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ADEQ Plans Water Quality Testing Events for Round Valley Seventh-Grade Science Students at Little Colorado River

PHOENIX (Sept. 12, 2011) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today that the agency will sponsor water quality testing events in the Little Colorado River for Springerville and Eagar students on Tuesday, Sept. 20 and Thursday, Sept. 22 as part of this month's World Water Monitoring Day activities.

The seventh-grade science students, from Round Valley Middle School, will be divided into groups and given kits to test for pH balance, temperature, dissolved oxygen and turbidity in the water.

The events have a special angle this year in that the Tuesday testing will occur at two sites upstream from the burned area of the Wallow Fire, the state's largest ever wildfire, and the Thursday testing will be at two sites downstream from the fire. The test results will allow the students to assess the fire's impact on surface water quality.

Tuesday's events will be held at Sheep's Crossing and in the community of Greer while Thursday's events will be at South Fork and near Eagar.

"Watershed events like these in the Little Colorado River and throughout the state increase environmental awareness and help students of all ages protect public health year-round," ADEQ Director Henry Darwin said.

"Our Science, Technology, Engineering and Math class is looking forward to testing and observing the effects of the Wallow Fire in our local waterways," said Round Valley Middle School Teacher Lisa McCall.

World Water Monitoring Day, which is on Sept. 18 this year, was celebrated by more than 212,000 people on six continents monitoring their local waterways last year.

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