

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

HPC Project Number:

20-108

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	WY Bar Ranch & LWJ Ranch Proposed Tank Cleaning		
Game Management Unit:	27	Region:	1
Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):		Was the project presented to the LHPC?	
Alpine / Springerville HPC		Yes, via email	
Project Location: (Please provide lat/long in decimal degrees or meters of project area using datum WGS84 or NAD83. If project is larger than one point, please include them all. Provide an accompanying shapefile as an attachment for the project area).			
<p>LATITUDE/NORTHING:</p> <p>LONGITUDE/EASTING:</p> <p>MULTIPLE LOCATION COORDINATES:</p> <p>Tanks Still needing to be cleaned:</p> <p>Whoa Tank 33.5327431, -109.0974409</p> <p>Helispot Tank 33.5320602, -109.1046936</p> <p>Campbell Flat Tank 33.5298318, -109.0966684</p> <p>Bill Spring 33.5427699, -109.0868408</p> <p>WS Lake 33.5297959, -109.0589458</p> <p>Cow Flat Tank 33.5594067, -109.0728075</p> <p>Roy Davis Tank 33.5717655, -109.0798885</p> <p>Bonanza Bill Tank 33.5644367, -109.0589888</p> <p>Bobcat Tank 33.5869601, -109.0925056</p> <p>Metate Tank 33.5960108, -109.0785582</p> <p>Sawmill Tank 33.5543765, -109.1463644</p> <p>Tanks Completed in 2020:</p> <p>Largo Tank 33.5374152, -109.1303570</p> <p>Stateline Tank 33.6157612, -109.0498907</p>			
Project Type:	Water Enhancement Project		
Water Project Action (if applicable):	Operation and Maintenance of dirt tanks in Primitive Area		
Habitat Restoration Action (if applicable):	N/A		
Other Project Type and Action (if applicable):	N/A		
Has this project been submitted in previous years?	No		

PROJECT SUMMARY

Describe the proposed action only. Please use plain English, what action are you proposing? (If applicable, please reference any completed compliance including EAC#).

Brief Project Summary:

The Blue Range Primitive Area of the Apache National Forest provides excellent wildlife habitat for many species but also has some difficult land management challenges. There are multiple vital water systems in need of

repair throughout this area and we propose focusing on the Cow Flat allotment within the Blue Range Primitive Area for initial habitat improvement activities. Within this area there are eleven dirt tanks we would like to make into more reliable long-term water sources for both the cattle and wildlife. We are looking to use a team of mules and a Tumblebug Plow, hand tools and hard work to clean the silt and debris from the bottom of these tanks and built up the existing structure to hold more long-term and reliable water. These tanks have not been cleaned in a long time due to the limitations of the Primitive area and having the equipment to make it happen. This project was started with a RMEF PAC grant in 2020. This initial work demonstrated that although labor intensive this is a feasible means of cleaning tanks in this Primitive Area. This proposal is for funding over several years to be able to accomplish this work.

Primary Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit:		Elk, Deer (both mule deer and whitetail), and turkey. Bighorn sheep have also been seen in proximity to some of these tanks and may benefit.
Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year)	START DATE: 03/01/2021	COMPLETION DATE: 10/31/2023

PROJECT FUNDING

Project Funding *Qualifying Cost Share should be restricted to support (materials, compliance, and or labor) of the proposed action ONLY (same time and place). Please do not include previously purchased supplies or past completed work.	Itemized Use of Funds Please email separate quotes if HPC funds are to be used to purchase materials or contracted labor: HPC@azgfd.gov .
<p><u>HPC Funds Requested</u></p> <p>Amount: \$40,000 / year for 3 years for a total of \$120,000 (average cost is ~\$40,000 per tank so this proposal is to clean 6 tanks, after the 1:1 match)</p> <p><u>Cost Share or Matching Funds</u></p> <p>Amount: \$40,000/year from permittee \$4,000/ year from AGFD and Forest Service personnel to monitor, assist with frog clearances, and for admin.</p> <p>Total= \$44,000 per year for a total of \$132,000</p> <p><u>Percent Match</u> A minimum of a 1:1 match, with the permittee (50%). With agency personnel added in it is a 52% match If this money is used as leverage for additional grants this number will be closer to a 1.5:1.</p> <p><u>Total Project Cost</u></p> <p>Amount: \$252,000</p>	<p>HPC Fund Use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$1,058 / day for a team of mules and a driver x 7 days per tank average = ~\$7,500 per tank - ~\$3,800 / tank for mobilization, getting plow, tumblebug, plow team, and equipment to tank site. - Additional two laborers @ \$200/Day = \$2,800 per tank - 1 dedicated supply packer and a two horse team = ~\$5,900 <p>Matching Funds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The permittee has committed to assisting with packing materials, camps, food, and water to support the tank cleaning operation. Depending on distance between camps and days spent on a project this cost is estimated at \$10,000 per tank (two additional pack strings with 2-4 wranglers, for 5-7 days of support) - Cost of feed and supplies for animals, mobilization of animals and materials, and additional support work is estimated at another \$6,500 per tank. - Supervision, office, insurance, etc. ~\$3,500/tank

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

Please indicate the status of the Project's compliance. if you are unsure, please reference:

HPC Compliance Checklist (<https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife/hpc/forms/>).

If you have questions regarding the requirement of an EAC, contact AGFD's Project Evaluation Program:

(<https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife/planning/projevalprogram/>).

***Please email supporting compliance documents to HPC@azgfd.gov ***

AGFD EA Checklist Completed:	N/A	Completion Date:	
NEPA Completed:	Yes	Completion Date:	5/12/20
State Historic Preservation Office/ Archaeological Clearance:	Yes	Completion Date:	5/12/20

CONTACT INFORMATION

Applicant

The project applicant is the responsible party for seeing the work through to completion.

