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## **ADEQ Awards Nearly \$300,000 Watershed Improvement Plan Grant to Prescott Creeks Preservation Association**

PHOENIX (May 8, 2009) -- The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality has awarded a grant of \$299,961 to the Prescott Creeks Preservation Association to reduce the level of pollutants in the Granite Creek Watershed.

The grant will be used to plan and complete projects to mitigate the runoff of nitrogen, phosphorus, and *E. coli* bacteria in Granite Creek and Watson Lake. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency listed these waters as "impaired," or seriously polluted, under the Clean Water Act.

The grant is being awarded under ADEQ's new Targeted Watershed Improvement Grant program for projects where surface water cleanup is needed and where strong community support is anticipated for completing the project. The grant includes a one-year planning phase and cleanup projects to be implemented the following year.

"The money from this grant will be used to research the likely sources of the pollution like urban storm water runoff, septic systems, aging infrastructure and properties in the area," said ADEQ Acting Director Patrick J. Cunningham. "Granite Creek and Watson Lake are dear to thousands of Prescott residents and this project is necessary to improve the water quality and remove the creek and lake from EPA's list of impaired waters."

An important part of the ADEQ program is local community involvement.

"We are empowering local watershed groups. ADEQ will provide technical support, but these grants depend on the involvement of local volunteers to do the plan and implementation," Cunningham said.

The grant is funded with federal dollars provided to ADEQ under the Clean Water Act.

In addition to the present grant, ADEQ previously provided nearly \$900,000 to Prescott Creeks Preservation Association, a nonprofit group, the last three years for water quality improvement and restoration.

For more information on the grant program, visit our Web page:

<http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/watershed/improvement.html#target> .