

**Arizona Water Protection Fund
Application Cover Page
FY 2017**

Title of Project: A&NC Focal Area Watershed Improvement Project

Type of Project: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capital or Other <input type="checkbox"/> Water Conservation <input type="checkbox"/> Research	Stream Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Perennial <input type="checkbox"/> Intermittent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ephemeral	Your level of commitment to maintenance of project benefits and capital improvements: <input type="checkbox"/> < 5 years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5-10 years <input type="checkbox"/> 11-15 years <input type="checkbox"/> 16-20 years
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Applicant Information: Name/Organization: Arizona Association of Conservation Districts Address 1: P.O. Box 50518 Address 2: City: Phoenix State: Arizona ZIP Code: 85076 Phone: 480-893-7652 Fax: Tax ID No.: XXXXXXXXXX	Inside an AMA: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, which AMA: <input type="checkbox"/> Phoenix <input type="checkbox"/> Tucson <input type="checkbox"/> Prescott <input type="checkbox"/> Pinal <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Cruz
	Type of Application: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation

Contact Person: Name: Deborrah Smith Title: Business Manager Phone: 830-719-5372 Fax: e-mail: Cascabelrc@gmail.com	Any Previous AWPf Grants: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please provide Grant #(s):
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Arizona Water Protection Fund Grant Amount Requested: \$303,975.00 If the application is funded, will the Grantee intend to request an advance: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Matching Funds Obtained and Secured:									
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>Applicant/Agency/Organization:</u></th> <th><u>Amount (\$):</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Applicant</td> <td align="right">120,500.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td align="right">Total:</td> <td align="right">120,500.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Applicant/Agency/Organization:</u>	<u>Amount (\$):</u>	1. Applicant	120,500.00	2.		3.		Total:
<u>Applicant/Agency/Organization:</u>	<u>Amount (\$):</u>									
1. Applicant	120,500.00									
2.										
3.										
Total:	120,500.00									

Has your legal counsel or contracting authority reviewed and accepted the Grant Award Contract General Provisions?
 Yes No N/A

Signature of the undersigned certifies understanding and compliance with all terms, conditions and specifications in the attached application. Additionally, signature certifies that all information provided by the applicant is true and accurate. The undersigned acknowledges that intentional presentation of any false or fraudulent information, or knowingly concealing a material fact regarding this application is subject to criminal penalties as provided in A.R.S. Title 13. The Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission may approve Grant Awards with modifications to scope items, methodology, schedule, final products and/or budget.

William Dunn	President 520-560-0721
Typed Name of Applicant or Applicant's Authorized Representative	Title and Telephone Number
<i>William Dunn</i>	10-13-16
Signature	Date Signed

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Arizona Association of Conservation Districts, in support of the Arizona Conservation Partnership, seeks \$303,975 in funding from WPF for juniper control on the Brown Ranch in the Apache Natural Resource Conservation District. This ranch consists of private, State and BLM lands which have been extensively invaded by juniper. Increased brush cover has reduced soil protection, increased flood runoff, increased soil erosion and sediment production, and impacted riparian vegetation. Brush control will improve the watershed condition and contribute to ACPs goals of conserving resource productivity, enhancing wildlife, improving water quality, and restoring riparian vegetation. Pretreatment monitoring and required environmental and cultural clearances have been done, and some treatments have been applied with funds from BLM and NRCS, but additional funding is needed to help complete the juniper removal treatments. Funding from WPF would help advance this project and add WPF to the membership list of the Arizona Conservation Partnership which includes many other federal, state, local and private organizations.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Background

The Arizona Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support the Arizona Conservation Partnership (ACP) at the state and national level, and raise awareness of what Arizona's Conservation Districts do, while providing Districts with training, education, partnership opportunities, and capacity building.

In 2010, the AACD, with the 42 locally led Conservation Districts in Arizona, began the ACP.

The goals of the ACP and Conservation Districts include:

- Statewide strategic planning for cropland, forestland, and rangeland
- Improvement, restoration, and conservation of soil, and water resources of the State, thereby conserving natural resource productivity, wildlife habitat, and enhancing water quality and riparian vegetation in rivers and streams.
- Developing partnerships through interdisciplinary collaboration with federal agencies, tribal, state, and local governments, private land owners, permit holders, non-profit and non-governmental organizations, and private industry

In 2015, the AACD, along with the commitment of 18 locally led Conservation Districts in ACP, identified Focal Areas across the state, and entered into a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to target up to \$10 million of Arizona Landscape Enhancement Collaborative (ALEC) funds in these areas over the next five years. The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has agreed to match the BLM funding with \$600,000 per fiscal year of Environmental Quality Incentives Program funds in these areas. The Arizona State Land Department agreed to support the effort and provide technical support for implementing projects that include State Trust Lands. The Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management have also committed their support to this effort. Over the last year, discussions have been held with the USDA Forest Service, the Arizona Department of Agriculture, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona State Parks and the State Historic Preservation Office, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Salt River Project, state legislators, Arizona congressional representatives, county supervisors, and others in an effort to expand this partnership.

