



Habitat Partnership Committee Connection

In This Issue:

Coordinator's Corner	2
In the Spotlight	3
Region II Wildlife	
Water Maintenance	5
Project Funding Update	7
Meet Your Local HPCs	8
Meetings and Announcements	9



From your Statewide HPC Chairman Commissioner John W. Harris

As 2011 is winding down, we can start to reflect on all that has happened this past year. In February the Habitat Partnership Committee (HPC) began seeing some changes in the overall administration and oversight of the program with staff that has finally been solely dedicated to the HPC program. This summer we experienced the largest wildfire in Arizona history and many other major wildfires throughout the state. Some of these wildfires fires not only permanently changed the landscape, but also changed the ecosystems Arizona's wildlife depends on for survival. Although some species were influenced more than others, it is amazing how our wildlife can adapt and overcome such changes to their habitat. No doubt we will see some long term benefits from these fires, but much work will be needed to restore those areas affected by high intensity burns. Our past, current, and future use of prescribed fire and vegetation thinning habitat enhancements funded through the HPC process will continue to benefit Arizona's wildlife, and help minimize the impacts of catastrophic wildfires in the future.

The summer Arizona Habitat Partnership Committee Meeting was held in Flagstaff, Arizona. Highlights from that meeting included an update on the 4 Forests Restoration Initiative, a presentation on recreational access issues in Arizona, updates from the Local HPCs and wildlife conservation organizations, and the annual HPC recognition awards. This year's award recipients included the Springerville-Alpine HPC for *Habitat Partnership Committee of the Year* and the Arizona Antelope Foundation (AAF) for *Wildlife Conservation Organization of the Year*. Continuing on pronghorn antelope conservation activities, the AAF was also recently awarded a \$230,000.00 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to support the Southeastern Arizona Grasslands Pronghorn Initiative project. Together with funding from Special Big Game License Tag Funds, local donations, and support from the HPC program, pronghorn antelope in southeastern Arizona will be getting a major boost in conservation and management actions.

In closing I would like to say thank you to all our wildlife conservation constituents for all you do to make the Arizona Habitat Partnership Committee program a successful example of proactive management for Arizona's big game species and wildlife habitats. As a reminder, the next State HPC meeting will be held on February 18, 2012 at the Arizona Game and Fish Department Headquarters in Phoenix, Arizona. ♣

December 2011

Issue 8



Coordinator's Corner Reuben Terán, HPC Coordinator

The 2011-2012 HPC funding cycle is in full swing and 81 project proposals have been received. A list of the proposals is currently posted to the HPC [Project Proposals](#) web page, and is further broken down for each big game species. The Department's internal project review committee has reviewed the proposals and shared the Department's funding priority recommendations with our wildlife conservation organization partners who helped raise the Special Big Game License Tag funds from June 2010 to June 2011. In their spare time, the dedicated volunteers of these conservation organizations continue to review the project proposals in advance of the project funding coordination meeting with the Department which will take place on **January 28, 2012**. Funding decisions will be made at this meeting, with a final discussion and approval at the February 2012 State HPC meeting.

For those not yet aware, the Department recently launched a new web based tool, [HabiMap™ Arizona](#), that is a user-friendly, wildlife data viewer. This tool allows users to visually explore the distribution of the state's wildlife, wildlife conservation potential, stressors to wildlife, and other information such as game management units, wildlife waters, biotic communities and wildlife linkages. This is a non-regulatory web application, and I encourage proponents to utilize this tool as a planning resource for projects submitted through the HPC process. A link to this tool and other Department planning resources can be found on the HPC [Project Proposal Forms and Project Planning](#) web page.



Another resource I encourage you to review is the **Lands Update** provided to the Arizona Game and Fish Commission as part of every monthly Commission meeting. The Lands Update is a document compiled by Department staff that gives the current status of issues relating to the implementation of land and resource management plans and projects on private, state and federal lands in Arizona. Topics covered in the Lands Update include, but are not limited to, travel management planning, renewable energy development, county and municipal planning, USFS and BLM land management planning, and transportation infrastructure projects. This update is included as part the [AGFD Commission Meeting Minutes](#), and is typically located towards the end of the minutes. This information can help keep you up to date on land and habitat issues statewide (and potentially within a proposed project area) that may influence local wildlife resources and habitats we work to conserve and enhance.

