

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 13-502

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Antelope Springs Well Project and Solar Power

Region and Game Management Unit: Region 5 / GMU 30B

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):
• SEAZ HPC

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[] → **Funded HPC Project #(s):**

Project Type: New Water Well

Brief Project Summary:

Drill New Well near Antelope Springs and install Solar Power water system

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Mule Deer, Javelina

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date: Spring 2014

Project End Date: Summer 2014

Environmental Compliance:

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

Projected Completion Date: _____

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:

Yes[] No[] N/A[X]

Projected Completion Date: _____

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

To be Completed by: _____

Projected Completion Date: _____

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:

\$ 6,972.50 (25% of Project Costs)

Cost Share or Matching Funds:

\$ 17,917.50 NRCS EQUIP Fund – Approval In Progress (75% of Requested Funds)

Total Project Costs:

\$ 27,890.00

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):
Jon McClard-Wildlife
Manager GMU 30B

Address:
555 N. Greasewood Road
Tucson, AZ 85745

E-mail:
jmclard@azgfd.gov

Telephone: (520) 858-6479

Date: September 17, 2013

AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel):

Project has been coordinated with:

██████████ Inc., – Ranch Owners (██████████)
██████████ - NRCS (Douglas)
SEAZ - HPC Committee
Brad Fulk-Wildlife Manager Supervisor/SE AZ HPC Coordinator

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

Antelope Spring is a natural spring, located on private property on the Double U Ranch. The spring has remained dry for the past 7 years and has proven to be intermittent at best during the prolonged drought conditions in the area. The need to develop a reliable, year-long water source in the area of the ranch is a priority to support water resource needs for wildlife and to sustain best management practices for range conditions. One of the most significant natural resources that are not always in ideal places is watering location. As all Wildlife and livestock benefit from adequate supplies of water, food and cover in appropriate proximity. All of which is needed in favorable balance for wildlife and livestock to exist together and thrive. The improvement of water availability to wildlife and livestock has increased wildlife populations and has been a direct benefit on the Double U Ranch over the past two decades, a time during a severe drought in the Southwest and specifically Cochise County, AZ. Past ranch water projects were completed in 2002 and significantly improved yearlong water availability in 4 earthen water tanks and due to this ranch projects and other yearlong water sources on the ranch, wildlife populations (specifically Mule Deer) persevered during the extended drought and continue to be a stable population.

The ranch has been owned a corporation consisting of ██████████ for 45 years and previous habitat enhancement projects throughout the years have included, but not limited to, prescribed burns, four dirt tank clean-outs, adding wildlife escape ramps, switched two wells to solar powered, and over nine hundred acres mesquite grubbing to increase habitat cover. As well as additional reseeding of range areas, and changing to solar power on 2 well units. Currently the ranch has an EQUIP project proposed for three hundred thirty five acres to be grubbed out around the southeast tank, in addition to the proposed water projects. The Double U Ranch has long-term history and valuable working relationship with the AZGFD, NRCS (WHIP and EQUIP programs), and the Farm Services Agency which is to assure the most beneficial management of the livestock operation and the conservation of wildlife species.

The Double U Ranch has been very active to implement proposed wildlife projects that better wildlife populations and the livestock operation. In order to maintain the wildlife species such as quail, dove, other bird species, mule deer, javelina, and various predator wildlife located on the ranch; the owner needs to add additional wells, pipeline and solar power to increase permanent water availability and increase the quantity of water sources. In other words, the stamp mill has to maintain three pastures, the Adobe Corrals has to maintain four pastures, and the Brush mill helps to maintain the upper big pasture along with three others. All of these waters are about one and half miles to each respective water source and proposed waters.

Since 1968, the ranch owner has allowed public access, and is also under an access agreement with the AZGFD which expires August 2016. In addition, many public benefits will be derived through the intangible improvement to wildlife populations and habitat on the ranch and adjacent land. In 2007-2009, the Double U Ranch hosted the Southern Region German Shorthaired Bird Dog Trials and has hosted the NWTf – Junior Predator Callers for nine through seventeen year olds for the past two years. Furthermore, the Double U ranch is centrally located between the Mule and

Dragoon Mountains. The ranch is a vital habitat component; serving as a valuable wildlife corridor between the two mountain ranges and securing the future of open space in this area as residential subdivisions exists on two sides of the ranch. Its location, and proportion of private land (6,715 acres) that could be developed, are of significant importance to maintaining the contiguous habitat for wildlife populations that currently exists. Increases in wildlife populations in general can be a very substantial part of rural economics related to recreational dollars spent, and can be a valuable benefit to local economies.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Improve the water quantity and availability for all wildlife species near Antelope Springs; a dry natural spring located on the Double U Ranch. Improve range management practices and rotation possibilities by distributing grazing regimes with accessible water and to upgrade habitat conditions. Utilize the “new” proposed Antelope Springs Well, to add future water sources to adjacent areas of the ranch by adding additional water lines/troughs in the future and continue to improve water availability to wildlife.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

