

Water Quality Improvement Education Grants 2007-2008 Grant Cycle 10

Coconino

Oak Creek Canyon Water Quality Improvement Program

Pender Engineering

\$53,490.00

This project will initiate a Trailhead Ambassador program for high school students. Once trained, Trailhead Ambassadors will work weekends and holiday weekends, 35 weekends from March to October, to greet visitors in Oak Creek Canyon day-use and overnight-use areas, explaining to visitors the risks associated with fecal contamination, reminding visitors of the stream of the importance of proper disposal of trash and human and pet wastes, and directing visitors attention to locations of toilettes, trash receptacles, recycling receptacles and dog waste stations. This program will provide up to one high school credit towards graduation upon completion of 120 hours of volunteer service.

The grantee will also install and maintain eight Barco[®] Dog Waste Disposal Stations at trailheads to educate recreational users about the importance of preventing the pollution that results from human and pet wastes. This project is a collaboration with Oak Creek Canyon Task Force.

Graham

Gila Valley Best Management Practices on Crop Land

Gila Valley NRCD

\$12,880.00

Project will address sediment loading, nutrient and pesticide runoff, and potential spreading of state listed noxious/invasive weeds into the Gila River through the installation of vegetative filter strips across the bottoms of irrigated fields. Due to shallow soils in the Gila Valley and the required slopes they attribute, excess irrigation water is a common occurrence. Any water that is not taken into the soil is returned to the Gila River. The vegetative filter strips will act as a “brake” for the water, slowing it to allow sediment and plant parts and seeds to remain on the fields. The vegetative filter strip will also act as a sink, absorbing excess nutrients and pesticides. Producers and the public will be educated through various classroom and hands-on workshops, news articles, publications, and informative brochures, mailings, field visits to view practices being implemented. Technical support will be provided by the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

The Dzil Nchaa Si'an /Mt. Graham Youth Practicum Education Grant Project

Gila Watershed Partnership

\$8,050.00

The Dzil Nchaa Si'An Youth Practicum Education Project will educate Native American youth in environmental issues and water quality impairments in the Upper Gila Watershed. Funds will be used to develop a summer camp that would include environmental and cultural activities. During the five-day practicum, tribal students will be encouraged to pursue professional natural resource careers, raise their ecological

awareness, exemplify traditional connection to the earth, and enjoy the outdoors. The Dzil Nchaa Si'An Youth Practicum Education Project will build relationships between the Coronado Forest and Native American youth and provide for long-term collaboration to benefit the youth, their elders, their tribes, the land, and water quality.

The Upper Gila Watershed Steward Program

Gila Watershed Partnership

\$35,550.00

The Upper Gila Watershed Steward Program is an education project that will enhance the Master Watershed Steward program. This will lead to the development of targeted water quality improvement projects in the impaired waters in the Upper Gila Watershed, and ultimately to the removal of these waters from the 303(d) list.

Maricopa

Stormwater Pollution Prevention in YOUR Neighborhood

City of Peoria

\$5,000.00

An important element of a successful stormwater program is to enhance public awareness and understanding of stormwater pollution prevention issues which includes non-point source contamination. This is accomplished through a dedicated education plan. This grant project is to develop a stormwater pollution prevention education program for Peoria students in grades K -8. The education program will be titled "Stormwater Pollution Prevention in Your Neighborhood." The focus of the program is a hands-on, interactive stormwater model that allows the students to see the effects of non-point contaminants. The goal of the program is to educate the students on stormwater pollution prevention issues and identify positive behaviors that will enhance our environment on a long term basis.

Water's Changing Journey

Audubon Arizona

\$168,442.00

The objectives of *Water's Changing Journey* include informing participants of the NPS pollution problem, educating them so that they may make changes in their personal behaviors, as detailed below, that improve local water quality and motivating them to participate in community cleanup projects. Located at the Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center on the banks of the Salt River just a mile south of downtown Phoenix, the project will focus on providing environmental education to the communities of South and Central Phoenix. The *Water's Changing Journey* project will consist of three education approaches:

- 1) A walk through the Center's approximately two-acre wetland area – the Water Journey Path. The walk will be guided by interpretive signage and supplemental printed material.
- 2) The opportunity for visitors to check out a 'water quality backpack' to complete self-guided activities along the Water Journey Path.
- 3) A formal two-hour naturalist or trained volunteer led program that focuses on water quality, the NPS problem and water monitoring activities.

Pima

Creating a Neighborhood Model to Address Urban Stormwater Pollution

Watershed Management Group

\$103,240.22

This project will educate urban residents on nonpoint source pollutants and will train them in the implementation of BMPs to improve water quality in High School Wash in Tucson. The focus will be on BMPs designed to reduce stormwater runoff, erosion, and the transport of nonpoint source pollutants into the wash. A core group of five community leaders will be trained as educators in BMP design, monitoring, and maintenance. The project will also include wash clean-up efforts, outreach workshops to highlight project success, and the publication of a neighborhood guide for nonpoint source and stormwater BMPs specific to Arizona's environment.

Master Watershed Steward Program

University of Arizona

\$148,336.00

The goal of the proposed project is to expand the focus of the Arizona Cooperative Extension's Master Watershed Steward Program (MWSP) to promote on-site water quality improvements and enhance watershed education state-wide. The current MWSP concentrates on general adult education. This proposed project will enhance the current program and extend the reach of MWSP to work with watershed partners and facilitate the implementation of watershed improvement projects. The project will be a collaborative effort between the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), MWSP, Arizona Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials Program (AZNEMO), Arizona Cooperative Extension, and various watershed partners.

Yavapai

From Education to Action in the Granite Creek Watershed

Prescott Creeks Preservation Association

\$67,875.50

The purpose of this grant is to promote an awareness of water quality issues, promote behavioral changes, and to lead to pollutant load reductions to Granite Creek and Watson Lake - the impaired surface waters. This educational effort will strengthen other existing and future efforts to implement on-the-ground water quality improvement projects. Education will include: identification and assemblage of a watershed stakeholder group to participate in the Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) process; volunteer training through workshops to actively care for water quality with hands-on, in-the-field training; design and construction of a trailer-mounted, mobile, interactive watershed model; development and distribution of a *Creek Care Guide*; and presentations to community and civic organization to discuss water quality issues and recruit potential volunteers for future on the ground projects.