

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 13-608

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Potato Butte Grassland Maintenance Continuation

Region and Game Management Unit: Region 6 / GMU 23

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):

- Payson Natural Resources Committee

Was the project presented to the LHPC?

YES **NO**

Has this project been submitted in previous years? YES NO

If Yes, was it funded? YES NO → **Funded HPC Project #(s):**

Project Type: Juniper Removal

Brief Project Summary: In 2012 the Potato Butte ranch completed the removal of invasive juniper trees on approximately 600 acres of historic grassland. This proposal is to remove junipers on approximately 150 acres adjacent to the other project.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Elk 50%, mule deer 40%, turkey 10%

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date: Spring 2014

Project End Date: Fall 2015

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: Yes No N/A

Projected Completion Date: _____

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:

Yes No N/A

Projected Completion Date: _____

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A

To be Completed by: _____

Projected Completion Date: _____

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested: \$ 17,065

Cost Share or Matching Funds: \$ 4,800

Total Project Costs: \$ 21,865

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):

Dave Daniels

Address:

7200 E University

Mesa AZ 85207

E-mail:

ddaniels@azgfd.gov

Telephone: 480-528-8774

Date: 9/2/13

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

Project has been coordinated with:

AZGFD, Tonto National Forest-PV Ranger District, Potato Butte Ranch

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 excavator operated mostly by the rancher. After removal and drying, the treated juniper slash would need to be opened to wood cutters and/or 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 a excavator to remove junipers. Habitat enhancement would occur through the removal of junipers and subsequent burning to expand the grassland/woodland edge effect.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

Use an excavator to remove junipers on approximately 150 acres of historic grassland.

PROJECT LOCATION:

T 9N, R 13E

T 8N, R 13E

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

(if the project area is private property, please state specifically and provide the 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 COOPERATIVE BIG GAME STEWARDSHIP or LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?

YES[] NO[] N/A[x]

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:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

Equipment rental: \$7,825

Arc Clearance: \$6,000

Fuel: \$1000

Labor: \$2240

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

AGFD: \$800

USFS: \$1000

Potato Butte Ranch: \$3,000

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

Arizona Game and Fish Department – Special Big Game Funds

- Provide the funding for equipment rental, arc clearance, partial labor costs and fuel
- 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.
- * Provide letter of approval for implementation of project
- * Provide on-the-ground boundary marking.

Potato Butte Ranch

- Provide labor for excavator operation.

Payson Natural Resources Committee

- Review project

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

YES[] NO[x] N/A[]

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

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

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

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET

PROJECT TITLE: _____

- 1) **Is the water development listed as a priority in the most recent “Wildlife Water Development Annual Implementation Schedule?”**
- 2) **Please list the Development Branch personnel and date coordinated with for this project.**
- 3) **What is the estimated annual inches of precipitation for the area? (mark one)**
2-4 4-6 6-8 8-10 10-12 12-14 14-16 >16
- 4) **Is there a perennial water source available to big game within four miles of this project?**

YES (please complete #5 below) NO (skip #5 below)

- 5) **For the accessible, perennial water source nearest this project:**

Name of water source:

Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank):

Ownership of water source:

Distance in miles from project:

- 6) **Is the target wildlife species a result of transplant efforts? YES NO**

- 7) **Please list any special land management status for the project site (i.e. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument). If private land, list landowner.**

- 8) **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: _____ Approximate hiking time: _____

-- Does access to this site require crossing private or tribal lands? YES NO

-- Please describe any restrictions to public access:

- 9) **Please list below (or on a separate sheet) the material type and dimensions of each component proposed to be added, modified, or repaired.**

- 10) **Was a site visit completed? Yes No**

If Yes, please list personnel that attended and date.

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

PROJECT TITLE: Potato Butte Grassland Maintenance Continuation

- 1) **What is the estimated acreage of the project?**
150
- 2) **How are the trees going to be cleared? (agra axe, chain saw, grubbing, push, chaining):**
Excavator
- 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)**
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 (e.g. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument). 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[x]

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

Please describe any restrictions to public access:

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

VOLUNTEER HOURLY RATES AND CLASSIFICATIONS WORKSHEET

PROJECT TITLE: _____

The value of volunteer labor should be calculated at the hourly rate of an employee doing similar work, or using hourly rates from the Arizona Department of Administration's Human Resource web site, plus a standard ERE rate of 35%. http://www.hr.az.gov/HR_Professional/Class_Comp/PDF/alphacovered.pdf

\$0.445/mile should be the calculation used for mileage.

Water Development	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Habitat Restoration and Clean Up	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Fisheries	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Nongame Branch Project	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Misc/office work	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			varies	
Community Services	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$7.44	
Events and Other	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Research Branch	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Wildlife Area Hosts	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$17.44	
Education Programs	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$16.07	
Totals				