For FY 2017, the ACP and AACD will focus attention on three of the focal areas for immediate ground-ready rangeland improvement projects. These are the Apache and Navajo County (A&NC), the Central Arizona Grasslands, and the Southeast Arizona Focal Areas. The BLM ALEC program has committed \$1,306,000 in FY16 matching funds to utilize in partnership with the AACD and the locally-affected Districts. Of those funds, \$48,000 have been applied to partnership organization, and \$330,000 committed to ground-ready projects in the A&NC Focal Area.

ACP FY17 goals include obtaining funding to complete ground-ready brush control projects in Focal Areas

Within the A&NC Focal Area, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality funds have been applied to area-wide projects to improve rangelands through sediment basin cleanouts, rebuilds, bank sloping, and seeding in the amount of \$500,000. The NRCS National Watershed Initiative has applied over \$1,000,000 in brush control. Additionally, within the A&NC Focal Area \$100,000 of ALEC funding has been committed to ranches towards more rangeland improvement project planning for brush control and completing State of Arizona Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) requirements.

One of the ranches targeted for brush control in the A&NC Focal Area is the Brown Ranch, pre-treatment monitoring and necessary cultural resource clearances are in the process of being obtained and will be completed by November 2016.

Goals

The Brown Ranch Project is located within the A&NC Focal Area. The goal of this project, and the basis for this funding request from the AWPf, includes controlling the extensive Juniper invasion within this specified Focal Area. The Brown Ranch is a total of 70,000 acres with over 7,000 acres of Juniper targeted for removal. This initial brush control project targets 2,000 acres in Fields 1-6 of the Southern Brown Ranch and will result in improved cover of perennial grasses and forbs which will provide increased soil protection and reduced sediment yield. It will not only increase forage for livestock and wildlife, but contribute to improved water quality and riparian vegetation, thereby meeting the goals of the Arizona Conservation Partnership.

Objectives

The objective is to reduce runoff and erosion by removing juniper, resulting in improved water quality and riparian conditions.

Problem(s)/Cause(s)/Solution(s)

Juniper has invaded large areas in northern Arizona due mainly to lack of periodic fire since settlement. This has resulted in reduced effective ground cover, increased soil erosion, increased flooding, reduced water quality, and impaired riparian conditions. The solution to this problem is to remove juniper to allow improved cover of grasses, forbs and browse plants.

Years of Benefit

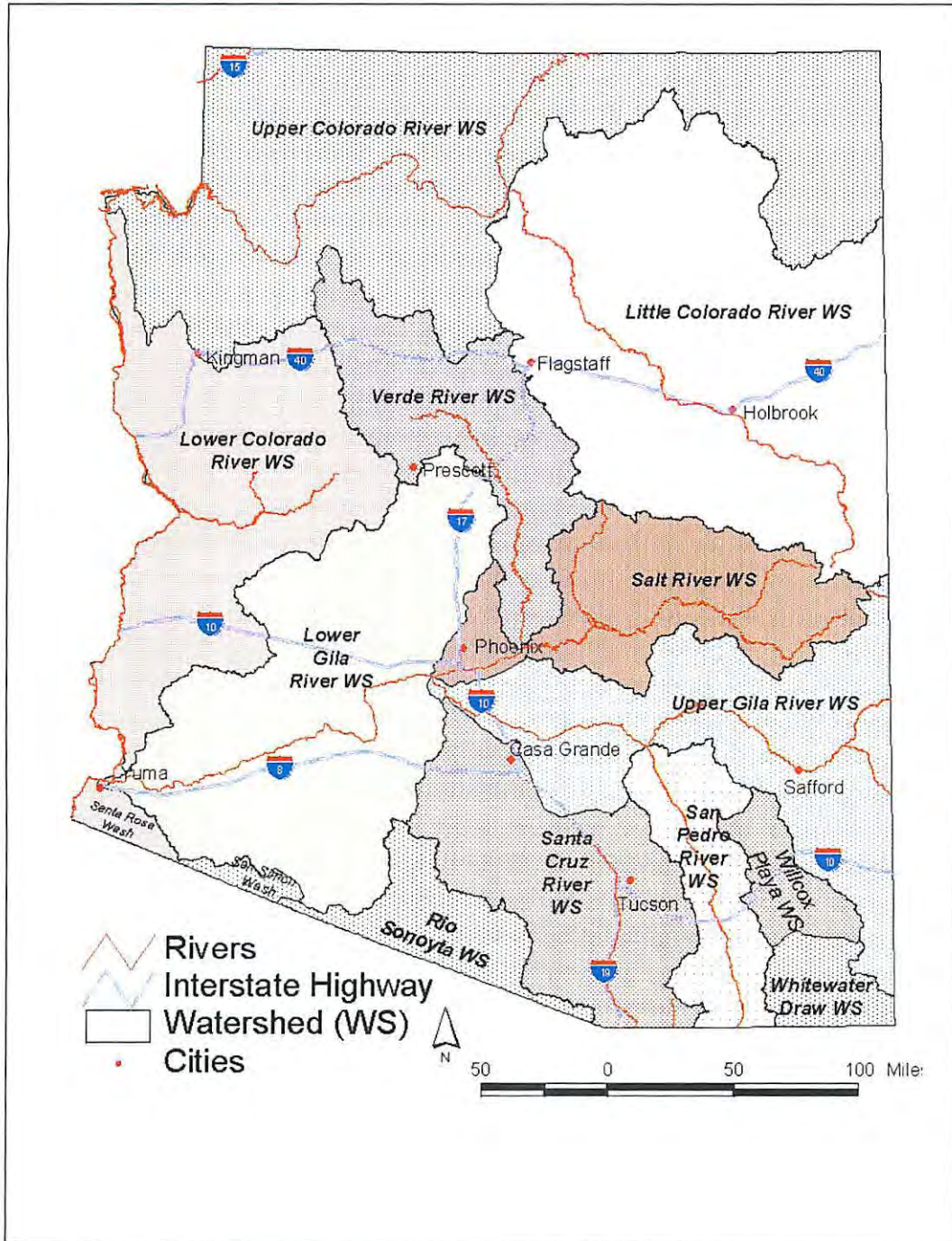
Research indicates years of benefit for brush removal are dependent on method of removal, ground cover seed source, precipitation, and soil type. However, average number of years are estimated at 10-20 years¹.

