

**HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE  
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

HPC Project Number:	18-522
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<b>PROJECT INFORMATION</b>			
<b>Project Title:</b>	Pronghorn Fawn Enhancement—GMU 30A		
<b>Game Management Unit:</b>	30A	<b>Region:</b>	5
<b>Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):</b>	<b>Was the project presented to the LHPC?</b>		
Sierra Vista- Douglas HPC	Yes		
<b>Project Location:</b> (Please provide <u>lat/long</u> in decimal degrees or meters of project area using datum WGS84 or NAD83. If project is larger than one point, please include them all. Provide an accompanying shapefile as an attachment for the project area).			
<b>LATITUDE/NORTHING:</b> 31.537022			
<b>LONGITUDE/EASTING:</b> 109.211196			
<b>MULTIPLE LOCATION COORDINATES:</b> Please separate coordinate pairs with names & commas. (ex. Bob's Tank 34.365, -110.663. Clear Spring 34.55, -110.107, etc.): Lat/long coordinates for furthest directional points: North – 32.67473, 110.06179      South – 32.09704, 110.04168      East – 32.42758, 109.66595      West – 32.2183, 110.19979			
<b>Project Type:</b>	Wildlife Management	<b>Number of acres that will be enhanced:</b>	
<b>Water Project Action</b> (if applicable):			
<b>Habitat Restoration Action</b> (if applicable):			
<b>Other Project Type and Action</b> (if applicable):	Fawn Enhancement		
<b>Has this project been submitted in previous years?</b>	No		
<b>PROJECT SUMMARY</b>			
Describe the proposed action only. Please use plain English, what action are you proposing? (If applicable, please reference any completed compliance including EAC#).			
<b>Brief Project Summary:</b> The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) would contract with Wildlife Services (WS) of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to conduct aerial coyote removal in pronghorn habitat within Units 30A, specifically in the San Bernardino Valley (South of Highway 80). Operations would occur from March through June to coincide with the pronghorn fawning season; the goal being a short, targeted predator removal effort during a critical time of the year to boost pronghorn fawn recruitment.			
<b>Primary Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit:</b>	Pronghorn (100%)		
<b>Implementation Schedule</b> (Month/Day/Year)	<b>START DATE:</b> 3/1/2019	<b>COMPLETION DATE:</b> 8/31/2021	

## PROJECT FUNDING

<b>Project Funding</b>	<b>Itemized Use of Funds</b>
<p>*Qualifying Cost Share should be restricted to support (materials, compliance, and or labor) of the proposed action ONLY (same time and place). Please do not include previously purchased supplies or past completed work.</p> <p><b>HPC Funds Requested</b></p> <p><b>Amount:</b> \$20000</p> <p><b>Cost Share or Matching Funds</b> Department cost for document preparation and ground crew for aircraft <b>Amount:</b> \$4000</p> <p><b>Percent Match</b> <i>(of the total project cost)</i></p> <p><b>Total Project Cost</b></p> <p><b>Amount:</b> \$ 24000</p>	<p>Please email separate quotes if HPC funds are to be used to purchase materials or contracted labor: <a href="mailto:HPC@azgfd.gov">HPC@azgfd.gov</a>.</p> <p>Use up to \$20,000 to contract with APHIS to conduct fixed-wing aerial predator control to remove coyotes within pronghorn habitat in GMUs 30A over 6-8 days from approximately late March to early June (funds requested based on previous WS predator control efforts).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cost Share or Matching Funds Matching funds of \$4,000 include salary for Department personnel to complete an Environmental Assessment Checklist for this project and field monitoring and coordination of the predator control operation with APHIS and landowners.</p>

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

Please indicate the status of the Project's compliance. if you are unsure, please reference:

HPC Compliance Checklist (<https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife/hpc/forms/>).

If you have questions regarding the requirement of an EAC, contact AGFD's Project Evaluation Program:

(<https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife/planning/projevalprogram/>).

\*\*\*Please email supporting compliance documents to [HPC@azgfd.gov](mailto:HPC@azgfd.gov) \*\*\*

<b>AGFD EA Checklist Completed:</b>	In progress	<b>Completion Date:</b>	1/1/19
<b>NEPA Completed:</b>	NA	<b>Completion Date:</b>	NA
<b>State Historic Preservation Office/ Archaeological Clearance:</b>	NA	<b>Completion Date:</b>	NA

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Applicant

The project applicant is the responsible party for seeing the work through to completion.

