

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
PROPOSAL**

Game Branch / HPC Project Number:	16-215
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PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: 2017 Grandstand and Toquer Tank Apron Redevelopments

Region and Game Management Unit: FOR2/Game Management Unit 13B

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):

- Arizona Strip Habitat Working Group

Was the project presented to the LHPC?

YES[X] **NO**[]

Has this project been submitted in previous years? YES[] NO[X]

If Yes, was it funded? YES[] NO[] → **Funded HPC Project #(s):**

Project Type: Livestock/Wildlife Water Catchment Development Project

Brief Project Summary: The projects involved replacing worn out asphalt aprons with high-density polyethylene sheeting for the Grandstand and Toquer water Catchments. The polyethylene sheeting is much more efficient in catching rain runoff than the Asphalt apron. The rancher will lay and install both of the aprons for the water catchments.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit (% benefit per species) :

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date:

April 1, 2017

Project End Date:

April 1, 2018

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: Yes[X] No[] N/A[]

Projected Completion Date: EA-83-361 (Jan 1, 1985)

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:
(Provide Attachment)

Yes[X] No[] N/A[]

Projected Completion Date: 3-12-1985

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A[]

To be Completed by: BLM Maintenance

Projected Completion Date:

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:

\$ 26,040.00

Cost Share or Matching Funds:

Installation and welding of both aprons by rancher

\$ 9,200.00

Total Project Costs:

\$ 35,240.00

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION		
Applicant (please print): Tim Shurtliff	Address: 3500 S. lake Mary Road Flagstaff, AZ 86001	E-mail: TShurtliff@azgfd.gov
Telephone: 928-358-3843		Date: August 25, 2016
AGFD Contact and Phone No. Coordinate with AZGFD and Livestock Permittee Bill Gubler (435)-632-2904		
Project has been coordinated with: Joseph Currie/Ed Jahrke – Development Branch Arizona Strip BLM Bill Gubler (Rancher)		

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

In the past 10 years on the AZ strip (GMU 13A/B), an effort was initiated to replace worn out components of cooperative wildlife/livestock waters. Several of those waters and catchments have been improved with new high-density polyethylene sheeting aprons throughout the AZ strip and this proposal is a continuation of that effort on the Grandstand and Torquer Tank found within GMU 13B.

Water collection is an issue that has been noted on many of these projects across the Arizona Strip. The current asphalt aprons for the Grandstand catchment and Toquer tank catchment are not efficient enough to catch the required amount of rain to provide water for cattle and wildlife throughout the year. The new high-density polyethylene sheeting is very efficient and catches every drop of rain that hits the apron.

The Grandstand catchment is the only water found on the Grandstand Bench and is extremely important for resident pronghorn and deer. The Toquer Tank Catchment is extremely important to cattle and wildlife (Pronghorn and Deer) in the lower Hurricane Valley. The Lower Hurricane Valley lacks springs and reliable cattle tanks, which in turn makes these catchments a must for cattle and wildlife to survive.

Concerns over Pronghorn fawning and the ability for Pronghorn to have available water during fawning have been documented as potential limiting factors to the growth of the Strip populations. There are similar concerns over the mule deer population. A catchment that has limited collection ability is of limited value to these animals.

This project will make sure that we maintain water available throughout the Lower Hurricane Valley/Grandstand Bench for Pronghorn and Mule Deer. The anticipated result is a continued increase in pronghorn fawn production in the area, followed by an overall increase in the population. This will also help sustain the current deer population found in the area of these two catchments areas.

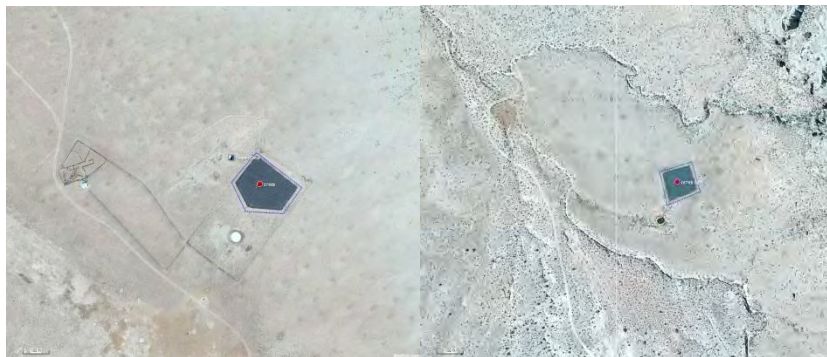
The rancher has done a good job of keeping the aprons clean of plants and resurfacing the current asphalt apron but both of these aprons require too much upkeep and resurfacing to keep them in operation without redoing the apron completely. The rancher has agreed to do all of the labor laying the new apron and welding it together, if the aprons are bought and payed for.



