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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number:	15-219

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: **Wildcat Trick Tank**

Region and Game Management Unit: **Region II, GMU 12AE**

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**[] **NO**[X]→ **Funded HPC Project #(s)**:

Project Type: Construction of New Water Catchment

Brief Project Summary: As part of a new master water development landscape scale plan for GMU 12AE, the Wildcat Trick Tank is one of 6 new water developments to be proposed. A water catchment, built to bison specifications, will be constructed for mule deer and bison in order to improve the distribution of deer in an effort to increase deer population levels for the 12AE wintering deer herd and to encourage bison use of the Houserock Wildlife Area.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit (% benefit per species) : Mule Deer 100%

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date: 2016

Project End Date: 2016

Environmental Compliance:
NEPA Completed: Yes[X] No[] N/A[]
Projected Completion Date: _____

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:
(Provide Attachment)
Yes[X] No[] N/A[]
Projected Completion Date: _____

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A[]
To be Completed by: Joe Curry
Projected Completion Date: _____

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:	**$** 45,410.66
Cost Share or Matching Funds:	**$** 41,750.00
Total Project Costs:	**$ 87,160.66**

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):	**Address**:	**E-mail**:
Todd Buck	3500 S. Lake Mary Rd. Flagstaff AZ 86001	TBuck@azzgfd.gov
Telephone: 928-856-0740		**Date**: 09/01/15

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

Project has been coordinated with:
ADA, MDF, USFS, AZ Game and Fish Development Branch

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

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In 2015 large tracts of the GMU 12AW winter range are without perennial water sources as a result of prolonged drought, reduced flow from the South Canyon Spring, and the unreliable nature of existing dirt tanks (Fig. 1).

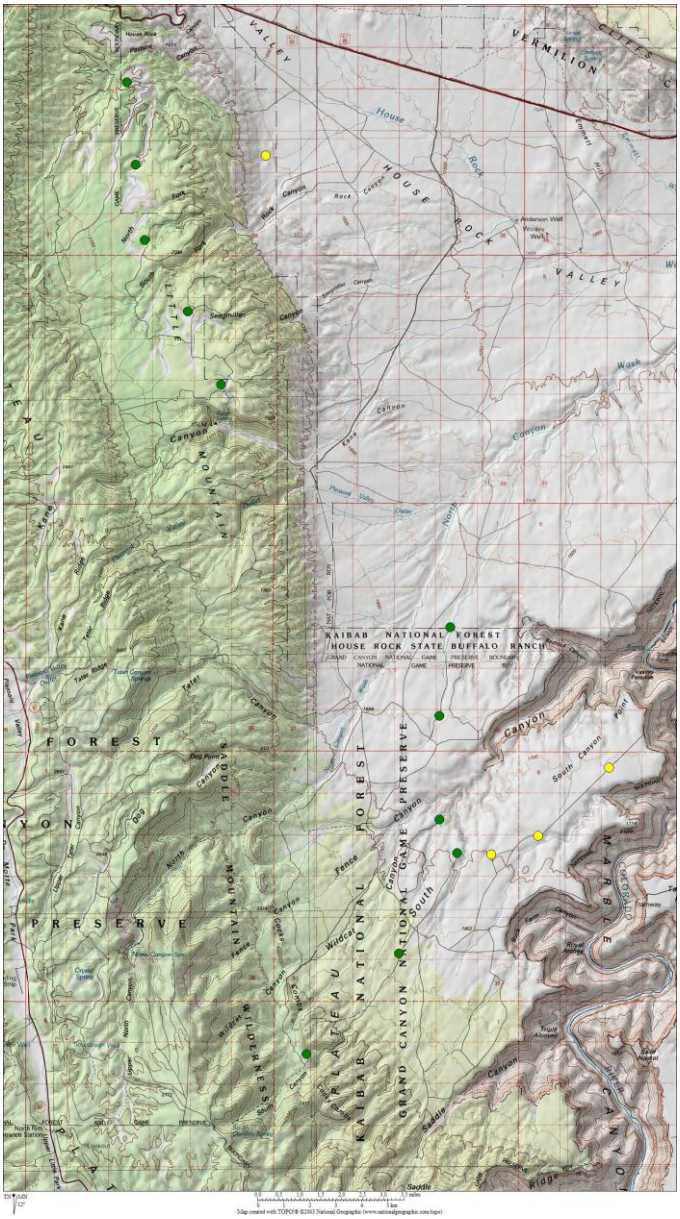


Figure 1. 2015 12AE winter-range water distribution. Green indicates functioning water development, yellow indicates development in need of repair or reconstruction.

