

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number:	15-601
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PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Ash Spring and Reimer Spring Exclosure Fences	
Region and Game Management Unit: Region6, GMU 21	
Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC): •	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: Spring/Riparian Protection Fencing, Water Development	
Brief Project Summary: This project involves installing a pipe rail fence around Ash Spring and piping the water out of the pool at the spring to a water trough that would be located outside of the exclosure in order to prevent further livestock damage to the spring. This project also involves adding sections of pipe rail fencing to Reimer Spring, in areas where the existing exclosure fence is prone to failure by flooding and livestock.	
Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Mule Deer, Pronghorn, Whitetail Deer, Javelina and Elk	

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year): <u>Project Start Date:</u> March 2016 <u>Project End Date:</u> December 2017	Environmental Compliance: NEPA Completed: Yes[] No[X] N/A[] <u>Projected Completion Date:</u> September 2015 State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance: Yes[X] No[] N/A[] <u>Projected Completion Date:</u> _____ Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A[] <u>To be Completed by:</u> Micah White <u>Projected Completion Date:</u> October 2015
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PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:	\$ 9000
Cost Share or Matching Funds: Project NEPA and arch clearances already provided by Prescott NF.	\$ \$4000
Total Project Costs:	\$ 13,000

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print): Albert Sillas	Address: 300 W. Highway 260 Camp Verde, AZ 86321	E-mail: asillas@fs.fed.us
Telephone: 928-567-4121		Date: June 18, 2015

AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel): Micah White 928-821-6057
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Project has been coordinated with: Mule Deer Foundation

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

Ash Spring is a critical water source that is relied upon by mule deer, pronghorn, whitetail deer, javelina and even a few elk during certain parts of the year. Ash Spring is also a critical roosting site for Gambel’s quail. The small riparian area surrounding Ash Spring provides some of the only shade trees in the surrounding area. This is causing livestock to spend an inordinate amount of time in this area, and has led to a substantial degradation of this critical site. A pipe rail fence needs to be placed around this small riparian area in order to ensure that the fence remains in-tact after minor flood events that can occur in the drainage. Pipe rail fences also facilitate better wildlife crossings than do barbed wire. The water needs to be piped out of the spring to a trough located outside of the enclosure fence using a spring box and black-poly pipe with a float valve. This will ensure the protection of this critical riparian area, and will help ensure the future of this water source by keeping the riparian plant community healthy, and preventing the soil compaction by livestock that can often lead to a loss of a spring.

Reimer Spring is a similar site that provides a critical water source for wildlife. Reimer Spring already has an existing barbed-wire fence surrounding it, however the existing fence is prone to failure due to minor flood events, and livestock forcing their way into the riparian area, where the only nearby shade is located. The section fence prone to failure needs to be replaced with a pipe rail fence in order to maintain its integrity, and to prevent livestock from damaging the spring.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- Prevent livestock access to spring/riparian areas
- Allow riparian areas that have been damaged by livestock to heal.
- Install pipe-rail fence around Ash Spring.
- Install pipe-rail fence in strategic places around Reimer Spring.
- Prevent soil compaction by livestock.
- Preserve water sources for wildlife into the future.
- Pipe water outside of spring/riparian area for wildlife and livestock use.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

Ash Spring and its corresponding riparian area will be surrounded by a 2 rail, pipe fence. The support posts will need to be either pounded into the ground, dug out by hand or with an auger. Some or all of the post may need to be set with concrete. The cross rails will then need to be welded onto the support posts and connected to each other. The spring will need to be excavated slightly to allow the spring box to be placed below the water level. Black poly pipe will need to be attached, and run slightly downhill for approximately 100 yards to a point where it is outside of the enclosure fence, and low enough to allow the water to fill the trough. A trough will need to be placed along with a float valve, and the black poly will need to be connected to the float valve.

PROJECT LOCATION:

Both sites are located on the Prescott National Forest in the Verde Ranger District.

