

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 13-606

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Roblas Canyon Wildlife Water Development

Region and Game Management Unit: Region 6 / GMU 24B

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC): None	Was the project presented to the LHPC? YES[] NO[X] No LHPC for project area
--	---

Has this project been submitted in previous years? YES[] NO[X]
If Yes, was it funded? YES[] NO[] → **Funded HPC Project #(s):**

Project Type: Wildlife Water Development

Brief Project Summary: Construction of a 9600 gallon wildlife water catchment to enhance surrounding habitat by providing a permanent and reliable source of water for mule deer and other big game species.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Mule Deer (target species). Also: Javelina, Bighorn Sheep, Whitetail Deer

<p>Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):</p> <p><u>Project Start Date:</u> October, 2014</p> <p><u>Project End Date:</u> November, 2014</p>	<p>Environmental Compliance:</p> <p>NEPA Completed: Yes[] No[X] N/A[] Projected Completion Date: NEPA to be completed upon funding approval per USFS, 6 month <u>time frame</u></p> <p>State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance: Yes[] No[X] N/A[] Projected Completion Date: Archaeological clearance to be completed by USFS upon funding approval _____</p> <p>Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A[] To be Completed by: <u>D. McGehee</u> Projected Completion Date: July, 2014</p>
---	---

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:	\$ 24,119
Cost Share or Matching Funds:	\$ 24,090
Total Project Costs:	\$ 48,209

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print): Dana McGehee, Wildlife Manager, AGFD	Address: AGFD Region VI 7200 E. University Dr. Mesa, AZ 85207	E-mail: dmcgehee@azgfd.gov
Telephone: 480-528-7986		Date: 8-26-13

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

Project has been coordinated with:

AGFD Development Branch – Joe Currie USFS Mesa Ranger District – Kelly Kessler
Livestock Permittee – George Martin, JF Ranch

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

Game Management Unit 24B has experienced a decline in mule deer numbers beginning as early as 1989 with the onset of a prolonged period of drought and continuing through 2000. While other factors may also have contributed to the decline in mule deer numbers, the lack of available permanent water sources within historic mule deer habitat is considered to be a significant cause.

Several areas of historically occupied mule deer habitat still remain relatively vacant, due primarily to the lack of permanent water sources. Limited ephemeral water sources exist within such areas, but they do not provide habitat components critical to restoring and maintaining mule deer populations.

The proposed project location lies within one of these areas. Approximately 5-6 square miles of mule deer habitat will be enhanced by the construction of the currently proposed development. Another development is planned to be proposed in 2014 (refer to Map 4, attached), and would be located 2 miles northeast of the currently proposed project. This future proposal would provide permanent water for an additional 4-5 square miles of mule deer habitat.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Improve historic mule deer habitat by providing a permanently available perennial water source.
Restore mule deer herds within historic mule deer habitat.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

Construct a precipitation collection apron with a 9600 gallon water storage system and walk-in trough within relatively vacant mule deer habitat. (Schematic diagram of development attached)

PROJECT LOCATION: Also refer to Maps 1-3 and Photographs 1-2 (attached)

Tonto National Forest, Mesa Ranger District
Township 1S, Range 11E, Section 12
Lat: 33° 21.192' N / Long: 111° 11.468' W
Approximately 7 miles NW of the Town of Superior

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

USFS, Tonto National Forest

HABITAT DESCRIPTION: Also refer to Photographs 1-2 (attached)

Sonoran Desert Scrub, Arizona Upland Division.

