



Habitat Partnership Committee Connection

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From your Statewide HPC Chairman Commissioner John W. Harris

As the Habitat Partnership Committee (HPC) program has evolved, more discussions are being focused on the need to assess big game habitat and other wildlife management needs from a landscape perspective. Although we are still in an economic downturn, the potential for human growth and development in the state should prompt the need for continued collaboration with land management entities and the development community. To this end, the HPC program is continuing to promote project planning and implementation at a landscape level, and the development of collaborative priorities for wildlife management and habitat enhancement.

On April 2nd and 3rd of this year, I had the pleasure of participating on a field trip through the grasslands of southeastern Arizona. This trip was planned through the Board of the Arizona Antelope Foundation (AAF), and was the beginning of a 5-year strategic planning focus on southeastern Arizona pronghorn populations and habitat improvements projects throughout that part of the state. In attendance were members of the AAF Board, Arizona Game and Fish Department staff, and many individuals dedicated to pronghorn management in Arizona.

Along the way we made several stops including Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, Babocomari Ranch, Audubon Research Ranch, San Rafael Valley, Campini Mesa, San Bernadino Valley, and the Bonita grasslands. Many discussions took place throughout the weekend, but primarily focused on pronghorn population dynamics and genetics, travel corridors, mesquite/juniper invasion, browse and forage availability, habitat fragmentation, and cooperation with local landowners. To begin the implementation of this effort, the AAF has applied for a grant through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation which could further support and enhance related projects that may be submitted through the HPC process. Many thanks go out to the AAF Board and Mr. Glen Dickens for a very enlightening and informative field trip.

For those that were not able to attend the last State HPC meeting in February 2011, we were introduced to Mr. Reuben Terán who is the new HPC Coordinator in Game Branch. You can find out more about Reuben in his coordinator column on the next page. This last meeting also formalized funding for successful projects submitted in the 2010 cycle, with \$1,239,691.00 allocated for big game and wildlife habitat enhancement efforts in Arizona.

Don't forget that the Department is still seeking input on hunt guidelines http://www.azgfd.gov/h_f/hunt_guidelines.shtml, and the Comprehensive Game Management Plan http://www.azgfd.gov/w_c/conservation/comprehensivegamemanagementplanning.shtml

Our next State HPC meeting will be held on July 23, 2011 at the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Region II Office in Flagstaff, Arizona. I look forward to another productive meeting and hope to see you there. ♣

June 2011

Issue 7

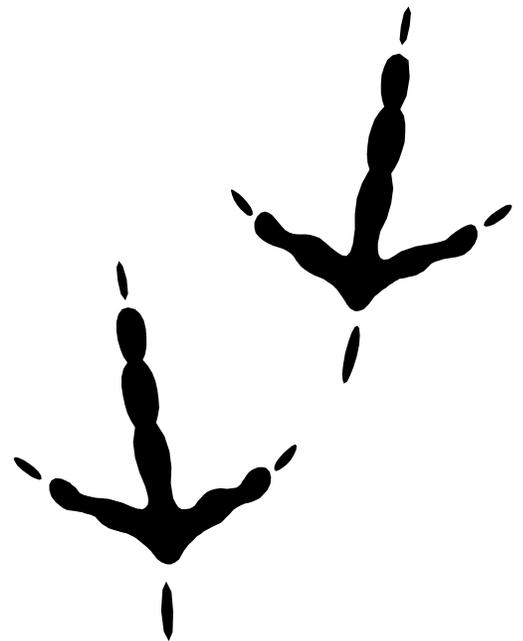


Coordinator's Corner

Reuben Terán, HPC Coordinator

It seems appropriate that my first day on the job was spent attending the February 2011 Arizona Habitat Partnership Committee meeting in Tucson, AZ. Right from the start, I could see the talent and passion of the dedicated committee members that make up the core of the HPC program. As the new Habitat Partnership Committee Coordinator and Big Game Habitat Specialist for the Arizona Game and Fish Department, I look forward to the challenges and opportunities that will arise, and will work to continue the valued partnerships this program has established with the Department's internal and external constituents and wildlife conservation organizations. Because the Game Branch has made this position solely dedicated to the HPC Program, this gives me the ability to focus on the administration and day-to-day business needs of the HPC program, and presents opportunities to continue its growth and development.

For me, a key to establishing and maintaining successful partnerships is communication. While I anticipate getting to know many of you during the course of conducting HPC business, now is probably the best opportunity to introduce myself and give you a brief overview of my background and how I came to the HPC program. Prior to taking this position, I worked in the Department's Habitat Branch as a Project Evaluation Specialist which included the administration of the Department's environmental compliance program. My service with the State of Arizona began with the Arizona Department of Water Resources working in the Phoenix Active Management Area and finished with a 6 year career as a project manager with the Arizona Water Protection Fund grant program. I am a graduate of New Mexico State University with Bachelor of Science degrees in Wildlife Science and Fisheries Science and Minors in Biology and Conservation Biology. I am an active member of the Arizona Hunting and Angling Heritage Workgroup, and also serve as mentor at various youth hunting and fishing camps around the state. When I'm not in the office, in the field, or with my family, my spare time is filled with continuing my 23 year venture writing and performing original music. Wildlife has always been a passion in my life. As an avid hunter and fisherman I understand the role quality habitat plays in maintaining healthy and sustainable wildlife populations and the numerous recreational opportunities these wildlife resources create for the benefit of Arizona's citizens.