Drill new well at the Antelope Spring location (see map) and fit with Solar Power pump system, add a storage tank/water trough and wildlife friendly fencing for protection.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The project site is on private property located on the Double U Ranch which is located east of Tombstone Arizona, within Cochise County. The ranch is both State Trust and private property and serves as a major corridor in which wildlife use to travel from the Dragoon Mountains to the north to the Mule Mountains to the south (see location map).

The proposed project is Antelope Spring Well: T20S, R24E, NE ¼, SE ¼, SW ¼, of Section 21

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

(if the project area is private property, please state specifically and provide the landowner’s name)

- Antelope Spring Project is on Private Property Owned by [REDACTED] of the Double U Ranch

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

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

Range is comprised of Lehman’s Lovegrass, Cotton Top, Bush Muley, Cochise Lovegrass, Black and Blue grama, Mesquite, and white thorn. The elevation of the project is approximately 4750 feet.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

\$6,972.50 = 25% of needed project funds

Antelope Spring Well:

Item	Description	Approximate Cost
New Road to Site	2 hrs. @ 120.00 per hour	\$240.00
Drilling New Well	530ft @ 24.00 per foot Including pipe & Casing	\$21,000.00
Storage Tank	5000 gal	\$3,500.00
Trough	8ft in diameter	\$750.00
Fencing around Solar	3panels (2-16ft/1-12ft with gate)	\$600.00
Labor		\$1,800.00
	Approximate Total Cost	\$27,890.00

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

NRCS EQUIP Program – Approval in Progress for 75% of Project Funding

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

██████████ – Double U Ranch Owner
Brad Fulk – Field Supervisor, Region V, Arizona Game and Fish Department
Jon McClard – Wildlife Manager GMU 30B, Arizona Game and Fish Department
Matt Walton – Landowner Relations Coordinator, Region V, Arizona Game and Fish Department.
██████████ – NRCS, Douglas

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

YES NO N/A

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

Documentation with photographs of the project prior to and after project completion on the Double U Ranch.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

All future system maintenance well pipes, solar power, storage tank and trough maintenance by ranch owner
██████████

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Jon McClard – Arizona Game and Fish Department

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (please use the worksheet below):

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT **WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET**

PROJECT TITLE: New Antelope Spring Well

- 1) **Is the water development listed as a priority in the most recent “Wildlife Water Development Annual Implementation Schedule?”**
- 2) **Please list the Development Branch personnel and date coordinated with for this project.**
- 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: Adobe Corrals, Stamp Mill, and Mountain pasture (when working)
Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank): Wells
Ownership of water source: Double U Ranch
Distance in miles from project: Approximately 1.5 miles from project
- 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.**
, Double U Ranch Owner
- 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
- 9) **Please list below (or on a separate sheet) the material type and dimensions of each component proposed to be added, modified, or repaired. See Attached**
- 10) **Was a site visit completed? Yes No**
If Yes, please list personnel that attended and date.

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT **TREE CLEARING/REMOVAL WORKSHEET**

PROJECT TITLE: _____

- 1) **What is the estimated acreage of the project?**

- 2) **How are the trees going to be cleared? (agra axe, chain saw, grubbing, push, chaining):**

- 3) **What is the estimated number of trees per acre?**

- 4) **Describe trees to be cleared (species, estimated diameter, single stem, multi-stem):**

- 5) **Describe terrain (slope, soil type, rocks)**

- 6) **Please list any special land management status for the project site (e.g. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument). If private land, list landowner.**

- 7) **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: Approx. hiking time:

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

Is the site relatively accessible for tree removal equipment? YES NO

Please describe any restrictions to public access:

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEER HOURLY RATES AND CLASSIFICATIONS WORKSHEET

PROJECT TITLE: _____

The value of volunteer labor should be calculated at the hourly rate of an employee doing similar work, or using hourly rates from the Arizona Department of Administration’s Human Resource web site, plus a standard ERE rate of 35%. http://www.hr.az.gov/HR_Professional/Class_Comp/PDF/alphacovered.pdf

\$0.445/mile should be the calculation used for mileage.

