

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

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

**Project Title:** Boquillas Earth Tank Cleaning

**Project No.** 11-304

**Region/GMU:** Region III, GMU 10

**HPC:** Prescott HPC

**Project Type:** Renovation of 9 existing dirt tanks on the Big Boquillas Ranch

**Project Description:** This project will increase water storage, and remove some of the softer sediments in Big Chief, Indian Tank #1, Indian Tank #2, Indian Tank #3, Pine Canyon, Tribble, Valley, Antelope, and Lemonade on the Big Boquillas Ranch in Game Management 10 and will help prevent wildlife from becoming caught in the tank bottoms as they dry up. The availability of dependable water will also help distribute wildlife populations into areas where water availability is limited.

This project is a cooperative effort by the Department and the Cholla Livestock Company to improve the reliability of earth tanks to hold/capture moisture during periods of drought. More dependable water sources that will allow wildlife to utilize habitat that is limited to above ground waters.

**Wildlife Species to Benefit:** Elk, Mule Deer, Pronghorn, Turkey

**Possible Funding Partners:** Arizona Elk Society and the Kaibab National Forest

**Implementation Schedule:**

Beginning: Fall 2011

Completed: Fall 2012

**NEPA Compliance: (NOT REQUIRED)**

**Completed:** Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

**Projected Completion Date:**

**PROJECT FUNDING**

**SBG Funds Requested:** \$ 47,180

**Cost Share Funds:** \$ 47,180 (Cholla Livestock Company)

**Total Project Costs:** \$ 94,360

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION**

**Applicant:** Ben Shelby

(please print)

**Telephone:** 928-856-0182

**Address:** Arizona Game and Fish Dept.

5325 N. Stockton Hill Rd. Kingman, AZ 86409

**AGFD Contact and Phone No.**

**(If applicant is not AGFD personnel)**

**Coordinated with:**

Gary Wilson, General Manager

Cholla Livestock LLC

1401 North Street

Phoenix, Arizona 85008

(602) 220-9820

**Date:** August 2011

<b>Applicant's signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
-------------------------------	--------------

**SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:**

**Game Branch  
2221 W. Greenway Rd.  
Phoenix, AZ 85023  
rthompson@azgfd.gov**

**WAS PROJECT PRESENTED TO THE LOCAL HPC?      YES \_\_\_\_\_      NO X\_\_\_\_\_**

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

This project has not been submitted before.

**NEED STATEMENT/PROBLEM ANALYSIS:**

In the summer of 2009 and 2010 several cow and bull elk were found stuck in mud at Tribble Tank in the Aubrey Valley in Game Management 10. In the summer of 2011 Tribble Tank did not capture any of the summer monsoon moisture and is currently dry. Tribble Tank is currently under construction with Cholla Livestock personnel cleaning 50% of the earth tank, completion is expected in the near future

Lemonade, Antelope , and Valley tanks are within year-round range of antelope and to a lesser extent mule deer. These tanks have accumulated silt and mud during the years and can be a challenge for wildlife to reach the water content in the earth tanks. Currently Lemonade and Antelope are under construction with Cholla Livestock personnel completing 50% of the earth tank cleaning; other priorities are being completed.

Big Chief, Indian Tanks #1, Indian Tank #2, Indian Tank #3, and Pine Canyon Tank are located in high quality wildlife habitat that is utilized by: turkey, elk, mule deer, and other wildlife. These earth tanks have accumulated large quantities of silt that reduce the productivity of the earth tanks. Currently Indian Tanks #1, Indian Tank #2, Indian Tank #3, and Pine Canyon Tank are dry and have not collected any precipitation from the 2011 monsoon season. Big Chief currently has water but removing the silt content would improve the integrity of the earth tank.

