

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

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Boquillas Ranch - Tank Car Pipeline		Project No. 09-310
Region/GMU: 10	HPC: Prescott HPC	
Project Type: Pipeline/Tank Wildlife and Livestock Water Project		
Project Description: This project would fund the installation of approximately 9 miles of 2 inch HDPE pipeline, a ` 50,000 gallon Steel Tank and a wildlife friendly drinker on the plains portion (northern) of the Big Boquillas Ranch in Game Management Unit 10. The pipeline would originate at Farm Dam where it would stem off of an existing ranch pipeline. The new pipe would carry water southeast past Tank Car Tank approximately 9 pipe miles into the Black Tanks Bull Pasture. This project is a cooperative effort by the Department, Navajo Nation and the Cholla Livestock Company to create a more dependable water source that will service an approximately 20,000 acre area on the Big Boquillas Ranch. The creation of this water is designed to allow for better management of elk, pronghorn, mule deer and livestock in the area.		
Wildlife Species to Benefit: Pronghorn, Elk, Mule Deer		
Possible Funding Partners:		
Implementation Schedule: Beginning: Spring 2010 Completed: Spring 2011	NEPA Compliance: (if applicable) Completed: Yes <u>X</u> * No ____ Projected Completion Date:	

PROJECT FUNDING

SBG Funds Requested: \$ 29,230.00
Cost Share Funds: \$ 34,720.00
Total Project Costs: \$ 63,950.00

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant: Tom Finley, Field Supervisor Arizona Game and Fish Department - Prescott Telephone: 928-636-3293	Address: Arizona Game and Fish Department 5325 North Stockton Hill Road Kingman, Arizona, 86409
AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel)	
Coordinated with: Fredrick H White, Deputy Executive Director Navajo Nation – Division of Natural Resources PO Box 9000 Window Rock, Arizona 86515 (928) 871-6592/6593 Gloria M. Tom, Director	Date: August 27, 2009

<p>Navajo Nation – Department of Fish and Wildlife PO Box 1480 Window Rock, Arizona 86515 (928) 871-6451</p> <p>Bob Posey, Regional Supervisor Arizona Game and Fish Department – Region III Kingman 5325 North Stockton Hill Road Kingman, Arizona, 86409 (928) 692-7700</p> <p>Harvey Dietrich, Owner Cholla Livestock 1401 North 24th Street Phoenix, Arizona 85008 (602) 220-9820</p>	
Applicant's signature:	Date:

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:
Game Branch
AZ Game and Fish Dept.
5000 W. Carefree Highway
Phoenix, AZ 85086

WAS PROJECT PRESENTED TO THE LOCAL HPC? YES X NO

HAS PROJECT BEEN SUBMITTED IN PREVIOUS YEARS? IF SO WAS IT FUNDED?
No

NEED STATEMENT/PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

Game Management Unit 10 consists of approximately 2300 square miles of predominately private and state

(Arizona State Land Department) lands. The Big Boquillas Ranch consists of approximately 1150 square miles of private and state land within Game Management Unit 10. The ranch makes up a very large percentage of the management unit and provides much recreation to the state's sportsmen. The ranch is a valuable asset to Arizona Conservationists and a popular destination for big game hunters in the state.

Managed as an alternative elk management unit, Game Management Unit 10 routinely produces large antlered bulls and is a frequently the preferred unit for special tag hunters as well as those lucky enough to draw a hunt permit in the annual draw. The unit also produces abundant pronghorn and mule deer hunting opportunities. These species all occupy the project area. Though elk, pronghorn and mule deer are the species that most frequent the project area, there are nongame and furbearer benefits that would be provided by the project as well.

Much of the wildlife resources in the unit rely on water resources provided by livestock operators. On the Boquillas Ranch an extensive system of wells and pipelines provide water to livestock and wildlife throughout much of the ranch. In spite of the expansive water system, there remain portions of the ranch that are not reliably watered. This circumstance can lead to large areas of the ranch that are difficult to manage. This project is designed to more reliably water an approximately 20,000 acre portion of the Boquillas Ranch. Though water resources are present in the area, many of them are ephemeral in nature.

On August 27, 2009 Department employees met with representatives from the Navajo Nation and their lessee, Cholla livestock LLC. The intent of the meeting was to discuss the occurrence of some negative hunter behaviors and opportunities to partner on conservation opportunities. Representatives from the Navajo Nation were supportive of the Department entering into a partnership with the lessee to develop options to improve the capacity of the landscape to support wildlife and livestock. The Tank Car Pipeline Project was discussed as a valuable step toward that end.

