

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number:	11-108
Possible Funding Partners:	

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Catchment 1023 (Pink Cliffs) Repairs and Renovation

Region and Game Management Unit: Region 1/ GMU 3A

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):

- Show Low

Was the project presented to the LHPC?

YES[X] NO[]

Has this project been submitted in previous years? YES[X] NO[]

If Yes, was it funded? YES[] NO[X] → **HPC Project #:** Mult.

Project Type: Water catchment renovation

Brief Project Summary:

Renovation of an existing Game and Fish water catchment (Pink Cliffs #1023) which has been non-functional for 5 years due to a faulty tank.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Pronghorn, Mule Deer and Elk

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date:
March 2012

Project End Date:
January 2013

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: YES[X] No[] N/A[]

Projected Completion Date: August 2011

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:

YES[X] No[] N/A[]

Projected Completion Date: August 2011

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A[]

To be Completed by: Paul Greer

Projected Completion Date: February 2012

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:

\$ 36,924

Cost Share or Matching Funds:

\$ 36,700

Total Project Costs:

\$ 73,624

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):

Paul Greer

Address:

2878 E. White Mountain Blvd.

Pinetop, AZ 85935

E-mail:

jgreer@agfd.gov

Telephone: (928)358-8905

Date: 8/30/2011

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

Project has been coordinated with:

BLM Safford District and AZGFD Development

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

In the summer of 2007 a slow leak was detected in the Game and Fish owned wildlife water catchment #1023 located north of the Pink Cliffs in western Game Management Unit (GMU) 3A. The leak caused several supplemental water hauling efforts by the Development Branch and resulted in a site visit by Development personnel. The Development Branch determined the water catchment's buried ring tank was the source of the leak. The Development Branch recommended a renovation of the water catchment rather than attempting to patch the leak or install a liner which would be a "band-aid" solution, only resulting in additional repairs needed in the future. Renovation of the catchment would also allow larger holding tanks to be installed, in turn providing greater water storage. Bolstered water storage at this site would allow several years of use by wildlife in the event of a dry year in which the catchment collected very little precipitation. Redevelopment of the catchment would also eliminate the costly water hauling efforts that have been necessary every year since 2007. A temporary drinker has been installed and plumbed to an above ground temporary holding tank at this site. This system currently provides water to wildlife until renovation of the catchment can occur. The temporary water tank is not connected to a precipitation collection device which results in the need for repeated water hauling. Renovation of the existing catchment to the Department's current water catchment designs would greatly enhance the efficiency and longevity of this development as well as eliminate the need for future water hauling efforts to this site.

Located approximately 16 miles northwest of Snowflake, catchment #1023 provides water to several herds of pronghorn and a growing resident herd of mule deer. During the summer of 2010, the temporary drinker was used regularly by a group of mule deer does and several mature bucks. The vegetative type here is juniper savannah which marks the transition area from pinyon/juniper woodland in the south to open grassland to the north. Water sources in this area consist mostly of dirt stock tanks which have been documented to dry up during arid months. Catchment #1023 provides the only perennial wildlife water in the area.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

To redevelop a dilapidated Game and Fish water catchment that will provide pronghorn, mule deer and other wildlife with perennial water. This is part of an overall goal to provide perennial water for wildlife across the western portion of GMU 3A.

This project was submitted last year and not funded as the BLM had not yet completed the administrative process of the NEPA requirements. The NEPA process has since been completed with a "finding of no significant impact" issued reference # DOI-BLM-AZ-G010-2009-0043.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

- Replace Catchment #1023's existing faulty ring tank (8,000 gal) and apron with two 3' x 18' buried fiberglass ring tanks (11,500 gal) and a 24' x 72' fenced R-panel apron.
- Replace Catchment #1023's existing rubber trough with a 3' deep fiberglass walk-in drinker.
- Install an apron enclosure fence at Catchment #1023
- Provide a relatively maintenance free perennial water source that has sufficient water storage capacity to withstand several years of use in the event of a dry year in which the development catches little or no water.

