

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

PROJECT INFORMATION	
Project Title: Park Tank Juniper Maintenance	Project No. 08-602
Region/GMU: Region 6/GMU 23	HPC: Payson Natural Resource Committee
Project Type: Mechanical Thinning (Agra-Axe)	
Project Description: This project will involve a cooperative funding effort to aid the U.S. Forest Service in restoring grassland habitat through juniper removal on approximately 350 acres below McFadden Peak in Game Management Unit 23 South.	
Wildlife Species to Benefit: White Tail (50%) Elk (50%)	
Possible Funding Partners:	
Implementation Schedule: Beginning: June 1, 2009 Completed: May 31, 2010	
PROJECT FUNDING	
SBG Funds Requested: \$7,000	
Cost Share Funds: \$33,980	
Total Project Costs: \$40,980	
PARTICIPANT INFORMATION	
Applicant: Jarrod McFarlin, Wildlife Manager	Address: Arizona Game & Fish Dept. 7200 E. University Mesa, AZ 85207
Telephone: 928-479-2150	
AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel)	
Coordinated with: Jared Whitmer, USFS, Tonto National Forest, Pleasant Valley Ranger District, Dan Fenn, Buzzard Roost Allotment Permittee	
Applicant's signature:	Date:

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

NEED STATEMENT/PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

The plant community of the project area and its surrounding areas has become primarily pinon/juniper woodland. Junipers that need to be removed have invaded this historical grassland, making it much less valuable for wildlife by reducing forage and edge effect. The removal of junipers would be accomplished through the use of an agra-axe. After the junipers have been removed and dried for a season, the slash would need to be burned, which will enhance grass and forb production. It is recommended that grazing be deferred for at least one growing season after the area has been treated and burned. This will allow grasses to become established in the project area once again. The project area is located in a large area that is lacking much open grassland, which is much needed for wildlife. There are limited areas that lend themselves to proceeding with a project such as this due to several factors, including rough terrain and bad roads. Fire is about the only other habitat enhancement that can be done in this particular block of country and prescribed fires are difficult to administrate due to the threat of fire to nearby spotted owl habitat.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The objective of this project is to reestablish a grassland habitat withan edge effect of 2 habitat types, which is attractive and beneficial to wildlife. This objective will be accomplished by using an agra-axe (hydraulic tree-shear) to remove junipers. This proposal is requesting about 18% of the cost for on-the-ground work associated with the operation of the Buzzard Roost Permittee owned agra-axe to remove junipers. Funding will cover operation and fuel costs of the permittee owned machine.

PROJECT STRATEGIES:

Use an agra-axe to remove junipers on approximately 350 acres of historic grassland.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The project location is located approximately 2 miles southwest of McFadden Peak in Game management Unit 23 (T7N, R13E, S34, 35 & T6N, R13E, S2,3). See attached map.



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

The land in the project area is managed by the United States Forest Service, Tonto National Forest, Pleasant Valley Ranger District.

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

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

The plant community in the area is pinon/juniper woodland with some grassland interspersed. The elevation ranges from 5,800 to 6,000 feet. Key species include various grasses, alligator juniper, pinon pine, a few ponderosa pine and various woody shrub species.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Park Tank Juniper Maintenance

COOPERATOR AND PROJECT COMPONENT	COST SHARE DOLLARS AVAILABLE	SBG FUNDS REQUESTED
Arizona Game & Fish Dept. (SBG funds) ► Fund fuel costs associated with operation of the agra-axe. Calculated at 350 acres @ \$20/acre.		\$7,000
Arizona Game & Fish Department ► Provide in-kind labor to write proposal, coordinate project, complete report, etc. Calculated as seven days @ \$140/day.	\$980	
USDA-Tonto Natl. Forest, Pleasant Valley Ranger District ► Provide administrative support, including labor/funding to produce NEPA and archeological clearances.	\$5,000	
Dan Fenn, Buzzard Roost Allotment Permittee ► Provide agra-axe and total labor. Calculated at 350 acres @ \$80/acre	\$28,000	
Totals:	\$33,980	\$7,000

Total Project Cost =\$40,980

Ratio of Cost-Share Dollars:SBG Funds =1/ 4.85

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

Arizona Game & Fish Department – Special Big Game Funds

- ▶ Provide funding for fuel cost associated with 350 acres of juniper cutting with an agra-axe
- ▶ Provide in-kind contributions in the form of labor for contract administration, project origination, and coordination.

U.S. Forest Service, Tonto Natl. Forest, Pleasant Valley Ranger District

- ▶ Provide administrative support in the form of necessary NEPA and archeological clearances.
- ▶ Provide letter of approval for implementation of project (see attachment).
- ▶ Provide on-the-ground boundary marking.

Dan Fenn, Buzzard Roost Allotment Permittee

- ▶ Provide agra-axe.
- ▶ Provide labor for 350 acres of juniper cut.

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

The project proponent will ensure project completion with coordination between the Arizona Game & Fish Department and Pleasant Valley Ranger District. There will be no long-term monitoring required, other than incidental field observations by the Arizona Game & Fish Department and the Forest Service to note the effects of the project and the need for future projects.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

There will be no maintenance required by this project.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

The project proponent will file a completion report by June, 2010

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

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:

**Game Branch
2221 W. Greenway Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85023
mdisney@azgfd.gov**

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT TREE SHEARING WORKSHEET

PROJECT NAME: Park Tank Juniper Maintenance

- 1) **What is the estimated acreage of the project?**
350 acres.
- 2) **How are the trees to be cleared?**
agra axe
- 3) **What is the estimated number of trees per acre?**
50-60
- 4) **Describe trees to be cleared:**
Alligator or Utah Juniper, Less than 8 inches dbh, multi-stem.
- 5) **Describe terrain (slope, soil type, rocks, etc.)**
Flat or gentle slope with moderate rock coverage, although some areas have more rocks.
- 6) **Please list any special land management status for the project site (i.e. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument, etc). 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

Is the site relatively accessible for tree shearing equipment? YES NO

Please describe any restrictions to public access: The drive in and out of the project area is a fairly long 4-wheel drive road.