

AZ Sportsmen For Wildlife Conservation GRANT COMPLETION REPORT

Project Title: Coronado National Forest Grassland Restoration Project

Organization: Southern AZ Quail Forever

Event/Project Completion Date: October 1, 2022

Project Location (Include info such as event center, hunting unit, etc.): Coronado National Forest west of Montezuma's Pass along the US/Mexico border

Submitted By: Zack May

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Phone #: 520.301.8135

Today's Date: October 13, 2022

AZSFWC Recognition:

AZSFWC Logo and Link to AZSFWC on organization's website? (attach screen print image) Yes

License Plate Image w/link to MVD on organization's website? (attach screen print image) Yes

AZSFWC Logo displayed at event? (attach photo(s)) No

AZSFWC recognized in all marketing materials & post event articles? (attach all samples) Yes

List any social media recognition of AZSFWC (include all screen print images) SAQF Facebook, website and newsletters, BRN website and newsletters, USFS Facebook account

Was there any media or press coverage? (attach copies if available) No

List any other recognition?

Summarize Project Accomplishments :

Executive Summary

Since 2018, Southern Arizona Quail Forever (SAQF), Borderlands Restoration Network (BRN), and Coronado National Forest (CNF) have collaborated to enact the CNF Grasslands Restoration Project and restore 12,375 acres of degraded USFS lands along the Arizona/Mexico border. This work includes the construction of over 700 erosion control structures and the restoration of more than 600 acres completed in 2020-2021 through the NFF Matching Awards Program. This prior restoration work was expanded on through this project, with the installation of an additional 335 erosion control structures, the distribution of 16 pounds of native grass seed, and the establishment of Montezuma Quail food plots at the BRN Nursery.

Physical restoration efforts were complimented by community engagement opportunities throughout the project period. Community engagement efforts focused on providing paid internship opportunities for 18 local high school-aged youth and providing a number of hands-on, educational volunteer opportunities. A total of 36 volunteers were engaged throughout the project.

Narrative Summary

Goals and Objectives

All project goals and objectives were completed and exceeded. Below is a description of the objectives completed for the project

- 1) Install 250+ water-harvesting erosion control structures:** BRN installed a total of 335 water-harvesting erosion control structures throughout the project area, including 87 hybrid log-rock structures, 220 one-rock dams, 8 rock rundowns, 16 trincheras, and 4 Zuni bowls. Each structure was GPSed and documented in a shapefile.
- 2) Collect and distributed 15+ lbs of native seed in the form of seed pellets:** BRN collected 16 pounds of native grass seed, including bull grass (*Muhlenbergia emersleyi*) and giant sacaton (*Sporobolus wrightii*). Seed was cleaned and formed into seed pellets using a mixture of clay, compost, and water. Seed pellets were then distributed in and around erosion control structures to enhance native vegetative communities. Seed was pelletized to limit predation and to provide seeds with nutrients to assist germination.
- 3) Restore 200+ acres of currently degraded wildlife habitat:** An estimated 400 acres was impacted by the construction of rock and wood erosion control structures within the project area.
- 4) Engage at least 12 high school-aged youth in restoration projects:** In total, BRN engaged 18 high school-aged individuals in restoration work for the project. Through the Borderlands Earth Care Youth (BECY) paid summer internship program, 10 high school-aged youth from Douglas, Arizona worked to construct over 40 rock and wood erosion control structures within the project area. An additional 8 BECY interns from Patagonia, AZ were engaged in quail food plot establishment at the BRN nursery.
- 5) Engage at least 30 volunteers, including 10 that have not participated before:** BRN and SAQF engaged a total of 36 volunteers and logged 196 volunteer hours over the course of the project, with 25 volunteers being new volunteers to BRN and the project. On January 27, four volunteers from Bat Conservation International assisted BRN staff in constructing rock and wood erosion control structures at the project site. On February 11, a wildlife biologist from Sonoita volunteered to build erosion control structures at the site. On March 7, one volunteer helped BRN harvest vine mesquite to establish the vine mesquite plots. On March 8, 14 participants from a gap-year education program helped divide and plant the harvested vine mesquite, establishing the vine mesquite plots at the nursery. On April 22 and 23, SAQF, AZGFD, and BRN hosted two volunteer days to build erosion control structures at the project site in celebration of Earth Day. A total of 16 volunteers participated in the Earth Day events.
- 6) Support jobs for six restoration practitioners through BRN:** This project supported jobs for 9 full-time, permanent restoration practitioners employed by BRN. Supported staff included 5 people from the watershed restoration program, 3 from the native plant program, and 1 from the education program.
- 7) Establish vine mesquite (*Hopia obtusa*) and wood sorrel plots (*Oxalis latifolia*) at the BRN nursery:** Vine mesquite and wood sorrel plots were established at the BRN Native Plant Nursery to provide an on-going source of plants for revegetation. These plants were specifically selected as they are important food plants for the Montezuma Quail. A plot of 200 vine mesquite individuals was established, as well as pots with 150 wood sorrel plants. Both species will be divided and out-planted at restoration sites into the future.