Renovating and cleaning these stock tanks will increase water storage capacity and reliable water in the area for wildlife while minimizing the entrapment risk to antelope and deer fawns and elk calves.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVES:**

- 1) Increase available water to wildlife in these 9 dirt tanks
- 2) Decrease entrapment risk to wildlife by removal of accumulated sediment load from the tanks
- 3) Increase distribution of wildlife

**PROJECT STRATEGIES:**

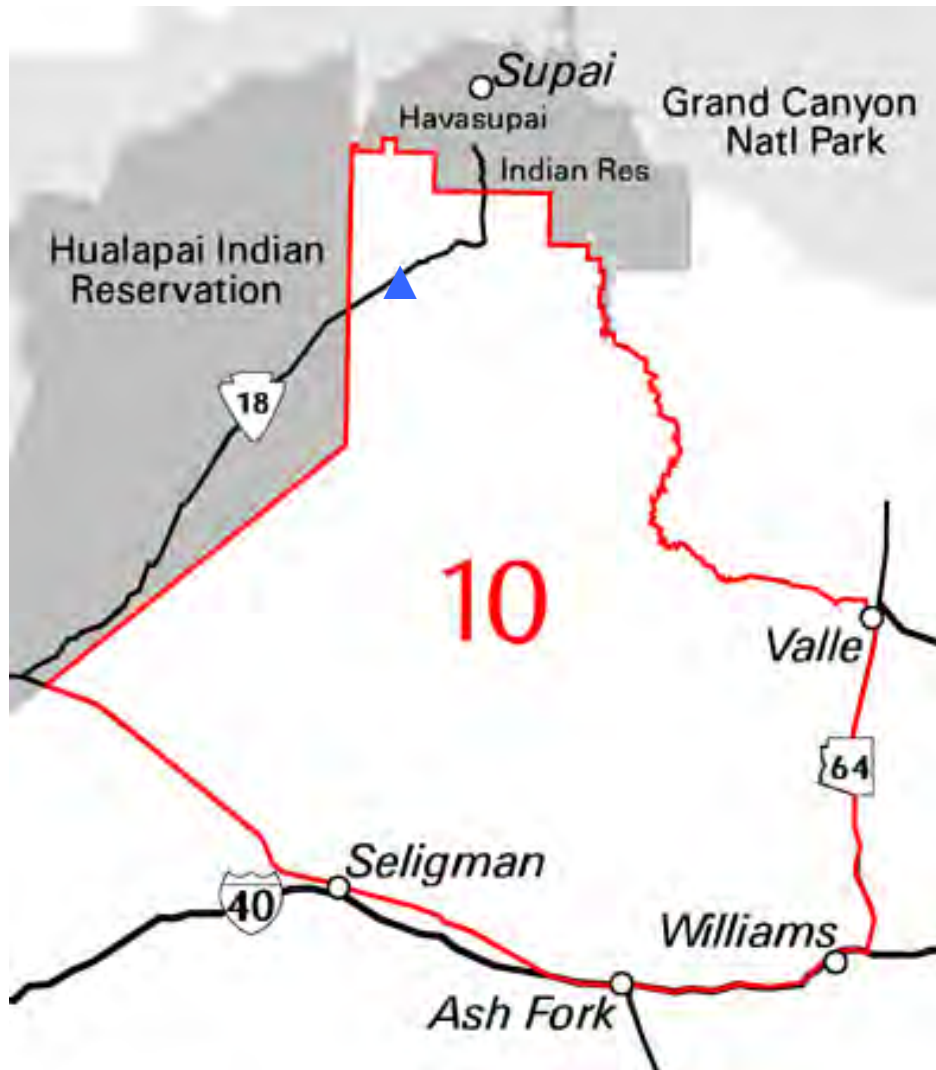
The Cholla Livestock Company will utilize their track hoe, loader, and dump truck to renovate these nine dirt tanks. Work will begin as soon as funding is secure and the dirt tanks are in dry conditions.

**PROJECT LOCATION:**

The five dirt tanks located are located in the north-east part of the Williams Ranger District on the Kaibab National Forest.

