

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number:	13-216
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<b>PROJECT INFORMATION</b>
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<b>Project Title:</b> Wagontire Flat Grassland Enhancement	
<b>Region and Game Management Unit:</b> Region 2 / GMU 8	
<b>Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):</b> • Williams/Flagstaff HPC	<b>Was the project presented to the LHPC?</b> YES[] NO[X]
<b>Has this project been submitted in previous years?</b> YES[] NO[X] <b>If Yes, was it funded?</b> YES[] NO[] → <b>Funded HPC Project #(s):</b>	
<b>Project Type:</b> Tree Clearing/Removal	
<b>Brief Project Summary:</b> This project is designed to restore approximately 200 acres in the Wagontire Flat grasslands, located on the Prescott National Forest. This is juniper invaded grassland vital to the GMU 8 pronghorn antelope herd as well as elk, mule deer and javelina.	
<b>Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit:</b> Pronghorn (40%), Elk (40%), Mule Deer (30%), Javelina, Dove, Gambel's Quail	
<b>Implementation Schedule</b> (Month/Day/Year):  <u>Project Start Date:</u> May/01/2014    <u>Project End Date:</u> May/01/2015	<b>Environmental Compliance:</b> NEPA Completed: Yes[X] No[] N/A[] Projected Completion Date: _____  State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance: Yes[X] No[] N/A[] Projected Completion Date: _____  Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A[X] To be Completed by: _____ Projected Completion Date: _____

<b>PROJECT FUNDING</b>
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<b>Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:</b>	\$ 8,000
<b>Cost Share or Matching Funds:</b>	\$ 91,315.25
<b>Total Project Costs:</b>	\$ 99,315.25

<b>PARTICIPANT INFORMATION</b>
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<b>Applicant</b> (please print): Michael Rice - AGFD	<b>Address:</b>	<b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:MRice@azgfd.gov">MRice@azgfd.gov</a>
<b>Telephone:</b> 928-606-2290		<b>Date:</b> 08/30/2013

<b>AGFD Contact and Phone No.</b> (If applicant is not AGFD personnel):
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<b>Project has been coordinated with:</b> Wade Albrecht – AZGFD/NRCS and Dan Garcia de la Cadena – PNF
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**NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:**

The Wagontire Flat Grassland Enhancement Project will allow juniper abatement on Prescott National Forest lands with supportive funding from both the Department and the U. S. Forest Service.

The first phase of the project will allow for hand-crews to cut invasive juniper in unit areas identified on the attached map as Units: C, E, G & K. The second phase will be undertaken following the completion of the cultural resource survey contract and will implement mechanical/agra axe treatments in Units J and portions of Units C&K in Phase II (mechanical/agra axe; see attached map).

**PROJECT OBJECTIVES:**

The objective of this project is to provide improved pronghorn, elk, mule-deer and javelina habitat by removal of junipers, which out-competes preferred grass, forbs and browse species for sunlight and water. This could ultimately lead to significantly diminished plant diversity, quantity and quality. Treatments will enhance habitat for grassland obligate species, including pronghorn antelope. Resident pronghorn and winter migrants will have expanded movement corridors with unimpeded view-sheds to help alleviate predation pressures from coyote, mountain lion and other carnivores.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:**

This HPC project will use hand thinning (chain saws) to clear approximately 200 acres of encroached grasslands in the historically open grassland Wagontire Flat. This is part of an approximately 3223 acre project area to help restore the historic grasslands of Wagontire Flat which is located within the greater Central Arizona Grassland Strategy (CAGS) project area.

**PROJECT LOCATION:**

The project area is located in northeast Yavapai County north of the Verde River within the southwest corner of GMU 8 (T19NR01W22).

**LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):**

(if the project area is private property, please state specifically and provide the landowner's name)

- U.S. Forest Service (Prescott National Forest – Chino Valley District)

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

YES[] NO[] N/A[X]

**HABITAT DESCRIPTION:**

The Wagontire Flat Grassland Enhancement Project area encompasses historical high desert grasslands that have been invaded by pinion/juniper.

**ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:**

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

Hand thinning on 200 acres of invaded grasslands - \$8,000.00

Cost Share or Matching Funds (for volunteer labor rates please refer to the worksheet below)

USFS Salaries/Labor - \$1,500.00

USFS Equipment - \$75.00

USFS Supplies/Materials - \$9,000.00

USFS Overhead Assessment - \$740.25

USFS Cash to Department (Contract Work) - \$25,000.00

CAGS Cash to Department (Contract Work) - \$43,000.00

Department Cash (Contract Work) - \$4,500.00

Department Match (\$ for Collars) - \$7,500.00

Total Cost Share - \$ 91,315.25

**LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:**

USFS Prescott National Forest – Coordination

Alameda Cattle Company – Permittee and possible contractor for mechanical thinning

**WOULD IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT ASSIST IN PROVIDING, MAINTAINING,  
OR FACILITATING RECREATIONAL ACCESS?**

YES[] NO[X] N/A[]

**PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:**

This is an ongoing enhancement project for the PNF.

**PROJECT MAINTENANCE:**

This is an ongoing enhancement project for the PNF.

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

Wildlife Manager Michael Rice

**WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (please use the worksheet below):**

N/A

**TREE CLEARING/REMOVAL PROJECTS (please use the worksheet below):**

See worksheet below.

