

WATER EDUCATION



Welcome to WaterSmart: Drop by Drop!

This interactive education series is brought to you by the City of Prescott. An informed community can make better short-term and long-term decisions concerning our water supply. Let's discuss 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 the 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, and imported water (Big Chino groundwater) in the portfolio, see Figure 2.

All of the potable water supplied to customers comes from the ground. Some of the water pumped is to recover surface water, or reclaimed water that has been recharged (placed in aquifer storage).

Safe-yield is accomplished when no more groundwater is being withdrawn than is being annually replaced.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

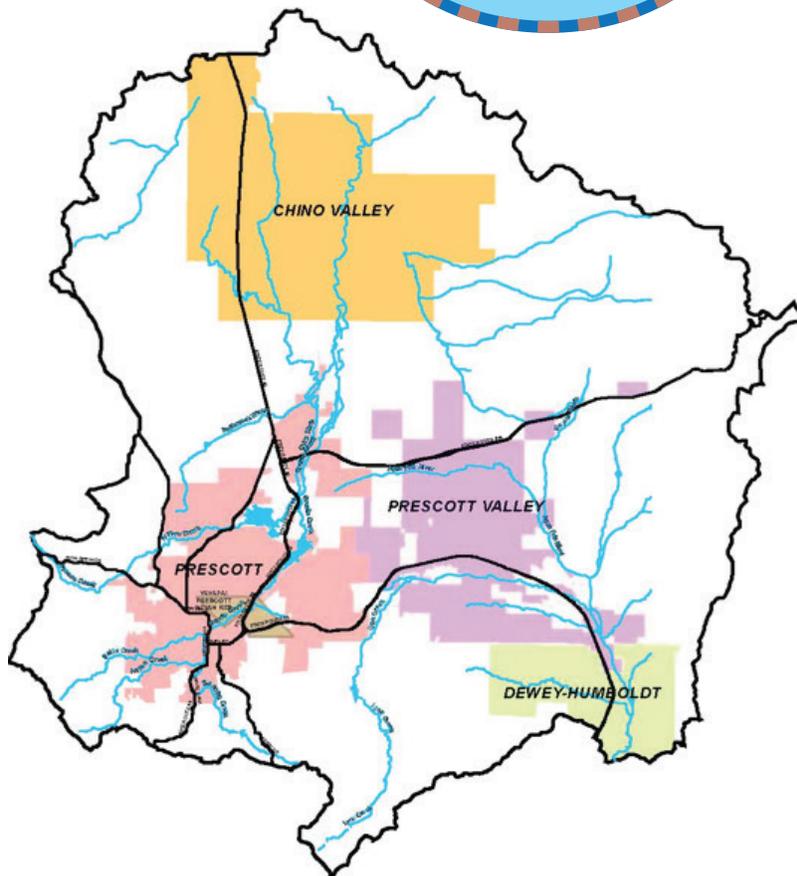


Figure 1: Prescott Active Management Area

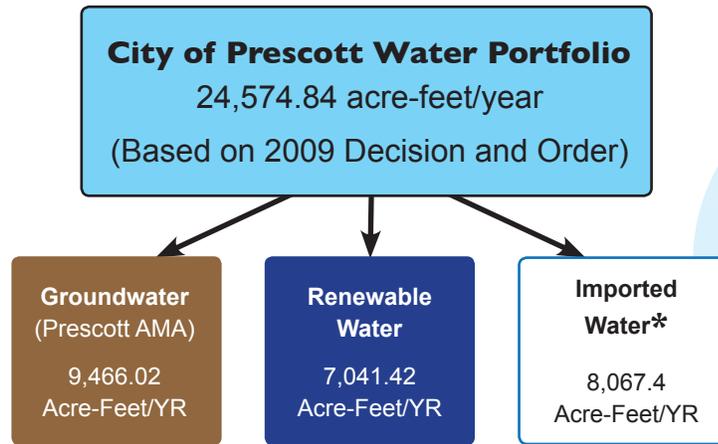


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City Government of
Prescott, Arizona



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

Groundwater

The groundwater account supports the majority of water needs that existed (current use and committed demands) before 1998. All new subdivisions 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

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 are recharged for aquifer storage and/or recovery. These supplies help the area move toward the safe-yield goal.

Imported Water

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

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

Be WaterSmart!

The use of native plants is key to water management as they have evolved with the local animals, insects, and other plants unique to this region for thousands of years.

Source: *Wildscaping - A Central Arizona Highlands Nature Plant Guide*

