

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number:	14-307
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PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Ruth Cowden Drinker Project on the Fort Rock Ranch	
Region and Game Management Unit: Region III/Unit 18A	
Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC): • Prescott	Was the project presented to the LHPC? YES[] NO[X]
Has this project been submitted in previous years? YES[] NO[X] If Yes, was it funded? YES[] NO[] → Funded HPC Project #(s):	
Project Type: Restore wildlife/cattle drinker by converting existing well and windmill to a solar powered system.	
Brief Project Summary: Many areas within Game Management Unit 18A lack perennial water sources and receive limited wildlife use as a result. This project will convert existing non-functional well and windmill to functioning solar powered storage system and drinkers.	
Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Mule deer, elk, javelina	

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year): <u>Project Start Date:</u> Spring 2015 (weather dependent) <u>Project End Date:</u> Spring 2015 (weather dependent)	Environmental Compliance: NEPA Completed: Yes[] No[] N/A[X] Projected Completion Date: _____ State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance: Yes[] No[] N/A[X] Projected Completion Date: _____ Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A[X] To be Completed by: <u>Wildlife Manager Jesse Baker</u> Projected Completion Date: <u>March 2015</u>
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PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:	\$ 5,500
Cost Share or Matching Funds:	\$ 5,500
Total Project Costs:	\$ 11,000

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print): Jesse Baker	Address: Arizona Game and Fish Dept., Region III 5324 N. Stockton Hill Rd. Kingman, AZ 86401	E-mail: JBaker@azgfd.gov
Telephone: 480-216-7892		Date: September 4, 2014

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

Project has been coordinated with:

Don Glasgow general manager of the Fort Rock Ranch; Al Eiden AZGFD Landowner Relations

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

In Arizona, dry conditions and lack of available water often poses a significant bottleneck for big game and other wildlife species by making large blocks of habitat mostly unusable. For nearly two decades Arizona has experienced a period of drought conditions with several consecutive years that were the driest on record. Compounding the problems from lack of adequate permanent water is the stress put on habitat surrounding the remaining available water sources. Vegetation in these areas can become degraded from use by concentrated cattle and wildlife. If repeated over a broad area, these circumstances may contribute to low survival of juveniles and to adult animals being in poor condition entering the breeding season, ultimately resulting in low recruitment rates for these populations.

Game Management Unit 18A offers significant hunting opportunity for mule deer, elk, and javelina. Much of this area provides high quality habitat for these animals except that it frequently lacks consistent water availability. Over the years, the Fort Rock Ranch has constructed many drinkers throughout this area for its livestock. Wildlife, of course, use these waters when available.

This project proposes to restore a wildlife drinker at a location with existing storage tanks and equipment. Using a self-contained float system, the solar powered drinker will provide a permanent water source.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

