

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 15-216

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Raymond Wildlife Area Perimeter Fence Maintenance

Region and Game Management Unit: Region II; GMU 5B

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):

- Forage Resource Study Group

Was the project presented to the LHPC?

YES[] NO[x]

Has this project been submitted in previous years? YES[] NO[x]

If Yes, was it funded? YES[] NO[] → **Funded HPC Project #(s):**

Project Type: Fence Maintenance

Brief Project Summary:

Add a new bottom ¼" cable to 2¼ miles of existing Raymond Wildlife Area perimeter fence and replace/add new fence stays for stability.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit (% benefit per species) : Bison

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date: March, 2016

Project End Date: December, 2016

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: Yes[] No[] N/A[x]

Projected Completion Date: _____

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:
(Provide Attachment)

Yes[] No[x] N/A[]

Projected Completion Date: _____

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A[]
Completed Programmatic EA titled "AGFD Bison Management
Activities; Habitat Branch Log #: M10-10062555
Projected Completion Date: _____

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested: \$ 16,310

Cost Share or Matching Funds: \$

Total Project Costs: \$ 16,310

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):

S Hymer

Address:

3500 S. Lake Mary Rd
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

E-mail:

shymer@azgfd.gov

Telephone: 928-699-5273

Date: Sept 1, 2015

AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel):

Project has been coordinated with:
Flying M Ranch- Kit Metzger

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

Raymond Wildlife Area (RWA) is home to one of two state bison herds. Confining the Raymond bison herd solely RWA is difficult. Bison cause problems on surrounding cattle ranches and their private property including fence and gate damage, disruption of cattle operations and consumption of forage by bison while on private property and surrounding cattle leases. Additionally, the Arizona Game and Fish Department has received a letter of concern from the Arizona State Land Department over trespass bison outside of RWA.

The Department has identified approximately 2¼ miles of fence bison could travel through. A top cable was added two years ago in a previous HPC project upgrade of the RWA perimeter fence to a new bison fence standard. The problem now is that most cow elk and calves cross under the upgraded fence and in doing so, the bottom 1-2 wires have become loose and allow possible crossing of bison off RWA. This identified area is where most wintering elk enter and exit RWA. Originally, 4 ft. stays were installed in the first upgrade. It's been learned 5 ft. stays add extra strength and stability to withstand elk crossings and confine bison to RWA.

This south section of fence is shared with the Flying M Ranch. The RWA grazing lease with Arizona State Land Dept. stipulates the maintenance of the perimeter fence in this area is the responsibility of the Arizona Game and Fish Dept.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Improve 2¼ miles of fence to prevent the Raymond bison herd from leaving RWA.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

Add 2¼ miles of new ¼" bottom cable and new 5 ft. fence stays to the existing fence extending east from the RWA west gate (N34 58'43"; W111 13'30") for 2¼ miles (N34 58'43"; W111 11'10"). The cable will be attached to each T-post by T-clips and a double strand of 14 gauge tie wire at 20 inches from the ground, allowing antelope and elk/deer passage.

PROJECT LOCATION

Raymond Wildlife Area, east of Flagstaff

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

Arizona Game and Fish Commission

IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A COOPERATIVE BIG GAME STEWARDSHIP or LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?

YES[] NO[] N/A[X]

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

Mostly pinyon-juniper, with some open grassland habitat

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

Materials Cost

2.5 rolls	¼ inch cable	\$ 3,702.00
900	5 foot wooden stays	\$ 648.00
1 roll	14 gauge stay wire	\$ 160.00
Misc. supplies		<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>
	Total Materials Cost	\$ 5,510.00

Labor Cost

	<u>\$10,000.00</u>
Sub-total	\$15,510.00
Tax (TPT)	<u>800.00</u>

Total Project Cost \$16,310.00

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

Kit Metzger of the Flying M Ranch is supportive and shares the southern boundary of RWA. Flying M will not contribute funding. Retaining bison to RWA is the responsibility of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

WOULD IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT ASSIST IN PROVIDING, MAINTAINING, OR FACILITATING RECREATIONAL ACCESS?

YES NO N/A

Maintaining good relations with surrounding private land ranches is important to retain current public access to these ranches.

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

No specific monitoring plan, but RWA perimeter fence is monitored weekly for damage. When damage is detected, repairs are made at that time.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

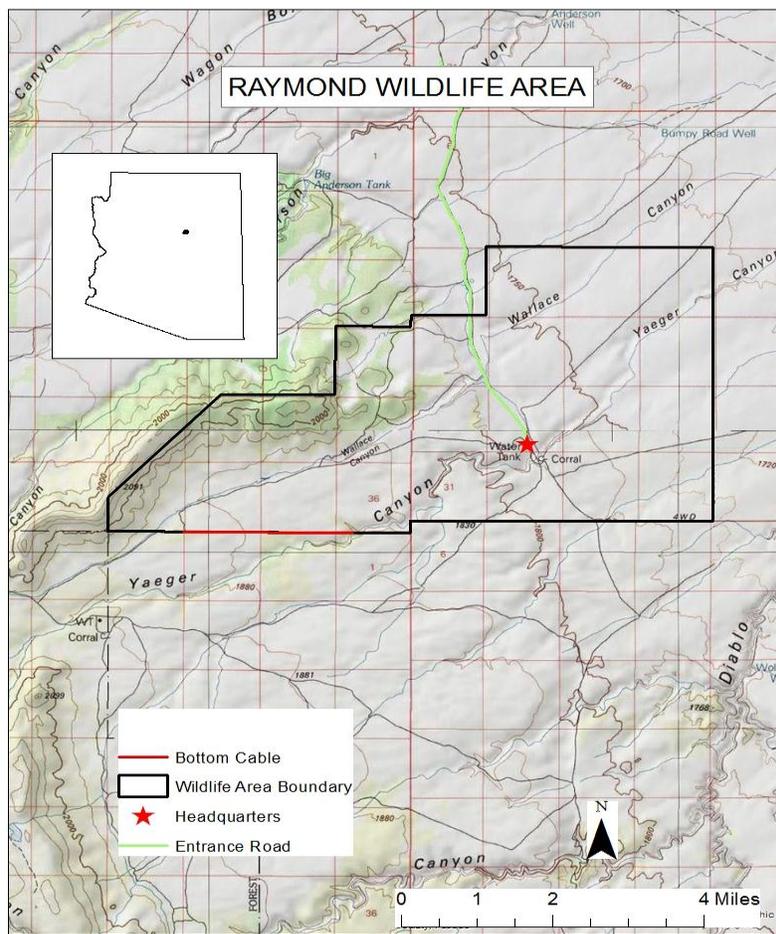
RWA Manager- currently Hymer

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Hymer

ATTACHMENTS:

(Please provide cultural clearance documentation from land management agency, e.g., FONSI, Inventory Standards, etc. Also attach any project pictures)



Map of Raymond Wildlife Area and project location



Picture showing elk crossing damage to bottom wires