

Inner Basin Waterline Restoration Project

20 January 2026



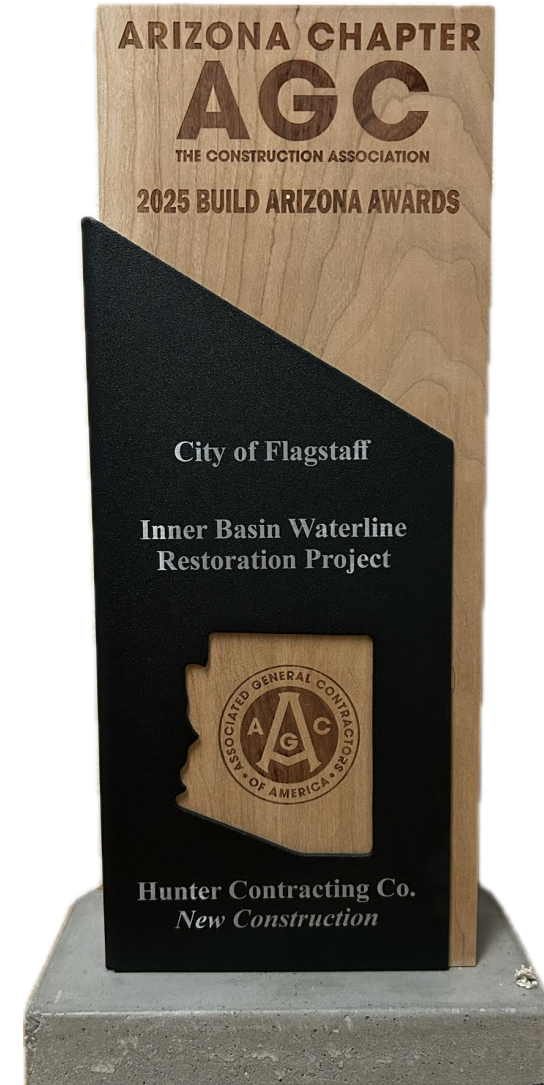


Arizona Awards



Arizona Chapter of Associated General Contractors (AGC)

- Award Won: **Build Arizona - New Construction \$10 Million - \$50 Million**
- Category: **Utilities**
- Date Won: **12/10/2024**





Arizona Awards



Arizona Transportation Builders Association (ATB)

- Award Won: **Ben Patton Luster Safety Award**
- Date Won: **2/7/2025**





Arizona Awards



AZ Water Association

- Award Won: **Project of the Year**
- Category: **Water Systems**
- Date Won: **3/12/2025**





Arizona Awards



INNER BASIN WATERLINE

Flood Mitigation | Protecting Flagstaff's Water Supply and Forest Trails

After the Pipeline Fire and devastating flash floods, the City of Flagstaff immediately engaged Hunter Contracting Co. to protect the 120-year-old Inner Basin Waterline—a critical system supplying up to 20% of the City's summer water. Without swift action, failure of the line could have cost the City thousands per day and jeopardized vital infrastructure.

- ◆ Stabilized 46 sites across steep, remote terrain.
- ◆ Installed 1 mile of gabion baskets to control flooding and erosion.
- ◆ Protected potable water supply, Transwestern gas line, and downstream neighborhoods.
- ◆ Designed to blend with the forest, reintroducing native vegetation and preserving trails.
- ◆ Locally sourced materials minimized environmental impact.
- ◆ 13 Tribal Nations invited to consult for cultural sensitivity.
- ◆ Crews battled fire risks, storms, and snow while navigating narrow access roads.

A true emergency response effort—protecting vital resources, restoring the forest, ensuring long-term resilience, and preserving access to Flagstaff's iconic trails.



Hunter
CONTRACTING CO.

Jacobs



Arizona Awards



Arizona Chapter of American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC)

- Award Won: **Engineering Excellence Honor Award**
- Category: **Water Resources**
- Date Won: **9/21/2025**





Regional Awards



Engineering News Record (ENR) Southwest Edition

Southwest edition includes projects from Arizona and New Mexico

- Award Won: **Project of the Year**
- Category: **Water/Environment**
- Date Won: **7/31/2025**



