

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number:	17-104
Possible Funding Partners:	

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Unit 4A Dirt Tank Maintenance 2018

Region and Game Management Unit: Region I - Unit 4A

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):

- Winslow

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 → HCP Project #:

Project Type: Clean Silted in Dirt Tanks

Brief Project Summary:

Many of the water sources in unit 4A are dirt tanks. On Forest Service land, many of these tanks have become silted in over the years and only provide water for a short duration. Typically when water is the most critical (May and June) these tank are dry. This project will help address water issues, especially in May/June.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: 50% elk 30% deer 5% Pronghorn 15% turkey

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date:
Calendar Year 2018

Project End Date:
Calendar Year 2018

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: YES No N/A

Projected Completion Date: 2017

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:

YES No N/A

Projected Completion Date: see attached

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: \$16,250.00

Cost Share or Matching Funds: \$ 13,400.00

Total Project Costs: \$29,650.00

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):

Ken Clay

Address:

2878 E. White Mtn Blvd
Pinetop, AZ 85935

E-mail:

kclay@azgfd.gov

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Date: 8-31-2017

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

Project has been coordinated with: Black Mesa Ranger District Ranger, Kendal Hughes; Wildlife Manager Unit 4A, Ken Clay

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

The Forest Service land within Unit 4A has always been challenged with perennial water for wildlife. Most of the natural perennial water occurs in the southern part of Unit 4A, in the bottom of the big canyons that drain off the Mogollon Rim. The central to northern part of these Units rely on man-made waters. In the early days of livestock and wildlife management, in the Black Mesa Ranger District, water developments played a major role in improving habitat throughout the Forest. Many water catchments were constructed but most of the water developments were in the form of dirt tank construction. Dirt tanks are cheap and easy to build but do require routine maintenance.

The Limestone Allotment, in Unit 4A, has been inactive since the mid-1990. Without an active permittee the water situation on this allotment has turned poor over the last 20 years. This is especially true in the northern two pastures (Wilkins and Tentground). This allotment was sold in 2013 and the new permittee would like to improve the habitat integrity through better water availability. These pastures are surrounded by Willow Creek and Clear Creek Canyons. These large drainages do offer perennial water but all the real estate between these drainages relies 100% on dirt tanks and two water catchments to provide wildlife with water. The dirt tanks in these pastures have not seen maintenance in over 20 to 30 years. In 2016 the Forest Service cleaned around 20 dirt tanks in the Wilkins pasture along Forest Roads (FR) 62 and 62A. In 2017, HPC funds cleaned 19 dirt tanks in this same pasture along FR 115 and 115C. By cleaning these tanks, it will allow for better wildlife distribution and improve the overall quality of habitat in Unit 4A.

The proposed project for this year is to clean an additional 20 tanks in the Limestone Allotment's Tentground pasture. This pasture is directly south of the Wilkins pasture.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Improve permanent water distribution for wildlife. This will be accomplished in the following manner:

- Black Mesa RD has done the arc and surveys on all dirt tanks in the Tentground pasture within the limestone allotment (see attached map).
- The permittee will do the work themselves or hire a contractor to clean the silt from the Dirt Tanks identified on the Forest
- Most of the dirt tanks are smaller road side tanks that will cost \$750/tank to clean. Spaulding tank is a large dirt tank. This is the one tank that is identified that will cost \$2000 to clean.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

Remove many years of silt build-up from as many dirt tanks as the funds will pay for.

PROJECT LOCATION:

See attached maps.

LAND OWNERSHIP AT PROJECT SITE (Please state specifically if PRIVATE PROPERTY and provide landowner’s name):

IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A STEWARDSHIP or LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?
 YES[] NO[]

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

Ponderosa Pine to Pinyon/Juniper habitat grassland habitat .

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

	Total Cost	\$29,650.00
SBG Funds	Funds Requested	\$16,250.00
Adminstrative Work AZGFD and USFS	Cost Share	\$13,400.00

Cost Share or Matching Funds

	Man/Hours	Quantity	Cost	Total
Clean Average size tank with	6 hrs/ tank @\$125.00/hour	19	@750/tank	\$14,250.00
Clean Average size tank with	8 hrs/ tank @\$250.00/hour	1	@2000/tank	\$2,000.00
Archaeological and wildlife surveys plus NEPA paperwork	N/A	20	@670/tank	\$13,400.00

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

- US Forest Service Black Mesa RD (arc survey and category exclusion)
- Paul Charleton (Limestone Permitte) will clean 19 small dirt and 1 large dirt tank

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

Ken Clay AZ Game & Fish will take photos before and after the project. These tanks should fill in a during summer monsoon storms.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

NA

There are Four Maps in PDF file attached to this proposal

Map 1 named “2016 Dirt Tanks Large scale map”

Map 2 named “**Wilkins Pasture**” outline of the area where 20 dirt tanks will be cleaned

Map 3 named “**Wilkins Pasture Dirt tanks**” these are all the tanks that the Forest Service has surveyed that can be cleaned. Map provided by FS

Map 4 named “**Surprise Ohaco Dirt Tanks**” these are the two dirt tanks to be cleaned on the Clear Creek Allotment

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY: K.Clay

