



Yavapai County Flood Control District



Newsletter

September 2011

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Inside this issue:

<i>Preparedness Month</i>	2
<i>AZPDES Permit</i>	2
<i>Gauge of the Month</i>	2
<i>Historic Flood Photos</i>	3-4
<i>South Rocky Boy Wash</i>	5
<i>How To: Maintenance</i>	6
<i>District Information</i>	6

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
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

100 Years of Flooding in Yavapai County

With the Centennial celebration wrapping up in Yavapai County and continuing on through the state, we at the District are taking a look back at the impact floods have had on our history. Living in an arid region, it is sometimes hard for newcomers to imagine flood waters inundating houses in Yavapai County, but long-time residents remember.

The largest recorded flood in Arizona occurred in February of 1891 when the Salt River in Phoenix became 2 to 3 miles wide with a flow of 300,000 cubic feet per second.

More recently, between October of 1977 and February of 1980, several regional floods occurred that affected nearly the entire population of Arizona and caused \$80 million in damages. In fact, December of 1978 saw almost every river in the state of

Arizona with water overflowing the banks.

Between September and October of 1983, the tropical storm remnants of Hurricane Octave created a week-long rainfall event over Arizona. Yavapai County received over ten inches of rain. The 28-mile long Santa Fe Railway "Prescott Branch" was washed out in several locations between Prescott and Chino Valley and was officially abandoned in 1984, leaving Prescott as Arizona's largest city to lose its rail service.

Yavapai County has its own history of flooding. In the floods of 1993, record flooding occurred in the Verde River near Paulden, Clarkdale, and Camp Verde as well as in Oak Creek at Sedona and near Cornville. In fact, Oak Creek at Sedona had flows approximately 3 times that of the

previous record from Tropical Storm Octave in 1983.

The winter of 2004/2005 brought a winter storm that affected many watersheds in the County, causing Oak Creek to crest at 18.5 feet.

In January of 2010, the Agua Fria River watershed was affected by severe flooding and a manufactured home community along Black Canyon saw 22 homes destroyed and 11 more with major damage. The Maren Drive crossing in Black Canyon Creek was washed out, taking a Yavapai County river gauge with it and leaving several homeowners stranded. The Agua Fria River split into two paths as it tore out the Squaw Valley Road crossing.

For a look at some interesting flood photographs from Yavapai County's history, see the Special Insert on pages three and four.

South Rocky Boy Wash Gets Gabion Baskets

Last September the District Board of Directors approved a project to clean out a portion of South Rocky Boy Wash in Peeples Valley and install gabion baskets. The project was completed in December 2010 and serves to stabilize the wash.

The District installed 120 linear feet of rock-filled gabions, nine feet high, to protect the bank of the wash from erosion. Along with the installation of gabions, the channel was cleared and aligned to promote unobstructed flow.

However, upstream of the gabion installation, erosion problems persist. Exacerbating the problem is placement of structures in the drainage easement along the wash. These structures and fences are in areas of severe erosion which may impact these intrusions.

The District will have a public meeting to talk about possible solutions upstream of the exist-



Portions of South Rocky Boy Wash were lined with gabion baskets.

ing project. For more information please see the event brochure at www.ycflood.com.

September is National Preparedness Month

With disasters happening across the globe, have you thought about what you would do in the case of a real emergency?

www.ready.gov has prepared extensive support for families creating emergency plans and kits. Among the tips they provide are the following suggestions:

1. Get a kit of emergency supplies that includes what you will need for at least three days. This should include water, food, a flashlight with extra batteries, first aid kit, whistle, filter mask, moist towelettes, garbage bags, wrench or pliers to turn off utilities, hand crank or battery operated radio and NOAA weather radio with extra batteries, a

manual can opener, plastic sheeting and duct tape, important family documents, and items for unique family needs, such as medications, hearing aid batteries, insurance cards, or pet food and identification.

2. Make a plan for what you will do in an emergency. Decide how you will contact your family members if you are not together when a disaster strikes. It is a good idea to have a family member outside of the area that you can all check in with in case local communication is not possible. If you can't reach your house it is a good idea to have a meeting location picked out ahead of time. Be prepared to both shelter in

place and to leave the area, depending on the nature of the disaster. For fire safety, plan two ways out of every room.

3. Be informed. Know what types of emergencies might happen in your area. The County has a history of certain types of disasters, including floods and flash floods, landslides, severe wind, wild fires and winter storms. Knowing what your risks are will make a difference when deciding what to include in your emergency kits.