¹ Hester, Justin W., and Thomas L. Thurow, "Texas A&M Agrilife Extension- How an Increase or Reduction in Juniper Cover alters rangeland hydrology", texnat.tamu.edu/library

PROJECT LOCATION

AZ Watershed Map FY17

Project Location: Little Colorado River WS



Title of Project: A&NC Focal Area Watershed Improvement Project

Location: Township 12 & 13N – Range 26 & 27E

BENCHMARK MAP Southern Ranch

Date: 7/22/2016

Customer(s): J ALBERT BROWN RANCHES

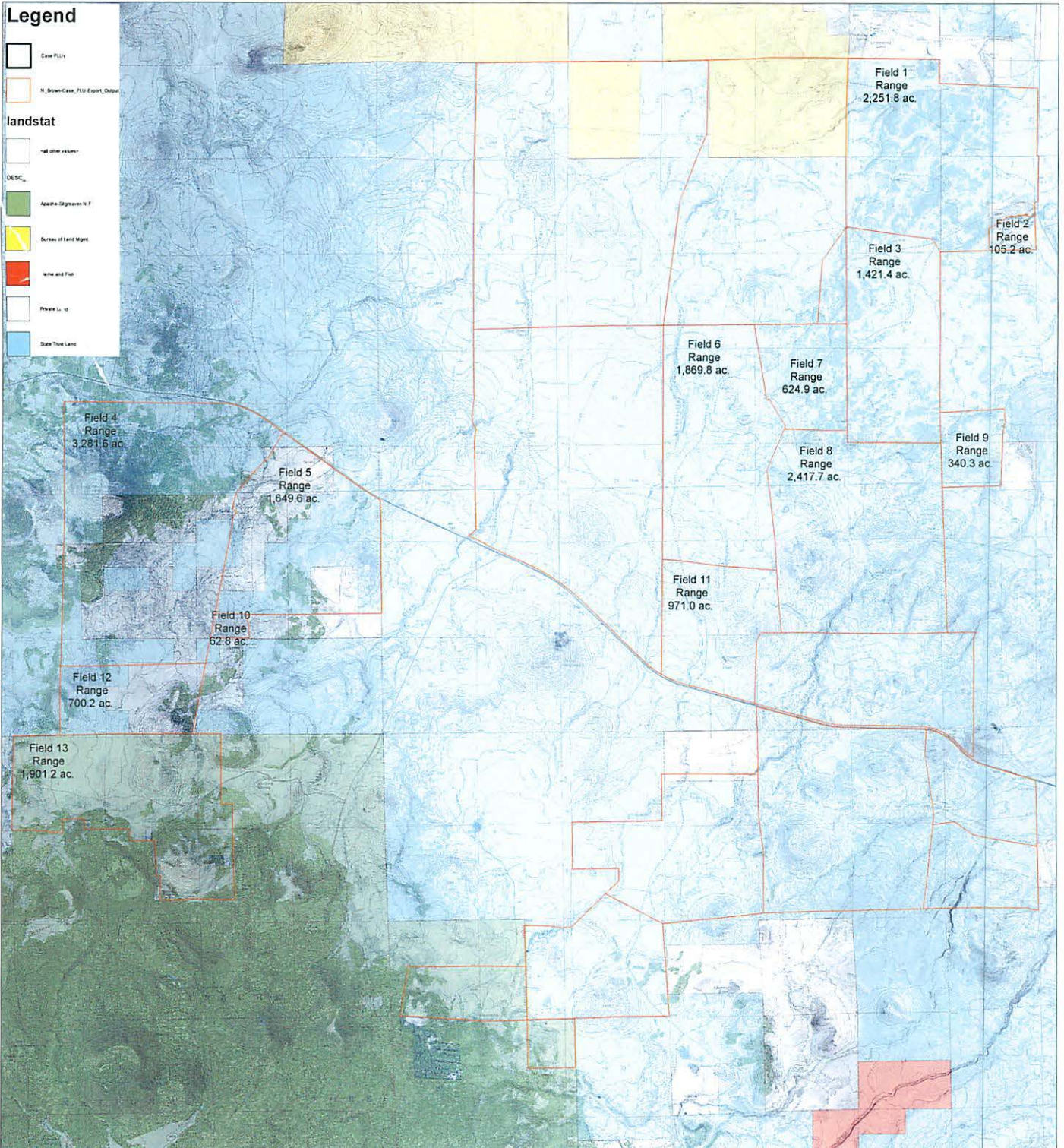
Field Office: SPRINGVILLE SERVICE CENTER

