



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Project WET Publication Addresses Arizona Governor's Call for Statewide Water Conservation**

*Arizona Conserve Water publication to impact more than 100,000 students in the next five years.*

Bozeman, Mont., 18 May, 2007 – In 2005, Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano called for a statewide water conservation effort to help strengthen a “culture of conservation” in the state. After hearing Governor Napolitano’s call for action, the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) and the Bureau of Reclamation’s Phoenix Area Office contacted the Project WET Foundation, an organization dedicated to teaching the world about water, to discuss the development of a teachers’ guide to educate Arizona students about water conservation. The two organizations felt the Project WET curriculum and pedagogy could, if adapted and localized to meet Arizona’s specific needs, significantly contribute to statewide water conservation efforts.

ADWR and the BOR, Phoenix Office formed a partnership to fund the creation of *Arizona Conserve Water* and worked with Arizona Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) at the University of Arizona’s Water Resources Research Center and the Project WET Foundation, based in Bozeman, Mont., on the coordination, management, and publication of the guide.

Project WET publications are unique because each is created through the collaboration of scientists, water managers, academicians, and educators. According to Marjie Risk, ADWR’s Statewide Water Conservation Coordinator, “The development of *Arizona Conserve Water* brought together more than 75 key stakeholders – representing a variety of perspectives – who participated in curriculum development workshops and reviewed the guide. Additionally, teachers across the state tested drafts of the lessons in their classrooms. The publication of this book embodies Arizona’s commitment to water conservation.”

Beginning in June 2007, Arizona Project WET will conduct teacher training workshops, introducing K-12 teachers to *Arizona Conserve Water*. Designed with the needs of Arizona’s teachers in mind, all activities in the book were correlated to Arizona Academic Standards. As a result, over the next five years, more than 100,000 students will complete activities in *Arizona Conserve Water*. By participating in *Arizona Conserve Water* activities, these students - future leaders and policy makers – will be challenged to conserve water at a personal level

“We are proud of our partnership with Arizona and applaud Governor Napolitano, the Arizona Department of Water Conservation, and the Bureau of Reclamation for their vision,” said Project WET Foundation President and CEO Dennis Nelson.

This 350-page, full-color book includes background information on Arizona’s water situation, 15 interactive, multi-disciplinary lessons, and 10 Arizona case studies. *Arizona Conserve Water* can be ordered online at <http://store.projectwet.org>.

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In its 23 years of operation, the **Project WET Foundation** has created one of the most extensive sets of original education materials in the world, designed around hands-on, interactive, science-based activities. Annually, Project WET’s global network (26 countries) conducts over 1,200 train-the-trainer workshops, reaching more than 20,000 school and community educators. The thousands of teachers trained in Project WET pedagogy have reached millions of students with interactive lessons in science and sustainable water resources management. [www.projectwet.org](http://www.projectwet.org)

**Arizona Project WET** is a comprehensive teacher-tested water education program meeting district, teacher and student needs through partnerships across the state. <http://cals.arizona.edu/AZWATER/wet/>

The **Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR)** works to secure long-term dependable water supplies for Arizona's communities. [www.azwater.gov](http://www.azwater.gov)

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has been involved in the critical issue of water development in Arizona since 1902. Working with the state of Arizona and other partners, the **Phoenix Area Office** has helped the state of Arizona move forward with its water management goals. <http://www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix/>