

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM  
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

**Project Title: West Coyote, East Coyote, Whitmer and Turkey Creek Allotment Boundary Fence Maintenance**

**Project No. 09-112**

**Region/GMU: Region 1/GMU 1**

**HPC:**

**Project Type: Maintenance of boundary fences on the West Coyote, East Coyote, and Whitmer pastures and on the south end of the Turkey Creek Allotment to preclude trespass livestock while facilitating wildlife movements.**

**Project Description: The Arizona Elk Society is finalizing an agreement with the livestock grazing permit holder on the West Coyote, East Coyote, and Whitmer pastures and on the south end of the Turkey Creek Allotment to waive the grazing permit back to the Forest Service for conservation purposes. This is an action very similar to that which has set aside the Burro Creek, Big Lake, and Buck Springs allotments for conservation of natural resources. At this time, the boundary fences to the West Coyote, East Coyote, and Whitmer pastures and on the south end of the Turkey Creek Allotment are in need of repair in order to preclude domestic livestock from accessing these ecologically sensitive areas. Funds provided through this grant would be used by the AES to provide materials and costs associated with volunteer efforts expended in the repair of fences in cooperation with the Forest Service, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and local livestock permit holders.**

**Wildlife Species to Benefit: White-tailed Deer, Mule Deer, Elk, Turkey, Black Bear, various forest-dwelling neotropical migrant birds, and the federally-listed loach minnow and Mexican Spotted Owl.**

**Possible Funding Partners: the AES has committed approximately \$36,000 so that the permit holder will waive the livestock-grazing permit back to the Forest Service. The Forest Service has agreed to assist the AES and the local permit holders with fence repair efforts.**

**Implementation Schedule:**

**Beginning: July 1, 2010**

**Completed: June 30, 2012**

**NEPA Compliance: (if applicable)**

**Completed: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ N/A, the Forest Service has agreed that this action can be completed under the auspice of a MOU between the AES, Spur Cattle Co., and the Forest Service**  
**Projected Completion Date:**

**PROJECT FUNDING**

**SBG Funds Requested: \$ 7,000**

**Cost Share Funds: \$ The AES has allocated approximately \$36,000 to facilitate the livestock grazing permit back to the Forest Service. In addition, the volunteer work projects of the AES typically attract 50-100 volunteers making an in-kind cost share value of at least an additional \$10,000**

**Total Project Costs: \$7,000**

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION**

**Applicant: Steve Clark, President-AES**  
(please print)  
**Telephone: 602-885-0835**

**Address: PO Box 190**  
Peoria, AZ 85380

<b>AGFD Contact and Phone No.</b> <b>(If applicant is not AGFD personnel)</b>	
<b>Coordinated with: US Forest Service, AZ Elk Society, Spur Cattle Co.</b>	<b>Date: October 2009</b>
<b>Applicant's signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>

**SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:**

**Game Branch  
2221 W. Greenway Rd.  
Phoenix, AZ 85023  
mdisney@azgfd.gov**

**WAS PROJECT PRESENTED TO THE LOCAL HPC?      YES   X        NO**

**HAS PROJECT BEEN SUBMITTED IN PREVIOUS YEARS? IF SO WAS IT FUNDED?**

No

**NEED STATEMENT/PROBLEM ANALYSIS:**

Portions of the Coyote-Whitmer and Turkey Creek Allotments on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest have high ecological value, and provide habitat for several species of special importance to the residents of the State of Arizona and the United States. Given the diversity of the natural community that occurs on some portions of these allotments, this area is uniquely important to the wildlife species that occur in the region. In particular, high-density populations of elk, mule and white-tailed deer, and Merriam's turkey as well as an array of forest-dwelling neo-tropical migrant avian species occupy portions of this allotment. A portion of the area has also been classified as potential habitat for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. Riparian areas vital to wildlife, both aquatic and terrestrial, occur on certain areas of the allotments. Elimination of domestic livestock until riparian ecosystems are fully functional will have direct benefit to the recovery of the loach minnow and other native fish species within the Blue River drainage.

Hunting for big game animals, general recreation, and ranching are socially and economically important uses of the area, creating a tie to the land and the traditions of the Southwest. By repairing fences in these key allotments, there is a unique opportunity to develop an approach to managing adjacent allotments in a fashion to preserve and enhance the livestock grazing tradition while providing substantial natural resource management benefits for the people of the State of Arizona and the United States.

In the absence of this fence repair project, the potential exists for trespass livestock to enter the portions of these allotments where livestock grazing has been deferred. If grazing by domestic livestock occurs, this will limit the benefits from deferring grazing and the benefits to the multiple species identified will likely not occur.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVES:**

To improve boundary fences in a fashion to preclude trespass domestic livestock in the area of the West Coyote, East Coyote, and Whitmer pastures and on the south end of the Turkey Creek Allotment. This should reduce the domestic livestock use of the riparian areas and upland areas and provide improved forage conditions in areas used by large native species such as mule deer and elk, thus restoring the areas natural

functions.

**PROJECT STRATEGIES:**

The AES is one of the most successful outdoor conservation organizations in using large volunteer work groups to accomplish major habitat restoration and improvement projects. Repairing fences will require both material and a large volunteer labor force. The strategy proposed will use funding to acquire needed materials and to pay the direct cost of sponsoring a volunteer work project to repair the boundary fences on the West Coyote, East Coyote, and Whitmer pastures and on the south end of the Turkey Creek Allotment. The use of volunteer workers will greatly reduce the cost of fence repair and provide substantial benefit from a relatively modest amount of funding compared with what would be required by contract fence repair companies.

**PROJECT LOCATION:**

West Coyote, East Coyote, and Whitmer pasture and on the south end of the Turkey Creek Allotment located within the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. See attached map.

**LAND OWNERSHIP AT PROJECT SITE (Please state specifically if PRIVATE PROPERTY and provide landowner's name):**

US Forest Service

**IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?**

**HABITAT DESCRIPTION:**

Vegetation within the area consists of two major communities; ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forests. There are small inclusions of deciduous species including aspen, maple, southwestern white pine, juniper woodlands, and open mountain meadows. One of the key ecological components of this area is the sponge meadows that once existed in the area but have largely become dry, upland meadows.

**ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:**

AZ Elk Society will use all of these funds for two purposes. The first is to acquire materials as needed to improve boundary fences where needed to preclude trespass livestock. The repair will ensure that lower wire strands are placed to facilitate wildlife movements below and the top wire will be equipped with "elk jump" bars at strategic locations on the repaired fences. The second purpose will be to pay for direct expenses associated with hosting volunteer work projects.

**LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:**

US Forest Service and adjacent livestock permit holders. The Forest Service has committed resources to assist in implementing this action.

**PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:**

AES will monitor for project completion and provide a written report to the AZGFD upon completion of the project.

**PROJECT MAINTENANCE:**

N/A.

**PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:**

Jim deVos, Southwest Wildlife Advisory Group on behalf of the Arizona Elk Society