

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number:	15-101
Possible Funding Partners:	

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

<b>Project Title:</b> Unit 4A Dirt Tank Maintenance 2016	
<b>Region and Game Management Unit:</b> Region I - Unit 4A	
<b>Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):</b> • Winslow	<b>Was the project presented to the LHPC?</b> YES[x] NO[]
<b>Has this project been submitted in previous years?</b> YES[] NO[x] <b>If Yes, was it funded?</b> YES[] NO[] → <b>HCP Project #:</b>	
<b>Project Type:</b> Clean Silted in Dirt Tanks	
<b>Brief Project Summary:</b> Many of the water sources in unit 4A are dirt tanks. On Forest Service land, many of these tanks have become silted in over the years and only provide water for a short duration. Typically when water is the most critical (May and June) these tank are dry. This project will help address water issues, especially in May/June.	
<b>Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit:</b> 50% elk 30% deer 5% Pronghorn 15% turkey	

<b>Implementation Schedule</b> (Month/Day/Year):  Project Start Date: Calendar Year 2016  Project End Date: Calendar Year 2016	<b>Environmental Compliance:</b> NEPA Completed: YES[] No[] N/A[] Projected Completion Date: <u>March 2016</u>  State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance: YES[x] No[] N/A[] Projected Completion Date: <u>52 dirt tanks in4a were arc cleared in summer of 2015.</u> Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: <u>N/A[x]</u> To be Completed by: _____ Projected Completion Date: _____
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**PROJECT FUNDING**

<b>Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:</b>	<b>\$19,000.00</b>
<b>Cost Share or Matching Funds:</b>	<b>\$ 14,740.00</b>
<b>Total Project Costs:</b>	<b>\$ 33,740.00</b>

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION**

<b>Applicant</b> (please print): Ken Clay	<b>Address:</b> 2878 E. White Mtn Blvd Pinetop, AZ 85935	<b>E-mail:</b> kclay@azgfd.gov
<b>Telephone:</b> 928-856-0816		<b>Date:</b> 8-31-2015

<b>AGFD Contact and Phone No.</b> (If applicant is not AGFD personnel):
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**Project has been coordinated with:** Black Mesa Ranger District Ranger, Kendal Hughes; Wildlife Manager Unit 4A, Ken Clay

### **NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:**

The Forest Service land within Unit 4A has always been challenged with perennial water for wildlife. Most of the natural perennial water occurs in the southern part of Unit 4A, in the bottom of the big canyons that drain off the Mogollon Rim. The central to northern part of these Units rely on man-made waters. In the early days of livestock and wildlife management, in the Black Mesa Ranger District, water developments played a major role in improving habitat throughout the Forest. Many water catchments were constructed but most of the water developments were in the form of dirt tank construction. Dirt tanks are cheap and easy to build but do require routine maintenance.

The Limestone Allotment, in Unit 4A, has been inactive since the mid-1990. Without an active permittee the water situation on this allotment has turned poor over the last 20 years. This is especially true in the northern two pastures (Wilken and Limestone). This allotment was sold in 2013 and the new permittee would like to improve the habitat integrity through better water availability. These pastures are surrounded by Willow Creek and Clear Creek Canyons. These large drainages do offer perennial water but all the real estate between these drainages relies 100% on dirt tanks and two water catchments to provide wildlife with water. The dirt tanks in these pastures have not seen maintenance in over 20 to 30 years. By cleaning these tanks, it will allow for better wildlife distribution and improve the overall quality of habitat in Unit 4A. The two dirt tanks on the Clear Creek allotment are very large tanks that have not been cleaned in over 20 years. These tanks are known as Surprise Tank and Ohaco Tank.

### **PROJECT OBJECTIVES:**

**Improve permanent water distribution for wildlife. This will be accomplished in the following manner:**

- Black Mesa RD has done the arc and wildlife surveys on around 50 dirt tanks in the Wilken Pasture with the limestone allotment (see attached map). They also surveyed 3 large tanks in the Hamilton Pasture with the Clear Creek allotment. All Arc Clearance and necessary NEPA clearances for dirt tank maintenance will be completed by March 2016. At the time that this proposal is submitted all the field work for wildlife and arc surveys has been complete by Black Mesa RD staff.
- The permittee will do the work themselves or hire a contractor to clean the silt from the Dirt Tanks identified on the Forest
- These dirt tanks vary in size so the number of tanks to be cleaned will depend on exactly what tanks are identified.
- The 2016 Goal is to clean 20 dirt tanks in the Wilken Pasture within the Limestone allotment. These tanks will be cleaned with a backhoe and will average about 6 hours/tank
- The 2016 Goal is to clean two large dirt tanks on the Clear Creek Allotment. These tanks are named Ohaco Tank and Surprise Tank. These two tanks will be cleaned with a D-6 dozer and will take about 8 hours/tank.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:**

Remove many years of silt build-up from as many dirt tanks as the funds will pay for.

