

Biographical Information for Speakers
Joint Forum on the Establishment of the Verde River Basin Partnership

Jack Herring
Environmental Studies Program, Prescott College

Dr. Jack Herring has taught environmental policy in the Environmental Studies Program at Prescott College since 1998. His academic work focuses on collaborative, community-based groups that are working to address significant environmental issues. He received his Ph.D. in Atmospheric Sciences in 1994 from the University of Washington, where he studied air pollution and climate change. Subsequently, Dr. Herring applied his science background and his interest in environmental policy as a legislative aide to U.S. Representative Vernon Ehlers in Washington D.C. He is also the Chairman of the Leadership Board for the Walnut Creek Center for Education and Research, a field station in the upper Verde watershed jointly operated by a consortium of regional educational institutions. He is the co-founder and Director of the Hyde Mountain Vista Group, a collaborative effort focused on resource management in the Big Chino grasslands and Santa Maria Mountains. Since 2001, Dr. Herring has served as the Project Coordinator for the Joint Air Toxics Assessment Project. This interagency collaboration involves federal, state, local and tribal agencies and addresses the exposure to toxic air pollution across the metro Phoenix area, with a particular focus on the risks faced by tribal communities.

Tony Gioia
Mayor, Town of Camp Verde

Tony Gioia is the Mayor of Camp Verde, having previously served as Vice-Mayor and for 8 years as a Town Councilmember. Mayor Gioia's professional experiences include working for the U.S. Postal Service since 1974, being a district manager for a food supplements franchise, owning a professional road racing team and owning a racing safety equipment company that did research and development provided sponsorships, imported goods and conducted both wholesale and retail sales.

Mayor Gioia attended Staten Island Community College and Richmond College. He fell in love with Camp Verde and purchased a home here. He raced motorcycles (both semi-pro and professionally) for 18 years and was nationally ranked. His other hobbies include photography, horseback riding, motorcycling, mountain biking, camping, flying, hiking and down hill/slalom skiing.

Mayor Gioia has been active in a broad array of community organizations including his service as Chairman of the Verde General Plan Land Use Committee, five years as the Co-Chairman for the Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee (WAC), Chairman of Citizens for Public Review; Board Membership for Friends of Historic Fort Verde and Yavapai College Northern Arizona Regional Skills Center; and participation in the Verde Valley Recycling Coalition, Verde Lakes Community Mobilization Committee, Arizona Town Hall, Arizona Watershed Alliance, Verde Watershed Association, Mingus Open Space Committee and the Friends of Camp Verde.

Jaime Fullmer, MSW
Chairman, Yavapai-Apache Nation

Yavapai-Apache Nation Chairman Jamie Fullmer was elected to office in 2003. He has undertaken the challenge of creating the Nation's first comprehensive long-term strategic plan, identifying key areas of emphasis, including: economic development and diversification, public safety, education, economic and fiscal planning, increased government accountability, social and health planning, community development and elder and youth programs – and outlining specific initiatives to support objectives in each area.

Fullmer came to his career in public service largely through his leadership in the social work field. He earned his Master of Social Work degree with a clinical emphasis from the University of Utah's Graduate School of Social Work (GSSW) in 1996. There he was also honored with the faculty award for Outstanding Scholarship and Promise in the field of social work. Prior to his service in social work, he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Southern Utah University in 1993, which he attended on a leadership/athletic scholarship. Fullmer was also involved in inter-tribal activities throughout his time at Southern Utah.

In 2000, Jamie was asked to come to work for the Yavapai-Apache Nation as the Director of Social Services. Since that time, Jamie has directed all of the Nation's social programs. In 2002, he was asked to help start up the Yavapai-Apache Health Center and became Director of Health and Human Services. He is currently a member of various Inter-governmental boards and councils. Chairman Fullmer has always been committed to helping others and considers this to be his number one priority in life.

A.G. “Chip” Davis
Yavapai County Supervisor, District 3

Chip Davis is serving his third term as Yavapai County Supervisor for District 3 and has been Chairman of the Board of Supervisors four times. With family roots in Yavapai County since 1889, Chip has demonstrated a long time love for, and appreciation of, the unique beauty and history that makes Yavapai County one of the most desirable places to live in Arizona. Chip’s family is still actively ranching in Yavapai County.

