



# Reporting Our Progress in Caring for the Land and Serving People



## Landscape Winter Range Restoration Initiative Wildlife, Fuels, Timber, and Watershed FY2012 Accomplishments Apache Sitgreaves National Forests, Southwestern Region

**State:** Arizona

**Congressional District:** 1<sup>st</sup>

**Accomplishments:**

- Restoration treatment of over 23,000 acres of thinning and prescribed burning of degraded winter range habitat.
- Improved winter range habitat conditions of deer, turkey, antelope, elk, and various non-game species.
- Treatments complimented and contributed to the Regional goal of restoring fire adapted ecosystems.
- Treatments contributed to improvements in watershed and range conditions.
- Established long term partnerships with eight organizations.
- Treatment slash was used by Snowflake Power to generate electricity.

**Forest Service Contribution:** \$70,000

**Partner Contribution:** \$400,000

**Project Costs:** \$700,000

**External Partners:** Arizona Elk Society, Rocky Mountain, Elk Foundation, Eastern Arizona Resource Advisory Committee, Antelope Foundation, Mule Deer Foundation, Snowflake Power, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Habitat Partnership Committee.

**Internal Partners:** Wildlife, Fire, and Timber

In 1997, the Springerville Ranger District in cooperation with the Habitat Partnership Committee (a committee of sportsmen, state and federal natural resource specialists, and livestock permittees) agreed that poor winter range conditions were the most significant limiting factor impacting pronghorn antelope, elk, mule deer, and wild turkey habitat conditions across the District. As a result, the group partnered to develop a landscape-scale strategy to restore and improve winter range conditions for these species district-wide. To date approximately 25 grants have been awarded valued at over \$700,000 from seven partners with over 23,000 acres thinned and prescribed burned out of a total of 50,000 acres planned for restoration over time. In FY2012 \$70,000 was contributed by partners to thin 500 acres and prescribe burn 2,100 acres. In 2012, a new partnership was established with Snowflake Power to use the slash from restoration treatments as biomass to generate electricity, further enhancing treatment results by creating openings and restoring grassland conditions at little to no cost to the Forest Service.



*Before restoration treatments.*



*Immediately after thinning and removal of small trees.  
Note: reduction in small tree densities and restoration of open grassland habitat.*

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