



# Pima County Regional Flood Control District Monthly Brown Bag Series

Source: A.T. Willett

## Goodness Gracious, Great Balls of Fire: Vegetation Change on the Coronado National Forest

**Donald Falk**  
**James Malusa**  
School of Natural Resources  
and the Environment, UofA

Over the last 30 years, every mountain range in southeastern Arizona has experienced for to some extent. To document the changes wrought by interactions of fire and changing climate, Don Falk's group documents changes in vegetation communities by tracking species composition, recruitment, mortality, and growth in study plots in multiple mountain ranges. These studies also include potential hydrologic consequences of changing vegetation. Jim Malusa hikes to locations with pre-fire photos and vegetation data, and then precisely matches the photos to document persistence and change. These precisely repeated images provide a unique view of landscape over time, and are often coupled with plot data. For the brown-bag talk Don and Jim will report on ongoing studies in areas scorched by the Bighorn Fire in the Catalina Mts, keeping in mind the hydrologic consequences of vegetation change for the Tucson Basin, as well as other areas.