

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

HPC Project Number:	17-202
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PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Babbitt Ranches – CO Bar Ranch – Cedar Wash Area Habitat Restoration	
Region and Game Management Unit: AGFD Region 2, Game Management Unit 7	
Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC): •	Was the project presented to the LHPC? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Has this project been submitted in previous years? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, was it funded? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> → Funded HPC Project #(s):	
Project Type: Habitat restoration by mechanical treatment (mastication)	
Brief Project Summary: Invading junipers and pinyon pine trees will be removed from grassland and savannah areas in the Cedar Wash area of the CO Bar Ranch to return the treated area to its former forage and browse production potential. The project fall within Game Management Unit 7. The encroachment of pinyon and juniper trees is identified as a priority 1 issue in the MFA for the game management unit.	
Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit:	

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year): <u>Project Start Date:</u> June 15, 2017 <u>Project End Date:</u> September 30, 2017	Environmental Compliance: NEPA Completed: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Projected Completion Date: _____ State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Projected Completion Date: _____ Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To be Completed by: <u>S. Cassidy</u> Projected Completion Date: <u>CAW submitted to PEP for review 5/16</u>
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PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:	\$ 30,000
Cost Share or Matching Funds:	\$
Total Project Costs:	\$ 30,000

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print): ██████████	Address: Babbitt Ranches ██████████ ██████████	E-mail: ██████████
Telephone: ██████████		Date: May 4, 2017

AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel): Steve Cassidy, FOR2 LRPS

Project has been coordinated with:

Arizona State Land Department

Arizona Game and Fish Department

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

Here, as well as over much of the southwestern United States, juniper and pinyon pine trees have encroached into former grasslands and savannahs, resulting in reduced diversity and total production of grasses, forbs and shrubs as well as smaller, more fragmented blocks of grassland habitat.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The purpose of this project is to increase both the diversity and production of grasses, forbs and shrubs thereby increasing the available forage and browse for big game species as well as reducing fragmentation of grassland and savannah habitat.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

Babbitt Ranches has obtained approval from the Arizona State Land Department to remove invading juniper and pinyon trees on approximately 2,234 acres of Arizona State Trust lands in the Cedar Wash area. These trees will be removed through mechanical treatment (mastication) utilizing rubber tired equipment.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The project is located on Babbitt Ranches' CO Bar Ranch in the Cedar Wash area in Sections 32 and 33 of T 26N R6E; Sections 4, 9 and 16 of T25N R6E.

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

(if the project area is private property, please state specifically and provide the landowner's name)

- Arizona State Trust

IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A COOPERATIVE BIG GAME STEWARDSHIP or LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?
YES[] NO[] N/A[]

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

Colorado Plateau Woodland Grassland on rolling grassland and savannahs adjacent to PJ slopes. Vegetation consists of galleta grass, blue grama, bottlebrush squirreltail, fourwing saltbush, and globemallow.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

The Big Game License Tag Funds will be used to hire a contractor to perform mastication of invading trees.

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

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

Babbitt Ranches – coordinate activity associated with the project, obtain approval from ASLD, manage area to enhance wildlife habitat.

Arizona State Land Department – provide approval to implement the project.

Arizona Game and Fish Department – provide guidance to Babbitt ranches on project prescription.

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

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

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

The implementation phase of the project will be monitored by Babbitt Ranches staff as well as the AGFD Region 2 LRPS. Project completion will be certified by the AGFD Region 2 LRPS.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

Long term maintenance need will be determined and conducted by personnel from Babbitt Ranches and Arizona Game and Fish Department.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Babbitt Ranches

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: Babbitt Ranches – CO Bar Ranch – Cedar Wash Area Habitat Restoration

- 1) **What is the estimated acreage of the project?**
2,234 acres
- 2) **How are the trees going to be cleared? (agra axe, chain saw, grubbing, push, chaining):**
Mastication with rubber tired equipment
- 3) **What is the estimated number of trees per acre?**
Within the project area are large areas, in total making up approximately 1000 acres, with few to no trees. These areas were included in the application to the ASLD to ensure any small trees found within these areas could be treated as well as those in the more dense area. The average number of trees per acre in the more heavily treed portion of the project area is approximately 85 trees per acre.
- 4) **Describe trees to be cleared (species, estimated diameter, single stem, multi-stem):**
The trees to be cleared are predominantly one seed juniper, but a few pinyon pine occur within the project area and will be removed as well.
- 5) **Describe terrain (slope, soil type, rocks)**
The terrain is flat to gently sloping, with occasional basalt rock outcrops. The soil surface is predominantly rock free, but basalt rocks and cobbles occasionally occur on the soil surface.
- 6) **Please list any special land management status for the project site (e.g. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument). If private land, list landowner.**
The project area is adjacent to the Cedar Ranch conservation easement.
- 7) **Please provide the following information about access to the proposed site:**
Type of access (mark one): 2x4 vehicles 4x4 only Foot**

