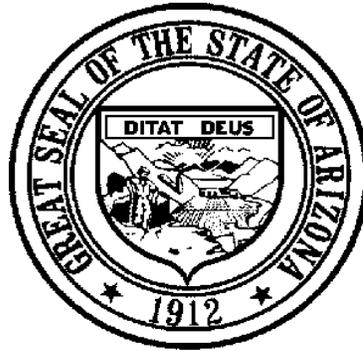


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Gerry Wildeman to Head Prescott Active Management Area

Arizona Department of Water Resources Director Herb Guenther announced today the appointment of Gerry Wildeman, a veteran ADWR employee, as Area Director of the Prescott Active Management Area.

"I am pleased to name someone of Gerry's intelligence and experience to direct the operation of this essential area," Guenther said. "The Prescott AMA presents most of the kinds of water management challenges rural Arizona will face in the 21st Century."

Ms. Wildeman, 40, recently completed her doctoral studies in environmental planning from Arizona State University, has been at ADWR for the past 12 years, and currently works for the Arizona Water Banking Authority. She earned a master's degree in forestry at Northern Arizona, and a bachelor's in biology at ASU. She has two children.

During her tenure at ADWR, Ms. Wildeman has worked in the water rights adjudication section, conducting investigations of the Little Colorado River and Verde River watersheds, and served as manager of surface water rights, before taking the position she now holds with the water bank.

The Prescott AMA covers 485 square miles in central Yavapai County. It is the center of one of the fastest-growing parts of rural Arizona. It was created in 1980 with the passage of the Arizona Groundwater Management Act, which seeks to ensure that the AMAs like Prescott will reach "safe-yield" – a balance between inflow and outflow of groundwater – by 2025.

Accelerating growth has placed a strain on the area's water supply, and in 1999 the Department issued a finding that the AMA was out of safe-yield and that additional management steps needed to be taken in order to meet the goals.

Sandra Fabritz-Whitney, Assistant Director for Groundwater Management, said several good candidates interviewed for the position. "We were fortunate to have qualified people from inside and outside the agency who were willing to take on this important position," she said.

Ms. Wildeman will assume her new duties in early August.