



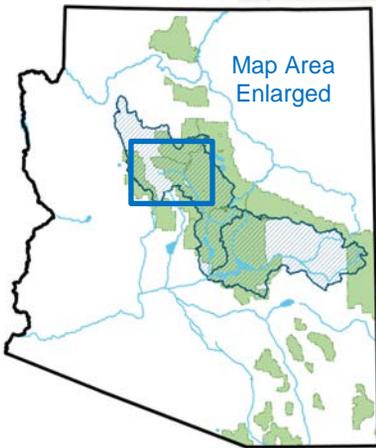
Chino Valley Grassland Restoration and Erosion Control Project

The Chino Valley Grassland Restoration and Erosion Control Project Overview

The Chino Valley Grassland Restoration and Erosion Control Project sits in the Upper Verde River watershed, less than half a mile from the Verde River, near the small community of Drake. The project aims to restore some of Arizona's most important grassland ecosystems and improve hydrologic function in the headwaters of the Verde River. Grasslands encompass a large portion of the Prescott National Forest and are vital to the area's ecology. Grasslands slow water runoff by soaking up and storing precipitation, and also serving as vital habitat corridors for the region's wildlife. In 2017, the Northern Arizona Forest Fund will support woodland thinning activities to remove juniper trees encroaching on approximately 350 acres of native grasslands.

Encroaching juniper trees are increasing in density, and grasslands are shifting to woodland ecosystems. Dense juniper stands reduce light and water availability, leading to the decline of native grasses and herbaceous plants. The loss of this native understory increases surface runoff, which in turn increases erosion into nearby tributaries.

Chino Valley Project Area



National Forests and Watersheds in Arizona





Chino Valley Grassland Restoration and Erosion Control Project

Project Approach

Youth conservation crews with chainsaws will thin junipers trees. Following tree removal, native grass seeds and mulch will be applied to encourage rapid grassland recovery. Thinning will encourage the growth and re-establishment of native grasslands. By increasing native grasses, this project will reduce soil erosion and sedimentation into the headwaters of the Verde River. Restoring grassland improves wildlife habitat; specifically, this project will improve habitat for mule deer and pronghorn that use this area as winter migration corridor and for birds of prey like, kestrel, red-tail hawks, and northern harriers that rely on grasslands as foraging habitat.

Cost

The costs to implement and monitor results of the project total approximately \$65,000. With your investment, we can begin implementing these treatments and protect important watersheds and grasslands in the Upper Verde River watershed.

Location

Chino Valley Grasslands – Prescott National Forest – Verde River Watershed



Investment in watershed restoration through the Northern Arizona Forest Fund protects vital water supplies and shows your commitment to environmental stewardship in the landscape that serves your business and community.

For more information contact:

Rebecca Davidson at (720) 437-0290, rdavidson@nationalforests.org

Jonah Roehl at (602) 236-6617, jonah.roehl@srpnet.com or Sharon Kausal at (602) 236-2955,

sharon.kausal@srpnet.com