For current HPC project proponents: please note that project progress reports are due **March 1st** of each year. This information is important for me not only to continue tracking the progress of projects funded through the HPC Program, but also assists the Game Program Coordinator in keeping track of existing funding obligations and active projects. The other vital component of project tracking is the timely submission of Project Completion Reports, which help to highlight the work, successes, and lessons learned from wildlife management and habitat enhancement actions funded through the HPC program. I wish everyone the best this holiday season, and look forward to working with you in 2012. ♣

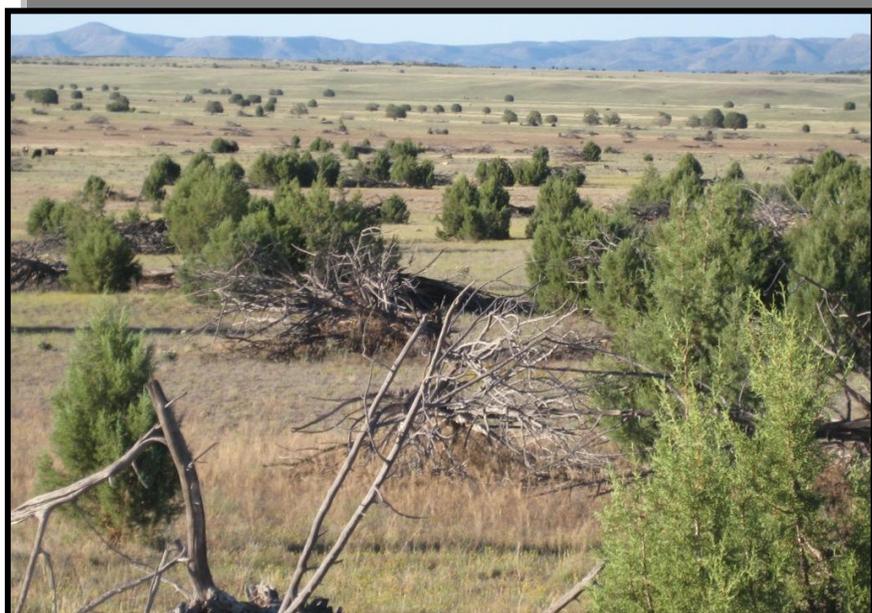


In the Spotlight:



Project Title: Mud Tank Wash Grassland Enhancement Project	
Project Proponent: Arizona Game and Fish Department	
Region / Game Management Unit : Region III / 17A and 19B	
Local Habitat Partnership Committee: Prescott HPC	
Special Big Game License Tag Funds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$7,500.00 from Antelope Tag Funds • \$7,500.00 from Mule Deer Tag Funds 	\$15,000.00
Cost Share Funds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Fish and Wildlife Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program 	\$40,000.00
Other Project Cooperators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arizona Game and Fish Department • Landowner Incentive Program • Barney York Ranch • Bar Triangle Ranch • K4 Ranch 	
Total Project Costs:	\$55,000.00

During the 1950s, 60s and 70s, thousands of acres of junipers were mechanically treated in an effort to increase and/or maintain grassland habitat in central Yavapai County. However, some of the treatment areas began experiencing re-growth of junipers. In early 1995, the Department’s Research Branch conducted a statewide evaluation of antelope habitat. For many of the Game Management Units (GMUs) within Yavapai County, the evaluation suggested that juniper and tall shrub encroachment had greatly reduced the amount of open grassland, and that these areas would benefit from the removal of these plants.



-Juniper Re-growth in a Previously Treated Area-

The purpose of the Mud Tank Wash Grassland Enhancement Project was to remove encroaching juniper trees on approximately 1,000 acres of historic grassland habitat to ensure connectivity of grassland parcels fragmented by tree and shrub encroachment. Because portions of the project area were already juniper free, not every acre within the project area was planned to be treated. Project activities took place approximately 25 miles northwest of Prescott, Arizona along the Williamson Valley Road in GMUs 17A and 19B. The majority of the treatments occurred in GMU 17A, which was a slight change from the original project proposal.



