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ADEQ Announces \$44,200 Grant to Gila Watershed Partnership to Continue Upper Gila Stewardship Program

PHOENIX (July 20, 2010) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today that a \$44,200 Water Quality Improvement Grant has been awarded to the Gila Watershed Partnership of Arizona to continue its successful stewardship program in the 7,354-square-mile Upper Gila Watershed.

Phase 2 of the Upper Gila Watershed Project will offer four semesters of classes about monitoring and controlling sediment on the river, conducting field surveys, data searching, and developing data so that it can be used in future efforts directed toward receiving a targeted watershed grant to address sedimentation on the Gila River.

“Environmental stewardship and education about river sedimentation go hand-in-hand. ADEQ is pleased to provide seed money to Gila Watershed Partnership to increase awareness and prevent pollution along the precious Upper Gila,” ADEQ Director Benjamin H. Grumbles said.

ADEQ awarded a \$35,550 grant to the Gila Watershed Partnership of Arizona in 2008 to begin a Master Watershed Steward program on the Upper Gila. The program is based on a collaborative effort between ADEQ and the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension that offers more than 50 hours of coursework on basic watershed science.

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

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