



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



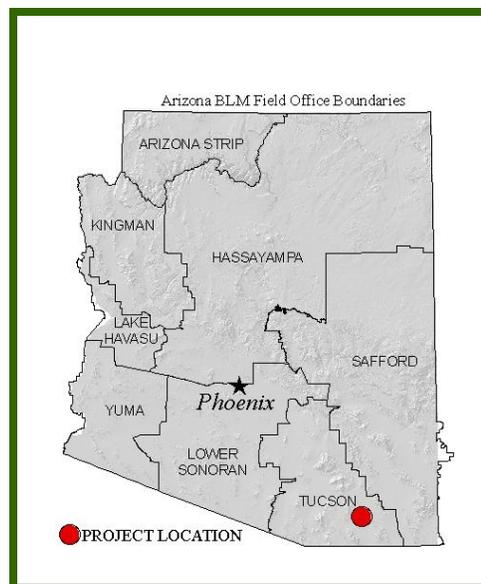
## Las Cienegas National Conservation Area Mesquite Stewardship Project

### 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. Once completed, this project will restore approximately 20,000 acres of degraded grassland.

### Recovery Act Funding

Contracts for cultural resource surveys were awarded to Paleowest for \$29,868, William Self Associates for \$34,075, Harris Environmental for \$31,800 and Tierra Right of Way for \$54,200. Mechanical thinning contracts were awarded to Ganem/Houston LLC (\$212,277), Metro Landscape (\$332,000) and was awarded to Basin Tree Service (\$640,880). In total, 9,939 acres of Class III Cultural Inventory and 3,557 acres of mechanical mesquite reduction will be accomplished with ARRA funds. A 22-person crew made up of young adults treated 196 acres of mesquite in areas that are inaccessible by equipment.



### 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 contact Dan Quintana, BLM Gila District Fuels Program Manager, at 928-348-4525; or the BLM-Arizona ARRA Coordinator at 602-417-9576.