

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

PROJECT INFORMATION	
Project Title: Cherry Prescribed Fire	Project No. 07-609
Region/GMU: Region 6/Unit 23 South	HPC: Payson Natural Resource Committee
Project Type: Prescribed Burn	
Project Description: This project is part of a landscape analysis of habitat needs in unit 23 South, consisting of water distribution and prescribed burns. This 5,000 acre burn is the first segment of a 42,000 acre area that will be burned in the Cherry Creek drainage over the next several years if the project is funded. The intent of this burn is to re-establish fire back into the various habitat types to improve age class diversity of the chaparral species and improve the forage to cover ratio for wildlife and range.	
Wildlife Species to Benefit: White-Tail , Mule Deer , Elk . All species in the area will benefit from the improved forage to cover ratio post fire results and improved browse and grass forage quality.	
Possible Funding Partners: Arizona Deer Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Arizona Elk Society, Mule Deer Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation	
Implementation Schedule: Beginning: June, 2008 Completed: June, 2010	NEPA Compliance: (if applicable) Completed: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Projected Completion Date:
PROJECT FUNDING	
SBG Funds Requested: \$ 55,000.00	
Cost Share Funds: \$ 56,860.00	
Total Project Costs: \$ 111,860.00	
PARTICIPANT INFORMATION	
Applicant: James Simmons Telephone: 928-479-2984	Address: 7200 E. University Mesa, AZ 85207
Coordinated with: Hank Falcon and Jeremy Human, Pleasant Valley Ranger District, Tonto National Forest	Date: July, 2007
Applicant's signature:	Date:

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:

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

WAS PROJECT PRESENTED TO THE LOCAL HPC? YES X NO _____

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

NEED STATEMENT/PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

Many factors, including fire suppression over an extensive number of years have contributed to dense vegetative cover with tight crown spacing in the chaparral fields and oak woodlands in this project area. Such conditions create poor wildlife habitat in regard to browse and grass species and open spacing that are desired by many wildlife species. Tight crown spacing among chaparral and oak woodlands in conjunction with pinyon/juniper stands and Ponderosa pine stands change the desirability of many factors thus negatively affecting wildlife populations. Soil conditions, moisture, ground water, available sunlight and temperature all contribute to the health of range conditions that support wildlife. In addition, these dense vegetative conditions are a key factor when considering catastrophic wildfires that are also detrimental to wildlife at times. The wildlife managers of unit 23 South along with the Pleasant Valley Ranger District staff recognize this project area as an area that needs to have fire re-established back into various biophysical environments to improve the age class diversity of browse and forage to cover ratios. Once this is accomplished wildlife habitat conditions will positively respond, along with improved watershed conditions which will also benefit wildlife.



This picture reflects the density of the pinyon/juniper woodland with chaparral in the project area. Picture was taken on Forest road 203, looking south into the cherry creek drainage with McFadden Horse Mountain in the background.



Another look at the density of trees and other plants in the project area. This picture reflects more of the oak woodland with pinyon/juniper and chaparral mixed. Picture taken at Squaw Peak south of Young, AZ.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The purpose of this burn is to reduce the fuel loading to a more manageable level, re-establish fire back into various biophysical environments, improve the horizontal age class diversity of the chaparral species, and improve the forage to cover ratio for wildlife and range. Reducing the over story density should improve watershed conditions by improving herbaceous species growth and density to a more desired level.

There will be many beneficial aspects of this fire relating to food production for wildlife. In addition, the result of mosaics of different vegetation types with openings will produce a variety of different habitat niches and edge spacing desired by wildlife. This burn should also increase the water supply available for plants and water sources such as stock tanks and springs.

PROJECT STRATEGIES:

In order to accomplish these improvements, a low intensity prescribed fire will be established with maintenance burns to follow. A backing fire into the wind will be used to accomplish a low intensity burn. When needed, a strip-head firing technique will be used to accomplish objectives and create mosaics in the chaparral type. In isolated areas throughout the burn there will be trees that torch due to excessive fuel build-ups and ladder effects.

This prescribed burn will be implemented in blocks. Natural barriers and changes in fuel type will be used where appropriate and some hand lines may need to be established to contain the burn. There are many roads, small drainages and open ridges in the burn areas that will be utilized when establishing burn perimeters. Black lines will be established prior to or at the time of ignition of each individual block.

