

Watersheds..... Are They Not The Ideal Management Unit For the Millennium?

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SEASONAL ISSUE

Natural Resource Policies Should Be Based Upon Watersheds?

Most of us would agree that the best decisions regarding the operations of a home and family should be made by the residents and/or it's members. Working cooperatively, sharing and delegating responsibilities, creating a positive living environment, developing skills in personal / social interactions are but a few things desired and worked toward.

The challenges of managing a critical resource, such as water, are no different. They do pose some special difficulties in defining and managing the "home".

Management policies developed originally by aboriginal humans and animals were on a "personal" basis. Individuals, visiting their local watering hole established a "respect" and took turns meeting their individual needs.

Early settlers could dig a well and provide for their needs with little concern about what distant neighbors were doing. As communities developed, it became necessary to secure, allocate and distribute water to consumers. As populations and the number of communities increased, county and state governments became the primary policy makers.

Ultimately, the federal government had to intervene and today a global involvement is required to address the increasingly complex water issues.

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WhatAboutWaterAnd..... Acronyms?????????

ADEQ? AMA? USEPA? ADNR? MADL?
 ADWR? AGF? USGS? ARC? CAP?
 USBLM? USFS? UACE? SRP? RCEE?
 WVA? WRRC?

Have you ever attended a "public meeting" and listened to a presenter rattle off about 300± different "jargon" acronyms as statistics, reports, reviews, summations are given. After about the third or forth example slips from their educated lips, you find your mind slipping off in the opposite direction.

There is not much one can do to extricate themselves from the above dilemma short of flight or doing some personal education. A few suggested rules follow:

If there is a frontal **A** it is probably for Arizona (**A** at the end = agency) and **US** is probably United States. A safe guess for **W** is water. **B** is probably Bureau. **R** may be Resources and **E** is frequently environmental. **D** is possibly department.

You need to swallow quickly, take a deep breath and proceed cautiously. You will probably do a much better job if you just relax and let the 'toughies' slip silently into cyberspace.

Let's test yourself on the first few back at the beginning. **ADEQ**..... Arizona Department of Environmental Quality; **AMA**..... Active Management Area (Prescott's); **USEPA** United States Environmental Protection Agency. See! Two out of three isn't all that bad!

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WHATABOUT WATER (CONTINUED)

Another easy way to get this "good stuff" is to request a nifty, paper (booklet) put out by the WRRRC (Water Resources Research Center) an arm of the UA (University of Arizona). It is titled: **Where To Get Free (Or Almost Free) Information About Water In Arizona, 3rd Edition** by Barbara Tellman. There is a lot of other information, materials and sources from private, industrial and educational materials for self- education about water and water resources.

The WRRRC will provide a copy free:
Call or write: UA -WRRRC - COA
350 North Campbell Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85721
Ph: 602-792-9591
FAX: 602-792-8518

GRANITE BASIN and WATERSHED ADVENTURE BY CHINO VALLEY STUDENTS

Students from Heritage Middle School, Chino Valley, had an exciting and educationally rewarding 11th and 18th of September, exploring the Granite Basin - Granite Mountain Wilderness Area, near Prescott.

Heritage Middle School Staff, The University of Arizona -Yavapai County Cooperative Extension Office, Chino Valley Fire Department and the U.S. Forest Service collaborated on a multi-tasked program designed to increase student awareness of water and natural resource management. Areas studied focused on the management of outdoor recreation and environmental resources. All activities were "squeezed" into an intensive, four hour, hands-on, student -centered, program.

A special thanks to all the participating staff from Heritage Middle School. The Chino Valley School District deserves recognition for making this type of learning experience available to it's students.

West Sedona Elementary School Participating in Water Conservation Efforts

The *West Sedona Elementary School* will be including water conservation projects in this years's "Discovery Fair". The school's science teacher, Dan Cuttler, is leading this effort and is willing to share his expertise and experience with others.

Dan and six other teachers are planning and developing this Grades 2 thru 8 project. Their efforts are based upon successful programs used to conserve water in Northwest Texas Water Conservation District #1. Water conservation efficiency levels approaching 90% levels were achieved by local schools within that region.

The UA Cooperative Extension plans to assist them with this great effort. Dan can be contacted at 520-204-6523.

Year 2000 Science Fair Projects

As time passes swiftly and deadlines approach, are you and your students ready for up-coming science fair activities? Projects take time.

We are suggesting that students use water and water resource based entries as focal points for such projects. Water is important to all students . Their perceptions and talents can be challenged and tested examining water-focused projects.

Incorporating the elements of GREAT Science Fair Projects is dependent upon a student's ability to develop personal ownership in his/her project. Elements of an organized project should include:

1. Identifying a problem.
2. Forming a hypothesis [intelligent / educated guess].
3. Organizing and conducting an experiment to test their hypothesis.
4. Collecting and analyzing their data.
5. Reaching a conclusion.

Help is just a phone call away. Your Cooperative Extension Office can provide assistance.

