



WATER EDUCATION



Welcome! This is a **WaterSmart “Drop by Drop”** factsheet; the new water education program sponsored by the City of Prescott. Each month learn more about Prescott’s water resources. From history to infrastructure, together we’ll discuss Prescott water one drop at a time!

WaterSmart Factsheet Summary:

- The City of Prescott has access to, and manages three (3) types of water resources, groundwater, surface water, and reclaimed water.
- The City of Prescott has an Assured Water Supply (AWS), a particular designation conferred by the State of Arizona
- The City’s AWS is monitored by the State of Arizona, and subject to satisfaction of various requirements.

The City of Prescott is located within the State of Arizona-defined Prescott Active Management Area (PrAMA), see Figure 1. In 1999, the area was determined to no longer be in a condition known as safe-yield. Since then, the City has taken steps to help reach the goal of safe-yield by 2025.

Steps taken to reach safe-yield:

1. Purchase of Watson and Willow Lakes Reservoirs
2. Use of reclaimed supplies
3. Permanent recharge
4. Purchase of Big Chino Water Ranch

The City manages a water portfolio consisting of several supply types all subject to Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) requirements. A Decision and Order (D&O) of Assured Water Supply (AWS) issued by ADWR identifies the quantities of groundwater, renewable water (alternative), and imported water (alternative Big Chino groundwater) in the portfolio, see Figure 2.

It is important to note that while all of the water to be supplied to customers comes from the ground, not all of it is categorized by state statute as groundwater. Some of the water pumped is to recover surface water,

Safe-yield is accomplished when no more groundwater is being withdrawn than is being annually replaced. (ADWR, 2017)

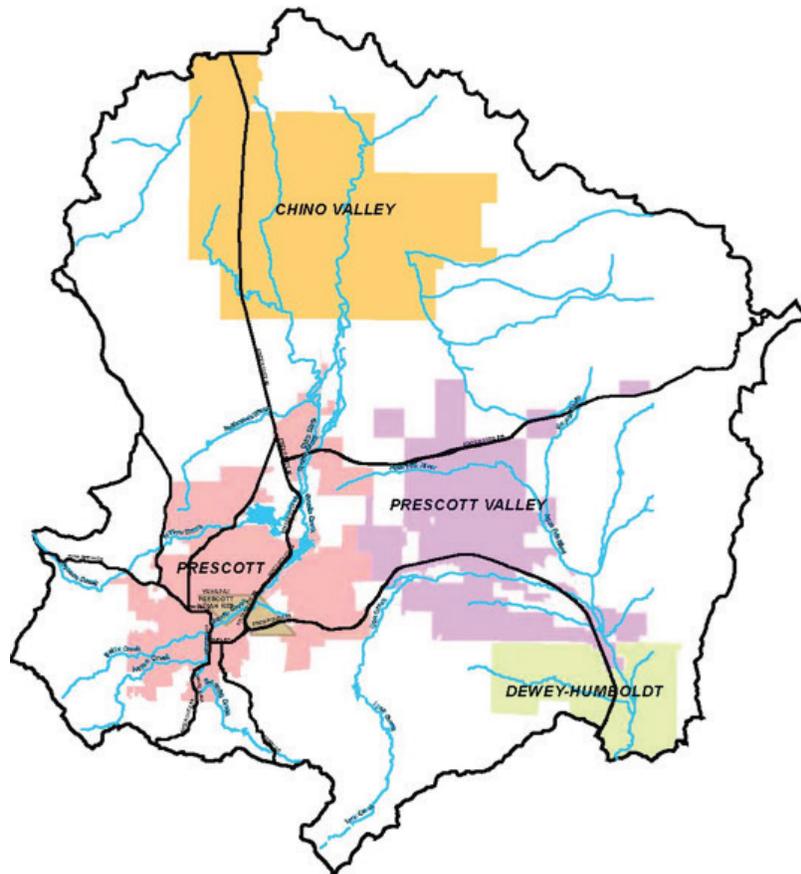


Figure 1: Prescott Active Management Area

Join us at noon on the 3rd Wednesday every month at the Prescott Public Library.

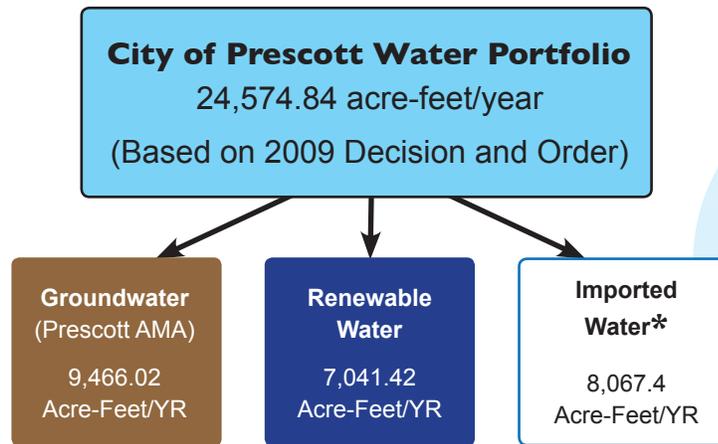


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City of Prescott (Official)

Figure 2: City of Prescott Water Supplies by Type



*At this time, infrastructure is not in place to deliver this supply into the PrAMA.

1 AF = 325,851 gallons

or reclaimed water that has been recharged (placed in aquifer storage). An accounting system records all additions and subtractions for each type of water, even though it is physically coming from the same well field. For example, when one acre-foot of surface water is placed into aquifer storage, that quantity must be withdrawn (pumped out) from the groundwater the same year. Even though the water is coming from the ground, per state law it is categorized as recovered surface water, not groundwater.

Detailed measurement and accounting is the foundation for ADWR recognition of the City's AWS and the attainment of safe-yield.

What is an Assured Water Supply?

An Assured Water Supply (AWS) means that Prescott's supply has been demonstrated to be physically, legally, and continuously available for 100 years.

For AWS criteria, visit:

www.azwater.gov/aaws

Groundwater

The groundwater account supports the majority of water needs that existed before 1998. This quantity of groundwater calculated by ADWR, is a cap that the City may not exceed. All new subdivisions (development) proposed after the 1998 safe-yield declaration cannot use additional groundwater, but must instead be supported by renewable supplies, water "alternative" to groundwater.

Renewable Water (alternative)

The City has acquired and developed renewable water resources, to enable the community to continue to prosper, while protecting the finite quantity of groundwater. Renewable supplies include reclaimed water and surface water that is recharged for aquifer storage and/or recovery. These supplies help the area move toward the safe-yield goal.

Imported Water (alternative)

Recognizing that the groundwater quantity available to the City is capped, the City continues to develop other water supplies for future use to reduce the full reliance on PrAMA groundwater.

In 2004, the City purchased the *Big Chino Water Ranch*, located 19 miles northwest of Paulden in the Big Chino Sub-basin aquifer, with the intent to pipe groundwater from that sub-basin into the PrAMA. A Big Chino supply has been contemplated since 1946 (Leeds, Hill and Jewett, 1946). For more information on the resource and the current project status, see the City's webpage, Big Chino Water Ranch Project.

Reference: www.azwater.gov

Be WaterSmart!

Nearly all of your landscape can be watered with drip irrigation. Drip systems are also a great way to water vegetables, flowers, and potted plants!

Source: Conservation Regional Handbook, page 70

