

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 13-504

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Carol Cowan – White Water Draw Project

Region and Game Management Unit: Region 5/GMU 30B

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):
• SEAZ HPC

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: Well/Pipeline/Water Troughs/New Fences/Old Fence & Wire Removal

Brief Project Summary: Drill New Well - 300' with Solar Pumping Plant & 3000 Gallon Storage, 2.65 Miles of water pipeline with 3-500 gallon troughs, construct 4.14 miles of new fence and remove approximately 3.5 miles of old fence/wire.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Mule Deer, Javelina, Gambel & Scale Quail

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date: June 2013
Well Drilled 6/2013
Pipeline/Troughs to be installed this Winter
Fence/Wire Removal Installation:
Winter 2013/14 & Spring 2014 if necessary

Project End Date: April 2014

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: Yes[] No[] N/A[X]
Projected Completion Date: NRCS Environmental Evaluation completed 2/28/13

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:
Yes[X] No[] N/A[]
Projected Completion Date: NRCS consultation and clearance completed 6/12/13
Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A[X]
To be Completed by: _____
Projected Completion Date: _____

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:	\$ 7,322.06
Cost Share or Matching Funds:	\$ 73,173.80
Total Project Costs:	\$ 80,495.86

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print): Carol E Cowan	Address: PO Box 1251 Tombstone, AZ 85638	E-mail: ibelievecc@gmail.com
Telephone: 520-508-9037		Date: 8/21/13

AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel): Jon McClard 520-858-6479

Project has been coordinated with: Don Decker (NRCS) 520-364-2001ex. 103

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

The following identified by NRCS in developing the Conservation Plan:

Soil Condition-Stability

Water Quantity

Plant Condition-Health/Vigor & Noxious/Invaded Plants,

Wildlife - Inadequate Food/Water, Cover/Shelter & Habitat Fragmentation.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Owner wishes to manage a cow/calf operation while improving the health and function of the land/resource base for the abundant wildlife along the Whitewater Draw as well as future generations on the Cowan Ranch by providing permanent water at reasonable distance intervals on property for livestock and wildlife, rotational grazing plan for plant health and soil stability. Provide a clean, well watered and managed environment for livestock ranching, wildlife and hunters. The project area lies in the Whitewater Draw floodplain and is within 1-2 miles of ongoing agriculture practices making this project unique in respects to supporting species diversity and population densities in the floodplain and adjacent upland habitats. Mule deer numbers in the area are high due to the available agriculture and habitat types, this project would improve the critical need for permanent water sources in the natural habitats which supports them.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

Project is located on approx 1,863 acres – 1,666 Deeded & 197 State Lease #05-112766. In 2012 the landowner placed a Perpetual Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) Easement on 1,422 Acres of the Deeded land, making the property dedicated to livestock & wildlife for eternity.

Property is located along the White Water Draw, approximately 6 miles north of the Whitewater Draw Wildlife Area.

PROJECT LOCATION:

Lot 3, 4; the East ½ of the SW ¼ and the East ½ of Section 30 T20S R26E

Section 31 EXCEPT Lots 2, 3, & 4; the East ½ of the SW ¼ ; the SE ¼ of the NW ¼ ; the South ½ of the South ½ of Lot 1; the South ½ of the South ½ of the NE ¼ of the NW ¼ of said Section 31 T20S R26E.

The North ½ of the North ½ of Section 8 T21S R26E

Lots 1,2,3; the South ½ of the NW ¼; the SW ¼ of the NE ¼; the North ½ of the SE ¼ ; the North ½ of the SW ¼ ; and the SW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 5 T21S R26E

Cochise County, AZ Game Management Unit 30B

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

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

- The Carol E Cowan Living Trust dated 7/12/12.

