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ADEQ Plans Water Quality Testing Events on Sept. 29 during Verde River Day Festivities at Dead Horse Ranch State Park

PHOENIX (Sept. 13, 2012) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today that the agency will conduct water quality testing events for the general public on Saturday, Sept. 29 during the 24th Annual Verde River Day at Dead Horse Ranch State Park in Cottonwood.

The first event will be held at 10 a.m. and other events will be scheduled throughout the day. ADEQ employees will staff a booth in the children's area at Verde River Day and all those interested in the testing events need only show up at the booth.

For more information, contact Julie Finke of ADEQ at (602) 771-2231 or jac@azdeq.gov. The events traditionally have been conducted for students but all members of the public are invited to attend and learn how to test water for turbidity, pH balance, dissolved oxygen and temperature.

The event also is being conducted in honor of World Water Monitoring Challenge, which is celebrated Sept. 18 this year. Last year, 340,000 people in 77 countries conducted basic monitoring of their local waterways. Results of the testing will be entered into an international database for teachers and students to use for environmental education.

“Water quality testing events like these in the Cottonwood area and throughout the state promote environmental awareness and preservation of our water resources,” ADEQ Director Henry Darwin said.