



New SWRC Research Leader

We welcome Dr. Mark A. Nearing to the position of Research Leader of the Southwest Watershed Research Center, Tucson, Arizona. Mark is an Agricultural Engineer and has been a scientist with ARS for 16 years. He has a Ph.D. (1986) in Civil Engineering from Purdue University, an M.S. (1984) in Agronomy from Purdue, and a B.S. (1982) in Geology from Indiana University.

Mark began his career with the ARS in 1986 at the National Soil Erosion Research Laboratory, West Lafayette, IN, served one year as Acting Research Leader of the ARS Watershed Research Center, Coshocton, OH (2002), and then joined the Southwest Watershed Research Center in 2003. Mark has authored more than 200 scientific papers, including more than 90 refereed scientific journal articles. Most of his research has been in the area of soil erosion research, including understanding basic erosion processes, field measurement techniques, computer simulation modeling, and impacts of global climate change on erosion and conservation. Mark is Past President of the International Soil Conservation Organization and continues to serve on its board of Directors. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Soil Erosion Network, and is Editor in Chief of CATENA, an interdisciplinary journal of soil science, hydrology, and geomorphology. In 1990, Mark was a member of a group receiving a USDA Superior Service Award for the Water Erosion Prediction Project. Mark's work has become internationally known and in 1992 he served as a key member of a USDA-ARS Bioproducts and Technology Transfer Team that visited Russia and the Ukraine, and in 1993 he organized an International Soil Erosion Workshop in Moscow. Mark currently is researching the natural variability of soil erosion measurements and its implications for model evaluation, effects of climate change on soil erosion rates, erosion model uncertainty, spatial variability of erosion on landscapes using tracers, the fundamental mechanics of rill erosion, and the evolution of rill networks.

At her request, Dr. Susan Moran has resumed a full-time research effort in hydrology at the Southwest Watershed Research Center, and we thank her for six years of exemplary service as the Research Leader.