Elevation: 2600' at water development site; surrounding habitat varies from 2600' – 3800'

Characteristic vegetation: Palo Verde, Mesquite, Jojoba, False Mesquite/Fairy Duster (*Calliandra eriophylla*), Acacia, Saguaro, Opuntia species (prickly pear, staghorn), Ocotillo, Sotol (*Dasyliirion wheeleri*)

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

\$3390	Piperail fence, 150' x 150'
\$5925	Precipitation collection apron, 24' x 72'
\$10,010	Six polyethylene water storage tanks, 1600 gallons each
\$3293	Standard walk-in trough
<u>\$1500</u>	Plumbing (3 – 3" brass ball valves, 3 large irrigation valve boxes, 3" schedule 80 PVP pipe, misc. fittings)
\$24,119	Total Materials

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

\$15,000	AGFD Development crew, 5 man crew, 8 days
\$784	AGFD Wildlife Manager, 3 days recon and site visits
\$501	AGFD and Forest Service personnel site visit
\$353	AGFD/WCO site visit
\$200	AGFD Development, site visit
\$3393	Volunteer labor, 20 persons, 1 twelve hour day each (includes travel time) construction
\$1696	Volunteer labor, 10 persons, 1 twelve hour day each (includes travel time) paint, clean-up
\$523	AGFD Wildlife Manager administrative hours
\$653	AGFD Wildlife Manager, 2 days at construction, 10 hours per day
<u>\$987</u>	Volunteer mileages calculated at 65 miles round trip from Mesa AGFD Office to project site
\$24,090	Total Cost Share or Matching Funds

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

Quail Forever, Valley of the Sun Chapter.

Chapter members to provide volunteer labor during construction and clean-up at project site.

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

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

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

The project will be monitored by the District Wildlife Manager.

Monitoring will include:

- 1) The use of a remote camera at the development site to capture images and data regarding utilization by mule deer and other wildlife species,
- 2) Locating the presence of tracks or trails leading to and from the development that indicate utilization by mule deer and other big game species,
- 3) Annual comparison with data from past deer surveys conducted along Forest Service Road 172 with emphasis on foothills proximate to the development, and
- 4) Anecdotal information provided by hunters and local livestock operator regarding numbers of mule deer observed.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

Long-term maintenance will be provided by AGFD – Development and District Wildlife Manager

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Joe Currie AGFD
Dana McGehee AGFD

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET

PROJECT TITLE: Roblas Canyon Wildlife Water Development

- 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.**
Joe Currie, May 2013
- 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: N/A
Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank): N/A
Ownership of water source: N/A
Distance in miles from project: N/A
- 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.**
None
- 8) **Please provide the following information about access to the proposed site:**
Type of access (mark one): 2x4 vehicles 4x4 only foot only**

-- Does access to this site require crossing private or tribal lands? YES NO _____

-- Please describe any restrictions to public access: No restrictions
- 9) **Please list below (or on a separate sheet) the material type and dimensions of each component proposed to be added, modified, or repaired.**
Steel piperail fence, 150' x 150'
Precipitation collection apron (cold-rolled metal), 24' x 72'
Six polyethylene water storage tanks, 1600 gallons each
Standard walk-in fiberglass trough
Plumbing (3 – 3” brass ball valves, 3 large irrigation valve boxes, 3” schedule 80 pvc, misc. fittings)
- 10) **Was a site visit completed?** Yes No
May, 18, 2013 by:
Joe Currie, Habitat Planning Program Manager, Development Branch, AGFD
Dana McGehee, Wildlife Manager, GMU 24B, Region VI, AGFD

Photograph 1



This view is looking east by northeast relative to the proposed development site and includes extensive mule deer habitat that will be enhanced by the proposed water development.

The actual site of the proposed water development is located in center of photograph.

