



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE ARRA Project News

December 2010 Issue

QUOTATION CORNER

"We will join hands with the Forest Service and the USDA and our hands will get dirty...Let's all begin to go to work and get dirt on our hands..."

Honorable Ronnie Lube,
Chairman, WMAT

"It is not an easy time to be a leader, I know this Whiteman's beauracracy is not easy to do..."

But today is just the beginning. This is not the last project we will do with the Apache..."

Corbin Newman,
Regional Forester for the USDA
Forest Service, Southwestern
Region

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

Nursery's Ground Breaking Ceremony

On October 6th, 2010, the WMAT hosted a ground-breaking ceremony to launch the construction phase for the WMAT's \$2.4 million Native Plant Nursery.

Funded by the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, the WMAT Nursery is a 2-year, five-phase greenhouse construction/operations project, that was initiated in response to the closure of the BIA's McNary nursery facilities.

The WMAT Nursery is providing much needed jobs for tribal members and plants for the Tribe's reforestation and watershed restoration efforts needed to counteract the devastating effects of the 2002 Rodeo-Chediski fire, that burned over 280 thousand acres on the Fort Apache Indian reservation.

The ground breaking ceremony represents an important milestone in the five-phase development process being used to facilitate the WMAT AARA Management Team's

success in constructing and operating a Native Plant Nursery.

The Nursery's first or planning phase was completed at the end of June and as a result of phase-one efforts; the WMAT ARRA Management Team prepared a formal feasibility/marketing analysis; a financial analysis; and a professional business plan; all of which will be regularly updated to accommodate any changes moving forward

From June to October, the WMAT ARRA Management Team facilitated the Nursery's second or design phase by soliciting bid proposals for a state-of-the-art greenhouse design from well-known industry experts.

Stuppy, Inc., a leading greenhouse manufacturing company, was awarded the project by providing the WMAT ARRA Management Team with the most cost-effective, technologically-advanced nursery blueprint available on the market today.

In addition to using the



most cost-efficient heating, cooling, and watering system; Stuppy, Inc.'s prefabricated greenhouse design integrates a head house and an office space; all of which will be constructed to withstand even the most extreme local weather conditions.

The Nursery's ground breaking ceremony marks the beginning of the third or construction phase, which is projected to take 2-4 months; after which the WMAT ARRA Management Team will begin the fourth or operations phase, subsequently engaging in the fifth and final evaluation phase; consequently measuring the impact of the ARRA funding on the successful development of the tribal nursery.



WMAT & The USFS SW Region Strengthen Ties

During the WMAT Native Plant Nursery's precedent setting ground breaking ceremony; WMAT's Tribal Chairman, Ronnie Lupe and the Regional Forester for the USDA Forest Service, SW Region, Corbin Newman, strengthened the mutually-beneficial relationship that exists between the two government entities.

Regional Forester Corbin Newman expressed his appreciation for Chairman Lupe's words of encouragement in reaffirming the Tribe's commitment to "join forces," with the Forest Service to make the Tribe's ARRA Projects a success.

The WMAT Nursery's commemorative event provided a unique opportunity for the WMAT and the Forest Service to strengthen the ties between not just the current collaborative projects, but as Mr. Newman emphasized, a commitment to continue to work on future projects together, stating, "This is not the last project we will do with the Apache."

In addition to Honorable Chairman Lupe, the Tribe was represented by a majority of the Tribal Council representatives, whose active presence confirmed that the ARRA Projects and the Forest Service partnership is a top

priority for the Tribe.

In addition to Corbin Newman, the USFS was also represented by Dan Meza, who serves as the head of the SW Region's Tribal Relations Department.



Photo: Chairman, Ronnie Lupe & Regional Forester, Corbin Newman participate side-by-side in the Nursery's ground breaking ceremony on Oct 6, 2010.