Go to www.ready.gov for more information and for templates you can use when putting your plan and kits together.

Stormwater: AZPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activities



Protection Service Flat Fee that will accompany the Notice of Intent submitted to ADEQ. The Notice of Intent can no longer be submitted electronically due to the Notice of Intent Fee Attachment.

Construction General Permit

A permit from ADEQ is required for all construction sites that disturb an area GREATER THAN ONE ACRE. The Permit contains requirements such as submittal of the Notice of Intent at least two days prior to commencement of construction and development of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) specific to each construction site. Permit coverage for each construction site greater than one acre is required from commencement of construction until the site has been stabilized as defined in the Permit.

As of July 1, 2011 ADEQ is requiring an AZPDES Water Quality

The fee is based on the amount of acreage identified in the Notice of Intent:

Less than or equal to 1 acre (part of a larger project): Initial Fee - \$250; Annual Fee - \$250.

Greater than 1 acre but less than or equal to 50 acres: Initial Fee - \$350; Annual Fee - \$350.

Greater than 50 acres: Initial Fee - \$500; Annual fee - \$500.

Pollution Prevention Plan Review: Initial Fee - \$1000.

Each additional submittal due to deficiency: Initial Fee - \$500.

Waiver: Initial Fee - \$750.

Gauge of the Month



BAGDAD AIRPORT

Gauge ID: 290

Gauge Type: Precipitation/Weather

Watershed: Santa Maria River

Installed: 5/05/2006

Location: Town of Bagdad

Special Centennial Insert: Historic Flood Photographs—Transportation



Water runs out of a van caught in the flood waters.



The railroad is covered in water early last century.



Above: An RV is washed down Oak Creek in Page Springs, 2004.
Below: Squaw Valley Road is washed out as the Agua Fria carves a second watercourse through Black Canyon City, 2010.



Above: A bridge is washed out along the Santa Cruz River in 1915. Below: Maren Drive in Black Canyon City is washed out during the flood in January, 2010.



Special Centennial Insert: Historic Flood Photographs—Structures



Roof drains rain down on the street.



Sky Harbor Airport is not immune to flooding.



Above: A home is destroyed in Bright Angel Canyon in the flood of 1966. Below: a manufactured home loses its footing as the Agua Fria changes course during a storm.



Above: The State Capital grounds are flooded. Below: Sullivan Dam overflows with floodwaters.





South Rocky Boy Wash — Peeples Valley

South Rocky Boy Wash in Peeples Valley was rerouted in the early 1970's as part of a subdivision. The National Flood Insurance Program provides maps, or Flood Insurance Rate Maps, to assist in determining the level of risk for a structure. Please contact the District at (928) 771-3196 or go to www.ycflood.com if you are interested in obtaining a flood status report on your property.

Drainage System Maintenance

A community can lose a portion of its drainage system carrying capacity due to dumping, debris, soil erosion and sedimentation, and overgrowth of vegetation. When this happens, flooding occurs more frequently and at greater depths, subjecting properties otherwise protected to greater risk of damage.

Since maintenance of this system is vital to protecting properties, the District provides the following tips:

- Always check with the County before you build on, fill, alter or grade your property. A permit is required to ensure that such projects do not cause problems on other properties.
- Every piece of trash can contribute

to flooding. Even grass clippings and branches can accumulate and plug channels. If your property is next to a wash or a ditch, please do your part and keep the banks clear of debris and brush.

- Do not dump or throw anything into washes and ditches.
- To do your part to help our drainage systems work properly, pick up trash or fallen branches in ditches in your area.

If your project includes filling or rerouting a ditch, you will need the Flood Control District to review your plans. Please contact your area hydrologist in one of our offices or call (928) 771-3197.

Events

On September 24, the Flood Control District participated in **Verde River Days**, an annual celebration of preservation along the Verde River. Activities include fishing, hiking, hands-on activities, canoeing and live entertainment. More information can be found at the Dead Horse Ranch State Park website.

On October 5 members of the District will be volunteering at the annual **Make a Splash Project WET** festival. Area students will explore groundwater and aquifers, watersheds and water sources, the value of water conservation, and the water cycle through hands-on experiments. For more information go to ag.arizona.edu/arizonawet/

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

Please visit the County website for more information:

- Applications, Forms and Instruction
- 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.