

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

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| Game Branch / HPC Project Number: | 15-514 |
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PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Hell’s Hole Springs Restoration

Region and Game Management Unit: Region 5 Unit 28

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| Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safford HPC | Was the project presented to the LHPC? YES[X] NO[] |
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Has this project been submitted in previous years? YES[] NO[X]
If Yes, was it funded? YES[] NO[] → **Funded HPC Project #(s):**

Project Type: Water Development

Brief Project Summary: This project is being proposed in partnership with AZGF. FS would be responsible for materials (purchased through AZGF) and ground transportation fees to staging areas. The proposed project would repair 3 FS springs, (Yellow Bull, Willis, Coyote) on the Hell’s Hole allotment. This area is in a particularly dry region of the district and water sources available to wildlife are extremely limited and widely dispersed. Springs would be cleaned/dug out and a concrete and cinder block box would be placed around the spring to protect it. The spring boxes will be built to AZGFD standards. The box would be capped with an access door for maintenance purposes. Water from the spring would be diverted via a pipe to a 34”wide x 8’ long trough. The trough has a built-in wildlife escape ramp and its dimensions provide water accessibility to bats. A wildlife friendly pipe-rail fence would enclose the spring box and trough. A pipe leading from the first (wildlife) trough could direct excess water to a second (livestock) trough outside the enclosure. The ranching permittee would be given an opportunity to purchase piping and an additional trough to place outside the enclosure for livestock use at the time the materials are ordered (troughs will need to be customized). The permittee of this allotment does intend to participate and will be purchasing the piping and trough in coordination with the FS and AZGF. The most expensive components of this proposal are labor and helicopter costs. Materials and crew (AZGF Development crew), would have to be ferried in by helicopter. Helicopter expenses for this project (all three springs) are estimated to be \$35,000 and costs per individual spring development are significantly reduced if all three springs are funded at once because the ferry time for the helicopter would be minimized. These springs were selected for this project because of their locations and because they are inventoried range improvements that have fallen into disrepair. Archaeological concerns are not anticipated because of the former disturbance in these areas. It is possible that work crews would not be able to complete all three spring improvements in one 8-day work cycle. Therefore the springs to be restored are prioritized as: 1) Yellow Bull; 2) Willis; 3) Coyote. In the event all three springs are not completed, excess materials will be stored at the Clifton Ranger District Office until funds become available to complete the third spring.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit (% benefit per species) : 40% Mule deer, 40% whitetail deer, 5% javelina, 5% small game and nongame species.

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| <p>Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):</p> <p><u>Project Start Date:</u> 10/30/2015</p> <p><u>Project End Date:</u> 09/30/2016</p> | <p>Environmental Compliance:</p> <p>NEPA Completed: Yes[] No[X] N/A[] Projected Completion Date <u>8/15/2015</u></p> <p>State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance: (Provide Attachment) Yes[] No[X] N/A[] Projected Completion Date: <u>8/30/2015</u></p> <p>Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A[] To be Completed by: _____ Projected Completion Date: _____</p> |
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PROJECT FUNDING

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| Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested: For 3 Springs | \$ 35,000.00 |
| Cost Share or Matching Funds: Forest Service (3 springs) | \$ 18450.00 |
| Permittee (3 Springs) | \$ 3525.00 |
| Total Project Costs: | \$ 56,975.00 |

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

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| Applicant (please print): U.S. F.S. Nancy Spencer-Morris | Address: Apache-Sitgreaves NF Clifton Ranger District 397240 AZ 75 Duncan AZ, 85534 | E-mail: njspencermorris@fs.fed.us |
| Telephone: 928-687-8614 | | Date: 7/13/2015 |

AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel): Steve Najar 928-965-5066

Project has been coordinated with:
 Steve Najar 928-965-5066, Game Mgr. Unit 28S Matt Pelto 928-713-0562 Game Mgr. Unit 28

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS: Water sources on this allotment are limited, widespread, and of poor flow/quality in general. The area the springs are in does offer browse, forage thermal and escape cover, but reliable water sources appear to be the limiting factor in the use of these resources. Wildlife species, particularly deer, would greatly benefit from dependable, permanent water in this area.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES: Objectives are to provide a reliable water source to wildlife (game and non-game) and draw animals into areas that appear to be under-utilized because of the limited water supply. The design features of the project assure that water availability to wildlife takes precedence over availability to livestock. Using criteria developed by the USFS, it is estimated that

implementation of this project will benefit large-game wildlife within the surrounding 4900 acres. Development of existing natural springs eliminates the need for wells, pumps, and other artificial means of providing reliable water sources.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

The project will be implemented in partnership with the USFS, AZGF, and the livestock permittee. This project has been presented to the FS to be included in FY2016 budget. The expense of helicopter flight time may be less than expected with carefully planned logistics to maximize resources and time. FS would be responsible for materials (purchased through AZGF). Labor and associated personnel costs, would be provided by AZGF. The difficulty of accessing the springs will require the use of a helicopter to deliver materials and work crews. Springs would be cleaned/dug out and a concrete and cinder block box would be placed around the spring to protect it. The spring boxes will be built to AZGFD standards. The box would be capped with an access door for maintenance purposes. Water from the spring would be diverted via a pipe to a 34" wide x 8' long trough. The trough has a built-in wildlife escape ramp and its dimensions provide water accessibility to bats. A wildlife friendly pipe-rail fence would enclose the spring box and trough. A pipe leading from the first (wildlife) trough could direct excess water to a second (livestock) trough outside the enclosure if the ranching permittee is interested in participating in this project. The permittee of this allotment does intend to participate and will be purchasing the piping and trough in coordination with the FS and AZGF. Pipe holes will be custom drilled into the troughs at the time of order.

PROJECT LOCATION

(Please provide lat/long in decimal degrees of project area using datum WGS84. If project is larger than one point, please provide multiple lat/long points or an existing shapefile of the project area).

- Yellow Bull Spring LAT. 33.00755 LONG. -109.08800
- Willis Spring LAT. 33.00360 LONG -109.07055
- Coyote Spring LAT. 33.97863 LONG -109.08812

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

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

- U.S. Forest Service
- The current ranching permittee is Kenneth Reeves

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 area is predominately characterized by juniper woodland vegetation with hill and valley topography with gradual to very steep slopes 7-100%.

Elevation:

Yellow Bull-5310'

Willis 5471'

Coyote 4847'

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

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| Helicopter for first spring | (approx.) 20,000.00 |
| Helicopter for second spring | (approx.)10,000.00 |
| Helicopter for third spring | (approx.) 5,000.00 |
| Total for 3 Springs | \$35,000.00 |

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

Forest Service Material Costs *per spring*:

- 600 linear foot of pipe fencing \$3000.00
- Concrete and cinder block 600.00
- Larger pipe for fence posts 1000.00
- Misc. material and supplies 300.00
- Rainmaker trough-250 875.00

Total for 3 springs \$18,450.00

Permittee Material Costs *per spring*:

- Misc. materials and supplies \$300.00
- Rainmaker trough-250 875.00

Total for 3 springs \$3525.00

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

FS and the Permittee will purchase project materials through AZGF. Permittee has offered the use of some of his heavy equipment if needed.

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

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

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN: Game cameras, track counts, annual inspection. Funds have been requested to install game cameras at the springs.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

The project design lends itself to minimal maintenance requirements. The FS would be responsible for maintaining the enclosure fencing, the spring box, the pipe leading from it to the trough, and the first trough. The permittee would be responsible for maintaining the pipe leading from the (wildlife) trough to the (livestock) trough outside the enclosure.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Nancy Spencer-Morris, District Biologist
Clifton Ranger District

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)

Clearances and pictures will be submitted with the September 1, 2015 application.

10) Was a site visit completed? Yes[X] No[]

If Yes, please list personnel that attended and date.

Steve Najar AZGF – Fall 2014

Hell's Hole Allotment

