



2009 CSREES National Water Conference; St. Louis, MO

Volunteer Monitoring of Arizona Rivers with NEMO Wet/Dry

Kristine Uhlman *, Erin Westfall, Lainie Levick, Terry Sprouse , Cassie Holmgren
University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center
*kuhlman@ag.arizona.edu

Abstract:

Arizona NEMO has developed a mapping protocol and GIS data management and processing methodology to record the changing perennial reaches of Arizona Rivers. Built on a local community volunteer monitoring program that has gathered on the third Saturday of June since 1999 to record where water flows in the San Pedro River, NEMO Wet/Dry has formalized the volunteer monitoring program and expanded the activity across Arizona.

The goal of yearly monitoring is to create a long-term record of changes in river flow - while the record of any single year is interesting it is a record for multiple years that may tell what is really happening to the flow in the river. In addition, the goal of Wet/Dry is to build community participation, provide outreach education on the importance of long-term monitoring of our natural environment, and foster understanding of and responsibility for the health of Arizona watersheds.

This poster presentation will include the GIS mapping protocol and an overview of the monitoring results on several rivers in Arizona.

Impact Statement:

The goal of NEMO Wet/Dry is to build community participation, provide outreach education on the importance of long-term monitoring of our natural environment, and foster understanding of and responsibility for the health of Arizona watersheds. For the June 2008 mapping event NEMO contributed to the mapping of 162 miles of river with volunteers on horseback and on foot.

Category: Watershed Assessment and Restoration

Type of Presentation: Poster Presentation