

Central Arizona-Phoenix Long-Term Ecological Research Program

Policy for Archiving CAP Samples

Version: 26 January 2018

Over the twenty-year history of the Central Arizona-Phoenix Long-Term Ecological Research Program (CAP LTER), thousands of water, soil, and plant samples have been collected and analyzed by our field and lab personnel. Some of the water samples have been collected and analyzed as part of CAP's long-term monitoring projects: The Atmospheric Deposition Project (ADP, ongoing since 1998) and Urban Stormwater from Indian Bend Wash (IBW, ongoing since 2008). Water samples have also been collected as a part of the Water Monitoring Project (WMP, 1998-2001), the Stormwater Nitrogen in Arizona project (SNAZ, 2010-2012), and other urban stormwater projects (e.g. accidental wetlands). Soil samples have been collected from the CNDep/DesFert plots and the Survey 200/ESCA sites. Plant voucher specimens have been collected as a part of Survey 200/ESCA and are being stored at the ASU herbarium. Each spring since 2005, plant biomass has been collected from the DesFert plots, dried, weighed and then stored at our Community Services Building (CSB) storage. In addition, milled samples of *Larrea* and *Pectocarya* are being stored from the DesFert project.

Up to this point, all of these various samples have been archived indefinitely, but we are quickly running out of storage space. In order to make room for future samples from CAP's long-term monitoring, we propose a new policy that calls for storing and archiving samples for only a specified length of time (see below). Any CAP researcher who is interested in future analyses of currently archived and stored samples that might be discarded as a result of this policy, may claim them and transfer the archived samples to their labs. The CAP community will have **three months** after release of this new policy (January 26, 2018 – April 26, 2018) to claim these samples before they are discarded.

Archiving Periods for CAP Samples:

1. Water samples

- a. Anions—discard after processing
- b. Cations—store for ten years at GWC and then discard

2. Soils

- a. DesFert and ESCA—keep dried samples indefinitely at CSB

3. Plant material

- a. DesFert biomass—keep one and a half years at CSB and then discard
- b. DesFert milled (and any unmilled) *Larrea* leaves and *Pectocarya* plants—keep indefinitely at CSB
- c. ESCA voucher specimens—keep indefinitely at ASU herbarium