



Habitat Partnership Committee Connection

Individual Highlights:

Coordinator's Corner	2
In the Spotlight	3
Project Funding Update	4
Meetings and Announcements	6



From your Statewide HPC Chairman Bob Hernbrode Commission Chairman

As your Statewide HPC Chairman for the past year, I realize that the calendar year is about over and that the HPC year has just begun. Once again the array of projects that are being funded with Special Big Game Tag Funds permitted by statute for wildlife conservation is far-reaching and significant on a landscape scale. Just a few points to ponder:

- HPC funds raised from the auction or raffle of Special Big Game Tags authorized by the Commission are about the same as last year despite an extreme downturn in the economy. Over \$500,000 was raised on the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle alone.
- Approximately \$95,000 was available for emergency water hauling during one of the driest summer and falls on record.
- Valuable information is being archived from Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep in the Morenci area from animals radio collared using Special Big Game Tag funds. This information will be used to reduce the number of bighorns killed by vehicles (currently over 120) on Highway 191 and monitor elk movements along Interstate 40 near Flagstaff (see figure on page 2).
- The Buck Springs allotment purchase was completed and the Horseshoe Ranch escrow opened using Special Big Game Tag funds.
- A large portion of the Sunset prescribed burn in Unit 27 was completed.
- Double U Ranch Brush Management Project #3 was completed.
- Pronghorn fence modification in Unit 13B for 12.5 miles of fences was modified to ensure safe passage for wildlife, focusing on standards for pronghorn antelope.
- 30+ drinkers were repaired and maintained on the Pat Springs pipeline.

The list goes on and on. There is now an effort to document, on a landscape basis, what the Special Big Game Tag Fund has provided in the past. Using geospatial tools, we hope to soon be able to call up every water development constructed, acre treated, or fence modified. Using the geographic information system available to us we hope to be able to better prioritize our habitat projects by needs of each species in relation to past treatments and land constraints, as well as considering planned future uses of the land (housing development, solar/wind energy sites, highway construction). Eventually we may be able to overlay predictive fire models as the result of climate change on protected valuable linkages and corridors for wildlife movement. This will all be possible because of the passion you, our partners, have for Arizona's wildlife. Your efforts are truly appreciated! 📖

The Coordinator's Corner – Ron Thompson, HPC Coordinator

The date has come and gone for a review of the HPC Funding Report, originally provided to all Wildlife Conservation Organizations (WCOs) at the summer statewide HPC meeting in Pinetop. Thank you to those who responded with many good comments. The final report will be reviewed by the Department's Executive Staff before release during our annual statewide winter meeting in February. The project funding meeting between the Department and the WCO funding partners will take place on Saturday, January 30, 2010 in Phoenix (see the announcement in this newsletter).

Most of the WCOs have been evaluating the 2010-2011 HPC project proposals and agree that project proponents have once again submitted a full complement of great projects ranging from bear-proofing waste containers to prescribed landscape burns. The Department has prioritized its selections and is awaiting the WCOs prioritized lists. This is the first year we have accomplished this improved process outside the actual meeting and should go a long way towards positive negotiations that result in the selection of projects we can all be proud of and that meet many different objectives. The goal is, of course, the conservation of wildlife using the funds raised by our hard-working WCOs.

Following are 2 figures of what some projects are about. A picture is worth a thousand words. Figure 1 represents the movements of mule deer that were radio collared around Tusayan by Jeff Gagnon and the Flagstaff Region during a study of highway impacts.

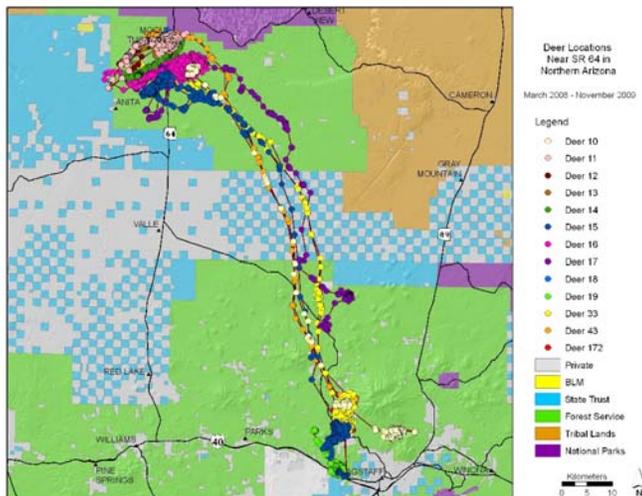


Figure 1. Seasonal movements of mule deer from Tusayan to the San Francisco Peaks area.

was going to clear to improve antelope habitat. The HPC project was modified accordingly before implementation.