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

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

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

The Cowan Ranch is in the Whitewater Draw Floodplain. It is an alkali sacaton grassland, one of the last remaining in southern Cochise County. It provides habitat for Gambel's Quail, Scaled Quail, Mourning and White-winged doves, Mule Deer and Javelina. During normal rainfall cycles, the flooded draw offers a seasonal wetland for fall, migratory waterfowl and Sandhill Cranes. The grasslands are habitat for numerous non game birds and mammals including the predominant resident meadow lark. The Yellow Leaf Willow straddling the whitewater draw provides habitat for numerous, seasonal and resident non game birds. It is one of the last great places permanently preserved with a conservation easement.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

Well/Pumping Plant/Storage \$4,822.06

3.5 Miles Old Fence/Wire Removal \$2,500.00 Total \$7,322.06

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

Landowner Participation: Land, Organization & Administration

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

NRCS EQUIP: \$73,173.80 (match)

- Well, Pumping Plan \$17,069.80
- Pipeline \$28,087
- Troughs \$2,895
- New Fence \$25,122

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

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

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

NRCS Conservation & Grazing Plan Monitoring

NRCS GRP Annual Monitoring

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

Landowner

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Jon McClard-AZ Game & Fish Dept

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

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

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET

PROJECT TITLE: Carol Cowan – White Water Draw Project

- 1) **Is the water development listed as a priority in the most recent “Wildlife Water Development Annual Implementation Schedule?”** No
- 2) **Please list the Development Branch personnel and date coordinated with for this project.**
Jon McClard 8/13
- 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.**
The Carol E Cowan Living Trust dated 7/12/12
- 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

Legal access to the property is at the north end of Frontier Road, through another portion of the old Cowan Ranch, not owned by applicant. There is a road along the west side of the fence line on the south end of the property which goes onto the property and up through the center to the north end.

-- Please describe any restrictions to public access:

During wet times, the road on the property is not usable. The owner’s preference would be for foot traffic only on the property, once it is accessed, except for trappers year round is optional.

- 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.

Various USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) personnel have been on the property, from the Field Office, Area Office and State Office levels, dating back to 2009.

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEER HOURLY RATES AND CLASSIFICATIONS WORKSHEET

PROJECT TITLE: Carol Cowan – White Water Draw Project

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.

