

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

HPC Project Number:

17-611

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Round Valley Grassland Restoration		
Game Management Unit:	22	Region:	6
Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):	Was the project presented to the LHPC?		
Payson Natural Resources Committee	Yes		
Project Location: (Please provide lat/long in decimal degrees or meters of project area using datum WGS84 or NAD83. If project is larger than one point, please include them all. Provide an accompanying shapefile as an attachment for the project area).			
The project consists of 1857 acres just south of Payson and East of Hwy 87 near the Round Valley Community.			
Project Type:	Grassland restoration		
Water Project Action (if applicable):			
Habitat Restoration Action (if applicable):	Juniper and other woody species mastication		
Other Project Type and Action (if applicable):			
Has this project been submitted in previous years?	No		
PROJECT SUMMARY			
Describe the proposed action only. Please use plain English, what action are you proposing? (If applicable, please reference any completed compliance including EAC#).			
Brief Project Summary: This project will use a mechanical masticator to restore 1857 acres of historic grasslands. The masticator will grind invasive juniper trees and other woody species down to ground level. This project has 62% match and will not only benefit multiple big game species, it will also help serve as a fire break around a small community south of Payson and benefit the Houston Creek watershed. This project will also dovetail nicely with part of another project (Pine-Hog canyon tank repair). Three of the tanks to be repaired are either inside or directly adjacent to the mastication area (see maps).			
Primary Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit:	Elk 60%, Mule Deer 25%, White Tail 15%		
Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year)	START DATE: 3/1/18	COMPLETION DATE: 8/30/18	

PROJECT FUNDING

Project Funding	Itemized Use of Funds
<p>*Qualifying Cost Share should be restricted to support (materials, compliance, and or labor) of the proposed action ONLY (same time and place). Please do not include previously purchased supplies or past completed work.</p>	<p>Please email separate quotes if HPC funds are to be used to purchase materials or contracted labor: HPC@azgfd.gov.</p>
<p><u>HPC Funds Requested</u></p> <p>Amount: \$259,350</p> <p><u>Cost Share or Matching Funds</u></p> <p>Amount: \$428,365</p> <p><u>Percent Match</u> 62%</p> <p><u>Total Project Cost</u></p> <p>Amount: \$687,715</p>	<p>HPC Funds- \$259,350 Pay for mastication contractor</p> <p>WHEI Funds- \$50,000 Pay for mastication contractor</p> <p>AZSFWC- \$20,000 Are being requested for mastication.</p> <p>USFS- \$274,800 Pay for mastication contractor and contract administration.</p> <p>USFS- \$83,565 Pay for Archeological clearances (completed)</p>

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

Please indicate the status of the Project's compliance. if you are unsure, please reference:

HPC Compliance Checklist (<https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife/hpc/forms/>).

If you have questions regarding the requirement of an EAC, contact AGFD's Project Evaluation Program:

(<https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife/planning/projevalprogram/>).

***Please email supporting compliance documents to HPC@azgfd.gov ***

AGFD EA Checklist Completed:		Completion Date:	
NEPA Completed:	Yes	Completion Date:	
State Historic Preservation Office/ Archaeological Clearance:	Yes	Completion Date:	

CONTACT INFORMATION

Applicant

The project applicant is the responsible party for seeing the work through to completion.

APPLICANT NAME:

Dave Daniels

PHONE: 480-528-8774

ORGANIZATION:

AZGFD

EMAIL: ddaniels@azgfd.gov

ADDRESS: 7200 E University Mesa AZ 85207

AGFD Project Proponent

The Project Proponent is responsible for compliance, implementation, and annual/final reporting requirements.

AGFD CONTACT NAME: Dave Daniels

PHONE: 480-528-8774

Cooperators

COOPERATOR NAME(S), ORGANIZATION, ROLE IN PROJECT:

United States Forest Service, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Initiative, Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation

PROJECT NEED AND DESCRIPTION

Please use direct language: why is this project important? What problem will be solved? How will you implement it, and how will the habitat be enhanced? Please include # of acres, methods, roles, and any phases. Please be specific and thorough.

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

The area south of Payson and East of Hwy 87 has become overgrown with invasive juniper trees and other brushy species over the course of many years. Removing these invasive species will revert the area back to historic grasslands. This will greatly benefit wildlife, reduce the wildfire potential and help improve the Houston Creek watershed. With over 60% matching funds already committed all HPC funds will go directly to the mastication of invasive species.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

Grind 1857 acres of invasive juniper trees and other brush down to ground level with a mechanical masticator. This will restore historic grasslands for the benefit of wildlife and a nearby watershed.

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

The land is managed by The US Forest Service, Tonto National Forest, Payson Ranger District

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

The Payson Ranger District fuels team will monitor the project

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

The Payson Ranger District fuels team will maintain the project

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Dave Daniels along with the Payson Ranger District

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS LIST:

attached

File Code: 5100

Date: 08/25/2017

Route To:

Subject: Round Valley Juniper Grassland Mastication

To: Whom it may concern

The Forest Service has completed 100% Archeological Clearance for the Round Valley Juniper Grassland Mastication project. Having 100% Archeological clearance will allow for the use of mechanized equipment to perform the needed restoration work. This project area also has completed NEPA that falls under the Payson EA. This project is shovel ready.

Sincerely;

/s/ Jeremy Plain

Jeremy Plain
North Zone Fire Management Officer
Tonto National Forest

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