

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM  
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

<b>PROJECT INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Project Title:</b> PV Airport Grassland Maintenance	<b>Project No.</b> 07-605
<b>Region/GMU:</b> Region 6 Unit 23	<b>HPC:</b> Payson Natural Resources Committee
<b>Project Type:</b> agra-axe	
<b>Project Description:</b> This project is one of several that are either in the planning stages or have already been completed for enhancing habitat conditions in the area. This is a juniper removal on approximately 520 acres surrounding the Pleasant Valley airstrip in game management unit 23.	
<b>Wildlife Species to Benefit:</b> Elk ,Mule Deer	
<b>Possible Funding Partners:</b>	
<b>Implementation Schedule:</b> <b>Beginning:</b> June 1, 2008 <b>Completed:</b> May 31, 2010	<b>NEPA Compliance: (if applicable)</b> <b>Completed:</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Projected Completion Date:</b>
<b>PROJECT FUNDING</b>	
<b>SBG Funds Requested:</b> \$29,200	
<b>Cost Share Funds:</b> \$21,550	
<b>Total Project Costs:</b> \$50,750	
<b>PARTICIPANT INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Applicant:</b> Dave Daniels (please print) <b>Telephone:</b> (928)474-3142	<b>Address:</b> Arizona Game and Fish Department 7200 E. University Mesa, AZ 85207
<b>AGFD Contact and Phone No.</b> (If applicant is not AGFD personnel)	
<b>Coordinated with:</b> Jared Whitmer, USFS, TNF, Pleasant Valley R.D.	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Applicant's signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>

**SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:  
Game Branch**

2221 W. Greenway Rd.  
Phoenix, AZ 85023  
mdisney@azgfd.gov

WAS PROJECT PRESENTED TO THE LOCAL HPC? YES  NO

HAS PROJECT BEEN SUBMITTED IN PREVIOUS YEARS? IF SO WAS IT FUNDED?  
No

**NEED STATEMENT/PROBLEM ANALYSIS:**

The plant community in the area is primarily pinon/juniper woodland. Through the years junipers have invaded the area and are currently on need of removal to reestablish grassland areas that historically occurred in the area. Removal of junipers would be accomplished through the use of an agra-axe. After removal and drying, the treated juniper slash would need to be burned to enhance the production of grasses and forbs. The area is popular among elk, turkey and mule deer hunters.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVES:**

The primary objective of this project is to enhance grassland habitat through the use of an agra-axe to remove junipers. Habitat enhancement would occur through the removal of junipers and subsequent burning to expand the grassland/woodland edge effect. The area is accessible from Forest Road 200.

This project will dovetail nicely with several other projects in the area. The Roscoe grassland maintenance project was completed in 2004; the Bar X tank renovation project was completed in 2005 and the dry creek grassland maintenance project is scheduled to be completed in 2007. There is also a burn and another grassland maintenance project that are scheduled to be submitted this year. These projects will act together to benefit elk, deer and other wildlife on a large piece of landscape in unit 23.

**PROJECT STRATEGIES:**

Use an agra-axe to remove junipers on approximately 500 acres of historic grassland.

**PROJECT LOCATION:**

T 9N, R 14E, Sections 5, 7 & 8

**LAND OWNERSHIP AT PROJECT SITE (Please state specifically if PRIVATE PROPERTY and provide landowner's name):**

The land is managed by the United States Forest Service, Tonto National Forest, and Pleasant Valley Ranger District.

**IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?**

**HABITAT DESCRIPTION:**

The plant community in the area is primarily grassland and pinon/juniper woodland at an average elevation of 5500 feet above sea level. Species include various grasses, alligator, pinion pine, and oak brush. The diversity of plant species would increase after treatment with more grasses, shrubs and forbs.

**ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:**

**SBG funds requested = \$29,200**  
**AZ Game & Fish Department = \$750**  
**USDA, TNF, Pleasant Valley R.D. = \$20,800**

**LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:**

Arizona Game and Fish Department – Special Big Game Funds

- Provide the funding for agra-axe contracted operation to cut 520 acres at an estimated \$85/acre
- Provide in-kind contributions in the form of labor for contract administration, project origination, and project coordination.

U.S. Forest Service, Tonto National Forest, Pleasant Valley Ranger District

- \* Provide administrative support in the form of necessary NEPA and archaeological clearances.
- \* Provide letter of approval for implementation of project
- \* Provide on-the-ground boundary marking.
- \* Provide funding for about half of the contracted work

Agra-axe Contractor

- Provide agra-axe and operator through project completion.

Payson Natural Resources Committee

- Review project

**PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:**

The project proponent will ensure project completion with coordination between the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Pleasant Valley Ranger District.

This area would be surveyed by the Arizona Game and Fish Department and will be monitored for wildlife use.

**PROJECT MAINTENANCE:**

Project maintenance and monitoring will be completed by the project proponent.

**PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:**

The project proponent is responsible for completing the project completion report.

**WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (see attached worksheet):**

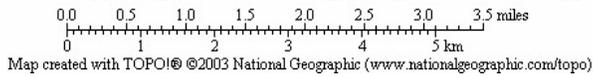
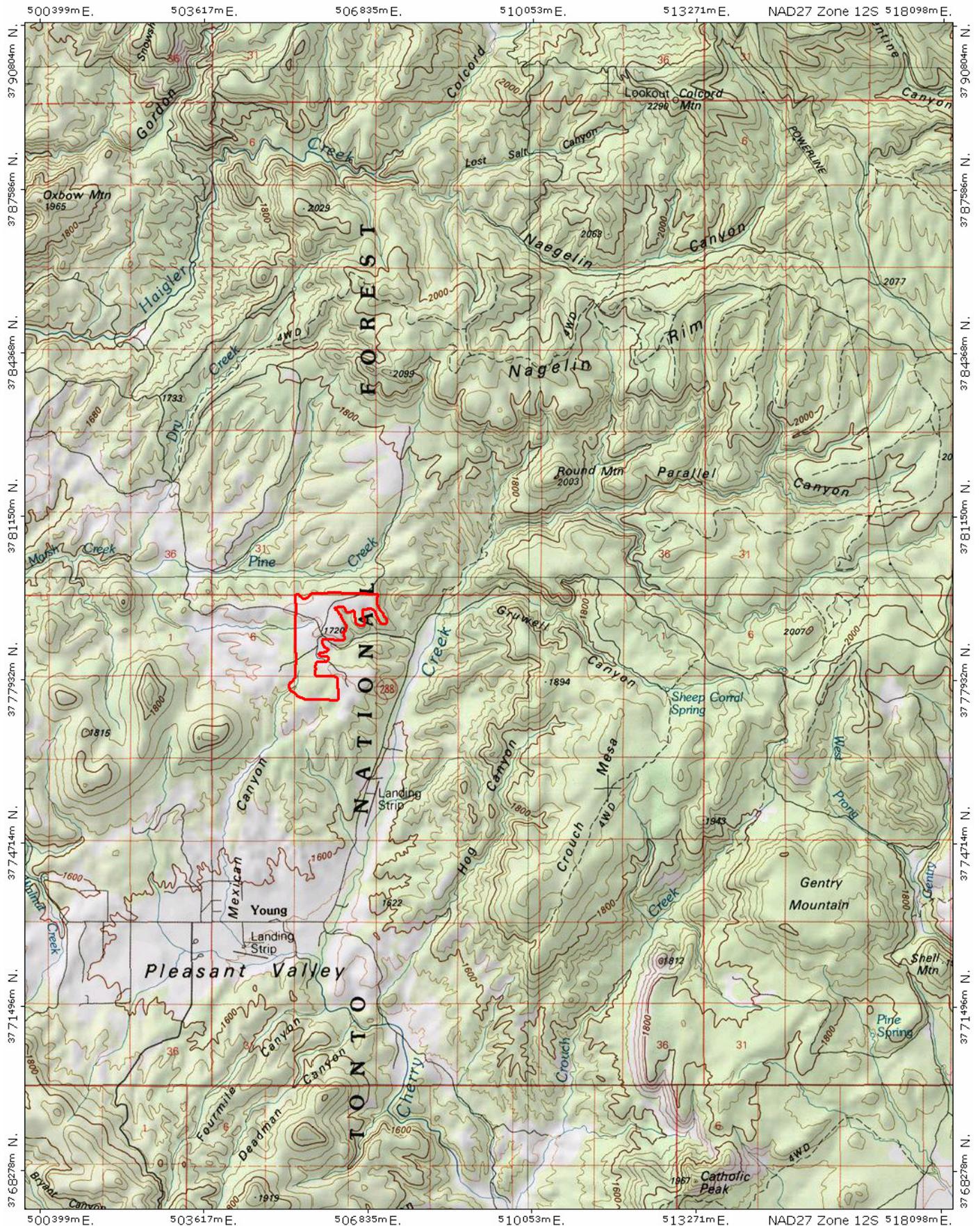
**TREE SHEARING (AGRA-AXE, PUSH) PROJECTS (see attached worksheet):**

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT**  
**TREE SHEARING WORKSHEET**

**PROJECT NAME:** PV airport grassland maintenance

- 1) **What is the estimated acreage of the project?**  
520
- 2) **How are the trees going to be cleared? (agra axe, chain saw, push):**  
Agra-axe
- 3) **What is the estimated number of trees per acre?**  
60-80
- 4) **Describe trees to be cleared (species, estimated diameter, single stem, multi-stem):**  
Alligator juniper, <8 inches dbh, multi-stem
- 5) **Describe terrain (slope, soil type, rocks, etc.)**  
Flat or gentle slope with a few rocks although there are areas with more rocks.
- 6) **Please list any special land management status for the project site (i.e. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument, etc). If private land, list landowner.**  
N/A
- 7) **Please provide the following information about access to the proposed site:**  
Type of access (mark one):  2x4 vehicles  4x4 only  foot only\*\*  
\*\*If foot access only: Distance in miles:    Approx. hiking time:  
  
Does access to this site require crossing private or tribal lands?  YES  NO  
  
Is the site relatively accessible for tree shearing equipment?  YES  NO  
  
Please describe any restrictions to public access:  
N/A

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