



Department of the Interior Recovery Investments *Investing in America's Economic Recovery*



Habitat Restoration Projects

Need

The need to restore native Arizona desert grasslands makes these projects part of the Healthy Landscapes Initiative. The project areas are considered treasured landscapes. The projects are part of a multi-state cooperative program located in Arizona, and adjoining states across 3.5 million acres. The Arizona portion is a non-fire adapted ecosystem that lost over one million acres to fire in 2005 and 2006. The goal of these projects is to protect and restore remaining valuable habitat within the initiative area, including critical Mojave Desert Tortoise Habitat and valuable isolated riparian areas.



Recovery Act Funding

BLM-Arizona has been allocated \$2,967,000 through the Recovery Act to fund 3 Habitat Restoration Projects. Two projects are located within the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area and one project is located in the Mohave Desert of northern Arizona. These projects will be accomplished with service and construction contracts.

Benefits

The benefits gained by protecting and restoring the remaining Mojave Desert within the initiative area, include improved Mojave Desert Tortoise Habitat and better protection of valuable riparian areas. The benefits gained by restoring landscapes and watersheds within Las Cienegas National Conservation Area are similar; a healthy landscape allows biological communities to flourish.



More Information

The project actions include development of strategically placed fuels breaks, an improved remote fire station (to improve initial-attack fire response times), protection of rehabilitation investments, stabilization of water control structures, contracted invasive plant species control, developing sources for suitable plant materials, monitoring to measure success, tortoise fencing along highway to reduce vehicle associated tortoise mortality.

For more information on this BLM project, contact: Linda Johnson, BLM-Arizona ARRA Coordinator, Arizona State Office, 602-417-9576, Linda_Johnson@blm.gov.