The water system on the ranch has historically been the fiscal responsibility of the owners and the lessee. The proposed project represents an opportunity for the sportsmen of Arizona and the Department (through the HPC program) to become a partner in maintaining that system and partnering in the fiscal responsibility of that venture.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The primary objective of the project is to improve stewardship on the Boquillas Ranch by more effectively distributing water so that livestock and wildlife resources can be better managed. To accomplish this goal, an existing water asset will be tapped into. The water will be piped approximately 9 miles to a less watered portion of the ranch in the Black Tanks Bull Pasture near Tank Car Tank.

An equally important objective is for the Department and sportsmen to seize the opportunity to partner with the landowners and lessee in supporting, financially and cooperatively, actions that support the management of wildlife and wildlife habitat on the Boquillas Ranch.

It should be noted that the water that is produced by the wells that supply the pipelines on the ranch are run by pumps that require large volumes of diesel fuel. Fuel supplies are paid for by the lessee. The pipeline and extensive array of tanks/drinkers are maintained by the owner and lessee. The lessee also staffs a full time employee to manage the water system day to day activities. The system is not a passive system but requires an individual to travel throughout the ranch checking water levels and filling those waters as appropriate.

PROJECT STRATEGIES:

Project strategies will/may include:

- Ranch personnel will link to the existing well/pipeline infrastructure as a source for the new pipeline in the vicinity of Farm Dam Tank.
- The new pipeline will follow the shoulder of an existing roadway.
- Ranch personnel will pre-rip the pipeline bed to ensure that the pipeline can be buried completely in the final pass.
- Ranch personnel will install the pipeline utilizing a ripper/spool combination tool fitted to a road grader (provided by the ranch).
- Ranch personnel will construct and install a ~ 50,000 gallon steel tank and drinker at the terminal end of the pipe.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The project location is on the Big Boquillas Ranch in game Management Unit 10.

The project area can be accessed via Highway 64 (north of Valle) to the west on Wilaha Road. (Consult Unit 10 Map for navigation since roads are not marked).

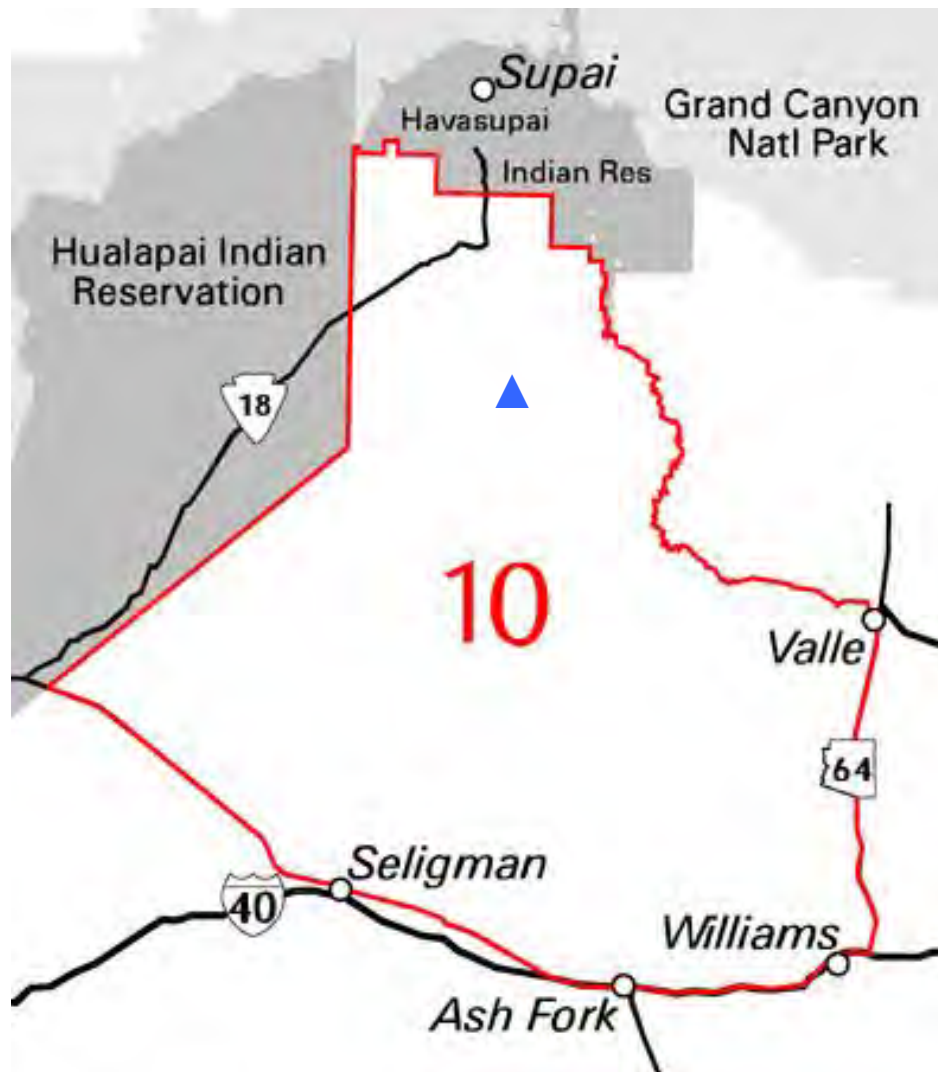
The proposed pipeline will involve the following locations.

