

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

<b>PROJECT INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Project Title:</b> Squaw Mesa Grassland Maintenance	<b>Project No. 10-604</b>
<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 proposal is to fund approximately 300 acres of a 2150 acre juniper cut in the Squaw Mesa area of unit 23. The rest of the funding will be provided by the USFS Pleasant Valley Ranger District and the Cherry Creek Ranch.	
<b>Wildlife Species to Benefit:</b> Elk (50%) White Tail Deer (25%) Mule Deer (25%)	
<b>Possible Funding Partners:</b> USFS	
<b>Implementation Schedule:</b> <b>Beginning:</b> Spring 2011 <b>Completed:</b> Fall 2012	<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> \$36,000	
<b>Cost Share Funds:</b> \$222,000	
<b>Total Project Costs:</b> \$258,000	
<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 2700 E University Mesa AZ 85207
<b>AGFD Contact and Phone No.</b> (If applicant is not AGFD personnel)	
<b>Coordinated with:</b> Sean Brown, USFS, TNF, Pleasant Valley R.D.	<b>Date:</b> 8/30/10
<b>Applicant's signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>

**SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:**  
**Game Branch**  
**5000 W. Carefree Hwy**  
**Phoenix, AZ 85086**

**WAS PROJECT PRESENTED TO THE LOCAL HPC?      YES   X        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 opened to wood cutters and/of burned to enhance the production of grasses and forbs. The area is popular among elk, turkey and 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. This project will dove-tail nicely with the 40,000 acre Cherry Creek prescribed burn that is currently in its 4<sup>th</sup> year of implementation.

**PROJECT STRATEGIES:**

Use an agra-axe to remove junipers on approximately 2150 acres of historic grassland.

**PROJECT LOCATION:**

T 8N, R 14E, Sections 17 &18  
T 7N, R 14E, Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 31&32

**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.

**HABITAT DESCRIPTION:**

The plant community in the area is primarily grassland and pinon/juniper woodland at an average elevation of 5000 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 = \$36,000**  
**AZ Game & Fish Department = \$800**  
**USDA, TNF, Pleasant Valley R.D. = \$210,000**  
**Cherry Creek Ranch= \$12,000**

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**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 300 acres at an estimated \$120/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 funding for agra-axe contracted operation to cut 1750 acres at an estimated \$120/acre
- \* 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.

Cherry Creek Ranch

- Provide fuel and labor to cut with an agra axe approximately 100 acres

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 and the Pleasant Valley Ranger District.

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

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

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

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

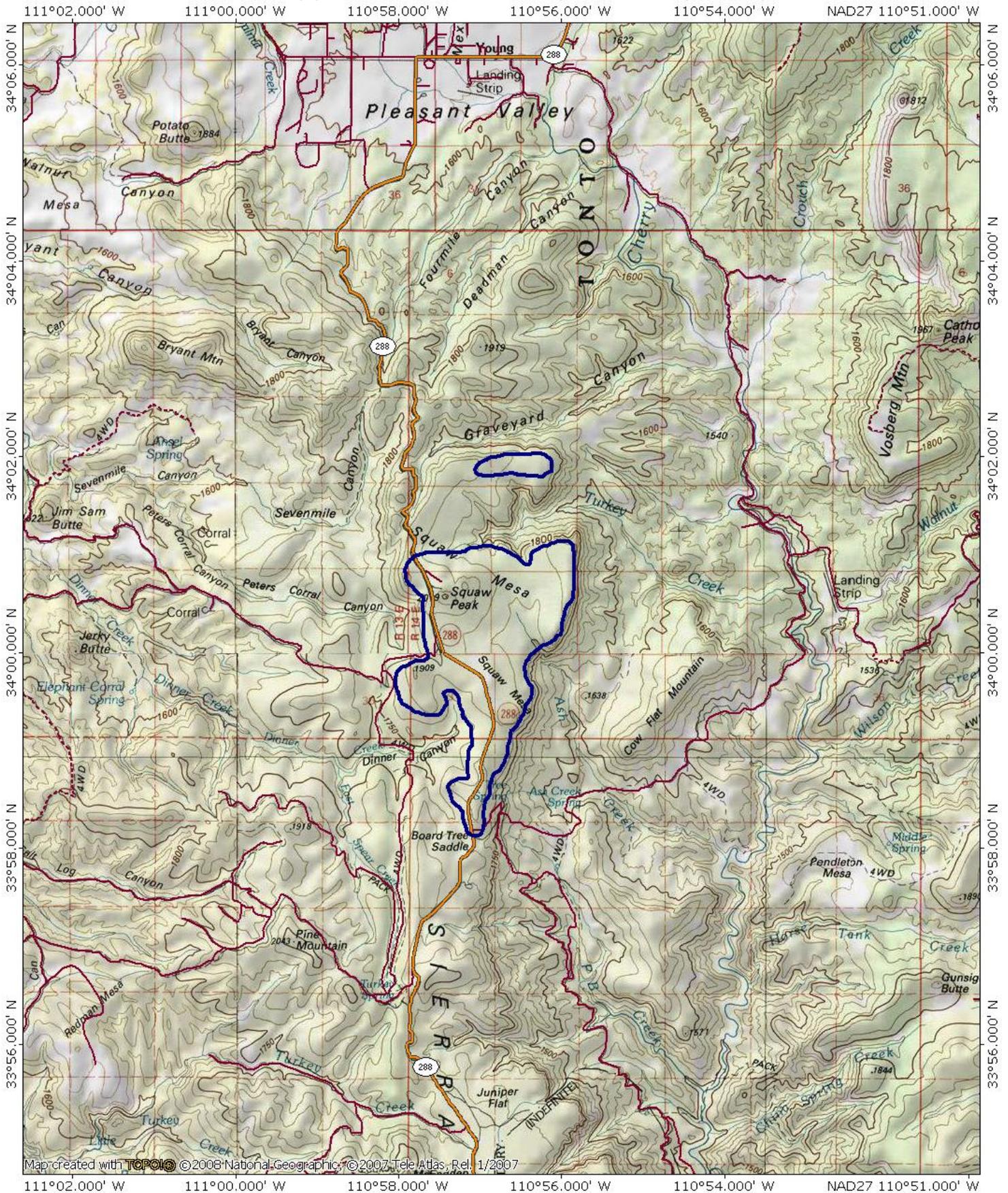
**PROJECT NAME:** Squaw Mesa Grassland Maintenance

- 1) **What is the estimated acreage of the project?**  
2150 acres
- 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.**
- 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:

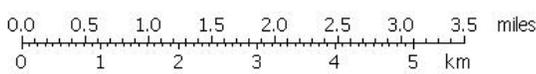
TOPO! map printed on 08/30/10 from "Squaw Mesa Juniper Cut.tpo"



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