**APPLICANT NAME:** MICHAEL RICHINS

**PHONE:** 520 732-8359

**ORGANIZATION:** AGFD

**EMAIL:** mrichins@azgfd.gov

**ADDRESS:** rg5

### AGFD Project Proponent

The Project Proponent is responsible for compliance, implementation, and annual/final reporting requirements.

**AGFD CONTACT NAME:** SAA

**PHONE:** SAA

### Cooperators

**COOPERATOR NAME(S), ORGANIZATION, ROLE IN PROJECT:** Mike Richins (AZGFD), John Millican and Glen Dickens (Arizona Antelope Foundation)

Cooperators include APHIS-WS, the Arizona Antelope Foundation, and the Arizona Game and Fish Department (all possible sources of labor assistance); along with the Arizona State Land Department, and the ranches listed above in the "LAND OWNERSHIP" section that will provide access and permission for removing coyotes on their property.

## PROJECT NEED AND DESCRIPTION

Please use direct language: why is this project important? What problem will be solved? How will you implement it, and how will the habitat be enhanced? Please include # of acres, methods, roles, and any phases. Please be specific and thorough.

**NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:** In November 1984, 32 pronghorn from west Texas were released at Moline Tank in the middle of the San Bernardino Valley. These animals were supplemented with 67 more from the same source in December 1986. This population enjoyed a few years of good fawn survival before the dry cycle in the late 1980s hit the southwest. Fawn survival dropped to an average of 9 fawns:100 does for 1988-90, with only 54 does and 0 fawns seen in 1990. This drought cycle was then followed by several years of good precipitation and excellent fawn recruitment; the population increased substantially. Fewer than 91 animals were observed on surveys prior to 1991. An average of 161 pronghorn were observed during annual surveys from 1992-2010. 2011 and 2012 surveys resulted in a total number of pronghorn seen on survey were 60 and 71 respectively. 2011 fawn to doe ratios were 0/100 and 2012 was 8/100. In response to this concerning trend the AZGFD funded a coyote removal effort in 2013 running until 2015. As a result of this project the population has rebounded with an average number of pronghorn observed on survey from 2015-2017 of 168 animals. With an average Fawn to Doe ratio of 41/100. Since the coyote control efforts have stopped fawn recruitment has slowly declined.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES: PROJECT OBJECTIVES:**

The project objectives include removing coyotes to benefit pronghorn and likely increase mule deer

recruitment; increasing the abundance of pronghorn in the San Bernardino area; expanding the current distribution of pronghorn to occupy suitable habitat; providing diverse recreational opportunities to the public; and implementing comprehensive game management through landscape level planning. The project incorporates aspects of the AGFD's GMU 30A Management Focus Area Plan, the Comprehensive Game Management Plan, and Strategic Plan-Wildlife 20/20.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:**

To implement these objectives, the Department will contract with WS to conduct aerial coyote removal operations in GMU 30A. They will cover all pronghorn habitat that it is safe to do so. General areas will include the San Bernardino Valley north of Douglas, south of Highway 80 and west of the Peloncillo Mountains. AZGFD personnel have gained permission from landowners and livestock operators within the project perimeter for the previous removal efforts and verbal permission has been gained for the next three year project. In January, local Wildlife Managers will obtain landowner signatures on permission forms to conduct planned aerial gunning operations, and WS will maintain the documentation (permission forms) obtained from all landowners.

The project would target a large area during a short period of time and should effectively reduce predator densities at a peak period, prior to and during the time when pronghorn are fawning, and prior to coyotes denning and having young (March-June).

There will be no surface disturbances as a result of this program. The intention of this project is to conduct aerial gunning operations over as much of this habitat as possible. Estimated flight time includes 6-8 days per year for 4-5 hours per day. The aerial coyote removal flights will occur during March 1 through June 30; three to four consecutive days the first week, then returning at least two weeks later to fly an additional three to four consecutive days. The amount of time actually flown will be dependent upon the weather and the number of coyotes observed while flying.

**LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):** Other

**PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:** During this effort, WS will be required to report their time spent completing the operation, the number of coyotes removed and coyote harvest locations. The Department will monitor the effects on the pronghorn through annual fixed-wing surveys. Standard summer pronghorn survey flights will be conducted to determine fawn to doe ratios, as well as the buck to doe ratios and total pronghorn observed. These results will be published in annual performance reports highlighting the observed population and fawn recruitment/survival.

**PROJECT MAINTENANCE:** NA

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



