

# Arizona Department of Water Resources

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**NEWS  
RELEASE**



Janet Napolitano,  
Governor

Herb Guenther,  
Director

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## **ADWR issues Draft Volume 4 of Arizona Water Atlas**

*Covers northwestern part of the state*

The Arizona Department of Water Resources has completed draft Volume 4 of a nine-volume set comprising the Arizona Water Atlas, Director Herb Guenther announced today.

The new volume covers the Upper Colorado River Planning Area, which runs from Peeples Valley southwest of Prescott, to Lake Havasu City, Bullhead City, and Hoover Dam on the Colorado River, as well as the southern shores of Lake Mead. The eastern boundary of the planning area takes in Grand Canyon West south to Skull Valley. There are nine groundwater basins in the planning area and parts of Yavapai, Coconino, La Paz and Mohave counties.

For study purposes, ADWR staff divided Arizona into seven planning areas, each containing multiple groundwater basins. There is a separate Atlas volume for each planning area, an introductory volume composed of background information, and an executive summary volume.

"The release of draft Volume 4 is a timely event," Director Guenther said. "There is an extraordinary amount of interest in the characteristics of the area due to the many proposals for large residential developments," Guenther said. "Much of this development is focused in the southeast and northwest portions of the planning area. We are pleased to be able to contribute our findings."

The Atlas initiates a more systematic effort by the Department to assist Arizona water planning efforts and develop solutions to water resource problems. The primary objectives in assembling the Atlas are to present an overview of water supply and demand conditions in Arizona, to provide water resource information for planning and resource development purposes, and help identify the needs of communities.

The Upper Colorado River Planning Area features a wide variety of land uses. There are the vibrant communities along the river and Lake Mead with extensive recreational activities, lightly populated high desert lands, and substantial agricultural, ranching, and mining areas.

Annual average water use in the area was 173,650 in the 2001-03 time frame. The 2000 census showed that 153,800 people live in the area. Agricultural water demand represents 55% of the water use in the planning area, primarily in the Mohave Valley area. Municipal use is 32% and industrial use, primarily due to mining and electrical power generation is 13%. Water supplies include Colorado River water, groundwater, other surface water and effluent. Over 3,000 acre-feet of effluent is used each year in the communities of Lake Havasu City and Bullhead City.

Guenther added that a draft version of Volume 5, which covers the Central Highlands, should be issued within three months.

The first four volumes are available on the ADWR website – [www.azwater.gov](http://www.azwater.gov) . Because they contain considerable numbers of high-quality maps, the volumes are extremely large. ADWR recommends visitors download each item they wish to examine, rather than attempt to view them while on line. However, to address file size issues, sections of Volumes 3 and 4 may be downloaded separately as indicated on the website.

ADWR plans to complete drafts of all Atlas volumes by the early 2008 and will make printed copies and CD-ROMs available.

The atlas staff is seeking substantive public and professional comment on the work in progress. Staff plans to revise the Atlas, based on comments received. An electronic comment form is available on the website.

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