



DATE: Aug. 9, 2011

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## **ADEQ Officials Announce \$250,000 Award to ADEMA for Water Quality Protection in Wallow Fire Burn Area**

PHOENIX (Aug. 9, 2011) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today that \$250,000 has been awarded to the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs to help prevent erosion and protect water quality in the Wallow Fire burn area.

The funding, made available through a partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Clean Water Act, will support projects that focus primarily on the headwaters of the Little Colorado, San Francisco and Blue rivers, watersheds that have been severely impacted by the fire. The projects will reduce or prevent sedimentation and bacterial contamination of surface waters as a result of monsoon rains following the fire. ADEQ currently has ongoing projects addressing these water quality issues in some of the burned areas.

DEMA will coordinate among stakeholders and award the money to subcontractors for stabilization and erosion control projects in the watersheds impacted by the more than 500,000-acre wildfire, the largest in state history.

“We’re pleased to be assisting DEMA in these important watershed recovery efforts that will also protect water quality,” said ADEQ Director Henry Darwin.

The money will be awarded to applicants who are best able to demonstrate likelihood of reducing sediment runoff to the burn area water bodies. In addition to the ADEQ-targeted areas, funding also will be awarded in areas identified as high risk for excessive sedimentation based on the Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) burn severity map developed by the U.S. Forest Service.

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