

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

PROJECT INFORMATION	
Project Title: Johnson Peak / John Long Prescribed Burn	Project No. 09-512
Region/GMU: Unit 29	HPC: Cochise County
Project Type: Prescribed Burn	
Project Description: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A prescribed burn that encompasses 7625 acres of Forest Service owned land. This prescribed burn would tie into the Johnson Peak Burn of 2005, which was 9300 acres. The area is a predominantly southwest - facing slope in the Chiricahua Mountains. The burn would be a cool-season fire that would improve wildlife habitat by removing accumulated fuels and allowing for the growth of new forage. 	
Wildlife Species to Benefit: Mule Deer, Coues' Whitetail Deer, Gould's Wild Turkey	
Possible Funding Partners:	
Implementation Schedule: Beginning: October 2010 Completed: By March 2011	
PROJECT FUNDING	
SBG Funds Requested: \$45,000.00	
Cost Share Funds: \$45,000.00	
Total Project Costs: \$90,000.00	
PARTICIPANT INFORMATION	
Applicant: Ruben Morales (please print) Telephone: (520) 364 - 6813	Address: 1192 West Saddleview Road Douglas Arizona 85607
AGFD Contact and Phone No. Brad Fulk (520)-803-9068 (If applicant is not AGFD personnel)	
Coordinated with: Brad Fulk (AZGFD), Joe Harris - Douglas RD (Range), Glenn Klingler – Douglas RD (Biologist)	Date: August 15,2009
Applicant's signature:	Date:

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:
Game Branch
2221 W. Greenway Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85023
rothompson@azgfd.gov

NEED STATEMENT/PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

Due to historic fire suppression in the Chiricahua Mountains, the natural fire cycle has been disrupted and the fuel load has built up to an undesirable level. Without reducing the fuel load in the forest, a natural 10-year fire regime cannot be re-established without fires reaching a catastrophic level. With re-establishment of a natural fire regime, vegetation communities will be more resilient and wildlife habitat will be improved.

The project area is a predominantly southwest - facing slope of the Chiricahua Mountains, and because of our prevalent Southwestern wind, the area is always at great risk to burning under high intensity conditions because of the wind and afternoon thermal heating. The prescribed burn would decrease the potential of future catastrophic fires by reducing dense brush and other accumulated fuels.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of the burn are to reduce dense brush and the buildup of accumulated fuels. This in turn would help re-establish its natural fire regime, and restoring natural vegetative communities and improving wildlife habitat. This would be the first introduction of fire to the area in several decades and would help ensure its vegetative composition and fuel loads are closer to historical levels. This would also allow the area to be considered as a candidate for the possibility of fire playing its natural role when natural ignitions occur. The burning would take place starting October 2010 and be completed before March 2011.

PROJECT STRATEGIES:

The area is bordered by roads on three sides that would be used as holding features. The remaining perimeter is adjacent to the Johnson Peak Burn of 2005-2006. Ignitions would take within the perimeter under low to moderate burning conditions. The project is a continuation of prescribed fire implementation in the Johnson Peak Fire Management area. The first three attempts were in the higher elevation areas of the Chiricahua Wilderness. This project would tie into the original prescribed burn. Future plans include other prescribed burns north of John Long Canyon that would also tie into the previous burns in an effort of taking a landscape scale approach for future reintroduction of fire.

PROJECT LOCATION:

This project is located in the southwestern portion of Game Management Unit 29. It also borders Game Management Unit 30A and is separated by Rucker Road (FS Road 74).

Township 19 South, Range 29 East, Sections 11-23

LAND OWNERSHIP AT PROJECT SITE (Please state specifically if PRIVATE PROPERTY and provide landowner's name): It is entirely Forest Service owned land administered by Coronado National Forest, Douglas Ranger District.

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

N/A

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

Oak Woodlands intermixed with Pinyon - Juniper - Manzanita encroached areas. The elevation averages 5,800 feet, and ranges from 5330 feet to 8300 feet. There are Chihuahua Pine stringers present in the canyon bottoms of Rucker Canyon, John Long Canyon, Sycamore Canyon, Brushy Canyon and the North Fork of Rucker Canyon.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

The AZGFD through HPC will provide funds to pay salaries of Forest Service employees required for site preparation and implementation of prescribed burn. The Forest Service will pay for writing the burn plan and also contribute towards site preparation and implementation as well as the purchase of needed supplies. NEPA is complete although would need to be re-evaluated by the Forest Service before implementation can occur.

HPC Funds: \$45,000.00 = Salaries

Forest Service: \$45,000.00 = Salaries, Supplies, Burn Plan writing and NEPA revalidation.

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

N/A

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

AGFD Wildlife Managers will continue to gather population information through annual deer surveys for this area. Trends in movement and numbers of deer will be detected by these annual wildlife surveys. Random fuels surveys will also take place prior to implementation and will be followed up with data after burning and included in the project record.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

The area will then be treated with a first entry prescribed fire and will then be considered for maintenance by future natural ignition fires that occur in the area. This will ensure a controllable transition towards re-establishing a more natural fire regime.

PHOTO: (Please attach)

Photos will be provided in the Project Completion Report.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Ruben Morales

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (see attached worksheet):

N/A

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

N/A

