



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Southwest Region

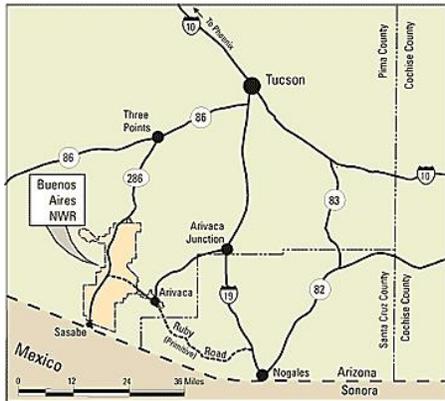


Buenos Aires NWR Receives \$ for Improvements American Recovery and Reinvestment Act FACT SHEET

Project Description

The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has awarded \$76,900* of Recovery Act funds to contractor Paul Palmer of Thatcher, Ariz., to clear 2,000 acres of mesquite trees. The work will take place on Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Sasabe, Ariz., starting in December of 2009, and is scheduled for an April 2010 completion. The contract calls for 85% of the trees in the established areas to be pulled up by the roots, application of herbicide to prevent future growth, and for creation of brush piles for nesting of the endangered masked bobwhite quail.

The mesquite clearing project is one of several Recovery Act projects slated for Buenos Aires NWR in 2010, including the improvement of cattle tanks used to hold water for wildlife, the aeration of grasslands to improve native species growth and the refurbishment of three wells.



Map of Buenos Aires NWR

Mesquite trees, a species non-native to Southeastern Arizona, have degraded the masked bobwhite habitat by outcompeting native food and nesting species, and providing hiding places for predators; including hawks and coyotes. The Service hopes that the mesquite reduction, along with re-introduction of native vegetation will encourage growth of the masked bobwhite population.

Buenos Aires NWR is also home to six other endangered and 2 threatened plant and animal species.

Project Benefits

The Service expects the award to create work for two people as well as encouraging the re-introduction of the endangered masked bobwhite quail to its original habitat.

Total Budget Information for All Projects

Buenos Aires NWR \$750,000

Mesquite Brush Removal FFS#R2MB: \$75,000

For More Information

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*Source – http://recovery.doi.gov/press/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/fws_list_051309.pdf