The Water Resources Research Center and the TRIF Water Sustainability Program

UA Extension Water Summit
May 1, 2008

Sharon B. Megdal, Director
Water Resources Research Center
350 N. Campbell
Tucson, AZ 85721
520-792-9591, ext 21
fax 520-792-8518
email smegdal@cals.arizona.edu
web site: www.cals.arizona.edu/azwater/
WRRC is a Research and Extension Unit in CALS

• The University of Arizona's Water Resources Research Center (WRRC) promotes understanding of critical state and regional water management and policy issues through research, community outreach and public education.

• The WRRC is committed to:
  – assisting communities in water management and policy;
  – educating teachers, students and the public about water; and
  – encouraging scientific research on state water issues.
We do this in a variety of ways...

- Publications
- Conferences and other gatherings
- Web Site
- Applied Research
- Federal 104b Program
- Educational programs
- Involvement in UA-wide Water Sustainability Program and other cross-college or interdisciplinary programs
- We try to be networked!
Publications!
Annual Conference

Water Resources Research Center
2008 Annual Conference
June 24, 2008 - Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa, Phoenix

The Importance of the Colorado River to Arizona's Future

Special Pool of Scholarships Available to County Extension Personnel (WRRC Funds)
www.cals.arizona.edu/azwater
Some Current/Recent Research Projects

- Recharge as a Tool for Meeting Policy Objectives (Hatch Project) (Several Papers)
- Evaluation of AMA Management Plans
- Water Resource Availability Study; Tucson Regional Water Planning Perspectives Study
- Cochise County Water Use Study
- Lead author for CAST Paper on Freshwater Availability
- Conserve to Enhance
- Water Re-use
Newer Programs/Initiatives

• Congressionally authorized Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Program (AZ, NM and TX)
• Summer Research/Writing Internship
• Writing Contest
• Revision to Arizona Water Map
• GIS Capabilities
• International Conference on Best Practices in Water Policy
Other

• Brown Bag Seminar Series
• Additional conference (Tucson Community Conversation on Water) in 2007
• Many presentations to diverse audiences
• WRRC hosts Megdal’s graduate seminar, Arizona Water Policy, every Spring
• NEMO
• Arizona Project WET
• WSP
Work Collaboratively with…

- Other WSP Centers and programs
- SWES, AREC, LAW, SBS Departments, Engineering, Udall Center, ISPE
- Local, State and Federal Government Agencies
- Private Sector
- Other Cooperative Extension Units
NEMO* in Arizona

*Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials ...

and other Land Use Decision Makers
The NEMO Program

5 Key Elements:

1. Land Use Impacts on Natural Resources → Water Quality
2. Natural Resource Based Planning
3. Land Use Decision Makers
4. Unbiased Research-Based Science
5. GIS Technology
Mapping, Watershed Planning, Decision tools -
Effective Water Education through partnerships that work
Arizona Project WET
Statewide Partnerships

• Examples of effective partnerships that have leveraged staff positions and programs in the counties:
  – Five year, $1 million dollar contract with the City of Phoenix (multiple positions)
  – Two year grant with the Arizona Department of Water Resources (program coordinator)
  – Strong Partnership with Yavapai Co.
  – Developing Partnership with Pinal Co; Abbott Fund director for Ross Nutritional Products in Casa Grande and beyond found out about Arizona project WET from the web site.
The Conserve Water Arizona Educators Guide was named as a finalist in the Distinguished Achievement Awards competition of the Association of Educational Publishers (AEP), the nonprofit professional organization for educational publishers and content developers. (Science Instruction Category)

The winners will be announced in June.
Water Sustainability Program
Coordinating Water Centers

The SRC/Sematech Engineering Research Center (ERC) for Environmentally Benign Semiconductor Manufacturing develops science, technology and educational methods to lead the semiconductor industry on environmental issues.

The NSF Water Quality Center (WQC) conducts research that evaluates physical, chemical, and microbial processes that affect the quality of surface and subsurface waters utilized for potable supplies.

The NSF Science and Technology Center for Sustainability of semi-Arid Hydrology and Riparian Areas (SAHRA) focuses on developing integrated, multidisciplinary understanding of the hydrology of semi-arid regions.

The Water Resources Research Center (WRRC) promotes understanding of critical state and regional water management and policy issues through research, community outreach and public education.

The Superfund Basic Research Program (SBRP) advances science and applies biomedical and environmental research for improvement of human health and the environment.
WSP Components

• Competitive Grants Program
  – Has funded many outreach/education projects and applied research, including Arizona Know Your Water

• Recruitment & Research Initiatives
  – Water Quality Specialist (SWES)
  – FY09 funding for Maricopa County Agent

• Student Fellowships

• Education & Outreach
  – Staff position, extend programs in Maricopa Co.
  – Several Projects

• Water Center Activities and Directed Initiatives
  – WRRC has funded Extension programs/projects
ArizonaWater.org

Arizona Water is your one-stop information center for water in Arizona. This integrated network of searchable databases includes water data, maps, state university research efforts, and research efforts at the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, and Arizona College of Science.

Arizona Water provides links to other services and tools. You can subscribe to Southwest Hydrology or Arizona Water Resources, search for water modeling software and algorithms, and find summaries of international water news translated from 16 languages with Water News Watch, and more.

Whether you are a homeowner, water manager, or research scientist, Arizona Water is designed to get you to the information you need quickly and easily. Select and search one database, or perform a QuickSearch on several. Try using the Ask the Water Wizard for answers to Frequently Asked Questions. You can also email your questions to email@arizonawater.org or call us at 520-626-0592.

This website was created by the Water Sustainability Program (WSP) of the University of Arizona. Click here for more.

Edit data (admin website)