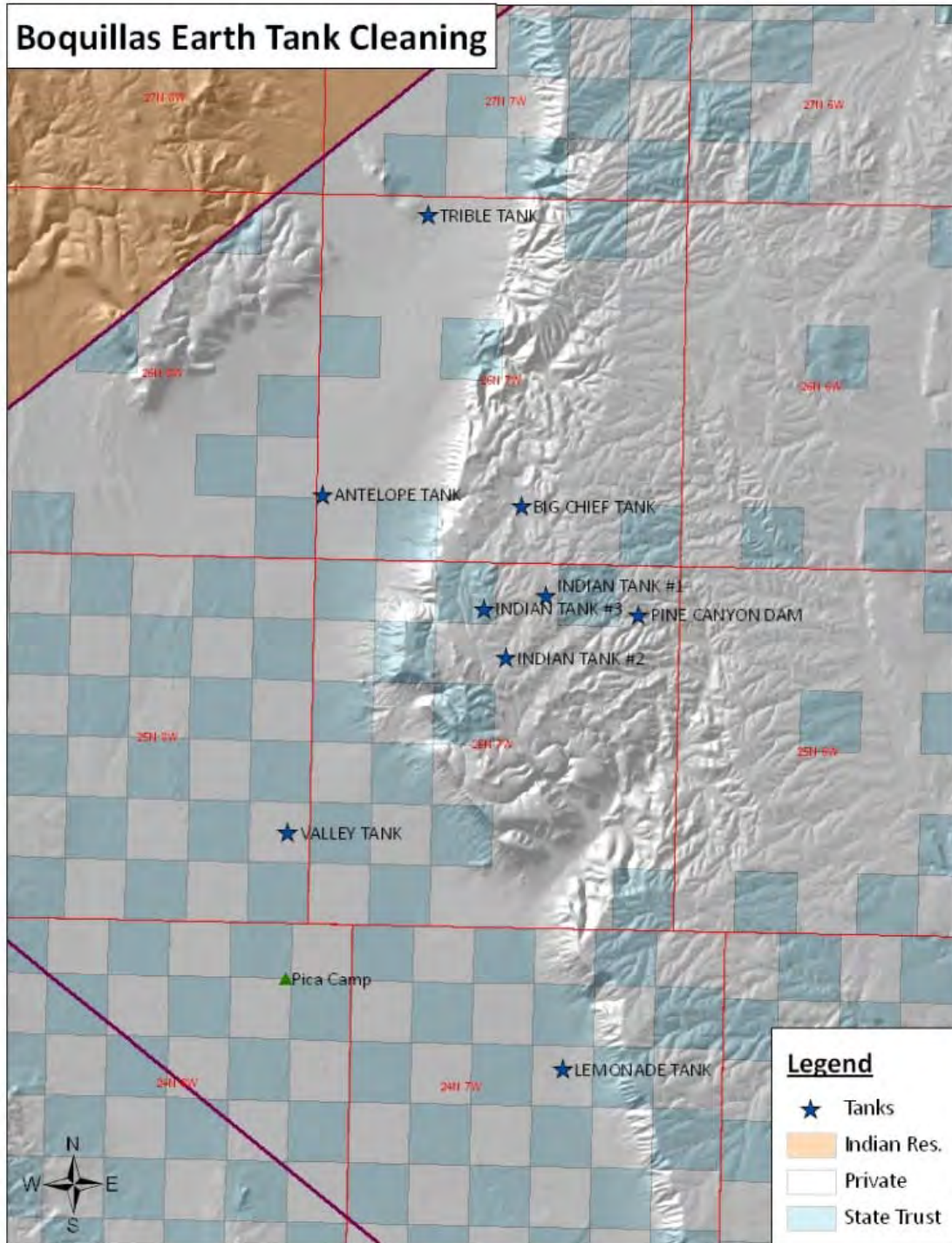
Township 25 N. Range 6 W. Section 34, 01, 03, and 10. Township 25 N. Range 7 W. Sections 04 and 30.  
Township 23 N. Range 7 W. Section 15. Township 26 N. Range 7 W. Section 05.  
Township 24N. Range 7 W. Section 25.

