

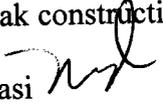
# COUNCIL DECISION REQUEST

MEETING DATE: 3-9-06

ITEM NO.:

EXHIBITS (IF APPLICABLE, TO BE ATTACHED): Fuel break map

SUBJECT: Funding for fuel break construction.

SUBMITTED BY: Martin deMasi 

SUBMITTAL TO AGENDA  
APPROVED BY TOWN MANAGER



EXPENDITURE  
REQUIRED: \$50,000

AMOUNT  
BUDGETED: \$0

CONT. FUNDING  
REQUIRED: \$50,000

## RECOMMENDED MOTION:

I move to approve the appropriation of \$50,000 from Council contingency funds to be used to for the construction of fuel break on the southern boundary of the Town of Payson.

## SUMMARY OF THE BASIS FOR RECOMMENDED MOTION:

One of the several strategies to help Payson build an adequate defense system from the threat of wildland fires is a fuel break along the corporate boundary of the Town. This strategy has been discussed in the past and with the extreme conditions that we are facing this year it may be the time to pursue the actual construction of such a fuel break. One of the reasons that the fuel break has not been completed as of yet has been that it would be located on federal lands and the necessary "hoops" that have to be jumped through, such as the environmental and archaeological clearances, had not been completed until recently as part of the process of the Payson Ranger District's Payson Wildland Urban Interface Project.

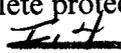
A total of 346 acres are involved in the proposed fuel break. Estimated construction costs are \$500 to \$600 per acre in the predominant chaparral-brush fuel type. Obviously, \$50,000 will not fund the entire fuel break area but with potential of partnering with the Forest Service, Tonto Apache Tribe, Gila County, and perhaps private contributions, the possibility becomes more realistic.

The priority area for initial efforts would be in southeast corner of Payson working east. It is also important to remember that this fuel break is only one part of the wildland fire protection system. Defensible space around structures, fuels treatment work further out in the forest and adequate fire suppression forces all play key roles in the process of reducing life and property loss.

As additional data becomes available it will be assembled and provided for Council consideration.

**PROS:** A fuel break provides a level of defense to protect Payson from a wildfire. It also creates a space that could be used for trails and other conveyances. Adds a level of comfort to Payson residents.

**CONS:** Cost of construction and on-going maintenance. A fuel break by itself does not afford complete protection.

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**PUBLIC INPUT (if any):**

**BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS (if any) (give dates and attach minutes):**

# Proposed Payson Fuelbreak

