

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number:	12-213
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PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Rock Climb, AZGFD #1115	
Region and Game Management Unit: Region 2, GMU 5A	
Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC): • Forage Resource Study Group	Was the project presented to the LHPC? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Has this project been submitted in previous years? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, was it funded? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> → HPC Project #:	
Project Type: Water Development	
Brief Project Summary: This project looks to increase water availability for a US Forest Service wildlife/ livestock catchment in western GMU 5A. The current catchment is inadequate in water available storage capacity, reliability, and apron size, however it is currently functional. With funding from the HPC process, AZGFD will construct a new catchment capable of supporting the year round demands of big game such as elk and deer with an overflow feed to the existing wildlife/ livestock catchment.	
Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Elk, Mule Deer, Black Bear, Pronghorn, small game, and various non-game including bats and reptiles.	

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year): Project Start Date: 7/1/2013 Project End Date: 6/30/2015	Environmental Compliance: NEPA Completed: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Projected Completion Date: 2010 State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Projected Completion Date: 2010 Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> To be Completed by: J. CURRIE Projected Completion Date: 7/1/2013
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PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:	\$ 42,908.00
Cost Share or Matching Funds:	\$ 26, 288.00
Total Project Costs:	\$ 69196.00

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print): Garrett Fabian	Address: 3500 S. Lake Mary Rd, Flagstaff, AZ	E-mail: gfabian@azgfd.gov
Telephone: (928) 606-3557		Date: 8/21/12

AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel):
Project has been coordinated with: USFS (Mogollon Ranger District), FRSG HPC, AZ Elk Society, and AZGFD Engineer

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

Water availability on the northern portion of the Mogollon Ranger District within the central portions of Game Management Unit (GMU) 5A, 5BS, and 5BN are fairly limited. Most water availability comes from dirt tanks, which have become so degraded that water availability is severely limited. There are six USFS water catchments in the area, which were constructed in the 1970's. All six are failing in some fashion and in need of redevelopment. The six catchments (USFS labeled - Trick Tanks) consist of:

- Trick Tank #1- livestock/wildlife apron catchment feeding into a railroad car storage vault with a ring drinker located at (N 34° 45.070 / W 111° 03. 353) near the rock climb recreation area.
- Trick Tank #2 - wildlife drinker with an apron catchment and small metal storage vault located on Jacks Canyon at (N 34 41.710, W 111 07.003).
- Trick Tank #3 - wildlife drinker with an apron catchment and small metal storage vault located at (approx. N 34° 37.984 / W 111° 02.989) on a non-numbered two-tracker off FS 319 behind Mogollon Ranch.
- Trick Tank #4 is a 10,000 gallon wildlife/fire “saucer” type trick tank with a wildlife drinker located downstream located at (N° 34 34.245 / W 111° 05.210) on FS 137B,
- Trick Tank #5 is a 10,000 gallon wildlife/fire “saucer” type trick tank with a wildlife drinker located downstream located at Trick Tank #5 (N 34° 32.577 / W 111° 07.122) on FS 137
- Trick Tank FS145 is not listed on the USFS list of catchments, but it is a wildlife/fire system consisting of a 10,000 gallon “saucer” type trick tank with a wildlife drinker located downstream located at (N 34° 24.898 / W 111° 11.609) on FS 145.

See attached Map for Trick Tank #1 site also known as Rock Climb, AZGFD #1115.

The Rock Climb catchment is a joint livestock/ wildlife water that has been unreliable due to lack of water, apron failures, and plumbing failures. AZGFD has made plumbing repairs to the existing catchment, however water availability continues to be an issue. AZGFD Habitat Planning Program Manager Joe Currie conducted a site visit on August 15, 2012 and concluded it was best to construct a whole new wildlife only catchment alongside the existing catchment and plumb overflow to it. The location of the new catchment would be the abandoned plastic/ cinder apron for the current catchment. This catchment is the third in a group of five that the AZGFD has cleared through the USFS for redevelopment. With the implementation of Jacks Canyon, AZGFD #1014 (Trick Tank #2) this year, Rock Climb, AZGFD #1115 will become the number one Region 2 Sector 8 priority, so we are seeking funding for this funding cycle.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Initially this project looked to increase storage and update plumbing of a US Forest Service wildlife catchment in western GMU 5A. The current catchment is inadequate in storage capacity, reliability, and apron size due to it being a joint livestock/ wildlife water. In addition, the current catchment is over 30 years old and the apron is showing signs of failure. However, due to topographic features, the location of the current storage facility, a significant rock shelf, and the design of AZGFD new maintenance free catchments, the AZGFD Currie decided it was best to construct a whole new wildlife only catchment alongside the current catchment's apron. Overflow would then be piped into the existing catchment's water storage.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

The proposed plan would consist of AZGFD Development Branch building a gravity fed water

catchment (10,000 to 30,000 gallon) in the identified areas (see attached schematic). These large gravity fed catchments are buried underground, require virtually no maintenance, and due to their size require little effort in maintaining water availability. Catchments would be constructed within the existing water development's footprint to minimize disturbance and administrative paperwork. Only medium sized dump trucks with flatbed trailers carrying backhoe and bobcat are the needed heavy equipment necessary to construct the new catchments.

