



Cochise County
Community Development
Highway and Floodplain Division

Public Programs...Personal Service
www.cochise.az.gov

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 9, 2016
To: Board of Supervisors
Through: Karen C. Riggs, P.E., County Engineer/Director
From: Teresa Murphy, Right-of-way Agent I
Subject: Grant to acquire Geronimo Trail across State land holdings

Recommendation:

This department recommends approving of the accompanying grant agreement, authorizing the department to receive funds from Arizona Game and Fish Heritage Grant to acquire Geronimo Trail across Arizona State Trust lands.

Background (Brief):

Each year the Arizona Game and Fish Department awards Heritage Grants toward qualifying projects. In the past the County has utilized this grant process to acquire rights-of-way for existing County maintained roads such as Coffman Road and Sulphur Canyon Road. In September staff submitted a grant proposal to begin acquisition of rights-of-way across Arizona State Land Department (ASLD) holdings for Geronimo Trail east of Douglas. This February Arizona Game & Fish awarded this year's public access Heritage Grant, \$50,000.00, to Cochise County's Geronimo Trail project.

Acquisition from ASLD is a multi-year process and may entail obtaining archeological/environmental reports, road centerline surveys and other engineering reports as well as paying ASLD's appraised value. This grant will be used to initiate an application through ASLD, obtain reports as necessary and acquire rights with remaining funds. It is anticipated that additional grants will be necessary to acquire rights along the full length of the road across ASLD, however should additional funds be necessary and not awarded; the archeological reports will still be valid and can be shelved until such time as funding is available.

Right-of-way staff will prepare applications for ASLD acquisition, maintain acquisition files and grant reporting. Additionally it is anticipated that in-house survey will be required to prepare legal descriptions for the road centerline.

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Inasmuch as the only resource expended by this grant process will be staff time, this department recommends authorizing the department to for an Arizona Game and Fish Heritage Grant to acquire Geronimo Trail across Arizona State Trust lands.

Fiscal Impact & Funding Sources:

N/A

Next Steps/Action Items/Follow-up:

Once the grant agreement is authorized and funds are available, staff will begin acquisition process with ASLD up until awarded Grant funding is depleted. If depleted, staff will apply for subsequent grants annually.

Impact of Not Approving:

Staff will not accept awarding of Heritage Grant and should the Board decide to acquire the road in the future, funds may not be available.

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