APPLICANT NAME: Aaron Hartzell

PHONE: 928-358-0842

ORGANIZATION: Arizona Game and Fish Department

EMAIL: ahartzell@azgfd.gov

ADDRESS: 2878 E. White Mtn. Blvd Pinetop, AZ 85925

AGFD Project Proponent

The Project Proponent is responsible for compliance, implementation, and annual/final reporting requirements.

AGFD CONTACT NAME: Aaron Hartzell

PHONE: 928-358-0842

Cooperators

COOPERATOR NAME(S), ORGANIZATION, ROLE IN PROJECT:

USFS, WY Ranch, LWJ Ranch

PROJECT NEED AND DESCRIPTION

Please use direct language: why is this project important? What problem will be solved? How will you implement it, and how will the habitat be enhanced? Please include # of acres, methods, roles, and any phases. Please be specific and thorough.

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

The Blue Range Primitive area is managed as a wilderness area, and because of this there are limitations on being able to maintain waters that have been in the area for decades. Within the Cow Flat allotment, which is in the Bear Mountain area of Unit 27, 14 dirt tanks have been identified as needing to be cleaned out, as they are almost completely silted in. Two of the 14 dirt tanks were cleaned out in 2020 with partial funding from a RMEF PAC grant. (Overall costs for these two tanks was \$41,262, with \$20,000 coming from the PAC grant. One of the tanks close to the road costed approximately \$10,000, while Largo tank was closer to \$30,000). Dirt tanks are an inexpensive way to distribute water throughout an area and can benefit all manner of wildlife and livestock, serving to distribute them further across the landscape. The Bear Mountain area does not have reliable water that is available perennially. There are even some of the “reliable” springs that have dried up in the last couple years. Because of this lack of water it is critical that we look for ways to increase water availability in this area. This will provide a huge benefit to wildlife, as well as livestock. This will serve to better distribute animals so that they do not have as much of an impact on any one area. The Department, through local wildlife managers, has discussed cleaning these tanks for years but has not known how to get the work accomplished due to the limitations on methods available and the availability of a skilled teamster. The work would have to be done without the use of mechanized equipment, meaning it would have to be done by hand or with a team of mules and a fresno plow, or in this case a tumblebug. The cost of completing the work in this manner is substantially higher than cleaning tanks in a conventional manner, but it is the only way that the work can get done in this area.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

Cleaning these tanks in the primitive area will be accomplished through the use of a trained team of mules and a skilled teamster (See attached pictures for teamster in action). A plow will be used to break up the soil, which will be followed by a tumblebug to move the soil out of the tank area. In addition to needing a well-trained team and teamster other manual labor will be needed to move any rocks, trees or other

objects that are not able to be moved via the tumblebug. Because of the Primitive Area restrictions several other pack strings will be used to support the project. These pack strings will be used to pack in camps, food (for both humans and animals), and any other equipment that many be needed. This is a very man power intensive project and because of that it is acknowledged that the costs are much higher than what would be needed for conventional tank cleaning. Because of the lack of current water availability in the area another issue that may come up is locating a camping spot that has water for the teams of animals. This could require additional packing each day to move between the work site and the camp. Additionally, water may have to be hauled to the work site for the animals to utilize throughout the day. This could increase costs above the original cost estimate. The permittee is asking for \$40,000 per year for up to three years to be able to work at cleaning these tanks. This money will be used as match during this time to secure additional funding. The \$41,262 that was spent in May and June of 2020 can not be used as match as that project is now complete. In order to be able to leverage additional funds it is hoped that HPC funds can be committed for several years so that we can use them as match for additional RMEF PAC grants, or other grants that the Department and permittee will seek out.

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

This project area is completely on National Forest.

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

These dirt tanks would be monitored by the local wildlife manager as well as the permittee.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

Future maintenance would be the responsibility of the permittee, although once accomplished these tanks should last for many years.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY: Aaron Hartzell, Wildlife Manager Supervisor**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS LIST:**

Forest Service Programmatic exemption for NEPA and Cultural surveys.

Map of project area with identified tanks to be cleaned.

Pictures of previous work accomplished.

Have supporting documents been submitted?

They will be attached to this document.

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET

PROJECT TITLE: WY Bar Ranch & LWJ Ranch Proposed Tank Cleaning

- 1) **Was a site visit completed (Date and with whom)?**
No
- 2) **If this is a dirt tank project, has the site historically held reliable water?**
Yes, these tanks are in areas where water naturally flows, and sometimes holds without a working tank. Increasing capacity of these tanks is critical to distributing wildlife and enhancing the habitat overall.
- 3) **If this is a dirt tank project and soil data is available, what type of soil is at the site?**
Unknown
- 4) **If this is a water catchment project, please list the Development Branch coordination date:**
N/A
- 5) **Is the water development listed as a priority in the most recent “Wildlife Water Development Annual Implementation Schedule?”**
No
- 6) **If this is a water catchment project, please list the Development Branch personnel coordinated with:**
N/A
- 7) **Is there a perennial water source available to big game within four miles of this project?**
The Blue River is approximately 2-6 miles from the proposed dirt tanks, with up to 2,500 feet of elevation change. There are some springs in the area, which have not reliably held water over the last few years. Overall the Bear Mountain area does not have very much reliable water that can be found perennially.

WY Bar Ranch & LWJ Ranch Proposed Tank Cleaning

Legend

- W Developed Spring
- Dirt Tank
- Allotment

2,000 0 2,000 Feet

Date: 2/11/2020