This catchment currently resides on an existing road. No new roads or trails will be necessary for the work. If an existing road does need to be improved for the machinery to head into the area, the road will be left as it was found prior to the work (i.e. boulders, trees, etc will be placed on road) to prohibit use other than what it was getting prior to the work. Finally, all work within Mexican Spotted Owl Protected Activity Areas will be done outside of the breeding season (allowable work timeframe is Sept.1-March1 yearly). This site is **not** within a PAC location so there are no seasonal restrictions.

It is estimated that it will take about a month to complete each catchment. USFS Coconino Mogollon Rim District agrees to pre-work identification of weeds, treatment and post work monitoring and weed treatment of the footprint area should the need arise for three years following completion. Overall, these water development reconstructions would help reduce the limiting factor of water availability on the northern half of the Mogollon Ranger District and increase the carrying capacity of this area for wildlife.

PROJECT LOCATION:

Trick Tank #1, also known as Rock Climb AZGFD #1115, is located at approximately N 34° 45.070 W 111° 03. 353in T16N, R12E, Sec. 27. It is located on Coconino National Forest non-maintained road 9736 headed west off of Highway 87 at milepost 313.

LAND OWNERSHIP AT PROJECT SITE (Please state specifically if PRIVATE PROPERTY and provide landowner's name): US Forest Service, Mogollon Ranger District

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

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

This project is located in Pinion/Juniper grassland habitat. Prominent vegetative species include Shaggy bark Juniper, Pinion Pine, Cliffrose, and various grass species. Elevation is approximately 6300 feet, receiving moderate winter moisture.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

Cost estimate was derived in coordination with AZGFD Engineer Joe Currie. He provided the following cost estimate:

- 3' X 18'dia. Fiberglass Ring Tank – \$ 10,010.00 (per tank, need two tanks)
- 3' X 5' Fiberglass Walk-in "Elk" Trough - \$ 3,934.00
- 24' X 96' Metal frame and R-panel Apron - \$ 6,153.00

- 200' X 200' Heavy duty Pipe rail fence - \$ 3,400.00
- Elk enclosure fencing for apron - \$3,500.00
- 3" Sch 80 Plumbing and brass ball valves - \$ 1000.00
- Misc. Materials - \$ 1000.00

Total: \$39,007.00

Cost increase of 10% = \$3,901.00

Grant Request of \$42,908.00

Cost Share or Matching Funds

AZGFD Development crew will complete the installation of the project. J. Currie estimated that to be \$20,000 in kind labor cost match. In addition, Wildlife Manager G. Fabian has dedicated 10 days to project development, field trips, coordination, and finalization, which is matching in kind labor of \$1820.00. The USFS has spent 14 days completing administrative paperwork for project analysis, NEPA, ARCHY, fieldtrips, and weed monitoring, which is a matching in kind labor of approximately \$4468.00.

Matching in kind labor value: \$26,288.00

Project material cost:	\$42,908.00
<u>Matching in kind labor value:</u>	<u>\$26,288.00</u>
Total project cost:	\$69,196.00

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

The USFS Mogollon Rim RD is cooperating in this effort with AZGFD to replace these catchments. AZGFD would seek funding through the AZGFD HPC process and other grant funding opportunities. The Mogollon Rim RD would cost share these projects through NEPA and ARCH completion and weed requirements. There will be no partial direct funding on the USFS part as the catchments that were previously used for fire are no longer necessary. These catchments will be re-built without the fire hook-up capability. Ownership of these new catchments along with maintenance responsibilities will transfer to AZGFD upon completion of the rebuild per the USFS special use permit SUP RED0415.

