

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
 HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
 HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Campaign Creek Reference Area Exclosure		Project No.
Region/GMU: Region 6, Hunt Unit 24B	HPC: Payson	
Project Type: Riparian Fence Exclosure and Reference Area		
Project Description: Construction of fencing to exclude livestock grazing from 480 acres and three miles of Campaign Creek to improve and protect riparian habitat for fish and wildlife. Project also includes fence maintenance and the addition of cattleguards by the permittee. The Tonto National Forest will use the exclosure as a riparian reference site for long term scientific monitoring of both riparian vegetation and stream channel changes.		
Wildlife Species to Benefit: 70% Whitetail deer, 30% Mule deer, Quail, Javelina		
Possible Funding Partners: Tonto National Forest and John Fowler, livestock permittee		
Implementation Schedule:		
Beginning: September 2007		
Completed: January 2008		

PROJECT FUNDING

SBG Funds Requested:	\$ 43,200 (\$10,000 AGFD IIPAM funds already previously received)
Cost Share Funds:	\$ 41,500
Total Project Costs:	\$ 94,700

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant: Natalie Robb, AGFD, Wildlife Manager, Globe District Telephone: 928-425-8821	Address: 7200 E. University, Mesa, AZ 85501
AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel)	
Coordinated with: Gary Smith, Tonto Basin District Ranger, Janet Grove, Riparian Ecologist, TNF, Carolyn Eppler, Range Con, Tonto Basin RD John Fowler, Bar F Bar Permittee	
Applicant's signature:	Date:

NEED STATEMENT/PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

Campaign Creek had been traditionally grazed year round resulting in a lack of riparian seedling recruitment and stream channel degradation. A new allotment management plan changed the season of livestock use to winger grazing only, resulting in the successful recruitment of riparian tree seedlings and saplings but stream channel monitoring in 2003 documented less improvement in the herbaceous component and stream channel condition. The stream remains at “Functioning-at-Risk” condition, but has a high potential for recovery.

The livestock permittee, John Fowler, has suggested an enclosure by constructed to facilitate more rapid wildlife habitat and stream recovery and provide more flexible pasture management options. There has been conflict between the Tonto National Forest and John Fowler, the livestock permittee, and the Gila County Cattle Growers regarding the use of livestock on this stretch of Campaign Creek. This enclosure will absolve this conflict and provide future scientific data to allow improved evaluation of the effects of livestock grazing on wildlife habitat in riparian streams.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of the riparian enclosure are to improve wildlife riparian habitat for big and small game species and to eliminate the effects of livestock on the riparian vegetation and stream channel. All cooperative parties agree that this enclosure will accelerate recovery and provide more pasture management options while still providing water for livestock. A new downstream cattle guard will replace an existing gate that will benefit hunters and recreationalists who access the Campaign Creek area and the Superstition Mountain Wilderness.

Tonto National Forest hydrologists and riparian ecologists are committed to continued trend monitoring of both riparian vegetation and stream channel changes. The monitoring goal is to document rate of recovery and changes in seral stages, with the long-term goal of using the site to characterize reference site conditions.

The objectives of this project support the Department’s 2006 Wildlife Strategic Plan which lists as strategies for the protection of wildlife habitat (page 16) to “advocate for, and where possible secure, instream flows and impoundment minimum storage levels sufficient to sustain viable populations of aquatic, riparian, and wetland dependent wildlife”, to “monitor and evaluate the impacts of public lands uses on wildlife habitat”, “to promote habitat improvements to resolve or reduce resource use and user conflicts”, and to “solicit voluntary cooperation from property owners and lessees of public lands in striving to accomplish wildlife habitat objectives”.

In addition, it is the policy of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission (A2.13, 03-15-1991) that the Department recognizes riparian habitats as areas of critical environmental importance to wildlife and fisheries. Further, “the Department shall actively encourage management practices that will result in the maintenance of current habitat” in accordance with the Department’s Wildlife Habitat Compensation procedures (I2.3, 06-04-1994). Riparian habitats fall within Resource Category I, defined as habitat of the highest value to Arizona wildlife species, and unique and/or irreplaceable on a statewide or ecoregion basis.

PROJECT STRATEGIES:

The AGFD will obtain a fencing contract to build the enclosure fencing. Fence materials have already been purchased. Existing fencing will be used for the west side of the enclosure and natural boundaries will be used to facilitate the fencing on the east side. The permittee will install two cattle guards for the north and

south end.

The Forest has agreed that the permittee will be responsible for the maintenance of this fence as long as he holds the permit. The permittee has also agreed to maintain the fence. Maintenance includes work to prevent deterioration of the practice, repairing damage, or replacement of the practice to its original condition if one or more components fail.

The project will be completed prior to the end of December 2007. NEPA has been completed for this project.

PROJECT LOCATION: Campaign Creek, a tributary to the Salt River arm of Lake Roosevelt, is located on the north side of the Superstition Mountains. See attached maps.

LAND OWNERSHIP AT PROJECT SITE (Please state specifically if PRIVATE PROPERTY and provide landowner's name):

Tonto National Forest, Tonto Basin Ranger District

IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?

N/A

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

Campaign Creek supports a gallery forest of Fremont cottonwood, Gooding and red willow, Arizona Sycamore and is surrounded by Sonoran desert vegetation. The proposed project site is a perennial stretch, meaning it has flowing water year-round. It becomes more intermittent downstream of the project site and becomes a dry wash just south of Roosevelt Lake.

Both mule deer and white tail deer use Campaign creek as a watering source and a travel corridor. Quail and javelina are also abundant in the area. Mule deer have declined in this area and the improvement of this riparian habitat will likely have a great benefit to this species.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Project Costs \$25,000 – Cost to hire fencing contractor to build fence

- \$10,000 (1.5 miles of fence materials in rough country)
- \$7,000 (two cattleguards with gates)
- \$1,200 (one cattle gate)
- \$3,500 (cost of Forest for NEPA compliance and Arch clearance) COMPLETED
- \$30,000 (cost of Forest for long term monitoring of stream channel and riparian vegetation monitoring)
- \$8,000 (permittee labor to install cattleguards)

Total Cost = \$53,200

Partner Contributions

Arizona Game and Fish - Labor to build fence, purchase of cattle gate and cattleguards – \$53,200

The project received \$10,000 from IIPAM funds December 2005 to benefit nongame species. This money was used to buy fencing materials. \$43,200 is still needed.

John Fowler (permittee) – labor to install gates and fence maintenance - \$8,000

Tonto Basin Ranger District - \$33,500

biological evaluation

archeological clearance

NEPA documents

long term stream channel and riparian vegetation monitoring and data collection

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

Tonto National Forest Supervisors Office
Tonto Basin Ranger District
John Fowler, Bar F Bar allotment permittee

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

Tonto National Forest hydrologists and riparian ecologists are committed to continued trend monitoring of both riparian vegetation and stream channel changes. The monitoring goal is to document rate of recovery and changes in seral stages, with the long-term goal of using the site to characterize reference site conditions. Natalie Robb, the local Wildlife Manager, will also participate with the monitoring and the resulting information will be provided to the Department.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

The Forest had agreed to require the permittee to maintain the fence, as a stipulation of his range permit, or the Forest will not allow him to graze the pasture.. Maintenance includes work to prevent deterioration of the practice, repairing damage, or replacement of the practice to its original condition if one or more components fail.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Natalie Robb, Wildlife Manager, Globe District

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (see attached worksheet):

N/A

TREE SHEARING (AGRA-AXE, PUSH) PROJECTS (see attached worksheet):

N/A