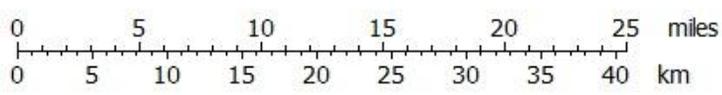
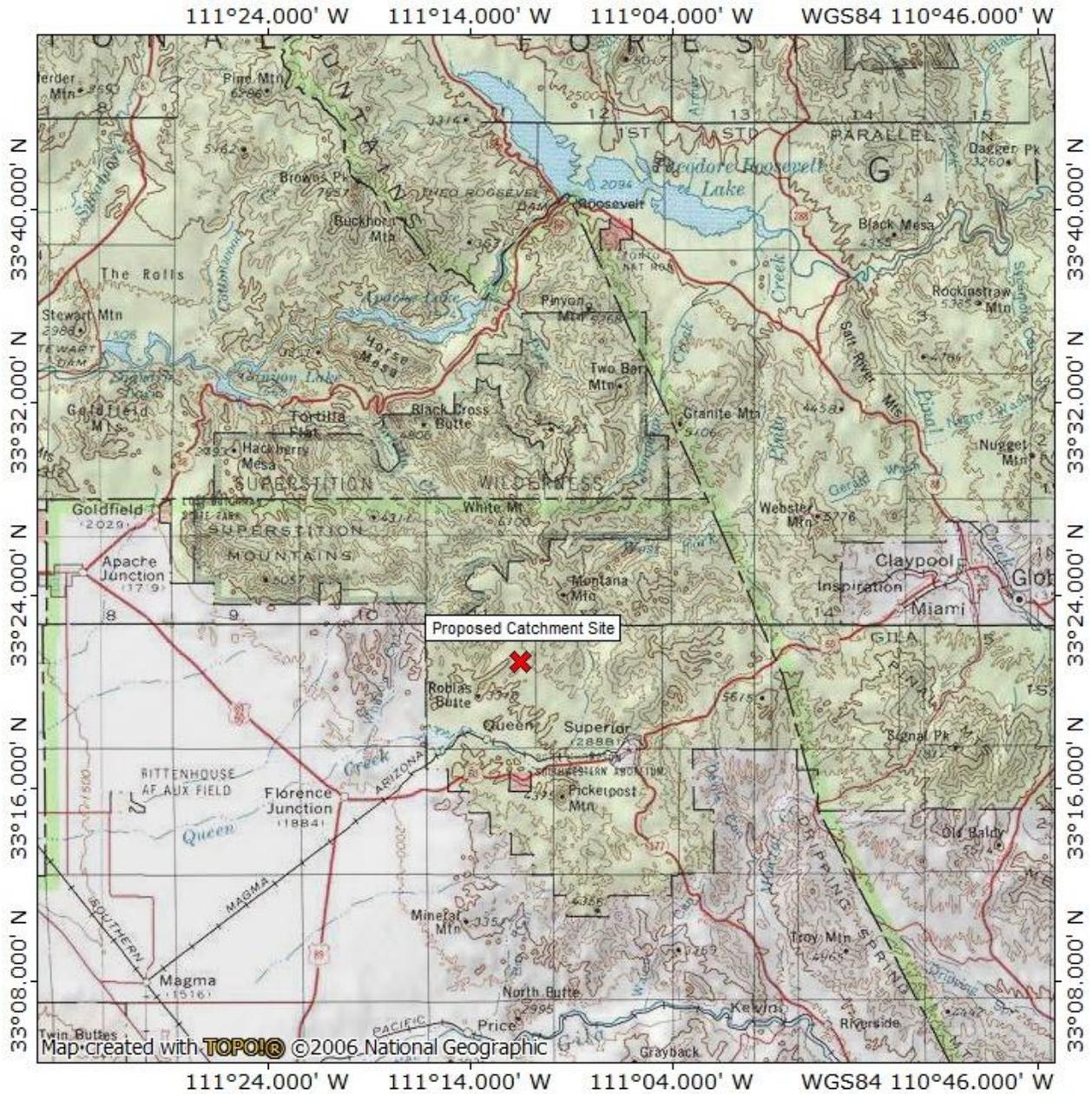
Photograph 2



Photograph taken at actual site of proposed water development project. Proposed site will require a minimum amount of disturbance to vegetation.

