



**NATURAL  
RESOURCE  
EDUCATION  
CENTER**

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2018-2019 Final Report

Task 1

The Natural Resource Education Centers' Water Out West program had an outstanding, record breaking attendance year. Two school districts, Blackwater Community School District and Pinal County School District's Mary C. O'Brian Elementary, were added to the schedule that included Casa Grande Elementary District, Maricopa School District, Florence School District and Apache Junction School District. To make this program available NREC traveled to individual schools. However, those schools that were able to attend NREC programs at Central Arizona College campus, truly benefited from the whole experience. Teachers commented on the connections made by attending the whole field trip experience.

Task 2

NREC provided 6 WOW programs for 323 students at 1,292 student water conservation educational hours. NREC is consistently updating and redesigning curriculum. The WOW program consists of 4 unique stations and a half hour classroom visit prior to their participation in the WOW program. This spring, NREC developed a new station that incorporates the prior watershed lessons learned that are foundational to concepts applied in the **new** water management station. Students that have not been exposed to watershed management are given an opportunity to use small watershed models to experiment with before graduating to the new water management models. Teachers, that have been attending NREC WOW programs, were enthusiastic about the elucidating new station. In the new water management station, students were given the opportunity to construct water ways that move water, form reservoirs, show the over flow of a reservoir, creation of hydropower as well as how to divert water. A picture of the new water management station will be included with this report.

The students are rotated through each station in a specific order to enhance the scaffolding of concepts and information. It is always exciting for NREC and classroom teachers to witness the "light bulb" moment happen when students make the important concept connections.

Task 3:

This year, NREC played a part in Pinal County's high school career field day on October 30, 2018 at CAC. NREC presented different careers in water, the education needed for each career and potential salaries of the different careers. NREC teachers were able to reach about 250 high school students.

NREC participated in all 5 Pinal County Project Wet programs reaching 2,175 students at 4,350 student water conservation educational hours. NREC provided 4 to 5 instructors per U of A Extension, Project Wet water festivals. NREC's participation in all Pinal County, Project Wet community Water Festivals continues to be a good outreach source for water conservation education. NREC participates in the adult training and the actual Water Festival. During each water festival, there are three to four teams concurrently teaching four different stations. NREC has at least one teacher on each team. Therefore, NREC teachers present to every one of the students that attend Project Wet.

This year:

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| September 27, 2018 | Maricopa Schools- 800 students at 1,600 student conservation education hours.                                     |
| November 29, 2018  | Florence Schools- 720 students at 1,440 student conservation education hours.                                     |
| February 14, 2019  | Casa Grande Schools- 400 students at 800 student conservation education hours (other half cancelled due to rain). |
| April 10, 2019     | Casa Grande make-up day- 60 students at 120 student conservation education hours.                                 |
| April 25, 2019     | Apache Junction Schools- 195 students at 390 student conservation education hours.                                |

The Natural Resource Education Center would like to thank ADWR for their commitment and support for our educational programs and looks forward to future collaboration.

Respectfully submitted,

Loralee Wuertz  
Director

Jennifer Salcido  
Incoming Director