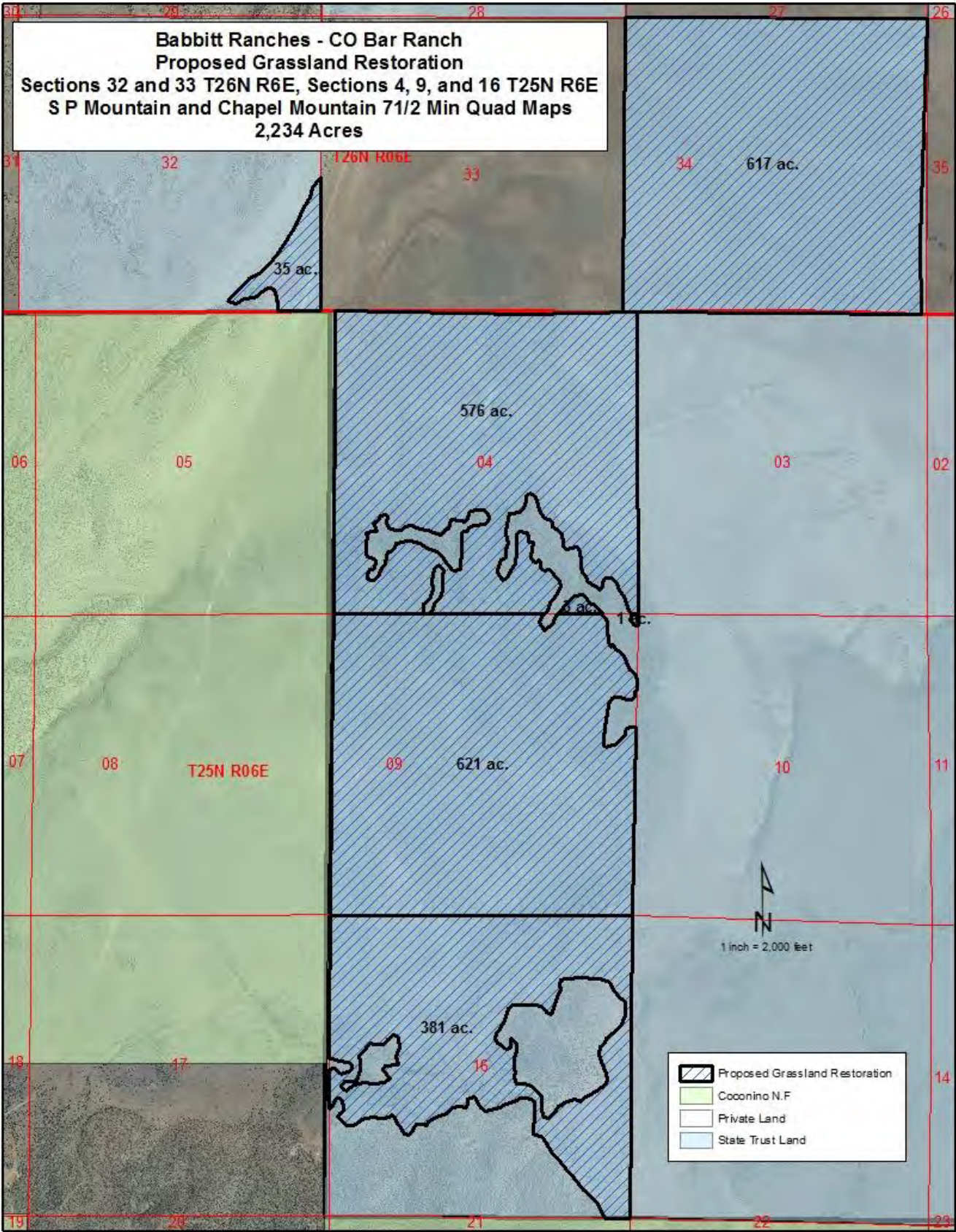
**If foot access only: Distance in miles: Approx. hiking time:

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

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

Please describe any restrictions to public access:

Attachment A
Project Area Map



Pretreatment Photo

