

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

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Magoffin Ranch Vegetation Treatment

Project No. 10-503

Region/GMU: Region-V; GMU 30A

HPC: Southeastern Arizona

Project Type: Grassland restoration

Project Description:

This combination of landscape projects are designed to restore native grasslands by using a aerial chemical herbicide treatment which will remove aggressive native brush (predominately Sandpaper Bush) and allow the watershed to again encourage native grasses. The use of aerial spray is the least intrusive to the land which lays within the Malpai Borderlands working area. The promotion of grassland and wildlife protection is critical to maintaining the open space concept of the ranch. The landscape is adjacent to the Baker Wilderness Area and Guadalupe Canyon both of which act as corridors for wildlife. The installation of a permanent well will be accomplished with Livestock and Crop Conservation Grant Program (LCCGP) funding and will benefit both Whitetail and Mule Deer populations which will generate increased hunter opportunity and associated revenues supported by big game hunting. The plan is going to be presented to LCCGP, NRCS (EQUIP) and possible funding with the Malpai Borderlands Group which comes from US Fish and Wildlife. The majority of the project will take place on Arizona State Trust Lands and limited deeded acres as well.

The herbicide treatment project will take place in sections too encompass a total of 1920 acres; including 320 private and 1600 of State Land. In this area, less than one acre will be used for a well, solar system and storage tank. The expected outcome will be a permanent water source in an otherwise dry area during drought events/dry cycles. The neighboring ranch has several springs that have been fence to protect them, but past projects involving several miles of water lines and associated water troughs were burned in a fire, resulting in lacking continuous waters for wildlife during drought events. Although we cannot control rainfall on that ranch, we can provide a new water source close by which we expect will greatly enhance wildlife numbers and distribution resulting in increased wildlife populations for future generations. For the herbicide treatments and associated SBG funds requested (\$34, 231.33) represent the cost per acre of \$17.82 pending LCCGP and EQUIP proposal approval. If the other identified projects are not approved, the SBG funds would accomplish a total of 640 acres of aerial herbicide treatment, which represents one-third of the total area identified.

The project will be monitored by the Magoffin Ranch as well as NRCS- Douglas and possibly Arizona State Lands. We expect to use Tanner Well Service out of Hereford Arizona for the well and solar, and Magoffin Ranch family members to construct the pipelines and plumb the troughs and tanks. Crop Production Service would be the contractors for aerial spraying and are used regularly by the Douglas NRCS. All required State Land Improvement Applications will be submitted pending project proposal approval.

We would expect the well and the brush management to have a 20 to 25 year longevity. Well and pump maintained by ranch family members should assure permanent water for wildlife as long as the water table remains consistent. Twenty to twenty five years is about the best results on any land treatment, but possible control burns in the future could extend the success of grassland restoration beyond that

goal.

The Magoffin Ranch has entered into past Wildlife Stewardship agreements with the Arizona Game and Fish Department resulting in a successful stewardship carried out to expiration. This project still continues to benefit both game and non-game species, to include T&E species.

Access into the project area is allowed for foot-access due to limited roads and the adjacent Wilderness Area.

Wildlife Species to Benefit: Deer – Mule Deer 50%, Whitetail Deer 50%

Possible Funding Partners: LCCGP, NRCS (EQUIP) and possible funding with the Malpai Borderlands Group which comes from US Fish and Wildlife.

Implementation Schedule:

Beginning: Spring 2011

Completed: Within 2 years of funding

NEPA Compliance: (if applicable)

Completed: Yes ___ No ___

Projected Completion Date: March, 2012

PROJECT FUNDING

SBG Funds Requested: \$34,231.33 (See itemized equipment/cost list)

Cost Share Funds: \$104,850

Total Project Costs: \$139,081

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant: Anna Magoffin

(please print)

Telephone: 520 558-2471

Address: Box 1021 Douglas, AZ 85608

AGFD Contact and Phone No. 520-803-9068

(If applicant is not AGFD personnel) Brad Fulk; Tucson Region AZGFD

Coordinated with: Brad Fulk

Date: September 1, 2010

Applicant's signature:

Date:

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:

Game Branch

AZ Game and Fish Dept.

5000 W. Carefree Highway

Phoenix, AZ 85086

WAS PROJECT PRESENTED TO THE LOCAL HPC? YES NO

HAS PROJECT BEEN SUBMITTED IN PREVIOUS YEARS? IF SO WAS IT FUNDED?

NO

NEED STATEMENT/PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

Native grasslands invaded by brush are currently not very productive for wildlife. There is a need to remove invading brush species to increase herbaceous grassland species.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Restoration of 1920 acres of native grasslands, provide permanent water for area wildlife

PROJECT STRATEGIES:

Spray herbicide to treat approximately 1920 acres.

PROJECT LOCATION:

See attached maps

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

State land

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

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

Chihuahuan desert shrub

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

See attachment for additional costs

SBG Funds Request - \$34,231.33

\$300.00 – Water Trough

\$550.00 – 10,000 gallon storage tank and pad

\$1500.00 – Solar Pump

\$31,881.33 – Spike herbicide and application

Total = \$34,231.33

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

The plan is going to be presented to LCCGP, NRCS (EQUIP) and possible funding with the Malpai Borderlands Group which comes from US Fish and Wildlife, Arizona Game and Fish Department.

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

Magoffin Ranch owners and employees to monitor and supervise project

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

20-25 year life expectancy of treatment. Prescribed fire will be used as post treatment maintenance.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Anna Magoffin - Magoffin Ranch

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (see attached worksheet):

NA

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

NA

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT **WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET**

PROJECT NAME: _____

- 1) **Is the water development listed as a priority in the most recent “Wildlife Water Development Annual Implementation Schedule?”**
- 2) **Please list the Development Branch personnel and date coordinated with for this project.**
- 3) **What is the estimated annual inches of precipitation for the area? (mark one)**
___2-4 ___4-6 ___6-8 ___8-10 ___10-12 ___12-14 ___14-16 ___>16
- 4) **Is there a perennial water source available to big game within four miles of this project?**
___YES (please complete #5 below) ___NO (skip #5 below)
- 5) **For the accessible, perennial water source nearest this project:**
Name of water source:
Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank, etc.):
Ownership of water source:
Distance in miles from project:
- 6) **Is the target wildlife species a result of transplant efforts? ___YES ___NO**
- 7) **Please list any special land management status for the project site (i.e. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument, etc). If private land, list landowner.**
- 8) **Please provide the following information about access to the proposed site:**
Type of access (mark one): ___2x4 vehicles ___4x4 only ___foot only**
**If foot access only: Distance in miles: Approx. hiking time:

-- Does access to this site require crossing private or tribal lands? ___YES ___NO

-- Please describe any restrictions to public access:
- 9) **Please list below (or on a separate sheet) the material type and dimensions of each component proposed to be added, modified, or repaired.**
- 10) **Was a site visit completed? ___ Yes ___No**
If Yes, please list personnel that attended and date.