outside the floodplain and those that have been flooded in the past.

Structures in the floodplain with a federal-

ly-backed mortgage are required to purchase flood insurance, however the required policy does not cover building contents. It is important to make sure your policy covers what you will need to replace if you are affected by a flood. Things that are included in the policy are things that would typically stay with the house when sold: utility equipment such as a furnace or water heater, carpet permanently installed over unfinished flooring, built-in appliances, and wallpaper and paneling. Ten percent of a dwelling's building coverage may be applied to a detached garage, unless the detached garage is used for residential

business or farming. These detached garages require a separate policy.

It is important to note that there is a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance applies to a structure. That is why it is important **not** to wait until a damaging flood is imminent. Only those policies purchased 30 days before the event will be effective.

Flood insurance policies are available from local insurance agents. Talk to your insurance agent about purchasing flood insurance. For more information, or to estimate your insurance costs, visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).

## Yavapai County Flood Control District

500 S. Marina St.  
Prescott, AZ 86303

Phone: 928.771.3197  
Fax: 928.771.3427

10 S. Sixth St.  
Cottonwood, AZ 86326

Phone: 928.639.8151  
Fax: 928.639.8118

[www.co.yavapai.az.us](http://www.co.yavapai.az.us)

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

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

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

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.