

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 15-104

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Upper GMU 27 Dirt Tank Cleanout (Phase 2)

Region and Game Management Unit: Region 1, GMU 27

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):

- Springerville/Alpine HPC

Was the project presented to the LHPC?

YES NO

Has this project been submitted in previous years? YES NO Funded in 2015 through PAC and HPC funds.

If Yes, was it funded? YES NO → **Funded HPC Project #(s):** 14-118

Project Type: Dirt tank Cleanout and repair

Brief Project Summary: This project will enhance wildlife habitat by providing water sources in areas where they are currently unavailable, insufficient or not sufficiently spaced. This project will continue building upon the work that has already been accomplished since 2011.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Elk, Deer, and Turkey – This project will enhance their habitat by providing additional water sources and allow them to disperse more throughout some prime habitat.

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date:

Summer 2016

Project End Date:

Summer 2018 (or sooner if weather cooperates)

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: Yes No N/A

Projected Completion Date: _____

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:

Yes No N/A

Projected Completion Date: 12/31/15

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:

\$ 15,000

Cost Share or Matching Funds:

\$ 46,000 (See below for detailed explanation)

Total Project Costs:

\$ 61,000

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):

Ron Mortensen

Address:

PO Box 760

Springerville, AZ 85938

E-mail:

rmortensen@fs.fed.us

Telephone: 928-333-6207

Date: 05/29/2015

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

Aaron Hartzell – 928-358-0842

Project has been coordinated with:

Springerville HPC, AZ Game and Fish Department

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

Several dirt tanks on the north east side of GMU 27 have silted in or have dams that do not currently hold water. These tanks are in excellent deer and elk habitat. These tanks also supply turkey, bear, lion and other wildlife with water during the dry times of the year. These tanks are in some of the drier portions of the unit and thus are a critical component of the habitat. In order to ensure that this area remains great habitat for wildlife we need to periodically provide maintenance to these structures so that they are functional and provide much needed water.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

This project seeks funding to increase water availability by removing sediment and repairing the dam on tanks in the Pueblo Park and Manness Peak areas of the **Bobcat-Johnson Allotment**. This work will bring these tanks back to their original water storage potential. Improving overall water availability is critical to being able to distribute wildlife across the landscape. This will result in overall enhanced range conditions.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

The work to be completed will be to remove sediment from stock tanks that are in need of cleaning and to maintain or repair dams or spillways damaged as a result of years of erosion and little maintenance. Three tanks have been identified as needing work in the north eastern portion of GMU 27. (See map)

Because this project is considered maintenance on existing forest infrastructure no additional NEPA analysis is needed. Clearances have been completed for muddy tank. Archeological surveys and frog surveys will be completed for the two tanks on Manness Peak by December 31, 2015. (Note: On the last tank project that was funded out of cycle the Forest Service was able to complete these clearances within a week of being requested to do so.)

PROJECT LOCATION:

These tanks are distributed across the north-eastern portion of GMU 27. There are two dirt tanks on the top portion of Manness Peak and another one in the Pueblo Park area. (See attached maps for specific locations.) In the overview map the tanks involved in this project are marked with a yellow marker. The tanks marked in Blue have been completed since 2011 and the ones in red have already been funded and are awaiting the work to be completed.

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

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

- US Forest Service
-

IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A COOPERATIVE BIG GAME STEWARDSHIP or LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?

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

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

The habitat type in the area of these tanks is a mix of Ponderosa Pine woodland mixed with Juniper. Elevation ranges from 7,200' to 7,800'.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

Tag funds will be used for equipment, fuel and personnel needed to complete the tank cleanouts. A typical tank cleanout has been costing approximately \$3,000 per tank. However due to the further transportation costs and the extent of the work involved for the restoration of Muddy tank, which needs to have the dam rekeyed, we are looking at an average of \$5,000 per tank for this project.

A total of three earthen tanks have been identified as needing some level of maintenance. In order to complete all the identified tank cleaning/maintenance; the equipment, fuel, and labor costs would be approximately \$15,000.

Cost Share or Matching Funds

Matching funds for dirt tank work include the following:

USFS fuel costs for projects completed (2012)	- \$10,256
Permittee cost for equipment and labor completed (2012)	- \$34,744
USFS cost for contract work completed (2014)	- \$15,000
USFS Administrative cost for phase 1 of tank cleaning	- <u>\$10,000</u>
Total:	\$70,000

Projects that have been funded by wildlife dollars against these Matching funds:

RMEF Pac Grant (2015)	- \$14,873
HPC Grant (2015)	- <u>\$9,127</u>
Total:	\$24,000

In order to ensure that we are not using match dollars twice it is important to note the match dollars identified and the projects funded. Thus far we have utilized \$24,000 of match funds at a 1:1 ratio. This leaves \$46,000 of match money available for use on this Phase 2 water project. If all project and match moneys are totaled, including the money requested in this proposal, the total project cost is \$109,000.

