Announcing Some New Principals

Back in 1999, we assembled our new company on one guiding principle: that the value of our services would equal the sum of our staff.

Over the years, our success in growing our small company has been a reflection of this principle—such that the scope and range of what we provide is the result of the integrity of our collective professional capabilities.

So it is with complete confidence that we are promoting Mike Alter, Don Hanson, and Tom Suriano to positions as principal hydrogeologists at Clear Creek Associates, responsible for technical, contractual, and business matters.

So, three new principals; one long-standing principle; and a single priority: to provide quality-focused, very responsive, integrated hydrologic services.

Joining founding partners (from left) Doug Bartlett and Marvin Glotfelty as Principals of Clear Creek Associates in Phoenix are:

Thomas R. Suriano, R.G., joined Clear Creek in 2006, bringing twenty-two years of experience managing environmental and water resources projects.

Donald P. Hanson, R.G., joined Clear Creek in 2000 and has twenty-two years of experience managing environmental and water resources projects.

And in Tucson:

Michael L. Alter, R.G., joined Clear Creek Associates at its inception in 1999 as head of the Tucson office and brings thirteen years of experience consulting on environmental and water resources projects.
Levelogger Proven to be Worth its Weight in Gold

Mandate To Deliver Quality
Since the Levelogger Gold was launched at the beginning of 2006, Solinst has shipped thousands and thousands of units to satisfied customers all over the world.

“Our mandate is to design and deliver high quality products, and back it up with our 3 Year Warranty, demonstrating the Solinst commitment to our customers.”

— Sarah Belshaw, President

Dependable Water Level Datalogger
- Maintenance Free Design/Lifetime Calibration
- Backwards Compatible
- 3 Year Warranty
- Real-Time View
- User-selectable Sampling Schedule
- 10 Year Battery (1 reading/minute)
- SCADA Ready (SDI-12)

The Levelogger Gold is a self contained water level datalogger, which is completely designed, developed and manufactured in-house, in the tradition of all Solinst high quality products. The Levelogger Gold uses infra-red data transfer, providing the flexibility of installing by use of a simple wireline or by using a Direct Read Cable to surface. The Levelogger Gold includes a pressure transducer, temperature thermistor, 10 year lithium battery (based on 1 reading per minute), and internal data logger with a capacity of 40,000 temperature and water level data points.

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The Endangered Species Act (ESA) was passed in 1973 to protect species and habitat, yet it has had far-reaching impacts on water management, especially in the West where competition for water is growing. In places such as the Klamath River Basin in the Northwest and Texas’s Edwards Aquifer region, ESA issues have triggered major conflicts, but have also served as a focal point for bringing together disparate parties—many of whom have no direct interest in the species themselves—to work out water-sharing agreements. In other areas, incompatibilities between the ESA and other laws such as the Clean Water Act and court-determined stream adjudications place water management agencies in no-win situations. Increasingly, meeting the water needs of species is gaining priority relative to those of other water users, whose shares must then be adjusted. In this issue, we look at several examples of how the ESA affects water management.

We are pleased to note that Southwest Hydrology is now being printed on recycled paper with environmentally friendly, soy-based ink. This change was implemented in the May/June 2008 issue.

We welcome two new sponsors of Southwest Hydrology in this issue: the National Center for Atmospheric Research and the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer/Interstate Stream Commission. They, together with our other 2008 sponsors (see page 9) and our advertisers make continued publication of this magazine possible. We are grateful to all of our supporters as well as the contributors to this issue.

Betsy Woodhouse, Publisher

The endangered southwestern willow flycatcher is a “poster species” for water-related Endangered Species Act issues in the Southwest. It lives in dense riparian vegetation, which is becoming increasingly scarce in many areas. This 13-day old fledgling was photographed in the Kern River Valley, California, by Bob Steele Photography.
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Endangered Species

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) is increasingly forcing water managers to maintain a quantity and quality of water suitable for certain species and their habitats. This raises a number of challenges, not the least of which is determining how much water a species or habitat actually needs. In many situations, conflicts between ESA and other laws means that the loss of some species or habitat is unavoidable, but ESA has provisions for that too, such as restoring habitat or creating it elsewhere. ESA’s reach has extended far beyond species, however, in being a catalyst for developing water management plans for a wide variety of stakeholders, as illustrated in these feature articles.

ESA and Water Projects in the West—An Overview
Lisa M. McKnight
Mystified by the ESA definitions of “incidental take,” “harm,” or “habitat degradation”? Learn about ESA’s regulatory requirements and agency/manager responsibilities. Take a minute to deconstruct ESA’s legal terminology to keep your water project from harm and we promise you won’t adversely modify or jeopardize your thinking.

Managing Multiple Species in the Klamath
Betsy Woodhouse and Dwight Russell
Endangered fish, commercial fisheries, tribal interests, agriculture, hydropower, and domestic water needs all compete for Klamath River water. Shifting priorities, drought, and fish kills have further muddied the remaining waters, leaving no clear solution.

Raising Endangered Fish in New Mexico
Grace M. Haggerty, Douglas Tave, Rolf Schmidt-Petersen, and John Stomp
To maintain populations, bridge water shortages, and breed the endangered Rio Grande silvery minnow for reintroduction into its historic range, two refugia have been constructed in the Middle Rio Grande.

The Edwards Aquifer: ESA-Driven Management
Todd Voteler
After decades of conflict over water from the Edwards Aquifer in Texas, a lawsuit concerning the federal Endangered Species Act brought state regulation to the aquifer, resulting in the establishment of a regional authority to regulate pumping. Other states may want to pay attention.