



Habitat Partnership Committee Connection

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From your Statewide HPC Chairman William H. McLean Commission Chairman

I want to thank everyone for your efforts this year in submitting projects through the Habitat Partnership Committee program for funding consideration in the upcoming 2009-10 cycle of the Special Big Game Tag Fund grant process. This year's projects are well planned, have high matching ratios of funds and, for the first time, benefit all 10 big game species. For a complete list of projects check the Department's web site www.azgfd.gov and type in the letters HPC in the search window and click on the link at the top of the page. This year's projects were scored by a team of four Department employees familiar with the HPC process, big game habitat requirements, project material costs, project construction and matching cost share programs available to the Department. The next step will be a project funding meeting with our funding partners. These partners are the various organizations that were awarded the special tags by the Commission and whose members work so hard to raise the funds through the auction or raffle of the tags. Our next state HPC meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, February 21, 2009. I'm looking forward to seeing you there. 📖

The Coordinator's Corner – Ron Thompson, HPC Coordinator

We now have more HPC projects to consider for funding than we have dollars to fund them. This is a far better position to be in than the other way around. In other words, we have good choices to make from an array of projects. The final awards will be allocated through a joint meeting in January with the various organizations that were responsible for raising the funds. In Ruth Gregory's column she has listed the various organizations and the amount of the funds raised. All project proposals are on the web site under the following link http://www.azgfd.gov/w_c/hpc.shtml. Some projects have been funded out-of-cycle and are listed under a separate tab in the "HPC Project Proposal List by Species" file. Out-of-cycle funding is accomplished in coordination with an organization that raised the funds. This flexibility allows the Department, and any organization, to take advantage of opportunities that arise during the year that have great benefits to wildlife, but require funding outside the normal HPC cycle. This occurs when: there are temporary funds available from outside sources (e.g. donations from private landowners, federal or A.D.O.T. highway funds) that match or far exceed amounts requested; costs of materials or contracts are expected to increase sharply (e.g. helicopter time, steel); weather presents an opportunity or need (e.g. dry dirt tanks can be cleaned, water delivery); or equipment availability would result in a greatly reduced cost.

Leveraging funds in this way is fiscally the correct thing to do. Organizations that recognize the need to be flexible and consider the valuable opportunities that require out of cycle funding understand the Department's responsibility to present them with supporting documentation when they arise. Our feature article is about a project that was not awarded Special Big Game tag funding, but the proponents made it happen anyway. We include it here because not all projects will be funded and can be resubmitted for the next cycle, improved with additional matching funds and partners or accomplished by other means or funds. Ultimately wildlife should benefit from the HPC process and Special Big Game Tag Funds that support it. 📖

Highlights from the August 2008 State HPC Meeting:

The summer HPC meeting was well attended on August 2, 2008 at the Pinetop Regional Office of the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD). Representatives were present from AZGFD, ADBSS, MDF, AES, RMEF, USFS, AZ State Lands, ADA, APS, USFWS, NWTf, all the local active Habitat Partnership Committees along with HPC and Commission Chairman Bill McLean. John Koleszar requested that at the future HPC projects meeting in January 2009 between the Department and the NGOs that there be an explanation of project scoring by the Department. The following presentations were made to the group:

- The Department gave presentations on additional cost share fund opportunities (Sal Palazzolo, Al Eiden) and water development planning needs (Mark Weise, Joe Currie, Ed Jahrke).
- Scott Paulsen from the Arizona Public Service (APS) gave an excellent PowerPoint presentation on the opportunities available by partnering with APS on future habitat projects near or encompassing power lines. The resources offered by APS are huge and include possible use of helicopters and hand crews. Some projects have already benefited from Scott's offer.
- Chairman McLean recognized the possibility of OHV trail systems that might benefit wildlife by keeping OHVs to established trails under power lines.
- R.L. Brim from Envir-Land Management Services gave a PowerPoint presentation on equipment used by his company, including the wonders of the Gyro Trac for use in shrub and tree mulching. There was a discussion on the value of long term vegetation treatments near urban interfaces to benefit wildlife.
- The Forest Service's Wildland Urban Interface projects can greatly improve transitional habitats between winter and fall/spring habitats.
- HPC representatives gave annual project updates and the accomplishments are too many to list here.
- Finally, in the first annual HPC awards, the Payson Natural Resources Committee was recognized with a plaque for their "Efforts resulting in significant benefits to wildlife from projects completed through the HPC process", as was the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society for their "Significant contributions towards wildlife using ADBSS members as a voluntary work force to complete project funded by special Big Game Tag Funds"



