

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

HPC Project Number:

18-605

PROJECT INFORMATION

| | | | |
|---|---|--|----|
| Project Title: | Haystack Allotment - Water Distribution Pipeline, Solar, Storage, and Wildlife Drinkers | | |
| Game Management Unit: | 24A | Region: | VI |
| Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC): | Was the project presented to the LHPC? | | |
| Payson | Fall Meeting 2018 | | |
| Project Location: (Please provide <u>lat/long</u> in decimal degrees or meters of project area using datum WGS84 or NAD83. If project is larger than one point, please include them all. Provide an accompanying shapefile as an attachment for the project area). | | | |
| MULTIPLE LOCATION COORDINATES: <u>Cottonwood Pasture Pipeline</u> = T 4.5 N, R 16 E, Sec 27, 33, 34, 35. Lat/Long = 33.735, -110.646 <u>Bronson Pasture Pipeline</u> = T 4 N, R 16 E, Sec 1, 6, and T 4 N, R 17 E, Sec 6, 7. Lat/Long = 33.715, -110.612 <u>Basin Pipeline</u> = T 4.5 N, 16 E, Sec 36, and T 4.5 N, 17 E, Sec 31. Lat/Long = 33.743, -110.630 <u>Cypress Pipeline</u> = T 4.5 N, R 16 E, Sec 25, 36, and T 4.5 N, R 17 E, Sec 30. Lat/Long = 33.745, -110.612 | | | |
| Water Project Action (if applicable): | Pipeline, Storage, Drinkers, Solar | | |
| Habitat Restoration Action (if applicable): | | | |
| Other Project Type and Action (if applicable): | | | |
| Has this project been submitted in previous years? | No | | |
| PROJECT SUMMARY | | | |
| Describe the proposed action only. Please use plain English, what action are you proposing? (If applicable, please reference any completed compliance including EAC#). | | | |
| Brief Project Summary: Installation of four new pipeline systems including solar pumping stations (to provide more lift to water higher elevations), water storage tanks, and dispersed wildlife-friendly drinkers (see detailed maps and coordinates attached). | | | |
| Primary Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: | Mule Deer | | |
| Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year) | START DATE: March 1, 2019 | COMPLETION DATE: February 28, 2021 | |

PROJECT FUNDING

| | |
|--|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Project Funding</p> <p>*Qualifying Cost Share should be restricted to support (materials, compliance, and or labor) of the proposed action ONLY (same time and place). Please do not include previously purchased supplies or past completed work.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Itemized Use of Funds</p> <p>Please email separate quotes if HPC funds are to be used to purchase materials or contracted labor: HPC@azgfd.gov.</p> |
| <p><u>HPC Funds Requested</u> Amount: \$ 50,000</p> <p><u>Cost Share or Matching Funds</u> Amount: \$ 51,174</p> <p><u>Percent Match</u> = >50%</p> <p><u>Total Project Cost</u> Amount: \$ 101,174 (all amounts are detailed in attached documents)</p> | <p><u>HPC Funds = \$50,000</u> \$26,510 = (6) miles of pipe \$7,490 = (5) water storage tanks \$11,200 = (16) wildlife-friendly drinkers \$4,800 = (1) solar pumping system</p> <p><u>Matching Funds = \$51,174</u> <u>Landowner</u> \$18,400 = (2) solar pumping system \$3,200 = (4) custom solar support racks \$1,498 = (1) water storage tank \$1,446 = unions, tees, bushings, and valves \$16,830 = all labor <u>AZ Mule Deer Organization</u> \$9,800 = (28) 300 Watt Solar Panels</p> |

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

Please indicate the status of the Project's compliance. if you are unsure, please reference:
 HPC Compliance Checklist (<https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife/hpc/forms/>).
 If you have questions regarding the requirement of an EAC, contact AGFD's Project Evaluation Program:
<https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife/planning/projevalprogram/>.
 ***Please email supporting compliance documents to HPC@azgfd.gov ***

| | | | |
|--|-----|-------------------------|---|
| AGFD EA Checklist Completed: | N/A | Completion Date: | |
| NEPA Completed: | Yes | Completion Date: | USFS Signed Decision Notice (8/31/2018) |
| State Historic Preservation Office/ Archaeological Clearance: | Yes | Completion Date: | See Signed Decision Notice and EA |

CONTACT INFORMATION

Applicant

The project applicant is the responsible party for seeing the work through to completion.

