

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number:	15-614
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PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Rocky Dublin Solar Well Water System	
Region and Game Management Unit: Region 6/ GMU 23 South	
Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC): • Payson Natural Resource Committee	Was the project presented to the LHPC? YES[X] NO[]
Has this project been submitted in previous years? YES[] NO[X] If Yes, was it funded? YES[] NO[] → Funded HPC Project #(s):	
Project Type: Well water system	
Brief Project Summary: This project will involve solar conversion of the Rocky Dublin windmill and installation of trough(s) and poly water pipeline. The site has been cleared by the forest service as part of maintenance on an existing range improvement.	
Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Mule deer, Javelina	

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year): <u>Project Start Date:</u> Spring/summer 2016 <u>Project End Date:</u> End of 2016	Environmental Compliance: NEPA Completed: Yes[X] No[] N/A[] Projected Completion Date: _____ State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance: Yes[X] No[] N/A[] Projected Completion Date: _____ Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A[] To be Completed by: <u>Joe Sayer</u> Projected Completion Date: <u>Fall 2015</u>
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PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:	\$ 7,000
Cost Share or Matching Funds:	\$ 5,000
Total Project Costs:	\$ 12,000

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print): Joe Sayer, WM	Address: 7200 E. University Mesa, AZ 85207	E-mail: jsayer@azgfd.gov
Telephone: 480-639-9970	Date: August 26, 2015	

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

Project has been coordinated with: Eric Hoskins, Tonto Basin Ranger District

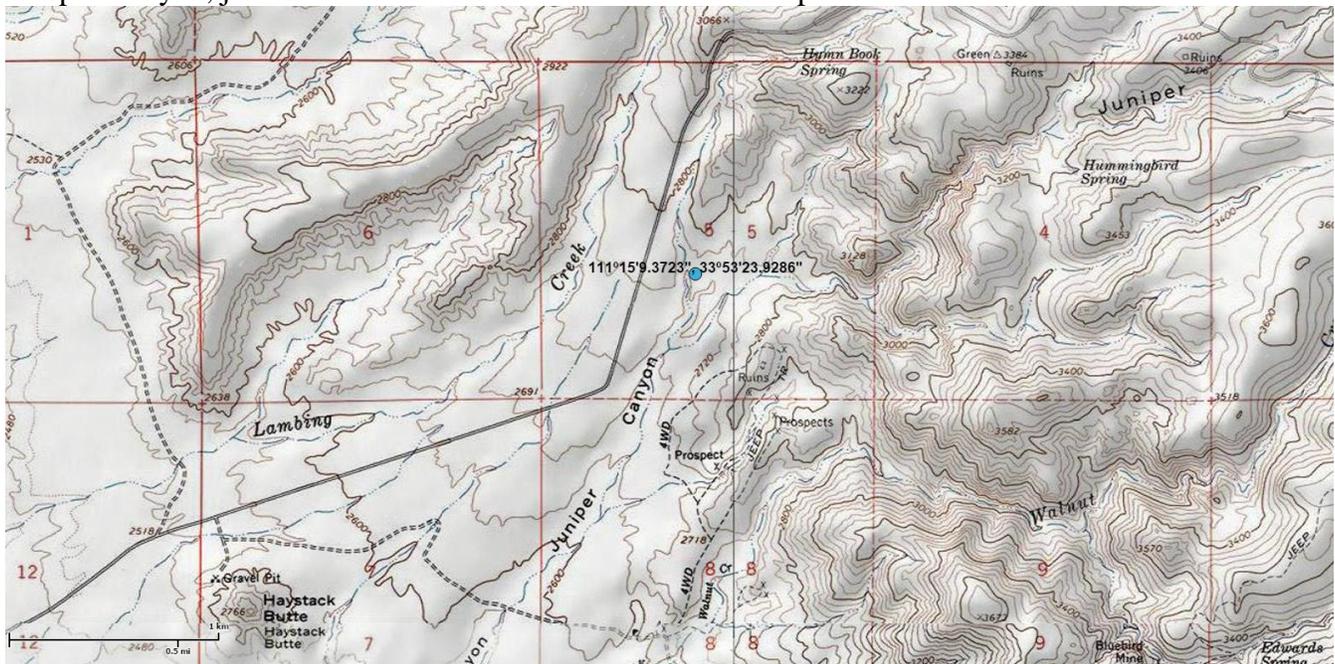
NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS: The need of water sources in 23S is part of the overall long-term habitat needs that will improve deer habitat and sustain a viable to growing population. GMU 23 South used to sustain a much larger deer herd. Part of the problem with the depressed population that currently exists is water availability. The Juniper and Walnut areas have a growing mule deer herd.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES: This project relocates the existing drinker off of an archeological site and adds a 1500 gallon storage tank. It is also planned to convert an existing windmill well into a more reliable water source.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES: The Rocky Dublin well is currently a wind driven well which is not producing due to the lack of wind. It also has a drinker that is located near an archeological site. The well will be converted into a solar powered pump and pipe will be laid approximately .5 miles to a concrete drinker with a built in wildlife use/escape ramp.

