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ADEQ Plans Water Quality Testing Event for Snowflake Students at Silver Creek as part of Earth Month Activities

PHOENIX (April 6, 2011) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today that the agency will sponsor a water quality testing event at two sites on Silver Creek for about 60 fourth- and fifth-grade students from Snowflake from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Friday, April 15 as part of ADEQ’s statewide activities conducted during Earth Month.

The students, from Snowflake Intermediate School, will be divided into groups and given kits to test for pH balance, temperature, dissolved oxygen and turbidity in the water. After the water quality testing is completed, the students will be taken for a tour at Arizona Game and Fish Department’s hatchery at Silver Creek.

The event also is being conducted during activities throughout April surrounding Earth Day on April 22. ADEQ staff will be participating in 16 events around the state.

“Watershed events like this in the Snowflake-Taylor area and throughout the state increase environmental awareness and help students of all ages protect public health year-round,” ADEQ Director Henry Darwin said.

ADEQ has spearheaded numerous initiatives to protect children’s health including a school bus idling reduction program which now has more than 700 schools in the state participating. The agency also has a school flag program that communicates daily air quality conditions at school districts in Maricopa and Pinal counties as well as a daily wind forecast for Yuma County.

Also, underground storage tanks at numerous school sites around the state have been evaluated and leaks cleaned up and assistance has been rendered to assist schools in controlling pests and using responsible pesticide applications.

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