

NUTRIENT LEVELS ON THE VERDE RIVER WATERSHED WITH RECOMMENDED STANDARDS FOR P AND N

Timothy D. Love (Arizona Department of Health Services, 1740 West Adams  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007)

Data from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) STORET computer system was analyzed to determine the present nutrient concentrations in the Verde River watershed and concentrations were found to be high. Total phosphate concentrations were found to be at or above the standards set by EPA. The limited data indicate that nitrogen is probably the limiting nutrient, but other factors are probably involved. It was found that the majority of the nutrient loadings occurred during high runoff events indicating most of the nutrients are from nonpoint sources. New standards for total phosphate and total nitrogen are recommended for this watershed.