One important issue is the preservation of the Verde River. Chip understands that it is one of the last flowing rivers in the State, and that the health and future of the Verde Valley and Yavapai County is dependent on its continued flow. To this end, he works with communities and State and National entities to provide support and spread the word for river preservation. This work has highly contributed in the creation of the Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee, an award winning committee that works to find solutions to the County’s water issues.

Chip’s leadership has been directly responsible for numerous improvements in the County and to streamlining Yavapai County Government. He was instrumental in having Beaverhead Flat Road and Montezuma Castle Highway paved, and completing the Mingus Avenue Extension project. He has overseen the continued paving of approximately 8 miles annually of dirt road maintained by the County. His work has also resulted in the first three County parks in District 3—Windmill Park in Cornville, Sycamore Park in Lake Montezuma and Kiwanis Park in the Village of Oak Creek. He helped secure funding for a new fire station in Jerome, vans to help transport veterans and other citizens, a new equestrian/entertainment center located at the fairgrounds in Cottonwood, and funding for the new Verde Valley senior center in Cottonwood. These are just a few of the many projects he has helped bring to reality.

Chip is a past Chairman of the Northern Arizona Council of Governments and is a past board member of the National Association of Development Organizations, which focuses on building communities and creating jobs in rural areas. He has worked with various county departments to help streamline their procedures making them more responsive to the needs of the County’s residents while saving the taxpayers time and money.

Wilson W. Orr, BS., BSEE, MBA

Research Faculty, Prescott College, Director, USGS Science Impact Center for Visualization, Managing Partner, Blueline Consulting Group, LLC

Wil and his team work to develop practical applications for state, regional and local governments from scientific and technological advances within USGS, NOAA, DoD, NASA and other federal agencies. They have developed a model-based Digital Comprehensive Plan[®] to reduce costs of the long term planning process. An additional product is an event assessment model to evaluate the impacts of natural or human-caused disasters. These tools are then used to assist local / regional governments in coping with growth (sprawl), weather extremes, loss of agricultural lands/open space, water, transportation, and other related issues. Prior to joining the faculty at Prescott College he spent 10 years in local government management positions with the cities of Tucson and Scottsdale where he managed new initiatives in sustainable community development and advanced technology applications. Also a former Fire Chief, Wil has practical experience in the emergency management services. He currently holds 6 patents in the GIS and remote sensing fields, with a seventh pending. Wil's group provides integrated growth, disaster modeling, impact assessment and decision support systems for communities and regional planning organizations across the United States.

Hoyt Johnson III

Projects & Systems Manager Prescott College Sustainability and Global Change Program, USGS Science Impact Center for Data Visualization and Delivery

Hoyt has extensive experience in software integration, data compilation and visualization, and the development of advanced presentation systems for local community and regional development efforts. He typically manages and coordinates technical needs on projects utilizing the program's Digital Comprehensive Planning (DCP) capabilities and conducts public meetings to identify growth preferences which can be incorporated into the DCP tools. These can result in growth scenarios that are then used by county officials to assess the long-term impacts of a variety of policy choices. At Prescott College, Hoyt has worked with government, industry, citizens and students to develop software and processes that better assist decision makers in understanding the long-term impacts of daily decisions. This work often demands extensive work with elected officials, planners, decision makers and citizens, building models which serve as a decision venue / aid for evaluating long-term consequences of decisions; coordination and work with City Councils, Regional Governments, and National Events, etc. in developing software to integrate complex, interdisciplinary issues for presentation to decision makers /stakeholders in the public decision arena; Urban growth modeling and sustainable community design; Global change issues, Environmental land use planning/zoning integration; Software development management; Remote sensing application; GIS technologies integration; public speaking; technical presentation; development of computer technologies for modeling sustainability, portraying climate change, and assessing response strategies. Before coming to Prescott College, Hoyt worked frequently with City Councils and other Commissions to develop and utilize data, graphics and support materials for public meetings regarding growth and other current and controversial issues.