Figure 2 depicts radio collared elk movements paid for in part by Special Elk Tag funds as part of Jeff Gagnon's I-40 study within the Research Branch with the following objectives:

- Assess elk movement patterns and distribution relative to Interstate 40, determine the location of high-frequency crossing zones, and assess elk permeability across the highway corridor.
- Investigate the spatial and temporal relationships of elk highway crossing and distribution patterns to vehicular traffic volume.
- Evaluate elk movements associated with water sources located in close proximity to I-40
- Investigate wildlife-vehicle collision patterns along I-40.
- Develop recommendations both for the retrofitting of existing and reconstruction of new wildlife passage structures and other mitigations to reduce elk-vehicle collisions, while maintaining and promoting highway permeability along I-40.

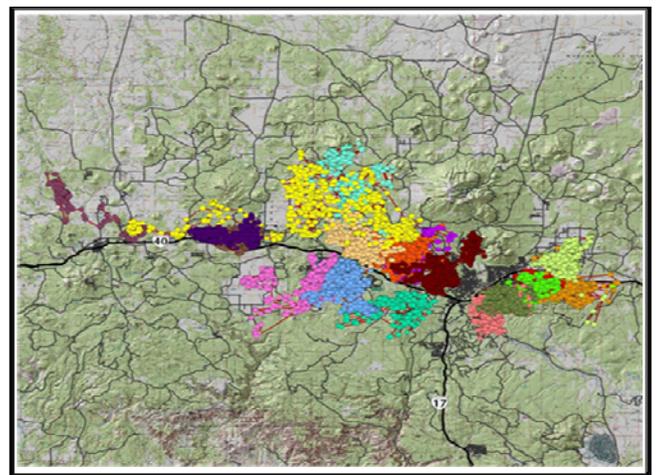


Figure 2. Preliminary GIS image of 21 elk showing their movements in relation to Interstate 40. Colors represent individual elk, dots represent individual GPS locations, and lines connecting dots depict time sequence of locations with 2 hours between each location. Final dataset will include 100 elk providing approximately 24,000 GPS locations/ month.

This is what the report says for credits: "This project is an independent study funded by ADOT, the Arizona Habitat Partnership Committee supported by Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Arizona Elk Society, and by Rocky Mountain Elk Foundations' Project Advisory Committee."

The essence of the HPC program is maintaining wildlife at sustainable population levels, and beyond that, increasing wildlife populations by improving habitat conditions (food, water, cover). We look forward to collaborating on sound projects that benefit wildlife. 📖

The interesting thing is that managers discovered that deer moved across the landscape in response to seasonal habitat needs in a direct line to the San Francisco Peaks – using a marginal vegetation corridor that an HPC project

In the Spotlight – Pat Springs Water Pipeline

by Tom Mackin, Coconino Sportsmen



The Pat Springs Pipeline was originally built in the mid-1950s to provide water for cattle, and to a lesser extent wildlife, on the Espil Ranch and grazing allotment on the north side of the San Francisco Peaks in Unit 7E. When the ranch sold in the mid-1980s, the pipeline was not used for over 10 years. Several forest fires in the area in 1996 further damaged the pipeline and various components of the infrastructure as well. A local group, the Coconino Sportsmen, were approached by the Forest Service volunteer coordinator in hopes that the Sportsmen may be able to rebuild and operate the pipeline for wildlife. Since the spring of 1997, the Coconino Sportsmen, with Special Big Game Tag funds provided by the Habitat Partnership program, have operated the pipeline each year between late May and October, depending upon temperatures, winter snow pack and subsequent flows from Pat Springs. There are 13 large storage tanks with a total capacity of over 400,000 gallons and 24 drinkers and troughs to distribute the water. The entire system, which starts at an elevation of approximately 8,350 feet, ends at an elevation of 6,300 feet, and extends for over 40 total miles, is entirely gravity fed, with no pumps or other devices needed.