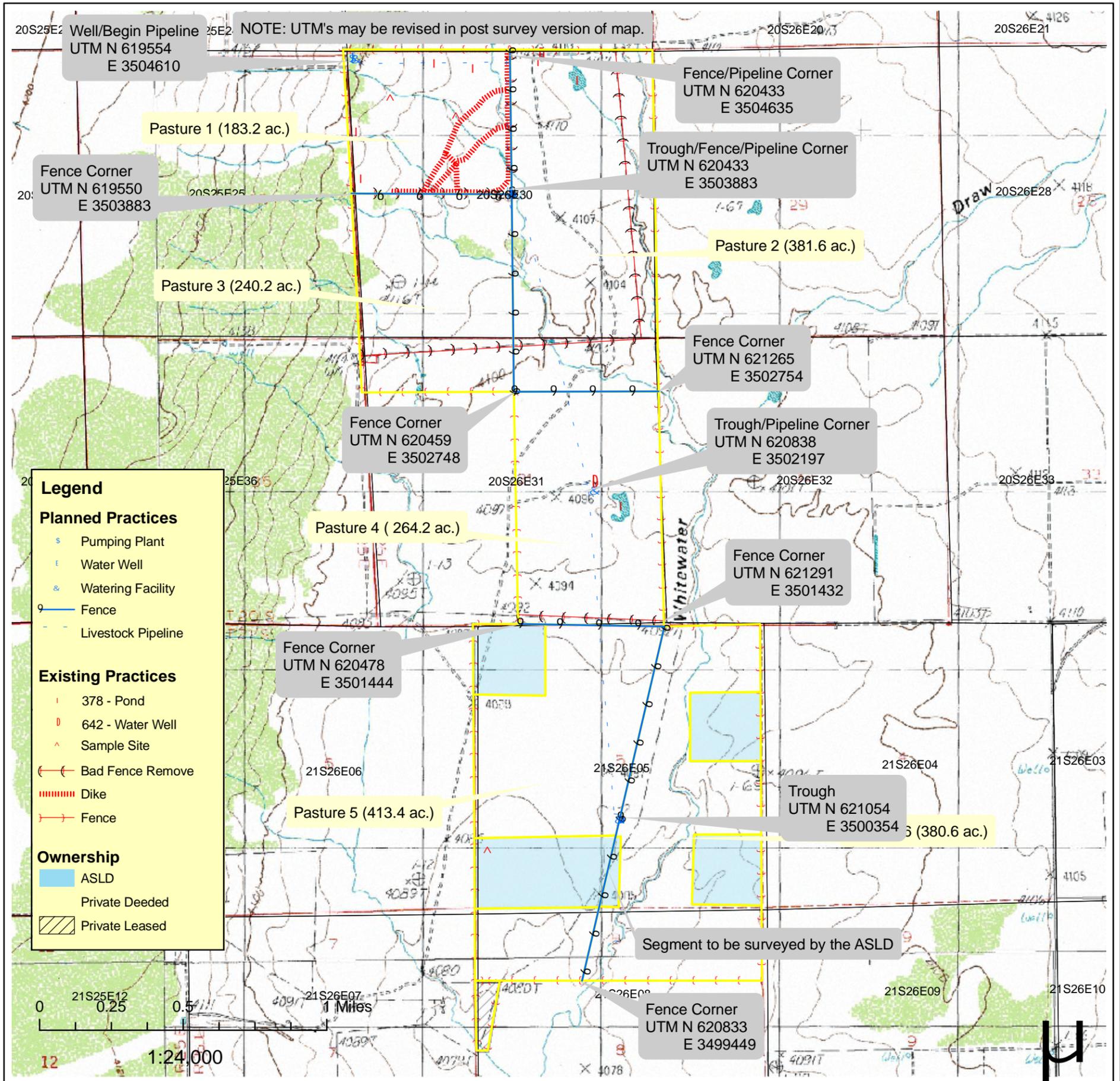
Water Development	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Habitat Restoration and Clean Up	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Fisheries	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Nongame Branch Project	Volunteer 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				

Cowan Ranch Cultural Resources Map

Total Acres: 1863.2

Customer(s): Carol Cowan
 District: Whitewater Sraw NRCO
 Legal Description: T21S; R26E; SEC5&8
 T20S; R26E; Sec30&31

Field Office: Douglas Service Center
 Agency: NRCS
 Assisted By: Marques Munis
 Date: May 21, 2013



Cultural Resources Project Description

The Cowan Ranch will be installing a well, solar pumping plant, and storage in the northwest corner of pasture 1. A pipeline will be installed that runs from the storage to the junction of pastures 1, 2 and 3 where a trough will be installed. The pipeline will continue from here into pasture 4 where another trough will be installed. The pipeline will continue down and the final trough will be installed between pastures 5 and 6. The first and third water troughs will both be trapped with wildlife friendly fence so that wildlife will have year round access to reliable water. Interior fencing will be constructed to define pastures as shown on the map.