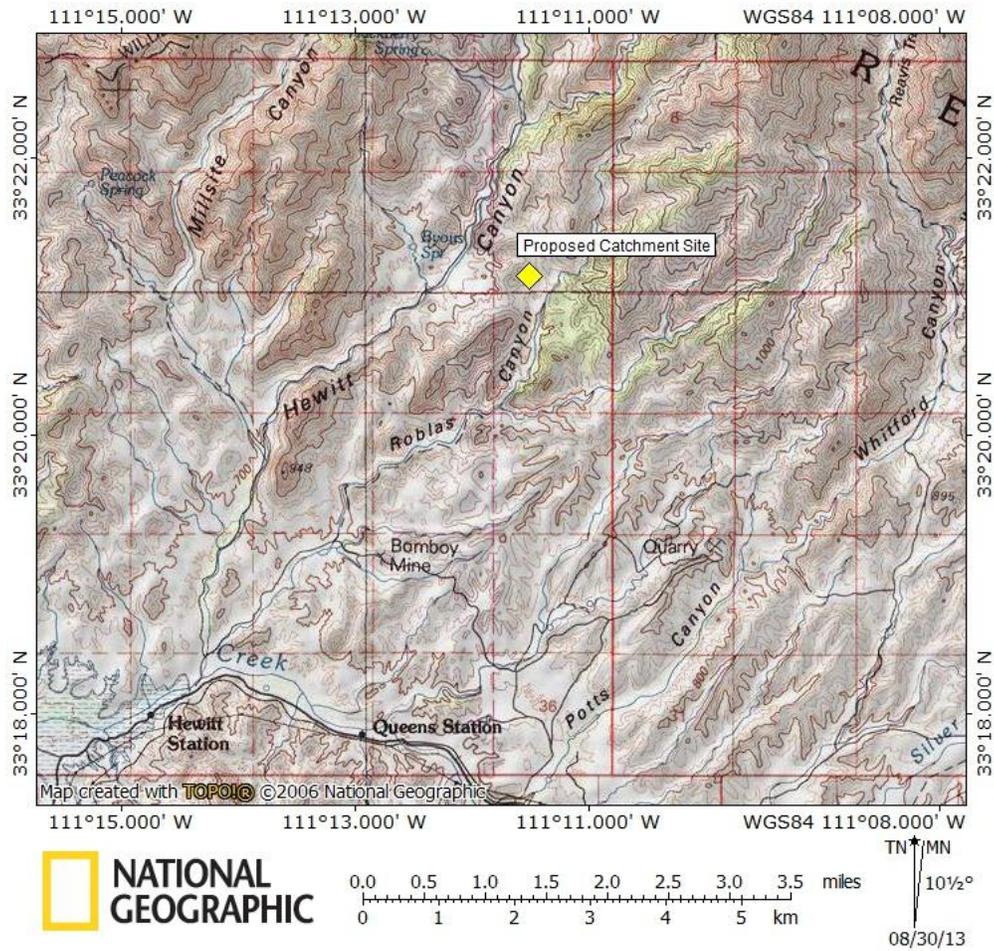
View is looking toward southeast and includes additional mule deer habitat that would be enhanced by the proposed project.