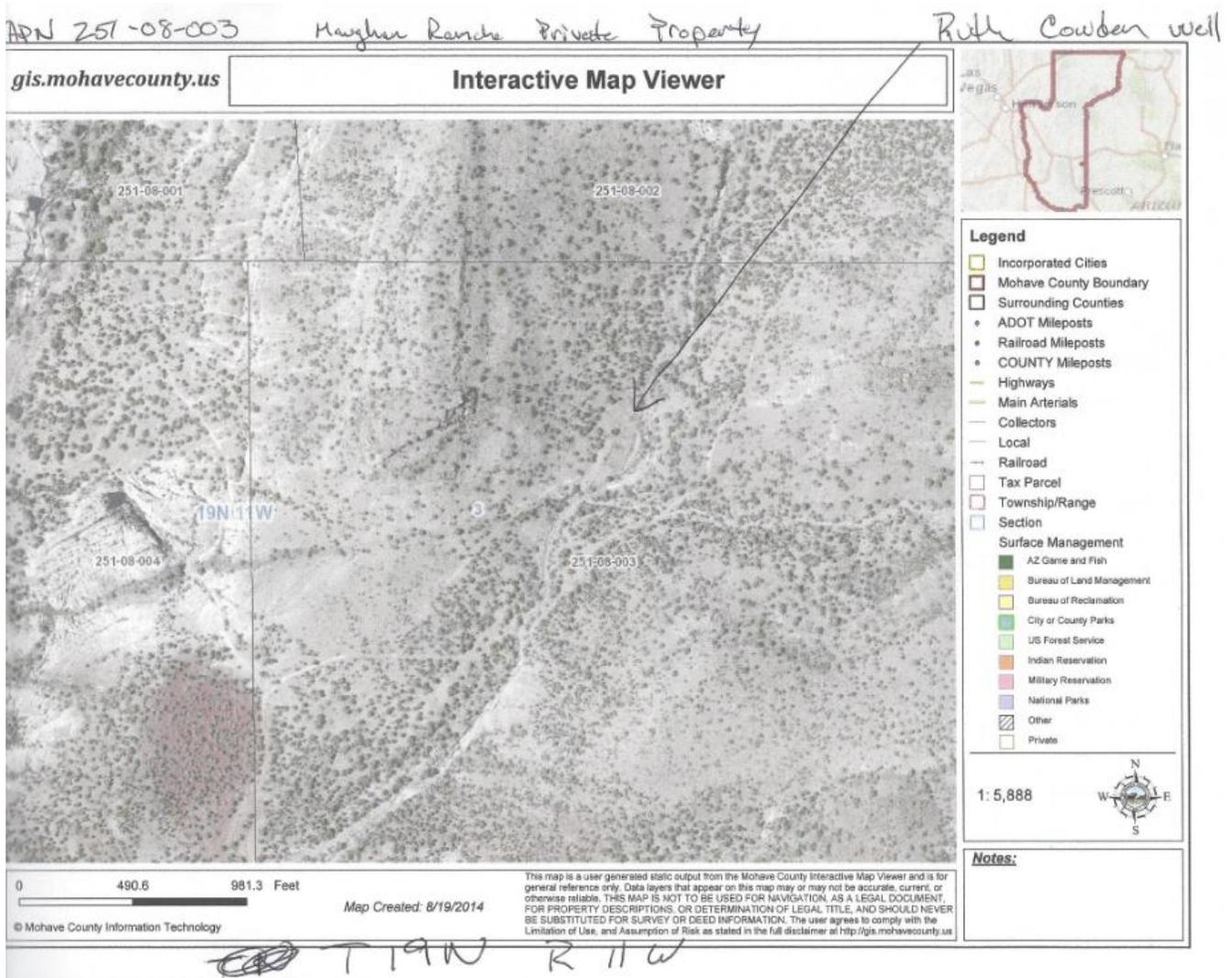
- Provide reliable permanent water sources for wildlife.
- Reduce concentrations of wildlife around the current permanent waters, which can lead to habitat degradation and increased fawn predation.
- Increase mule deer fawn survival.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

- Coordinate with Fort Rock Ranch
- Develop construction plan

PROJECT LOCATION:

Drinker Name	GMU	Land Status	Location (NAD 83)	With Elevation	UTM
RUTH COWDEN	18A	PRIVATE	N 35 03.416, W 113 25.692	4,522	12 S 0278553 3882054



LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

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

- Rex Maughan

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:

The project area is located on the Fort Rock Ranch. Elevations is at approximately 4,522 feet above sea level. The area is composed of a mix of interior chapparal dominated by grama grasses and pinyon-juniper interspersed with cliffrose and other browse species. Landforms include rolling hills and small plateaus.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

\$5,500 of Special Big Game License Tag Funds (mule deer and elk) will be used in conjunction with the \$5,500 dollars provided by Maughan Ranches to convert the existing well to a solar powered system and provide a pump.

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

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

Arizona Game & Fish Department:

- Region III Wildlife Manager: provide project planning, coordination, implementation, construction oversight and project completion report.

Fort Rock Ranch:

- Allow use of existing water delivery system and maintain this system.
- Provide existing equipment and tanks
- Assist with field coordination and access.
- Provide construction crew for project installation

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

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

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

District Wildlife Manager and Ranch personnel will periodically visit the individual drinkers after the work has been completed and evaluate performance and determine if any maintenance is needed.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

Periodically clean trough and examine plumbing/float assembly.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Jesse Baker, Wildlife Manager I for the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

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: Ruth Cowden Drinker Project on the Fort Rock Ranch

- 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.**
Al Eiden Landowner Relations (August 2014)
- 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: Upper Ash Creek
Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank): Spring
Ownership of water source: Largely Private
Distance in miles from project: Approximately 1 mile, however wildlife must negotiate a large ridgeline as a barrier.

- 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.**
Private land owned by Rex Maughan
- 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: Locked gates on private land.

- 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 No
If Yes, please list personnel that attended and date.
Don Glasgow (General Manager Maughan Ranches and Zane Gray Cattle Co.), Matt Johnson (Fort Rock Ranch Foremen), Wildlife Manager III Scott Poppenberger, and Wildlife Manager I Jesse Baker.
The site visit was completed on 8/18/2014.