



PHEASANTS FOREVER & QUAIL FORVER
THE HABITAT ORGANIZATION



Arizona Wildlife Biologist Partnership:

Pheasants Forever, Quail Forever, NRCS, BLM, and Arizona Game & Fish Department

Quarterly Progress Report
October through December 2020

Quantitative Report

502	88.6	26
Project Acres	Recreational Access Acres	Landowner Contacts

Signed Agreements

- ❖ Recreational Access Agreement signed by cooperator Hank Carter to provide 20 acres of sorghum forage crop and public access onto private property each year for the 2021-2022 early dove hunt season. LRP will provide \$36,000 in reimbursement.
- ❖ Recreational Access Agreement signed by cooperator Hank Auza to provide 50.6 acres of sorghum forage crop and public access onto private property for the 2021-2022 early dove hunt season. LRP will provide \$45,540 in reimbursement.
- ❖ Recreational Access Agreement signed by cooperator William Ware to provide 18 acres of sorghum forage crop and public access onto private property each year for the 2021-2022 early dove hunt season. LRP will provide \$14,760 in reimbursement.
- ❖ Habitat Stewardship Agreement signed by Santa Margarita Ranch to complete 200 acres of mesquite removal for grassland restoration. LRP will provide \$25,000 in reimbursement.

Completed Projects

- ❖ Saddle Mountain well Project with cooperator Tim Maxwell completed in December. LRP provided funding to develop a new water catchment and storage system. For every water trough developed, it benefits 502 acres around it.

In the Field

Sarah led an endangered species survey with partners in early November for a mesquite clearing project in the Altar Valley. They surveyed for Pima Pineapple Cactus (PPC). On the first day of the survey, it was determined from smart watches that the partners had walked 12 miles! Luckily, it was a cool and cloudy day. No PPC were found in the survey, however, the photo on the right (provided by Brian Powell) tells you just how small they are.



Sometimes, assessing resource concerns is difficult work. However, Karlee had an easy time identifying erosion near a riparian restoration site. The terracing from altered hydrology has exposed this mesquite's roots in a beautiful geometric pattern.



Karlee Cork – Statewide – NRCS

Met 2 New Landowners and Worked with 2 Previous Cooperators:

- Met with Russel Freeman about a potential RCPP on the Gila River near Florence
- Met with Ben Brophy to discuss riparian restoration plan
- Worked with Blanton Belk on new WLFW plan
- Worked with Frank Hayes on a new WLFW plan

Conducted 5 Site Visits:

- Initial Site visit to Babacomari Ranch

- Site visit to Sandhill Farms
- Site Visit to Frank Hayes ranch
- Revisit Babacomari ranch
- Site visit to Nordstrom with Sarah

Attended Several Training Programs:

- NRCS Aquatic biology information call
- ASWM Assumable waters webinar
- NRCS: How long and short term wildlife research informs rangeland management
- ESA and Consultations basics webinar
- ASWM Beaver Restoration webinar series
- Cultivating Landowner Engagement Webinar
- Watershed Planning Training (NRCS)
- Tribal Communications Review

Represented PF/QF at Several Public and Organization Meetings or Events:

- AACD Resource Needs Meeting
- VWRC Corridor Working Group
- VWRC Invasive Species Working Group
- LCNCA Bioplanning
- Rio Reimagined meeting
- NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee
- AZ Monarch Collaborative Full Meeting
- AZ Monarch Collaborative Working Lands Working Group
- LGRC Full Partnership Meeting
- LGRC Restoration Working Group Meeting

Biology Activities Conducted with NRCS or AGFD Terrestrial Wildlife Branch:

- NRCS SWFL Revamp Meetings
- NRCS WHEG Revamp
- NRCS West Region Biologists Consortium

Sarah Gandarfa – Tucson – AGFD Region 5

Met 5 New Landowners and Worked with 7 Previous Cooperators:

- Discussed the AZGFD LRP Funding Programs with new landowners/ranchers :
 - White Ranch
 - Birdland Ranch
 - Santa Rita Experimental Range (McGibbons)
- Discussed changes to the Coronado Dairy Access website with Dairy Manager
- Discussed Borderlands Wildlife Preserve Access Renewal for wildlife watching
- Discussed the delay of upcoming project with the 10X Ranch for another year due to drought
- Discussed the extension of access agreement with Santa Margarita Ranch
- Coordinated with Fred Davis on his HPC proposal, and discussed alternative funding avenues
- Coordinated with Vera Earl Ranch on juniper thinning project

Conducted 7 Site Visits:

- Nordstrom Property Riparian Assessment w/ Karlee
- Waller Farms Pollinator Assessment

- Camp Grant Ranch Jojoba/Ground Cover Monitoring
- Pima Pineapple Surveys and Ground Cover Monitoring on the Santa Margarita Ranch
- Mesquite Monitoring on the BANWR
- Mesquite monitoring in Bonita with Arizona Antelope Foundation

Attended Several Training Programs:

- Evaluating, Establishing & Maintaining Habitat for Pollinators and Beneficial Insects (webinar)
- Collaborating in a Virtual Setting peer learning session (webinar)
- The Future of Landscape Conservation: Cultivating Landowner Engagement (webinar)
- LinkedIn Learning, “Communicating with Confidence” Online Course

Represented PF/QF at Several Public and Organization Meetings or Events:

- Fort Huachuca Annual Partnership Meeting
- Tucson NRCDC & Willcox NRCDC Work Group Meetings
- Altar Valley Conservation Alliance Anniversary Dinner (video entry)
- AZ Monarch Collaborative Full Meeting

Field Activities Conducted with AGFD Terrestrial Wildlife Branch or Other Partners:

- Bobcat Trapping in the Altar Valley
- Crane Hunter Check-in Station on Willcox Playa

Zaara Kidwai – Yuma – AGFD Region 4

Met 4 New Landowners and Worked with 6 Previous Cooperators:

- Coordinated with cooperator Hank Carter to enroll the Carter Farm Property into the 2021-22 Dove Plot Program.
- Coordinated with Hank Auza of Barkley Seed Company to enroll the Carter Farm Property into the 2021-22 Dove Plot Program.
- Coordinated with William Ware of Ware Farms LLC to enroll the Carter Farm Property into the 2021 Dove Plot Program.
- Coordinated with cooperator Tim Maxwell to check progress on CAP Drinker Phase 2 and Saddle mountain well projects.
- Coordinated with cooperator Topper McReynolds to check progress on Marble well project.
- Coordinated with Matthew Hancock to view potential of dove plot project on his land.
- Coordinated with Brad Mead to explore the potential projects on his farm.
- Coordinated with cooperator DJ Morales on status of Jones and Powerline well project and potential projects in the future.
- Coordinated with Tyson Stuhr for potential projects on his land.
- Coordinated with Mark Kuechel (NRCDC) and Carson Snow (Yuma Conservation Garden) for possible projects to start in Yuma conservation garden.

Conducted 4 Site Visits:

- Met with cooperator Tyson Stuhr to view potential well development and dove plot locations near Gila Bend, AZ. The meeting included representatives from NRCS and BLM who would also be getting involved in the projects at some point.
- Met with ranch manager DJ Morales in Wickenburg to discuss the possible future projects and details on the pending ones.
- Met with cooperator Brad Mead to see all possible locations for a potential dirt tank or drinker project in Salome, AZ.

- Met with Carson Snow from Yuma Conservation Garden to survey the area and identify potential project locations.

Attended Several Training Programs:

- Attended 4x4 and radio training in Arizona Game and fish office, Yuma, AZ.
- Attended Aviation training program in Arizona Game and Fish office, Phoenix, AZ.

Represented PF/QF at Several Public and Organization Meetings or Events:

- Attended the Wellton-Mohawk Board meeting in Wellton, AZ.
- Attended the monthly Yuma Farm County Bureau meeting in Yuma, AZ.
- Attended the monthly NRCD meeting in Yuma AZ.

Field Activities Conducted with AGFD Terrestrial Wildlife Branch or Other Partners:

- Assisted with 2-day plantation event on 30 acres of land. A project between University of Arizona, Amigo Farms and AZGFD.
- Assisted NRCS with Los Encinos vegetation monitoring in Sasabe, AZ.

Kaitlyn Yoder – Arizona Strip – BLM

Proposals: 1

- Kaibab and Paunsaugunt Mule Deer Herd Migration Corridor Research Proposal
 - 7 planning meetings
 - Coordination with non-profit, joint venture, AZ Game and Fish Department, Bureau of Land Management, and Mule Deer Foundation so far. Anticipate incorporating Utah DNR, Utah BLM, and Kaibab District USFS.
 - Developed 1 research proposal
 - Looking into funding/ grant opportunities

Program Development: 2

- **AIM Program:** Continuing work and collaboration to get the AIM program for the Arizona Strip District up and running.
- **IVM Program:** Continuing work and collaboration to get the IVM program for the Arizona Strip District up and running.

Workshops: 2

- Cultural Programmatic Agreement Workshop
- AIM Monitoring Workshop

Field Visits: 1