Grandstand catchment with wildlife Drinker and asphalt apron



Toquer Tank Catchment apron and tank



Toquer Tank Apron 37,431 SQFT and Grandstand Apron 16,450 SQFT

Below are a before and after photos of work that already was completed with the previous efforts:



Cox Atkin Apron After



Cox Atkin Apron Before

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

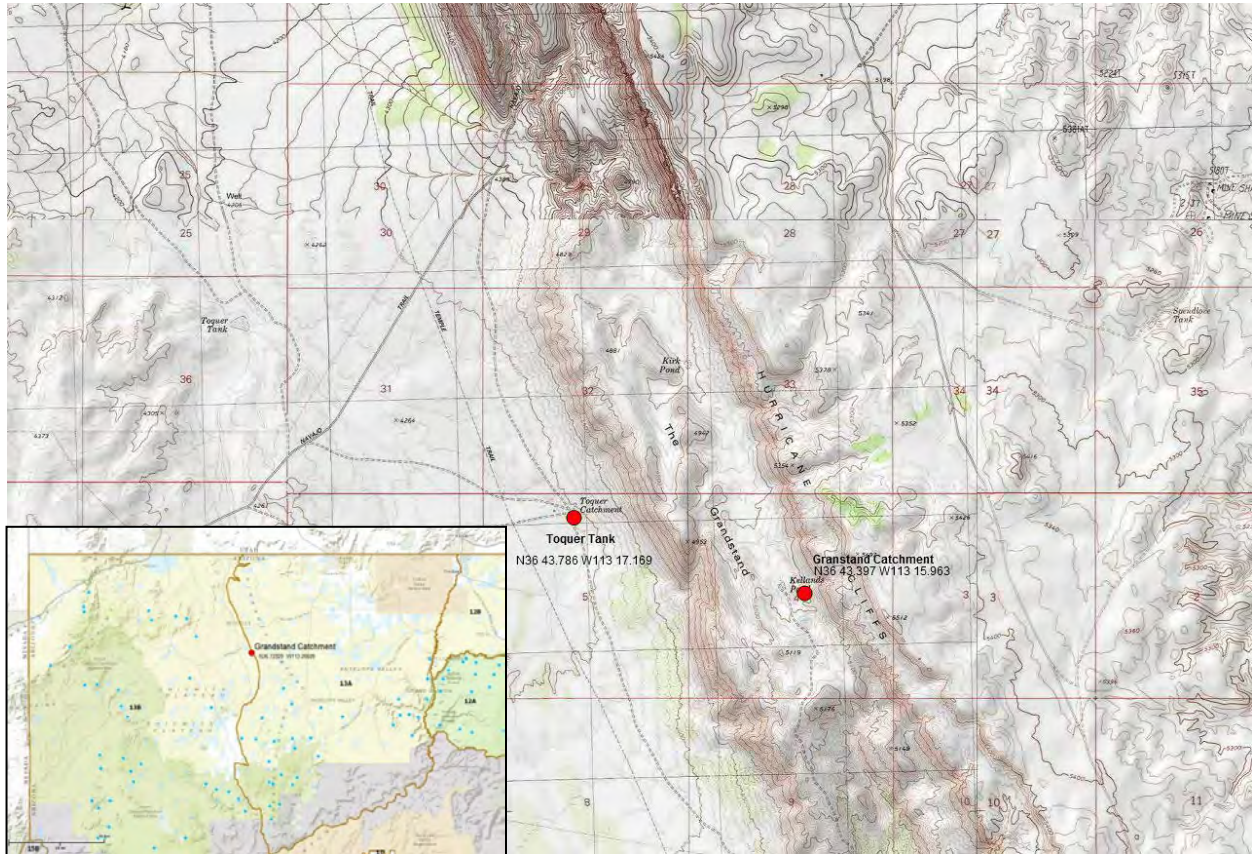
- Build on previous efforts and continue Statewide efforts of maintaining existing catchment facilities across 13B and the Arizona Strip to meet wildlife and livestock needs.
- Improve and maintain available water distribution for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, and other wildlife near and around the Grandstand Bench and Lower Hurricane Valley in GMU 13B.
- Improve rainwater collection capabilities of cooperative livestock/wildlife catchments in 13B.
- Increase apron life, minimizing maintenance needs and water hauling.
- Develop cooperative agreements between BLM, Permittee, and AZGFD to ensure projects continue to meet wildlife and livestock needs into the future

