



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

ARRA Project News

January 2011 Issue

QUOTATION CORNER

"Building a website for the ARRA projects has been a great experience that would have not been possible a year ago. It has taken my IT experience in whole new direction. Knowing that what we, as White Mountain Apache people, can build on skills to enhance our knowledge to continue to be innovative in all aspects of life today."

Lyndon Guy
IT Specialist

WMAT ARRA Project Team Members

Rachel Endfield,
ARRA Projects Coordinator

Daniel Kessay,
Field Operations
Manager

Daniel Pusher,
Assistant Operations
Manager

Stewart Kindale,
Nursery Manager

Jannalee Armstrong,
Assistant Nursery Manager

Mark Goklish,
TFPA Project Manager

Jonathan Brooks,
WMAT Forestry Director

Michelle Desjarlais, MBA
WMAT Project Specialist

WMAT ARRA ANNOUNCES NEW WEBSITE FOR NEW YEAR!!

The WMAT ARRA Management Team proudly announces the WMAT ARRA Project's new website will be officially launched. Which can be found at <http://arra.wmat.us>.

Lyndon Guy, WMAT's IT Specialist developed the website to provide ongoing and the most current WMAT ARRA project news, photos, events, and other relevant project information.

More specifically, the WMAT ARRA Project's website has a unique opening page that depicts the American Flag and the WMAT Forestry logo. Then by clicking on "Enter the Website," the information shared on the home page is displayed. The website's homepage begins by sharing a brief introduction of each of the three primary WMAT ARRA Projects and the amount of funding received for each one., along with relevant links to the ARRA newsletters; organizational chart; current weather conditions; and a MP3 news clip of the National Native News radio station



Endfield, the ARRA Project Coordinator, about the new Native Plant Nursery.

The WMAT ARRA Management Team's Communication Plan called for the development and ongoing maintenance of a website dedicated to keeping everyone informed on the WMAT ARRA Projects. "The idea behind the website is to be as transparent as possible with all of our internal and external stakeholders, including Tribal Council, the tribal community, the Forest Service, and anyone else who may be interested in viewing the progress of our RRA projects," shares Rachel. In addition to the basic

information about the ARRA Project; the website is consistently updated as new information is received and as Management Team members report on the progress of each project. The website also serves as a place for the WMAT ARRA Management Team to share project milestones and when they are achieved, as well as place project photos to illustrate the progress and people involved in each project, such as the Nursery's construction project.

The WMAT ARRA Management Team would also like to invite the tribal community and any other stakeholder to submit information relative to the ARRA projects that they would like to see published on the website. "We want the website to include any and all information that will satisfy all of our stakeholders," says Lyndon Guy, "you can contact me at lyndonguy@wmat.us, with any information and/or ideas you may have for improving our website."



Management Team Members to Attend FS Training

"One of the most difficult parts of managing the WMAT ARRA Projects is the monitoring the project budgets to ensure compliance," shares Mylee Strickland, the WMAT ARRA Grant Administrator. This is especially true of the ARRA funding initiative. In fact, the WMAT ARRA Management Team anticipates an audit by the USDA Forest Service to happen at anytime.

"It's just a part of the general business practices of the federal government, not anything we should be alarmed

about because all of the ARRA funding recipients will eventually be audited," shares Rachel Endfield, the WMAT ARRA Coordinator, "we just want to make sure we are prepared and have all of our ducks-in-a-row, so to speak."

Therefore and in preparation for an audit; some of the WMAT ARRA Management Team members will be attending a *CFRP Workshop* in Santa Fe NM, to better understand the federal grants compliance and reporting process and ensure that everything is in place and make sure the Team

is in compliance with federal regulations.

Although confident in the WMAT ARRA Project records and evaluation methods; the WMAT ARRA Management Team believes they cannot be too prepared when it comes to overseeing and managing the ARRA funds. "We have gone to great lengths to ensure we are spending in accordance with our project budgets and meeting the objectives of each ARRA grant and this training comes at a very opportune time," states Rachel.

FIRST QUARTER HAZ/FUELS RESTORATION PROJECT PROGRESS

The WMAT Hazardous Fuels and Restoration Project includes eight separate project areas that each have their own specific project objectives that must be met to fulfill the ARRA grant goals. Seeding is the only one of the eight that sat idle in the first quarter due to the project work being completed in the Spring of 2010. However, the progress for each of the remaining project areas, include:

- **Hazard Fuel Reduction:** The Haz/Fuels Crew completed 273.2 acres in the first quarter of 2011, with a total of 665.2 left to be completed out of a total of 3560 acres; consequently, 18.6% of this project has been completed.
- **Log Erosion Barriers:** The Haz/Fuels Crew completed 910.7 acres out of a total of 3,800 acres. The Haz/Fuels crew deferred the remaining acres due to high revegetation on work sites; consequently, this project area is considered to be 100% complete.
- **Culverts:** The Has/Fuels Crew

treated 55 acres and is 100% completed.

