



**NATURAL
RESOURCE
EDUCATION
CENTER**

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INVOICE for \$15,000

Mid- Year Report

NREC's goal is to bring our water conservation program to fourth and fifth graders in smaller school districts in Pinal County and to build a greater understanding for the need for water conservation. These schools in the smaller, targeted districts, do not get the benefits of Pinal County's Project Wet programs. NREC, for several years, has been actively pursuing the smaller school districts. For the 2019-2020 spring school year we have booked two new school districts for the Water Out West program (WOW).

NREC started the Fall '19 semester by taking the WOW program to Coolidge Heartland Ranch Elementary 4th grade classrooms in September. This program totaled 60 students at 120 conservation/educational hours. Heartland Ranch 4th grade teachers value the program and make sure to book the program a year in advance for the following year. Three schools are booked for WOW late March and April 2020. It is estimated we will reach an additional 180 students during these programs.

NREC, has participated and provided three trained teachers for three community events for Project WET water festivals. 1,953 students were reached which totaled 3,906 student ag/conservation educational hours. A fourth water festival is planned for late April 2020.

Three years ago, NREC began a pre-visit program to the individual classrooms before the classes attend WOW. The pre-visit includes a game or activity that introduces vocabulary and concepts, builds on prior knowledge, and sets the students up for success during WOW. Many teachers note the value of our pre-visit. They see the value of starting a "relationship" with the students prior to their field trip. The pre-visits prepare

the students for a fun, educational learning experience. The pre-visits have become a set standard for the WOW program.

NREC is continuously working to update and improve the curriculum. A new learning station, “physics phun” was introduced last year in the spring of 19’. This station was developed to embrace STEM criteria and uses PVC piping and water. The students are engaged in water movement, management and the process of making hydro-electricity. This new learning station was well received and has become a favorite of the students

NREC is in the process of collaborating with teachers from the University of Arizona’s Pinal County cooperative extension to develop a high school curriculum to introduce high school students to careers in water resources and management. It is our goal to have this curriculum ready to share with students this summer in a possible summer camp and or a fall school program.

NREC is very excited for the 2020 Spring WOW programs and collaboration. Without ADWR’s continued support, these educational opportunities would not be available for Pinal County schools.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Salcido
Director