

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number:	11-508
Possible Funding Partners:	

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: A-Diamond Ranch Solar Water Project

Region and Game Management Unit: 5/37B

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):

- Tucson

Was the project presented to the LHPC?

YES[X] NO[]

Has this project been submitted in previous years? YES[] NO[X]

If Yes, was it funded? YES[] NO[] → **HPC Project #:**

Project Type: Solar Water Development/Enhancement

Brief Project Summary:

This project entails the installation of a solar pumping unit, two 3600 gallon poly storage tanks, one drinker and the associated plumbing at an existing site of a currently non functioning water system on the A Diamond Ranch owned and operated by Gregg Vinson (G&H Land and Cattle Company). The location is labeled on the maps.

This is part of a larger effort, the majority of which has already been completed, that the Vinson's have made to provide perennial water for wildlife and livestock on the ranch and to improve range utilization and habitat. To date, the Vinson's have completed two NRCS EQUIP projects totaling approximately \$200,000 and two LCCGP (Livestock & Crop Conservation Grant Program) grants totaling approximately \$100,000.

Of these grants which total approximately \$300,000, G&H Land and Cattle to date has contributed approximately \$125,000 in planning, labor, vehicles, tools, implementation and management. G&H has installed approximately 12 miles of pipeline, two solar wells, 50,000 gallons of water storage, and 15 new drinkers which provide perennial water to wildlife across **36 sections** of land. Three miles of pipeline improvement has been completed at their own cost.

The A Diamond Ranch has a multi-agency cooperative Conservation Management Plan for the ranch developed with the USDA/NRCS. **They also hold both State and BLM lease permits totaling 302 Animal Units (AU's); however their actual use on average has been only 160 AU's.**

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Mule deer, Whitetail deer, javelina

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date: September 1, 2011

Project End Date: June 30, 2013

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: YES[] No[X] N/A[]

Projected Completion Date: January 2012 – See email below

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:

YES[] No[X] N/A[]

Projected Completion Date: January 2012 – See email below

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A[]

To be Completed by: Ben Brochu

Projected Completion Date: July 1, 2012

PROJECT FUNDING		
Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:		\$ 9,773
Cost Share or Matching Funds:		\$ 6,000
Total Project Costs:		\$ 15,773
PARTICIPANT INFORMATION		
Applicant (please print): Ben Brochu	Address: 555 N. Greasewood Rd. Tucson, AZ 85739	E-mail: bbrochu@azgfd.gov
Telephone: 520-591-7636		Date: September 1, 2011
AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel):		
Project has been coordinated with: BLM - Tucson		

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

Perennial water sources are scarce within 37B. Many ranchers maintain and continue to install water sources; however, they use these waters as tools to move cattle, turning them off during some times of the year. Also, many grazing allotments within 37B do not have adequate water sources. Many of these allotments are severely overgrazed around water sources and underutilized in areas without water. This project will address these issues by providing perennial water sources on the A Diamond Ranch. Forage utilization will be more evenly distributed within this area resulting in improved habitat conditions, namely browse species.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- To increase deer and javelina populations by providing perennial water sources and improving range conditions through improved rangeland utilization.
- To maintain good working relationships with the ranching community as stewards of the land and wildlife.
- To increase hunter opportunity associated with increased game populations.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

To install the following components in the northeast corner of the Brahmer pasture near the Holding pasture as labeled on the map.

- Solar pumping unit
- (2) 3600 gallon poly storage tanks
- (1) drinker with associated plumbing

The NEPA and Arch clearances will be completed by the BLM – Tucson Office (see email below from Kristen Duarte).

From: kduarte@blm.gov [mailto:kduarte@blm.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2011 1:16 PM
To: Ben Brochu
Cc: dtersey@blm.gov
Subject: Fw: A Diamond HPC Proposal

Hi Ben,
BLM will do the NEPA and arch clearance. The level of NEPA document will be an Environmental Assessment. I talked to our archeologist and her first available time to do the clearance is the last week of September. So we're looking at a timeframe of about 3-4 months to get everything, all signatures, completed.

Thanks,

Kristen L. Duarte
Rangeland Management Specialist

Bureau of Land Management
Tucson Field Office
12661 E. Broadway
Tucson, AZ 85748
ph. (520) 258-7215
fax (520) 258-7238
kristen_duarte@blm.gov

PROJECT LOCATION:

Game Management Unit 37B south of the Gila River between Kearny and Florence.
See maps 1 (general project location) and 2 (specific project location) for details.