- **Fencing:** The Fencing Crew repaired 110 miles and is considered 100% complete.
- **Farms:** The Haz/Fuels Crew completed 25 farm sites; consequently resulting in 90% of this area being complete. The remaining 10% of this work includes transplanting willow and cottonwood trees to the farm sites.
- **Cultural:** The Haz/Fuels Crew completed 19 cemeteries and performed 0% treatments.
- **Cultural:** The Haz/Fuels Crew treated 41 springs; consequently completing 100% of this project area.
- **Channels:** The Haz/Fuels Crew removed 4.1 miles of hazardous trees and completed 7 miles, with 33 miles remaining for a total of 76% complete.
- Finally, all treatments that were to be completed this quarter were finished.

In addition to the progress made in this quarter and in accordance with the Haz/Fuel's grant; the WMAT ARRA Team did face the challenge of having to let the first year temporary Haz/Fuels Crew members in December of 2010. "It was difficult, but also a part of the grant's objectives that we restructure and reprioritize the second year grant objectives against the time remaining in the Haz/Fuels grant," shared Daniel Kessay, the ARRA Field Operations Manager.

Consequently the WMAT ARRA Management Team hired a new temporary Haz/Fuels Crew at the beginning of 2011; some of who were a part of the first year crew and others who are brand new to the ARRA grant. However and according to Rachel Endfield, "All of the second year team members were hired in accordance with the WMAT tribal preference policies and are all who were hired are tribal members."

WMAT NURSERY CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

The Nursery Phase I and II were completed on July 16 and August 19th, 2010, respectively. Phase III, the Construction Phase, was officially launched on October 6, 2010 with the Nursery's Groundbreaking celebration.

Furthermore and according to Stewart Kindelay, the Nursery Manager, "As of December 31st, 2010, twenty-percent(20%) of the nursery construction is complete, whereby the parking lot entrance; the water, drain, and sewer systems; greenhouse rafters; pillars for the office, conference, and greenhouse buildings; greenhouse sub-base; as well as the plumbing for the

restroom, showers, and water injection sites, are all 100% finished." Stewart continued to report that as of today's date; "the warehouse sub-base is 50% complete; the road surrounding the nursery compound is 30% complete; and the concrete foundation for the greenhouse foundation is 35% completed.

The good news is that even though the adverse winter weather conditions have been somewhat challenging; the WMAT Nursery Team remains confident that the Nursery's construction phase will be totally completed on schedule, by the end of February 2011

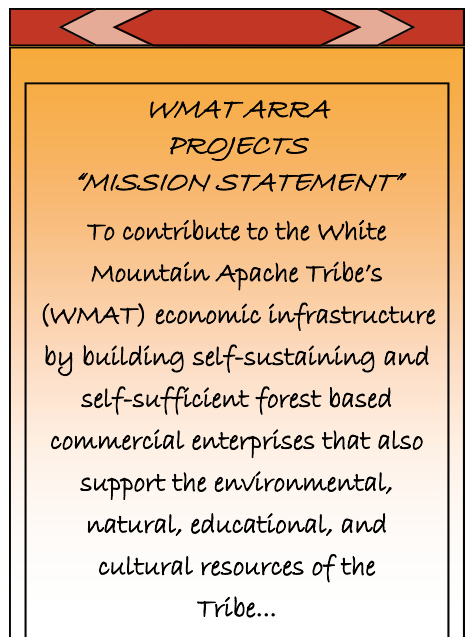
FIRST QUARTER TFFA PROJECT PROGRESS

The WMAT Tribal TFFA Project progress for the first quarter didn't change much from the Dec. 2010 report, in that the preparation work on all recon, boundaries, marking and GPS work, includes:

- Brushy at 1,228 acres; 100% done.
- Pierce at 1,498 acres; 100% done.
- Porter at 864 acres; 0% done.

- Wallow at 1,168 acres; 0% done; &
- Cruising for Brushy & Pierce; 100% complete.

Moreover and according to Daniel Kessay, Field Operations Manager, "the Porter and Wallow projects will begin in the Spring of 2011, with the goal of completing 2,032 acres." Overall, the TFFA Crew has completed 50% of Phase I, when measured against



grant goals; however and due to the winter weather conditions; the TFFA Crew stopped work and will resume again in the Spring in 2011. Consequently, the mechanized work for Phase II to be completed by the Forest Service, and the thinning work to be completed by the WMAT TFFA Crew in Phase III, are both 0% completed and won't resume until Phase I is complete and/or weather permits