

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

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Cane Springs Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project	Project No. 09-304
Region/GMU: Region III, GMU 16 A	HPC: Kingman (currently inactive)
Project Type: Wildlife Water	
<p>Project Description: Cane Springs Ranch is located 15 miles north of Wikieup on state Highway 93 in GMU 16A. The applicant has a Cooperative Management Plan in place and a perpetual access agreement established with AGFD (Region III). Project area A contains critical habitat for mule deer, elk, javelina, dove and quail and will make improvements to an existing well, by replacing a nonfunctional power source with solar panel(s) and installing an 8800 gallon storage tank and three troughs (drinkers). The original well, first drilled in the 1950's has been patched up on numerous occasions, but now requires major upgrades, primarily to the pumping plant (i.e., addition of solar panels). The addition of three troughs and a storage tank will help distribute water to three separate pastures and lend to more uniform distribution of wildlife populations on the ranch and also allow for proper livestock utilization.</p>	
Wildlife Species to Benefit: Mule Deer (80%), Elk (10%), Javelina (10%), Dove, Gambel's Quail	
Possible Funding Partners: Mule Deer Foundation, Landowner	

Implementation Schedule: Beginning: February 2010 Completed: July 2010	NEPA Compliance: (if applicable) Completed: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Projected Completion Date: 1999 April January/February
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PROJECT FUNDING

SBG Funds Requested: \$14,250
Cost Share Funds: \$25,938
Total Project Costs: \$40,188

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant: [REDACTED] Telephone: [REDACTED]	Address: NRCS, Prescott Valley 8841 E. Florentine, Suite C Prescott Valley, AZ
Applicant: [REDACTED] Telephone : [REDACTED]	Address: [REDACTED]
Applicant's signature:	Date:
Applicant's signature:	Date:

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:
Game Branch
5000 W Carefree Highway.
Phoenix, AZ 85086
rothompson@azgfd.gov

WAS PROJECT PRESENTED TO THE LOCAL HPC? YES _____ NO x

The Kingman HPC is currently inactive, however, this project was proposed and agreed upon by the Prescott HPC in 2008.

HAS PROJECT BEEN SUBMITTED IN PREVIOUS YEARS? IF SO WAS IT FUNDED?

Yes, in 2008; it was not funded but this proposal scales back, focusing on much needed year-round waters in the Upper Wagon Wheel pastures.

NEED STATEMENT/PROBLEM ANALYSIS: Cane Springs Ranch encompasses 70,000 plus acres in a mix of deeded, BLM and State Lands ranging across different ecotypes found at the elevations 2700 to 6900 feet. The lack of consistent year-round water on the Upper Wagon Wheel portion of the ranch has led to under-utilized browse and feed in an area that was managed exceedingly well prior to the well's failure in 2007. While numbers of mule deer are high (the Wildlife Manager estimates that 20% of all mule deer in Unit 16A are found in this allotment), and elk are commonly seen in the project pastures, the wildlife value of this area is unable to reach its full potential due to the lack of consistent year-round water. The water improvements will take place in the Upper Wagon Wheel pasture, with troughs supporting three adjacent pastures, attracting elk and leading to greater distribution of mule deer throughout the ranch. Improvements will also allow appropriate livestock utilization levels for the allotment as outlined within the Cooperative Management Plan.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES: In 1999, the Cane Springs Ranch Cooperative Management Plan was established. The Upper Wagon Wheel Pasture is currently devoid of year-round water, but infrastructure exists in the form of a well that will be upgraded. The proposed improvements will provide year-round water to wildlife, improving deer utilization of browse in pastures not fully realized at this time due to current absence of consistent water. Improved habitat will lend to increased recruitment and distribution of mule deer and other species, such as elk, javelina, fox, bats, various bird and invertebrate species. These year-round waters will also allow the rancher to manage cattle by excluding them from riparian areas utilized by wildlife for habitat.

PROJECT STRATEGIES: Improve roads into pasture, which is required to get equipment to the project area. Upgrade water system by adding solar panels that will serve as a power source for the existing well, ensuring year round water for wildlife. Connect pipeline from well to a storage tank and to three separate troughs, all provided by landowner.

PROJECT LOCATION: [REDACTED]

Project Area A: T 18N, R 14W, S 20 (NW1/4, NE1/4, SE1/4)

SEE ATTACHED MAP.

LAND OWNERSHIP AT PROJECT SITE (Please state specifically if PRIVATE PROPERTY and provide landowner's name): Bureau of Land Management, Kingman

IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE

Game/Development Branch

LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT? While the project area does not occur on deeded land, a perpetual access agreement has been signed by ranch ownership, allowing ingress/egress to the project area and remainder of allotment.

HABITAT DESCRIPTION: Pinyon/Juniper to dense chaparral in the mountainous country extending into grassland covered hills and desert scrub. Steep ridges and rough terrain provide ideal habitat for mule deer. The Cane Springs Ranch covers a wide range elevation and straddles the Mohave and Sonoran desert ecotypes giving it a diversity of vegetation types, including: buckbrush, oak brush, mountain mahogany, bush muhly, black grama, side-oats grama, deer grass, Indian rice grass, serviceberry, fairy duster, ocotillo and false mesquite. Precipitation ranges from 10 inches in lower elevations (2680 ft.) to 22 inches at upper elevations (6922ft.), with most precipitation occurring in the winter and during the late-summer monsoon seasons.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Project Area A:

Solar Panels and mounts	\$5,500
500 ft. pipeline	\$750
<u>Road Construction/Misc Labor</u>	<u>\$8,000</u>
Total	\$14,250

DESCRIPTION OF COST SHARE (Matching): Cane Springs Ranch ownership will supply three water troughs at a value of \$3,938 and one supporting well valued at \$8000 and one storage tank at \$14,000. Labor supplied by landowner should come in at around \$8000.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Requested	\$14,250
Cost Share	<u>\$25,938</u>
TOTAL	\$40,188

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION: The rancher will supply water troughs, storage tank, labor and Bobcat work. BLM has worked closely with ranch ownership over the years in offering technical assistance and project support. The rancher, BLM, AZGFD, USFWS, U of A Extension, NRCS and NRCD coordinated and wrote the Cooperative Management Plan for the ranch and NRCS is providing funding through a Farm Bill EQIP grant to provide irrigation to a pasture at a lower elevation on the ranch, which will support even greater numbers of mule deer.

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN: Photo points will be established in selected areas of the pasture to document pre and post project vegetative conditions. Wildlife use of the project area will be monitored by the Wildlife Manager for GMU 16A.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE: The pumping plant, storage tank, trough maintenance and repair will be encumbered by Cane Springs ownership.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:
Wade Albrecht and/or Trevor Buhr

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (see attached worksheet):

TREE SHEARING (AGRA-AXE, PUSH) PROJECTS (see attached worksheet):
NA