This project is NEPA ready. The EAC is to be completed. Archeological Clearances and Categorical Exclusions have been completed by the Forest Service for the poly pipe, drinker and 1500 gallon storage tank. The conversion of the windmill to a solar system is in the process of being cleared by The Tonto Ranger District but has yet to be cleared by the Forest. An updated proposal will be submitted once permission is granted.

PROJECT LOCATION: This project is located in the Tonto Basin Ranger District near Lower Juniper Canyon, just East of Forest Road 71. See attached map.



LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

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

- United States Forest Service, Tonto Basin 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:

Sonoran Desert Scrub with mixed juniper, mesquite, jojoba, prickly pear and cholla. The elevation is about 2700 feet.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

TOTAL GRANT FUNDS REQUESTED: \$7,000

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

Anticipated Costs are:

Solar system	\$2,500
Storage tank- 3,000Gal	\$1,700
Poly pipe- 1.5 miles	\$2,000
Drinker - \$800	\$800

Materials Total: \$7,000

USDA Forest Service, T.N.F –NEPA
and Archeological Clearances : \$2,000

Arizona Game and Fish
project origination and coordination \$1,000

Permittee Labor, misc. plumbing and fuel costs: \$2,000

Cost Share Total: \$5,000

Total Costs: \$12,000

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

Arizona Game & Fish Department: Labor, in-kind labor writing proposal and coordinate completion report, site visits and maintenance after completion.

USDA T.N.F, Tonto Basin Ranger District: NEPA and Archeological Clearances.

Permitee (O bar C Ranch): Implement project and perform maintenance. Provide labor to install solar, poly pipe and build drinkers.

Non-Profit Organization (possible funding partners): Mule Deer Foundation (MDF)

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

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

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN: No monitoring will be required other than regular water level checks and maintenance, to be conducted by the Permitee.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE: To be performed by the Permitee.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY: Project Author

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: _____

- 1) **Is the water development listed as a priority in the most recent “Wildlife Water Development Annual Implementation Schedule?”**
Project not presented to Game Branch
- 2) **Please list the Development Branch personnel and date coordinated with for this project.**
- 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: Edwards spring
Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank, etc.): Spring
Ownership of water source: USFS, Tonto Basin Ranger District
Distance in miles from project: about 2.0 miles
- 6) **Is the target wildlife species a result of transplant efforts? YES NO**
- 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**

**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:

- 9) **Please list below (or on a separate sheet) the material type and dimensions of each component proposed to be added, modified, or repaired.**

Solar system	\$2,500
Storage tank- 3,000Gal	\$1,700
Poly pipe- 1.5 miles	\$4,000
Drinker 2@ \$800	\$1,600

Materials and equipment rental Total: \$9,100

- 10) **Was a site visit completed? Yes No**

If Yes, please list personnel that attended and date.
Eric Hoskins, 2015

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEER HOURLY RATES AND CLASSIFICATIONS WORKSHEET

PROJECT TITLE: _____

The value of volunteer labor should be calculated at the hourly rate of an employee doing similar work, or using hourly rates from the Arizona Department of Administration's Human Resource web site, plus a standard ERE rate of 35%. http://www.hr.az.gov/HR_Professional/Class_Comp/PDF/alphacovered.pdf

\$0.445/mile should be the calculation used for mileage.

