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ADEQ Officials Announce \$12,500 Grant to White Mountain Wildlife and Nature Center for Environmental Assessment

PHOENIX (Feb. 5, 2014) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today that a \$12,500 Brownfields grant has been awarded to the White Mountain Wildlife and Nature Center at 425 S. Woodland Road in Pinetop-Lakeside for a phase one environmental site assessment on its property and 2.5 acres of adjacent property that the nature center is considering buying.

The adjacent property would be used for continued recreational and educational outreach for residents of the Navajo County town and visitors to the area. The nature center promotes appreciation, responsible use, and sustainability of Arizona's natural resources.

The additional land would allow the center to build classrooms, a wildlife rehabilitation center and more interpretative areas. Part of the grant money also will be used to conduct an asbestos survey on a 5,000-square-foot building on the land under consideration for purchase.

A phase one environmental assessment identifies any potential or existing environmental contaminants. It will also identify cleanup options and estimates of cost.

"This is an excellent example of how our Brownfields program makes communities better by analyzing if there are environmental problems as in a case like this, where a nature center seeks to expand," said ADEQ Director Henry Darwin.

A Brownfield is an abandoned or under-used property with an active redevelopment potential that suffers from known or perceived environmental contamination. More information on Brownfields is available at:

<http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/waste/cleanup/success.html>