**PROJECT LOCATION:**

See attach maps. Dirt tank maintenance needs occur with the circled areas on the map below.

**LAND OWNERSHIP AT PROJECT SITE (Please state specifically if PRIVATE PROPERTY and provide landowner’s name):**

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

**HABITAT DESCRIPTION:**

Ponderosa Pine to Pinyon/Juniper habitat grassland habitat .

**ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:**

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

	Total Cost	\$33,740.00
<b>SBG Funds</b>	<b>Funds Requested</b>	<b>\$19,000.00</b>
<b>Adminstrative Work AZGFD and USFS</b>	<b>Cost Share</b>	<b>\$14,740.00</b>

Cost Share or Matching Funds

	Man/Hours	Quantity	Cost	Total
Clean Average size tank with backhoe	6 hrs/ tank @\$125.00/hour	20	@750/tank	\$15,000.00
Clean Average size tank with D6 Dozer	8 hrs/ tank @\$250.00/hour	2	@2000/tank	\$4,000.00
Archaeological and wildlife surveys plus NEPA paperwork	N/A	52	@670/tank	\$14,740.00

**LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:**

- US Forest Service Black Mesa RD (arc survey and category exclusion)
- Paul Charleton (Limestone Permitte) will clean 20 small dirt with backhoe
- Jim Ohaco will clean two large dirt with d-6 dozer

**PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:**

Ken Clay AZ Game & Fish will take photos before and after the project. These tanks should fill in a during summer monsoon storms.

**PROJECT MAINTENANCE:**

NA

There are Four Maps in PDF file attached to this proposal

Map 1 named “**2016 Dirt Tanks Large scale map**”

Map 2 named “**Wilkins Pasture**” outline of the area where 20 dirt tanks will be cleaned

Map 3 named “**Wilkins Pasture Dirt tanks**” these are all the tanks that the Forest Service has surveyed that can be cleaned. Map provided by FS

Map 4 named “**Surprise Ohaco Dirt Tanks**” these are the two dirt tanks to be cleaned on the Clear Creek Allotment

**PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY: K.Clay**

W111° 00'

W110° 57'

N34° 42'

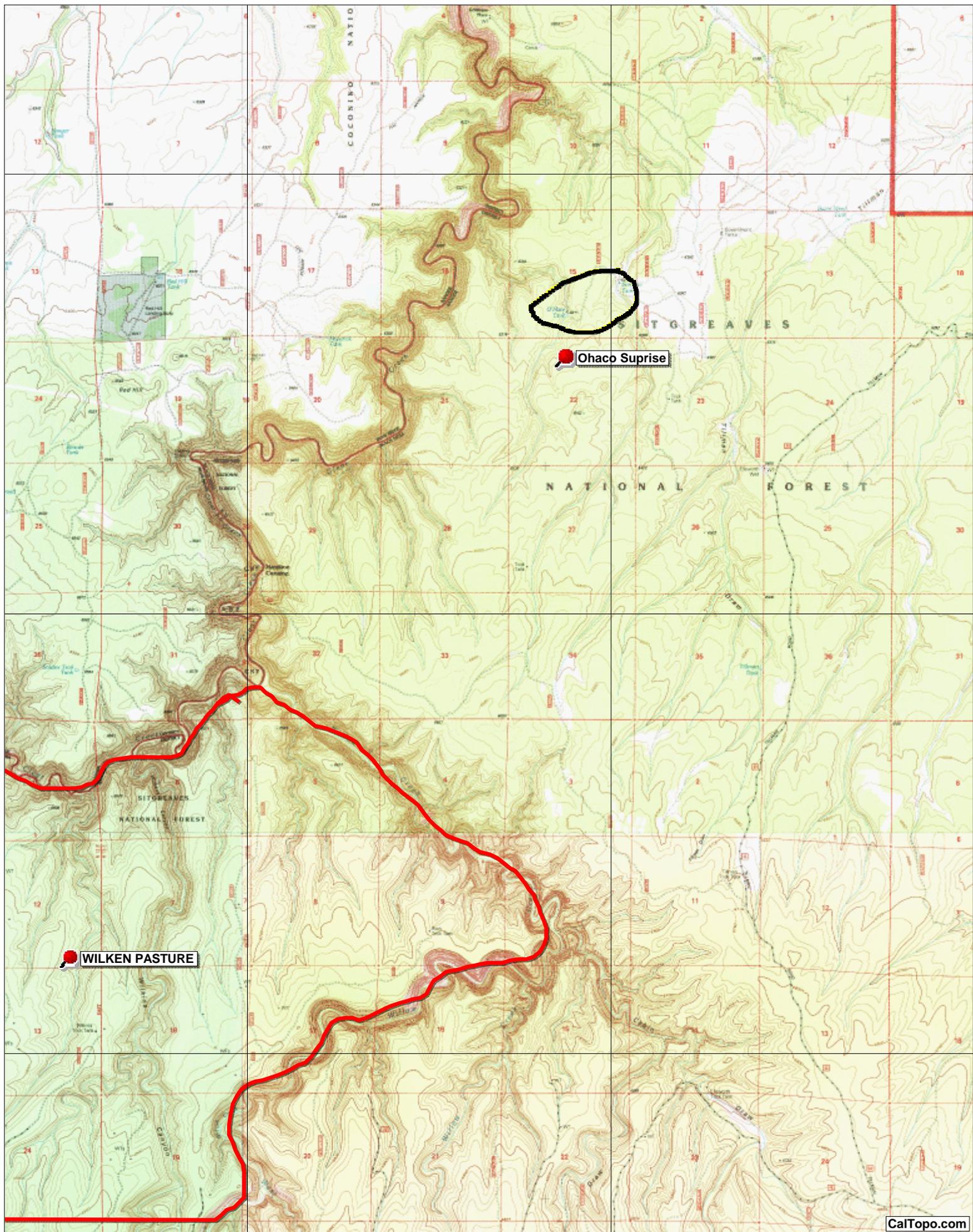
N34° 42'