There are approximately 60 drains on the line as well as drains at each drinker and they all need to be closed each spring and drained again in the fall to minimize danger from freezing temperatures. The actual pipeline is made of galvanized and PVC pipe as well as numerous sections that have been replaced with heavy 1 ½" poly pipe, primarily in those sections that were either destroyed in the fires of 1996 or subsequently damaged in above ground sections.



Pat Springs Water Pipeline extends over 40 miles and is entirely gravity fed, using no pumps or other devices.



Four 2,600 gallon water tanks have been donated by The Wildlife For Tomorrow Foundation over the past two seasons.

Funding for repairs and maintenance has averaged about \$1,700 per season, but it may vary depending upon temperatures, deterioration of drinkers and other variables. Approximately 300 hours of volunteer labor are spent each year on maintenance and operation, filling the various storage tanks, replacing damaged valves, repairing vandalized drinkers and monitoring the entire system at least weekly to maximize the distribution of available water. While intentional damage and vandalism are not that widespread, incidents of this type unfortunately increase dramatically just prior to and during hunting seasons.

During the past two seasons, four 2,600-gallon water tanks have been donated by The Wildlife For Tomorrow Foundation to supplement or replace other larger tanks that are no longer repairable. Whenever possible, efforts are made to keep water available at all locations, all season long, ensuring that the wildlife will have to travel no further than approximately two miles for a dependable water supply. While the benefits to game species such as elk, mule deer, and pronghorn are easily seen based on tracks at many drinkers, numerous non-game species benefit as well, especially smaller mammals and the many species of birds in the area. The funding received from the HPC program is critical to the operation and maintenance of this pipeline and hopefully additional funds will be provided for future efforts as well. 📖

Meet your local HPC Chairpersons as of December 2009

<i>HPC</i>	<i>Chairperson</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>AGFD Contact</i>	<i>Email or phone</i>
Forage Resource Study Group	Stephen Williams	swilliams@land.az.gov	Larry Phoenix	lphoenix@azgfd.gov
Fredonia HPC	The Fredonia HPC is no longer active.			
Kingman HPC	The Kingman HPC is no longer active.			
Payson Natural Resources Committee	Vacant		Natalie Robb	nrobb@azgfd.gov
Prescott HPC	Randy Lamb	Ranmad53@aol.com	Tom Finley	tfinley@azgfd.gov
Show Low HPC	Vacant		Bob Birkeland	bbirkeland@azgfd.gov
Safford HPC	Chuck Brooks	mjbrooks@aznexus.net	Duane Aubuchon	daubuchon@azgfd.gov
Sierra Vista/Douglas HPC	John Millican	j2dbmill@msn.com	Brad Fulk	bfulk@azgfd.gov
Southwest Arizona HPC	Jean Wilson	jeanrenegade@q.com	Mike Sumner	msumner@azgfd.gov
Springerville/Alpine HPC	Rex Brown	brownrm@frontier.net	Michael Godwin	mikegodwin@frontier.net
Tucson HPC	Brian Dolan	bfd@dakotacom.net	Raul Vega	rvega@azgfd.gov
Williams Flagstaff HPC	Tom Mackin	tmmackin@q.com	Larry Phoenix	lphoenix@azgfd.gov
Winslow HPC	Vacant		Bob Birkeland	bbirkeland@azgfd.gov

Project Funding Update – 91 Project Proposals Received for 2009-2010!

Ruth Gregory, Game Program Coordinator

Happy Holidays! It's that time of year – proposals are here! For the 2009-2010 funding cycle, the Department has received 91 HPC project proposals, with funding requests totaling \$3.47 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. In Fiscal Year 2009, which ended on June 30, 2009, over \$2.4 million in Special Big Game tag funds were spent on 99 different HPC projects, many of which are still under way. Much of the match on these projects included hundreds of volunteer man-hours of labor on the ground. This program continues to be a great success and the key is PARTNERSHIPS!

What's Next? The Department's internal scoring committee has evaluated and scored the 2009 proposals. The project 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 30, 2010 to finalize the funding decisions. For a look at the proposals, please go to http://www.azgfd.gov/w_c/hpc.shtml

Next State HPC Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 26, 2010 at the Department's headquarters building, 5000 West Carefree Highway in Phoenix (immediately west of the Ben Avery Shooting Facility). More information will be forthcoming as we get closer to the date. Please contact Ruth Gregory at rgregory@azgfd.gov if you would like to be added to the mailing list.