Map 1
Overview of Proposed Project Location

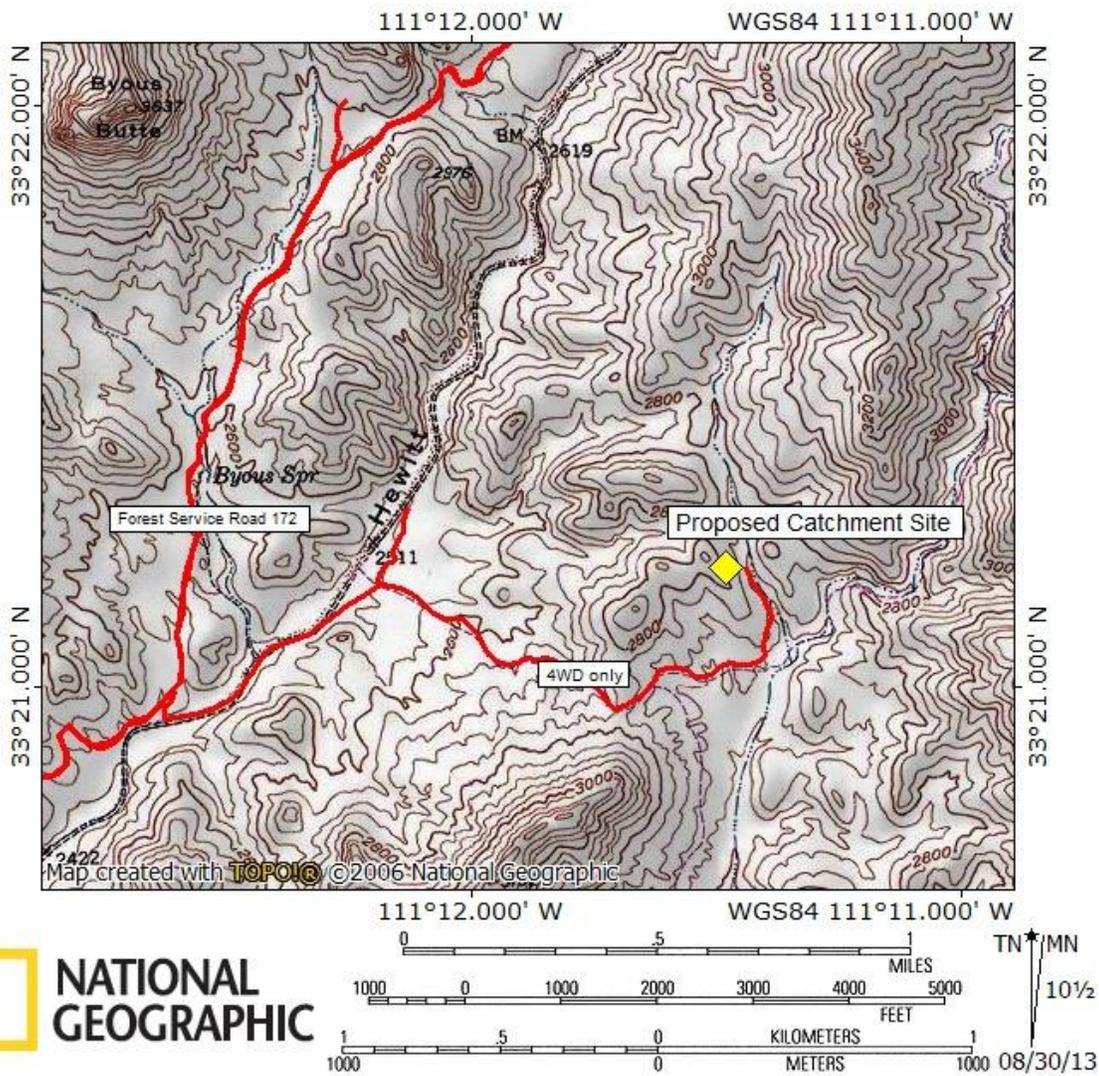


TN* MN
10 1/2
08/27/13

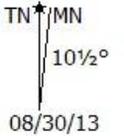