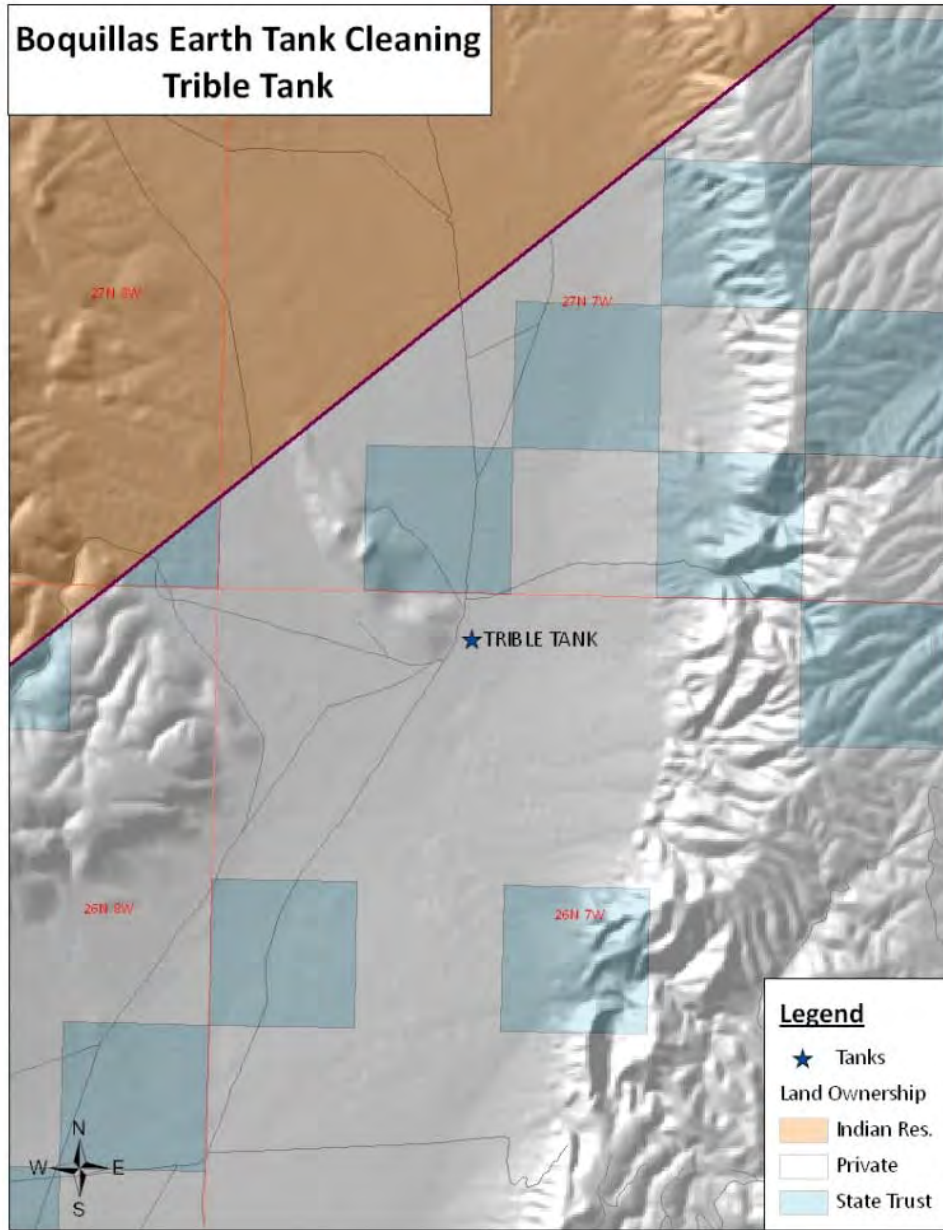
**MAPS BELOW**

