

**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](http://www.hr.az.gov/HR_Professional/Class_Comp/PDF/alphacovered.pdf)

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

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