WMAT ARRA PROJECTS – A YEAR IN REVIEW



As we approach the end of 2010 and take a look back at all of the challenges and issues that we faced over the past year; we realized that we have achieved and experienced number of accomplishments and lessons learned that will support our continued success in managing the ARRA funding in 2011. The following highlights our most significant ARRA Project accomplishments in 2010:

- **The Native Plant Nursery:** The Nursery Team reports that two of the five development phases have been completed and they are currently in the third development or construction phase. Thus far, the waterline has been completed and the sewer line and sub-base have been started. The Nursery Team anticipates construction of the new facilities to be completed by the end of January 2011.
- **The Hazardous Fuels Restoration Project:** The HazFuels Team has completed the following project goals in terms of percent of completion: Seeding Project 36.5% complete; Log Erosion Barriers Project 75% complete; Hazardous Reduction Project 30% complete; Culverts Project 100% complete; Banks & Channels, removal of hazardous dead trees is 66% complete, whereas riffles and pole planting are scheduled to be completed in 2011; and the Cultural Site Protection Project, including 41 springs, is 100% com-

plete; Fencing is 100% complete with 110 miles of fence repaired; and the Farms Project is 90% complete, with the treatment of 25 farms; updated as of December 2011.

The primary challenges that the HazFuels Team faced included woodland hardwood; transportation of rock materials; removing dead standing trees found in the stream channels; and the remaining transplanting sites to be completed. Moreover, organizational challenges beyond the HazFuel Management Team's control, resulted in current HazFuels crew members to be laid off. However, once the project has been restructured and approved; all former crew members will have the opportunity to reapply for new positions that will be created to support the restructured HazFuels Project.



- **The TFPA Project:** The WMAT TFPA Team has completed 50% of phase one or a total of 2,039 acres for the Brushy, Pierce, and Wallow task order projects, whereas phase one is the preparation work that must be completed before the mechanized and thinning work can take place in phases two and three, consecutively.

The TFPA Team also reports that although they have faced some challenges throughout 2010; they created Project Implementation Standards, in collaboration with the FS, in an effort to minimize future challenges, increase productivity, and decrease costs. Some of these standards include establishing standard sized and consistent crews; reassigning marking crews when supervisors are unavailable; old weekly meetings between FS and WMAT core team members; continuing to initiate GPS data transfer from WMAT to the FS;

The TFPA Team goals for 2011 include obtaining cruiser certification, and finalizing phase one preparation activities, so the mechanized work can be completed by the Forest Service; subsequently allowing the TEPPA Team to finalize the thinning work to be completed in phase three.

Finally, some of the lessons learned throughout 2010 have encouraged the TFPA Team to plan quarterly meetings with core Tribal and Forest Service staff, as well as attempt to complete field training before the field season starts, and to work toward buying Field Data Recorders, which are needed to facilitate future FS contracts.



WMAT EMPLOYEE & CONTRACTOR NEWS

More recently and motivated by project requirement needs; the AARA Management Team has added a few new faces to its membership team, including Lyndon Guy, a White Mountain Apache Tribal member. Lyndon has been brought on part-time to provide Information Technology (IT) Support to the ARRA Projects. Part of his role will include troubleshooting technology equipment and programs, as well as developing and maintaining the ARRA Projects website.

Vernadale Suttle, also a tribal member, was also hired recently hired to provide clerical and data management support, whose duties are split between

the ARRA Grants Administrator and the Nursery Manager.

The Nursery Team will also be hiring an additional 5 laborers to assist with the construction of the nursery facilities. These laborer positions will be temporary and have been or will be selected from a tribal applicant pool.

There are also contractors, include Eagle Feather Enterprises, LLC's owners, Paul Barry and Larry Ethelbah, who, in addition to providing construction management oversight for the nursery project, will also provide the on-the-job and technical training for the local crews.

Other contractors, include Stuppy, Inc., who was hired to supply,

install, and provide local labor oversight and training for the new greenhouse prefabricated building. Family Homestead Developers is the contractor hired to provide the nursery's prefabricated warehouse building and materials.

In total and in its first year of operations, the ARRA Projects created 60 jobs of which are full-time and part-time., consecutively and 99% are filled with tribal members.