



## 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) will receive up to \$750,000\* through the Recovery Act for habitat restoration improvements at Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The improvements should help the survival of the endangered masked bobwhite quail, only a few of which remain in the wild at the Sasabe, Arizona facility.

The Refuge will be cleared of 2,000 acres of mesquite trees, bringing the habitat closer to its original landscape. In addition cattle tanks used to hold drinking water for refuge wildlife will be cleared of debris, grasslands will be aerated to facilitate native species growth, and 10 wells will be refurbished. The project is scheduled for completion in 2011.



Cattle Tank at Buenos Aires NWR

The birds’ habitat has been degraded by a century of invasion by mesquite trees and exotic grasses; predators such as mountain lions and coyotes use the trees as cover from which to prey on the birds. Other factors include change in shrub and grass composition, and alteration of watercourses and availability. The goal of habitat restoration is to reestablish native vegetation on the refuge by planting hiding cover, nesting cover, and food plants preferred by these birds. The Service believes that restoration of its habitat should pave the way for species regeneration. 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/save up to eight new jobs, as well as protecting endangered species, building employable skills and appreciation for environmental stewardship in young adults, and preserving the nation’s cultural resources.

#### Total Budget Information for All Projects

Buenos Aires NWR \$750,000

#### For More Information

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<http://recovery.doi.gov/press/bureaus/us-fish-and-wildlife-service/>

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