-Enhanced Wildlife Travel Corridor -

Hand crews with chainsaws were contracted to cut and lop juniper trees and shrubs to a residual height no higher than 18". In the end, approximately 940 acres of critical grassland habitat were enhanced, and a wildlife travel corridor was opened between large grasslands in the Big Chino Valley and Williamson Valley.

While grassland enhancements have taken place, modification to some old barbed-wire fencing in the vicinity of the project area is still needed to further enhance wildlife movements between the grassland habitats. ♡



-Pronghorn Antelope in the Project Area Post-Treatment-



Region II Wildlife Water Maintenance by Tom Mackin, Coconino Sportsmen

Living in Flagstaff, right in the middle of Arizona Game and Fish Department's (AGFD) Region II, is a wonderful experience for anyone who loves wildlife and the outdoors. However, because Arizona is still considered an arid state, even here at higher elevations, our abundance of wildlife has frequently been enhanced by providing numerous water developments. Over the past 60 years or so, the AGFD, along with the Forest Service, ranchers and other entities have constructed many water developments for use by wildlife and livestock. While funding was available for construction, limited funds, if any, were set aside for maintenance and upkeep. As with any structures, fences, aprons, troughs, vaults and other associated enhancements have deteriorated along with the effectiveness of the development. In 2008, the Coconino Sportsmen submitted an HPC proposal to start maintaining the numerous developments found in the southern half of Region II. These efforts took place utilizing volunteer labor and a small HPC budget to cover expenses such as hardware, pipe, fittings and miscellaneous consumables.



-Typical Fence Corner Problem-

Numerous meetings were held with Region II's Wildlife Supervisors and Managers, developing an inventory and a priority list. Consultation with the AGFD Development Branch was also used as a tool in identifying those water developments with the greatest need(s). Up to this point, two long time Department Volunteers and Flagstaff residents, Clair Harris and Tom Mackin, were independently performing some of

the needed repairs, but with the approval of the HPC proposal, Clair and Tom began a more organized approach to the maintenance program. Their goal was to visit every AGFD water development in Game Management Units (GMU) 7 and 9 over the next two years and complete any necessary repairs or determine that the development should be rebuilt by the Development Branch. During the initial project year, 2009- 2010, Clair and Tom visited over 90 developments (both AGFD and US Forest Service) on nearly 150 trips, expending approximately 2,000 hours of volunteer labor.



-Corner Following Repairs in Unit 6B-

Following the success with the initial proposal, another HPC proposal was

submitted to expand their activities for the 2011 and 2012 season and that project is currently underway. In addition to the work in GMUs 7 and 9, activities have been expanded into GMUs 5B, 11M and 6B, working with the respective Wildlife Manager in each unit. This past season, 2011, Clair and Tom along with several other volunteers have logged over 1000 hours and visited over 75 developments.



- Before Repairs to Trick Tank in GMU 9-

Frequently repairs can be made during one visit but when extensive repairs are required or additional materials needed, several trips may be necessary. Most problems involve repairs to the existing fences where cattle or game have damaged the wire or fence stays. Other fencing problems include areas where the wires have been unclipped from the T-posts or stays and tied together, lowering the fences and making them more susceptible to encroachment by cattle. We frequently see this type of damage adjacent to ground blinds or game trails. On those developments that use a sheet metal apron to collect rainfall, the screws holding the sheets together have, in many cases, come loose causing the metal to curl up and not direct the water into the catchments. In severe cases, the sheets need to be replaced, adding to the costs of repairs.

In our pine forests, needles and other debris need to be swept off the apron, and cleaned out of the gutters and the sump box in the storage tank. When a float valve system is in use to add water to the drinkers, those valves frequently become rusted or otherwise unreliable and they need to be replaced as well. In almost all of the drinkers, some type of escape ramp has been installed to allow birds and small mammals to get out of the water. Unfortunately logs, posts or rock piles installed for this purpose are frequently removed and in those cases the volunteers have frequently found dead animals. This year a new extruded steel escape ramp that is screwed into the edge of the drinker has been installed in many of the drinkers and these have proven to be quite effective and not subject to the previous tampering.



