

Justification for Water Resources Education Program Coordinator
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The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension has offered science-based water resource education since 1997. These programs have included: Arizona Project WET (Water Education for Teachers), Master Watershed Steward, well water education, septic system education, booths at public events, topic-focused school programs, technical assistance to individuals, and support to various watershed groups around the county.

Figure 1 shows the numbers of clients served by Yavapai County Cooperative Extension each year since 1998. During this period, 37,366 clients (mean of 4,152/ clients per year) were provided with direct assistance or participated in an educational program. Adult clients applied knowledge gained to conserve water in the home/landscape, make wise decisions on potable water treatment, reduce septic system failures, and address various other water-related issues. Master Watershed Stewards extended these efforts by acting as volunteers in their communities and directly assisting Cooperative Extension with water resource education program efforts. Youth served gained knowledge of the water cycle, water quality, riparian areas, and how local water resources are managed.

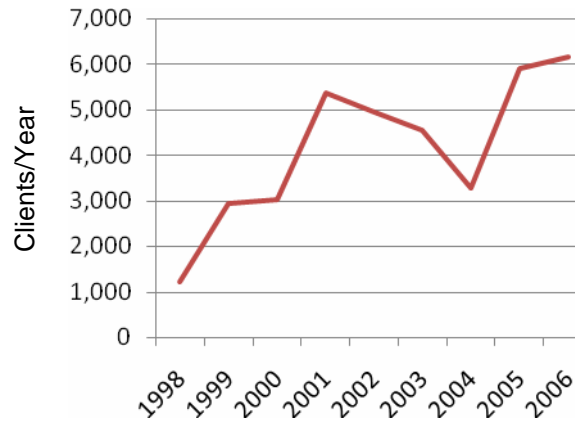


Figure 1. Clientele served per year by Yavapai County Cooperative Extension between 1998 and 2006.

Arizona Project WET

Arizona Project WET is a comprehensive teacher-tested water education program. It utilizes topic-centered, peer-reviewed curriculum that is correlated to the Arizona Academic Standards. This successful water education program has been implemented in several Yavapai County Schools. This effort is currently being supported by the Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee and ADWR.

Arizona Master Watershed Steward

In 2001, Yavapai County Cooperative Extension designed and delivered the first Master Watershed Steward (MWS) course in Arizona. MWS is a volunteer training program designed after the Master Gardener Program: a successful nationwide horticultural volunteer training program. Master Watershed Stewards attend ten half-day classroom sessions where they learn about climate geology, soils, hydrology, water quality, plant and animal biology, ecology, GIS/GPS technologies, and water law from subject matter experts. Cooperative Extension requests each MWS to contribute 40 hours of volunteer service to become certified.

Matching Funding

Funding allocated to support water resources education by the Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee will be matched by a contribution from the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors. Collaborating on this position will enable Cooperative Extension to hire a full-time water resources educator that will provide all of Yavapai County with Arizona Project WET, Master Watershed Steward, and other quality water resource education programs.