

Gila County Project Proposals (FY2010-2011 funds-June 8-9 2011 meeting)

Proposal Number	Title and Brief Description of Project Proposal	RAC Funding Requested	RAC Funding Recommended
Gila-12	<p>Pitless Cattle Guards and Installation on the Globe Ranger District.</p> <p>Proposed by Forest Service. Proposal is for the Forest Service to purchase and install 30 pit-less cattle guards that are safer than traditional guards, easier to install, and do not require significant ground disturbances rendering them more eco-friendly. These will be placed in various locations over the half million acres on the Globe Ranger District prioritized by greatest beneficial use to the most visitors. Project locations will be identified by following considerations: 1) Roadways where gates are currently an obstruction of ingress and egress, which is a safety issue, 2) Cattle guards that are strategically placed in areas where the most visitors encounter gates that are closed would greatly reduce unwanted effort to open and close gates, therefore creating a more enjoyable user-friendly experience. 3) Recent theft of traditional cattle guard grates in Gila County has raised a concern about having an open vault left in the roadway, possibly creating a substantial hazard for any vehicle to unsuspectingly drive into, potentially causing severe harm or death. There are newer and safer designs of cattle guards that do not require a pit, which would be the logical choice for the safety of our visitors. On roadways that are designated County Roads or other roads where cooperating with Gila County Road Department, cattleguards are likely to require certain, certifiable load ratings. There are pitless models now available that are engineered to meet this criterion nationally.</p>	<p>\$135,135</p> <p>Request for FY 2010 funds</p>	

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<p>Gila-13</p>	<p>Payson and Tonto Basin Ranger District cattleguard installation. Proposed by the Forest Service. Proposal is for the Forest Service to remove eight gates from public roads on livestock grazing allotments and replace them with cattleguards. Tonto National Forest road engineers and Tonto Basin Range District range personnel propose to remove seven wire ("Texas") gates and one metal gate from forest roads and replace them with above-ground cattleguards. Currently, eight remote locations identified in this proposal are experiencing conflict between recreational users and livestock producers as wire gates are left open and cattle wander from authorized grazing units into unauthorized grazing units or move from an authorized grazing allotment to an unauthorized grazing allotment. Recreational users traveling by OHV or passenger vehicle frequently leave gates open between allotments or pastures within allotments and often provide feedback to the district regarding the difficulty or inconvenience of opening a wire gate. When cattle are using pastures containing these open gates, they are able to move from their authorized unit onto the neighboring unit, compromising forage availability and causing permittees to travel to remote units more frequently than necessary just to check gates.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">\$30,450</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Request for FY 2010 funds</p>	
<p>Gila-14</p>	<p>Chiricahua leopard frog propagation, introduction and monitoring in Tonto National Forest. Proposed by the Forest Service. Proposal is for the Tonto NF, Phoenix Zoo, Arizona Game & Fish Dept, and US Fish & Wildlife Service to conduct actions that would contribute toward the recovery and delisting of the Chiricahua leopard frog (CLF). This project can be into 3 distinct parts: 1) propagation, 2) introduction & augmentation, 3) and monitoring.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">\$65,100</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Request for FR 2010 funds</p>	

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<p>Gila-15</p>	<p>Milkweeds and Butterflies. Proposed by Forest Service. Proposal is to plant and irrigate over 300 native milkweed plants to provide habitat for monarch butterflies, utilizing substantial support from volunteer organizations. The annual migration cycle of the monarch butterfly has been described as the most spectacular migration in the insect world. It has also been deemed an “endangered natural phenomenon” by the World Wildlife Fund. This species and its migration are dependent upon conservation of habitats in all three North American countries—Canada, the United States, and Mexico. As a result of declining populations of monarchs, the North American Monarch Conservation Plan was created to preserve and conserve the monarch butterfly migration through North America. Monarch larvae feed exclusively on milkweed to acquire the necessary chemicals to become distasteful to birds and other predators. Without milkweed, monarchs cannot survive because milkweed is their only host plant. Using RAC funds, the Forest Service proposes to partner with an organization to create about 3 acres of monarch habitat by planting over 300 native milkweed plants. Forest Service and our partner will have over \$58,000 of contributing funds, which is over 50% of the total cost of the project.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">\$53,865</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Request for FY 2010 funds</p>	
<p>Gila-16</p>	<p>Houston Mesa Restoration. Proposed by Forest Service. This proposal is to utilize thinning and prescribed fire to reduce hazardous fuels, restore ecosystem function, improve hydrological stability and health, and increase habitat and forage quality for charismatic-mega fauna at the landscape scale. This project will also reduce the risk of high intensity wildfire and potential damage to adjacent and surrounding communities, and <u>Increase available areas for public fuel wood collection.</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">\$71,285</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Request for FY 2010 funds</p>	