Outcomes

Tangible outcomes: Tangible outcomes for the project include the construction of 335 rock and wood erosion control structures; the collection, pelletization, and distribution of 16 pounds of native grass seed at the restoration site; and the establishment of Montezuma Quail food plots at the BRN nursery. Erosion control structures work with the landscape to mitigate the erosive force of runoff, enhance groundwater recharge, and improve water infiltration. Erosion control structures also retain soil and organic matter to support native vegetation. Incorporating seed pellets with the erosion control structures will increase native plant establishment and address gaps in wildlife habitat. The establishment of Montezuma Quail food plots at the BRN nursery will allow BRN to enhance Montezuma Quail habitat across multiple restoration projects.

Intangible outcomes: BRN engaged local youth, community members, SAQF members, and Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) staff with the project through paid internships and organized volunteer days. These outreach activities provided the opportunity to reconnect individuals with the landscapes they rely on, teaching them about impacts of human-caused land-use change and the theories and techniques used to repair them. By engaging individuals with the stewardship and restoration of the places they know and love, we hope to repair the fractured relationships between humans and the places we live. By providing paid internship opportunities to youth from a local, low-income, under-served community, we hope to inspire individuals to explore

environmental career paths and seek new ways to engage with and enhance the sustainability and ecological function of the places they live.

Furthermore, through engagement work and collaboration in this project, BRN has strengthened relationships with SAQF, AGFD, and CNF. This has inspired BRN to apply for an additional \$300,000 with CNF to expand this project into grasslands north of the current project area.

Dissemination of Project Results

Project results and volunteer opportunities were shared with the community through organized events and through BRN and SAQF marketing channels. Project updates were regularly shared through the SAQF newsletter, as well as through BRN Instagram, Facebook, and e-newsletter content. BRN Watershed Restoration Program Manager Tess Wagner also attended the SAQF chapter meeting in February 2022, presenting project progress and upcoming volunteer opportunities to SAQF members.

Project Partners

SAQF was a critical project partner, as they provided 100% of the matching funds required to realize this project. They also assisted in the organization of volunteer days and recruitment of volunteers for the project. AZGFD was also an important partner who showed up to participate in volunteer days and discuss the importance of the project for wildlife sustainability. CNF was an important and supportive partner as well, aligning their fuel reduction efforts with BRN erosion control work to increase the resilience of this landscape to wildfire. CNF also executed all necessary clearances in the project area to allow BRN to do restoration work on USFS lands.

Project Challenges

The summer youth internship did not engage as many youth as was initially planned in erosion control activities. Initially, youth from both Patagonia, AZ and Douglas, AZ were scheduled to work side-by-side building erosion control structures in the project area. However, acquiring funding from other sources for BRN's summer internship program had some unexpected delays. This meant that the majority of funding for this project went towards supporting the Douglas cohort of interns and the Patagonia cohort unfortunately did not get a chance to work on the erosion control portion of this project. However, BRN was still able to meet the youth engagement deliverable by engaging the Patagonia cohort to assist with Montezuma Quail food plot establishment at the BRN nursery.

Reflections

If this project were to be repeated, there is not much that we would do differently as this project went quite smoothly.

