



Habitat Partnership Committee Connection

Individual Highlights:

Announcements	2
SR 260 Project	3
Project Funding	4
March Meeting	6
Highlights	
From the Editor	7



From your Statewide HPC Chairman William H. McLean Commission Chairman

I would like to welcome all of our Partners to the new quarterly HPC newsletter. It is our desire to use this newsletter format to better communicate with our partners involved in the Special Big Game Tag Fund and Habitat Partnership Committee process. It is the intent of this newsletter to be an up-to-date and easy-to-find informational link on the Department's web site concerning the HPC process. Hard copies of the newsletter are available upon request through the HPC Coordinator. Please consider this YOUR newsletter. We would appreciate your articles concerning up-coming projects, announcements for meetings, project status and completion reports and HPC related news. Project pictures are also needed, especially those with our highly valued project contractors and volunteers that are responsible for converting HPC funds into tangible benefits for wildlife.

I look forward to seeing you at our Summer Statewide HPC meeting at the Department's Pinetop Regional Office on Saturday, August 2, 2008 starting at 10:00 A.M. Until then, may the land and wildlife resources that we are entrusted with remain productive for us and our future generations.

The Coordinator's Corner – Ron Thompson, HPC Coordinator

Welcome to YOUR HPC newsletter. As Commissioner Bill McLean points out, this format will only be as valuable as you make it. As I travel around the state in an effort to meet with all the local habitat partnership committees, I have come to realize how much talent, effort and knowledge there is being applied to directly benefit not only big game species, but indirectly a multitude of wildlife from special big game tag fund habitat projects. I like to consider those of you involved with the HPC process, be it a water development on the edge of Paria Canyon or a meeting to plan a project, the 1% of the 1%. You are the individuals that not only hunt in Arizona (1% of the population), but are active participants that give beyond the cost of a license or membership dues to improve wildlife habitat, so that all wildlife and all Arizonans, benefit.

In a review of the HPC Charter I came across these enabling words; "Local habitat partnership committees (LHPC) are intended as a forum to facilitate collaborative problem solving and habitat improvement at the local level. LHPCs and affiliates are encouraged to develop landscape goals and objectives for the geographic area they encompass." Project proposals that support landscape goals and objectives with high cost share matching support is what the HPC project review team will be evaluating in this year's prioritization of projects.

This is not to say stand-alone projects will not be selected, but how individual projects support landscape management objectives will be highly considered. How valuable is a section of grassland restoration to wildlife if water or connectivity, or both, is not available?

Why not include all wildlife requirements (food, water, shelter) in the initial planning stages, even if it requires a multiple-year goal of accomplishment? Too often we have restricted our proposals to the number of acres treated and not to the resultant wildlife productivity or even maintenance of wildlife numbers as a measurement of success. We all know we are not producing additional land in Arizona, only modifying it due to human population growth. Are we creating or improving enough habitat to maintain current wildlife numbers? Ask these difficult questions and then plan your projects. In this newsletter you will find a summary of a unique project that special big game tag funds funded with hard numbers of wildlife saved from collisions with vehicles. Multiply the figures with average survival rates and the benefits are obvious.

I look forward to meeting all of you!



It is time for project(s)/pre-proposals...

Example

Eagar South Prescribed Fire

- This project is associated with completed thinning activities in the Eager South project area.
- Proposed project is approximately 3500 acres.
- Prescribed fire will be applied over a two year period to remove excess ground fuels and stimulate grass, forbs, and browse components in this important portion of winter mule deer and turkey range in GMU 1.
- Project will complement thinning efforts on adjacent ASLD acres south of USFS lands.
- NEPA completed, arch surveys required.
- Estimated cost of project \$XXXXXXXXXX
- Special Tag Funds to be considered for project funding – elk, deer, turkey.

