

# Arizona's Orphaned Well Program

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Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

March 7, 2024



Clean Air, Safe Water,  
Healthy Land for Everyone



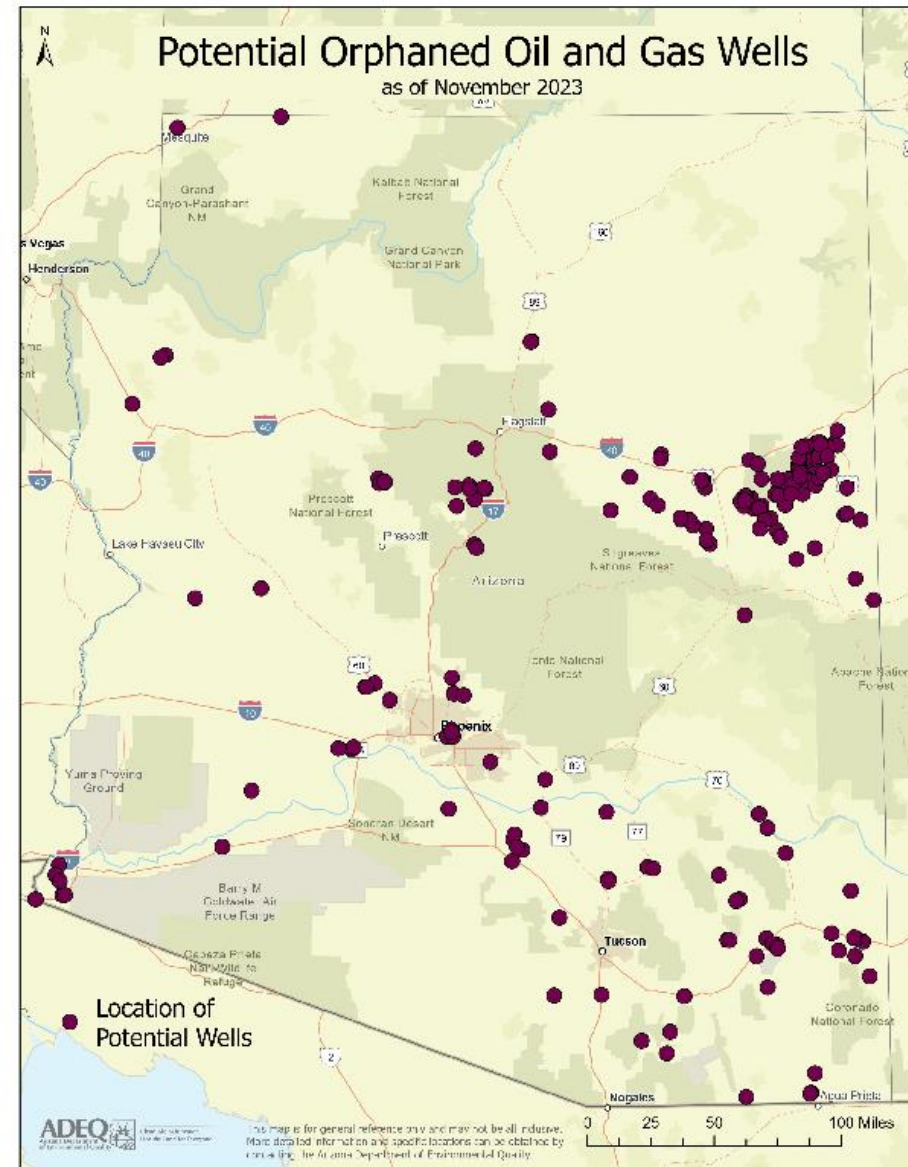
ADEQ is working in partnership with the Arizona Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (AZOGCC) to plug and abandon orphaned oil and gas wells located on State and private land across Arizona. This work is being funded by a 25 million dollar grant awarded to ADEQ by the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

- DOI [press release](#)