In regards to the upcoming 2011 funding cycle, you may begin to notice some small changes starting to take place. The Project Proposal Instruction Manual has been finalized and includes updated project proposal forms. The HPC website http://www.azgfd.gov/w_c/hpc.shtml is also being updated to better organize content to make information easier to find. You will be able to review and download all HPC forms, meeting minutes, newsletters, past and present project information, and be able to contact LHPCs and WCOs. Other projects planned include the development of a project mapping database that will identify all HPC projects across the state and the development of annual reports highlighting projects funded through the HPC process. There is always room for improvements, so please don't hesitate to contact me with suggestions or concerns regarding the HPC process. The project proposal deadline of **September 1, 2011** is coming up soon; be sure to use the updated 2011 forms provided on the HPC website. I look forward to working with all of you, and to continue implementing projects for the benefit of Arizona's big game and wildlife resources. 🐾

The world hates change, yet it is the only thing that has brought progress.

~Charles Kettering

In the Spotlight:



Project Title: Horton Prescribed Burn	
Project Proponent: U. S. Forest Service, Apache Sitgreaves National Forest - Alpine Ranger District	
Region and Game Management Unit: Region I / Game Management Unit 27	
Local Habitat Partnership Committee: Springerville / Alpine	
Special Big Game License Tag Funds:	\$7,600.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3,600.00 from bighorn sheep • \$4,000.00 from elk 	
Cost Share Funds:	\$23,000.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apache Sitgreaves National Forest 	
Total Project Costs:	\$30,600.00

The Horton Prescribed Burn project (funded during the 2006 HPC funding cycle) took place on the Alpine Ranger District – Apache Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF), in the vicinity of Horton Creek and south of Sprucedale. Average elevation in the project area is 7,800 feet, and predominate vegetation type is open ponderosa pine with grass understory. Horton Creek and surrounding drainages contain mixed conifer habitats with herbaceous understory. Some gamble oak exists as an understory species, particularly on drainage slopes.



The purpose of this project was to improve forage quality and quantity for elk and bighorn sheep, and improve mast producing oak recruitment and herbaceous quality for wild turkey. Although habitat management for big game species was a primary objective of the prescribed burn, this restoration activity provided many additional benefits for other game and non-game wildlife species. Prior to the prescribed burn, tree encroachment in the project area reduced forage quantity by producing a thick mat of needles and duff, choking out grass and forbs. This layer of forest duff also decreased the amount of sunlight reaching the ground and decreased water availability. In addition, decadent grasses had reduced forage quality.



To implement the restoration activities, the ASNF conducted approximately 1,900 acres of mosaic understory burn in pine, grass and mixed conifer habitats. This prescribed burn was used to kill small trees encroaching into existing forest openings and stimulate new growth of native grasses and herbaceous forage. Top kill of oak and other browse species was used to stimulate root sprouting and encourage regeneration of new palatable growth. After the burn, surface fuels were reduced by about 70%, and the mature tree base canopy height was raised to help reduce the threat of catastrophic stand replacement wildfire and further loss of habitat.

To monitor habitat conditions pre and post burn and provide a visual reference to changing conditions, numerous monitoring points were established throughout the project area. Monitoring consisted of tree canopy closure, canopy base height, snags, down large logs, number of trees per acre, species composition, and regeneration composition as well as down woody fuel loading. Photo points were also established at each monitoring point. Post burn, the project area has been managed toward a more natural fire regime. Currently, sections of the project area are burning again as part of the Wallow Fire in the Alpine Ranger District. ♠



Project Funding Update

Ruth Gregory, Game Program Coordinator

The 2011 funding coordination meeting between AGFD staff and our wildlife conservation organization funding partners was held on January 22, 2011. And here we are again, gearing up for the new cycle which is right around the corner! Where does the time go? Project proposals continue to move toward the goal of landscape level planning and getting the most benefit for all the hard-earned dollars. The following projects were approved for funding at the January meeting:

<i>Project Name</i>	<i>HPC</i>	<i>Antelope Tag</i>	<i>Bighorn Sheep Tag</i>	<i>Black Bear Tag</i>	<i>Buffalo Tag</i>	<i>Elk Tag</i>	<i>Javelina Tag</i>	<i>Mountain Lion Tag</i>	<i>Mule Deer Tag</i>	<i>Turkey Tag</i>	<i>Whitetail Deer Tag</i>
Sunset Restoration Project	Safford		6,000						23,000		
Heber (#568) and Lone Pine (#414) Catchments and Ryan and Pueblo Tanks	Winslow					41,250			13,750		
Ohaco Ranch-High Point and Ellsworth Wells Fuel	Winslow	2,000				4,000					
Buck Springs Allotment Habitat Improvement	Williams-Flagstaff									2,000	2,000
Bar T Bar Prescribed Burn	Williams-Flagstaff	6,000				3,000			3,000		
Leonard Point 3 Water Redevelopment	Williams-Flagstaff					26,000			6,000		6,000
Fix, Dave's NE, Rock and Ebert Tank Renovations	Williams-Flagstaff					19,000			6,000		
Wolf Hole #3 Catchment Redevelopment	None								32,928		
2011 13BN Bighorn Sheep Capture	None		25,000								
Pick Point Catchment Redevelopment	None		28,382								
Schultz Fire Aspen Restoration Project	None					24,000			6,000		
Mt. Logan/Turkey (#986) Catchment Redevelopment	None								22,900		
Region 2 Wildlife Drinker Maintenance and Operations	Williams-Flagstaff					1,750			1,750		
Raymond Wildlife Area Water System Improvement	None				18,000						

<i>Project Name</i>	<i>HPC</i>	<i>Antelope Tag</i>	<i>Bighorn Sheep Tag</i>	<i>Black Bear Tag</i>	<i>Buffalo Tag</i>	<i>Elk Tag</i>	<i>Javelina Tag</i>	<i>Mountain Lion Tag</i>	<i>Mule Deer Tag</i>	<i>Turkey Tag</i>	<i>Whitetail Deer Tag</i>
Rincon Tank Water Development #1187	None					35,580					
Mud Tank Wash Grassland Enhancement	Prescott	7,500							7,500		
Boquillas Ranch - 16 Pipeline	Prescott	25,000				29,568			25,000		
Smith Mesa Habitat Improvement	Prescott					20,000					
Water Development #738	None	5,700							5,700		
Collection Relocation 863	None		7,500								
Cipriano Tank	None		13,875								
Water Development #876	None								11,250		
Black Bottom Tank 795 Water Development	None		12,752								
Jane Hunts-Mohave Tinaja	None		16,200								
Sheep Survey - Kofa	None		28,410								
Game Catchment 676 Supplemental Water Line	Tucson		2,890								
West Mill Rx Burn-Altar Valley	Tucson										12,500
Bonita Ranch Grassland Restoration Phase 1	Safford	23,900									
North Oak Creek Pipeline, Storage and Troughs	Safford									11,775	
Pinaleno Bear-Proof Food Lockers	Tucson			4,800							
Jhus Spring Redevelopment	Sierra Vista/Douglas									5,320	
96 Hills Wildlife Waters Phase 4	Tucson								24,000		
Hayhook Water Development	Tucson										7,000
Mt. Fagan Catchment Redevelopment	Tucson										20,000
Silverbell Pipeline Project Phase 2	Tucson		7,000						7,000		

TOTAL FUNDING BY TAG	Antelope Tag	Bighorn Sheep Tag	Black Bear Tag	Buffalo Tag	Elk Tag	Javelina Tag	Mountain Lion Tag	Mule Deer Tag	Turkey Tag	Whitetail Deer Tag
	\$149,250	\$398,668	\$14,80	\$18,000	\$263,670	\$8,000	\$7,500	\$301,208	\$28,095	\$50,500

GRAND TOTAL OF PROJECTS FUNDED in 2010 = \$1,239,691.00

Thank You, partners in conservation!

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



Meet your local HPC Chairpersons as of June 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

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.azgfd.gov

Meetings & Announcements

- Safford HPC Meeting – July 6, 2011
BLM Conference Room, Safford AZ
For more information contact:
Duane Aubuchon, Region V Wildlife Manager Supervisor
daubuchon@azgfd.gov
- Sierra Vista-Douglas HPC Meeting – July 12, 2011
Douglas Ranger District Office
For more information contact:
Brad Faulk, Region V Field Supervisor
Bfulk@azgfd.gov
- Statewide HPC Meeting: Saturday, July 23, 2011
Arizona Game and Fish Department
Flagstaff Regional Office
3500 S. Lake Mary Road
Flagstaff, AZ, 86001
- Tucson HPC Meeting – July 27, 2011
Arizona Game and Fish Department
Tucson Regional Office
555 N. Greasewood Road
Tucson, AZ 85745
- Project Proposal Deadline - September 1, 2011
- Payson Natural Resource Committee Meeting – September 21, 2011
Meeting location and time to be determined.
For more information contact:
Natalie Robb, Region VI Field Supervisor
nrobb@azgfd.gov
- 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!

Want to receive the latest information on hunting, fishing, wildlife watching, conservation, boating, off-highway travel, and more...sign up for Arizona Game and Fish e-News today at <http://www.azgfd.gov/eservices/subscribe.shtml>.