

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 15-602

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: American Gulch Dirt Tank Repair

Region and Game Management Unit: Region 6 GMU 22

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| Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payson Natural Resources Committee | 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 tank repair

Brief Project Summary:
 The project will clean out and repair 16 existing dirt tanks and provide bentonite for two of the tanks. This is in an area that has good grass and browse production but water distribution is the limiting factor. This project will provide water to an area that has been severely neglected for the past several years.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit (% benefit per species) 40% Mule Deer, 40% Whitetail, 20% Elk

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| Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year): <u>Project Start Date:</u> March 2, 2016 <u>Project End Date:</u> September 23, 2017 | Environmental Compliance: NEPA Completed: Yes[X] No[] N/A[] Projected Completion Date: _____ State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance: (Provide Attachment) Yes[X] No[] N/A[] Projected Completion Date: _____ Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A[] To be Completed by: <u>Dave Daniels</u> Projected Completion Date: _____ |
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PROJECT FUNDING

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|------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested: | \$138,000 |
| Cost Share or Matching Funds: | \$5,500 |
| Total Project Costs: | \$143,500 |

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Applicant (please print): Dave Daniels | Address: 7200 E University Mesa AZ 85207 | E-mail: ddaniels@azgfd.gov |
| Telephone: 480-528-8774 | | Date: 8/24/15 |

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

Project has been coordinated with:

AZGFD, Tonto National Forest, Hardscrabble Allotment Permittee

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

The American Gulch Allotment West of Payson is an area of good grass and forage for wildlife, but water is a limiting factor. The area has the carrying capacity for more elk and deer than it currently holds due to the lack of water. The American Gulch Allotment has been neglected for many years and is currently up for sale. Due to the fact that this will be a strictly contracted project there are very little matching funds. Partial funding would also be acceptable to try to get some water to the area.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Improve water availability for elk and deer
Ensure water availability year round

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

Remove sediment from existing dirt tanks
Repair and damage to existing berms
Seal two tanks with bentonite.

PROJECT LOCATION

| | |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 34.25549, 111.4106 - White Tank | 34.21703, 111.3735 – Sagan Tank |
| 34.25632, 111.40682 – White Mountain Tank | 34.22318, 111.36284 – Orchard Tank |
| 34.24879, 111.39417 – Saddle Tank | 34.22294, 111.35259 – Town Tank |
| 34.24356, 111.38092 – Lost Tank | 34.21287, 111.38027 – Hill Tank |
| 34.23501, 111.39281 – Pasture Tank | 34.20339, 111.37986 – Callahan Tank |
| 34.23833, 111.37473 – American Tank | 34.19093, 111.38657 – Arrastre Tank |
| 34.22783, 111.40895 – Goldfield Tank | 34.19293, 111.3606 – Little Stockpond |
| 34.22113, 111.38592 – Snowstorm Tank | 34.20187, 111.34923 – Lousy Tank |

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

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

- The land is managed by the USFS, Tonto National Forest, Payson Ranger District

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 area sits at approximately 4500 feet and is primarily high desert grassland with some mixed juniper and chaparral.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

\$128,000 – To be used to hire a heavy equipment contractor to complete the project

\$10,000 – To be used for the purchase of bentonite.

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

USFS – 3,500

AGFD- 2,000

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

Arizona Game and Fish Department

- Provided in-kind contributions in the form of labor for contract administration, project origination, and project coordination/completion.

U.S. Forest Service, Tonto National Forest, Pleasant Valley Ranger District

- Provided administrative support in the form of necessary NEPA and archaeological clearances.
- Provide letter of approval for implementation of project.

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

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

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

The project proponent along with the Payson Ranger District will monitor the project

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

The project proponent along with the Payson Ranger District will coordinate future maintenance

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

The project proponent will be responsible for the completion report

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (please use the worksheet below):

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET

PROJECT TITLE: Hardscrabble Mesa dirt tank repair

- 1) Is the water development listed as a priority in the most recent “Wildlife Water Development Annual Implementation Schedule?” N/A
- 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:
There are a few springs in the allotment and the East Verde river is approximately 3 miles from the closest tank and approximately 7 miles from the furthest tank.
- 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:
- 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.
Dave Daniels AGFD
Kelly Bedson USFS