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Gila-17	<p>Mogollon Stream Restoration Implementation, Christopher Creek. Proposed by Arizona Game & Fish Dept. This proposal is to enhance the fishery by improving habitat quality and angler experience within and among streams located on the Mogollon Rim. The objective of this project is to provide trout habitat and stream morphology improvement designs in two reaches of Christopher Creek on the Tonto National Forest that are utilized by Arizona Game and Fish Department for a stocked trout fishery.</p>	<p>\$90,123</p> <p>Request for FY 2010 funds</p>	
Gila-18	<p>Mogollon Stream Restoration Implementation, Canyon Creek Phase I. Proposed by Arizona Game & Fish Dept. This project proposal is to improve the aquatic habitats along the project reach of Canyon Creek to benefit native and recreational non-native fish species, and improve native riparian plant communities and associated wildlife habitats. The Arizona Game and Fish Dept manages the stream as a recreational trout fishery for rainbow trout brown trout. The stream and riparian areas have suffered from grazing pressure, wildfire and flooding events which have degraded fish habitat in the stream. AGFD has assessed the current morphological and habitat conditions of the stream, and has developed an enhancement plan and design which prioritizes areas with the greatest enhancement potential. This proposed project will install a variety of habitat improvement structures using logs rootwads, and boulders. The proposed enhancements are to improve geomorphic stability of the stream as well as improve riparian habitat and stream habitat conditions for trout and native fish.</p>	<p>\$73,694</p> <p>Request for FY 2010 funds</p>	

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Gila-19	<p>Mogollon Stream Restoration Implementation, Haigler Creek. Proposed by Arizona Game & Fish Dept. This proposal is to improve trout habitat and stream morphology in heavily utilized reaches of Haigler Creek. Arizona Game and Fish Dept operates the stream as a ‘put and take’ rainbow trout fishery that receives high angler use. The department desires to improve habitat quality and angler experience in these areas. This project will provide specific enhancement treatments that allow more hiding cover for stocked trout and provide more angling opportunities for the public. Enhancement activities are focused on increasing the density of fish holding habitat in areas of the stream in close proximity to the campgrounds where use is highest.</p>	<p>\$75,858</p> <p>Request for FY 2010 funds</p>	
Gila-20	<p>Double Chip Seal Forest Road 423 (Cline Blvd). Proposed by Gila County. Proposal is to double chip seal 7.8 miles of Forest Road 423 (Cline Blvd) from the intersection of Forest Road 71 to the intersection of Forest Road 60A to provide an all weather surface, increase the level of safety, reduce dust and improve the road “rideability”. This will result in reduced emergency response time and reduce road maintenance costs.</p>	<p>\$420,498</p> <p>Request for FY 2010 funds</p>	
Gila-21	<p>Bald Eagle Nestwatch. . Proposed by Forest Service. Proposal is to enhance the breeding bald eagle population in the Tonto National Forests, by hiring 2 crews as part of the Arizona Bald Eagle Nestwatch Program, a multiagency effort. The Bald Eagle Nestwatch Program was developed in 1978 to monitor breeding bald eagles in areas with high recreational pressure. Crews with the Bald Eagle Nestwatch Program will: 1) identify and reduce potential threats to breeding bald eagles, 2) contact and educate the public within the immediate breeding area, and 3) collect bald eagle data critical to making informed land management decisions without jeopardizing breeding success.</p>	<p>\$38,640</p> <p>Request for FY 2010 funds</p>	
Gila-22	<p>Gila County Noxious Weed Control. Proposed by Forest Service. Proposal is for the Tonto National Forest, and the Town of Star Valley will control strategically important infestations of 7 key invasive weeds (yellow & Malta starthistle, buffelgrass, fountain grass, and diffuse knapweed, Canada thistle and bull thistle) with herbicides and manual removal. This will protect land values in the community of Star Valley and protect resource values on the Tonto National Forest.</p>	<p>\$58,275</p> <p>Request for FY 2010 funds</p>	

