

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 16-629

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Mineral Mountains - Water Development and Improvements

Region and Game Management Unit: FOR6, GMU 37 B

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):

- Payson HPC

Was the project presented to the LHPC?

YES[x] NO[] Will be at Fall 2016 meeting

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

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

Project Type: Water Developments

Brief Project Summary: This project will clean out and repair nine existing dirt tanks and will provide infrastructure improvements to six existing well sites to provide more reliable year-round water for the numerous Mule Deer, Desert bighorn sheep, and other wildlife that frequent this allotment (Mineral Mountain Allotment/LEN Allotment -ASLD/BLM).

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit (% benefit per species) : Mule deer 60%, Bighorn sheep 30%, Whitetail deer 10%

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date: 2/1/2017

Project End Date: 6/1/2020

Environmental Compliance:

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

Projected Completion Date: _____

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

Yes[x] No[] N/A[]

Projected Completion Date: _____

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

To be Completed by: Chip Young

Projected Completion Date: pending

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:

\$ 58,000

Cost Share or Matching Funds:

\$30,000 AGFD LRP (PR Habitat #06418)
\$6,095 APS/MDF (materials donated/delivered)
\$1,000 BLM (administrative work/clearances)
\$1,000 ASLD (administrative work/clearances)
\$5,000 Ferreira Ranch (labor/fuel/planning)
\$43,095.00

Total Project Costs:

\$ 101,095.00

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):
Vince Ferreira

Address: 2277 West Running Deer
Road, Queen Valley, AZ 85118

E-mail:
ferreirasropecattle@gmail.com

Telephone:	(520) 252-1879	Date: 8/23/2016
AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel): Chip Young (480) 204-4039, cyoung@azgfd.gov		
Project has been coordinated with: BLM, ASLD, Resolution Mine, AZGFD, Ferreira Ranch		

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

This project will clean out and repair nine existing dirt tanks and will provide infrastructure improvements to six existing well sites to provide more reliable year-round water for the numerous Mule Deer, Desert bighorn sheep, and other wildlife that frequent this allotment (Mineral Mountain Allotment - ASLD/BLM). These preexisting tanks are silted in and the berms of some are breached. As a result, the tanks either do not hold water or do not hold as much water as they should. Cleaning out and repairing these tanks, as well as improving six existing well sites that are either non-operational or are not reliable due to outdated technology and/or equipment failure. Converting these sites to solar systems with proper water storage and wildlife friendly drinker designs will provide reliable year-round water that is well dispersed across the landscape for the numerous Mule Deer, Bighorn sheep, and all other wildlife in the area.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The objective of this project is to clean and repair nine existing dirt tanks and to improve six existing well sites to a state of efficient functionality to provide perennial water for wildlife.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

This project will clean out and repair nine existing dirt tanks. The preexisting tanks are silted in and the berms of some are breached. These old tanks will be excavated and will have the berms rebuilt. Two of the tanks (S30 Tank #1 and S30 Tank #2) do not hold water well and will be given new liners in accordance with NRCS standards (attached).

PROJECT LOCATION

Mineral Mountain Allotment, approximately 15 miles southwest of Superior, Arizona.

T2S, R11E, Section 28 BLM - (Reymert Tank and Mine Tank)

T2S, R10E, Section 13 ASLD - (Pipeline Tank)

T2S, R10E, Section 20 Private - (Resolution Well)

T2S, R10E, Section 26 ASLD - (Pipeline Road Well)

T2S, R10E, Section 36 ASLD - (East El Molino Road Well)

T3S, R11E, Section 02 ASLD - (Tall Windmill Tank)

T3S, R11E, Section 08 BLM - (South Mine Tank)

T3S, R11E, Section 09 BLM - (Tank X)

T3S, R11E, Section 15 BLM - (John's Well – ADWR Registration #55-642354)

T3S, R11E, Section 22 BLM - (Lost Dirt Tank)

T3S, R11E, Section 23 BLM - (The 15 Well – ADWR Registratrion # 55-642346 and Blue Trough Well - ADWR Registration #55-642351)

T3S, R11E, Section 30 ASLD - (S30 #1 Tank and S30 #2 Tank)

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

BLM... (see above location descriptions)

ASLD...(see above location descriptions)

PRIVATE...

One well location (Resolution Well) on T2S, 10E, Section 20 is on private property within the allotment that has been abandoned. The property is owned by Resolution Mine. The permittee (applicant) has permission to make improvements to this well site. Documentation will be provided by the landowner before any improvements are placed.

IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A COOPERATIVE BIG GAME STEWARDSHIP or LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?

YES[x] NO[] N/A[]

Two previous LRP Habitat Stewardship Agreements have been completed with this partner.

●	No	2015	LEN Ranch Bentonite Treatment #1 2015	LRP Habitat Stewardship/Improve	10000	10000	COMPLETED	agfd_phx\cyoung			
●	No	2016	LEN Ranch Solar Well System - Deep Tank Well Solar/Pipeline	LRP Habitat Stewardship/Improve	13800	17031	Need to request \$13,800.00 Quote for pump system: \$12,946.33 + Rainmaker WL Drinker: \$875.00 = \$13,821.33. All attachments updated on LORAX (CYoung 11_17_2015). Chip	agfd_phx\cyoung			

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

The plant community in the area is primarily desert scrub. The vegetation is a scrubland or woodland. The spaces between the small trees or shrubs are filled with layers of shrubs, cacti, succulents, grasses, and in years of adequate moisture, annuals. The common trees are palo verde, cat-claw, mesquite and ironwood. Common shrubs are whitethorn, creosote and bur sage. Cacti are an important vegetation type and include saguaro, several species of cholla and many others. In the upper limits of this plant community crucifixion thorn is common. Bush muhly is probably the most palatable grass. Tobosa grass occurs in low places where runoff waters collect.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

\$30,000 – (4) Solar pumping systems (pumps, panels, associated hardware).

