



**Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD)
LANDOWNER-LESSEE/SPORTSMAN RELATIONS
& HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEES**

HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE (HPC) Meeting Minutes

The meeting began at 10:40, after a quick welcome from Dan Sturla, AGFD Habitat Enhancement (HE) Coordinator. Dan announced that had promoted to HE Coordinator position and Kirby Bristow will replace him as HPC Coordinator. Kirby brings over 26 years of wildlife habitat research experience that he hopes will help him keep up the good work Dan has done with the program over the last few years.

Commissioner Eric Sparks will be the new Chair of the HPC, with Commissioner Bill Brake staying on as Co-Chair. Unfortunately, Commissioner Sparks was unavailable to attend today's meeting.

Other attendees included AGFD employees, AGFD Commissioner Jim Zieler, representatives from local HPCs, representatives from several Wildlife Conservation Organizations (WCOs), and livestock producers.

2018 funding: The HPC allocated \$2.5 million for 66 projects last year including water developments, grassland restoration, spring boxes, prescribed fire, pipelines, emergency waters, etc.

2019 fundraising: The WCOs have raised just short of \$2.5 million dollars in 2019, with over \$600,000 raised at the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle.

Updates from Local HPCs: AGFD personnel from Regions 1-6 provided updates on all the projects around the state.

WCO updates: Representatives from the following WCOs provided updates for projects done and reiterated their commitments to maintain partnerships:

- **Glenn Dickens– Arizona Antelope Foundation**
- **Don McDowell – Arizona Deer Association**
- **Matt Dominy – Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society**
- **Jim Lawrence – Arizona Mule Deer Organization**
- **Andrew Breeling – National Forest Foundation**
- **Steve Clark – Arizona Elk Society**
- **Jake Jaeger – AGFD Cooperative biologist with the Mule Deer Foundation**
- **Al Eiden-Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever**



HPC Reporting updates End of Year update

- 2019 is a charter review year and Kirby will get the charter out to local HPCs (LHPCs) soon for review and comments
- An updated map of projects and a list of specific projects in process will be provided.
- The HPC project proposal deadline is September 1, 2019

Changes to HPC program for 2019

- Changes to Arizona Game and Fish Commission's Special Big Game License Tag allocation process to WCOs
- HPC functions the same and dollars will be allocated appropriately
- One thing different, all qualified WCOs are invited to participate in January funding process. Kirby will be reaching out to WCOs to invite participation in a team to help fine tune the process for the January meeting.
- Dan handed out a letter explaining the new changes and AGFD expectations regarding the cooperation that will be necessary as we move forward.

Future meetings:

- HPC Project Funding Meeting - January 11, 2020
- HPC Winter meeting - February 1, 2020

Thanks to Mule Deer Foundation and Arizona Elk Society for sponsoring the Social Hour.