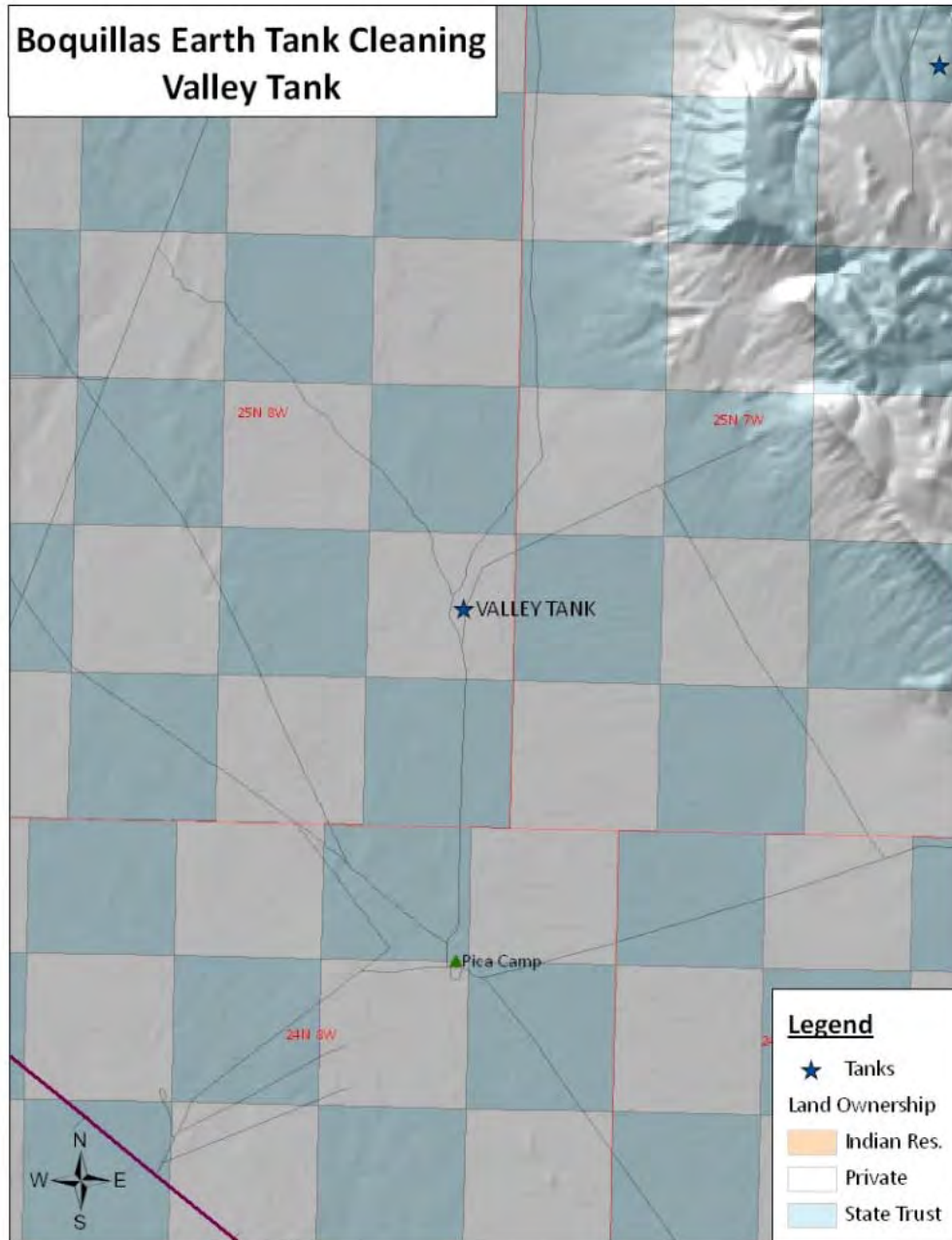


