

**PROJECT IDEAS FOR REMAINING ELK HPC FUNDS**  
**Compiled by Steve Rosenstock, Region II Habitat Program Manager 1/27/14**

**\*\* Unless noted, projects are “shovel ready,” i.e., NEPA, cultural and other compliance is complete \*\***

**IDA/SLATE LAKES TANK RENOVATION (GMU 7)** APPROVED FOR FUNDING FEBRUARY 1, 2014

Proponent – Steve Clark, Arizona Elk Society

Project Description – this project would renovate earthen tanks on Forest Service lands on the Ida and Slate Lakes grassland restoration areas, which have silted in and no longer meet needs of elk and other wildlife. A total of 14 tanks have NEPA and cultural resources clearance for renovation. Priority tanks identified by the Department include: Rabbit Lake, Antelope Tank, Butcherknife Tank, IDA Tank, Lost Tank, and Indian Tank.

Cost – up to \$85,000

**EMERGENCY WATER HAULING FOR ELK (Region II)** APPROVED FOR FUNDING FEBRUARY 1, 2014

Proponent – Steve Clark, Arizona Elk Society

Project Description – northern Arizona is currently experiencing one of the driest winters on record, setting the stage for early drying of wildlife waters and additional hauling requirements to meet wildlife needs.

Cost – up to \$50,000

**GRASSLAND RESTORATION AND FORAGE ENHANCEMENT (4 projects)**

Proponent – Steve Cassady, Region II Landowner Relations Specialist. See attached table for additional details.

**#1 Bar T Bar Ranch Grassland Restoration (GMU 5A)      HPC #13-223**

Project Description – this project is a component of a natural resource conservation plan being developed by the Bar T Bar ranch, USDA-NRCS, AGFD, and ASLD. The project will continue ongoing effort to remove encroaching pinyon-juniper from historic grasslands and savannahs on the Bar T Bar and surrounding ranches to improve habitat conditions for elk and other wildlife. All work would be done on private land. Partners include NRCS, ASLD, USFWS, USFS, and Diablo Trust. To date approximately 25,000 acres have been treated on USFS lands and 18,000 acres on ASLD and private lands within the ranch boundaries. An additional 3,600 acres have been identified for treatment in the natural resource conservation plan.

Cost – requesting \$33,800 (338 acres @ \$100/acre) to treat private land in the restoration area. There is approximately \$50,000 in match funding tied to the project.

## **#2 Babbitt Ranches CO Bar Ranch Grassland Restoration (GMU 9) HPC #13-224**

Project Description – this project will continue the ongoing effort to remove encroaching pinyon-juniper from historic grasslands on the CO Bar ranch to improve habitat conditions and improve connectivity for elk and other wildlife. Partners include NRCS, ASLD, USFWS, and USFS.

Cost – requesting \$77,700 (700 acres @ \$100/acre) to treat private land in the restoration area. There is approximately \$65,000 in match funding tied to the overall restoration project.

## **#3 Flying M Ranch Grassland Restoration (GMU 5B) HPC #13-225**

Project Description – this project is a component of a natural resource conservation plan being developed by the Flying M Ranch, USDA-NRCS, AGFD, and ASLD. This project will continue the ongoing effort to remove encroaching pinyon-juniper and improve connectivity of historic grasslands on the Flying M and surrounding ranches to improve habitat conditions for elk and other wildlife.

Cost – requesting \$51,200 (512 acres @ \$100/acre) to treat private land in the restoration area. There is approximately \$290,000 in match funding tied to the overall restoration project.

## **#4 Chambers Ranch Grassland Restoration (GMU 7E) HPC #13-226**

Project Description – this project will remove invading junipers from historic grasslands to the east of the Sunset Crater cinder knoll complex opening up a corridor between the Wupatki grasslands to grasslands north of the I-40/BNSF corridor. Partners include NRCS and ASLD.

Cost – requesting \$77,625 (621 acres @ \$125/acre) to treat private land in the restoration area. There is proposed \$150,000 in match funding tied to the overall restoration project. Note: AGFD internal compliance and cultural resource surveys may be needed.

### **US FOREST SERVICE PROJECTS (7 projects)**

Proponent – Mike Elson, Flagstaff District Ranger, Coconino National Forest. See attached document for project area maps and detailed descriptions.

## **#1 Modified Jackstraw Treatment for Aspen Regeneration HPC #13-227**

Project Description – the project consists of fortifying an existing 15-acre jackstraw treatment in the Hart Prairie Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Project, to increase protection from browsing and enhance aspen regeneration.

Cost – requesting \$14,791. Match consists of funds already committed to the project (NEPA, planning, implementation to date) plus additional costs of managing proposed work.

## **#2 Meadow Restoration HPC #13-228**

Project Description – the project consists of removal of encroaching conifers on 150 acres of meadows on the Hart Prairie Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Project.

Cost – requesting \$22,806. Match consists of funds already committed to the project (NEPA, planning, implementation to date) plus additional costs of managing proposed work.

**#3 Conifer Weeding From Aspen Enclosures HPC #13-229**

Project Description – the project consists of removing encroaching conifers from 17 aspen enclosures totally approximately 150 acres on the Hart Prairie Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Project.

Cost – requesting \$22,065. Match consists of funds already committed to the project (NEPA, planning, implementation to date) plus additional costs of managing proposed work.

**#4 La Negrita Tank Aspen Enclosure HPC #13-230**

Project Description – this project consists of treatments to initiate aspen regeneration and remove encroaching conifers, followed by installation of an enclosure fence on a ¼ acre site on the Mormon Lake Basin Fuel Reduction Project.

Cost – requesting \$7,905. Match consists of funds already committed to the project (NEPA, planning, implementation to date), additional costs of managing proposed work, and donated labor for fence construction (Friends of Northern Arizona Forests).

**#5 Aspen Regeneration Treatments (Ripping) HPC #13-231**

Project Description – the project consists of mechanical treatments to stimulate aspen sprouting in 2 previously constructed enclosures on the Hart Prairie (42 acres) and Wing Mountain (4 acres) projects.

Cost – requesting \$7,069. Match consists of funds already committed to the project (NEPA, planning, implementation to date) plus additional costs of managing proposed work. Note: archeological clearance is required and will be done by USFS. Under current workload, it's uncertain whether that could be done in 2014.

**#6 Bebb's Willow Planting HPC #13-232**

Project Description – this project consists of planting Bebb's Willow in the Hart Prairie area.

Cost – requesting \$5,600. Match consists of funds already committed to the project (NEPA, planning, implementation to date), additional costs of managing proposed work, and donated labor for seedling planting and fence construction (The Nature Conservancy, Friends of Northern Arizona Forests).

**#7 North Anderson Mesa Grassland Restoration HPC #13-233**

Project Description – the project consists of removal of encroaching juniper and ponderosa pine from 189 acres on Anderson Mesa.

Cost – requesting \$17,600. Match consists of funds already committed to the project (NEPA, planning, implementation to date) plus additional costs of managing proposed work.

Proponent – Carl Lutch, Region II Wildlife Program Manager

Project Description – the Department is currently upgrading existing wildlife waters to meet wildlife needs, make the systems reliable during winter months, and reduce costs associated with water hauling and repairs. This project focuses on 2 waters (Koger and Wallace) that receive heavy use by wintering elk. Both are prone to winter freezing and have insufficient capacity to support elk wintering in the area. Upgrade consist of a new trough, storage tanks, and aerator system.

Cost – requesting \$12,000 to purchase 3 storage tanks and 2 aerators, and associated plumbing. Available match (approximately equal amount) consists of materials already purchased and labor to complete redevelopment.