T. 28 N., R. 4 W., Sec. 33

T. 27 N., R. 4 W., Sec. 4, 9, 10, 15, 14, 23

(Maps Below)

Project Area Overview Map (Game Management Unit 10)



▲ Marks the general project location.
Detailed Project Location Map



The entire project area is in the general location of Farm Dam Draw. Though on the plains, the area is heavily utilized by elk and also utilized by pronghorn and mule deer.

LAND OWNERSHIP AT PROJECT SITE (Please state specifically if PRIVATE PROPERTY and provide landowner's name):

The land ownership at the project site is entirely private land owned by the Navajo Nation.

IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?

The Department is currently working with the Navajo Nation in several planning efforts potentially including an access agreement for the Big Boquillas Ranch. It should be noted that, in spite of the lack of an access agreement with the Navajo Nation for several years, access has been granted to the ranch providing ample access to the resource and large percentage of the annual hunter days for Game Management Unit 10.

As articulated above, rare is the case in Arizona where a single private land holding comprises such a large percentage of a critical game management unit.

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

The Habitat in the project area is best characterized as grassland/Great Basin Desert Scrub.

The habitat in the project area is dominated by grassland/Great Basin Desertscrub with pinyon/juniper woodlands occurring in the adjacent highlands and draws. Species present include pinyon pine, juniper, cliffrose, algerita, rabbitbrush, four-wing saltbush and various grama grasses.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

BUDGET ANALYSIS
BOQUILLAS RANCH – TANK CAR PIPELINE

ANTICIPATED COSTS:

COOPERATOR AND PROJECT COMPONENTS	COST-SHARE DOLLARS	GRANT DOLLARS REQUESTED
ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT/HPC FUNDING		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide funding for the purchase of 48,000 feet of 2 inch high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe. <i>Pipe calculated (lessee's quote) @ .49/ft.</i> 		\$ 23,520.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide funding for the purchase of materials to construct a 50,000 gallon steel water storage. <i>Tank materials calculated at 14 sheets (6'X20') of 1/8" steel @ \$344.00/sheet.</i> 		\$ 4,816.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide funding for the purchase of materials to construct drinker. <i>Drinker materials calculated at 1 sheet (6'X20') of 1/8" steel @ \$344.00/sheet.</i> 		\$ 344.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide funding for purchase of float and valve assembly. <i>Float and valve assembly calculated at \$220.00/unit cost</i> 		\$ 220.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide funding for purchase of welding rod to complete project. <i>Calculated at unit cost of \$330.00</i> 		\$ 330.00
SUBTOTAL		\$ 29,230.00
CHOLLA LIVESTOCK LLC.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Provide road grader and operator to pre-rip ground and install pipeline, etc. <i>Calculated at 112 hours @125.00/hour</i> 	\$ 14,000.00	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Provide backhoe and operator to complete needed trench work and prepare tank and drinker locations, etc. <i>Calculated at 24 hours @120.00/hour</i> 	\$ 2,880.00	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide two men and welding equipment to construct steel tank. <i>Calculated at 240 hours at \$65.00/hour</i> 	\$ 15,600.00	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide labor and welding equipment to install tank/float assembly. <i>Calculated at 16 hours @ \$65.00/hour</i> 	\$ 1,040.00	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide ground labor to assist in pipe installation, etc. <i>Calculated at 3 laborers working for 32 hours each (96 hours @ \$12.50/hour)</i> 	\$ 1,200.00	

* Equipment/operator cost figures provided by AZGFD Development
Branch, Land Owner Relations Program

SUBTOTAL \$ 34,720.00

NAVAJO NATION – DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- Provide project oversight as land owner conservation partner. -----
- Note: Since the Navajo Nation has owned the Big Boquillas Ranch, -----
access to sportsmen has been provided each year. This past access,
though without a value placed on it in this document, has been
greatly valued by the Arizona Game and Fish department and the
sportsmen of the state. The Department is working closely with the
Navajo Nation as they develop management plans for the Big
Boquillas Ranch.