-After Repairs to Trick Tank in GMU 9-

In closing, the funding from the HPC has been very important for the repair of these developments and hopefully with two retired, flexible volunteers willing to spend their time in the forests, the HPC program will continue. ♡

Project Funding Update

Ruth Gregory, Game Program Coordinator

A very special THANKS goes out to our wildlife conservation funding partners for their outstanding fundraising activities completed in the last year. With the dollars raised through the Special Big Game License Tag Fund (SBGLTF) process, the Habitat Partnership Committee program is able to fund a multitude of wildlife projects that benefit both big game and nongame wildlife species and their habitats. Below is a summary of SBGLTF funds raised from June 2010 to June 2011. ♣

TAG	ORGANIZATION	SPECIAL BIG GAME LICENSE TAG FUNDS RAISED
Bighorn Sheep	Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society	\$90,000
Bighorn Sheep	Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society	\$105,000
Bighorn Sheep	Arizona Big Game Super Raffle	\$114,550
	Total Bighorn Sheep Tag Funds	\$309,550
Black Bear	Arizona Bowhunters Association	\$4,100
Black Bear	Arizona Antelope Foundation	\$4,000
Black Bear	Arizona Big Game Super Raffle	\$6,300
	Total Black Bear Tag Funds	\$14,400
Buffalo	Arizona Elk Society	\$13,250
Buffalo	Arizona Bowhunters Association	\$13,300
Buffalo	Arizona Big Game Super Raffle	\$31,720
	Total Buffalo Tag Funds	\$58,270
Elk	Arizona Elk Society	\$94,000
Elk	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	\$85,000
Elk	Arizona Big Game Super Raffle	\$101,225
	Total Elk Tag Funds	\$280,225
Javelina	Arizona Bowhunters Association	\$930
Javelina	Safari Club International – Phoenix Chapter	\$130
Javelina	Arizona Big Game Super Raffle	\$6,560
	Total Javelina Tag Funds	\$7,620
Mountain Lion	Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society	\$4,200
Mountain Lion	Arizona Deer Association	\$3,750
Mountain Lion	Arizona Big Game Super Raffle	\$5,825
	Total Mountain Lion Tag Funds	\$13,775
Mule Deer	Mule Deer Foundation	\$200,000
Mule Deer	Arizona Deer Association	\$180,000
Mule Deer	Arizona Big Game Super Raffle	\$81,600
	Total Mule Deer Tag Funds	\$461,600
Pronghorn Antelope	Arizona Antelope Foundation	\$40,000
Pronghorn Antelope	Arizona Antelope Foundation	\$30,000
Pronghorn Antelope	Arizona Big Game Super Raffle	\$32,640
	Total Antelope Tag Funds	\$102,640
Whitetail Deer	Mule Deer Foundation	\$25,000
Whitetail Deer	Arizona Deer Association	\$16,000
Whitetail Deer	Arizona Big Game Super Raffle	\$25,800
	Total Whitetail Deer Tag Funds	\$66,800
Wild Turkey	National Wild Turkey Foundation	\$7,440
Wild Turkey	National Wild Turkey Foundation	\$2,130
Wild Turkey	Arizona Big Game Super Raffle	\$9,465
	Total Wild Turkey Tag Funds	\$19,035
TOTAL SPECIAL BIG GAME LICENSE TAG FUNDS FOR 2011		\$1,333,915

Meet Your Local HPC Chairpersons

as of December 2011

HPC	Chairperson	Email	AGFD Contact	Email
Forage Resource Study Group	Stephen Williams	swilliams@land.az.gov	Larry Phoenix	lphoenix@azgfd.gov
Fredonia HPC	The Fredonia HPC (currently inactive)			
Kingman HPC	The Kingman HPC (currently inactive)			
Payson Natural Resources Committee	Vacant		Natalie Robb	nrobb@azgfd.gov
Prescott HPC	Randy Lamb Gail Steiger	ranman53@aol.com gailsteiger@msn.com	Tom Finley	tfinley@azgfd.gov
Show Low HPC	Vacant		Bob Birkeland	bbirkeland@azgfd.gov
Safford HPC	Scott Heap Daniel Ward	scottheap54@yahoo.com wardsbuilders@q.com	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@gmail.com	Mike Sumner	msumner@azgfd.gov
Springerville-Alpine HPC	Rex Brown	brownrm@frontiernet.net	Michael Godwin	mikegodwin@frontier.net
Tucson HPC	Brian Dolan	bfd@dakotacom.net	Joe Sacco	jsacco@azgfd.gov
Williams-Flagstaff HPC	Tom Mackin	tmmackin@q.com	Larry Phoenix	lphoenix@azgfd.gov
Winslow HPC	Vacant		Bob Birkeland	bbirkeland@azgfd.gov

