

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 13-602

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Trail, Hidden, Rosalie, Spring, Granite #1, and McRae Tanks Renovation

Region and Game Management Unit: Region VI, GMU 21

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):
• N/A

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 Development – Dirt Tank Cleanout and Bentonite Application

Brief Project Summary:

This project is a cooperative project with the Tonto National Forest spawned from the Horseshoe Ranch CRMP. The Tonto National Forest has provided all of the required clearances and has provided all of the bentonite to complete the following tanks.

This project involves using heavy equipment to remove excess sedimentation and to apply bentonite to Trail Tank, Hidden Tank, Rosalie Tank, Spring Tank, Granite Tank #1, and McRae Tank. Several of the earthen dams have been blown out and will need to be repaired.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Mule Deer, Whitetail Deer, Elk, Javelina

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date:
Spring 2014

Project End Date:
Fall 2015

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: Yes No N/A

Projected Completion Date: _____

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:

Yes No N/A

Projected Completion Date: _____

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A

To be Completed by: _____

Projected Completion Date: September 2012

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested: \$30,000

Cost Share or Matching Funds: \$5,788

Total Project Costs: \$ 35,788

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):

Address:

E-mail:

Telephone: _____

Date: August 29, 2013

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

Project has been coordinated with:

Horseshoe Ranch CRMP, Tonto National Forest Cave Creek Ranger District, Mule Deer Foundation

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

Trail, Hidden, Rosalie, Spring, Granite #1, and McRae Tanks are part of Game and Fish's newly acquired Horseshoe Ranch. The previous owner of the ranch did not maintain the waters on the ranch, and after the Cave Creek Complex Fire in 2005, the majority of the dirt tanks on the Copper Creek Allotment were either filled in with sediment or had their dams blown out by flooding.

Rugged Well is the only water source near five of the six proposed tanks. Hidden Tank and Spring Tank are both approximately 2.5 miles from Rugged Well. Granite Tank number 1 is approximately 3 miles from Rugged Well. McRae Tank is approximately 2.5 miles from Long Gulch Tank on a separate ranch.

Rosalie Tank is separate from the other five and is located in a different pasture. Rosalie Tank is approximately 3 miles from the nearest reliable water source.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Increase the availability of water for mule deer, whitetail deer, elk and javelina.
- 2) Restore functionality to six dirt stock tanks by cleaning out excess sediment.
- 3) Seal the bottom of the tanks with bentonite supplied by the Tonto National Forest.
- 4) Repair the earthen dams where they have been damaged by flooding.
- 5) Reduce water use by cattle on the only remaining nearby water source (Rugged Windmill) and spread cattle out over a larger portion of the allotment. This will effectively reduce habitat degradation by cattle around Rugged Windmill.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

These six tanks were determined to have the highest need and benefit to wildlife as it pertains to nearby reliable water sources. This project involves using a bulldozer to clean out the excess sediment and to build-up/ repair the earthen dams using that sediment. Bentonite will also be applied to the bottom of the tanks and the bentonite will be covered/ mixed in with dirt according to manufacturer's recommendations for maximum effectiveness.

Increasing the number of available waters will allow wildlife to spread out over a larger area and may also decrease predation by increasing the possible ambush sites.

This will also allow the livestock operator to use areas of the allotment currently unavailable. This will allow the livestock operator to more effectively rotate his cattle, which will benefit wildlife habitat.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The project area is in Yavapai County, on the Tonto National Forest – Cave Creek Ranger District. The following tanks are located within Township 10 N, Range 4 E: Trail Tank section 15, Hidden Tank section 20, Spring Tank section 29, Granite Tank #1 and McRae Tank section 3. Rosalie Tank is located in Township 9 ½ N, Range 4 E in section 28.

See attached map.

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

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

- Tonto National Forest-Cave Creek Ranger District

*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:

Mosaic of chaparral and juniper woodlands.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

An estimate of \$5,000 per tank is being used for six tanks. **\$30,000**

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

The Tonto National Forest has already purchased the bentonite for this project. The purchase and delivery cost of the bentonite was \$4,788.48. The Tonto National Forest has also provided the site-visit and archaeological clearances valued at \$1000.

\$5,788

This project can be funded in piecemeal depending on funding availability.

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

Horseshoe Ranch CRMP group, Tonto National Forest

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

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

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

AZGFD will hire a contractor and coordinate the order of completion to maximize time and efficiency. AZGFD will also make sure the appropriate amount of bentonite is provided and that it is applied according to manufacturer's specifications.

The wildlife manager will evaluate the tanks after project completion to determine if they are holding water as they should.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

Future maintenance will be completed by the livestock operator.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

AZGFD Wildlife Manager Micah White

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (please use the worksheet below):

TREE CLEARING/REMOVAL PROJECTS (*please use the worksheet below*):
N/A

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET

PROJECT TITLE: Copper Creek Tank Cleanouts

- 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.**
Mark Davis
- 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: Rugged Well
Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank): Well
Ownership of water source: Tonto National Forest
Distance in miles from project: Trail Tank 0.5 miles, Hidden Tank 2.5 miles, Spring Tank 2.5 miles, Granite Tank #1 3 miles, McRae Tank 3 miles
- 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.**
Tonto National Forest, Cave Creek Ranger District
- 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: N/A
- 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.
From AGFD: _____ July-September 2012.

From Tonto National Forest: _____ July 2012

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: