

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 13-520

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: 76 Ranch East Side Water Development Project

Region and Game Management Unit: Region 5 / GMU 31

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):
• Safford

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: Water Development

Brief Project Summary: This 2013 request for funds is to help defray the cost of installing a water development system on the southeast portion of the 76 Ranch. The ranch is located at the northern end of the Sulphur Springs Valley and southern side of the Pinaleno Mountain range. The water development project will consist of over 14.5 miles of pipeline, (9) 5,000 gallon storage tanks, (1) 10,000 gallon open top storage tank and (10) 1,000 gallon livestock/wildlife drinking troughs. Water will be supplied by South Taylor Spring and wells which are located on private land at the headquarters of the ranch. This project will improve antelope, mule deer and whitetail deer habitat by ensuring unrestricted, safe access to water and will enable the use of unoccupied or underutilized pronghorn/deer habitat in GMU 31. This area is within the area of the Bonita Grasslands CCPI which is a target area for NRCS funds to improve antelope habitat. A CRMP is in process that will include brush management for antelope habitat improvement as a goal and objective. The 10,000 gallon open top storage tank is a request from the USDA FS for fire repression support.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Antelope (20%), Mule Deer (25%), Whitetail Deer (25%), Bear (10%), Mtn. Lion (10%), Javelina (10%)

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date:
July 2014

Project End Date:
August 2014

Environmental Compliance:

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

Projected Completion Date: FS NEPA is complete

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:

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

Projected Completion Date: will begin upon acceptance of project

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

To be Completed by: _____

Projected Completion Date: _____

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested: \$ 32,400

Cost Share or Matching Funds: \$ 96,623

Total Project Costs: \$ 129,023

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print): [REDACTED] (for Gila Valley NRCDC)	Address: [REDACTED]	E-mail: [REDACTED]
Telephone: [REDACTED]		Date: 6/24/2013
AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel): [REDACTED]		
Project has been coordinated with: Jay Whetten (private land owner/rancher), [REDACTED] [REDACTED]		

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

Water for wildlife and livestock on the project portion of the ranch is limited to dirt tanks that hold water seasonally. Due to the spotty nature of rain events in the area, dirt tanks can catch some water or none at all. None of the dirt tanks in this area of the ranch hold water perennially. Habitat for big game wildlife species (antelope, mule and whitetail deer) is limited by lack of water sources. The project will supply water to wildlife and livestock in an area where water distribution is less than desired. This project will also help to manage livestock grazing in a manner that will favor forbs and shrubs preferred for antelope habitat (both for fawning and diet requirements).

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The objective of this proposal is to install a water system that will benefit wildlife habitat on this portion of the ranch. Pronghorn Antelope, Mule Deer and Whitetail Deer will benefit by ensuring safe access to water and the ability to use GMU 31 habitat that pre-project, is under used.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

1. A Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) is being developed on the 76 Ranch. The planning effort involves all land ownership agencies within the boundaries of the ranch (USDA Forest Service (FS), Arizona State Trust land (AZSLD) and private lands) in addition to the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Arizona Game & Fish Department (AZGFD) and the Arizona Association of Natural Resource Conservation Districts (AZNRCD). Inventories of the vegetative resource and range developments are complete; resource concerns have been identified and the plan is in the process of being submitted for editing by the partners. The project that is proposed for funding in this grant application has been identified as a "high" need for the ranch for multiple reasons that include the improvement of wildlife habitat, both in facilitating proper grazing strategies to improve vegetative cover as well as opening up the area for targeted wildlife species which include antelope, mule and whitetail deer by providing them with a perennial water source.
2. The Eastside 76 Ranch Water Development project consists of installing approximately 14.5 miles (76,560 feet) of 1 ¼" poly pipe that will supply water to (10) 5,000 gallon storage tanks and (10) water troughs.
3. Funding for the project will come from a variety of sources (USDA FS, a funded ADA LCCGP Grant, the ranch owner, NRCS, AZ SLD and HPC). Funds are itemized in a table below.
 - a. USDA FS will supply 2.5 miles of pipe consisting of the mainline from South Taylor

Spring and headquarter wells in addition to the end of the first dog leg that heads to the east off the mainline. This pipeline will supply (1) 5,000 gallon storage tank and (1) 1,000 gallon trough which the FS will also provide.

- b. ADA LCCGP: 12.5 miles of pipe.
- c. HPC: (9) 5,000 gallon poly storage tanks and (9) 1,000 gallon troughs.
- d. Private land owner: design of pipeline review, archeological clearance assistance, pipeline installation and appurtenances.
- e. USDA NRCS: pipeline design, trough design and archeological clearances on private lands.
- f. AZ State Land Department: archeological clearances on state land

PROJECT LOCATION:

See accompanying map.

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

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

- Private Property: Bonita Ranch LLC (Jay Whetten)
- Arizona State Trust Land
- USDA Forest Service

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:

The project area ranges in elevation from 5700' in elevation down to 4400'. The area consists of Madrean evergreen woodland (oak) habitat at the upper elevations and semi-desert grasslands at the lower. Mesquite often dominates the grasslands and some juniper woodlands are found on wetter sites.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

Equipment, Labor, Administrative, Material	Special Big Game License Funds Requested
(9) 5,000 gallon storage tanks (@ \$0.60/gallon = \$27,000) (9) 1,000 gallon troughs (@.60/gallon = \$5,400)	\$32,400

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

Equipment/Labor/Administrative/Materials	Entity	Funds
2.5 miles of pipe (@ .65/foot)= \$8,580.00 (1) 5,000 gallon storage (@.60/gallon) = \$3,000 (1) 1,000 gallon trough (@ \$0.60/gallon = \$600) Installation of 20,000 gallon storage = \$6,000	USDA FS	\$18,180
12.5 miles of 1 ¼" poly pipe (@.65/foot) = \$42,900	AZ ADA LCCGP Grant	\$42,900
Volunteer time: review of pipeline design, assistance with archeological clearances: 72 hours (@ \$14.14/hour = \$1,019) Installation of pipeline and pipeline appurtenances: 14.5 miles of pipe (@ \$.40/foot = \$30,624) Installation of trough and appurtenances: (10) storage tanks (@ \$0.29/gallon = \$2,900) Purchase of 20,000 gallon storage tank (\$1000.00)	Ranch Owner	\$35,543
PROJECT TOTAL:		\$123,023

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

See table above. Participation by each partner is already agreed upon.

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

YES[X] NO[] N/A[]

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

As mentioned above, a Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) is being written for the 76 Ranch by the USDA NRCS with assistance from the Arizona Association of Natural Resource Conservation Districts. One of the objectives of this CRMP is to identify monitoring locations on State and Private land that will be visited each year. The USDA Forest Service already has long term monitoring in place in the pasture that will be affected by the implementation of this project.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

The land owner will assume full maintenance for this project.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

██████████

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (please see the worksheet below):

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET

PROJECT TITLE: 76 Ranch; Eastside Water Development Project

- 1) **Is the water development listed as a priority in the most recent "Wildlife Water Development Annual Implementation Schedule?"**
Yes
- 2) **Please list the Development Branch personnel and date coordinated with for this project.**
[REDACTED] (2012/5-2013)
- 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: the upper portion of this project proposal is fed by South Taylor Spring which is a good water source. The lower portion of the project location does not have any permanent water sources.
Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank): Spring
Ownership of water source: FS
Distance in miles from project: approximately 6.5
- 6) **Are 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.**
Private land owner: Bonita Ranch LLC: Jay Whetten
- 8) **Please provide the following information about access to the proposed site:**
Type of access (mark one): 2x4 vehicles 4x4 only foot only**
Private/State Land: 2X4 USDA FS Land: 4X4
**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: Access is limited above the country road by private land parcels. There is an access easement in place for some of the private land parcels north of the county road.
- 9) **Please list below (or on a separate sheet) the material type and dimensions of each component proposed to be added, modified, or repaired.**
1 ¼ " poly pipe: 14.5 miles (76,560 feet)
5,000 gallon storage tanks: 10 (1 provided by USDA FS)
20,000 gallon storage tank: 1 (provided by rancher, installed by USDA, FS)
1,000 gallon drinking troughs: 10 (1 provided by USDA FS)
Miscellaneous pipeline appurtenances: Air vents, t's, elbows, valves
Design for pipeline will be completed by USDA NRCS Safford Field Office ([REDACTED])

10) Was a site visit completed? Yes[X] No[]

If Yes, please list personnel that attended and date.

[REDACTED] (6/2013); [REDACTED], Whetten (8/2012);
[REDACTED], Whetten (10/2012); [REDACTED] Whetten (7/2012), ongoing...