



Department of the Interior Recovery Investments *Investing in America's Economic Recovery*



Las Cienegas National Conservation Area Mesquite Stewardship Project

Need

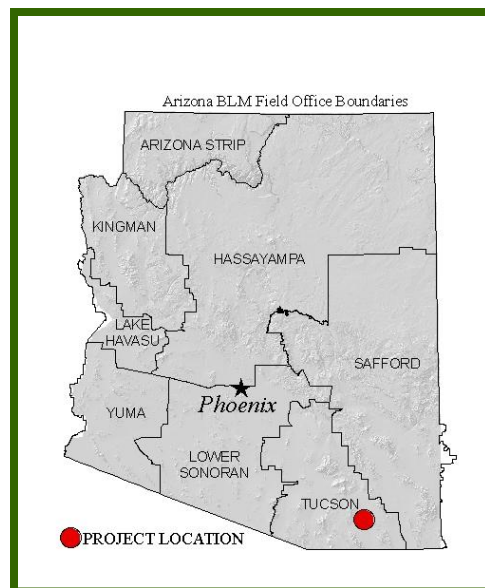
The grasslands found within the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (LCNCA) have degraded over the last 100 years into mesquite woodlands. The loss of grassland has reduced the available habitat for pronghorn antelope, encouraged erosion, reduced watershed function, and reduced available habitat for other various grassland species. The BLM's Las Cienegas National Conservation Area Mesquite Stewardship Project, an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) project, will restore approximately 20,000 acres of degraded grassland.

Recovery Act Funding

Recovery Act funding will be utilized to implement a number of contracts for cultural resource surveys (4,800 acres) and mechanical thinning of mesquite (1,300 acres) within the 20,000 restoration area. To date, contracts for this BLM-Arizona ARRA project were awarded to Paleowest for \$10,101, William Self Associates for \$34,075, and Harris Environmental for \$31,800 for cultural resource surveys. Award of mechanical thinning contracts is anticipated in late April 2010.

Benefits

The project will restore proper living conditions for pronghorn antelope and rare migratory and grassland birds. Removal of the mesquite trees from the area will also help stabilize the regional watershed by capturing more rainwater, which will eliminate unnatural soil erosion. Approximately 3,700 tons of mesquite firewood and mill wood will be harvested and made available to local biomass use markets. This project will provide employment for local heavy equipment contractors and archaeological firms. This project is one of the first steps in a restoration project on the LCNCA grassland that will take many years to complete.



More Information

For more information about this BLM ARRA project, contact Dan Quintana, BLM Gila District Fuels Program Manager, at 928-348-4525 or daniel_quintana@blm.gov; or the BLM-Arizona ARRA Coordinator at 602-417-9576.