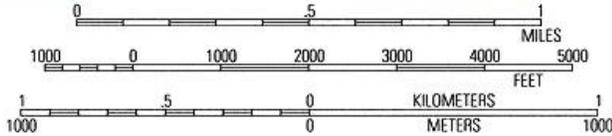
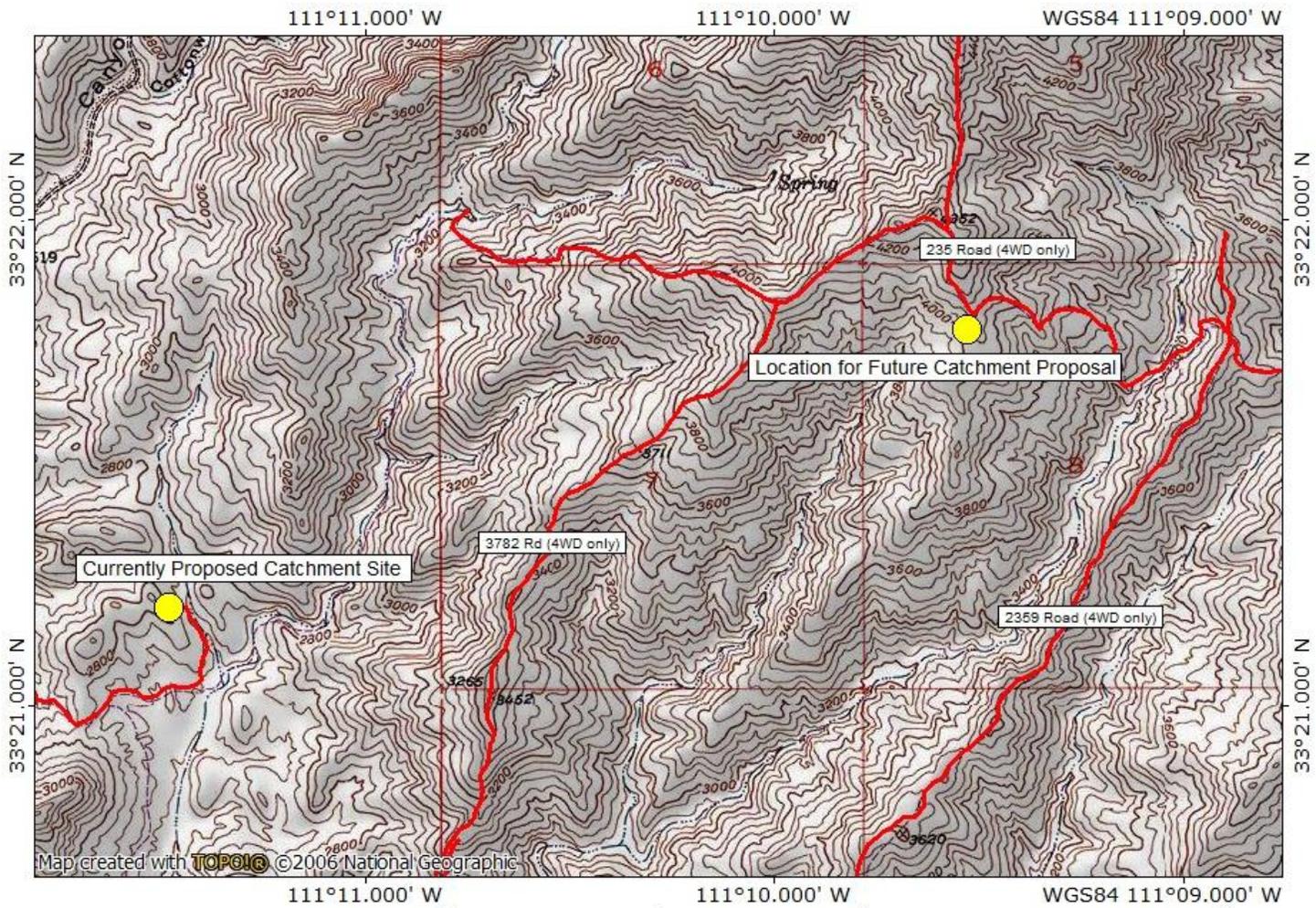
Map 2 Intermediate View of Proposed Project Location