Kyle Blasch
U.S. Geological Survey Arizona Water Science Center

Kyle Blasch is a Hydrologist at the U.S. Geological Survey Arizona Water Science Center. He has Bachelor degrees in Civil Engineering and Earth Sciences from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a Master's degree in Meteorology from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a PhD in Hydrology from the University of Arizona. Kyle was a bioenvironmental engineer for the United State Air Force from 1994 to 1998. Kyle joined the USGS in 2000 as a student in the Department of Hydrology and Water Resources at the University of Arizona. Currently, Kyle is the Project Chief for a hydrologic investigation of the upper and middle Verde River Watersheds and is working cooperatively with Arizona's Department of Water Resources and Yavapai County on the development of a numerical ground-water flow model for the region.

Alan Quan
Supervisor, Prescott National Forest

Quan, 46, grew up in Castro Valley near the San Francisco Bay area in Northern California. He graduated from the University of California Berkeley with a Bachelor of Sciences degree in Forestry in 1981. He has also completed extensive post-graduate study in forest ecology and silviculture in Oregon and Washington.

Quan began his Forest Service career in 1980 as a co-op education student on the Mountain Home Ranger District on the Boise National Forest in Idaho. After working as a Forester for six and one half years on the Boise Forest, he transferred to the Kings River Ranger District on the Sierra National Forest in California. In 1989, Quan transferred to the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit where he worked as the Assistant Timber Management Officer. In 1992 he transferred back to the Sierra National Forest as the Forest Timber Management Officer and then Ecosystem Management Officer. In 2000, Quan transferred to the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests to his current position as the Deputy Forest Supervisor.

As Deputy Forest Supervisor, Quan helped in the administration of approximately 4 million acres of National Forest lands. These lands receive a tremendous amount of recreational use year round. The forests have the greatest amount of winter snowmobile and summer OHV use in the State of Washington. With approximately 1.5 million acres of wilderness and 1 million acres classified as roadless. The forests are currently in the process of revising their forest plans.

Quan and his wife, Laura, have three children, 9-year old Danielle, 5-year old Andrew, and 1-year old Jamisen. Quan and his wife Laura recently traveled to China for the adoption of their daughter Jamisen. Quans wife Laura formerly worked for the Forest Service as a computer specialist and is currently an RN and operates a home jewelry sales business.

Alan has stated that he has enjoyed every assignment with the forest service. "It's the people I meet and work with that make the job so enjoyable, and I'm looking forward to working with the communities in and around the Prescott NF."

David McKay
State Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

David grew up on a cotton farm in the Texas Panhandle. He is a graduate of Texas Tech University with a Bachelor's degree in Agronomy. David began his career with the Soil Conservation Service as a student trainee in 1974. He has served in numerous capacities in a variety of locations in Texas, New Mexico, and Washington, DC prior to becoming State Conservationist for NRCS Arizona in January, 2005.

As State Conservationist, David directs the staff and activities of 30 field offices and 20 financial and technical assistance programs throughout Arizona.

Carol Lynn Erwin
Area Manager, Phoenix Area Office, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Ms. Carol Lynn Erwin is a civil engineer who has spent 32 years planning large federal water resource projects. She spent the first 8 years of her federal career with the Corps of Engineers in Los Angeles. Since 1981 she has worked for the Bureau of Reclamation in the Phoenix Area Office.

For 13 years she directed the water resource management efforts of the office, which included both the water conservation program and the development of new planning initiatives. She served as Deputy Area Manager before being selected as the Area Manager in 1999.

Ms. Erwin received her B.S. degree in Engineering in 1973 from UCLA. She received her Master of Science in Engineering Degree from Arizona State University in 1987.

Tom O'Halleran

Tom is a resident of the Verde Valley area and lives outside the Village of Oak Creek. He is currently serving his second term as State Representative District 2. Tom is the chairman of the House Natural Resource Committee and has served on the Governor's Water Management Commission, is past chair of the Verde Watershed Association and also the Arizona Watershed Alliance. He served as the natural resource coordinator for the Verde Valley cities and towns.