

A journey into the Arizona wilderness with Bruce Babbitt

I include here two links concerning former Gov. Bruce Babbitt. The first is to an interview with the 81-year old during a recent hike along Oak Creek outside Sedona. The second is about a recent talk he gave, about the current dire situation of groundwater in rural parts of Arizona.

Those of you who knew Babbitt when he was governor, or later when he was Secretary of the Interior in the Clinton Administration, will be particularly glad for the interview, which brings us up to date on his activities since leaving office. But I hope those you who didn't know him, especially those who are too young to have been part of the environmental movement he helped move forward, will read the interview to get a feel for what was once possible in environmental politics — and hopefully, as he suggests, can be again.

I did not always agree with Bruce when he was in office, and we sometimes bumped heads pretty hard over some policy issues. I think we might today strongly disagree about his proposal, as described in the second link here, for giving a prominent role in groundwater management to county governments. But, as always, his proposal is worth consideration and has the virtue of possibly opening a valuable area for discussion that has been closed for a long time.

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona-environment/2019/07/14/bruce-babbitt-sedona-hike-wilderness-conservation-oak-creek-arizona/1505993001/>

"He co-wrote an opinion article with former state Department of Water Resources Director Kathleen Ferris suggesting that every rural county in Arizona should be required to adopt a local plan for managing groundwater."

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona-environment/2019/10/31/bruce-babbitt-rural-counties-should-take-charge-of-groundwater/2502144001/>

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Michael Gregory

Sat, Nov 2, 2019, 8:21 AM

Maybe. And maybe you could send me notice of dates etc when they come out? I'm less and less inclined to travel, esp to Phx, but maybe it's time for me to revis

Michael Gregory <aztoxics@gmail.com>

Tue, Nov 5, 2019, 6:04 PM

to Mark, Maggie