# Orphaned Well Program

## Orphaned Oil and Gas Wells

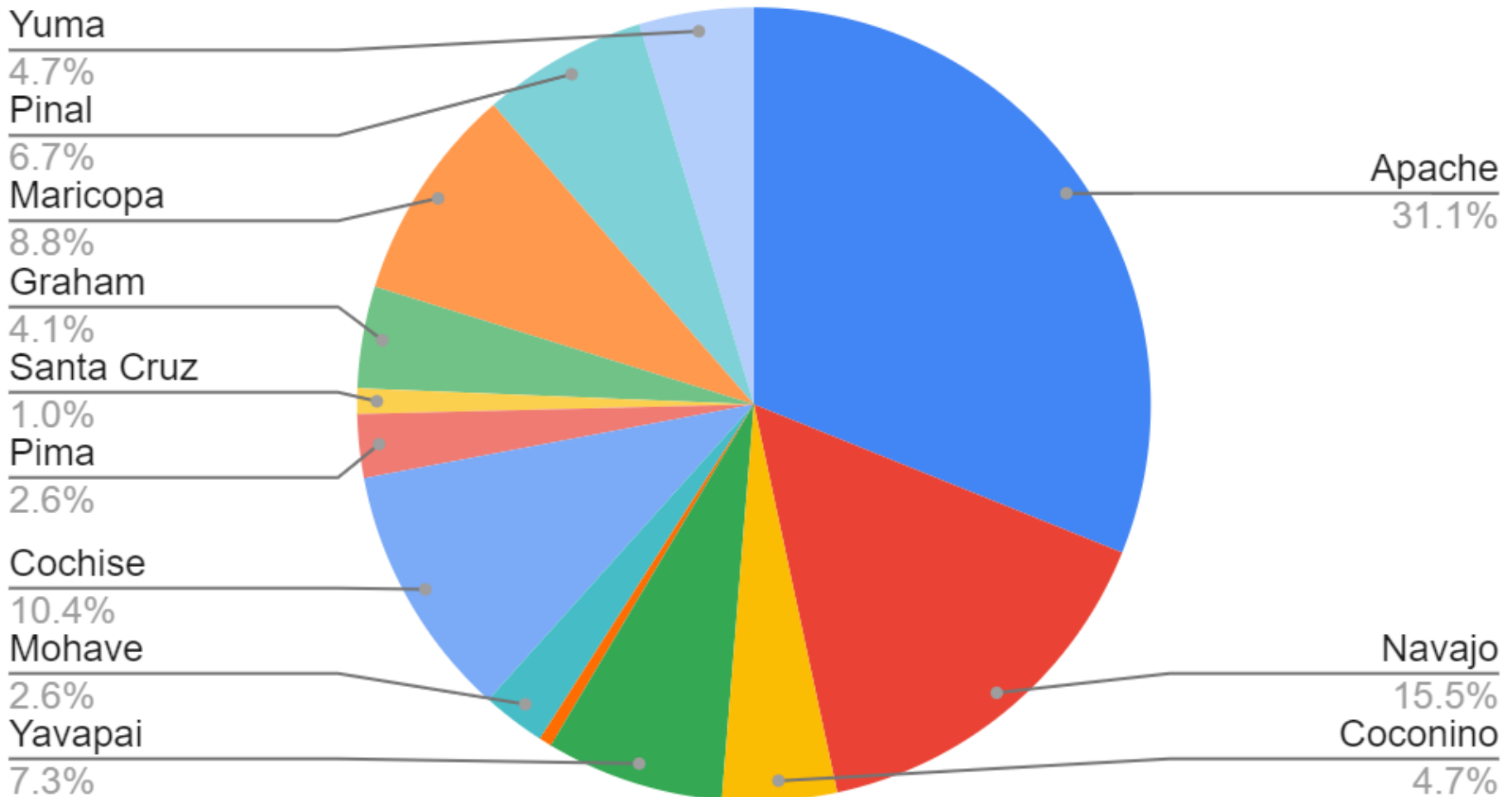
- Orphaned wells are those that are inactive, have no viable owner, and are in need of plugging to address environmental and safety concerns.
- Unplugged wells can contribute to water, air, and soil pollution.
- Work includes confirming the location of the well and its status, plugging it, and restoring the site to original condition.