APPLICANT NAME: Peter Oddonetto

PHONE: (928) 200-1157

ORGANIZATION: Rafter P Ranch, Haystack
Allotment Permittee

EMAIL: oddonetto@cableone.net

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 89, Globe, AZ 85502

AGFD Project Proponent

The Project Proponent is responsible for compliance, implementation, and annual/final reporting requirements.

AGFD CONTACT NAME: Chip Young

PHONE: (480) 204-4039

Cooperators

COOPERATOR NAME(S), ORGANIZATION, ROLE IN PROJECT:

Peter Oddonetto, Applicant/Permittee/Rancher/Laborer

Chip Young Project Proponent/ Landowner Relations Specialist, AZGFD Region 6 – Project Monitoring

Grant Pearce, Former WM for GMU24A – On-Site Project Planning

Debra Groves, Current WM for GMU 24A – Project Planning Review/Future Project Monitoring

Don Larson, Landowner Relations Program Manager – Project Planning Review

Jamie Wages, USFS, Tonto National Forest, Globe Acting District Ranger – Compliance/NEPA

Michael Eytchison, USFS, Tonto national Forest, Globe Ranger District – Archaeological Surveys

Neil Bosworth, Forest Supervisor – Signed NEPA Decision Notice and Approval Email for AZGFD

Ashley Hall, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Service, Area Assistant Agent, Globe, AZ – Range Monitoring with Permittee and USFS

PROJECT NEED AND DESCRIPTION

Please use direct language: why is this project important? What problem will be solved? How will you implement it, and how will the habitat be enhanced? Please include # of acres, methods, roles, and any phases. Please be specific and thorough.

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

It is immediately necessary to supply additional dispersed water locations for wildlife on the Haystack Allotment. There is a very limited amount of water presently available due to minimal spring production, ongoing drought conditions, and a lack of water improvements from prior allotment management. Upon taking over the allotment, the current permittee has spent \$143,715 of his money to improve the resources on the land. He fully funded and installed the only water distribution system that was authorized at the time.

There is an immediate need to improve habitat for Mule deer in GMU 24A. In 2015, Mule deer tag numbers had to be decreased by 33% (300 to 200) due to consistently low survey numbers in the unit. Former Wildlife Manager for GMU 24A, Grant Pearce, stated that the latest Mule deer survey grid for 24A was flown directly above the Haystack Allotment. The Mule deer observed in those surveys appeared to all be consolidated within different small areas, around the only available waters.

GMU 24A Management Focus Area Plan (MFA)

This proposed project directly addresses two “*Priority I Issues*” from the GMU 24A MFA. The first “*Priority I Issue*” under “*Section V.A. Game Populations*” states, “*Populations of mule deer are not achieving their potential partly due to water availability and over utilization of the range.*” The second “*Priority I Issue*” under “*Section V.C. Habitat*” states, “*Water availability is limited in various areas within Unit 24A for all game species. In addition, five wildlife waters are in need of redeveloping.* Two “*Actions*” identified in the MFA to directly address these issues are to “*meet with TNF staff at least annually to identify and plan future water projects that would benefit wildlife* and, to “*meet at least once a year with permittees and managing land agencies range staffs on coordinating habitat improvement projects that favor desired vegetation.*”

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

The rancher will install 4 water distribution pipeline systems. The total system consists of 6 miles of 1 ¼” DR7 pipeline, 3 solar pumping stations (to provide more lift to enable watering higher elevations), 6 3,000 gallon water storage tanks, and 16 300 gallon wildlife-friendly drinkers (see detailed maps and coordinates attached).