PROJECT LOCATION:

T. 15N, R. 19E. Section 26. See attached maps. Land ownership for this project is BLM.

- The catchment is located in western GMU 3A off Hwy 377 between Heber and Holbrook.
- Catchment site is marked on the map with a yellow triangle and labeled as GF 1023.
- The nearest perennial water is Twin Lakes which lies 4.5 miles to the south. Although this is a perennial water source, the Pink Cliffs lie between Catchment #1023 and Twin Lakes creating a physical barrier to pronghorn movement. Highway 377 also serves as a physical barrier, which makes water sources across the Highway in GMU 4B inaccessible to pronghorn in GMU 3A.
- Washboard Wash and Buckhorn Draw are ephemeral drainages that typically only have water during winter snowmelt and the monsoon season.

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

USDOI Bureau of Land Management, Safford Field Office

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

YES[] NO[]

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

The project area is predominately Great Basin grassland with a component of junipers primarily in the southern portion of the area as well as on the hills and buttes and along draws. Dominant grasses include blue grama, ricegrass, alkali-sacaton, galleta, and dropseed. The shrub component becomes increasingly prevalent to the north and includes fourwing saltbush, sagebrush, snakeweed, winterfat and various ephedras. Elevations in the project area range from 5,200 ft in the north end to 6,100 ft in the south end.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Materials Needed For Catchment: (Prices Reflect Current Costs as of 8/29/11)

Quantity	Item	Price
2	3’x18’ fiberglass ring tanks	\$20,020
1	Elk trough	\$ 3,934
1	24’x96’ apron	\$ 7,580
1	Apron infrastructure	\$ 1,000
1	Fencing for apron	\$ 3,390
1	Plumbing	\$ 1,000

(\$10,010 per tank)

Catchment Costs:

Sub-total = \$36,924
Tax = added in
Total = \$36,924

Contracted Labor Cost = \$20,000

Arizona Game & Fish:

Environmental compliance work = \$16,700 (COMPLETE)

Development Branch (Cost Share) = \$20,000

(On August 29, 2011, Joe Currie confirmed that the Development Branch will be able to contribute \$20,000 in cost share to cover contract labor costs to build this catchment.)

Total Cost = \$73,624

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

\$36,924

Cost Share or Matching Funds

\$36,700

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

- Arizona Game and Fish will coordinate and contract the construction of this project
- USDOJ Bureau of Land Management/ Environmental Compliance

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

Arizona Game and Fish conducts wildlife surveys for antelope and records deer observations in the project area. The Department will continue to do these surveys and analyze the data with respects to this project.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

AZGF will monitor and complete all maintenance needs at this wildlife water.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Paul Greer / AZGF

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (see attached worksheet):

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET

PROJECT NAME: Catchment 1023 (Pink Cliffs)

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

- 2) **Please list the Development Branch personnel and date coordinated with for this project.**
Joe Currie 2/21/08, 4/21/08, 5/16/08, 8/26/08, 7/23/09, 8/30/09, 6/21/10, 8/8/11, 8/29/11
Ed Jahrke 7/9/07, 05/25/10

- 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:**
Name of water source:
Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank):
Ownership of water source:
Distance in miles from project:

- 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.**
NA

- 8) **Please provide the following information about access to the proposed site:**
Type of access (mark one): 2x4 vehicles 4x4 only foot**
**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:
None, the private land is open 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.

