

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 12-513

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Paloma Well Phase 1

Region and Game Management Unit: 35A in Region 5

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):

- Sierra Vista/Douglas

Was the project presented to the LHPC?

YES NO

Has this project been submitted in previous years? YES NO

If Yes, was it funded? YES NO → **Funded HPC Project #(s):**

Project Type: Water Well

Brief Project Summary:

Phase one of this project would be to drill a well on Jones Mesa and pipe water to preexisting storage tank in Paloma Canyon that will feed a dedicated wildlife drinker, providing consistent, yearlong water to the area.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Mule Deer, Coues Whitetail Deer, Gould's Turkey, Black Bear, Javelina

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date: June 2013

Project End Date: June 2015

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: Yes No N/A

Projected Completion Date: Will be completed by USFS

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:

Yes No N/A

Projected Completion Date: Will be completed USFS

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A

To be Completed by: US Forest Service

Projected Completion Date: August 2013

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested: \$ 12,000

Cost Share or Matching Funds: \$ 27,881

Total Project Costs: \$ 39,881

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):

John Millican
President NWTf Huachuca
Gould's Chapter

Address:

P.O. BOX 1257

HEREFORD, AZ 85615

E-mail:

j2dbmill@msn.com

Telephone: 520-508-4272

Date: 8/20/12

AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel):
Matt Braun Wildlife Manager 35A/B - 623-237-1821

Project has been coordinated with:

James Hietholt and Tom Lorenz - USFS, John Millican -NWTF Huachuca Gould's, Joe Bob Newman and John Sutphin Jr. - Lone Mountain Ranch, Brad Fulk-AZGFD/SEAZ HPC

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

Rainfall has been historically inconsistent in the project area. A well will replace and supplement natural springs, dirt tanks, and a non working USFS water catchment in the area. Due to lack of rainfall the last two winters, many of the dirt tanks and natural springs in the Dove Canyon area dried up before the monsoon rains.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

A well would provide a consistent year round water supply for the area. This source of water will help the area's struggling mule deer population. On a recent aerial survey, no mule deer were surveyed in this area, even though the habitat supported mule deer in the past and is suitable mule deer habitat. The mule deer have retreated into the private lands of the San Rafael Valley which consistently has year round water. This water source will encourage mule deer herds to reestablish and thrive on public lands.

A permanent water source will also promote the expansion Gould's turkey into the drainages west of the Huachuca Mountains. The majority of the Gould's turkey population in the Huachuca's habituates only a small portion of the available habitat, preferring the wetter canyon bottoms. Having a consistent water source may encourage flocks of Gould's turkeys to permanently establish themselves in the drier canyons west of the Canelo Hills, and promote expansion across and into the San Rafael Valley.

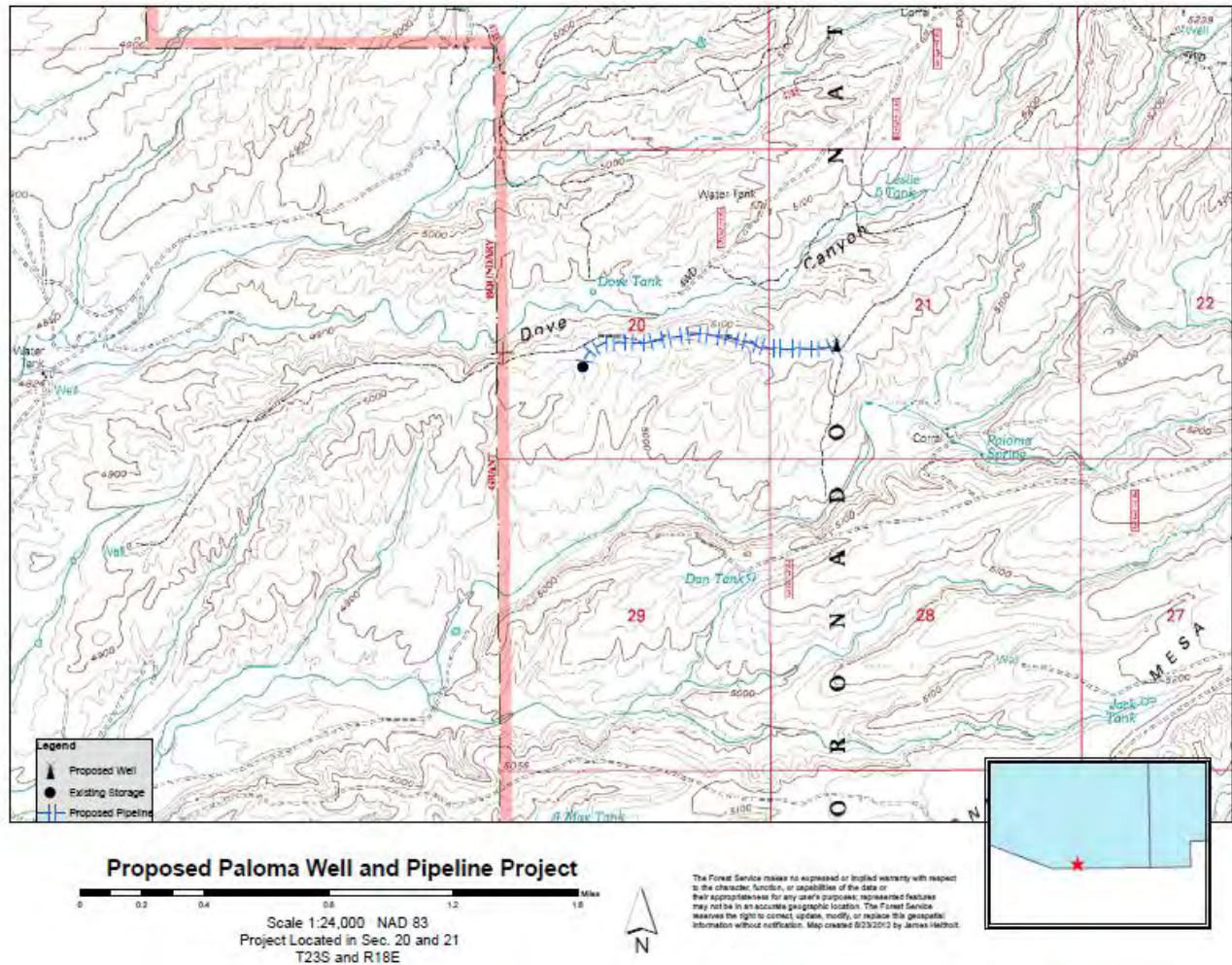
This water source will also benefit the struggling Mearns' quail population which has declined in recent years due to drought. Currently, the Coues whitetail densities represent the highest big game population in the area and will also benefit from this water source. The well can also be utilized to pipe water into other locations in the area to feed wildlife drinkers making this a multi-phase project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