Implementation: Due to the remote location of the ranch, the materials will only be delivered as far as the beginning of the Haystack Butte Road, 13.5 miles from the ranch headquarters, on SR60. From there, the rancher will haul the materials to the headquarters before hauling out to each project location for installation.

The project will be implemented by the rancher and three ranch hands. The poly pipeline will be installed using one or more of three methods. These methods include horseback installation, ATV-roller installation (where permitted), or on-foot-installation. Labor for these methods is included in the attached itemized cost estimates. Labor estimates also include hauling all materials to various remote locations using their equipment, vehicles, and/or horses. After rolling out the remote pipelines, the permittee will connect all water storage tanks, drinkers, associated hardware and plumbing, and construct wildlife-friendly features on the drinkers. The solar pumping stations will be installed on-site by a contractor. All quotes and design specifications are attached.

Timeline and Phases: The four water pipeline distribution systems will be installed consecutively, starting upon approval in early spring of 2019. Invoices will be provided upon completion of each system. All four components are expected to be completed in one year, although the proposed agreement will extend for two years, in case more time is needed due to unforeseen circumstances.

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

United States Forest Service (USFS), Tonto National Forest, Globe Ranger District

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

Landowner Relations Specialist for AZGFD Region 6 (Chip Young) and/or Wildlife Manager for GMU 24A (Debra Groves) will monitor new improvements annually for wildlife accessibility. Trail cameras will be placed on one or more wildlife-drinker locations to monitor wildlife utilization.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

Permittee will routinely monitor all new improvements throughout the year for any necessary maintenance. When maintenance is needed, it will be completed by the permittee.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Landowner Relations Specialist for AZGFD Region 6, Chip Young

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS LIST:

- Final Decision Notice for the Sedow and Haystack Butte Allotment Range Improvements Project
- Environmental Assessment for the Sedow and Haystack Butte Allotment Range Improvements Project
- Quotes for all materials to be purchased, labor cost explanation, and matching funds contribution list

Have supporting documents been submitted?

Yes

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET

PROJECT TITLE: Haystack Allotment Water Distribution Project

1) **Was a site visit completed (Date and with whom)?**

9/12/2017 – Chip Young (LRP Specialist, AZGFD Region 6), Terry Herndon (AZ Mule Deer Organization, Grant Pearce (former Wildlife Manager for GMU 24A), Ashley Hall (University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Service, Area Assistant Agent, Globe, AZ), Pete Oddonetto (Rancher)

3/2018 – Chip Young, Grant Pearce, Ashley Hall, Pete Oddonetto

8/1/2018 – Chip Young, Don Larson (LRP Program Manager), Pete Oddonetto

2) **If this is a dirt tank project, has the site historically held reliable water?**

n/a

3) **If this is a dirt tank project and soil data is available, what type of soil is at the site?**

n/a

4) **If this is a water catchment project, please list the Development Branch coordination date:**

n/a

5) **Is the water development listed as a priority in the most recent “Wildlife Water Development Annual Implementation Schedule?”**

n/a

6) **If this is a water catchment project, please list the Development Branch personnel coordinated with:**

