

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

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Houston Mesa, Tank Maintenance:

Project Type: Tank cleanout, Houston Mesa and Tanner Ranch

Project Number: 09-612

Project Description: This is the second phase of the landscape project on and near Houston Mesa (phase one grassland restoration). Cleanout and repair 20 stock tanks to prevent leakage and to provide a year round water supply for wildlife and livestock. Tanks will be cleaned in the summer of 2010 to 2012. The tanks have been cleared through the Forest Service and the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

No NEPA is required on stock tank maintenance, only a letter to the ranch file, which will be provided by the Forest Service.

Wildlife Species to Benefit: Elk, Whitetail, Mule Deer, Turkey, Bear and Mountain Lion

Implementation Schedule:

Beginning: Summer of 2010

Completed: Fall of 2012

PROJECT FUNDING

SBG Funds Requested: \$ 6,500

Cost Share Funds: \$ 17,500

Total Project Costs: \$ 24,000

Funds Administration:

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

**Applicant: Henry Apfel
Telephone: 480 981-9400
HPC: Payson**

**Address: Arizona Game and Fish
7200 E. University
Mesa AZ, 85207**

Coordinated with: Mogollon Sportsman Association, Payson Ranger District, Tonto National Forest, Ray Tanner, Rancher

Applicant's signature: Henry Apfel

Date: 9/11/09

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:

**Ron Day, Game Branch
2221 W. Greenway Rd.**

Phoenix, AZ 85203

NEED STATEMENT / PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

There has been limited to no maintenance done on 20 stock tanks in northern unit 22 in the last 40 years. A majority of northern unit 22 is encompassed in the ranch owned by Ray Tanner (map). Ray Tanner has received two grants from the government (NRCS and Dept. Agriculture) to do work on the ranch. Part of the grants was spent on Houston Mesa Grassland Maintenance (ongoing funded in 2007). The second phase of the project is to improve the availability of water for wildlife and livestock. Ray Tanner has identified a total of 20 tank that are in need of maintenance, from dam repair and cleaning. There are eight tanks on or adjacent to Houston Mesa Grassland Maintenance that funding is requested for (map 3), Ray Tanner will funding the additional 12 tanks. Ray Tanner has already completed work on three tanks on Houston Mesa, Bean Patch, Rawhide and U Bar Tank at a cost of \$1,200 a tank.

Eight tanks on or near Houston Mesa that need work:

1. Shoofly Tank
2. Shoofly Tank #2
3. Childress Tank
4. Lawson Tank
5. Brody Hills
6. 1168 Road Tank
7. Brody Borrow Pit Tank
8. Dude Road Tank

The remaining 12 tank that need work:

1. Corn Tank
2. Lower Roberts
3. Myrtle Tank
4. Powerline Tank
5. Moore Tank 1
6. Moore Tank 2
7. Moore Tank 3
8. Uranium Tank
9. Pine Thicket Tank
10. Sweetwater Tank
11. Pocket Tank
12. Flat Tank

All 20 tanks have been inspected by the Department and are in need of maintenance.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The objective is to provide a year round water source for wildlife and livestock. This will be accomplished by removal of silt from the excising tank. And the repair of tank wings will help in the tanks ability to catch water. The addition of bentonite or a liner to a few tanks will help reduce the water seepage, and provide water for wildlife and livestock for an

extended period of time.

PROJECT STRATEGIES:

Tanks will be cleaned with a caterpillar or a backhoe, bentonite may be added and mixed into the top layer of dirt using the equipment on site.

1. Equipment D-5 equivalent size dozer.
2. Cleaning the tank basin and the wings only.
3. Material pushed onto existing dam and track rolled, top dam will also be track rolled.
4. Operator experience in stock tank building and cleaning.
5. Forest Service inspection after completion, Bill Barcus.