N34° 39'

N34° 39'

N34° 36'

N34° 36'

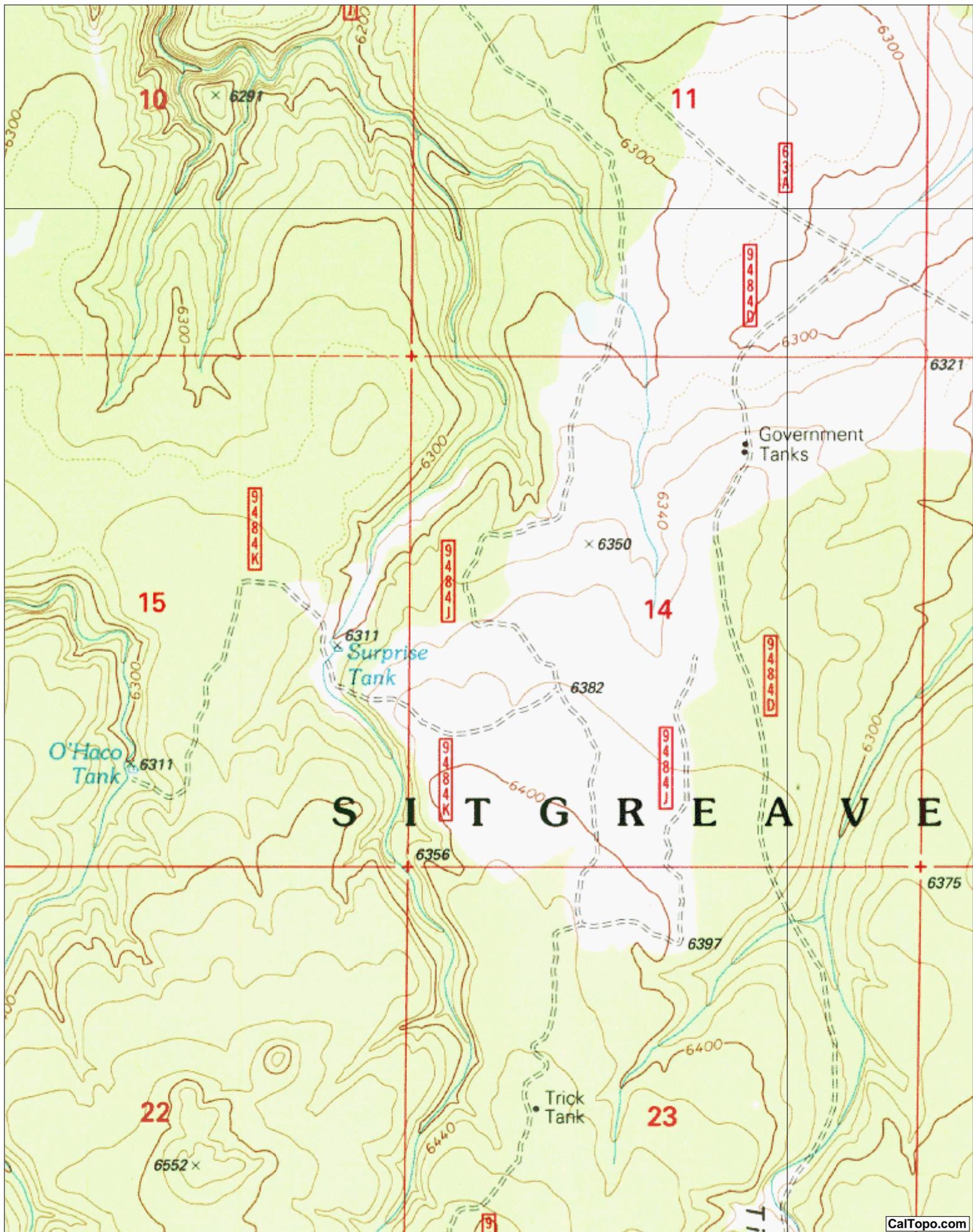


Ohaco Surprise

WILKEN PASTURE

CalTopo.com

0.5 mi



500 ft



W111° 03'

