

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 15-208

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: House Rock Wildlife Area Holding Pasture

Region and Game Management Unit: Region II; GMU 12A-East

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):

- Arizona Strip Habitat Working Group

Was the project presented to the LHPC?

YES[X] **NO**[]

Has this project been submitted in previous years? **YES**[X] **NO**[]

If Yes, was it funded? **YES**[X] **NO**[] → **Funded HPC Project #(s):** 14-222 originally funded, then pulled

Project Type: Holding pasture fence upgrade

Brief Project Summary:

Resurrect an old holding pasture in the NE corner of House Rock Wildlife Area (HRWA). The north and most of the south fence are still intact. The west fence and about 200 yards of the south fence need to be rebuilt, as they were removed in the past. Archeological compliance will be conducted by the Kaibab National Forest.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Bison

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date: April 2016

Project End Date: October 2016

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: Yes[] No[X] N/A[]

Projected Completion Date: Spring 2016 by Kaibab NF

State Historic Preservation Office - Arch Clearance:

Yes[] No[X] N/A[]

Projected Completion Date: Spring 2016

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist:

Yes[] No[X] N/A[]

Some compliance in Programmatic EA titled "AGFD Bison Management Activities; Habitat Branch Log #: M10-10062330 for fence maintenance. Also a new EAC will be submitted.

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested: \$ 65,960

Cost Share or Matching Funds: \$ 6,000

Total Project Costs: \$ 71,960

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):

Carl Lutch

Address:

3500 S. Lake Mary Rd
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

E-mail:

clutch@azgfd.gov

Telephone: 928-214-1242

Date: August 12, 2015

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

Project has been coordinated with:

Mike Hannamann-Kaibab National Forest
Connie Reed-KNF archeologist
Angela Gatto-KNF North Rim wildlife biologist

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

HRWA is a historical home to one of two state bison herds. Most interior pasture fences at HRWA were removed in the past. Historically, there was a larger holding pasture in the very NE portion of the wildlife area. The south fence is still intact of this holding pasture and the north fence is the boundary fence with BLM. It is intact and due to be rebuilt summer 2016. The eastside of the pasture is South Canyon, a major tributary of Grand Canyon with steep drop offs. In the early 2000's, the west fence was removed. Confining bison to a particular area is difficult. Bison were capture on Grand Canyon National Park in July 2014 and 19 were transported back to HRWA. These animals were kept in a 7 acre pasture/corral for five months. The 19 bison returned to the Kaibab Plateau overnight upon being released. In the past, this larger old holding pasture was attached to these old corrals and was a minimum of 3,600 acres. Having the ability to hold translocated bison at HRWA to reestablish a home range would be greatly enhanced by having a larger holding pasture. Any relocated bison could be held a much longer period of time (1-2 years) in this larger holding pasture, greatly increasing site fidelity to HRWA over what we can now accomplish with a current smaller seven acre pasture. Additionally, a new larger holding pasture will significantly increase future bison management options at HRWA if and/or when bison are reestablished at HRWA. Future population reducing hunts could take place in this pasture away from main bison social groups, further enhancing site fidelity on HRWA.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Improve/upgrade 1.7 miles of the current south fence of the old holding pasture and rebuild 3.1 miles of the west fence to bison fence standards tested and found viable at containing bison at Raymond Wildlife Area. The north fence of this old holding pasture will be upgraded in 2016, under a separate HPC project titled, "HRWA North Boundary Fence" project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

Two sections of fence need maintenance and upgrading totaling 4.8 miles. We are proposing to rebuild the fence with 5 strands of wire at 50" total height and the bottom wire 18-20" off the ground. This should be high enough to deter bison from attempting to jump over the fence and low enough for deer to cross. New 2"X2"X5 ft. fence stays will be installed to add strength and deter bison. New t-posts will be installed, as current wood posts are rotten. This fence will be higher than "standard" fence specifications for wildlife, but a standard fence is not tall enough nor strong enough to deter bison. To date this bison fence standard is in use at Raymond Wildlife Area and it is deterring the Raymond bison herd from leaving Raymond. To date, they have not crossed this new bison fence.

The two areas are:

Area I: 3.10 miles of new fence construction extending from the Headquarter corrals, northward to the north boundary fence.

Area I Contractor Quote:

Material	\$14,520.00
Labor	<u>\$25,000.00</u>
	\$39,520.00
Tax	<u>\$ 1,670.00</u>
Total	\$41,190.00

Area II: 1.70 miles of fence construction and/or maintenance extending westward from the rim of South Canyon to the Headquarter corrals: 1.32 miles of heavy maintenance and 0.32 miles of new fence construction.