Remember, it's how they do their project that is important it's probably more important than the topic they choose. Ideas are unlimited and WE can help you identify areas for individuals, classes or schools.

Verde Watershed Association Offers "GRASSROOTS" Participation at Monthly Meetings

The Verde Watershed Association, a non-profit, water resource issue, organization, invites public membership and participation in addressing water issues of the Verde River Drainages, Yavapai and Coconino Counties and The State of Arizona.

General membership meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday evening of each months. There are also opportunities for involvement in VWA standing committees which meet on a monthly basis.

The next scheduled general meeting will be held at 7:00 PM, December, 21st, in the County Supervisors Board Room, 1015 Fair St., Prescott, AZ.

For those interested in contacting the VWA : 520-284-2032 or on their WEB Site: vwa.southwest-water.org

The 14th Annual Northern Arizona Science and Engineering Fair

will be held on Friday, March 13th - 18th, at the Activity Center of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Deadline for registration is the 3rd of March.

For more information and application information contact:
Mike Wolf, Director
Embry Riddle Aeronautical University
520-708-6968

Watersheds (Cont. from Page 1)

As all these entities became more and more involved in attempting to regulate and manage water resources. The consumers became politically less and less involved and have nearly lost their ability to manage their "home" and it's water. The political boundaries of individual, community, county, state and federal properties have become so intertwined that it is difficult, if not impossible, to determine who is in charge, who is responsible for making decisions and where water resource management is headed.

John Wesley Powell, the historic, 19th century explorer of the American West, envisioned a different plan than we see today. His vision was one of human settlement based upon "hydrographic basins" rather than current townships and counties. Regional water management would define political units based upon watersheds rather than traditional political units (i.e. municipalities, counties, etc.)

Powell believed that early Spanish and Anglo, "watershed-based communities", developed a sense of spirit and common commitment necessary for success and survival in the arid and semi-arid areas of the American West. Their "home" was protected and assured because land and water resources became community resources.

Rather than establishing states, he recommended "hydrographic" districts; districts based upon watersheds, it's residents, their interdependent and unified interests and values. In other words, establish an autonomous commonwealth based on watershed (hydrological) boundaries rather than politically established boundaries.

Powell's "bottom-line" was residents within the boundaries of these "hydrographic districts" would be the most qualified, after all it is their "HOME".

His plan would have taken us far beyond water resource management. It would have re-defined natural resource management. It would have established a completely different sociopolitical unit. A "Watershed Democracy". Two or three hundred "hydrographic basins" or watersheds instead of the states and their counties apparent today

Some might say: "Never try to go back!" The West has certainly developed along a completely different line-of thought than Powell envisioned. Coordinating land and water resource management has long been "against the grain" of western politics. Maybe it is time for some serious re-thinking of why and where we are at, regarding water and natural resource management.

* Base reference from Article by Joe Gelt, UA-WRRRC, *Arroyo*, Vol. 10-3, August, 98

Prescott National Forest Provide Environmental Education Access to Grades K thru 12

A recent decision has been made by Prescott National Forest officials to facilitate environmental education activities by schools.

According to Steve Sams, Public Affairs Officer of the Prescott National Forest, Supervisor's Office, use fees may be waived for students in grades K thru 12. Environmental education training programs for teachers /adults would be reviewed, on a case by case basis, by District Rangers.

This decision would assist schools wanting to sponsor and supervise environmental education activities in approved areas/sites of our forests. It is a great step in providing our children with field experiences to learn and understand more about our natural resources

Updated Septic System Information Packet Available to Owners !

The Home Owner's Guide to Septic Systems continues to be in great demand. The Cooperative Extension Office has just received updated packets for septic system owners. The packet contains all the information needed to "love and care" for your septic system in a handy organizational folder.... AND the price is right! **Absolutely FREE!** If you can't stop by any of our offices in Yavapai, Mohave and La Paz Counties, please send a **large**, self addressed **and** stamped (\$1.75 postage), priority mail envelope.

Looking Forward to 2000

As we approach the New Millennium, we are looking forward to providing you with the best informational support and quality assistance available. We also hope you continue to look at us as your access to the World of Extension Information. On behalf of The University of Arizona, College of Agriculture and Cooperative Extension Office for Yavapai County, our Faculty and Staff, we all join in wishing you a rewarding and prosperous New Year.

Water Education Resources

Your Cooperative Extension Office can provide assistance and resources for any age level, individual or special interest group.

- ◆ Speakers and Displays
- ◆ Water and Natural Resources Information and Materials
- ◆ Classroom / Public Presentations
- ◆ Assistance in lesson planning and classroom activities
- ◆ Developing Curricula and Projects
- ◆ Project "WET" Workshops
- ◆ Teacher training
- ◆ Ground Water Model
- ◆ Septic System Model
- ◆ Field Trip Facilitation

Reader's Message

Any "Food-for-thought"? We would like to include articles from YOU! Sharing information and ideas are the strengths of public awareness and education.

We encourage you, students, teachers, administrators and community leaders to contribute to this newsletter. Drop us a line!



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