Statewide HPC Chairman William McLean presents an award to David McCasland on behalf of the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society for "Significant contributions towards wildlife using ADBSS members as a voluntary work force to complete projects funded by special Big Game Tag Funds"



Arizona Game and Fish Officer John Dickson receives an award from Chairman McLean on behalf of the Payson Natural Resource Committee for "Efforts resulting in significant benefits to wildlife from projects completed through the HPC process"

The minutes of the meeting will be posted to the website soon along with the agenda for our annual winter HPC meeting tentatively scheduled for February 21, 2009 at the Phoenix Arizona Game and Fish office. 📖

When it comes to lack of funding, where there's a will, a volunteer, and a back hoe, there's a way! –story by Gabriel Paz

On March 2nd, 2008, the Pozo Nuevo Water Catchment was completed due to the generous donation and hard work from a local contractor from Tucson, Arizona, George Apalategui, owner of Tucson Mountain Concrete. George wanted to help the Department in any way he could in appreciation for his two son's Hunter Education instruction.



After several conversations I knew that George could be just the help we needed to build the unfunded water project that was needed to improve water distribution for wildlife on the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge. Although not funded with Special Big Game Tag Funds, I discussed the proposed project and the volunteer contribution required to complete the project with George and he readily accepted the task.

In February 2008 I received a call from Ed Jahrke regarding the New Pozo Nuevo Water Catchment and he advised me that the project could be funded internally given that I could find a volunteer that could donate a back hoe and additional volunteers to help a Game and Fish crew. Ed also advised me that the Game and Fish crew only had one available

week to build the catchment and that only two development crew employees would be available for the first three days followed by two more development crew employees who could help on the weekend and the only available weekend was three weeks away.

Without wasting any time I called George who jumped at the opportunity to help. I also called and emailed his local volunteer contacts from the Arizona Chapter of Safari Club International, the U of A Chapter of the Wildlife Society, Arizona Hunter's Who Care and the Tucson Chapter of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

Day one, the build began on February 27th, 2008, with Mark and Dan from the Development Crew, myself and George. George brought out his CASE Back Hoe and by the end of the first day he had a hole dug that was approximately 17 feet wide, 40 feet long and 5 feet deep on one side. George did most of the work on the first day and his hard work set the pace for the rest of the project.



Day two, George and myself returned to the site where they completed the hole and dropped in the two 4500 gallon storage tanks.

Day three consisted of digging out a hole for the drinker and a channel for the pipeline to the drinker. Post holes were also set and cement was poured into the holes. George also donated his portable cement mixer so they wouldn't have to mix the cement bags individually in a wheel barrel.



Day Four, George returned with his Bobcat Skidster and repaired the roads into the catchment to make the route easier for the volunteers to get out and for the water truck to come in. I arrived to meet 10 volunteers as well as Kevin and Tom from a second Game and Fish Development crew. Two sides of the fence were welded and the other two sides of posts were set. The storage tanks were assembled and the plumbing was completed. The mounts for the apron were also completed. All the workers for the day were treated to a carne asada lunch with a Dutch oven peach cobbler that I prepared for the crew.

Day 5, I returned with more volunteers and the project was completed. George returned again with his sons to complete the build. The volunteers were once again treated to a carne asada lunch with a Dutch oven pineapple upside down cake.

