**Collaborative Watershed Restoration in the Chiricahua Mountains, Arizona**

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Water resources are becoming increasingly scarce in the arid Sky Island Region of southern Arizona. Severe fires followed by intense monsoon precipitation alter streams, springs and entire watersheds in rapid and sometimes catastrophic ways. Burned areas that receive no rehabilitative treatment experience destructive erosion due to lack of ecosystem recovery. Partners have undertaken a watershed restoration project in burned (Tex Canyon) and unburned (Bar Boot Allotment) watersheds in the southern Chiricahua Mountains that will inform future ecological restoration in arid lands. Treatments included installation of loose rock erosion control structures in drainages to increase ecosystem resilience to climate change. Structures were installed collaboratively by the USFS Douglas Ranger District, Arizona Department of Corrections, Sky Island Alliance, and through a youth program with local high school students managed by Borderlands Restoration. Partners are monitoring the effects that these structures have on soil moisture and short and long-vegetation response. The Coronado National Forest is planning to use results of this project to increase the scope and scale of this type of watershed restoration in the Douglas Ranger District.