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

These drinkers will be monitored for water availability and maintenance issues several times each year.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

Little to none.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

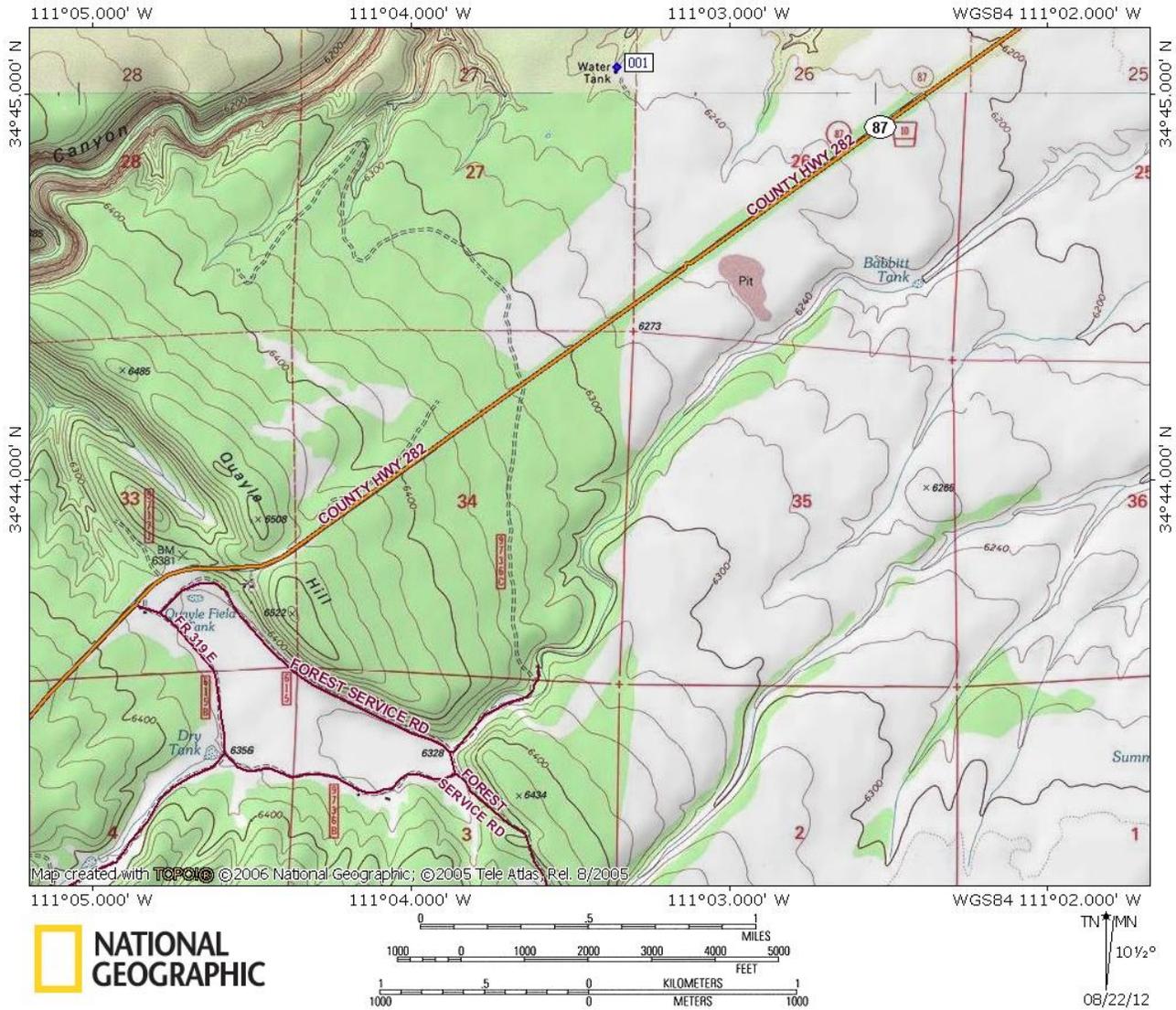
Wildlife Manager Garrett Fabian

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (see attached worksheet):

TREE SHEARING (AGRA-AXE, PUSH) PROJECTS (see attached worksheet):

N/A

TOPO! map printed on 08/22/12 from "LP current waters.tpo"



ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT **WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET**

PROJECT NAME: Rock Climb catchment #1115

- 1) **Is the water development listed as a priority in the most recent “Wildlife Water Development Annual Implementation Schedule?”** Yes. It is the Region II, sector 8 #1 priority.
- 2) **Please list the Development Branch personnel and date coordinated with for this project.**
Joe Currie, several dates including field trip 8/15/2012.
- 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: Turkey seep is 3.5 miles away. There is also a livestock well and drinker about 3.5 miles away, however it is across Highway 87 and only on during the fall and winter. There are several private residences in Mogollon Ranch Estates that have permanent water for livestock and wildlife, however wildlife must cross Highway 87 to access it.
Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank): Spring, well and metal basin tanks
Ownership of water source: USFS, Bar T Bar ranch, and Private residences.
Distance in miles from project: 3+
- 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.**
N/A.
- 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.**
See attached schematic of catchment #1014.
- 10) **Was a site visit completed?** Yes No
See answer #2.

Rock Climb AZGFD #1115 Engineering plans

