

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

HPC Project Number:

18-102

### PROJECT INFORMATION

<b>Project Title:</b>	Elk Stewardship Program		
<b>Game Management Unit:</b>	multiple	<b>Region:</b>	1
<b>Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):</b>		<b>Was the project presented to the LHPC?</b>	
Winslow, Showlow, and Springerville		Bob Birkeland and Aaron Hartzell (sector supervisors) are in agreement that this program continues.	
<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>			
<b>LONGITUDE/EASTING:</b>			
<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.):			
<b>Project Type:</b>	Elk winter forage habitat improvement projects		
<b>Water Project Action</b> (if applicable):			
<b>Habitat Restoration Action</b> (if applicable):			
<b>Other Project Type and Action</b> (if applicable):	Provide funding for seed and/or fertilizer to assist with losses to irrigated pasture lands due to elk utilization.		
<b>Has this project been submitted in previous years?</b>	yes		
<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> This program provides funding to ranchers/ producers who utilize a significant amount of winter forage lands that are also used by elk. This program is designed to alleviate some of the pressure pastures receive from wintering herds of elk. This is accomplished by providing funding for seed, fertilizer, or elk jumps (or a combination of these) to be used to increase productivity of winter forage habitat and producers pastures. In return, the rancher agrees to allow elk to use the pastures and the improved elk habitat. This program will focus on private irrigated pastures with agreements ranging from 3 -5 years. Participants shall purchase the products limited to fertilizer and pasture seed mixes. Upon providing evidence of product purchase a cooperator will be reimbursed up to an agreed upon amount within the first year. Region 1 Landowner Relations Specialist will be the lead on the program while closely working with the local wildlife managers for selection of suitable participants.			
<b>Primary Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit:</b>	Elk		

<b>Implementation Schedule</b> (Month/Day/Year)	<b>START DATE:</b> Feb 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2019	<b>COMPLETION DATE:</b> Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2019
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## PROJECT FUNDING

Project Funding	Itemized Use of Funds
<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><u>HPC Funds Requested</u></p> <p><b>Amount:</b> \$30,000.00</p> <p><u>Cost Share or Matching Funds</u></p> <p><b>Amount:</b> In kind through labor and maintenance</p> <p><u>Percent Match</u></p> <p><u>Total Project Cost</u></p> <p><b>Amount:</b> \$30,000.00</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>Special Big Game License Tag Funds will be used to purchase seed and fertilizer by the cooperators.</p> <p>Cost share will be conducted by landowners through the installation, application and distribution of materials as outlined in individual agreements.</p> <p>Purchases made by individual landowner who are then reimbursed have provided more product for the money spent and require less risk and liability to department staff and property.</p> <p>Quotes have varied but remain lower than department contracted rates for the same products.</p> <p>Invoices are emailed to HPC as received.</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>	N/A	<b>Completion Date:</b>	N/A
<b>NEPA Completed:</b>	N/A	<b>Completion Date:</b>	N/A
<b>State Historic Preservation Office/ Archaeological Clearance:</b>	N/A	<b>Completion Date:</b>	N/A

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Applicant

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

**APPLICANT NAME:** James Eddy (J.D.)

**PHONE:** 928-532-3682

**ORGANIZATION:** Arizona Game and Fish Dept.

**ADDRESS:** 2878 E. White Mountain Blvd. Pinetop, AZ  
85935

**EMAIL:** jeddy@azgfd.gov

### AGFD Project Proponent

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

**AGFD CONTACT NAME:** James Eddy (J.D.)

**PHONE:** 928-532-3682

### Cooperators

**COOPERATOR NAME(S), ORGANIZATION, ROLE IN PROJECT:**

Project coordinated with local HPC chapters, RMEF, and AES in addition to the annual applicant pool looking to participate in the yearly program.

## 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:

This project will address the condition of winter forage habitat available to elk in the northeast portion of the state, and alleviate landowner concerns related to elk use. The winter forage habitat available to elk herds is vital to ensuring elk populations remain healthy and stable. This program addresses this issue by partnering with landowners to improve available winter forage habitat by providing fertilizer and seed to landowners in an effort to maintain high quality winter forage and productive habitat for elk. The Department staff will rank the applicants, and funds are allocated based on how individual proposals score.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

- Through a stewardship agreement, partner with landowners containing winter forage habitat to improve this habitat for elk.
- Habitat will be improved using fertilizer to increase production of forage or through seed to plant new or utilized forage habitat.
- Landowners will plant seed or fertilize pastures used by wintering elk herds, and together this program will provide high quality winter forage habitat for elk.
- Landowners will use elk jumps to alleviate issues caused by elk use.
- The program will focus on private irrigated pastures where the landowner uses the property to operate an agricultural business. Priority consideration will go to commercial operators but other landowners should be evaluated on a lower priority basis.
- Priority big game species is elk. However, other species documented using the property should also be considered in the evaluation process.
- The duration of agreements will range from 3 to 5 years. The agreement duration is dependent upon the impact of wildlife use, size of property, and degree of commercial use in operation.

-Products for the Stewardship Program are limited to fertilizer and pasture seed mixes. Participants will purchase the products and following documentation of purchase the participant will be reimbursed through the program.

-The Landowner Relations Program Specialist is the regional lead for the program. However, the LRP specialist will work closely with the wildlife managers early in the process to select suitable stewardship candidates.

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

Almost exclusively private lands unless irrigated pasture is permitted on another land type.

**PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:**

The wildlife managers for the game management units containing each ranch selected for an elk stewardship program will conduct monitoring in cooperation with the regional LRP specialist. Monitoring will consist of site visits to ensure the materials provided through this program are used on areas containing winter forage for elk, and that these areas are accessible and available to elk herds for utilization.

**PROJECT MAINTENANCE:**

The maintenance of all projects will be written into the stewardship agreement as the responsibility of the landowners. To ensure compliance with this requirement, the wildlife manager will determine if the project area is maintained to meet the requirement of providing winter forage and conditions of their respective stewardship agreements.

**PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:** James Eddy Region 1 AZGFD LRP specialist

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS LIST:** Exhibit A

**Have supporting documents been submitted? Yes**

# Region 1 Wildlife Management Units / Districts