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

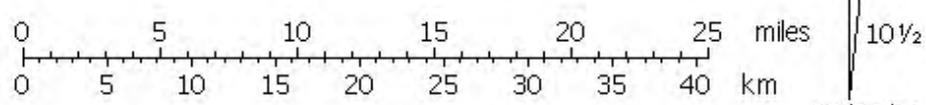
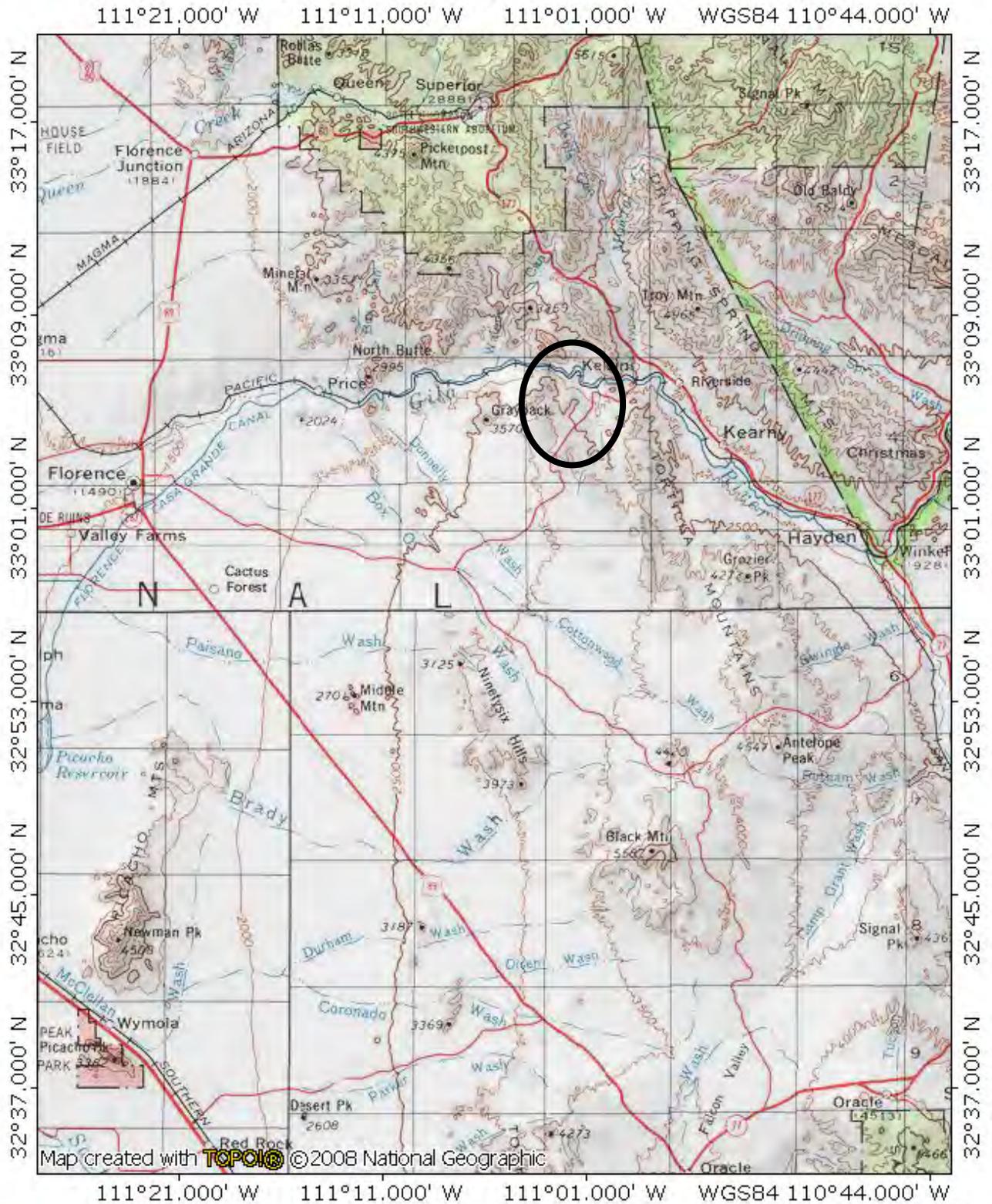
The project site is on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, Tucson Field Office, 12661 E. Broadway, Tucson, AZ 85748, (520) 258-6300.

IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A STEWARDSHIP or LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?
YES[] NO[X]

A landowner agreement will be completed if the project is funded.