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Gila-23	<p>Trail Maintenance on East Mountain Trail and the Toll Road Trail Loop. Proposed by Forest Service. Proposal is to perform extensive trail maintenance on the East Mountain Trail and the Toll Road Trail Loop in the Pinal Mountains. Maintenance on this 6 mile loop will include significant and substantial brushing, water / erosion control, and tread work. We plan to hire 1 Coconino Rural Environment Corps (CREC) crew to accomplish this work. The 8 person CREC crew will consist of 1 crew leader, 1 assistant crew leader, and 6 crew members. The 8 person crew will work a total of 640 hours per “hitch”, 80 hours per crew member. The CREC crew will cost \$11,000 per “hitch” and should accomplish all of this needed maintenance on the East Mountain Trail, Toll Road Trail Loop. USFS Globe RD will provide all project planning and filed support for this work.</p>	<p>\$12,600</p> <p>Request for FY 2010 funds</p>	
Gila-24	<p>Ecologically Friendly Spring Boxes and Pipeline Collection Boxes. Proposed by Forest Service. This proposal is to improve water quality and spring/stream habitat at springs and streams used by wildlife and livestock. We have received many requests to develop springs (or improve existing developments) and pipe water from stream channels for use by wildlife and livestock. At some sources, we are concerned about diverting the water and impacting groundwater dependant ecosystems. A new Forest Service website has become available which displays options for water developments that minimize negative ecological effects. We are looking for a source to build and supply eco friendly spring boxes and pipeline collection boxes and would like to test them on several sites on the Forest. The spring boxes work by sending water back to the channel before diverting water to the drinker, thus ensuring water for the ecosystem as well as the water user. The pipeline collection boxes provide water to a pipeline within the channel while allowing the remaining stream flow to stay in the channel. The boxes would be installed by permittees and inspected and monitored by Forest personnel.</p>	<p>\$6,300</p> <p>Request for FY 2010 funds</p>	

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<p>Gila-25</p>	<p>Mogollon Rim Watershed Protection: Gathering and analyzing monitoring data from past wildfires and fuel reductions procedures. Proposed by Northern Arizona University. Proposal is to gather and analyze field monitoring data that protects stream health from catastrophic fire. Monitoring information will be collected by Gila Community College and interested students will be hired through NAU Biology department to carry on sampling, processing and reporting duties. Students will create posters and electronic media programs for local forest managers to use. This project will provide forest managers and the general public with current information on the interaction between wildfire and stream health. This provides the foundation for riparian habitat and stream protection protocols from wildfire, and help us better understand the long-term impact of wildfire on stream ecology.</p>	<p>\$58,435</p> <p>Request for FY 2010 funds</p>	
<p>Gila-26</p>	<p>Pitless Cattle Guards and Installation on the Globe Ranger District. Proposed by Forest Service. Proposal is for the Forest Service to purchase and install 30 pit-less cattle guards that are safer than traditional guards, easier to install, and do not require significant ground disturbances rendering them more eco-friendly. These will be placed in various locations over the half million acres on the Globe Ranger District prioritized by greatest beneficial use to the most visitors. Project locations will be identified by following considerations: 1) Roadways where gates are currently an obstruction of ingress and egress, which is a safety issue, 2) Cattle guards that are strategically placed in areas where the most visitors encounter gates that are closed would greatly reduce unwanted effort to open and close gates, therefore creating a more enjoyable user-friendly experience. 3) Recent theft of traditional cattle guard grates in Gila County has raised a concern about having an open vault left in the roadway, possibly creating a substantial hazard for any vehicle to unsuspectingly drive into, potentially causing severe harm or death. There are newer and safer designs of cattle guards that do not require a pit, which would be the logical choice for the safety of our visitors. On roadways that are designated County Roads or other roads where cooperating with Gila County Road Department, cattleguards are likely to require certain, certifiable load ratings. There are pitless models now available that are engineered to meet this criterion nationally.</p>	<p>\$135,135</p> <p>Request for FY 2011 funds</p>	