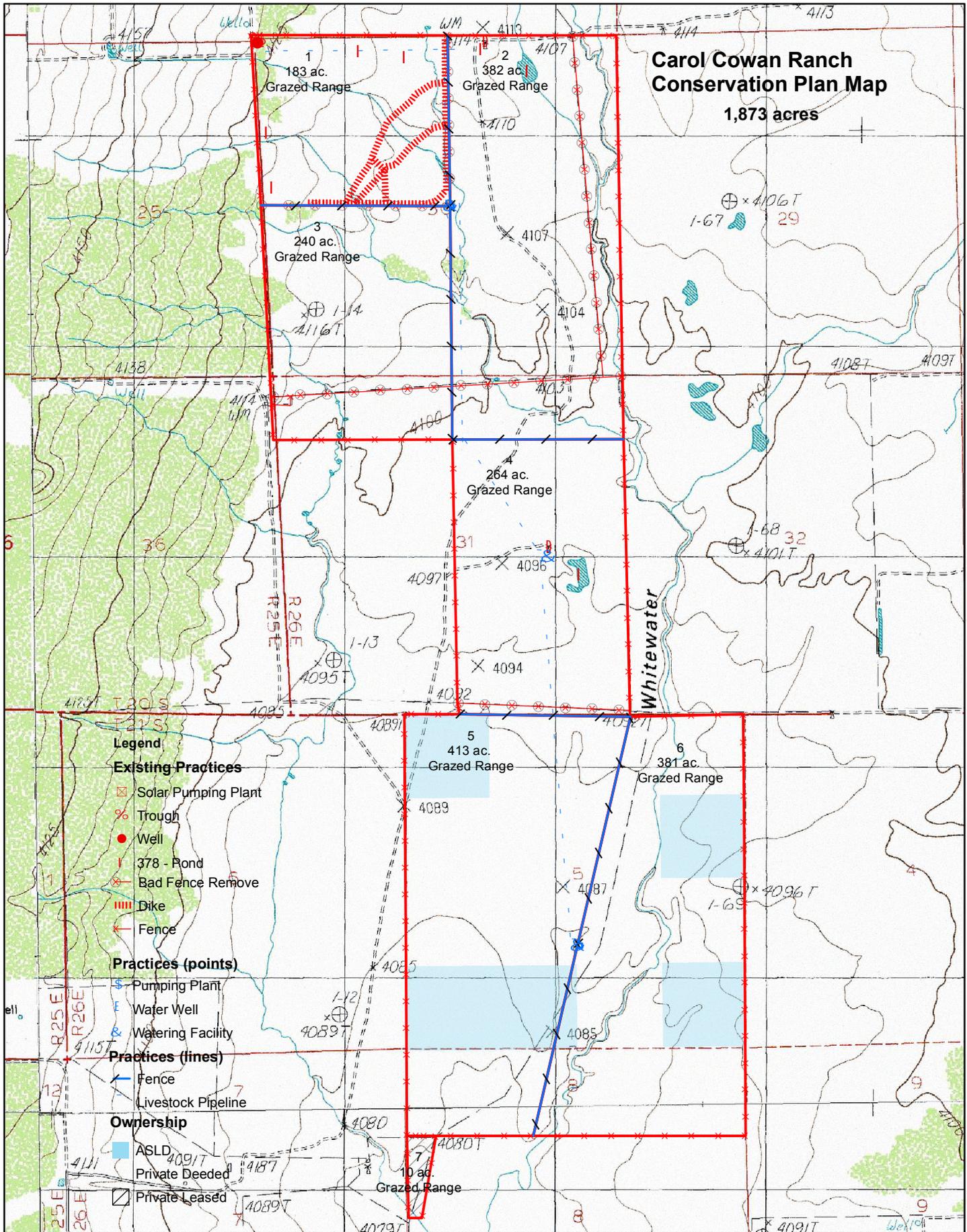
Pipeline will be buried to a minimum depth of 18 inches. A gravel pad will be provided for each trough to be installed that will encompass an area no bigger than 12' by 12'. All old cross-fencing material will be removed to prevent wildlife and livestock injury. All pipeline and trough materials will be staged along the path pipeline will be installed.

Minimal ground disturbance will be required in the construction of fencing as terrain is relatively flat with little to no brush requiring removal before the construction of fence. Post holes will be excavated for all corner and brace type assemblies. T-posts will be driven into the ground. Fencing material (wire, clips, posts, etc.) will be staged along fence line to be installed.

The well will be drilled by accessing pasture 1 in the NW corner via existing roads on adjacent cropland. All material will be staged in this area. This area had an old manufactured mobile home that has since been removed. Material will be staged in this disturbed area.

Carol Cowan Ranch Conservation Plan Map

1,873 acres



1 inch = 0.38 miles