HPC Word Search

GRASSLAND
 DRINKERS
 WATER CATCHMENT
 HABITAT
 RESEARCH
 ELK
 PRONGHORN
 PRESCRIBED BURN
 NEPA
 DEER
 SURVEY
 BERMS
 BROWSE
 APRON
 TURKEY
 BEAR
 SHEEP
 TELEMETRY
 GRANT
 HAND THINNING
 GRUB

K	O	X	R	Z	J	E	M	W	K	P	V	N	U	I	W	C
S	H	E	E	P	T	B	X	L	A	A	C	E	P	X	Q	R
N	P	D	A	F	U	G	R	A	S	S	L	A	N	D	X	P
I	Y	U	Z	V	R	L	R	O	T	B	A	A	D	R	C	Z
J	H	H	A	Y	K	A	O	U	O	D	N	N	E	I	W	Q
D	S	W	A	T	E	R	C	A	T	C	H	M	E	N	T	C
G	N	H	A	B	Y	E	W	N	N	U	R	C	S	K	G	F
R	R	X	Q	M	I	X	P	O	U	Q	I	J	K	E	L	K
U	O	H	A	N	D	T	H	I	N	N	I	N	G	R	E	P
B	H	J	R	E	S	E	A	R	C	H	N	M	S	S	W	C
U	G	P	K	B	W	U	P	T	H	D	E	X	W	P	L	S
E	N	W	W	U	R	D	R	O	K	A	J	O	R	K	W	H
P	O	H	M	W	P	B	O	X	V	G	R	A	N	T	P	P
B	R	S	N	V	X	P	N	I	D	B	I	S	H	S	A	W
N	P	R	E	S	C	R	I	B	E	D	B	U	R	N	C	N
L	E	O	P	X	Z	A	G	Z	E	I	Z	R	O	I	X	S
W	R	N	A	I	M	I	L	P	R	B	X	V	Q	X	Y	I
W	Q	Y	I	S	C	F	M	S	P	W	B	E	R	M	S	H
Q	T	W	R	T	E	L	E	M	E	T	R	Y	X	L	P	Z

Arizona Game and Fish Department

5000 W. Carefree Highway
Phoenix, AZ 85086

PHONE:
(602) 942-3000

FAX:
(623) 236-7929



We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.azgfd.gov

SUBSCRIBE ONLINE

Free news
by email



Sign-up for Arizona Game and Fish e-News today by clicking [HERE](#).

Meetings & Announcements

- **Funding Coordination Meeting: Saturday, January 28, 2012**
Arizona Game and Fish Department
Phoenix Headquarters – Eagle Room
5000 W. Carefree Highway
Phoenix, AZ 85086
- **State HPC Meeting: Saturday, February 18, 2012**
Arizona Game and Fish Department
Phoenix Headquarters – Eagle Room
5000 W. Carefree Highway
Phoenix, AZ 85086
- **HPC Project Progress Reports - Due March 1, 2012**
- Looking to get out into the field and assist with big game habitat improvement projects? Volunteer opportunities are currently available through some of our wildlife conservation partners. To see a list of upcoming habitat conservation projects please visit the [Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation](#) website.
- If you have an idea for an article, success story, announcement, project status update, or any HPC related news, please submit them to rteran@azgfd.gov. Microsoft Word documents are preferred (please try to keep articles to between 500-700 words). Pictures of your projects and volunteers are always welcome!

Got questions on an HPC project???

Contact:

Reuben Terán, HPC Coordinator at 623-236-7350 or by email at rteran@azgfd.gov

Ruth Gregory, Game Program Coordinator at 623-236-7349 or by email at rgregory@azgfd.gov

