



## Water Resources Working Group November 2010

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## SAF Convention a “Watershed Event”

The 2010 National Convention was held in Albuquerque last month, and themed “*Forests & People: A Watershed Event*.” Approximately 1500 SAF members attended. Thursday was the water extravaganza. A keynote address was made by Sandra Postel, who directs the [Global Water Policy Project](#).

She provided an international perspective on water resource issues, particularly related to water supply under climate change. This was followed with general session presentations by George Ice (National Council for Air and Stream Improvement) and Julio Betancourt (US Geological Survey). Ice provided a national view of water and watersheds. Betancourt discussed science and issues associated with climate variability and change in the western US.



The Water Resources Work Group coordinated two afternoon technical sessions related to forest watersheds, which were attended by about 80 people. Presentations were excellent, and included: General Session Presentation: [A National view of forests and watersheds](#) (George Ice, National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, NCASI).

- [Water yield and vegetation clearing across precipitation gradients](#): Lessons learned from New Mexico (Sam Fernald, NM State Univ.);
- [Effects of forest cover and climate change on water supply](#) (Gee Sun, US Forest Service);
- [Water yield and timber harvesting practices in Colorado subalpine forests](#) (John Stednick, Colorado State Univ.);
- [Water resource responses in beetle-killed catchments in north-central Colorado](#) (John Stednick, Colorado State Univ.);
- [Longitudinal study of BMP implementation in New York City watershed](#) (Josh VanBrakle, Watershed Agricultural Council Forestry Program);
- [Northern forest watershed services: Incentives for management on private lands](#) (Todd Gartner, World Resource Institute); and
- [Montana’s forestry BMP program: 20 years of continuous improvement](#) (Brian Sugden, Plum Creek).

Numerous watershed-related posters were also presented at the Convention. If any of the above links did not work, the technical session presentations and the general session presentation by Ice can be accessed at: <http://warnercnr.colostate.edu/saf-convention/>. Thanks so much to the water presenters, who all did a fantastic job. Thanks also to John Stednick, who helped with session organization and posting presentations at the Warner School of Natural Resources SAF Student Chapter website at Colorado State University. And lastly, thanks to George Ice and Don Turton (Oklahoma State Univ.) for moderating the afternoon technical sessions.

## Convention Field Tour of Santa Fe Watershed

A small group of foresters and hydrologists toured the Santa Fe Watershed under sunny skies and a cold down-valley wind. Despite the chilling weather, all were impressed with the watershed restoration efforts undertaken in this public drinking water supply watershed. The tour was led by Bill Armstrong, assisted by Susan Bruin (both of the USDA Forest Service) and Amy Lewis (a local consultant). Joining the group to discuss fire history was Dr. Ellis Margolis with the University of Arizona's Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research. The Santa Fe Municipal Watershed Project is a federally funded project designed to reduce the risk of high severity crown fires, improve watershed conditions, and protect the municipal water supply. **A full report and pictures of the field tour by attendees George Ice and John Stednick can be accessed [here](#).**



## 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court Ruling

On August 17<sup>th</sup>, a three judge panel of the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals dropped a bombshell, ruling that forest roads (ditches, culverts, etc) should be regulated as point sources under the Federal Clean Water Act. For nearly 40 years, these activities have been regulated as non-point sources. If this ruling stands, it could mean that use or construction of forest roads may require stormwater discharge permits. This ruling was discussed in a recent article in the Forestry Source (click [here](#)). Another overview paper can be accessed [here](#).

At the Convention, the water work group, in coordination with SAF Forest Policy Director Erica Rhodes, organized a roundtable discussion on the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit decision. Greg Corbin, forester and attorney with Stoel Rives law firm based in Portland briefed a standing-room-only crowd of over 100 people. His presentation described the history of the lawsuit and potential implications to the forest sector. **Corbin's presentation can be accessed [here](#).**

## McBroom Wins Award



Matthew McBroom was presented the SAF "Young Forester Leadership Award" at the convention. He is Assistant Professor of forest hydrology at Stephen F. Austin State University, and past chair of our Work Group. He currently serves on the Forest Science and Technology Board as the subject area representative for Forest Ecology and Biology. His research at the Alto Experimental Watershed has helped validate the effectiveness of modern BMP practices at protecting water quality. Congratulations Matt!

## Work Group Meeting at Convention

The work group meeting at the convention was attended by 20 members. We discussed challenges (past and present) with workgroup communications. We will continue to work with SAF staff to ensure we have an accurate list of all SAF members who have expressed interest in the working group. We also discussed the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court ruling, and how our group could engage on this issue. One idea was coordinating or co-sponsoring a technical workshop next year on forest stormwater control and monitoring. We also discussed the 2011 Convention in Honolulu, the planned tracks, and what water-related topics would generate interest from likely attendees (including people from Pacific Rim countries). Ideas included bioenergy impacts on water quality and nutrients, biomass BMPs, plantation hydrology, treatment of overgrown forests in southeast Asia, urban forestry water quality, forestry impacts on marine environments, and stormwater “lessons learned” from northern California. If you have any other ideas, please contact us.

Also noteworthy - our working group received a “Working Group Merit Award” at the convention for efforts undertaken in 2009. This was accepted by the past workgroup chair and chair-elect Matthew McBroom and Brian Sugden.

## Florida Nutrient Standards Adopted by EPA

In our January newsletter, we discussed nutrient criteria development in Florida. On November 14<sup>th</sup>, EPA released their final water quality criteria for nitrogen and phosphorus (click [here](#)). These standards will take effect 15 months after they are published in the Federal Register. The criteria are shown in the table below.

Table B-1. EPA’s Numeric Criteria for Florida Streams.

Nutrient Watershed Region	Instream Protection Value Criteria	
	TN (mg/L) <sup>a</sup>	TP (mg/L) <sup>a</sup>
Panhandle West <sup>a</sup>	0.67	0.06
Panhandle East <sup>b</sup>	1.03	0.18
North Central <sup>c</sup>	1.87	0.30
West Central <sup>d</sup>	1.65	0.49
Peninsula <sup>e</sup>	1.54	0.12

## 2011 National Convention in Honolulu!

The 2011 convention will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii November 2-6, with the theme “*International Year of Forests: Linking Local, Regional, and Global Solutions.*” Information on the conference can be accessed at the SAF

website [here](#). Proposals for presentations are now being accepted (see [here](#)), and the deadline is February 28, 2011. Abstracts accepted for the conference will be further reviewed for a special Convention Proceedings section in the December 2011 Journal of Forestry. We are working to develop some water sessions in one or more of the convention tracks, so please consider submitting papers to the conference. Please see additional discussion of the 2011 Convention in the Work Group Meeting section above.