See Above

10) Was a site visit completed? Yes No

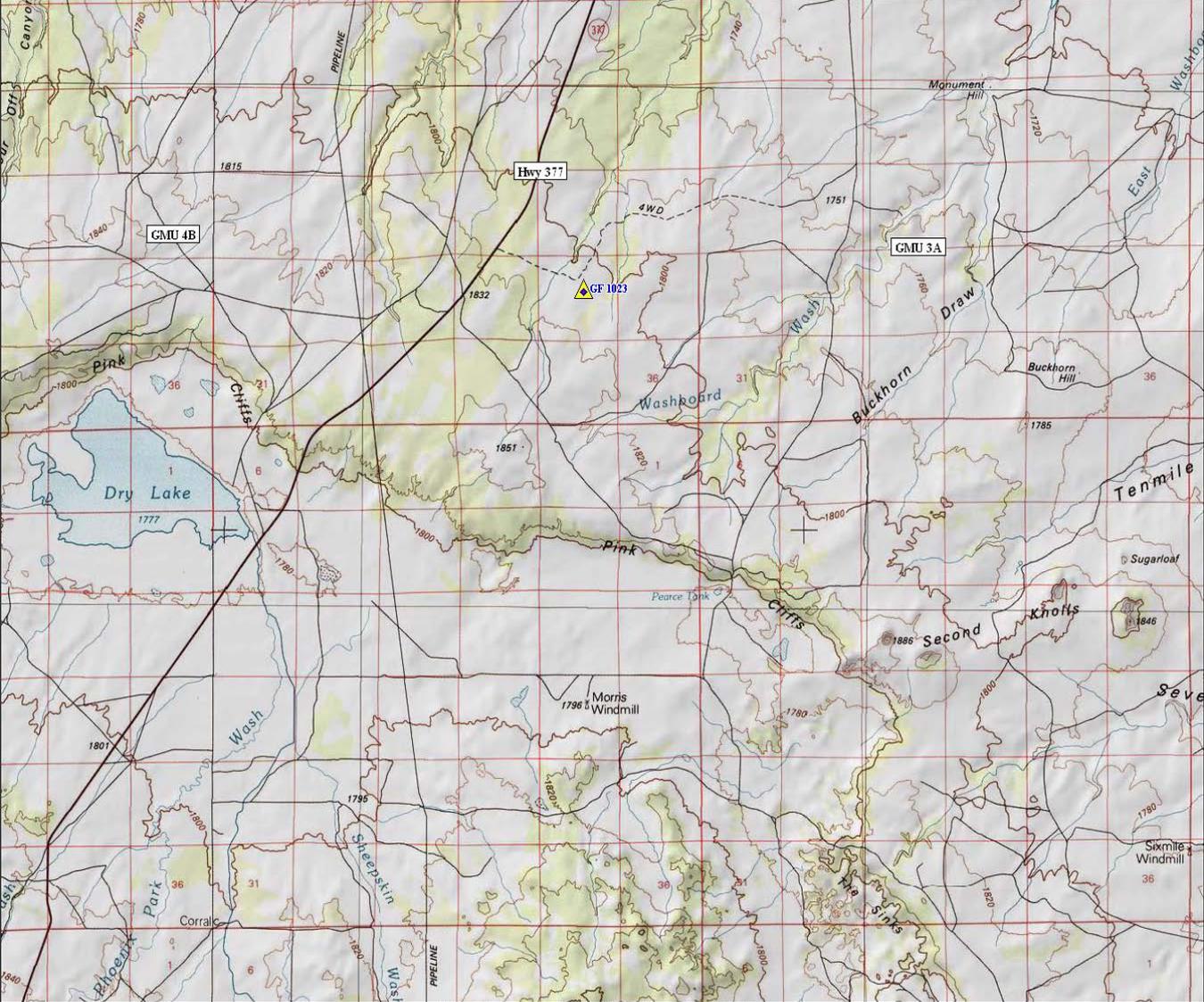
If Yes, please list personnel that attended and date.

Tom Christensen AZGF and Paul Greer AZGF on 8/15/07



Pink Cliffs Catchment #1032 in GMU 3A

Project Location



TN MN
111°

0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 2.5 3.0 3.5 miles
0 1 2 3 4 5 km
Map created with TOPO!® ©2003 National Geographic (www.nationalgeographic.com/topo)