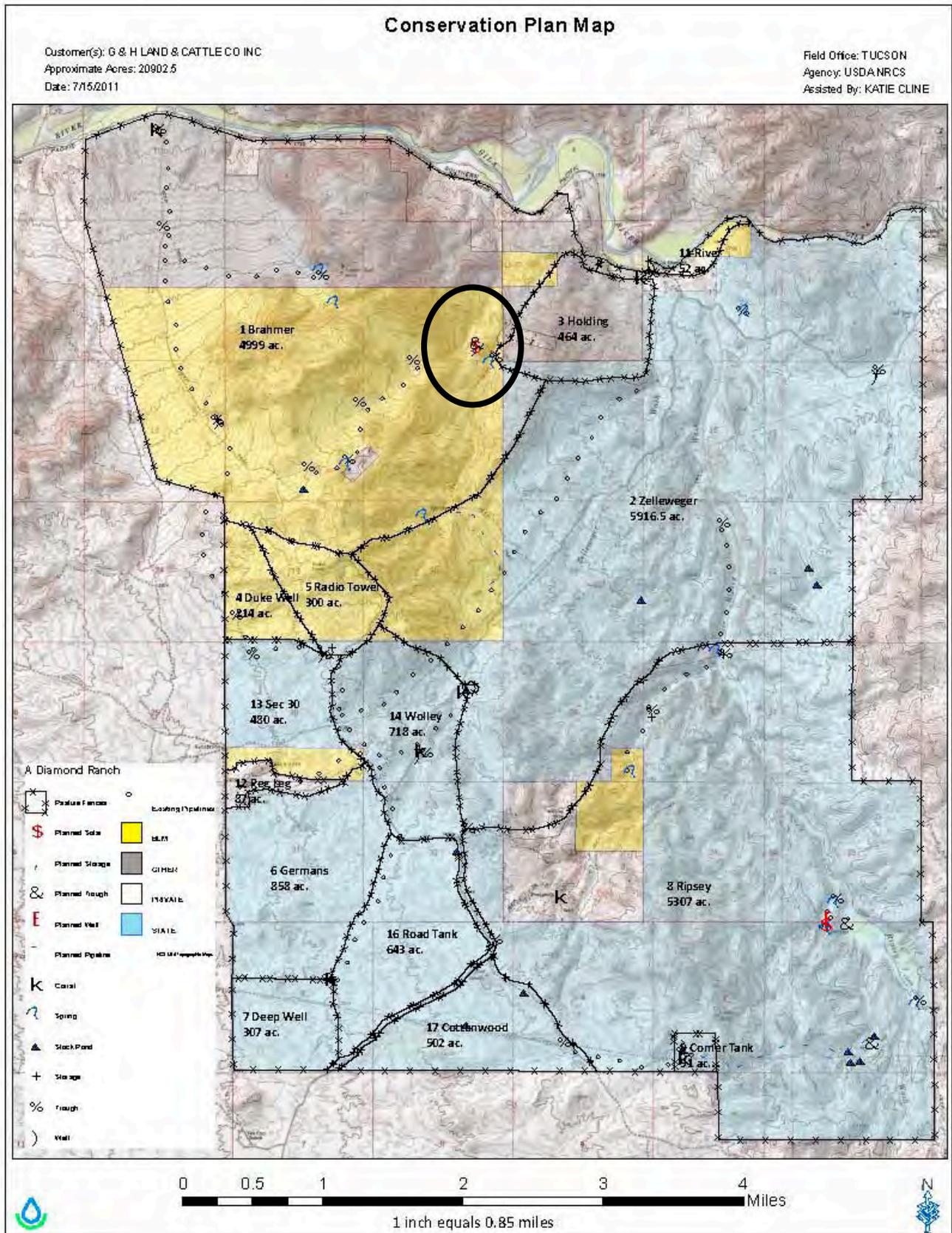
Map 1 – General project location circled below.

TOPO! map printed on 08/26/11 from "Untitled.tpo"



TN
MN
10 1/2
08/26/11

Map 2 - Specific location circled below in black.



HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

Game management unit 37B is located in Pinal County, Arizona, southeast of Phoenix. Two main biotic community types, Sonoran Desertscrub and Semidesert Grassland, comprise the bulk of the habitat in 37B. The site is located within the Jojoba-Mixed Scrub Series of the Arizona Upland Subdivision of the Sonoran Desertscrub community. Common vegetation includes jojoba (*Simmondsia chinensis*), foothill palo verde (*Cercidium microphyllum*), mesquite (*Prosopis spp.*), and desert hackberry (*Celtis pallida*). Average rainfall is approximately 13” and elevation is approximately 2700’.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

• Solar Pumping Unit	\$6,228
• (2) 3600 gallon poly storage tanks (\$1085ea)	\$2170
• (1) Drinker and associated plumbing	\$375
• <u>Contracted labor for the installation of the solar unit</u>	<u>\$1000</u>
Total	\$9,773

Cost Share or Matching Funds

• A-Diamond Ranch/Gregg Vinson: To install all components with the exception of the solar unit - \$3000	
• <u>Tucson BLM: To complete NEPA and Arch clearances - ~\$3000 conservatively</u>	
Total	\$6,000

Additional Cost Share for related landscape based projects previously completed

• NRCS EQUIP Grants	\$200,000
• <u>LCCGP Grants</u>	<u>\$100,000</u>
Total	\$300,000

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

- Gregg Vinson – Procurement and installation of much of the improvement
- BLM – NEPA and ARCH compliance
- AGFD – HPC funding
- Volunteers – additional labor

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

Gregg Vinson will monitor the site to maintain functionality.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

Gregg Vinson will maintain the improvement.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Ben Brochu, Wildlife Manager GMU 37B

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (*see attached worksheet*):

This is not a “traditional” water development project, but rather improving and replacing the existing non functioning equipment with more environmentally friendly and sustainable products (solar) cooperatively with Gregg Vinson, the rancher. This improvement is not considered an AGFD water development. As such, the water development worksheet is not necessary and was not completed.

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

N/A