Water Development	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Habitat Restoration and Clean Up	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Fisheries	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Nongame Branch Project	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Misc/office work	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			varies	
Community Services	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$7.44	
Events and Other	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Research Branch	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Wildlife Area Hosts	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$17.44	
Education Programs	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$16.07	
Totals				

Decision Memo Rocky Dublin Well Water System

USDA Forest Service, Southwest Region, Tonto National Forest
Tonto Basin Ranger District, Gila County, Arizona
(T6N, R11E, Section 5)

Decision

It is my decision to authorize the installation an additional livestock watering trough and storage tank to an existing pipeline on the Walnut Allotment. The storage tank and trough will be located at the 71 Corral and an existing trough at the Rocky Dublin well site will be disconnected and remain dry. This will alleviate livestock impacts to a nearby archeological site when trailing to the existing trough. The water system will also provide a key water source at the junction of the Haystack, Cottonwood and Edwards Spring Pastures while working cattle and moving them between pastures at the 71 corral. Access to the project location will be by existing Forest Service Road 71 for materials and labor.

Approximately ½ mile of new HDPE pipe will be laid above ground coming from the existing storage tank next to the Rocky Dublin Well. The existing livestock watering trough at the well site will be disconnected and bypassed, a new trough will be placed within the 71 corral located just off of Forest Service Road 71. A wildlife access and escape ramp must be provided and attached to the trough. Brushing of vegetation will be restricted to within four feet of either side of the pipeline or trough. Installation of the trough and pipeline must be constructed according to Forest Service Range Improvement Standards as outlined in FSH 2209.22 (R3). Construction of this project must be coordinated with District range staff. Disturbance is to be minimal and only in areas covered by the site-specific archeological clearance (# 2015-12-37).

I have concluded that this action may be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment. It is within one of the categories identified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in *36 CFR 220.6*. The project is within Category 32.2 (9) that includes implementation or modification of minor management practices to improve allotment condition or animal distribution. There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the action as defined in the next paragraph.

Public health and safety will not be affected by this action. There are no know significant irreversible resource commitments or irretrievable losses to wildlife habitat, soil productivity, forage production, or water quality. No known cultural resources will be affected. A site-specific archeological clearance (#2015-12-37) has been completed in conjunction with forest archeologists and was approved by the Forest Supervisor. A site-specific Biological Evaluation has been completed and approved (Analysis #2015-8-Range). The proposal will not take place on steep slopes or on highly erosive soils. There are no wetlands or floodplains within the project area.

Public Involvement

Design of the project was coordinated with the permittee for the Walnut Allotment and was scoped to Forest Service specialists including Range, Biology and Heritage on April 7th 2015.

Findings Required by Other Laws

The project is in Management Area 6J identified in the Tonto National Forest Land Management Plan (USFS, Tonto NF, 1985, as amended). The management emphasis for this area is to manage for a variety of renewable natural resources with primary emphasis on wildlife habitat improvement, livestock forage productions, and dispersed recreation. The design of this project is consistent with the standards and guidelines of the Tonto National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. Effects to Management Indicator Species (MIS) were evaluated (Analysis #2015-8-Range). A biological evaluation was prepared (BE #2015-8-Range) and found no effect to any Threatened or Endangered Species in compliance with the *Endangered Species Act*.

There are no inventoried roadless areas within the project area. Best Management Practices will be followed during project implementation in compliance with the *Clean Water Act*.

Implementation

Implementation of this project may begin immediately.

Administrative Review or Appeal

On January 17, 2014, the President signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014, Pub. L. No. 113-76, 128 Stat. 5 (2014). Section 431 of that Act directs that the 1993 and 2012 legislation establishing the 36 CFR 215 (post-decisional appeals) and 36 CFR 218 (pre-decisional objections) processes "shall not apply to any project or activity implementing a land and resource management plan ... that is categorically excluded ... under the National Environmental Policy Act [NEPA]."

On February 7, 2014, the President signed into law the Agricultural Act of 2014, Pub. L. No. 113-79 (i.e., Farm Bill). Section 8006(a) of the 2014 Farm Bill repealed the Appeals Reform Act, Pub. L. No. 102-381, 106 Stat. 1419 (1992). Section 8006(b) directs that the pre-decisional objection process established in Section 428 of division E of the Consolidated Appropriation Act of 2012, Pub. L. No. 112-74, shall not be applicable to categorically excluded projects or activities.

For additional information concerning this decision or the Forest Service appeal process, contact Kelly Jardine, District Ranger, Tonto Basin Ranger District at (928) 467-3200.

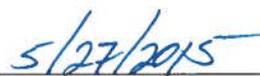
Contact Person

Further information about this decision can be obtained from, Eric Hoskins at the Tonto Basin Ranger District, 28079 N State Hwy. 188, Roosevelt, AZ, 85545.

Signature and Date



KELLY L. JARDINE
District Ranger



Date