\$10,000 – (2) liners for 2 dirt tank locations

\$7,500 – Bentonite and heavy equipment rental for 4 ASLD dirt tank locations

\$3,500 – (2) 3,000 gallon water storage tanks

\$7,000 - (7) “Rainmaker Trough-250” Wildlife-friendly water troughs

\$58,000 REQUESTED

Cost Share or Matching Funds (for volunteer labor rates please refer to the worksheet below)

\$30,000 AGFD LRP (PR Habitat #06418)

\$9,500 – Bentonite and heavy equipment rental for 5 authorized BLM dirt tank locations

\$15,000 – (2) Solar pumping systems on authorized BLM land (John’s Well and The 15 Well) (pump, panels, hardware)

\$5,500 – (3) 3,000 gallon water storage tanks to be used on BLM land.

\$6,095 APS/MDF - (23) 175 Watt - Sharp Electronics solar panels used throughout ranch.

\$1,000 BLM (administrative work including permits and compliance)

\$1,000 ASLD (administrative work including permits and compliance)
\$5,000 Ferreira Ranch (labor/fuel for dirt tank rebuilding and bentonite/liners installation)
\$43,095.00 TOTAL MATCH

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

AGFD LRP (planning and match funding)

Mule Deer Foundation

(conducted site visit to approve potential funding and delivered donated materials to be used on other sites within allotment)

APS (Donation of additional materials for other improvements on ranch, see above; APS/MDF)

BLM (administrative work/clearances)

ASLD (administrative work/clearances)

Vince Ferreira - Ferreira Ranch (labor/fuel/planning/implementation)

Wyatt Ferreira - Ferreira Ranch (labor/fuel/planning/implementation)

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

YES[] NO[] N/A[x]

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

The project proponent will ensure project completion with coordination between the AZGFD and Ferreira Ranch.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

The project will be continually maintained by Ferreira Ranch.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

The project proponent is responsible for completing the project completion report.

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (please use the worksheet below):

TREE CLEARING/REMOVAL PROJECTS (please use the worksheet below):

ATTACHMENTS:

(Please provide cultural clearance documentation from land management agency, e.g., FONSI, Inventory Standards, etc. Also attach any project pictures)

*BLM Authorization Letter attached for dirt tank maintenance

*(3) BLM Drilling Authorization Certificates attached from ADWR

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET

PROJECT TITLE: Mineral Mountains - Water Development and Improvements

- 1) **Is the water development listed as a priority in the most recent “Wildlife Water Development Annual Implementation Schedule?”**

*The project has not been presented to the Development Branch as there is no new construction.

- 2) **Please list the Development Branch personnel and date coordinated with for this project.**

*Development Branch personnel are not needed for the completion of this project.

- 3) **What is the estimated annual inches of precipitation for the area? (mark one)**

☐2-4 ☐4-6 ☐6-8 ☒8-10 ☐10-12 ☐12-14 ☐14-16 ☐ >16

- 4) **Is there a perennial water source available to big game within four miles of this project?**

YES☒ (please complete #5 below) NO☐ (skip #5 below)

*The Gila River is 1.5 miles to the south of the southernmost portion of this large project area. However it is over 10 miles to the northern portion. This project covers a very large area and thus includes some tanks and springs within four miles of some of the tanks to be cleaned and wells to be improved.

- 5) **For the accessible, perennial water source nearest this project:**

Name of water source:

Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank):

Ownership of water source:

Distance in miles from project:

- 6) **Is the target wildlife species a result of transplant efforts? YES☐ NO☒**

*Bighorn sheep may have been translocated in the past in the White Canyon Wilderness adjacent to the east.

- 7) **Please list any special land management status for the project site (i.e. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument). If private land, list landowner.**

*BLM, ASLD, and one section of private (Resolution Mine): 2S, 10E, Section 20

- 8) **Please provide the following information about access to the proposed site:**

Type of access (mark one): ☐2x4 vehicles ☒4x4 only ☐foot only**

**If foot access only: Distance in miles: _____ Approximate hiking time: _____

-- Does access to this site require crossing private or tribal lands? YES☐ NO☒

-- Please describe any restrictions to public access:

- 9) **Please list below (or on a separate sheet) the material type and dimensions of each component proposed to be added, modified, or repaired.**

*Bentonite and (2) 100' x 100' HDPE tank liners onto existing and previously disturbed soil

10) Was a site visit completed? Yes☒ No☐

If Yes, please list personnel that attended and date.

*2/17/2016 Project Proposal Site Visit with...

Brian Aragon (AGFD Wildlife Manager GMU 37 B (former))

Chip Young (AGFD LRP Specialist)

Jim Lawrence (State Chairman of Mule Deer Foundation)

Vince Ferreira (Rancher)

Wyatt Ferreira (Rancher)