PROJECT LOCATION:

Tanks are located approximately two to nine miles to the northeast of Payson in unit 22 on the Tonto National Forest within the Payson Ranger District. The tanks are at an elevation of 5200 feet to 5800 feet. Payson Arizona is located approximately 90 miles northeast of Phoenix on highway 87. (Map 1 and 2)

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

The habitat around the Shoofly Tanks, Childress Tank and 1168 Road Tank is Pinion-Juniper with an understory of mix Chaparral species, with good grass cover, (Blue Grama, Side-oats Grama) with an average precipitation of 19 inches a year. The habitat around Lawson Tank, Brody Tank, Brody Borrow Pit Tank and Dude Tank is more of a Ponderosa Pine mix with junipers and Chaparral species. The average precipitation is a little higher around 20 inches a year.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Ray Tanner has estimated that it will cost an average of \$1,200 a tank. Some tanks may take only a few hours while others may take several days. Ray Tanner will provide the equipment and pay for the rental of a D 5 caterpillar, he will also provide the labor of two ranch hands to perform the work. Mogollon Sportsman Association (MSA) has donated \$3,100 toward the cost.

Estimated labor donation: \$15 an hour, 200 hours labor = \$3,000

MSA donation: \$ 3,100

Ray Tanner cost, includes 200 hours labor: \$ 14,400

SBG funds requested: \$ 6,500

TOTAL COST: \$ 24,000 Ray Tanner and MSA will spend 63 cents, while the SBG fund will spend 27 cents out of every dollar to complete the project.

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

Arizona Game and Fish Department, Mogollon Sportsman Association (funding and labor).
Tonto National Forest, Payson Ranger District and Ray Tanner, Rancher.

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PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

No short-term maintenance will be necessary for this project; with time (20 years) this project will be needed to be done again, tank renovation.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

The completion report for this project will be filled out by Henry Apfel, Wildlife Manager.

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS:

TREE SHEARING (AGRA-AXE) PROJECTS:

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

(Please complete the report and forward to Game Branch
Within 30 days of the completion of the project. THANK YOU!)

Project Title: Houston Mesa, Tank Maintenance

Project number: _____

Location: 2 to 9 miles northeast of Payson AZ. (map)

Project Coordinator (Proponent): Henry Apfel

Agency: Arizona Game and Fish Department

Address: 7200 E. University

Mesa, AZ 85207

Phone: 480 981-9400

Email: _____

Project Completion Date Summer of 2009

COOPERATING AGENCIES AND/OR CONSERVATION GROUPS, LANDOWNERS, ETC.:

United States Forest Service, Tonto National Forest, Payson Ranger District. Mogollon Sportsman
Association, Ray Tanner, Rancher

PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

PROJECT RESULT ACTIONS:

(List practices implemented as a result of project, i.e. area rested from grazing for 2 yrs., season
recommendations revised based on new distributions data received from project, etc.)

COMMENTS ABOUT THE PROJECT:

(Please list updates, reports, concerns, suggestions)

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PHOTO: (Please attach)

**MAIL COMPLETED PROJECT COMPLETION FORM TO:
Ron Day, Game Branch
Arizona Game and Fish Department
2221 W. Greenway Road
Phoenix, AZ 85023**

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET

PROJECT NAME: _____

- 1) **What are 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

- 2) **Is there a perennial water source available to big game within five miles of this project?**
 YES (please complete #3 below) NO (skip #3 below)

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

Name of water source:
Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank, etc.): Creek
Ownership of water source: USFS
Distance in miles from project:

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

- 5) **Please list the Development Branch personnel coordinated with for this project, along with their office phone number.**

- 6) **Please list any special land management status for the project site (i.e. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument, etc). If private land, list landowner.**
None.

- 7) **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: Approx. hiking time:

-- Does access to this site require crossing private or tribal lands? YES NO
-- Please describe any restrictions to public access:

- 8) **Please list below (or on a separate sheet) the material type and dimensions of each component proposed to be added, modified, or repaired.**
None.