Agency: USDA-NRCS

State and County: AZ, Apache County, Arizona

Assisted By: THOMAS VANZANT

District: APACHE NRCD



SCOPE OF WORK

Task 1: Permits, Authorizations, Clearances and Agreements

Task Description: The Grantee must obtain and submit to the Project Manager all permits, authorizations, clearances and agreements, and perform any consultations necessary to complete the tasks listed in this Scope of Work. These **may** include but are not limited to:

- State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) clearance
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance
- Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation with US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Access agreement(s) between Grantee and Landowner(s)
- Contracts with contractors performing tasks
- Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification from Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
- Clean Water Act Section 404 permit from the Army Corps of Engineers

Task Purpose: To comply with all local, state and federal permit requirements, environmental laws such as NEPA and obtain legal access to project area.

Deliverable Description: Copies of all approved permits, authorizations, clearances and agreements.

Responsible personnel: Grantee Administrator

Deliverable Due Date: Prior to any ground disturbing activities

Reimbursable Cost: \$1,500.00

Matching Cost: \$1,500.00

Task 2: Mechanical Brush Control

Task Description: Contractor using approved mechanical methods will remove 1000 acres of moderate density infested juniper species within project area in year one of project.

Task Purpose: To improve rangeland watershed.

Deliverable Description: Targeted brush removed within project area. Photos from monitoring points showing completed project.

Deliverable Due Date: One year after WPF contract signed and accepted.

Reimbursable Cost: \$144,000.00

*Rate recommendation from NRCS Area Cost List - \$144.00 per acre at 75% of total cost moderate density removal.

Matching Cost: \$48,000.00

Task 3: Mechanical Brush Control

Task Description: Contractor using approved mechanical methods will remove 1000 acres of moderate density juniper species within project area in year two of project.

Task Purpose: To improve rangeland watershed.

Deliverable Description: Targeted brush removed within project area. Photos from monitoring points showing completed project.

Deliverable Due Date: Two years after WPF contract signed and approved.

Reimbursable Cost: \$144,000.00

*Rate recommendation from NRCS Area Cost List - \$144.00 per acre at 75% of total cost moderate density removal.

Matching Funds: \$48,000.00

Task 4: Project Area Workshop

Task Description: Grantee, Permittee, and Apache NRCDC will offer public workshop on project.

Task Purpose: Provide education and training regarding project technical information, successes, and challenges.

Deliverable Description: Photos, Registration Sheet, Agenda

Deliverable Due Date: Two years after WPF contract signed and approved.

Reimbursable Cost: 0

Matching Funds: \$5,000.00

Task 5: Administration

Task Description: Grantee Administration will provide Project reporting, Financial reporting, Payment Requests, documentation, and Project Site Support.

Task Purpose: To make sure project is completed on time and in compliance with all Grant requirements.

Deliverable Description: Reports submitted upon completion of tasks with payment requests.

Deliverable Due Date: After completion of each Task.