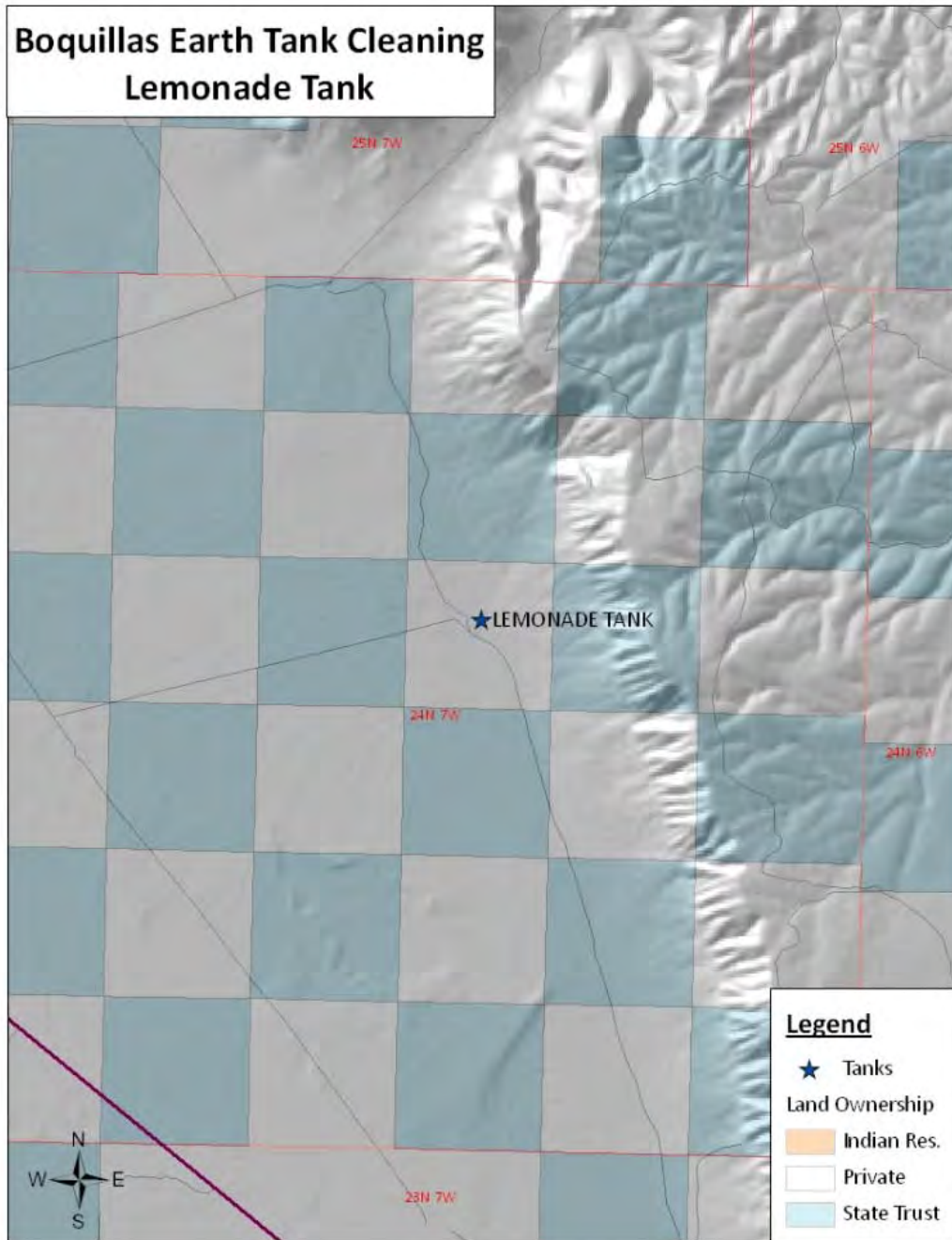
▲ Marks the general project location.