# Orphaned Well Program



## Percent of Orphan Wells per County



## Project Information

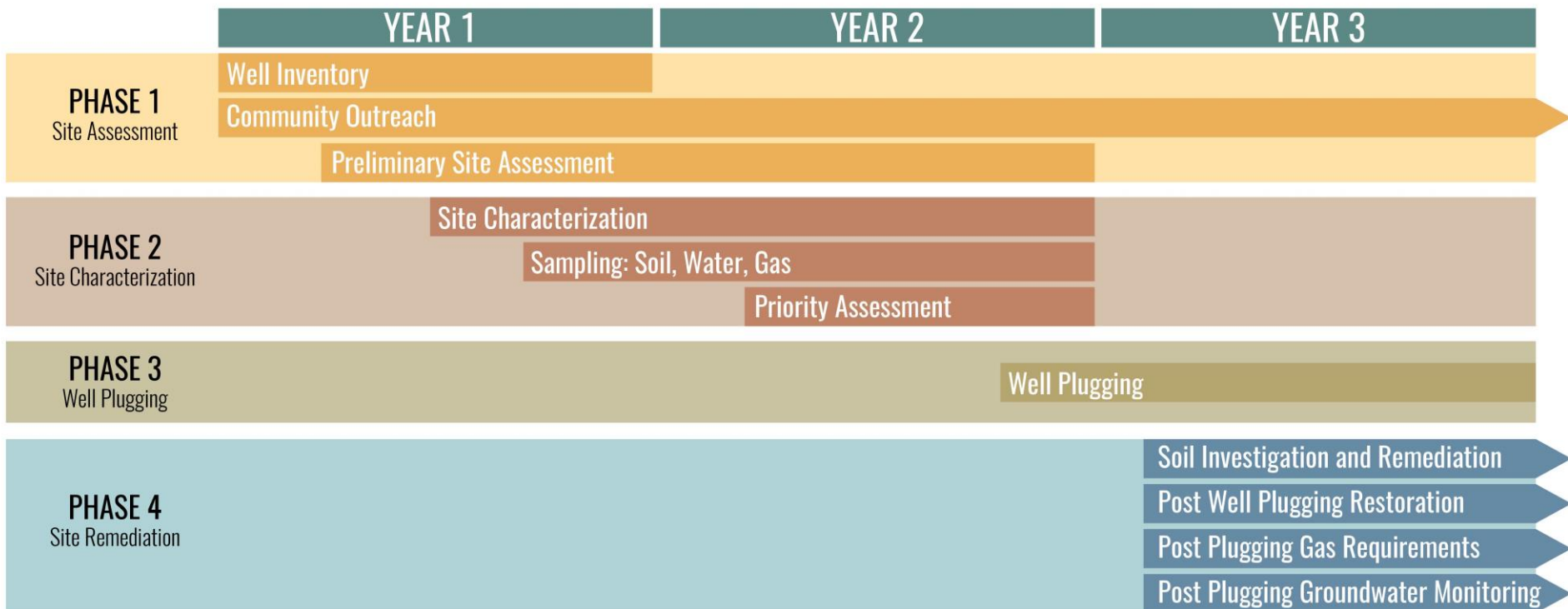
- Project activities split into phases.
- Recently finished the well inventory, started community outreach, and site characterizations are in process.
- Plugging activities projected to begin in mid 2024.
- Activities funded by the \$25 million Initial Grant must be completed by end of 2025.





## Project Information

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## **Phase 1 - Well Inventory and Site Assessment \*COMPLETED\***

- Verify potential orphaned wells and their program eligibility by conducting file review to gather information about ownership, location, geology, etc.