Phase one of this project will include:

- 1) Drilling a well on Jones Mesa(see map).
- 2) Trench will be dug, pipe laid, and buried from the well site to Paloma Trick Tank.
- 3) The 10,000 gallon tank at Paloma Trick Tank will be repair and filled.
- 4) The tank will feed a water trough and will be kept constantly full regardless of use.

PROJECT LOCATION:



LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

All land is owned and managed by the US Forest Service; Sierra Vista Ranger District.

HABITAT DESCRIPTION: Elevations of the project area range from 5500 to 5000 ft. The area is in the foothills of the Huachuca Mountains and Canelo Hills. The project consists of oak woodlands and desert grass lands that connect the oak woodlands of the Huachuca Mountains to the desert grasslands of Sonora, Mexico. The vegetation consists mainly of emory oak, juniper sp., Mearn's Sumac, and a variety of native perennial grasses. The area is comprised of native grass species and is not completely dominated by Lehmann Lovegrass, but it is present in small amounts.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

Drilling well -\$12,000 (Equipment set up - \$2,400, Drilling- \$39.00 a foot for the first 100 feet = \$3,900, \$19.00 a foot after 100 feet x 300 feet =\$5,700)

Cost Share or Matching Funds (for volunteer labor rates please refer to the worksheet below)

Backhoe and operator(Lone Mountain Ranch)- \$ 9,000 (\$4,500 a mile to dig trench and bury pipe)

Piping(USFS)-\$4,500 (\$2,250 a mile for 2 miles)

Volunteer Labor - \$3,394 (\$14.14/hr x 15 volunteers x 2 days)

Volunteer drive time - \$337 (15 volunteers x 50 miles x \$0.45/mile)

Drinker trough(NWTF)-\$300

Solar Pump(Lone Mountain Ranch)-\$6,000 (Grundfas solar pump, panels and set up)

Biological and Archeological Surveys (USFS)-\$300

NEPA Documentation for well site (USFS)-\$4,000

Tank Repair(NWTF)-\$50(miscellaneous materials)

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

Lone Mountain Ranch- Providing backhoe and operator, solar pump, and labor

US Forest Service-Providing technical expertise and materials

NWTF-Huachuca Gould's Chapter-Providing materials and volunteer labor

WOULD IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT ASSIST IN PROVIDING, MAINTAINING, OR FACILITATING RECREATIONAL ACCESS?

YES[] NO[x] N/A[]

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

Project will be monitored by Lone Mountain Ranch with help from US Forest Service and AZGFD personnel as well as volunteers from the local NWTFchapter. All parties will ensure that wildlife trough and water tank remain full. If the well is shut off by the Lone Mountain Ranch, ranch personal will make sure that the tank feeding the wildlife trough is full and maintained.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

The project will be maintained by the Lone Mountain Ranch. Lone Mountain Ranch can coordinate with AZGFD personal to get volunteer labor to maintain the wildlife drinker, water tank, and pipe.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Matt Braun AZGFD #584

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET

PROJECT TITLE: Paloma Well and Pipeline

- 1) **Is the water development listed as a priority in the most recent “Wildlife Water Development Annual Implementation Schedule?”** No
- 2) **Please list the Development Branch personnel and date coordinated with for this project.**
N/A
- 3) **What is 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
- 4) **Is there a perennial water source available to big game within four miles of this project?**
YES (please complete #5 below) NO (skip #5 below)
- 5) **For the accessible, perennial water source nearest this project:**
Name of water source: **Various ephemeral and perennial**
Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank): **Springs, dirt tanks, Parker Canyon Lake**
Ownership of water source: **US Forest Service**
Distance in miles from project: **Various**
- 6) **Is the target wildlife species a result of transplant efforts?** YES NO
- 7) **Please list any special land management status for the project site (i.e. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument). If private land, list landowner.**
- 8) **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: _____ Approximate hiking time: _____

-- Does access to this site require crossing private or tribal lands? YES NO

-- Please describe any restrictions to public access:
None. Land is owned by the US Forest Service
- 9) **Please list below (or on a separate sheet) the material type and dimensions of each component proposed to be added, modified, or repaired.**
- 10) **Was a site visit completed?** Yes No
If Yes, please list personnel that attended and date.