This project had been on the back burner for the refuge for over 8 years. Originally the refuge was not allowing any new developments until their Comprehensive Management Plan was completed. After the approval of the plan the funding had to be found. Unfortunately the project was not funded but due to the fact that I was able to find a volunteer who was willing and able to donate the equipment for the build, it was completed.

George's donation of both equipment and labor was estimated at approximately \$6,000. The other local volunteers donated approximately \$6,000 in labor and miles. Obviously George's donation was critical to this project and it would not have happened without him. 📖

The moral of the story: Networking and partnerships. That's what the HPC process is all about. Special Tag dollars are only one source among many for project funding. This project represents a true illustration of the power of partnerships. Many thanks to all who contributed their time and talent to accomplishing this valuable wildlife project.



Meet your local HPC Chairpersons as of December 2008

HPC	Chairperson	Email	AGFD Contact	Email or phone
Forage Resource Study Group	Stephen Williams	swilliams@land.az.gov	Larry Phoenix	lphoenix@azgfd.gov
Fredonia HPC	Ron Kester		Bob Price	928-774-5045
Kingman HPC	Jim Jett	jmjet@kingmanaz.net	Velma Holt	vholt@azgfd.gov
Payson Natural Resources Committee			Craig McMullen	cmcmullen@azgfd.gov
Prescott HPC	Dan Pedersen Randy Lamb	dan@cutrifle.com	Tom Finley	tfinley@azgfd.gov
Show Low HPC	Randy Gaskill	rgaskill@frontier.net	Bob Birkeland	bbirkeland@azgfd.gov
Southeast Arizona HPC	Scott Heap		Duane Aubuchon	daubuchon@azgfd.gov
Southwest Arizona HPC	Frank Geary	fgreary@adelphia.net	Randy Smith	rsmith@azgfd.gov
Springerville/Alpine HPC	Rex Brown	brownrm@frontier.net	Michael Godwin	928-367-4281
Tucson HPC	Brian Dolan	bfd@dakotacom.net	Ben Brochu	bbrochu@azgfd.gov
Williams Flagstaff HPC	Glen Reed Jr.	Toolaz2P@direcway.com	Larry Phoenix	lphoenix@azgfd.gov
Winslow HPC	Nick Paul		Bob Birkeland	bbirkeland@azgfd.gov

Project Funding Update – 120 proposals received for new cycle!

Ruth Gregory, Game Program Coordinator

Happy Holidays! It's that time of year – proposals are here! The Department has received 120 HPC project proposals for the new cycle, with funding requests totaling \$7.78 million. They include proposals for habitat improvements and enhancements such as grassland treatments and water developments, research projects, surveys – all for the benefit of Arizona's big game species.

What's Next? The Department's internal scoring committee has evaluated and scored the proposals. As this newsletter goes to press (can we still say that in our electronic world?) the proposals have been posted to our internet page for evaluation by our conservation funding partners, namely the organizations whose volunteers give so generously of their time and talent to raise the money from special big game tag auctions and raffles. These funds are the major source of funding for HPC projects. Representatives from the Department and the project committees from the various organizations will then meet on January 24, 2009 to finalize the funding decisions. For a look at the proposals, please go to http://www.azgfd.gov/w_c/hpc.shtml

Kudos.....to our conservation funding partners for the brilliant job they did in their annual fundraising. The following is the summary of funds raised in 2008:

<i>Tag</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Amount of Sale</i>
Antelope	Arizona Big Game Super Raffle	\$40,400
Antelope	Arizona Antelope Foundation	\$62,500
Antelope	Arizona Antelope Foundation	\$67,500
Total Antelope Tags		\$170,400
Bighorn Sheep	Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society	\$137,500
Bighorn Sheep	Arizona Big Game Super Raffle	\$119,450
Bighorn Sheep	Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society	\$85,000
Total Bighorn Sheep Tags		\$341,950
Black Bear	Arizona Bowhunters Association	\$2,100
Black Bear	Arizona Wildlife Federation	\$4,500
Black Bear	Arizona Big Game Super Raffle	\$7,260
Total Black Bear Tags		\$13,860
Buffalo	Arizona Bowhunters Association	\$14,000
Buffalo	Safari Club International - Phoenix Chapter	\$8,000
Buffalo	Arizona Big Game Super Raffle	\$31,420
Total Buffalo Tags		\$53,420
Elk	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	\$125,000
Elk	Arizona Elk Society	\$195,000
Elk	Arizona Big Game Super Raffle	\$129,825
Total Elk Tags		\$449,825
Javelina	Arizona Bowhunters Association	\$1,710
Javelina	Arizona Wildlife Federation	\$800
Javelina	Arizona Big Game Super Raffle	\$5,815
Total Javelina Tags		\$8,325
Mule Deer	Mule Deer Foundation	\$120,000
Mule Deer	Arizona Deer Association	\$126,000
Mule Deer	Arizona Big Game Super Raffle	\$104,680
Total Mule Deer Tags		\$350,680
Turkey	National Wild Turkey Federation	\$3,500
Turkey	National Wild Turkey Federation	\$3,965
Turkey	Arizona Big Game Super Raffle	\$11,710
Total Turkey Tags		\$19,175
Whitetail Deer	Arizona Deer Association	\$24,000
Whitetail Deer	Safari Club International - Phoenix Chapter	\$19,000
Whitetail Deer	Arizona Big Game Super Raffle	\$28,300
Total Whitetail Deer Tags		\$71,300



Total Big Game Special Tag Funds Raised in 2008 - \$1,478,935



Department news from around the state...



October 21, 2008

To all who assisted in GMU 12BE survey,

Here are the survey results for GMU 12BE.

28 rams: 44 ewes: 7 lambs: 11 yearlings = 90 total count
(class I- 3, class II- 11, class III- 11, class IV- 3)

This year we surveyed blocks of habitat so that some of these blocks can hopefully be duplicated when the 12BE 3-year survey rotation is up again in 2011. Although we had some difficulty with weather and pilot experience with the highly complex terrain, the survey resulted in some of the highest survey numbers since the early 90's. Since then, survey results have been slowly declining. This extensive survey allowed us to survey historical BHS habitat that had not been surveyed since the reintroduction of desert bighorn in 1985. Survey results indicate that herds have dispersed well beyond the original transplant areas and remain close to water sources along the Vermilion Cliffs.

I would like to thank everyone who has made this extensive survey possible, from the HPC grant process to the observers (Bob Price and Ron Wadsworth) who dedicated several days of their time. I am hopeful that this survey will not only promote future projects in 12BE, but allow us to better assess the 12BE population, their habitat use, survey data and optimize hunter opportunity.

Thanks again,

Sophia Fong
Wildlife Manager 12B
Arizona Game and Fish Department

In the Spot Light – Paria Point



HPC funded project Paria Point WLC redevelopment was completed in the spring of 2008. A group of Boy Scouts along with local Page and Fredonia volunteers, including several ADA-Buckskin Chapter members assisted on this project. The existing catchment was redeveloped with new materials and the float valve system was replaced with a gravity fed drinker. New r-panel type roofing panels replaced the current slick rock collection apron greatly improving water availability for Bighorn Sheep and Mule Deer in the area.

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.azgfd.gov

Meetings & Announcements

- Annual Winter State HPC Meeting – Tentative date: Saturday, February 21, 2009. More details to follow as they become available.
- Copies of all HPC proposals can be found at http://www.azgfd.gov/w_c/hpc.shtml
- Wanted! Project stories with photos! Please submit to cgiesie@azgfd.gov

A word from the editor –

Connie Giesie, Game Program Administrative Assistant

Greetings and Salutations!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you who sent in pictures and articles of your projects for the June and December issues! We couldn't have done it without you! I would also like to extend a sincere thank you for all of the wonderful compliments on the newsletter that were sent our way. As stated in the last newsletter, if you have an idea for an article, success story, announcement, project status update, or any HPC related news, please submit them to either rothompson@azgfd.gov or myself at cgiesie@azgfd.gov. If sending pictures without an article, please include a caption for each picture.

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