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ADEQ Awards \$86,163 Grant to LS Cattle Company to Reduce Polluted Runoff into San Pedro River

PHOENIX (Oct. 20, 2014) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today that an \$86,163 grant has been awarded to LS Cattle Company LLC for rangeland improvement on the Sands Ranch southwest of Tombstone to reduce runoff to the San Pedro River.

The grant is one of eight in Arizona this year administered by ADEQ's Water Quality Improvement Grant program (WQIG) to address polluted runoff from many different sources.

The funding will be used to remove brush and restore grasslands on 2,069 acres, more than three square miles, of the ranch. Additional waterlines will be installed to better distribute cattle in each pasture area. The project work will improve ground cover within the river watershed and help slow runoff.

A 17-mile stretch of the Upper San Pedro River from the mouth of Babocomari Creek, a tributary of the San Pedro, to Dragoon Wash is listed as an impaired waterway by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency because of *E. coli* exceedances in past years. The source of the pollution is believed to be from both septic tanks and cattle grazing operations in the area.

“This grant money will help restore water quality in one of the most beautiful and important riparian areas in the state,” ADEQ Director Henry Darwin said.

ADEQ's WQIG program funded through a partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Clean Water Act. For more information about the program, visit <http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/watershed/index.html#wqig>.

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