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## **ADEQ Grants \$123,604 to Little Colorado River RC&D Group for Water Quality Protection in Coyote Creek Area**

PHOENIX (July 12, 2010) – The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality has awarded a \$123,604 Water Quality Improvement Grant to the Little Colorado River Plateau Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. for a project to protect water quality in the Coyote Creek area in Apache County.

Coyote Creek is a tributary of the Little Colorado River in the river's overall watershed. The confluence of Coyote Creek and the Little Colorado River is just south of Lyman Lake, between Springerville and St. Johns, in east-central Arizona.

The grant money will be used to create a watershed improvement council and establish best management practices in the Coyote Creek subwatershed. It also will establish criteria for selecting sites for projects to reduce sediment and turbidity, developing volunteer water monitoring efforts and setting up monitoring criteria.

Coyote Creek and its drainage area have been impacted over time by livestock and wildlife activities and other human-caused factors. A focus of the project will be to reduce runoff into the creek.

"This seed money will grow partnerships for protecting Coyote Creek and preventing pollution in the Upper Little Colorado watershed," said ADEQ Director Benjamin H. Grumbles.

ADEQ's program is funded through a partnership with the U.S. EPA under the Clean Water Act.