Reimbursable Cost: \$14,475.00

Matching Funds: \$18,000.00

DETAILED BUDGET

2. Outside Services - Consultant/Contracting Fees					
Name and Type of Consultant	No.	Rate of Compensation	Grant Funds	Match / Cost Share (if any)	Total
Task 1: Permits, Authorizations, Clearances and Agreements	40	\$ 75.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 3,000.00
Task 2: Mechanical Brush Control*	1000	\$ 192.00	\$ 144,000.00	\$ 48,000.00	\$ 192,000.00
Task 3: Mechanical Brush Control*	1000	\$ 192.00	\$ 144,000.00	\$ 48,000.00	\$ 192,000.00
Task 4: Project Area Workshop	66	\$ 75.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
*NRCS Cost Share Rate - \$144.00 per acre at 75% of total cost with \$48.00 per acre match from contracted Owner/Operator				\$ -	\$ -
				\$ -	\$ -
				\$ -	\$ -
				\$ -	\$ -
Subtotal			\$ 289,500.00	\$ 102,500.00	\$ 392,000.00

5. Administrative Costs					
Name and Type of Consultant	No.	Rate of Compensation	Grant Funds	Match / Cost Share (if any)	Total
Task 5: Administration - AACD	433	\$ 75.00	\$ 14,475.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 32,475.00
				\$ -	\$ -
				\$ -	\$ -
Subtotal			\$ 14,475.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 32,475.00

Totals			\$303,975.00	\$120,500.00	\$424,475.00
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Appendix: Supplemental Information

Please see the following pages for:

- State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Review Form
- Key Personnel
- Project Site Photographs
- Community Support
- Evidence of Control and Tenure of Land

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Review Form

In accordance with the State Historic Preservation Act (SHPO), A.R.S. 41-861 *et seq.*, effective July 24, 1982, each State agency must consider the potential of activities or projects to impact significant cultural resources. Also, each State agency is required to consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer with regard to those activities or projects that may impact cultural resources. Therefore, it is understood that **recipients of state funds are required to comply with this law** throughout the project period. All projects that affect the ground-surface that are funded by AWPf require SHPO clearance, **including those on private and federal lands.**

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) must review each grant application recommended for funding in order to determine the effect, if any, a proposed project may have on archaeological or cultural resources. To assist the SHPO in this review, the following information **MUST** be submitted with each application for funding assistance:

- A completed copy of this form, and
 - A United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5 minute map
 - A copy of the cultural resources survey report if a survey of the property has been conducted, and
 - A copy of any comments of the land managing agency/landowner (i.e., state, federal, county, municipal) on potential impacts of the project on historic properties.
- NOTE: If a federal agency is involved, the agency must consult with SHPO pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA); a state agency must consult with SHPO pursuant to the State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA),
- OR**
- A copy of SHPO comments if the survey report has already been reviewed by SHPO.

Please answer the following questions:

1. Grant Program: Watershed Protection Fund
2. Project Title: A&NC Focal Area Watershed Improvement Project
3. Applicant Name and Address: Arizona Association of Conservation Districts, P.O. Box 50518, Phoenix, Arizona 85076
4. Current Land Owner/Manager(s): Norman Brown
5. Project Location, including Township, Range, Section: T 12&13N R 26 & 27E Section Multiple
6. Total Project Area in Acres (or total miles if trail): 2000
7. Does the proposed project have the potential to disturb the surface and/or subsurface of the ground? YES NO
8. Please provide a brief description of the proposed project and specifically identify any surface or subsurface impacts that are expected: Mechanical Brush Control
9. Describe the condition of the current ground surface within the entire project boundary area (for example, is the ground in a natural undisturbed condition, or has it been bladed, paved, graded,

Project Location & Environmental Contaminant Information FY 2017

Project Location Information

1. County: <u>Apache</u>	2. Section: <u>Multiple</u>	3. Township: <u>12 & 13N</u>	4. Range: <u>26 & 27E</u>
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5. Watershed: Little Colorado River

6. 8 or 10 Digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC): 150200

7. Name of USGS Topographic Map where project area is located: St. John North & South Map Included

8. State Legislative District: 07

(Information available at: <http://azredistricting.org/districtlocator/>)

9. Land ownership of project area: Arizona State Land

10. Current land use of project area: Agriculture - Grazing Permit

11. Size of project area (in acres): 2000

12. Stream Name: Wildcat Creek & Mallory

13. Length of stream through project area: 12 Miles

14. Miles of stream benefited: _____ miles

15. Acres of riparian habitat: _____ acres will be:

- Enhanced
- Maintained
- Restored
- Created

16. General description and/or delineation for the area of impact of the project within the watershed.

17. Provide directions to the project site from the nearest city or town. List any special access requirements:

Environmental Contaminant Location Information

1. Does your project site contain known environmental contaminants? YES NO If yes, please identify the contaminant(s) and enclose data about the location and levels of contaminants:

2. Are there known environmental contaminants in the project vicinity? YES NO If yes, please identify the contaminant(s) and enclose data about the location and levels of contaminants:

3. Are you asking for Arizona Water Protection Fund monies to identify whether or not environmental contaminants are present? YES NO

etc.). Estimate horizontal and vertical extent of existing disturbance. Also, attach photographs of project area to document condition: Undisturbed

10. Are there any known prehistoric and/or historic archaeological sites in or near the project area?
 YES NO

11. Has the project area been previously surveyed for cultural resources by a qualified archaeologist?
 YES NO UNKNOWN

If YES, submit a copy of the survey report. Please attach any comments on the survey report made by the managing agency and/or SHPO

12. Are there any buildings or structures (including mines, bridges, dams, canals, etc.), which are 50-years or older in or adjacent to the project area? YES NO

If YES, complete an Arizona Historic Property Inventory Form for each building or structure, attach it to this form and submit it with your application.

13. Is your project area within or near a historic district? YES NO

If YES, name of the district:

Please sign on the line below certifying all information provided for this application is accurate to the best of your knowledge.

William Dunn 10-13-16
Applicant Signature /Date

William Dunn
Applicant Printed Name

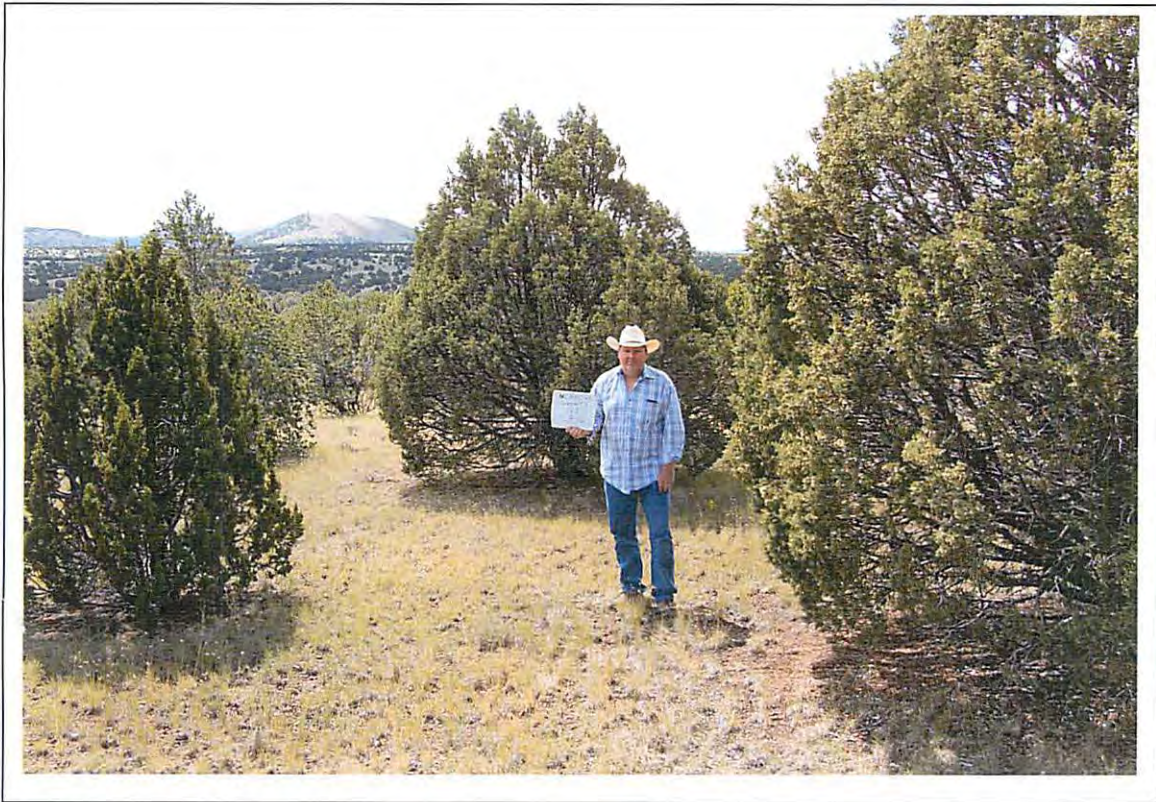
FOR SHPO USE ONLY	
SHPO Finding: <input type="checkbox"/> Funding this project will not affect historic properties. <input type="checkbox"/> Survey necessary – further GRANTS/SHPO consultation required (<i>grant funds will not be released until consultation has been completed</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural resources present – further GRANTS/SHPO consultation required (<i>grant funds will not be released until consultation has been completed</i>)	
SHPO Comments	
For State Historic Preservation Office:	Date:

KEY PERSONNEL

Steve Barker received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Resources in Agriculture, with a range management emphasis, from Arizona State University in 1982. Steve worked for 30 years with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service here in Arizona, retiring in November of 2012. His first three years were spent serving the Buckeye Valley and Gila Bend NRCs as a Soil Conservationist assisting farmers plan and implement conservation on irrigated cropland. He then moved to a Rangeland Management Specialist position at the Chandler Field Office and later at the Tucson Field Office serving the Winkelman, Tonto, East Maricopa, Gila River and Pima Conservation Districts. After a brief time in the Area Range position, Steve became the Arizona NRCS State Rangeland Management Specialist, working statewide with all of the Conservation Districts, state and federal agencies land management agencies, and regulatory agencies in Arizona. For his last 6 years with NRCS, Steve served on the Arizona NRCS leadership team as the State Resource Conservationist, leading the technical staff for Arizona NRCS. After retirement, Steve and his wife Jane started a consulting business, and they are actively involved in several research and training efforts at state and national levels. Steve is an active member of the Society for Range Management since 1980 and is an SRM Certified Professional in Rangeland Management.

Deborrah Smith is a rancher and range management consultant (Cascabel Ranch Consultants) living in Carta Valley, Texas. Deborrah graduated from the University of Arizona in 1992 with a Bachelor's degree in Natural Resources with a major in Range Management and a minor in Business. Deborrah then completed two years of graduate studies in Natural Resources with an emphasis in education. Deborrah worked as Assistant to the Executive Director Position and Board of Directors of the Arizona Association of Conservation Districts for over 15 years. Deborrah served on the State of Arizona Natural Resource Grant Selection committee for two years. Deborrah also competed on over 15 grants and was grant manager for ten grants over a 20 year period. Deborrah has experience in managing State of Arizona Watershed Protection Fund grants as well as Federal Grants from Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Bureau of Land Management. Certifications in Grant Management, Financial Grant Management, and Accounting.

PROJECT SITE PHOTOS



APACHE NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
823 E. Main St. – P O Box 329 - Springerville, Arizona 85938
Phone: 928-333-4941 ext. 3

Chairman - Daric Knight
Vice-Chairman - Macky Trickey, Jr.
Secretary - Terry Shobe
Treasurer - Don Lann
Member - Kevin Burk

Arizona Water Protection Fund
Grant selection Committee

October 12, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

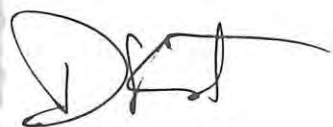
The Arizona Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) is applying for a grant through the Arizona Water Protection Fund. This grant should they receive it will help restore our State's Grasslands and Watersheds, leading to an increase in the quality and quantity of water that our State is in constant need of. Our Natural Resource Conservation District is involved in several projects and grant programs directly related to water quality and quantity. We fully realize the need to continually draw in funding to complete these large "Landscape" type projects.

Our District has worked cooperatively with AACD in initiating the "Arizona BLM Landscape Enhancement Collaborative" that is beginning to address grassland and watershed health. The Apache Natural Resource Conservation District fully supports AACD in progressing these programs and looks forward to continuing to work cooperatively in restoring and conserving the water and other natural resources in the State of Arizona.

The Apache Natural Resource Conservation District fully supports AACD being awarded an Arizona Water Protection Fund Grant, and looks forward to cooperating with them and partnering in any way possible.

Thank you for your consideration of AACD.

Respectfully,



Daric Knight, Chairman

Apache County District III

Post Office Box 428
St. Johns, AZ 85936-0428
Office: (928) 337-7504
Fax: (928) 337-7636



Barry G. Weller
Supervisor District III
Cell: (480) 313-4833

October 13, 2016

Arizona Water Protection Fund
Grant Selection Committee
1110 W. Washington, Suite 310
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Committee Members:

The Arizona Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) is applying for a grant through the Arizona Water Protection Fund. This grant should they receive it will help restore our State's Grasslands and Watersheds, leading to an increase in the quality and quantity of water that our State is in constant need of. Apache County is involved in several partnerships and projects directly related to water quality and quantity. We fully realize the need to continually locate funding to complete these large "Landscape" type projects.

Our County is working cooperatively with AACD in initiating the "Arizona BLM Landscape Enhancement Collaborative" that is beginning to address grassland and watershed health. Apache County fully supports AACD in this partnership and in these programs and projects and looks forward to continuing to work cooperatively in restoring and conserving the water and other natural resources in the State of Arizona.