W111° 00'

W110° 57'

N34° 39'

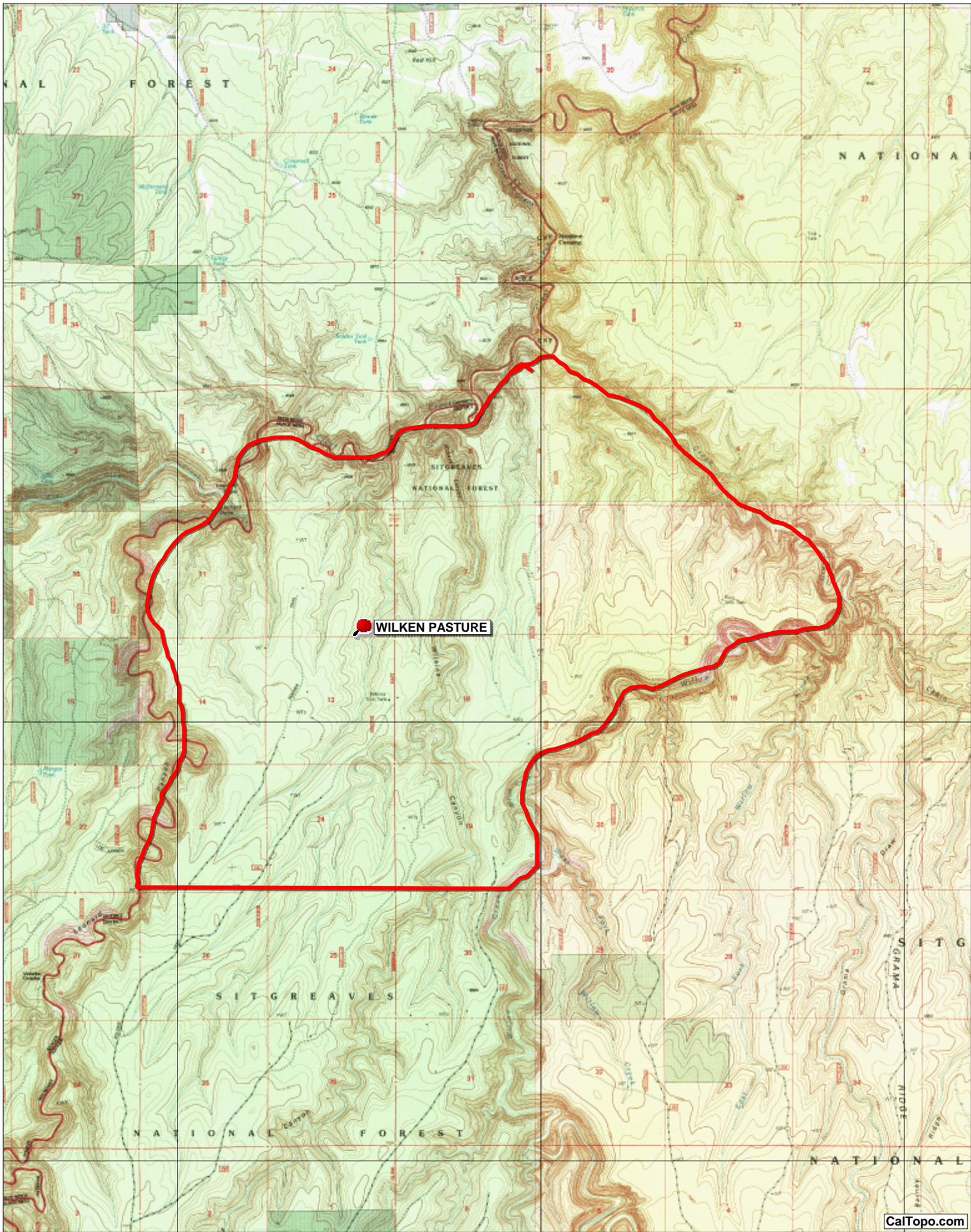
N34° 39'

N34° 36'

N34° 36'

N34° 33'

N34° 33'



0.5 mi

CalTopo.com