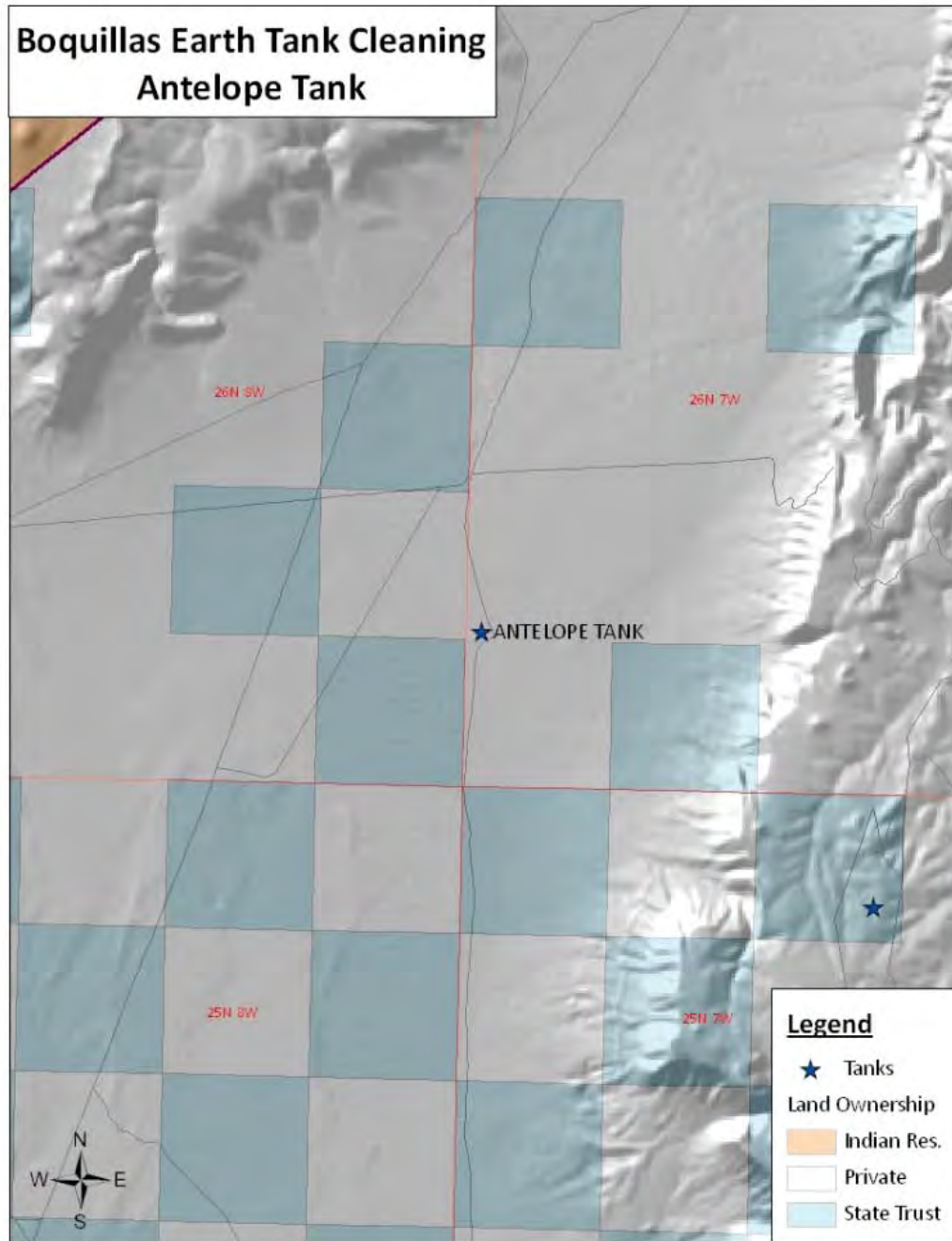
Detailed Project Location Map

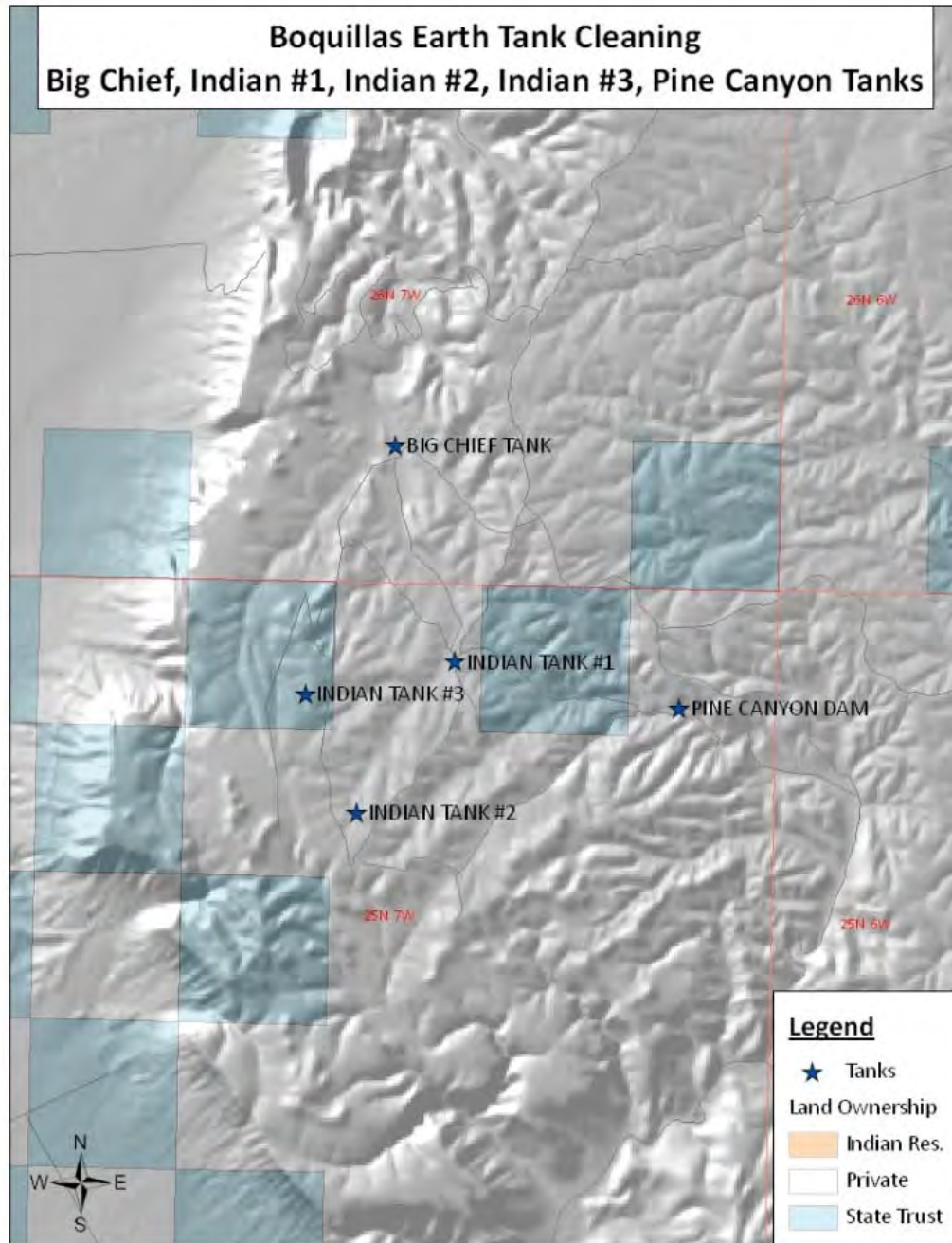












**LAND OWNERSHIP AT PROJECT SITE (Please state specifically if PRIVATE PROPERTY and provide landowner's name):**

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 a 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.

The land ownership at the project site is predominantly private land owned by the Navajo Nation, although the proposed Indian Tank #3 is located in a section of State Trust Land.

**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 a 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:**

Grassland and pinion-juniper woodland, and rocky mountain ponderosa pine woodland.

**ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:**

Cost was estimated by Cholla Livestock Company's manager and it is broken down to cost per tank (**Listed Below**).

**Estimated Cost of Cleaning Earth Tanks**

Fuel	\$3.25/hr	
Track Hoe	\$100/hr	
Loader	\$90/hr	
Dump Truck	\$50/hr	
TOTAL COST of Cleaning Nine Earth Tanks		<b>\$94,360</b>

**Tanks**

Big Chief			Pine Canyon Tank		
Equipment	Amount	Cost	Equipment	Amount	Cost
Fuel	1200gal.	\$3,900	Fuel	500 gal.	\$1,625
Track Hoe	96 hrs	\$9,600	Track Hoe	40 hrs	\$4,000
Loader	48 hrs	\$4,320	Loader	20 hrs	\$1,800
Dump Truck	48 hrs	\$2,400	Dump Truck	20 hrs	\$1,000
Total Cost		\$20,220	Total Cost		\$8,425

