

Community-Based Watershed Management: The Semi-Arid Land Surface Atmosphere Project (SALSA). (A08-goodrich110638-Oral)

Authors:

- D.Goodrich - *USDA-ARS, Tucson, AZ*

Abstract:

This presentation will provide an overview of my experience with the evolution of natural resources research in the San Pedro Basin. It will discuss the transition through science and research for understanding; to science for addressing a need; to integrated policy development and science. At each stage the research conducted becomes more interdisciplinary, first across abiotic disciplines (hydrology, remote sensing, atmospheric science), then a merging of abiotic and biotic disciplines (adding ecology and plant physiology), and finally a further merging with the social sciences and policy and decision making for resource management. A specific example of interdisciplinary research in the physical sciences within this framework will be presented to address the simple question posed by many of the basin's residents: How much water does the riparian vegetation use and where does it come from? Lessons learned from this experience will be reviewed with the intent providing guidance to ensure that our research is socially and scientifically relevant and will directly address the needs of policy makers and resource managers.

Corresponding Author Information:

David Goodrich	phone: 520-670-6381 x 144
USDA-ARS, Tucson, AZ	fax: 520-670-5550
2000 E. Allen Road	e-mail: dgoodrich@tucson.ars.ag.gov
Tucson , AZ 85719	

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