

# Earth Month 2011

**In Celebration of  
Earth Month 2011,  
on April 15, sixty  
Snowflake Intermediate  
School 4th and 5th Graders  
tested the water quality of  
Silver Creek and toured  
the Silver Creek Hatchery.**



With the support of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), Mrs. Porras' 4th grade and Mrs. Mortensen's 5th grade classes collected water samples from two locations along Silver Creek. Using World Water Monitoring Day test kits, the students tested the water for temperature, pH, turbidity (clarity) and dissolved oxygen, indicators of the general health of surface waters. The data were recorded and uploaded to a water quality database, where they will be included in a world-wide, publicly-available report.



Samples were collected from Silver Creek at the Cattle Lane crossing in the town of Taylor (downstream site) and at the Silver Creek Hatchery, off of Bourdon Ranch Road (upstream site).

ADEQ's Julie Finke, Susan Determann, Darren Sversvold and Byron James were on hand to assist. In preparation for the event, on March 18, Susan gave a presentation to the students on water and the hydrologic cycle.



# First Stop— Downstream Site at Cattle Lane, in Taylor



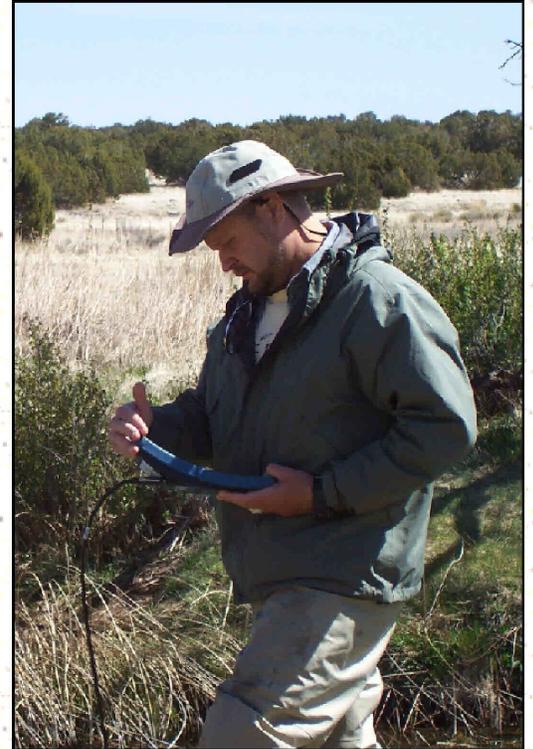




**Susan Determann demonstrated water quality sampling techniques, and showed students some E. coli samples collected by ADEQ at both the upstream and downstream locations.**



## 2nd Stop— Upstream Site at Silver Creek Hatchery



**Darren Sversvold observes water temperature readings**





**Based on the testing results, students overwhelmingly concluded that the water quality in upper Silver Creek is better than that in lower Silver Creek, a clear sign of the real impacts of pollution sources.**





**The students fed Apache Trout at the Silver Creek Hatchery, viewed the spring at the crystal-clear headwaters of the creek and looked for crawdads. Following which, they returned to the classroom after a job well done.**

