

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

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Game Branch / HPC Project Number: | 11-105 |
| Possible Funding Partners: | |

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Ohaco Ranch Dirt Tank Cleaning 2012

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

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):

- Winslow

Was the project presented to the LHPC?

YES **NO** (only because we didn't meet in August; it will be discussed in October)

Has this project been submitted in previous years? **YES** **NO**

If Yes, was it funded? **YES** **NO** → **HPC Project #:**

Project Type: Clean Silted in Dirt Tanks

Brief Project Summary:

The O'haco Ranch has 50+ Dirt tanks covering over the 40,000 acres of rangeland. These tank provide valuable water to livestock and wildlife. Over time, the tanks become silted in which greatly reduces their capacity. Jim O'haco plans to clean at least 4 double-dirt tanks over the next year. This project would fund 50% of the costs to clean these tanks.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: 60% elk 15% deer 25% Pronghorn

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date:
Calendar Year 2012

Project End Date:
Calendar Year 2012

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: _____

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested: \$7,500.00

Cost Share or Matching Funds: \$12,500.00

Total Project Costs: **\$ 20,000.00**

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):
Ken Clay

Address:
2878 E. White Mtn Blvd
Pinetop, AZ 85935

E-mail:
kclay@azgfd.gov

Telephone: 928-856-0816

Date: 8-20-2011

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

Project has been coordinated with:

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

The O’haco Ranch has many water developments including dirt tanks, wells, and pipelines. These developments are distributed over approximately 50,000 acres of land which provides habitat to many species of wildlife. Prior to the High Point Well project this Ranch relied on dirt tanks to make it through the year. Today the dirt tanks on this Ranch are not as important as they once were with respect to water distribution and availability. However, when the dirt tanks on the ranch fill, this greatly reduces the cost and time associated with the wells on the Ranch.

In 2011, one monsoon storm dropped over 3” of rainfall around Chevelon Butte. While all rainfall is welcome, a storm of this magnitude in this area creates a problem with moving silt. The soil around the Butte is very deep clay. This soil type is a great base for dirt tanks but during heavy rainfall events it can create soil siltation downstream. Siltation definitely affected many of the tanks in this area including Sixteen tank, Lovey Tank, New Tank, and Mexican Tank. Jim O’haco plans to clean the silt out of these tanks plus a few others over the next year.

Jim O’haco has participated in many enhancement projects with the Department in past years. Mr. O’haco has always fulfilled his part in every project in every aspect. Mr. O’haco has been an excellent steward of the land, which provides habitat for many species of wildlife, especially pronghorn and elk. Please consider this past history when evaluating this project.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- Clean silt build up out of 4 tanks. Sixteen tank, Lovey Tank, New Tank, and Mexican Tank
- Provide perennial water to Elk, Deer, and Antelope
- Maintain good water distribution through the use of Dirt Tanks and Hi Point Well Drinkers

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

Remove many years of silt build-up from 4 double dirt tanks

PROJECT LOCATION:

See attach map. Unit 4A just along the northwest portion of Forest Service land and the Private Ranch just North of the Forest Service Boundary. These two well serves 39 drinkers and approximately 41 miles of pipeline. Water is located on both Forest Service and private land. The total wildlife habitat affected by this system is over 70 sq/miles.

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[x] NO[]

O'haco Ranches (Jim O'haco)

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

Pinyon/Juniper habitat with large grassland openings. The area has a good mixture of browse

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | Total Cost | \$20,000.00 |
| SBG Funds | Funds Requested | \$7,500.00 |
| O'haco Ranch Cost | Cost Share | \$12,500.00 |

Cost Share or Matching Funds

| | Man/Hours | Quantity | Cost | Total |
|--------------------------------|--------------|----------|--------------|----------|
| Clean 1 double dirt tank | 40 hrs/ tank | 4 tanks | \$5,000/tank | \$20,000 |
| | | | | |

Regarding the costs, these are very large tanks with a great deal of silt.

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

O'haco Ranches

- Jim will do all the dozer work on this project

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

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

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

NA

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Ken Clay

Figure 1: Map of Four Tanks on O'haco Ranch to be cleaned of silt

