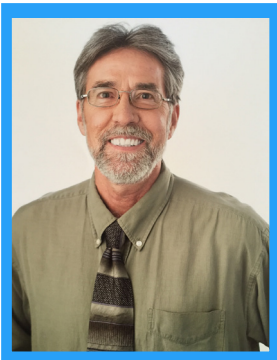




# Arizona Riparian Council Speaker Series

## Water in Arizona: Past, Present, Future



Paul Hirt, School of  
Historical,  
Philosophical and  
Religious Studies,  
Arizona State  
University

Water is Arizona's most precious resource, yet few people know where their water comes from, who provides it, how its quality is assured, or how secure future water supplies are for the state's 6 million residents. Growth and the control of water to support it have never been simple uncontested endeavors. Federal, tribal, state, and local governments are all involved in developing and distributing water to serve diverse constituents with often competing interests. And what about nature? Who is looking out for Arizona's native fish and amphibians, and the birds and insects that thrive in the cottonwood and willow forests along our most rare and valuable streamside ecosystems? We face very serious water supply sustainability challenges in the coming decades as the state continues to grow and the climate shifts warmer and drier. Who gets cut when there is a shortage? Who has priority? Who makes these decisions about our water future?

Paul Hirt is a Professor of History and a Senior Sustainability Scholar at Arizona State University, specializing in environmental history. His publications include a book on the history of electric power in the US Northwest and British Columbia titled *The Wired Northwest*, (2012) and more than two dozen articles and book chapters on various topics in environmental history. Hirt is the State Scholar for the Smithsonian's Water/Ways exhibit that is traveling through Arizona from June 2018-May 2020. He is also an elected member of the Board of Directors of Salt River Project.

**Wednesday, October 9, 2019**

**6:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

**RSVP to [cindy.zisner@asu.edu](mailto:cindy.zisner@asu.edu)**

Biodiversity Knowledge Integration Center

734 W Alameda Dr

Tempe, AZ 85282