## **Phase 2 - Site Characterization \*IN PROGRESS\***

- Contractors conduct field work to confirm well locations and conduct environmental sampling of air, soil and water. Well plugging prioritized based on field conditions and sample results.

## **Phase 3 - Plugging**

- Well plugging involves placing cement into the wellbore, at appropriate depth intervals, to seal off zones where oil or gas was found, and then place a permanent cap.
- ADEQ will work closely with property owners and nearby community members to coordinate well plugging activities.

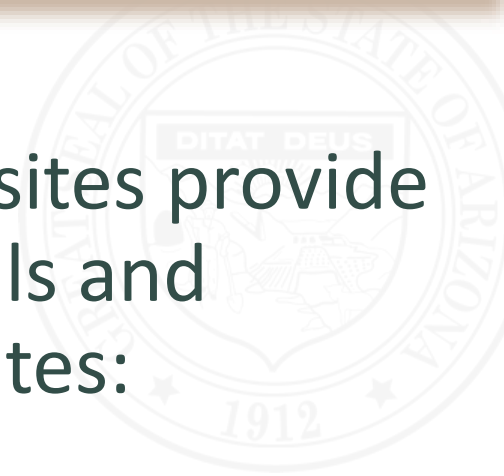
## **Phase 4 - Site Remediation/Restoration**

- As needed, ADEQ will conduct restoration of the landscape surrounding the plugged well to return area to its original condition: examples include removing affected soil, grading landscape to match native ground cover, re-planting native species, etc.





Websites provide details and updates:



[ADEQ](#)

[Arizona Oil and Gas Conservation Commission](#)

— OIL AND GAS

## Orphaned Well Program

Revised On: Nov. 27, 2023 - 1:00 p.m.

ADEQ is working in partnership with the Arizona Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (AZOGCC), and with our community and with State and private landowners to address orphaned oil and gas wells and well sites in Arizona.\* Funded by a \$25 million competitive grant awarded to ADEQ on behalf of AZOGCC by the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI), this multi-year program will mitigate potential safety, public health and environmental risks associated with these wells | [Learn More >](#)

Because many oil and gas wells in Arizona were drilled in the early 1900s, they pre-date current regulations and may not have been properly plugged.

In addition to the potential orphaned oil and gas wells identified during the research for the grant application, there could be more, and ADEQ encourages community members to report these wells to us so that we can further investigate them for possible inclusion in this program.\*

### Think you found an orphaned well?

Let us know! | [Report a Well >](#)

### Program Update

As of November 2023, ADEQ has identified just under 200 potential orphaned oil and gas wells eligible to proceed in the program. ADEQ and its contractors are currently in the field physically verifying well locations, assessing conditions and conducting environmental sampling that will be used to prioritize well plugging activities, as well as looking for additional potential orphaned oil and gas wells to include in this program | [View/Download Arizona Potential Orphaned Oil and Gas Well Locations as of November 2023 \(Coming Soon\)](#)

[Contact Us](#) 

[See More](#)   
[AZOGCC Website >](#)  
[Fact Sheet >](#)  
[Presentation >](#)

- Self Reporting Tool!
- Think you found an Orphaned Well? Let us know!
- Reported wells will be investigated to determine if they qualify.

## Report Possible Orphaned Wells

### Observation date and time\*

4/14/2023

11:20 AM

### Location\*

Use the interactive map to indicate the location of the possible orphaned well using any of the following methods:

1. Click the "Find address or place" box and select "Use current location" from the drop-down menu;
2. Type the address into the "Find address or place" box;
3. Click on the "Find my location" target icon to zoom to your current location;
4. Type the latitude and longitude into the boxes (use a negative sign for the longitude).

To further refine the location of the possible orphaned well, click and drag the map until the blue marker points to the well location.

Find address or place

Can not find your location. Please check your browser to ensure that your location is shared.

Earthstar Geographics | Esri, HERE, Garmin

Powered by Esri

Lat:  Lon:



# What to look for...





# How it SHOULD look...



Orpha

# Contact Information

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