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	\$40,000
Antelope	Arizona Antelope Foundation	\$21,000
Antelope	Arizona Antelope Foundation	\$11,000
Total Antelope Tags		\$72,000

<i>Tag</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Amount of Sale</i>
Bighorn Sheep	Arizona Big Game Super Raffle	\$134,750
Bighorn Sheep	Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society	\$97,500
Bighorn Sheep	Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society	\$80,000
Total Bighorn Sheep Tags		\$312,250
Black Bear	Arizona Big Game Super Raffle	\$5,630
Black Bear	Arizona Bowhunters Association	\$2,350
Black Bear	Arizona Wildlife Federation	\$1,500
Total Black Bear Tags		\$9,480
Buffalo	Arizona Big Game Super Raffle	\$32,440
Buffalo	Arizona Bowhunters Association	\$11,750
Buffalo	Safari Club International - Phoenix Chapter	\$2,700
Total Buffalo Tags		\$46,890
Elk	Arizona Big Game Super Raffle	\$135,225
Elk	Arizona Elk Society	\$140,000
Elk	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	\$85,000
Total Elk Tags		\$360,225
Javelina	Arizona Big Game Super Raffle	\$6,200
Javelina	Arizona Bowhunters Association	\$720
Javelina	Arizona Wildlife Federation	\$400
Total Javelina Tags		\$7,320
Mountain Lion	Arizona Big Game Super Raffle	\$4,405
Mountain Lion	Arizona Deer Association	\$3,500
Mountain Lion	Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society	\$4,000
Total Mountain Lion Tags		\$11,905
Mule Deer	Arizona Big Game Super Raffle	\$145,220
Mule Deer	Arizona Deer Association	\$156,000
Mule Deer	Mule Deer Foundation	\$125,000
Total Mule Deer Tags		\$426,220
Turkey	Arizona Big Game Super Raffle	\$9,255
Turkey	National Wild Turkey Federation	\$1,500
Turkey	National Wild Turkey Federation	\$8,340
Total Turkey Tags		\$19,095
Whitetail Deer	Arizona Big Game Super Raffle	\$28,670
Whitetail Deer	Arizona Deer Association	\$16,000
Whitetail Deer	Arizona Deer Association	\$15,000
Total Whitetail Deer Tags		\$59,670

Big Game Special Tag Funds Raised in 2009-\$1,325,055

Arizona Game and Fish Department

5000 W. Carefree Highway
Phoenix, AZ 85086

PHONE:
(602) 942-3000

FAX:
(623) 236-7929

E-MAIL:
rothompson@azgfd.gov



We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.azgfd.gov

Meetings & Announcements

- **HPC Project Funding Meeting** – Saturday, January 30, 2010
- **State HPC Meeting** - Friday, February 26, 2010 at the Department's headquarters building, 5000 West Carefree Highway in Phoenix

A word from the editor –

Connie Giesie, Game Program Administrative Assistant

First let me start off by thanking Tom Mackin, the Secretary-Treasurer for the Coconino Sportsmen and Williams-Flagstaff HPC member, for submitting the Pat Springs Water Pipeline article and Jeff Gagnon, Research Biologist for the Arizona Game and Fish Department, for his technical assistance in the Coordinator's Corner piece! By publishing these articles we give all an opportunity to see first hand the vast dynamics of various HPC projects. Secondly, as we embark on the New Year and more exciting HPC projects unfold, hone in on your creative writing skills and have your cameras ready to send in some project articles, success stories, announcements, or any HPC related news to either Ron Thompson at rothompson@azgfd.gov or myself at cgiesie@azgfd.gov. We look forward to publishing more of your project success stories and updates in 2010!

Got questions on an HPC project???

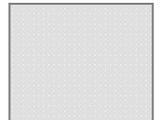
Contact:

Ron Thompson, HPC Coordinator at 623-236-7354 or by email at rothompson@azgfd.gov
Ruth Gregory, Game Program Coordinator at 623-236-7349 or by email at rgregory@azgfd.gov



ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

5000 W. Carefree Highway
Phoenix, AZ 85086



COMPANY NAME
STREET ADDRESS
CITY, ST ZIP CODE