

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number:	15-701
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PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Elk Stewardship Program	
Region and Game Management Unit: Region 1 and 6	
Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC): •	Was the project presented to the LHPC? YES[] NO[]
Has this project been submitted in previous years? YES[X] NO[] If Yes, was it funded? YES[X] NO[] → Funded HPC Project #(s):	
Project Type: Elk winter forage habitat improve projects	
Brief Project Summary: This is an ongoing program within the Landowner Relations Program that provides funding to ranchers that contain a significant amount of winter forage used by elk. This program is designed to alleviate some of the pressure some pastures may receive from wintering herds of elk. The program provides ranchers with either seed, fertilizer, salt blocks, and elk jumps to be used in pastures used by elk as winter forage habitat. In return, the rancher agrees to allow elk to use the pastures and the improve elk habitat. \$50,000 will be planned to use in this elk stewardship effort, with an additional \$12,000 to be used for fuel and maintenance for critical elk waters.	
Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: elk	

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year): Annual Program <u>Project Start Date:</u> February 1st, 2016 <u>Project End Date:</u> September 30th, 2016	Environmental Compliance: NEPA Completed: Yes[] No[] N/A[X] Projected Completion Date: _____ State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance: Yes[] No[] N/A[X] Projected Completion Date: _____ Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A[X] To be Completed by: _____ Projected Completion Date: _____
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PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:	\$ 62,000
Cost Share or Matching Funds:	\$ 0
Total Project Costs:	\$ 62,000

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print): Dean Pokrajac	Address: 5000 W Carefree Highway	E-mail: dpokrajac@azgfd.gov
Telephone: 623-236-7614		Date: 8/26/2015

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

Project has been coordinated with: In the past with local HPC chapters, RMEF, and AES. However this has not been discussed since the last application in 2011.

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

This project will address the condition of winter forage habitat available to elk in the northeast portion of the state, and alleviate landowner concerns related to elk use. The winter forage habitat available to elk herds is vital to ensuring elk populations remain healthy and stable. This program addresses this issue by partnering with landowners to improve available winter forage habitat by providing fertilizer and seed to landowners to use to manage pastures to maintain high quality winter forage for elk. In addition, money will be provided to fund fuel and maintenance costs of critical elk waters. The Department staff will rank the applicants, and funds are allocated based on how individual proposals scored.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

-To improve quality winter forage for elk and provide funding for fuel and maintenance costs of critical elk waters in Regions 1 and 6

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

- Through a stewardship agreement, partner with landowners containing winter forage habitat to improve this habitat for elk.
- Habitat will be improved using fertilizer to increase production of forage or seed to plant new forage habitat.
- Landowners will plant seed or fertilize pastures used by wintering elk herds, and together this program will provide high quality winter forage habitat for elk.
- Landowners will use salt blocks and elk jumps to alleviate elk use
- Funding will be provided for fuel and maintenance costs of critical elk waters

PROJECT LOCATION:

Multiple ranchers located in Regions 1 and 6.

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

(if the project area is private property, please state specifically and provide the landowner's name)

- All funding will be used on private land. Landowners submit a proposal through the local Wildlife Manager and the proposal is ranked against all proposals received by the Department. Once a landowner is selected for the program, an agreement between the landowner will be developed.

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

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

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

Elk range in region 1 and 6 and more specifically winter range grasslands

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

Cost of seed, fertilizer, fencing, mineral block, and wildlife ramps plus delivery, and fuel and maintenance costs for critical elk waters

Cost Share or Matching Funds (for volunteer labor rates please refer to the worksheet below)

Landowners will install, apply or distribute materials as outlined in the individual agreements

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

Multiple landowners in Regions 1 and 6

Landowner Relations Program, AZGFD

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

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

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

The Wildlife Manager for the Game Management Unit containing each ranch selected for the Elk Stewardship Program will complete monitoring. Monitoring will consist of site visits to ensure the materials provided through this program are used on areas containing winter forage for elk, and that these areas are accessible and available to elk herds throughout the winter.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

The maintenance of all projects will be written into the stewardship agreement as the responsibility of the landowner. To ensure compliance with this requirement, the Wildlife Manager will determine if the project area is maintained to meet the requirement of providing winter forage for elk during the site visits.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY: Al Eiden or designated Landowner Relations Program representative

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (please use the worksheet below):

TREE CLEARING/REMOVAL PROJECTS (please use the worksheet below):