Measurable Results (Fill in all that are applicable):

Attendees (If project was an event, list total # of participants, excluding staff, visiting parents, etc): _____

Visitors (If the project is an interpretive display, list total # of annual visitors): _____

Brochures, Pamphlets, etc. (If the project is a brochure, publication, poster or video, list the total produced and distributed): _____

Other (please explain): See summary above

Budget (specifically describe how AZSFWC funds were used; e.g. program promotion, type of equipment, materials and/or supplies, etc.) **ATTACH COPIES OF ALL RECEIPTS:**

Budget Item	Planned	Actual
Contract to Borderlands Restoration Network	\$70,000	\$72,360.96

Project Cooperator(s) (please include any in-kind contributions):

Cooperator (no abbreviations)	Amount Contributors
National Forest Foundation Matching Funds Grant	\$36,150
Borderlands Restoration Network	\$60
Southern AZ Quail Forever (cash)	\$21,150
Southern AZ Quail Forever (in kind, 200 hours @ \$20 an hour)	\$4,000
AZSFWC Grant	\$15,000

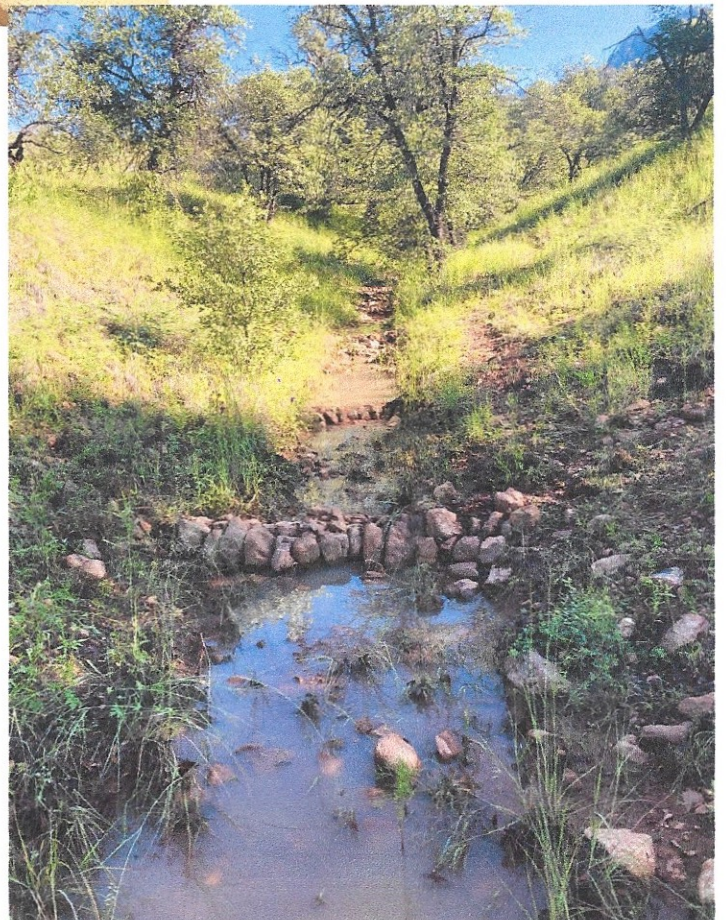
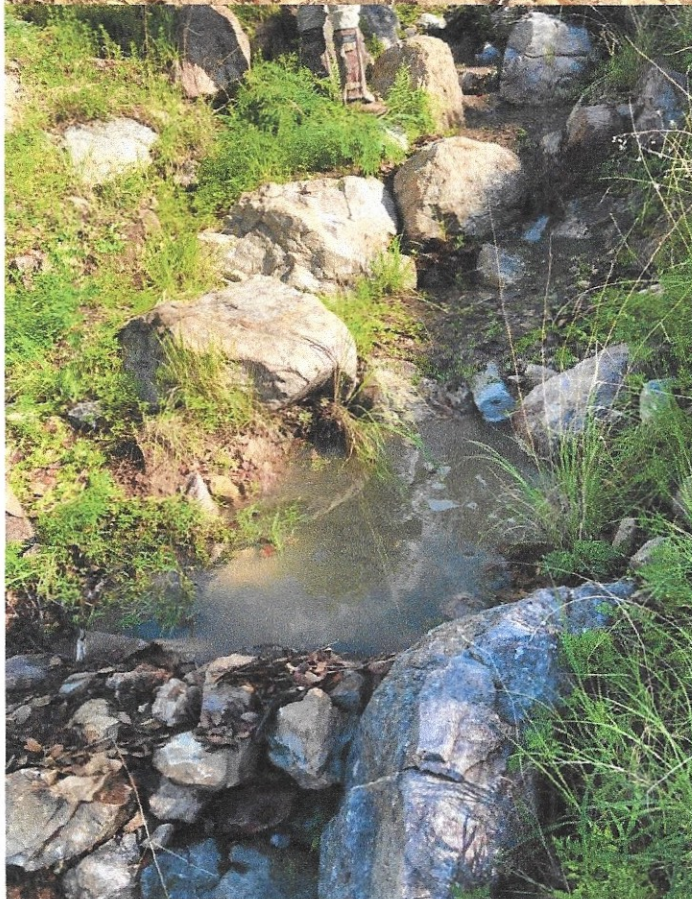
Photographs

Visuals are **critical** to effectively communicating project accomplishments and are a requirement of AZSFWC project reporting

Following are a few photo guidelines:

- Please copy photos directly into this document.
- Include information regarding photo credits if needed.

