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Dec. 2 Deadline to Apply for \$139,000 in Grant Funds for Water Quality Protection in Wallow Fire Burn Area

PHOENIX (Nov. 23, 2011) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today that there will be a Dec. 2 deadline for contractors to apply for \$139,000 in grant funds awarded to the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs to help combat 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 focus primarily on the headwaters of the Little Colorado River, which has had problems with sedimentation, and the San Francisco and Blue rivers, which have had problems with *E. coli* contamination. ADEQ has ongoing projects addressing those water quality problems.

ADEMA will coordinate among stakeholders and award the money to subcontractors for stabilization and erosion control projects in the Little Colorado, San Francisco, Blue and other watersheds impacted by the more than 500,000-acre wildfire, the largest in state history. For more information, contact Ryan Brown, ADEM emergency program specialist, at (602) 464-6232 or ryan.brown@azdema.gov.

“We’re pleased to be assisting ADEMA in this important erosion control project to 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.

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