Area II Contractor Quote:

Material	\$ 7,510.00
Labor	<u>\$16,250.00</u>
	\$23,760.00
Tax	<u>\$ 1,010.00</u>
Total	\$24,770.00

GRANT TOTAL \$65,960

PROJECT LOCATION:

House Rock Wildlife Area, eastside of Kaibab National Forest

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

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

Kaibab National Forest owns the land containing the old larger pasture fence

*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:

Great Basin grassland habitat

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

Kaibab National Forest- complete NEPA and archeological surveys

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

See the section Titled, "**PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES**"

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

AGFD will provide one 20' gate, 10 rolls of barbed wire at a cost of approximately- \$1,000

Kaibab National Forest- NEPA compliance and arch surveys- \$5,000

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

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

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

No specific monitoring plan, but the fence would be monitored daily to weekly upon bison return to HRWA. When any fence damage is detected, repairs will be made ASAP.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

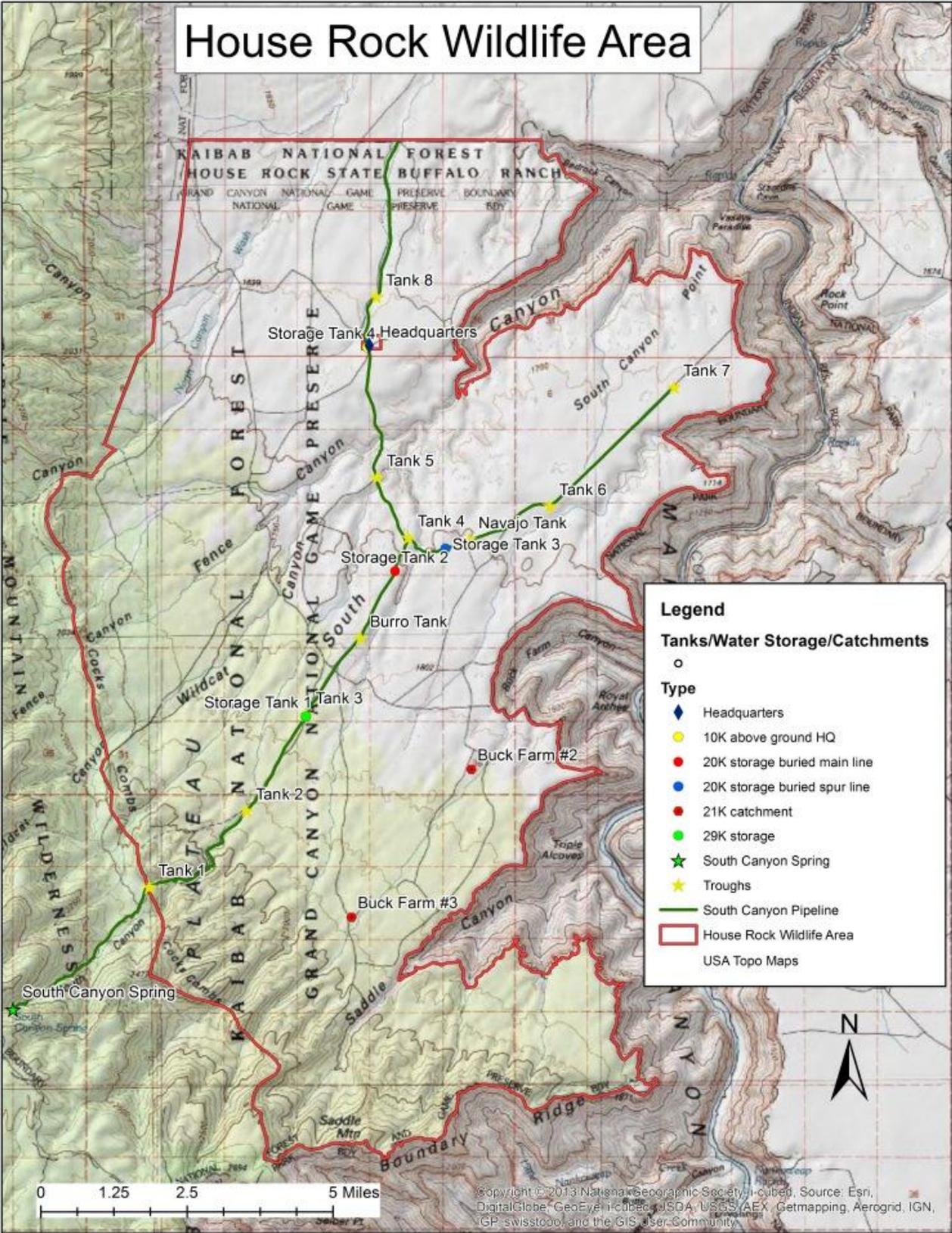
HRWA Manager Mike Rice

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

HRWA Manager Mike Rice



Map of North Kaibab showing location of House Rock Wildlife Area



General map of House Rock Wildlife Area

