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For Immediate Release:
March 29, 2006
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NEWS

RELEASE

Public Information Office
(602) 771 8430

ADWR-USGS to perform airborne electromagnetic surveys

The Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) are collaborating to conduct hydrogeologic investigations in several rural areas of Arizona to improve understanding of available water supplies.

The areas are the:

- Middle San Pedro Basin, which includes the Benson area and extends to Redington,
- Detrital, Sacramento, and Hualapai basins in northwestern Arizona near Kingman, and
- Willcox and Douglas Basins in southeastern Arizona.

In each of these basins, the primary water supply is groundwater from basin-fill aquifers that underlie the valley floor.



The work is being undertaken as part of the Legislature's Rural Watershed Initiative.

The investigations, which will begin this weekend, will take advantage of several noninvasive geophysical methods to refine the definition of aquifer boundaries and properties.

One such method is the use of airborne electromagnetic surveying. These surveys will be done in late March and early April using fixed-wing aircraft flying at about 300 feet above land surface.

Celebrating 25 Years

“About 2,000 miles of airborne electromagnetic surveys will be flown in the areas,” said ADWR Project Coordinator, Tom Whitmer. “The results will be used to help understand the potential for water availability in the basins.”

The results of the survey will be used to define the extent of highly electrically conductive silt and clay and moderately conductive sand and gravel. Understanding the distribution of the silt, clay, and gravel is critical in the understanding of ground-water availability. These surveys can also help define the water table within thick intervals of sand and gravel.

For more information regarding Rural Watershed Initiative and related investigations, please contact:

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- John Hoffmann (USGS) at 520-670-6671