TOTALS: \$ 34,720.00 \$ 29,230.00
Project Total = \$63,950.00

Cost Share Discussion:

The pipeline system requires a substantial expense annually to fuel and maintain pumps and to support maintenance personnel and operations assistance. The ranch lessee annually incurs a large expense in operations associated with supplying water to the ranch. A large effort is underway to clean earthen tanks on the ranch as well. On the schedule this year are 13 earthen tanks that are creating considerable expense for the lessee. Though the assets involved benefit cattle, they are also critical elements of infrastructure in the support of wildlife resources on the ranch. Though no effort was made to utilize that expense in this document, the Department recognizes that there is considerable cost share available in these areas as well. Additional opportunities to further conservation efforts and increase capacity on the ranch may include utilizing potential cost share presented above.

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

(Detailed project components and costs are available above in the Budget analysis.)

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

- Provide funding to purchase project components including piping, steel for tanks and drinkers, welding rod and water float/valve assembly.
- Provide coordination and oversight to ensure that clearances are obtained, project meets conservation/management goals of partners.
- Monitor project construction and future water availability for wildlife.

CHOLLA LIVESTOCK LLC.

- Provide labor and equipment to prepare project site, install pipeline, construct and install tank, float and valve assembly and drinker.
- Provide ongoing monitoring and maintenance of project.

NAVAJO NATION – DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- Provide project oversight.

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

Monitoring of ongoing construction activities and installation of the pipeline will be conducted by Arizona Game and Fish Department Wildlife Managers. Day to day operation, maintenance and monitoring of the completed project will be conducted by the lessee as part of normal operations. Department Wildlife Managers will periodically check the water as part of normal duties to ensure availability to wildlife.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

Project maintenance will be the responsibility of the land owner and the lessee as part of the normal responsibilities of those employees involved.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Tom Finley, Field Supervisor - Prescott

ATTACHMENTS:

**Attachment 1 Letter of Support from Gloria Tom, Director
Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife**



JOE SHIRLEY, JR.
PRESIDENT

REN SHIELLY
VICE-PRESIDENT

August 31, 2009

Larry Voyles, Director
Arizona Game and Fish Department
5000 West Carefree Highway
Phoenix, Arizona 85086

Re: Boquillas Ranch - Tank Car Pipeline Letter of Support

Dear Director Voyles:

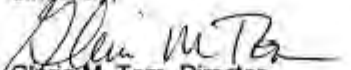
The Navajo Nation and the Arizona Game and Fish are working toward conservation goals on the Big Boquillas Ranch. As owners of the ranch, the Navajo Nation is interested in any improvement to natural resources management and conservation. To that end, we are interested in partnering with the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Cholla Livestock Company in projects that improve stewardship on the ranch. On August 27, 2009 Fredrick White, Deputy Director of the Navajo Nation's Division of Natural Resources and Jeff Cole, Wildlife Manager for the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife met with representatives from the Arizona Game and Fish Department and Cholla Livestock, LLC. to discuss such a project. The entities that were present agreed to pursue initial funding for that project through the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Habitat Partnership Committee.

Livestock and cattle on the Big Boquillas Ranch are currently managed and supported by a well and pipeline system that distributes reliable water throughout much of the ranch. Elk, mule deer, pronghorn, wild turkey and many other wildlife species benefit from the water distribution system. The proposed Tank Car Pipeline Project would fund the purchase and installation of approximately nine miles of two-inch, high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipeline, a 50,000 gallon water tank and a wildlife friendly drinker. The pipeline would originate at the current pipe at Farm Dam and transport water southeast past Tank Car Tank. The intent of the project is to create more dependable water resources in an approximately 20,000 acre area in the Black Tanks Bull Pasture. This pipeline would allow for better management of livestock and wildlife resources in the area.

The Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife supports the proposed Tank Car Pipeline Project. The Navajo Nation is committed to conservation on the Big Boquillas Ranch and our partnership with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. As we work toward our management objectives on the ranch and our conservation partnership, it is in the best interest of the resource to pursue opportunities such as this. We look forward to exploring additional opportunities in the future.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (928) 871-6450 or 6451.

Sincerely,


Gloria M. Tom, Director
Department of Fish and Wildlife

NAVAJO NATION DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE
P.O. BOX 1480 • WINDOW ROCK, ARIZONA 86515 • (928) 871-6451 • Fax: (928) 871-7060 • www.nndfw.org