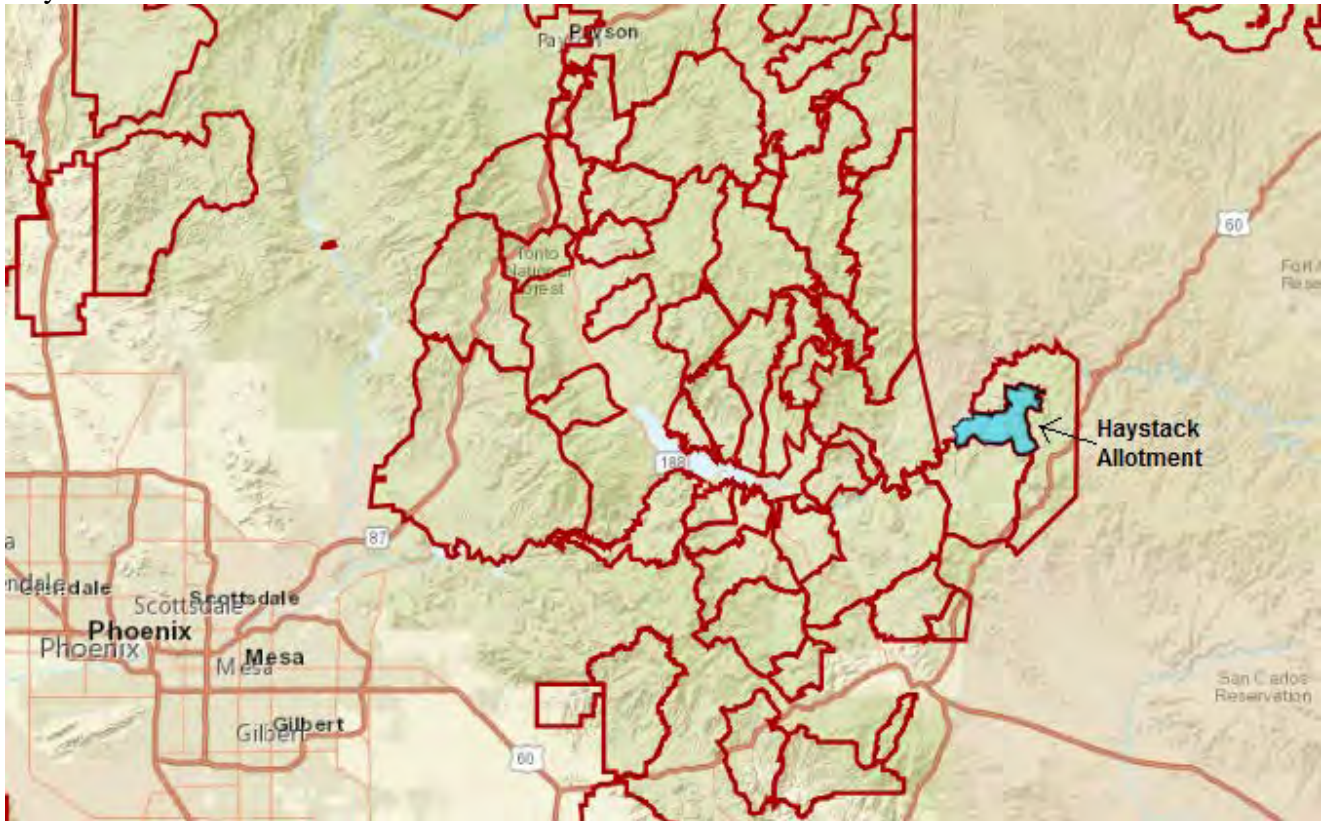
n/a

7) **Is there a perennial water source available to big game within four miles of this project?**

