

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number:	13-304
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PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Cellar Basin Trick Tank Development	
Region and Game Management Unit: Region III, GMU 20A	
Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC): • Prescott	Was the project presented to the LHPC? YES[X] NO[]
Has this project been submitted in previous years? YES[] NO[X] If Yes, was it funded? YES[] NO[] → Funded HPC Project #(s):	
Project Type: Construction of New, High Capacity, 35,400 gallon Trick Tank	
Brief Project Summary: Mule deer densities depend on adequately distributed water, forage, and cover. This Project will involve development of a new, high capacity, (35,400 gallon capacity) trick tank on Prescott National Forest land in the Cellar Basin area of GMU 20A. This is a cooperative project between the Arizona Game and Fish Department the Prescott National Forest and PNF grazing lessee, Maughan Ranches. This project will enhance mule deer habitat in the project area by providing reliable, year-round water availability and significantly improved water distribution. It will also provide seasonal water for livestock.	
Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Mule Deer, Javelina, Elk, Lion, Black Bear	

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year): <u>Project Start Date:</u> March 1, 2014 <u>Project End Date:</u> April 1, 2014	Environmental Compliance: NEPA Completed: Yes[X] No[] N/A[] Projected Completion Date: <u>Has already been fully Completed by the Prescott National Forest</u> State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance: Yes[X] No[] N/A[] Projected Completion Date: <u>Has already been fully Completed by the Prescott National Forest</u> Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A[] To be Completed by: <u>S. Poppenberger</u> Projected Completion Date: February 1, 2014
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PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:	\$ \$37,470.00
Cost Share or Matching Funds:	\$ \$19,040.00
Total Project Costs:	\$ 56,510.00

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print): Scott W. Poppenberger	Address: 5325 N. Stockton Hill Rd,	E-mail: spoppenberger@azgfd.gov
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Telephone: (928) 308-2042	Kingman, AZ	Date: 6/10/13
AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel): Scott W. Poppenberger (928) 308-2042		
Project has been coordinated with: Prescott National Forest, Bradshaw Ranger District, Don Glasgow, Maughan Ranches, General Manager Bob Jacobs, Arizona Deer Association		

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

Although a generally productive unit, the 20A deer population has been on a stable to decreasing trend. It is felt that Unit 20A has a significantly higher mule deer carrying capacity than presently exists. Many biological variables contribute to reduced mule deer population growth and densities. One of the most important components of quality mule deer range is reliable, year-round water availability and adequate distribution. This project is intended to improve water availability in an area of otherwise excellent habitat in the southwestern region GMU 20A. It is anticipated that providing additional year-round wildlife water in this part of the unit will improve habitat functionality and utilization resulting in enhanced mule deer productivity and distribution.

Game management unit 20A has long been a significant source of mule deer and mule deer hunt opportunity in central Arizona’s Region III. Over the past 10 years alone, GMU 20A has provided mule deer hunt opportunity for at least **14,358** hunters:

- **6,300** General deer tags
- **610** Juniors only tags
- **7,448** August-September and December and January Archery Hunters

Traditionally, many hunters choose to hunt and view mule deer in the Cellar Basin area of 20A. It offers good National Forest access off the Wagner Road and provides a sizable area of classic, western, secluded, mid-elevation mule deer habitat.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The primary objective of this project is to improve habitat for mule deer and other wildlife in the Cellar Basin area of GMU 20A. This is one of several wildlife habitat improvement projects planned in the south western region of GMU 20A focused on improving habitat conditions. Other near future projects near this one include construction of a new dirt stock tank north of Blind Indian Creek and the re-development of a failed trick tank approximately 6 miles to the north on the Walnut Grove allotment. NEPA has been completed by the Prescott National Forest on all of these Projects.

This project will help accomplish this objective by:

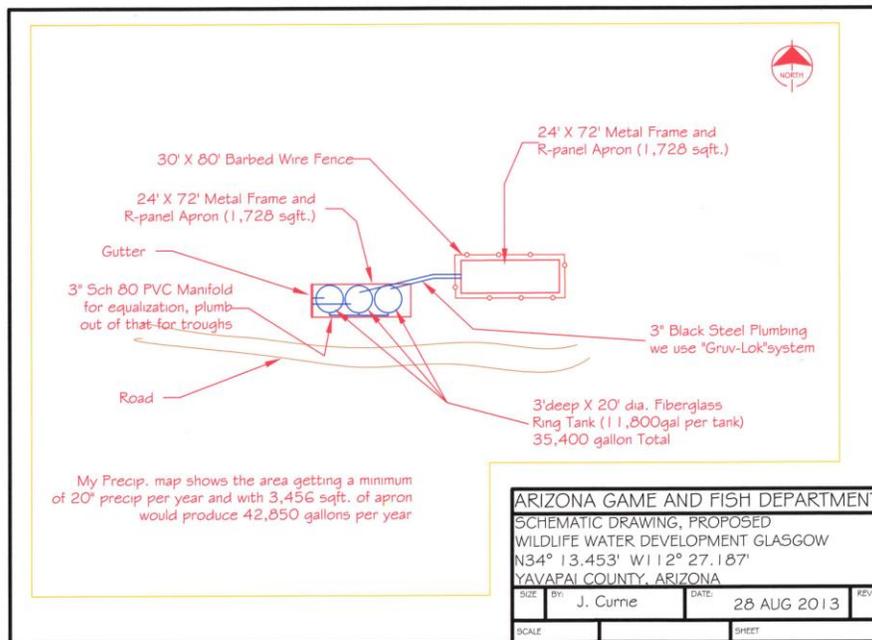
- Constructing a permanent, high capacity, water catchment to ensure well distributed, year-round water availability for mule deer and other wildlife in Cellar Basin.
- This project is also a cooperative project with Prescott National Forest Grazing Lessee Maughan Ranches, to provide seasonal livestock water to better distribute limited livestock grazing across 3 rotational pastures.
- This project is part of a landscape scale plan to improve habitat conditions over an even broader are of GMU 20A.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