All pre-proposals and projects will be displayed at the statewide meeting – so bring your copies for display

Meetings & Announcements

- **Arizona Statewide Habitat Partnership Committee Meeting (ASHPC)**
 10:00 A.M. Saturday, August 2, 2008
 Pinetop Regional Office
 2878 E. White Mountain Blvd. (Hwy 260)
 Pinetop, AZ 85935 Phone: 928 367-4281

Draft Agenda for ASHPC

- APS Presentation
- Awards
- Letterhead
- Approval of Minutes

Send your suggested agenda items no later than 5:00 P.M. July 15, 2008 to:
 Ron Thompson, HPC Coordinator
 5000 W. Carefree Highway
 Phoenix, AZ 85086
 or to rothompson@azgfd.gov

- **Announcing the Special Big Game Tag Fund (HPC) Project Award**
 This year there will be two awards presented to a Habitat Partnership Committee for the best project(s) submitted, funded and completed. The awards evaluation will be completed by Commissioner McLean from the 2005-07 project lists. One award will be based on the utilization of volunteers/stakeholders for its completion and the second one will be based on the total benefits to wildlife from a landscape perspective as presented in the original approved project proposal and in the project completion report.

State Route 260 Project

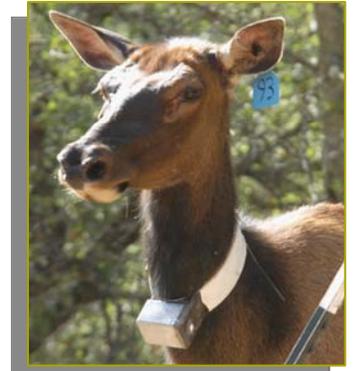
“We may never pass this way again...”



Sound like the classic song by Seals & Croft? Or could it be the outcome of the new and innovative measures being taken in Arizona to reduce wildlife vehicle collisions? Preacher Canyon, Christopher Creek and Kohl’s Ranch are all highway sections that encompass a 17 mile stretch along State Route 260. These areas exhibit some of the highest incidents of elk collisions below the Mogollon Rim. The Arizona Department of Transportation has made a tremendous commitment to reducing the risk of wildlife vehicle collisions and maintaining wildlife permeability across Highway 260. A comprehensive package of measures including underpasses, ungulate-proof fencing, escape ramps, 1-way gates and bridges were used to facilitate wildlife crossings and reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions.

In January of 2002 the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Arizona Department of Transportation entered an intergovernmental agreement which launched the first research phase used to evaluate different measures applied to prevent wildlife vehicle collisions on State Route 260. Some examples of evaluating measures included:

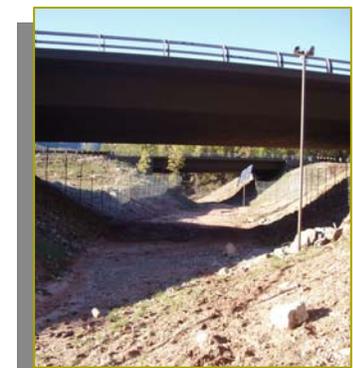
- Video cameras and GPS telemetry which were instrumental in assessing the effectiveness of the various measures.
- Fitting elk with GPS collars was one of the techniques used to assess movement, crossings and passage rates. This data helped determine the extent of ungulate-proof fencing needed to funnel animals through the designated underpasses.
- Video monitoring recorded 13,500 animals and revealed that out of those, 9,000 animals had crossed the highway below grade. This was an overall passage rate of 69% making for safer crossing which has benefited both wildlife and man!
- At Preacher Canyon a roadway animal detection system (RADS) was installed, integrating animal detection and motorist alert signage.
- In 2004 data collected recorded 51 wildlife related collisions in the Christopher Creek Section. A year later, after ungulate-proof fencing was installed linking 4 wildlife underpasses, new data recorded showed only 8 wildlife related collisions – an 85% reduction! Also, the elk passage rate across the highway increased 52% since the fencing funneled animals to the underpasses, making it easier for them to cross the highway corridor.



Fitting elk with GPS collars was one of the techniques used to assess movement, crossings and passage rates.



A roadway animal detection system (RADS) was installed, integrating animal detection and motorist alert signage



These are just a few of the success stories for the State Route 260 Wildlife-Highway Interaction Project! Similar research and work with ADOT partially funded through the HPC process is ongoing on Interstate-17 (elk), US Highway 89 (pronghorn) and State Route 64 (elk, mule deer and pronghorn). For more information please contact Norris Dodd with the Arizona Game and Fish Department Research Branch at 928-367-5675.