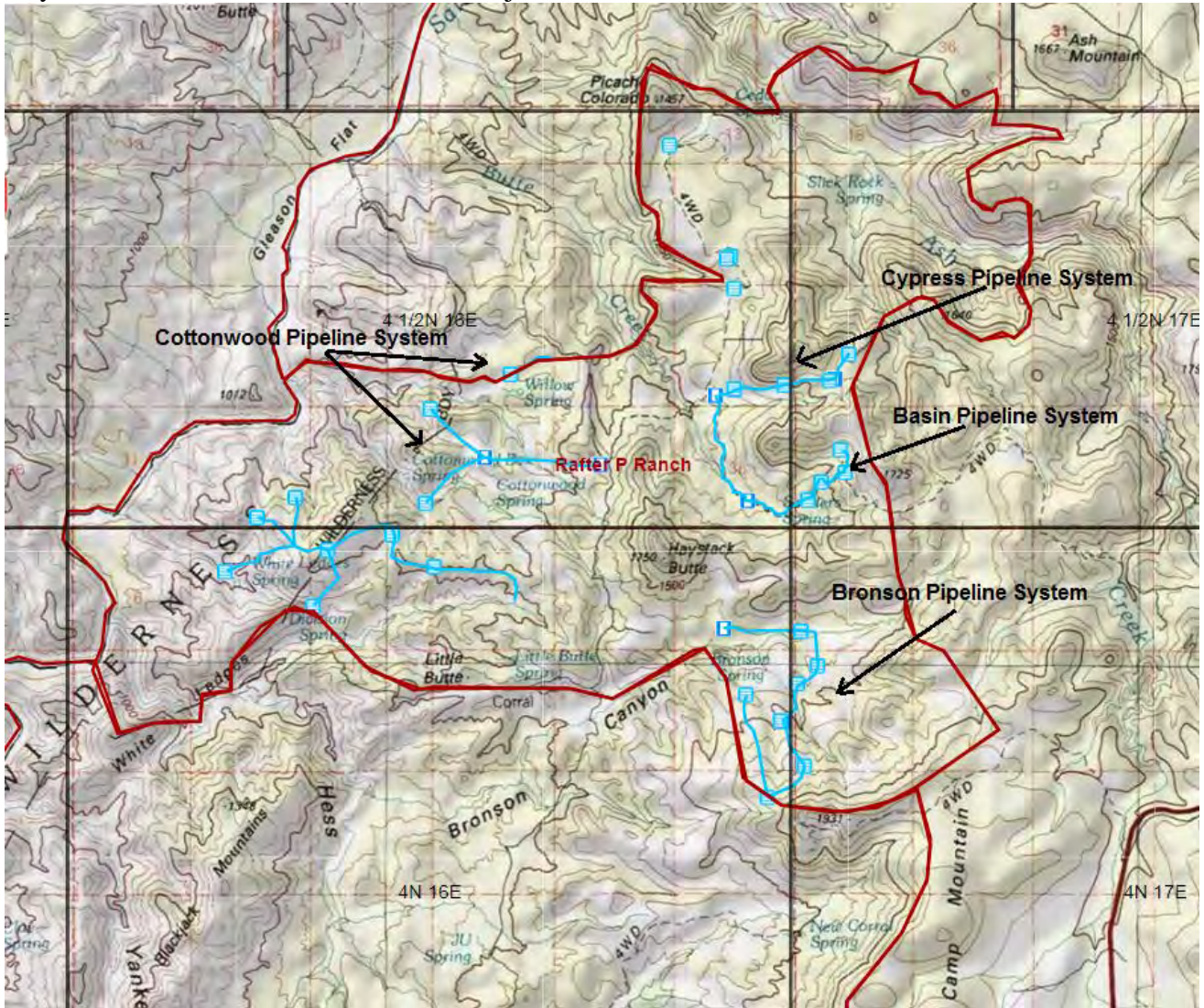
Yes. Ash Creek is a perennial source of water located 1.4 miles from the northernmost portion of this project and 4.6 miles north of the southernmost portion of this project area. The next closest reliable perennial water is the Salt River, within the Salt River Wilderness, 3.5 miles away.

MAPS and PHOTOS:

Haystack Allotment/ Rafter P Ranch Location:



Haystack Allotment / Rafter P Ranch - Project Sites:



Bronson Canyon Area – High country that will now be watered near the old damaged Bronson Trick Tank:



Old Bronson Trick Tank and drinker to be utilized at the highest point of Bronson Pipeline System. Water will be pumped here and gravity fed to multiple locations:

