

CITIZENS WATER ADVOCACY GROUP (CWAG)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST TO ADDRESS CITIZENS WATER GROUP

John Nystedt, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Ecological Services Field Office will talk about "Habitat Conservation Plans and Endangered Species of the Verde River" when the Citizens Water Advocacy Group meets on Saturday, Nov. 8 from 10 AM to noon at the Granite Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 882 Sunset in Prescott (two blocks behind True Value).

Nystedt will provide a basic overview of Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) and will answer questions such as: What is an HCP and what are some of its benefits? How is an HCP prepared? What is the definition of "take" under the Endangered Species Act? What is an Incidental Take Permit, why would someone want one, and how do you apply for one? He will also present information on threatened and endangered species of the Verde River and discuss past, present and potential future impacts on these species, specifically the impact of pumping from the Big Chino Aquifer, and why an HCP may be an important tool for addressing these impacts.

Nystedt worked for the Navajo Nation's Department of Fish and Wildlife for 15 years before moving to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2002. He consults with federal agencies to ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act and works with private and tribal interests to promote conservation of threatened and endangered species.

His geographic areas of responsibility include the Verde River and tribal lands in northern Arizona.

Guests are welcome! For more info, call 445-4218, email [info@cwagaz.org](mailto:info@cwagaz.org) or visit [www.cwagaz.org](http://www.cwagaz.org).

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