Your Wildlife Dollars at Work - Project Funding Update

Ruth Gregory, Game Program Coordinator

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Arizona State Habitat Partnership Committee's quarterly newsletter. As coordinator of the Arizona Game and Fish Department's game program and Special Big Game Tag Fund (SBGTF), it's my privilege to help coordinate the implementation of projects funded through the HPC process.

In 2007, a total of 93 projects were approved for funding in the amount of \$2,837,501. This represents two funding phases, in March and September, as we transitioned to the new funding cycle. **From this point forward, the project submission deadline will be September 1 each year.** We look forward to receiving your proposals this year. As the vision for landscape scale projects grows, so, it seems, does the quality of the proposals. ***Tip: The best proposals engage partnerships and participation from various user groups and agencies, which is the ultimate goal of the HPC for project planning.***

Significant progress has been made toward implementation and completion of the 2007 projects. The following spreadsheets list the projects and the amount funded by special big game tag funds.

I would be remiss if I failed to offer a huge THANK YOU to all the members of the conservation group funding partners who work so tirelessly and passionately to raise this money to benefit the magnificent wildlife resources of the superb state of Arizona. With the addition three years ago of the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle, the special big game tags bring in approximately \$1.5 million per year.

If you have questions, comments or suggestions about the HPC/SBGTF, please don't hesitate to contact me at (623) 236-7349 or rgregory@azgfd.gov.

Project No.	MARCH 2007 Projects	HPC	Amount Funded
07-101	E-Z Roll II (mechanical fence rolling machine)	Show Low	AAF banquet funds
07-102	Ohaco Ranch Grassland Restoration Project (2nd half of the \$100,000.00 request)	Winslow	\$50,000
07-103	Ellsworth Fuel 2007	Winslow	\$2,750
07-104	Ohaco and Aja Ranch Grassland Restoration Project	Winslow	\$50,000
07-112	High Point Well Pumping Equipment	Winslow	\$34,000
07-106	Double Count Helicopter Elk Survey Project	Show Low and Payson NRC	\$10,858
07-202	East Clear Creek Meadow Enhancement - Conifer thinning	Forage Resource Study Group	\$19,500
07-206	Camp Navajo Wire Pick Up, Wildlife Entanglement Minimization	Williams, Flagstaff	\$15,000
07-208	Cinders # 1 & 5 Catchment Redevelopment	Williams, Flagstaff	\$60,000
07-210	Powell's Monument Wildlife Catchment Redevelopment 2007	Fredonia	\$45,280
07-211	Paria Point Wildlife Catchment Redevelopment 2007	Fredonia	\$45,280
07-212	13BN Aerial Capture Survey 2007	Fredonia	\$10,015
07-213	Pronghorn Antelope Habitat Improvement - Fence Modification GMU 13B - 2007	Fredonia	\$33,000
07-215	South Canyon Pipeline Storage Tanks		\$119,000
07-401	Cereus Tank	Southwest Arizona HPC	\$28,000
07-404	580 Catchment	Southwest Arizona HPC	\$20,000
07-405	581 Catchment	Southwest Arizona HPC	\$20,000
07-407	Bighorn Sheep Survey of the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge	Southwest Arizona HPC	\$50,160
07-408	Bighorn sheep translocation Bighorn Mountains / Mineral Mountains	Southwest Arizona HPC	\$21,790
07-412	Bighorn Sheep Population Surveys in Region IV	Southwest Arizona HPC	\$25,916
07-420	Burro Removal in 16B	Southwest Arizona HPC	\$10,000
07-501	West Patagonia Water Developments	Tucson	\$25,130
07-505	BLM Water Catchment #752 Redevelopment-Tortilla #3	Tucson	\$26,214