Indian Tank #1			Tribble		
Equipment	Amount	Cost	Equipment	Amount	Cost
Fuel	200 gal.	\$650	Fuel	500 gal.	\$1,625
Track Hoe	16 hrs	\$1,600	Track Hoe	40 hrs	\$4,000
Loader	8 hrs	\$720	Loader	20 hrs	\$1,800
Dump Truck	8 hrs	\$400	Dump Truck	20 hrs	\$1,000
Total Cost		\$3,370	Total Cost		\$8,425

### Indian Tank #2

Equipment	Amount	Cost
Fuel	100 gal.	\$325
Track Hoe	8 hrs	\$800
Loader	4 hrs	\$360
Dump Truck	4 hrs	\$200
Total Cost		\$1,685

### Valley

Equipment	Amount	Cost
Fuel	100 gal	\$3,250
Track Hoe	80 hrs	\$8,000
Loader	40 hrs	\$3,600
Dump Truck	40 hrs	\$2,000
Total Cost		\$16,850

### Indian Tank #3

Equipment	Amount	Cost
Fuel	100 gal.	\$325
Track Hoe	8 hrs	\$800
Loader	4 hrs	\$360
Dump Truck	4 hrs	\$200
Total Cost		\$1,685

### Antelope

Equipment	Amount	Cost
Fuel	800 gal.	\$2,600
Track Hoe	64 hrs	\$6,400
Loader	32 hrs	\$2,880
Dump Truck	32 hrs	\$1,600
Total Cost		\$13,480

### Lemonade

Equipment	Amount	Cost
Fuel	1200gal.	\$3,900
Track Hoe	96 hrs	\$9,600
Loader	48 hrs	\$4,320
Dump Truck	48 hrs	\$2,400
Total Cost		\$20,220

**SBG Tag Fund request:** \$47,180 for 9 dirt tanks

**LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:**

Cholla Livestock Company

**PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:**

AZGFD personnel

**PROJECT MAINTENANCE:**

N/A.

**PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:**

AZGFD Wildlife Manager Ben Shelby