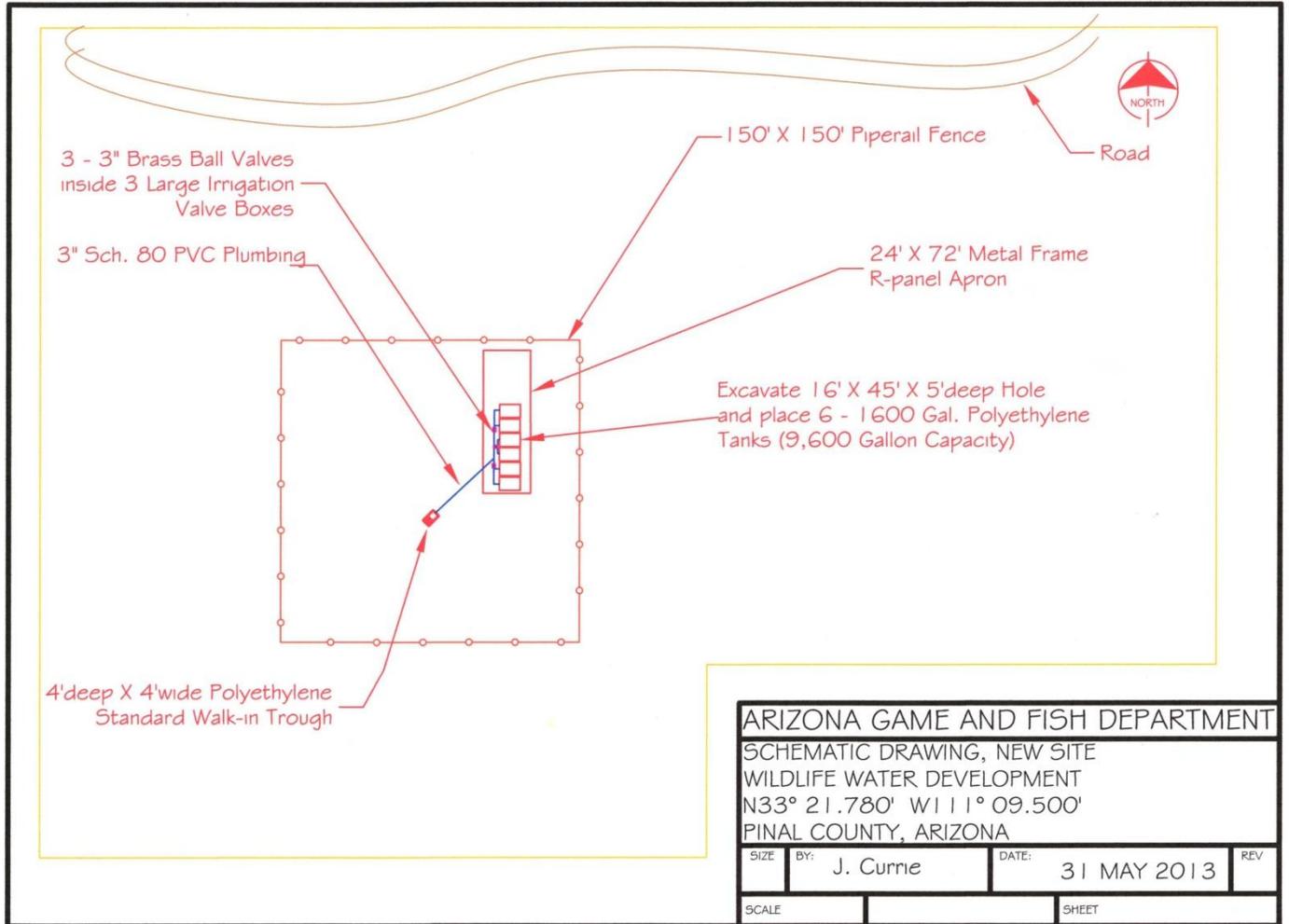
Map 3
USGS 7.5' Topographical Map
Picketpost Mountain, AZ
(Existing roads are shown in red)



Map 4 Currently Proposed Development And Future Development Proposal to Be Submitted in 2014 (Existing roads shown in red)



Schematic Diagram of Proposed Development



ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT			
SCHEMATIC DRAWING, NEW SITE			
WILDLIFE WATER DEVELOPMENT			
N33° 21.780' W111° 09.500'			
PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA			
SIZE	BY: J. Currie	DATE: 31 MAY 2013	REV
SCALE			SHEET

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

VOLUNTEER HOURLY RATES AND CLASSIFICATIONS WORKSHEET

PROJECT TITLE: Roblas Canyon Wildlife Water Development

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
	359	2220	\$14.14	\$6076
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	359	2220		\$6076