

Altar Valley Watershed Plan

Project Description: Prescribed fire "Pipeline"

Project description: Build from the Community Wildfire Protection Plans, ranch prescribed burn plans, and Fire Operations Plan to identify areas on which to implement prescribed fire if/when opportunities arise.

Potential project partners (*indicate possible co-leads if known*): Private landowners*, AVCA,* Altar Valley Fire Coordination Group*, AZ DFFM, Pima County, USFWS

Purpose of the project: Overall goals and/or objectives of the project as you see them.

This project would identify areas in need of prescribed fire throughout the Valley so that they can be planned by the appropriate partners. It would be a tool to reference if and when the resources and conditions arose for a burn.

This project is separate from the Fire Operations Plan, which provides guidance to fire managers on incidents in a given season; rather, it proactively outlines areas for which burn plans need to be created and burns implemented. It also complements the Altar Valley brush Treatment Corridor, but may include areas that are outside of a larger "corridor."

Relationship to goals/desired conditions of the Watershed Framework: Indicate which goals/desired conditions the project will help to achieve from [this list](#). Insert the number of the desired condition below (ex: 1a).

- 2a. Native plant density and diversity are sustained or enhanced.
- 2c. There are increasing similarity trends between current and potential ecological site condition as defined by NRCS, adapted where appropriate, recognizing the role of some non-native species (such as Lehmann lovegrass) in providing surface soil stability.
- 2d. The balance between density of woody species (such as mesquite) and herbaceous species shifts towards herbaceous species, where appropriate.
- 3a. Watershed productivity is maximized to sustain or enhance natural and economic systems.
- 3b. Perennial grass cover increases and bare ground decreases.
- 3c. Water infiltration and soil and biological material deposition increase, and water runoff and soil erosion decrease.
- 3d. Watershed treatments reduce the erosive effects of sudden heavy water flows, such as head cuts, and seek to reconnect channels with their floodplains.
- 4b. Habitat enhancement practices reflect general wildlife needs as well as those of individual species (especially threatened and endangered species).
- 5a. Agricultural oriented economic prosperity supports long term stewardship of land and

resources.

Value: Why is this project important? How will it contribute to watershed productivity and community well-being? Your 60-second “elevator pitch” for this project.

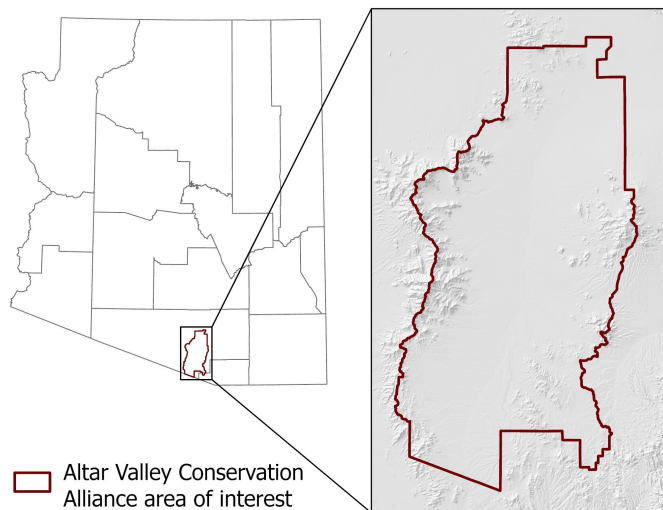
Prescribed fire is an important tool for vegetation management in the Altar Valley, and extensive planning is necessary beforehand. The conditions for both planning and implementation do not always occur, and it is important to act quickly when opportunities arise. This “pipeline” map and associated burn descriptions would allow a faster response to the opportunity to burn a given area so burns can occur.

Implications of no action: What are the likely results of *not* doing the project?

Fewer prescribed burns occur, and at a less strategic and/or affective level, because an overall approach for burns was not created. Opportunities for burns could be missed because the information/plans are not in place to move forward quickly when opportunities emerge.

Work and/or studies to date: What past or current work will this project build upon, and/or what information/references will help guide the project?

- Altar Valley Fire operations Plan
- Lessons learned from prescribed burns on the Elkhorn Ranch, BANWR, and other lands in the valley



Project area and site conditions:

What is the general project size and location (including land ownership)? Describe the current and potential site conditions.

The entire Altar Valley is the project area; however, the emphasis is in the area of Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) 41, where historic fire frequency is less than 10 years. MLRA 40, Sonoran Desert (MLRA 40), should not be burned unless

necessary for fuels management.

Project activities: Describe the overall process and primary activities of the project. *Optional: Include graphics/photos of project concepts or relevant examples.*

- Build from the Fire Operations Plan map to create a web application of areas landowners want to “let burn” as well as data to help identify suitable areas for prescribed burns.

- Talk with landowners about their interest in prescribed burns and identify which areas are appropriate to pursue
- Coordinate with ADFFM and other entities that may be able to implement the burn and assume liability to develop burn plans that can be used within the next few years.

Project timeline: Organize the project activities into the planning, implementation, and maintenance/monitoring phases in the table below. *Optional: Include estimated duration and costs.*

Planning, Design/Engineering, & monitoring plan, permitting	Implementation/ Construction	Monitoring (post-implementation)	Maintenance (post-implementation)
<i>Activities:</i>	<i>Activities:</i>	<i>Activities:</i>	<i>Activities:</i>
<i>Duration:</i>	<i>Duration:</i>	<i>Cycle:</i>	<i>Cycle:</i>
<i>Estimated cost:</i>	<i>Estimated cost:</i>	<i>Estimated cycle cost:</i>	<i>Estimated cycle cost:</i>
☐ <\$10,000	☐ < \$10,000	☐ < \$1,000	☐ < \$1,000
☐ \$10,000 - \$100,000	☐ \$10,000 - \$100,000	☐ \$1 -10,000	☐ \$0 -10,000
☐ \$100,000 - \$500,000	☐ \$100,000 - \$500,000	☐ \$10,000 - \$100,000	☐ \$10,000 - \$100,000
☐ \$500,000 - \$1 million	☐ \$500,000 - \$1 million	☐ \$100,000 - \$500,000	☐ \$100,000 - \$500,000
☐ >\$1 million	☐ >\$1 million		

Potential funding sources: None identified.

Permits: For implementation, burns will require Land Treatment permits will be required on State Lands, and assumption of liability will be necessary. However., none are required during the planning phase.