Please return this completed form and supporting documentation and send along with photos to: **AZ Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation Grant Program PO Box 75731 New River, AZ 85087** or e-mail to info@azsfwc.org. Phone: 602-361-6478.







Pheasants Forever, Inc.

Quail Forever

CMS Bank Statement



Checking Southern Arizona (AZ) - 3163

Account Number: 1010-3163

Run Date: 10/12/2022

Begin Date: 9/1/2021

End Date: 10/1/2022

Beginning Balance	Deposits & Other Additions	Checks & Withdrawals	Ending Balance
\$18,702.16	\$43,574.29	\$49,271.10	\$13,005.35

Date	Deposits & Other Additions	Amount
10/1/2021	1ST QTR INTEREST	\$2.06
12/29/2021	DEPOSIT	\$22,000.00
1/1/2022	2ND QTR INTEREST	\$1.71
1/8/2022	EVENT ID 58796	\$100.00
1/12/2022	EVENT ID 58796	\$35.00
1/12/2022	EVENT ID 58796	\$35.00
1/12/2022	EVENT ID 58796	\$59.47
1/18/2022	EVENT ID 58796	\$100.00
1/19/2022	EVENT ID 58796	\$35.00
3/9/2022	DEPOSIT	\$19,000.00
4/1/2022	3RD QTR INTEREST	\$3.29
6/28/2022	DEPOSIT	\$1,200.00
7/1/2022	4TH QTR INTEREST	\$2.76
8/31/2022	EVENT CENTER	\$1,000.00
	Total Deposits & Other Additions	\$43,574.29

Date	Checks & Withdrawals	Amount
10/1/2021	CK5235 BORDERLAND RES NETWK	\$10,000.00
10/19/2021	CK5236	\$100.00
11/1/2021	CK5237 ZACK MAY	\$71.53
11/22/2021	CK5238 POST 66 AMERICAN LEGION	\$100.00
12/7/2021	CK5239 SANTA CRUZ CO FAIR	\$275.00
12/13/2021	CK5240 TONY VALENTINO	\$115.00
1/3/2022	CK5241 JIM LITTLEJOHN	\$14.01
1/7/2022	CK5242 SAQF	\$1,500.00
1/12/2022	CK5247 MIKE CANFIELD	\$90.00
1/19/2022	CK5244 RICH LIVINGSTON	\$90.00
1/26/2022	MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT	\$290.00

Pheasants Forever, Inc. Quail Forever CMS Bank Statement



Checking Southern Arizona (AZ) - 3163

Account Number: 1010-3163

Begin Date: 9/1/2021

End Date: 10/1/2022

Run Date: 10/12/2022

1/31/2022	CK5248 P. REGIONAL TIMES	\$250.00
2/23/2022	MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT	\$1,025.00
3/15/2022	CK5251 ZACK MAY	\$198.17
3/15/2022	CK5250 LAL ENTERPRISES, INC	\$350.00
3/17/2022	MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT	\$35.00
3/17/2022	CK5246 RON HORN	\$700.00
3/21/2022	CK5249	\$198.14
3/25/2022	CK5252 DAVE BROWN	\$583.57
4/6/2022	MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT	\$35.00
4/7/2022	CK5253 RAUL VEGA	\$500.00
4/18/2022	CK5257 STEVE HOPKINS	\$2,067.54
4/26/2022	CK5245 KERRY NEWBERRY	\$23.20
4/28/2022	CK5258 BORDERLANDS RESTORATION	\$15,000.00
5/18/2022	CHAPTER CHECKS	\$102.68
6/1/2022	CK5256 JOHN KOLESZAN	\$75.00
6/3/2022	CK5254 KPS	\$723.60
6/28/2022	EQUIPMENT INSURANCE	\$253.00
7/6/2022	PRINT ON DEMAND	\$55.66
7/6/2022	AZ STATE FUND	\$2,500.00
8/1/2022	CK5259 BORDERLAND REST NETWORK	\$11,150.00
8/24/2022	CK5260 AMERICAN LEGION POST 66	\$200.00
8/25/2022	CK5261 SCCFRA	\$600.00
Total Checks & Withdrawals		\$49,271.10

Hi Zack,

I've attached the final report for the grasslands restoration project from October 1, 2021 to October 1, 2022. We are excited to get back out there next week and start another year of work! Please let me know if you have any questions.