This Project will place a new, high capacity (35,400 gallon), high quality, trick tank on Prescott National Forest land in the Cellar Basin area of GMU 20A. This catchment will supply water to a dedicated, wildlife specific drinker and 5 additional, dispersed wildlife and livestock drinkers to distribute easily available water over an approximately 1 square mile radius. The wildlife specific drinker will be fenced to exclude livestock and will provide year round water for wildlife. This is a cooperative project between the Arizona Game and Fish Department the Prescott National Forest and grazing lessee, Maughan Ranches. Maughan Ranches will provide materials and will construct the catchment itself. They will also provide and install the wildlife and livestock troughs. This project is intended to:

- Provide guaranteed year-round water for mule deer and other wildlife.
- A significant percentage of the storage capacity will be mechanically retained and reserved exclusively for wildlife usage.
- This water is routed into the wildlife specific drinker for wildlife specific use.
- Project will improve the critical habitat component of water distribution in an area of otherwise good mule deer habitat that has limited water distribution.
- Improve over all habitat quality and utilization by mule deer and other wildlife
- Provide seasonal water for livestock to better distribute livestock utilization among 3 rotational pastures.

Catchment and storage tank schematic design:



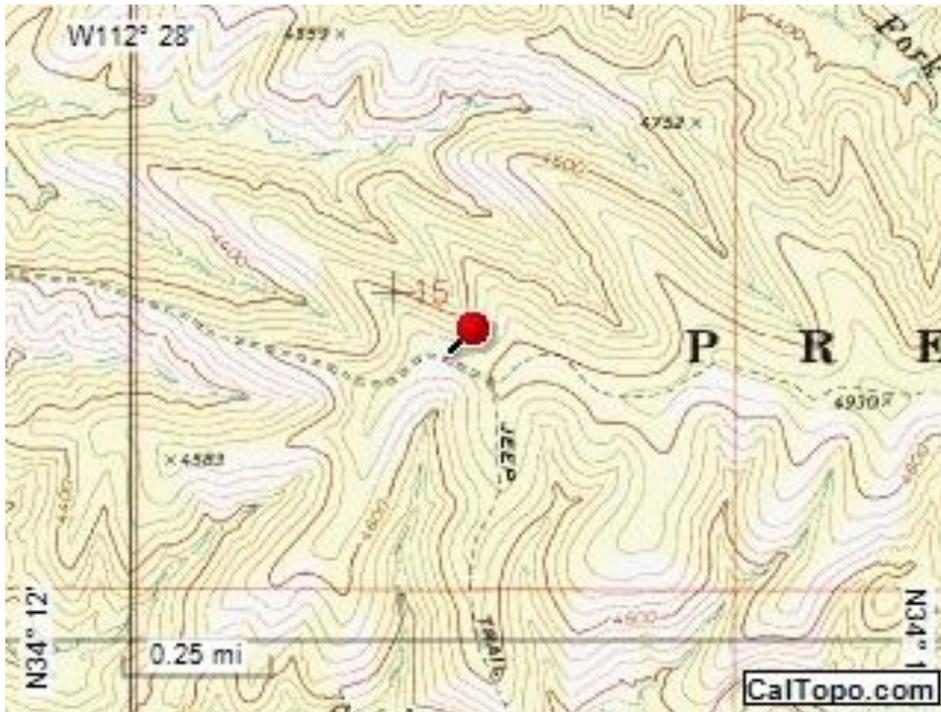
PROJECT LOCATION:

T10N R2W Section15

N34 13.453 W112 27.187

This project is located on the Bradshaw Ranger District of the Prescott National Forest, in Cellar Basin. This mid elevation basin is located in the southwestern region of GMU 20A. Access to this area is open to the public from the Wagner Road through an area of State Trust Land on PNF Road

682B.



LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

(if the project area is private property, please state specifically and provide the landowner's name)

- USDA Forest Service, Prescott National Forest, Bradshaw Ranger District

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

YES[] NO[] N/A[X]

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

Elevation at the project location is approximately 4800 feet. Topography in the project area consists of a series of rolling ridge lines. Vegetation is variable depending on slope aspect. South facing slopes are primarily open grassland. North facing slopes offer a mix of chaparral/browse including mountain mahogany, turbinella oak and ceanothus.

View from the project site, looking northeast toward Horse Mountain and Blind Indian Creek.



ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

- 35,400 gallons of water storage: \$35,970.00
- Fencing for wildlife drinker: \$500.00
- Wildlife trough: \$1,000.00
- \$37,470.00

- AGFD will transport storage containers to project location.
- AGFD will also provide 2 miles of PVC pipe that is on hand.

Cost Share or Matching Funds (for volunteer labor rates please refer to the worksheet below)

- Heavy equipment/earth moving: \$1,200.00
- Material and labor for catchment apron: \$14,840.00
- Material and labor for catchment fencing : \$500.00
- Water troughs for livestock and wildlife (5) \$2,500.00
- \$19,040.00

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

- Forest Service, Prescott National Forest, Bradshaw Ranger District:
 1. Has already provided NEPA Clearances, and Archeological Clearances

- Arizona Game and Fish Department, will provide:
 1. Water storage tanks
 2. Transport of storage tanks to project location

4. Engineering and design
5. Pipe to transport water
6. Wildlife drinker and fencing

- Maughan Ranches, will provide:

1. Materials for water catchment apron
2. 5 wildlife and livestock water troughs
3. Labor and equipment for catchment

**WOULD IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT ASSIST IN PROVIDING, MAINTAINING,
OR FACILITATING RECREATIONAL ACCESS?**

YES NO N/A

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

This Project will be monitored in accordance with the District water binder monitoring protocol and routinely by personnel from Maughan Ranches.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

Project Maintenance will be performed cooperatively as needed, by personnel from Maughan Ranches and the Game and Fish Department.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Scott Poppenberger, Wildlife Manager, Region III

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (*please use the worksheet below*):

TREE CLEARING/REMOVAL PROJECTS (*please use the worksheet below*):

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

PROJECT TITLE: Cellar Basin Trick Tank Development

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

- 2) **Please list the Development Branch personnel and date coordinated with for this project.**
This project has been coordinated with Joe Currie. Additional coordination has included an August 20, 2013. Site visit with all project cooperators and participants including:
 2. Prescott National Forest Range Personnel
 3. Don Glasgow, Maughan Ranches
 4. Bob Jacobs, Mule Deer Foundation
 5. Terry Herndon, Mule Deer Foundation

- 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: Cellar Spring
Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank): Spring
Ownership of water source: USDA Forest Service
Distance in miles from project: 1.5

- 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**

**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: N/A

- 9) **Please list below (or on a separate sheet) the material type and dimensions of each component proposed to be added, modified, or repaired.**

10) Was a site visit completed? Yes[X] No[]

If Yes, please list personnel that attended and date.

A site visit was conducted to the project location on August 20, 2013. The following individuals were present:

- Joe Currie, AGFD Development Branch
- Scott Poppenberger, AGFD Region III
- Jake Russell, Prescott National Forest, Bradshaw Ranger District
- Don Glasgow, Maughan Ranches
- Terry Herndon, Mule Deer Foundation
- Bob Jacobs, Mule Deer Foundation

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT **TREE CLEARING/REMOVAL WORKSHEET**

PROJECT TITLE: _____

- 1) **What is the estimated acreage of the project?**

- 2) **How are the trees going to be cleared? (agra axe, chain saw, grubbing, push, chaining):**

- 3) **What is the estimated number of trees per acre?**

- 4) **Describe trees to be cleared (species, estimated diameter, single stem, multi-stem):**

- 5) **Describe terrain (slope, soil type, rocks)**

- 6) **Please list any special land management status for the project site (e.g. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument). If private land, list landowner.**

- 7) **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: Approx. hiking time:

Does access to this site require crossing private or tribal lands? YES[] NO[]

Is the site relatively accessible for tree removal equipment? YES[] NO[]

Please describe any restrictions to public access:

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

VOLUNTEER HOURLY RATES AND CLASSIFICATIONS WORKSHEET

PROJECT TITLE: _____

The value of volunteer labor should be calculated at the hourly rate of an employee doing similar work, or using hourly rates from the Arizona Department of Administration’s Human Resource web site, plus a standard ERE rate of 35%. http://www.hr.az.gov/HR_Professional/Class_Comp/PDF/alphacovered.pdf

\$0.445/mile should be the calculation used for mileage.

Water Development	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Habitat Restoration and Clean Up	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Fisheries	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Nongame Branch Project	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Misc/office work	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			varies	
Community Services	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$7.44	
Events and Other	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Research Branch	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Wildlife Area Hosts	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$17.44	
Education Programs	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$16.07	
Totals				