Apache County fully supports AACD being awarded an Arizona Water Protection Fund Grant, and looks forward to cooperating with them and partnering in any way possible.

Thank you for your consideration of AACD.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry G. Weller".

Barry G. Weller
Apache County
District III Supervisor

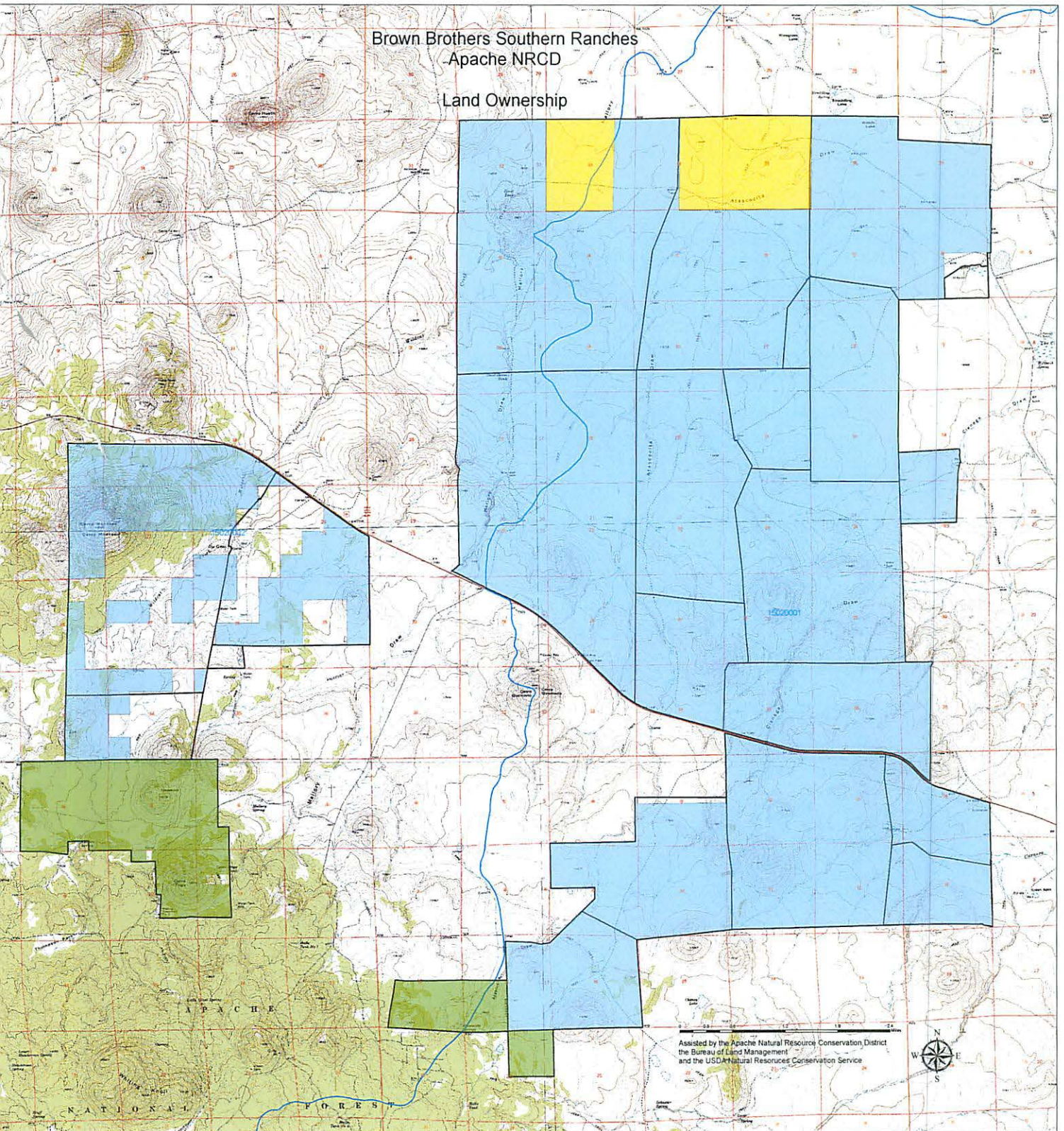
To whom it may concern,

Our ranch company owns and or controls approximately 70,000 acres in Apache County. We have plans to remove juniper trees to improve grazing for livestock and wildlife. Those properties include deeded land and also land we control with leases and permits. We support any plans to assist us with the projects. I am authorized as president to move forward with the planned projects.

Norman Brown
President, J. Albert Brown Ranches, Inc

See Attached Maps

Brown Brothers Southern Ranches
Apache NRC
Land Ownership



Assisted by the Apache Natural Resource Conservation District
the Bureau of Land Management
and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