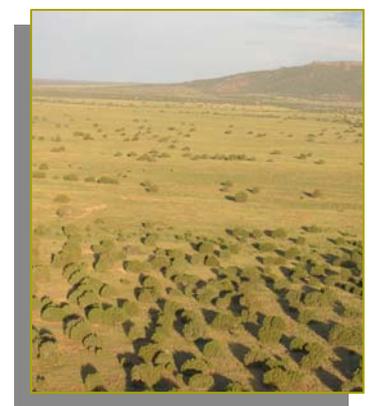
07-508	Water Catchment #883 Redevelopment-Grayback	Tucson	\$26,214
07-529	Brandenburg Catchment Redevelopment	Tucson	\$39,418
07-530	Buzan Catchment Redevelopment	Tucson	\$38,337
07-602	Evaluation of mortality factors for desert mule deer fawns		\$13,000
07-701	Big Chino Pronghorn Movements GPS Collar Refurbishment		\$20,000
07-702	Support of wildlife-highway research and conflict resolution		\$40,000
07-703	Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep translocation-Regions I, II & V		\$30,000
07-704	Pronghorn capture and translocation		\$13,590
07-705	Mule Deer Movements Study in the Planned Sun Valley Development, Buckeye AZ		\$41,100
07-706	Elk Stewardship Program		\$57,000
07-707	Nutritional Status & Winter Range Study for Mule Deer on the North Kaibab Plateau		\$64,026
07-708	Statewide Maintenance of Bighorn Sheep Water Developments		\$50,000
07-709	Bighorn Sheep Surveys in Regions 4 and 5		\$23,780
07-714	Danny Nasca Tank		\$25,000
March Totals			\$1,203,358

Project No.	SEPTEMBER 2007 Projects	HPC	Total Funded
07-107	Atascacita Spring Grassland Restoration Treatment	Springerville	\$70,000
07-108	Unit 4A A/S National Forest Pinyon Juniper Removal Project	Winslow	\$75,000
07-109	Unit 4B Horse Trap/Larsen Prescribed Burn	Winslow	\$33,000
07-110	Unit 4B Wildlife Water Tank Maintenance	Winslow	\$14,000
07-111	NO Bar/4Bar Pasture Phase 1 of 2	Safford	\$99,000
		Forage Resource Study	
07-201	West Clear Creek Brush Management Plan	Group	\$30,000
07-210	Powell's Monument Wildlife Catchment Redevelopment 2007	Fredonia	\$45,280
07-216	Buckhorn Habitat Restoration Project	Williams, Flagstaff	\$19,000
07-218	13B Cooperative Catchment Maintenance 2008	Fredonia	\$24,000
07-219	Tusayan Pipeline and Catchment	Williams, Flagstaff	\$110,000
07-221	Desert Bighorn Sheep Helicopter Survey - Game Management Unit 12BE	Fredonia	\$15,056
07-222	Pat Springs Water Pipeline Operation and Maintenance 2008-2009	Williams, Flagstaff	\$3,290
07-223	Double A Watershed and Browse Release Project	Williams, Flagstaff	\$100,000
07-224	AGFD #613 - #620 Catchment Redevelopment	Fredonia	\$93,000
		Forage Resource Study	
07-226	Padre Burn/Rabbit Trick Tank Renovation	Group	\$67,500
07-227	Slate Mountain Pronghorn Habitat Restoration Part 2	Williams, Flagstaff	\$16,500
07-228	Bush Head Wildlife Catchment Redevelopment 2007	Fredonia	\$50,000
07-414	Catchment 499	Southwest Arizona	\$12,000
07-415	Catchment 500	Southwest Arizona	\$20,000
07-416	Evaporation Control Structures	Southwest Arizona	\$15,000
07-417	Engesser Tank	Southwest Arizona	\$20,000
07-418	Catchment #983 Efficiency Enhancement	Southwest Arizona	\$5,500
07-419	Bighorn Sheep Population Surveys in Region IV	Southwest Arizona	\$3,344
07-511	Mt. Ballard Well	Tucson	\$8,000
07-512	Graham Mountain Catchment #1 Redevelopment	Safford	\$20,500
07-513	Graham Mountain Catchment #2 Redevelopment	Safford	\$20,500
07-514	Graham Mountain Catchment #3 Redevelopment	Safford	\$20,500
07-515	Estimating the relative abundance of Sky Island Black Bears	Tucson	\$14,000
07-516	Agua Caliente Prescribed Burn	Tucson	\$40,000
07-518	Development of Wildlife Waters throughout the 96 Hill Mountain Range Phase 1	Tucson	\$56,520
07-519	Middlemarch Well	Tucson	\$3,000