I've also included the final budget break-down below. We went over budget by \$60, but that is something BRN easily covered so no worries there.

Categories	Budget	Expensed	Remaining
Personnel	\$56,470.14	\$56,906.21	-\$436.07
Contractual	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
Supplies	\$1,770.00	\$1,540.75	\$229.25
Mileage	\$4,583.60	\$3,930.54	\$653.06
Other	\$1,405.00	\$1,467.50	-\$62.50
Indirect	\$6,572.88	\$7,015.96	-\$443.08
Total	\$72,301.62	\$72,360.96	-\$59.34

From: Southern Arizona Quail Forever saqfweb@gmail.com
Subject: Earth Day Thank You
Date: April 24, 2022 at 3:00 PM
To: zmay@comcast.net



Southern Arizona Quail Forever



Thanks for Earth Day Habitat Work

SAQF completed several new rock dams Friday and Saturday thanks to volunteers that came out to help on Earth Day. We had good numbers of volunteers show up both days.

Our grasslands project on Coronado National Forest is improving habitat for many wildlife species. These rock dams prevent erosion by slowing water flow and retaining water in the soil. This project location is in prime Meams' Quail habitat. Partners in this effort include Coronado National Forest, Arizona Game and Fish, Borderlands Restoration Network, Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation, Fisher Foundation and Quail Forever.

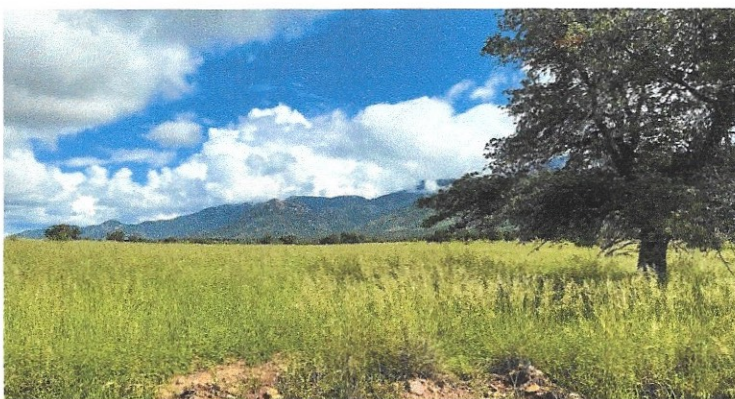
Thank you!



From: Southern Arizona Quail Forever saqfweb@gmail.com
Subject: SAQF Newsletter
Date: March 23, 2022 at 3:46 PM
To: zmay@comcast.net



Southern Arizona Quail Forever



SAQF Update

Overview:

As an Arizona conservation organization we are thrilled to support the wildlife and people of Arizona.

In spite of COVID we have got quite a bit done this last season.

- In our meetings:
 - We met with Coronado National Forest on grazing practices
 - Got an update from Borderlands Restorations on our Grasslands Project
 - Learned more on OnX from Brit
- Held successful QuailFest with good attendance
- Family Day had the largest number of participants we have seen
- Completed two road clean ups outside Hog Canyon
- Did hands on habitat work on BANVR to support the endangered Masked Bobwhite Quail
- We installed numerous quail escape ramps on ranches
- Supported the annual AZ G&F wing bee to sex and age quail wings turned in at the G&F wing barrels

The chapter schedule for the 22/23 season is copied below. The quail season dates are tentative, the AZ G&F Commission is expected to approve them next month.

Habitat:

We continue to build numerous rock structures on our Coronado National Forest Grasslands Project. National Forest Foundation, Fisher Foundation and AZSFWC are some of the significant donors supporting this work. Our loose rock dams help by slowing runoff to keep water in the soil longer and retaining soil to grow habitat. We completed 709 structures on our last contract which impact water flow on 690 acres and are making good progress on the new contract.

Borderlands was awarded a matching funds grant from the National Forest Foundation to continue our work along the border. We will continue to support with funding.