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Gila-27	<p>Double Chip Seal Forest Road 55. Proposed by Gila County. Proposal is to double chip seal 3.6 miles of Forest Road 55 from the intersection of Russell Road to the intersection of Kellner Canyon Road to provide an all weather surface, increase the level of safety, reduce dust and improve the road "rideability". This will result in reduced emergency response time and reduce road maintenance costs. This project will provide a much needed alternate evacuation route for residents when the washes in Ice House Canyon become impassable during times of flooding.</p>	<p>\$444,780</p> <p>Request for FY 2011 funds</p>	
Multi-County Proposals			
Multi-County-11	<p>Northern Arizona Wood Products Association (NAWPA) – Transitioning to 4FRI. Project proposed by Silas Page. Proposal is for NAWPA to continue operating as an organization that supports forest restoration and wood utilization working diligently to help businesses transition from the White Mountain Stewardship Contract to the Four Forest Restoration Initiative. This includes monthly NAWPA board meetings and greater representation at local, state, and regional meetings such as the Natural Resources Working Group and White Mountain Stewardship Multi-Party Monitoring Board, the Governor’s Forest Health Council and the 4-Forest Restoration Initiative, and Western Governors Association. Continue services to members including grant writing and administration, travel assistance, safety training, and marketing assistance. Support and participate in the National Small Woods 2012 workshop that is being held in Flagstaff in May 2012. Continue development of the Forest Restoration Partnership, a collaborative group that has come together to work with forest concessioners to develop a marketing campaign for securing donations to continue forest restoration through the White Mountain Stewardship Contract.</p>	<p>\$74,918 total;</p> <p>\$24,973 each for Apache, Gila and Navajo Counties</p> <p>Request for FY 2010 funds</p>	

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Multi-County-13	<p>Clean Forest Project. Proposed by Clean Forest Project.org. Proposal is to clean up illegal dumpsites and remove abandoned vehicles from Tonto National Forest lands in Gila County, and from Safford Ranger District lands in Graham County. This proposal utilizes Clean Forest Project staff, hired local people, and volunteers.</p>	<p>\$63,000 total;</p> <p>\$12,600 from Graham County, and \$50,400 from Gila County</p> <p>Request for FY 2010 Funds</p>	
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FY 2010 Funds

Total of Requested FY 2010 RAC Funds for Projects in Gila County.....\$1,265,631

Total Available FY 2010 RAC Funds for Projects in Gila County.....\$423,000

Total FY 2010 RAC Funds Recommended for projects in Gila County.....\$ TBD

FY 2010 RAC funds recommended for projects that are primarily dedicated---\$* TBD

- to road maintenance, decommissioning or obliteration; or
- to restoration of streams and watersheds

*Projects that qualify: TBD

FY 2011 Funds

Total of Requested FY 2011 RAC Funds for Projects in Gila County.....\$579,915

Total Available FY 2011 RAC Funds for Projects in Gila County.....\$380,700

Total FY 2011 RAC Funds Recommended for projects in Gila County.....\$ TBD

FY 2011 RAC funds recommended for projects that are primarily dedicated---\$* TBD

- to road maintenance, decommissioning or obliteration; or
- to restoration of streams and watersheds

*Projects that qualify: TBD