			ADA Banquet Donation
07-520	Region 5 Water Trailer	Tucson	
07-521	South Mowry Habitat Improvement Project	Tucson	\$40,000
07-523	Catchment 105 Redevelopment	Tucson	\$19,105
07-524	Catchment 99 New Water Collection Apron	Tucson	\$4,528
07-525	Galiuro Mountains Catchment 2 Renovation	Safford	\$17,000
07-527	Whitlock Water 2/GF Catchment 370	Safford	\$20,545
07-528	Whitlock Water 1/GF Catchment 369	Safford	\$20,545
07-604	Water Catchment Maintenance	Payson Nat Resources Committee	\$18,000
07-605	PV Airport Grassland Maintenance	Payson Nat Resources Committee	\$29,200
07-606	PV North Airport Grassland Maintenance	Payson Nat Resources Committee	\$27,500
07-608	Houston Mesa Grassland Maintenance	Payson Nat Resources Committee	\$34,500
07-609	Cherry Prescribed Fire	Payson Nat Resources Committee	\$27,500
07-703	Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep translocation-Regions I, II & V		\$30,000
07-711	Statewide Maintenance of Bighorn Sheep waters		\$50,000
07-715	Elk Stewardship Program		\$50,000
07-716	2008-2009 Pronghorn Translocations		\$10,280
07-717	Experimental Elk Survey		\$20,500
07-718	Evaluation of drug capture techniques on RMBS		\$8,000
07-719	Bighorn Sheep Surveys 12A, 12BW, 13A		\$14,850
07-720	Supplemental BHS surveys		\$17,820
07-721	13BN survey & capture to Hells Half Acre		\$27,600
07-722	Bear Hair Samples for 24A Pop Est from DNA Analysis		\$3,500
07-723	Kaibab Deer Surveys		\$19,680
September Totals			\$1,634,143
Totals from March 2007 cycle			\$1,203,358
Totals from September 2007 cycle			\$1,634,143
TOTAL Special Tag Funding for 2007 projects			\$2,837,501

Highlights from the March 2008 State HPC Meeting:

- A presentation highlighting the habitat enhancement efforts in GMU 4A, in cooperation with the Winslow HPC
- A presentation highlighting research findings in relation to mule deer in the Sun Valley Development project in the White Tank Mountains west of Phoenix
- Update on changes to the HPC process
- Local HPC success stories
- Conservation funding partners – reports from members' HPC project participation



Pronghorn survey flight over Ohaco Ranch

**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

Meet Your Local HPC Chairpersons as of January 2008

<i>Habitat Partnership Committee</i>	<i>Chairperson</i>	<i>AGFD Contact</i>
Forage Resource Study Group	Stephen Williams	Larry Phoenix
Fredonia HPC	Ron Kester	Bob Price
Kingman HPC	Jim Jett	Virginia Gouldsbury
Payson Natural Resources Committee	Vacant	Craig McMullen
Prescott HPC	Dan Pedersen	Tom Finley
	Randy Lamb	
Show Low HPC	Randy Gaskill	Bob Birkeland
Safford HPC	Scott Heap	Duane Aubuchon
Southwest Arizona HPC	Frank Geary	Gary Hovatter
Springerville/Alpine HPC	Rex Brown	Michael Godwin
Tucson HPC	Brian Dolan	Hans Koenig
Williams Flagstaff HPC	Glen Reed Jr.	Larry Phoenix
Winslow HPC	Nick Paul	Bob Birkeland

A Word From The Editor –

Connie Giesie, Game Program Administrative Assistant

Greetings and Salutations!

One way to celebrate our accomplishments in improving big game habitat in the state of Arizona is to share our success stories with others! If you have an idea for an article, a success story, announcement, project status update, or any HPC related news, please submit them to rothompson@azgfd.gov or cgiesie@azgfd.gov. Microsoft Word documents are preferred (please try to keep articles to between 200-500 words). Pictures of your projects and volunteers are always welcome!

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

5000 W. Carefree Highway
Phoenix, AZ 85086



**COMPANY NAME
STREET ADDRESS
CITY, ST 22134**