Water Development	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Habitat Restoration and Clean Up	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Fisheries	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Nongame Branch Project	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Misc/office work	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			varies	
Community Services	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$7.44	
Events and Other	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Research Branch	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Wildlife Area Hosts	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$17.44	
Education Programs	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$16.07	
Totals				

Customer(s): ██████████ ENTERPRISES INC

District: Whitewater Draw NRC

Approximate Acres: 10031

Date: 8/19/2010

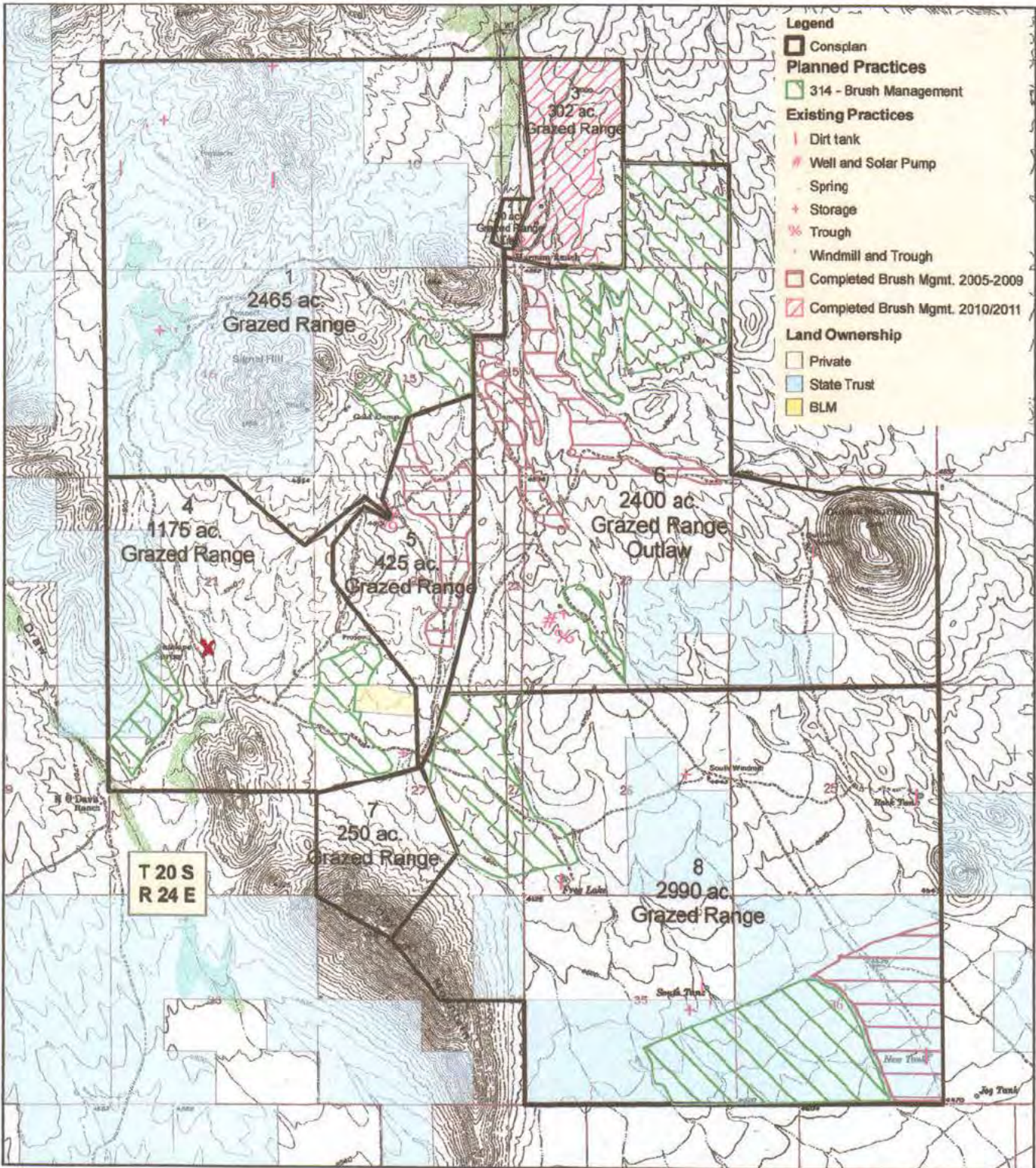
Conservation Plan Map

Field Office: DOUGLAS SERVICE CENTER

Agency: USDA-NRCS

Assisted By: ██████████ L

State and County: AZ, COCHISE



X Location of future Well @ Antelope Spring





Current Site of Antelope Springs



Current Site of Antelope Springs



Sample Structure & Set-up for New Mill at Spring Mill



Sample Structure & Set-up for New Mill at Spring & Brush Mill



Future Site of New Well at Spring – South East



Future Site of New Well at Spring- West



Future Site of New Well at Spring – North East



Future Site of New Well at Spring – North West