Please Come Out and Celebrate Earth Day with a few volunteer hours 22 and/or 23 Apr on our Grasslands Project south of Sierra Vista near Coronado National Memorial. Earth Day is Friday 22 Apr but we also set up volunteer time on Sat for those working during the week. Time both days is 9 AM to 1 PM. The work will involve building rock dams - it is not as hard as it sounds. It is a bit of a drive from the Tucson area but you will see some beautiful scenery and improve wildlife habitat. Even an hour of work will be appreciated. Expect more detailed

instructions before the event. <https://pfqf.myeventcenter.com/event/Southern-Arizona-Quail-Forever-Hands-On-Habitat-60492>

Quail Nesting and Pronghorn Fawns:

As we get into springtime we will see a lot of new life working to survive. Gambels nesting period is starting soon, please work to exercise your best friends away from nesting areas or even better keep them on leash. Per BLM rules at Empire Ranch, dogs must be on a leash during Pronghorn Fawning season (April 1-June 30).

Chapter Elections:

From our bylaws: Chapter members will vote to elect chapter officers every two years. President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Banquet Chair, Youth Chair and Habitat Chair are the typical officers of the chapter. Additional officers including at-large positions may be added at the discretion of membership. Elections will follow the following process: nominations, seconds, acceptance of nominations and a ballot. Individuals may nominate themselves, a second must come from a different member than who provided the nomination.

Please consider serving as a chapter officer. Expect to see a call for election in April, the new board will take office 1 July. Only active members can run for office or vote.

AZ G&F Commission Meeting:

The commission will meet 13 May at the fairgrounds in Sonoita. This is the first time the commission has met in person in Southern Arizona for some time due to COVID. It is a good opportunity to get out and see what they do. They will also conduct a workshop 11/12 May where much of the focus will be Southern Arizona. Our chapter will help support some of the meals at this workshop.

Ads for Chapter Members:

As you have seen in the past we are willing to let folks know if you have dogs/pups or other items that other members may be interested in. This is only for private sales, not commercial. The chapter does not endorse nor have we vetted any of these ads.

Chapter and QF National Finances

The chapter is in good financial shape from member donations, donations from guides and an active program to apply for grants. Every cent the chapter collects remains with the chapter for local work. Donations that are sent to the national organization are used at the national level and not made available to the chapter. We work to keep our overhead near zero and commit that any money collected will go to a worthwhile project within our mission. Direct donations to the chapter are much appreciated.

QF National receives much of its funding through individual memberships. You can keep your membership current by by renewing at <https://quailforever.org/getdoc/91f8dfad-47ad-46d6-af54-5649db42671f/Membership.aspx>.

AZ Sportsman for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) and Arizona Wildlife Federation (AWF):

SAQF is part of AZSFWC. You can sign up for their enews at <http://azsfwc.org>. This allows us to better coordinate with other wildlife groups and better communicate with AZ G&F leadership. We are part of over 10,000 AZ sportsman represented by this organization. We are also an affiliate of AWF which allows us to pool volunteer help and communicate with other wildlife and conservation organizations.

Please consider purchasing a AZSFWC license plate to support wildlife when you renew your current AZ plate through Service Arizona. The fee for this license supports the conservation grants provided by AZSFWC. Our Family Day/Youth Hunt and habitat work has received AZSFWC grant support in the past.

Chapter Website, Facebook and Instagram:

If you see an error or have a recommendation for improvement, please let us know. We are always looking for pictures, stories or articles to add. We have added instagram to our social media offerings. If you see something that would be worthwhile to cross post, please send it to Dave Brown (browndave27@gmail.com) or Kerry Newberry (newberry.kerry@gmail.com).

Future dates:

- TBD Apr Chapter Elections
- 16 Apr VOTSQF Clay Shoot at Picacho
- 22/23 Apr Earth Day - Volunteer at Grassland Project
- 13 May AZ G&F Commission Meeting at Sonoita Fairgrounds
- 1 Jul new board in place
- 7-8 Oct Scaled Quail and Box Turtle Count
- 14 Oct Desert quail opens
- Nov/Dec TBD Fall Road Cleanup
- TBD Fall Meeting Green Valley
- 2 Dec Mearns' quail opens
- 4 Dec QuailFest
- TBD Winter Meeting Sonoita

- TBD Banquet
- 12 Feb Quail Closes
- TBD Feb Wing Bee
- 3/4 Mar Family Days



Southern Arizona Quail Forever | 151 1st ave , Patagonia , AZ 85624

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