Ash Spring – Township 12N, Range 3E, Section 1. N 34.44687, W 111.99800

Reimer Spring – Township 12 N, Range 4E, Section 6. N 34.44970, W 111.97567

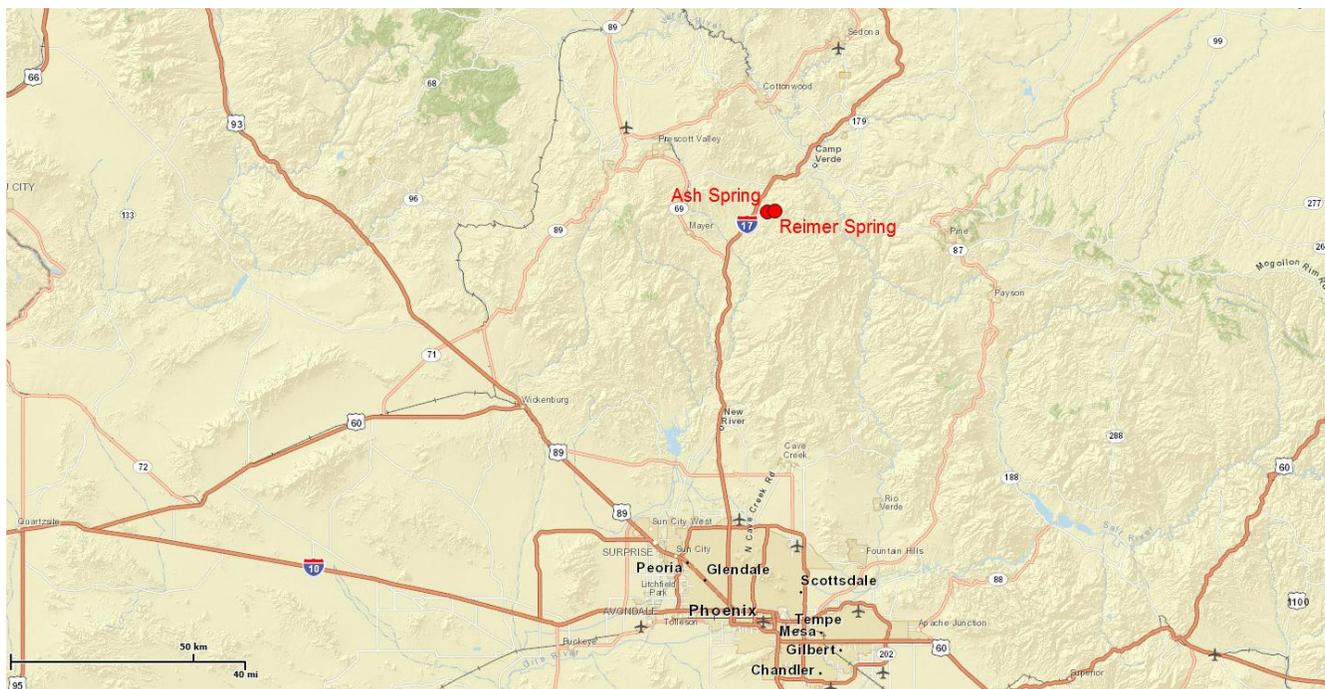


Figure 1. General location map.