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

1. Replace apron at the Grandstand livestock/wildlife COOP and Toquer Tank livestock/wildlife COOP catchments in 13B. High-density polyethylene sheeting (HDPE) will replace the current worn asphalt aprons, greatly increasing apron life, improving water quality and water collection, minimizing maintenance needs and water hauling.

PROJECT LOCATION

Grandstand Water Catchment: N36 ° 43.397' W113 ° 15.963'
Toquer Tank Water Catchment: N36 ° 43.786' W113 ° 17.169'



LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

100% Federal managed by the Arizona Strip District Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM land)

The Grandstand Water catchment and the Torquer Tank Water Catchment are surrounded by BLM and access to the catchment is uncontested.

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

Habitat consists of a great-plains grassland giving way to a sagebrush-steppe community and finally sparse pinyon-juniper woodland. Common grass species include galleta grass, dropseed, and Indian Rice grass. Forb species that are common are winterfat, globe mallow, and several species of buckwheat. Shrub species include big sage, cliffrose, and ephedra. Tree species include Utah Juniper, and Pinyon Pine. The elevation of the Grandstand catchment is approximately 5,000 feet ASL. The elevation of the Toquer Tank catchment is approximately 4,300 feet ASL.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST SHEET 2017 Grandstand and Toquer Tank apron redevelopment

Costs Category-Equipment, Labor, Administrative, Material	Grant Dollars Requested – Special Tag	Cost Share Dollars – Rancher and Arizona Strip BLM
37,500 square feet of high-density polyethylene sheeting for Toquer Tank	\$18,000.00	
Install apron: Haul apron to site, Back hoe work, labor, laying apron and welding apron.(Rancher) Toquer Tank		\$6,000.00 (Rancher)
16,750 square feet of high-density polyethylene sheeting for Grandstand	\$8,040.00	
Install apron: Haul apron to site, Back hoe work, labor, laying apron and welding apron.(Rancher) Grandstand		\$3,200.00 (Rancher)
Totals	\$26,040.00	\$9,200.00

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

Arizona Deer Association: Provide project funding for the cost of the high-density polyethylene sheeting for apron

Arizona Antelope Foundation: Provide project funding for the cost of the high-density polyethylene sheeting for apron

AZGFD: Provide project funding for the cost of the high-density polyethylene sheeting for apron

BLM: NEPA Clearance and Archeological Clearance

Permittee: Install apron

WOULD IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT ASSIST IN PROVIDING, MAINTAINING, OR FACILITATING RECREATIONAL ACCESS?

YES[X] NO[] N/A[]

History has shown that during travel management planning of the land management agencies, roads that have historic use and provide access to wildlife facilities receive priority in remaining open to the public. There is only one road on top of the Grandstand Bench and it remains open because of the water catchment found on it.

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

The Arizona Game and Fish Department will monitor the completion of this project, and ensure that water is available for wildlife year round. Photographs of the completed project will be taken and submitted to the game branch. The department will also monitor pronghorn antelope and mule deer use of the area, and complete population surveys in the area to provide population indexes. Water will be left on year round for wildlife by the rancher.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

The Wildlife Manager, livestock permittee, and BLM staff will maintain this project at least semi-annually as needed.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Tim Shurtliff – Wildlife Manager

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS:

Coordination with Development Branch was conducted and it was determined that the water development worksheet would not need to be completed as this project is a BLM project and the AZGFD will not be completing the work. The AZGFD is a partner in this project and all funding will be utilized by the BLM to complete these projects on the ground.