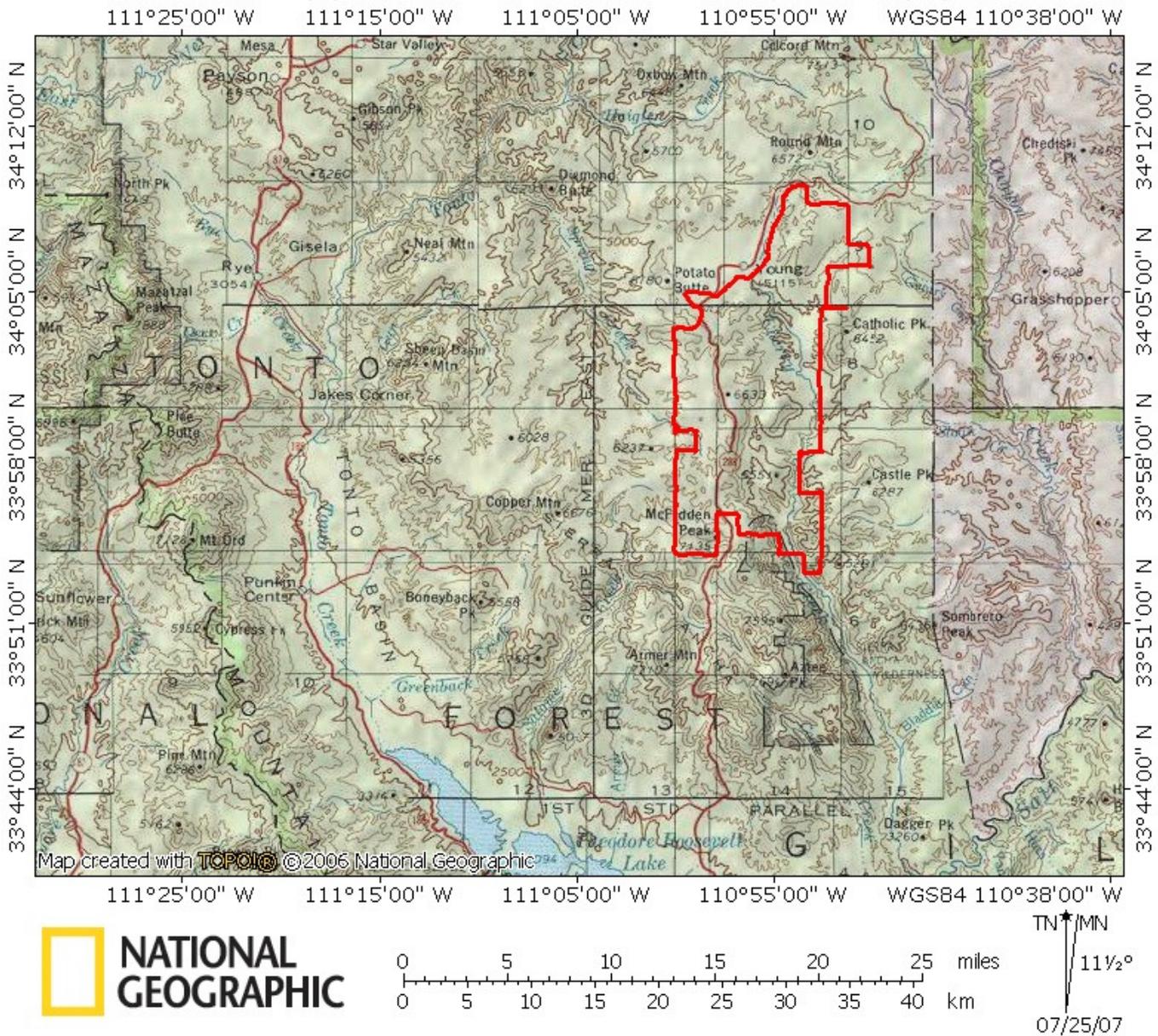
PROJECT LOCATION:

The location of the project is just south and east of the community of Young heading south and east into the Cherry Creek drainage.

Following are the Township/Range/Section numbers that will be treated:

Township/Range/Section	9N	13E	S35, 36
Township/Range/Section	9N	14E	S3,9-16, 21-35
Township/Range/Section	9N	15E	S19
Township/Range/Section	8N	13E	S1, 11-14, 23-26, 35, 36
Township/Range/Section	8N	14E	S2-10, 14-23, 26-35
Township/Range/Section	7N	14E	S2-11, 15-23, 26-29, 34, 35
Township/Range/Section	6N	14E	2

TOPO! map printed on 07/25/07 from "Cherry burn map.tpo"



LAND OWNERSHIP AT PROJECT SITE: U.S. Forest Service, Tonto National Forest, Pleasant Valley Ranger District

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

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

The area consists of elevations ranging from a minimum of 3,800 feet to 6,500 feet with habitat types including chaparral (60%), oak woodland (10%), pinyon/juniper woodlands (20%) and Ponderosa pine

stands (10%).

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS: Cherry Prescribed Burn

COOPERATOR AND PROJECT COMPONENT	COST-SHARE DOLLARS AVAILABLE	SBG FUNDS REQUESTED
Arizona Game & Fish Department (SBG Funds) ■ Funding for implementation of on-the-ground work.		\$55,000
Arizona Game & Fish Department ■ In-kind labor to write proposal, coordinate project, completion report, etc. Calculated as 10 days @ \$186.00/day.	\$1860.00	
USDA – Tonto National Forest, Pleasant Valley Ranger District ■ Provide administrative support including labor/funding to produce NEPA and Archeological Clearances.	\$5,000.00	
■ Implementation of burning.	\$50,000.00	
TOTALS:	\$56,860.00	\$55,000
RATIO OF COST SHARE FUNDS:SBG FUNDS = 1.03:1		
TOTAL PROJECT COST = \$111,860		

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

Arizona Deer Association, Arizona Elk Society, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Arizona Bowhunters Association, The Mule Deer Foundation, The National Wild Turkey Federation.

All Potential Participants are encouraged to consider this project and the benefits to each particular species, in order that they may contribute accordingly.

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

Some photo points will be established by the Pleasant Valley Ranger District along with annual visual monitoring that will take place.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

N/A

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

The project proponent will file a completion report after the project has been fully completed.