

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number:	11-209
Possible Funding Partners:	

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: East Sunset Pass Grassland Restoration/Pronghorn Antelope Habitat Enhancement

Region and Game Management Unit: Region II, GM 5BN

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC): •	Was the project presented to the LHPC? YES[] NO[x]
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Has this project been submitted in previous years? YES[] NO[x]
If Yes, was it funded? YES[] NO[] → **HPC Project #:**

Project Type: Brush Management, Juniper Invasion Removal

Brief Project Summary: Pronghorn antelope movement from grasslands northeast of Sunset Pass to grasslands southwest of Sunset Pass and the Anderson Mesa area has been inhibited by Arizona Highway 87 and invasion of grasslands in the area by one seed juniper (*Juniperous monosperma*). This project proposes to remove the one seed juniper trees that have invaded into grasslands in the project area as well as a small number of non-invasive trees by grinding the trees. The project will increase available pronghorn antelope habitat and provide a link for freer movement from the grassland areas to the north of Sunset Pass to the grasslands and restored grasslands south of Sunset Pass and to Anderson Mesa. The project area includes both state and private lands.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Pronghorn Antelope

<p>Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):</p> <p>Project Start Date: March, 2012</p> <p>Project End Date: July, 2012</p>	<p>Environmental Compliance:</p> <p>NEPA Completed: YES[] No[x] N/A[]</p> <p>Projected Completion Date: _____</p> <p>State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance: YES[] No[x] N/A[]</p> <p>Projected Completion Date: _____</p> <p>Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A[]</p> <p>To be Completed by: <u>Steve Cassady, LRPS</u></p> <p>Projected Completion Date: <u>April, 2012</u></p>
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PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:	\$ 8,855
Cost Share or Matching Funds:	\$
Total Project Costs:	\$ 8,855

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print): Hopi Three Canyon Ranch	Address: P.O. Box 1138 Winslow, AZ 86047	E-mail: colemanduane@yahoo.com
Telephone: (928) 587-5260		Date: 8/29/2011

AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel):

Steve Cassady (928) 214-1270

Project has been coordinated with:

USDA – NRCS, Flagstaff Field Office

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

Pronghorn antelope movement from grasslands north of Sunset Pass to grasslands south of Sunset Pass and the Anderson Mesa area has been inhibited by Arizona Highway 87 and invasion of grasslands in the area by one seed juniper (*Juniperous monsosperma*).

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Improve pronghorn antelope habitat. This project proposes to remove the one seed juniper trees that have invaded into grasslands in the project area, approximately 161 acres, as well as a small number of non-invasive trees by grinding the trees. The project will increase available pronghorn antelope habitat and provide a link for freer movement from the grassland areas to the northeast of Sunset Pass to the grasslands and restored grasslands southwest of Sunset Pass and ultimately to Anderson Mesa. This project is a continuation of work previously and currently being performed utilizing USDA – NRCS farm bill programs (EQIP, WHIP, and CSP), LIP, and Access funds to restore historic grasslands to the southwest of Sunset Pass on the east side of highway 87.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

The project will widen open up and widen the corridor between Arizona Highway 87 and East Sunset Mesa allowing for freer movement by pronghorn antelope through Sunset Pass.

PROJECT LOCATION:

In the eastern portion of Sunset Pass. The project area includes portions of sections 13, 18, 19 and 24 in Township 17N. and Ranges 13E. and 14E.

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

The project area includes Hopi Trust lands and Arizona State Trust lands.

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

YES[x] NO[]

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

The project is within the Colorado Plateau Shrub – Grassland Land Resource Unit (NRCS) or Plains and Great Basin Grassland (Brown and Lowe).

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

100% - Tree removal

Cost Share or Matching Funds

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

The Hopi Tribe, Hopi Three Canyon Ranch – obtain and provide oversight of tree grinding contractor.

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

The existing brush management plan developed by Hopi Three Canyon Ranches, USDA – NRCS, Arizona State Land Department and Arizona Game and Fish Department will be modified to include this acreage. The modified brush management plan will be provided to the Hopi Three Canyon Ranch identifying the project area and tree removal specifications. Review of the brush management plan prior to project implementation, monitoring of progress and post treatment certification of completion will be provided by the AGFD Region II Landowner Relations Program Specialist.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

No short term project maintenance is anticipated.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Project completion certification and report of will be performed by the AGFD Landowner Relations Program Specialist.

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (*see attached worksheet*):
N/A

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

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
TREE SHEARING WORKSHEET

PROJECT TITLE: East Sunset Pass Grassland Restoration/Antelope Habitat Enhancement

- 1) **What is the estimated acreage of the project?**
161 ac.

- 2) **How are the trees going to be cleared? (agra axe, chain saw, push):**
Grinder on rubber tired loader type tractor

- 3) **What is the estimated number of trees per acre?**
15 – 25 trees per acre

- 4) **Describe trees to be cleared (species, estimated diameter, single stem, multi-stem):**
One seed juniper (Juniperous monosperma), a multi-stemmed tree with average diameter about 6 inches.

- 5) **Describe terrain (slope, soil type, rocks)**
Flat to gently sloping, generally with no rocks on the surface, but a few scattered surface cobbles in small isolated areas.

- 6) **Please list any special land management status for the project site (e.g. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument). If private land, list landowner.**
Lands are Hopi Trust lands, managed by Hopi Three Canyon Ranches

- 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: None

