

ARIZONA ELK SOCIETY BOY SCOUT EAGLE PROJECT PROGRAM

Part of the mission of the Arizona Elk Society is to work to improve and restore wildlife habitat for elk and other wildlife. To accomplish this part of the mission the Arizona Elk Society partners with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Forest Service, and local landowners. Each year the AES organizes, funds, and provides volunteer labor forces to accomplish projects throughout elk range in Arizona.

For two years, the AES has partnered with the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts for volunteers at our various projects. We have identified a need for good projects for potential Eagle and Gold Scout projects that deal with wildlife and their habitat.

In 2012 the Arizona Elk Society met with the Coconino and Kaibab National Forest staff to design activities for Boy Scouts to complete Eagle Scout projects.

The AES is thrilled to work with the Boy Scouts in informing these scouts about the importance of conservation of Arizona's.

Two scouts worked with their team and the AES in July of 2012 on a project removing small trees from riparian draws and basins, allowing more water to reach the riparian areas that supported much of the wildlife in the area. We have put together information sheets on a few additional projects for the scouts to evaluate.

BUCK SPRINGS: RIPARIAN AREAS AND ZUNI BOWLS

This project is designed to place energy dissipaters in select riparian area creeks where the corridors for water have been eroded. There are two approaches to this project. The first is referred to as "Zuni Bowls" and are rock layers placed in the eroded streambed to allow the streambed to begin to heal the scars from erosion and stop the down cutting.

Zuni bowls are streambed improvements designed to eliminate erosion from deepening erosion scours and facilitate sediment retention. A crew from ACE with guidance from Tom Runyon placed this Zuni bowl in August 2012. There are several similar locations at Limestone, Holder, and Buck Springs where these features are needed. If this were the project that is selected, the scout would need to work with Tom Runyon and the Arizona Elk Society to select a couple of sites to conduct this project. The approach is really quite straightforward with the only challenge is to arrange the delivery of the stone to the locale and to work with Tom or other Forest Service representatives to obtain training on how to proceed. This would be the responsibility of the scout to arrange the training. The one potential downfall of this project is that the streambed has to be dry to complete the work. Again, depending on the snowmelt this year, this may extend into late spring before conditions are suitable for this project.

Equipment needs will be gloves, long pants, leather or similar boots, shovels, stone, and tamping equipment. The FS will furnish the later items but this effort needs to be coordinated with the FS.



The picture on the left is a completed Zuni Bowl. The picture on the right is one of the down cuts at Holder Cabin that would be repaired in 2013. Note the steep bank on the upstream side of the bowl. This steepness allows for rapid head cutting and down cutting, both great adverse impacts to the hydrology of these important meadows.