This money has been used to enhance habitat conditions across the northern portion of Unit 27 by renovating earthen tanks that have silted in by years of erosion or by excessive run off after the Wallow Fire of 2011.

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

US Forest Service, Land Owner

Potential contractors include:

1. Marks Truck and Tractor Works, P.O. Box 528, Springerville, AZ 85938
(928) 245-2677 (Ginger Cheney)
2. Geisler Skidding Contractors, P.O. Box 1130, Springerville, AZ 85938
(928) 333-4511 (George Geisler)
3. Alpine Excavation & Construction Co., P.O. Box 435, Alpine, AZ 85920
(928) 339-1946 (Wayne Reidhead)
4. Sug Rogers Construction LLC, P.O. Box 300, Nutrioso, AZ 85932
(928) 245-5260 (Sug Rogers)

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

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

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

The Forest as well as the local Wildlife Manager will inspect tanks once they are cleaned out. Once the tanks catch water the tanks will be monitored to identify wildlife use. Aerial surveys for elk and deer can be compared to look at distribution of wildlife before these waters were available to after their availability.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

The forest or any future permittees would be responsible for future maintenance needs.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Ron Mortensen, USFS or Loren LeSueur, USFS

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS *(please use the worksheet below):*

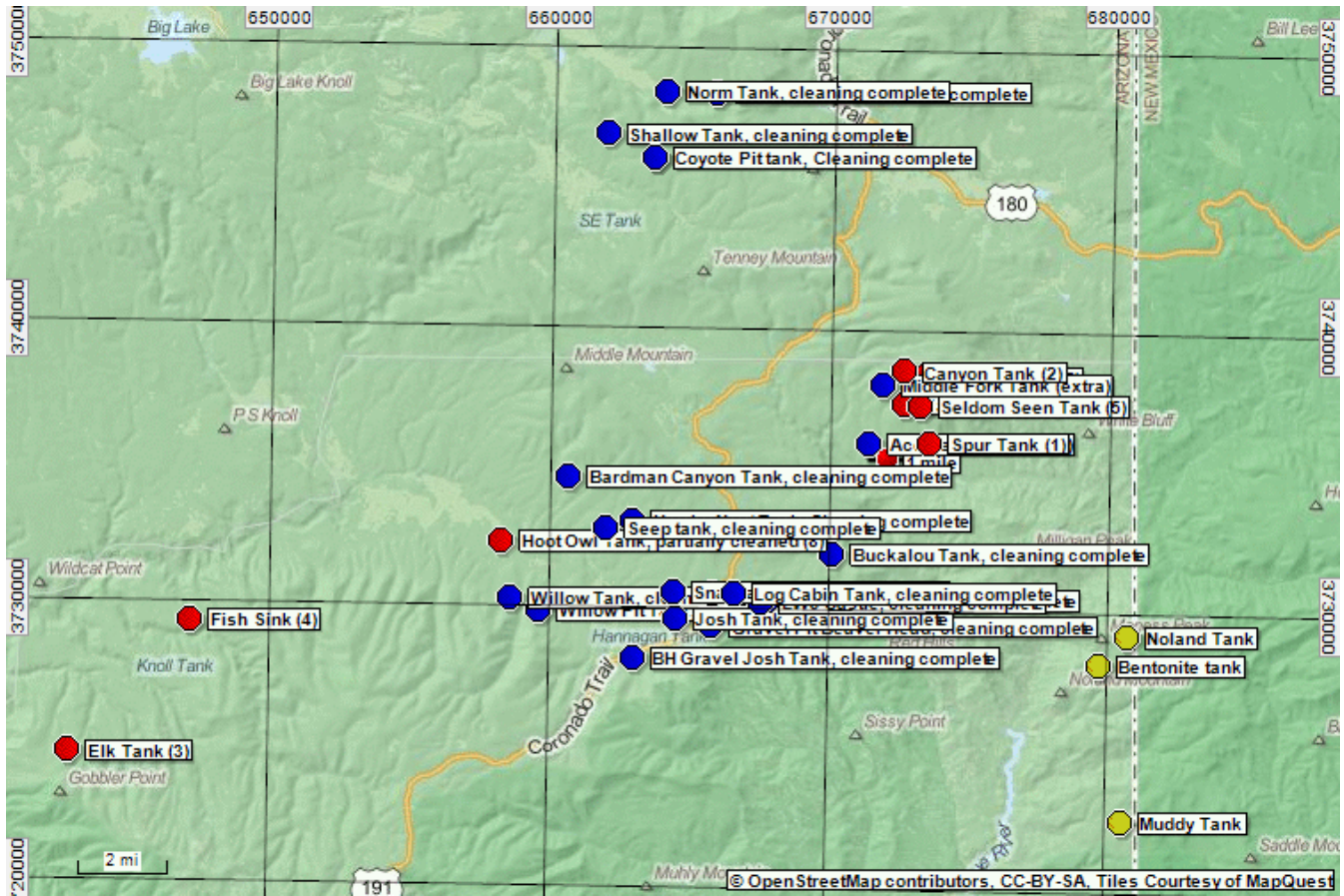
N/A

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

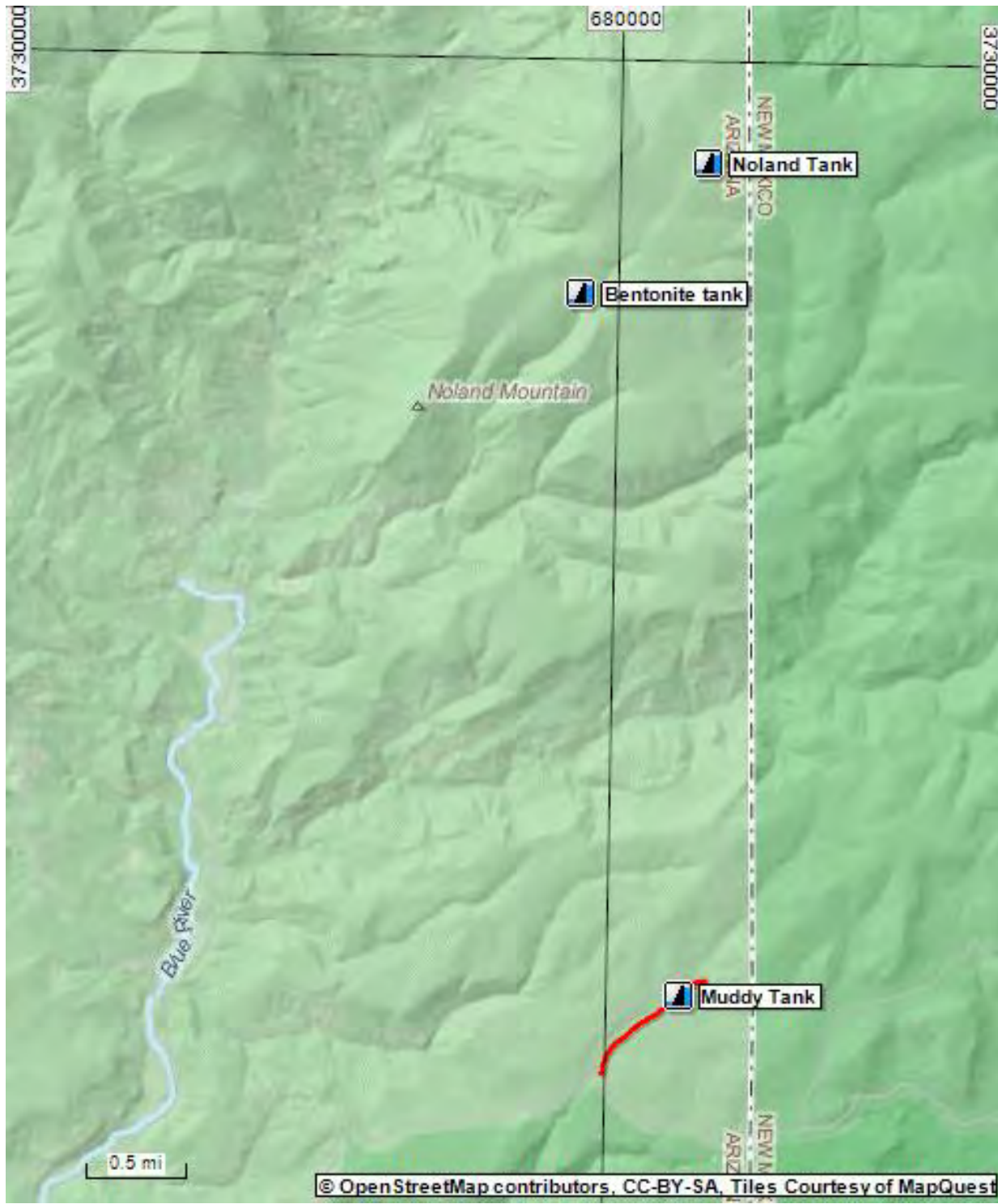
N/A

Maps

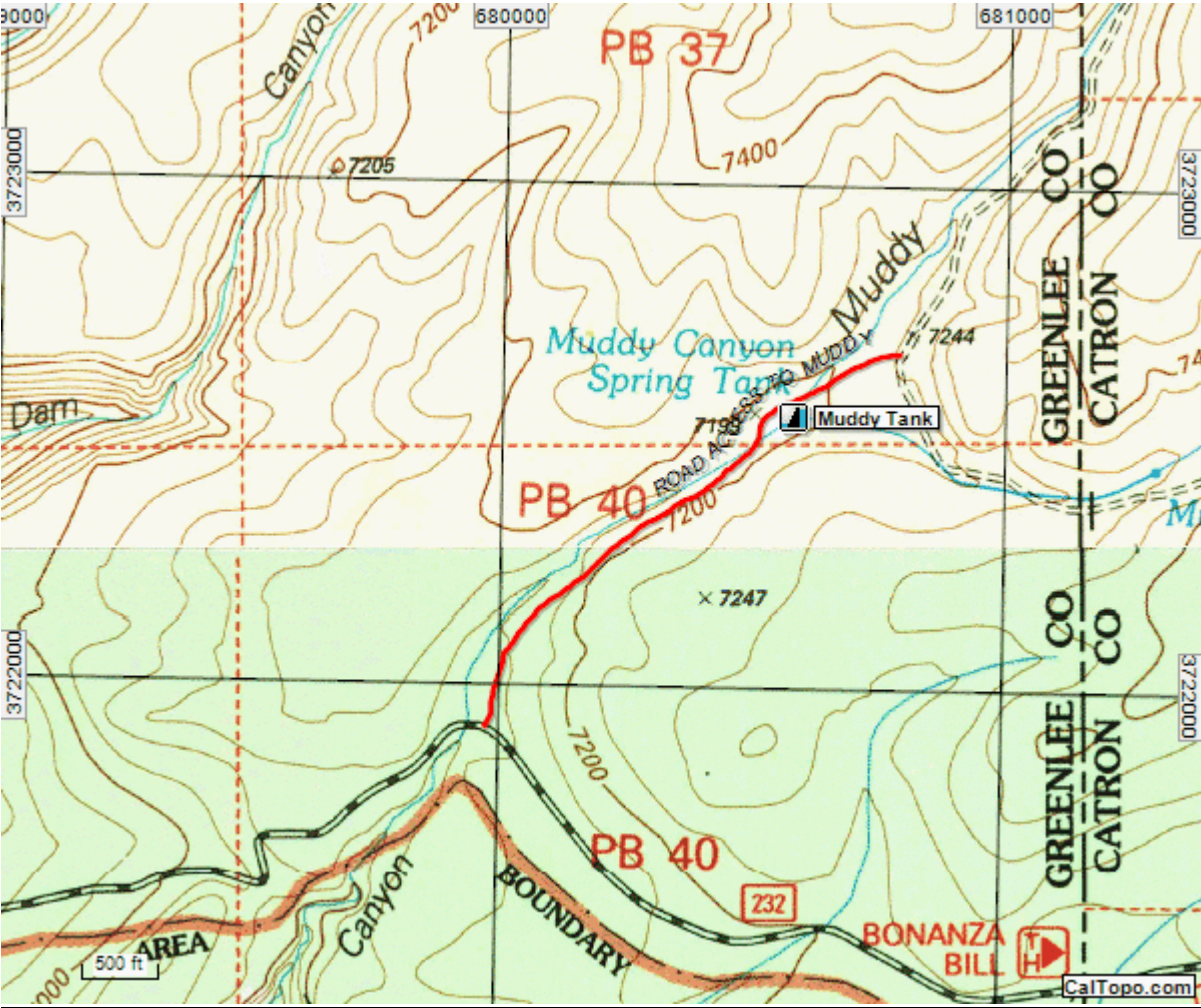
Overview map (Completed tanks in blue, Tanks currently funded in red, Tanks proposed for this project in yellow.)



Project Area Map:



Site specific Map: Muddy tank



Site Specific Map: Manness Peak tanks