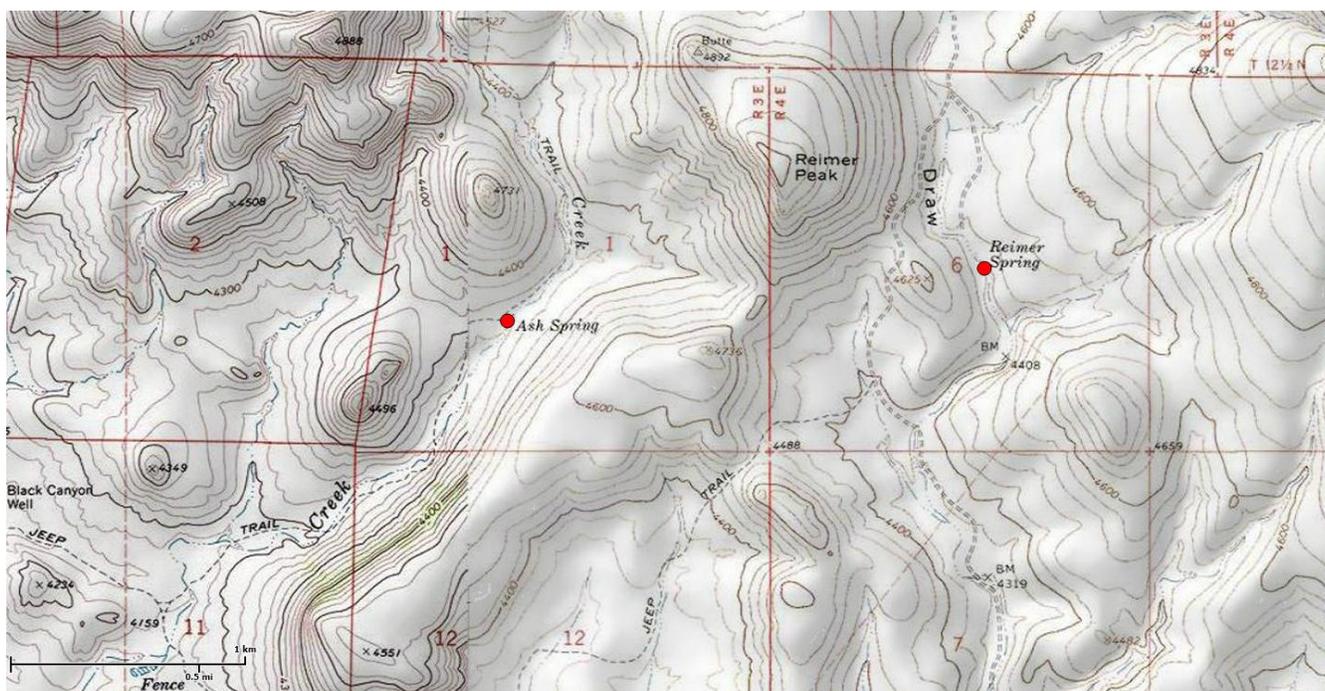


Figure 2. Site location map.



Figure 3. Ash Spring enclosure fence layout.

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

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

- Prescott National Forest, Verde Ranger District

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:

Both springs are located in valleys, which are comprised of semi-desert grasslands. The nearby surrounding hills are a mix of chaparral on the north faces and juniper woodlands. The riparian habitat at Ash spring is comprised of Arizona Ash and Nettleleaf hackberry. The riparian area at Reimer spring is comprised of cottonwoods and willows.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

Ash Spring enclosure fence dimensions are about 100' width x 300' length. Estimated costs for fence

materials are \$4000 @ \$5 per foot.

Reimer Spring enclosure fence dimensions are 200' (100' at each water gap). Estimated costs for fence materials are \$1000 @ \$5 per foot.

Contractor costs for installation of fence at both sites are estimated at \$2500.

Contractor costs for water development at Ash Spring are estimated at \$1500.

Forest Service contributed costs for project administration, design, and trough/pipeline are \$4000.

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

\$400K through the Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Initiative. The project was identified through the WHEI as a beneficial project for mule deer and pronghorn.

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

AGFD

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

YES[] NO[] N/A[]

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

The riparian enclosure fence and water development will be maintained by the allotment permittee.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY: Micah White GF676

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: Ash Spring, Reimer Spring Enclosure Fences

- 1) **Is the water development listed as a priority in the most recent “Wildlife Water Development Annual Implementation Schedule?”** No
- 2) **Please list the Development Branch personnel and date coordinated with for this project.**
N/A
- 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: Cedar Mill, Reimer Spring,
Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank): Well / dirt tank, spring
Ownership of water source: PNF
Distance in miles from project: 1.4, 1.1
- 6) **Is the target wildlife species a result of transplant efforts?** YES NO
The target species (mule deer) is part of the Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Initiative.
- 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 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: None -access can be gained via forest road 68D.
- 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.
Micah White – AGFD (many times)
Albert Sillas – PNF biologist
Jim McKee – PNF archaeologist