## **ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT** **TREE CLEARING/REMOVAL WORKSHEET**

**PROJECT TITLE:** Wagontire Flat Grassland Enhancement

- 1) **What is the estimated acreage of the project?**  
200 Acres
- 2) **How are the trees going to be cleared? (agra axe, chain saw, grubbing, push, chaining):**  
Chain saw
- 3) **What is the estimated number of trees per acre?**  
Variable small diameter tree densities
- 4) **Describe trees to be cleared (species, estimated diameter, single stem, multi-stem):**  
Juniper, small diameter, single stem
- 5) **Describe terrain (slope, soil type, rocks)**  
Slight slope, deep soil, few rocks
- 6) **Please list any special land management status for the project site (e.g. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument). If private land, list landowner.**  
None
- 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[X]

Is the site relatively accessible for tree removal equipment? YES[X] NO[]

Please describe any restrictions to public access:

None – This project is entirely within Prescott National Forest lands.

LOCATOR MAP

PROJECT LOCATION

- TOWN
- ROAD
- NATIONAL FOREST

Hwy 89

County 73

County 71

DRAKE

WAGON TIRE / MC CANYON JUNIPER NEPA

- PHASE II AGRA-AXE (HERITAGE CONTRACT) 900 AC *OK 9/12*
- AGRA-AXE / FUELWOOD
- HAND CUT
- VERDE RIVER
- HIGHWAY
- SECONDARY ROAD
- FENCE
- PRESCOTT NATIONAL FOREST BDRY

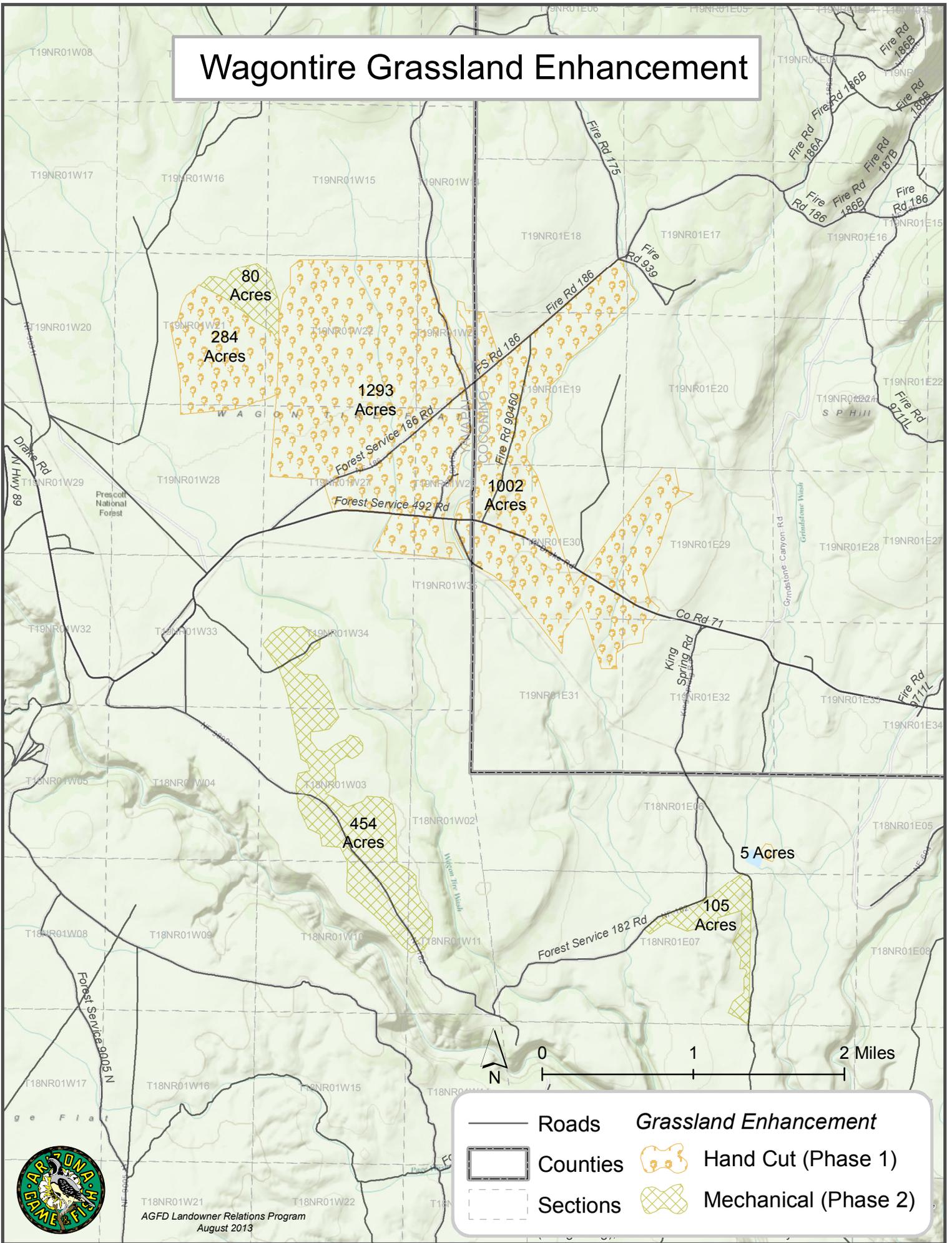


PNF GIS June 24, 2008  
S. Stone

ACREAGE

AGRA-AXE / FUELWOOD		HAND CUT	
Unit	Acres	Unit	Acres
A	458	C	343
B	489	E	1170
D	222	G	1044
F	90	I	131
H	279	J	468
L	771	K	1740
M	698	P	60
N	366		
O	283		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3656</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4956</b>

# Wagontire Grassland Enhancement



	Roads		Grassland Enhancement
	Counties		Hand Cut (Phase 1)
	Sections		Mechanical (Phase 2)