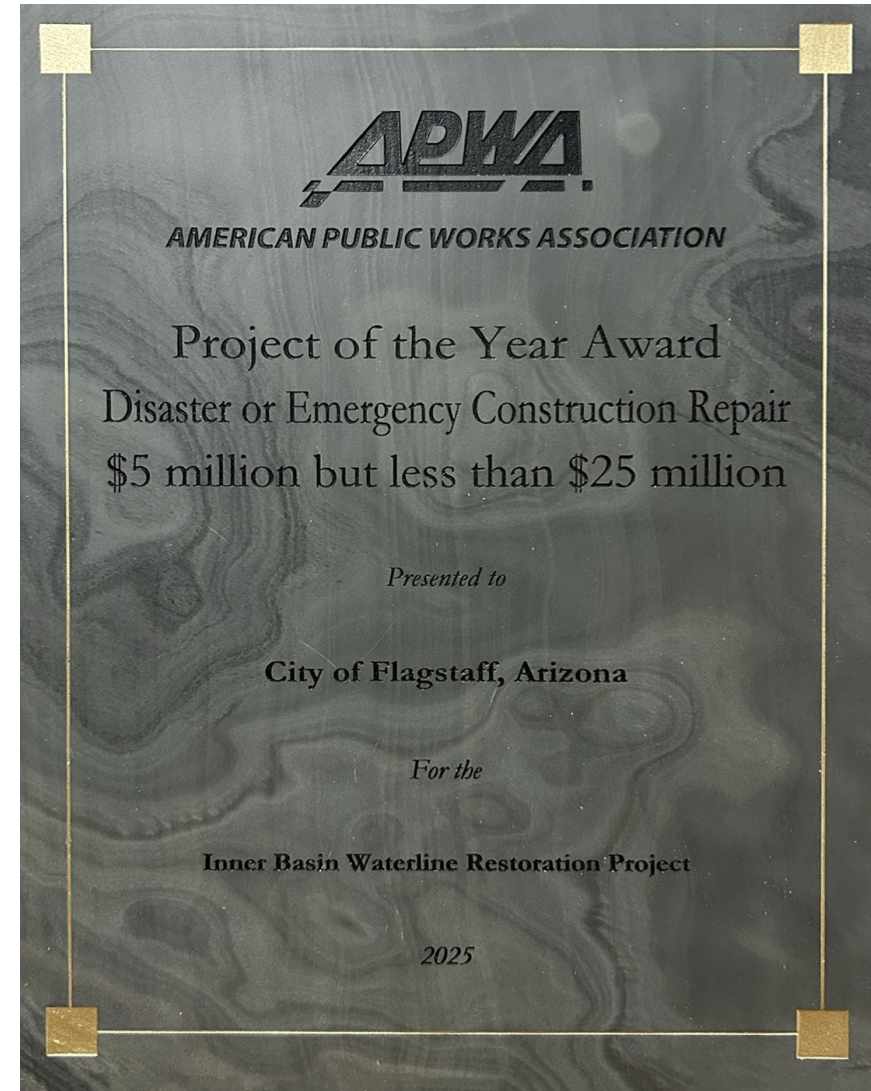


National Awards



American Public Works Association (APWA)

- Award Won: **Public Works Project of the Year**
- Category: **Disaster or Emergency Repair \$5 Million-\$25 Million**
- Date Won: **4/17/2025**





Media Exposure



INNER BASIN WATERLINE RESTORATION PROJECT

Managing Agency: City of Flagstaff, Arizona
 Primary Contractor: Hunter Contracting Co.
 Primary Consultant: Jacobs
 Nominated By: APWA Arizona Chapter

Flagstaff's Inner Basin waterline was devastated by a 26,532-acre forest fire. To restore service, the city completed repairs and stabilization upgrades to 46 sites along the 13-mile pipeline. They combined 5,326 feet of gabion baskets with 2,228 cubic yards of concrete to stabilize wash crossings and protect the waterline and its access road against future flooding.

The project protects a waterline constructed within an access road that climbs up the hillside of a steep, densely forested mountain. Traditional drainage crossings, such as large culverts or bridges, could not withstand both the volume of water and debris flowing through these drainageways. The final roadway design for the drainage crossings is for a 50-year storm event. Because of the remote location of the project and constraints due to the narrow road and the narrow rock tunnel on Waterline Road, onsite materials were used where possible.



The team used a "design-construct-tweak design-improve construction" approach, which ensured continuous progress. Initial designs were tweaked during construction, which allowed for efficient resource allocation and immediate mitigation of the most vulnerable areas.

Because of the challenges presented due to the extent of erosion, a comprehensive two-phase approach was used. Before work began, debris was cleared and access roads were stabilized. Then the team focused on restoring and

fortifying the area. By addressing immediate threats and laying the groundwork for sustainable restoration, the project protected critical infrastructure and contributed to the long-term recovery of the damaged forest ecosystem.

The repairs helped stabilize the pipeline, ceasing the loss of millions of gallons of water daily. The repair to the surrounding environment makes the area safer for utility worker access, forest maintenance crews, and

emergency personnel in this fire-prone area, as well as recreational users. Materials sourced from the area and designs that harmonize with the landscape preserved the region's natural beauty, ensuring the improvements enhance rather than detract from the environment.

By prioritizing public safety, environmental stewardship, and transparent communication, critical infrastructure has been restored.





Media Exposure



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2025 Southwest Best Projects

Best Project, Water/Environment: Inner Basin Waterline Restoration



Photo courtesy Hunter Contracting Co.

October 27, 2025





Media Exposure



BIZ | GOV | LIFE | BE WELL | DINE | PLAY | RETREAT | GEMS | OUTSIDER



Legacy, Leverage, and a Whole Lot of Dirt: Hunter's 65-Year Run



Inner Basin Waterline Rehabilitation, City of Flagstaff — an award-winning rebuild restoring 46 sites across 13 mountain miles, using trenchless repairs, slope stabilization, and drone inspections to bring potable water back after wildfire damage. Photo courtesy of Hunter Contracting.

More To Read



Seven Million Lights. One Wild West Christmas.





Video