As of 2015 there are only 15 winter range water developments in GMU 12AE of these 11 are currently functioning in a reliable manner. Only 12 of the 15 waters are at elevations which make them useful to the wintering deer herd (Fig. 1). Essentially all dirt tanks within the 12AE winter range have been dry during the winter months for the past 10 years. As a

result of this substantial decrease in reliable water sources the deer distribution had become very concentrated around the few water developments which are providing water. In an effort to mitigate these concerns a comprehensive water development plan for GMU 12AE was developed and 6 locations for new water developments were identified. Also, 4 existing waters sources were identified to expand capacity or increase reliability (Fig. 2).

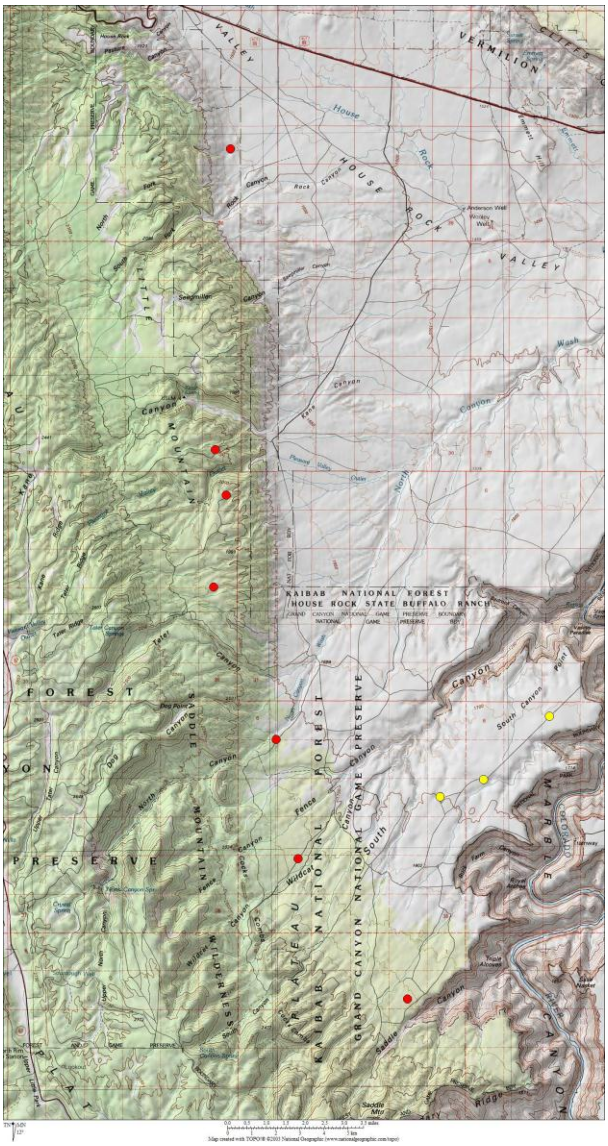


Figure 2. New 12AE water developments. Red denotes new water development. Yellow indicates a redevelopment.

One of the redevelopments is a combination antelope/deer water, 3 of the redevelopments are combination antelope/bison/deer waters, 3 of the new developments are bison/deer waters, and the remaining 3 new catchments are solely for deer. The end result of this effort will be a more uniform water distribution on the winter range of GMU 12AE (Fig. 3).

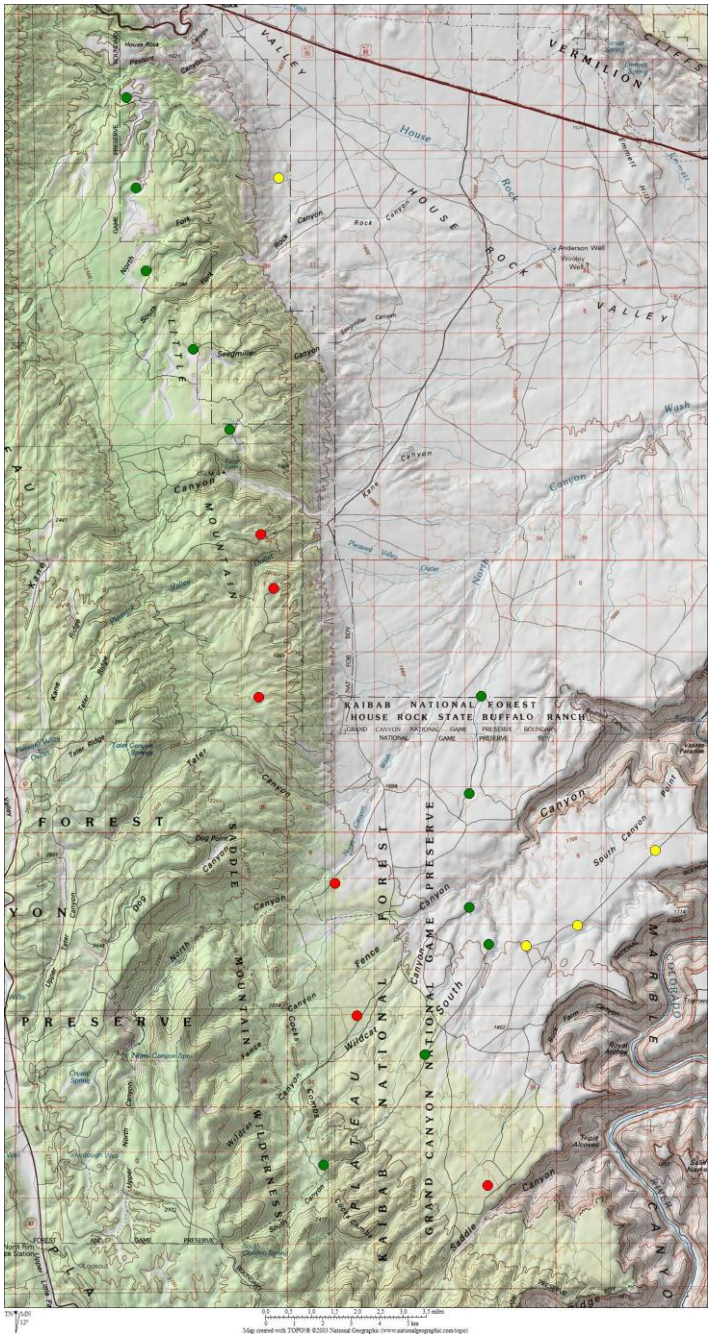


Figure 3. New 12AE water distribution. Red denotes new water development. Green indicates existing water. Yellow indicates a redevelopment.

Wildcat Trick Tank will be constructed in an area considered winter mule deer range and will fill a void of approximately 7 square miles. This water will also allow for better distribution of wintering deer in an effort to reduce the impacts of drought and increase the area available to 12AE wintering deer herd.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

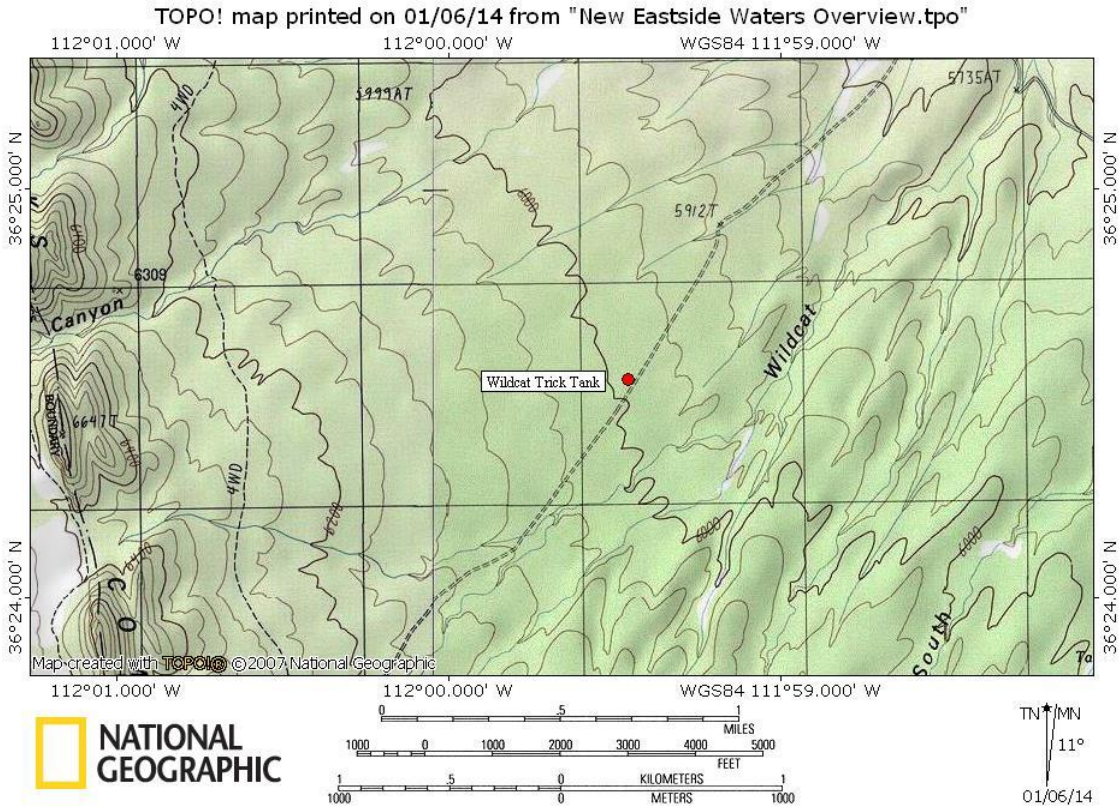
The objective of this project is to construct a new Wildlife Water Development to provide wintering Mule Deer with a perennial water source in central 12AE. This water development will also mitigate a substantial loss of other water sources in 12AE and to allow for a more even distribution of wintering deer in an effort to increase population levels. This development is one of a series of 6 new developments and 4 redevelopments being constructed to address the overall water distribution concerns on the winter range of GMU 12AE.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

Utilize SBG Funds and an Arizona Game and Fish Department contractor to construct a new development consisting of a 24'X120' metal apron which will collect water into six 2500 gallon storage tanks which, in turn, supplies a 5' gravity fed bison proof walk in drinker box.

PROJECT LOCATION

N36°24.510' W111°59.456' Elev. 6015'
(NAD 83)



LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S)*:*

- Entirely United States Forest Service ownership

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

The habitat type is typically referred to as mule deer winter range. The North Canyon Trick Tank is at an elevation of approximately 5901' and the primary vegetation consists of various grasses and forbes, sagebrush (*Artemesia tridentata),* and cliffrose (*Cowania mexicana*), pinion trees (*Pinus sp*.), and Utah juniper trees (*Juniperus utahensis).*

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

6 – 2500 gallon Polyethylene water storage Tanks =	$19.920.66 ($ 3,320.11 each)
1 – Concrete bison proof Walk-in Trough =	$ 8,000.00
1 – 24' Polyethylene Standard Gutter =	$ 750.00
1 – 24' X 120' Steel Frame and R-panel Apron =	$ 9,870.00
1 – 30' X 130' Bison Exclosure Fence for Apron/ Tanks =	$ 4,870.00
1 – 3" Sch. 80 PVC Plumbing Package =	$ 1,000.00
1 – Miscellaneous Materials =	$ 1,000.00
TOTAL =	**$45,410.66**

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

USFS NEPA CE		$ 8,750
Labor (2.5 work periods, 5 man crew)		$26,400
	Subsistence and miscellaneous	$ 2,400
	Equipment Depreciation	$ 4,200
	Total Matching Funds	$41,750

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

The USFS North Kaibab Ranger District has completed all NEPA documentation for the facility.

Arizona Game and Fish Department Development Branch.

Arizona Strip Habitat Working Group.

ADA and MDF Potential Volunteer Project

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

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

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

The district wildlife manager or USFS personnel will check the development annually. In addition, animal use at the site will be documented by the district wildlife manager during survey efforts and during all incidental visits to the site.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

The district wildlife manager or USFS personnel will perform minor maintenance.
The Arizona Game and Fish Department Development Crew (SSDV) will perform major maintenance.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Todd Buck, Wildlife Manager GMU 12A

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

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

ATTACHMENTS:
(Please provide cultural clearance documentation from land management agency, e.g., FONSI, Inventory Standards, etc. Also attach any project pictures)

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET

PROJECT TITLE: Wildcat Trick Tank

1) Is the water development listed as a priority in the most recent "Wildlife Water Development Annual Implementation Schedule?" YES

2) Please list the Development Branch personnel and date coordinated with for this project.
Joe Curry and Ed Jahrke multiple dates over last several years

3) What is the estimated annual inches of precipitation for the area? (mark one)
[]2-4 []4-6 []6-8 [X]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[X] (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[X]

7) Please list any special land management status for the project site (i.e. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument). If private land, list landowner.

8) Please provide the following information about access to the proposed site:
Type of access (mark one): []2x4 vehicles [X]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[X]

-- Please describe any restrictions to public access:

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[X]
If Yes, please list personnel that attended and date.
To be visited by ADA, MDF, and AZGFD Development Branch Spring 2016