

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 12-506

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Redevelopment of Catchment 47 – 96 Ranch #3

Region and Game Management Unit: 5/37B

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):
• Tucson

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: Redevelopment of existing water

Brief Project Summary:

This project will be the relocation and complete redevelopment of wildlife water catchment #47 – 96 Ranch #3. The existing concrete vault system is 65 years old, constructed in 1947, and is well beyond the end of its time. The storage vault has several cracks and the existing system capacity is only 1700 gallons making it a likely candidate for water hauling if simply repaired. Catchment 47 was listed as a “first priority” catchment for redevelopment in the AGFD Wildlife Water Development Team Report dated 2002. It is also located approximately 0.45 miles from Catchment 991 which is relatively new and functions well which is why it is being relocated. Catchment 47 will be redeveloped with a new 10,500 gallon 24” PVC pipe storage tank system with drainage collection point system relocated approximately 2.1 miles east and will provide permanent water for wildlife for many years to come.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Mule deer, javelina, mountain lions

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date:
September 1, 2012

Project End Date:
June 30, 2014

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: Joe Currie

Projected Completion Date: December 2013 if funded

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested: \$ 29,357 (28,857+\$500 for monitoring camera)

Cost Share or Matching Funds: \$20,000

Total Project Costs: \$ 49,357

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):
Ben Brochu

Address:
555 N. Greasewood Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85739

E-mail:
bbrochu@azgfd.gov

Telephone: 520-591-7636

Date: September 1, 2012

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

Project has been coordinated with:

Joe Currie, AGFD and Willie Sommers, ASLD

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

Game management unit 37B was once regarded as a premier mule deer unit. Beginning around 1995, mule deer numbers in the unit began to decline and bottomed out between 2002-2005. Since 2005 they have been showing steady signs of recovery which is attributed, in part, to an aggressive water development and redevelopment effort. Since 2005, 11 catchments have been developed/redeveloped. Camera monitoring efforts have confirmed that these catchments are being used heavily by wildlife, especially mule deer. While we have been seeing steady signs of increase, 37B has still not recovered to historical numbers.

Water is a critical component of mule deer habitat. Deer habitat, no matter how attractive, will not be utilized if it is not near a source of water. Water sites should be no more than 2-3 miles apart and even closer in rough terrain (Wildlife Management Handbook, Managing Desert Mule Deer). WAFWAs Habitat Guidelines for Mule Deer support this suggesting that water sources not be more than 3 miles apart so all mule deer habitat is within 1.5 miles of a permanent water source (Brownlee 1979, Dickinson and Garner 1979). Water is extremely scarce in the range and is only present in earthen stock tanks after a heavy monsoon period and during the winter and early spring months and seldom lasts into May. Marshal et al. (2006) stated that water in the absence of forage and cover likely will not create mule deer habitat, but forage and cover in the absence of water may provide deer habitat, at least seasonally. Thus, catchments might make forage resources, which would otherwise be unavailable, available year-round. Further, where deer might otherwise make seasonal movements between parts of their range with forage and parts with water, developments may reduce the need for seasonal movements, make a greater proportion of the range and its forage available to deer, reduce competition for forage in exploited range, decrease risks associated with long-distance movements (e.g., Nicholson et al. 1997, Bleich and Pierce 2001) and, thereby, increase deer abundance (Krausman and Czech 1998).

Old Catchment 47 – Note the severe cracks in the tank and vault.



PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- To increase deer and javelina populations by providing dependable, long term, self-sustaining, quality water sources and by increasing the use of otherwise unavailable forage resources
- To increase hunter opportunity
- To install systems that have a long lifespan (40-50 years for storage and collection systems, 25 years for drinking troughs)
- To install systems that do not require supplemental hauling except in rare or exceptional circumstances
- To install systems that have minimal visual impacts and blend in with surrounding landscape
- To install systems that are accessible and that requires minimal routine maintenance
- To monitor the use of these waters using remote digital game cameras

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

Utilize big game special tag funds, minimal personnel from the Arizona Game and Fish Department Development Branch and approximately 15-25 volunteers to install the new system.

Catchment 47 – 96 Ranch #3 (10,500 gallons) – purchase and install the following components:

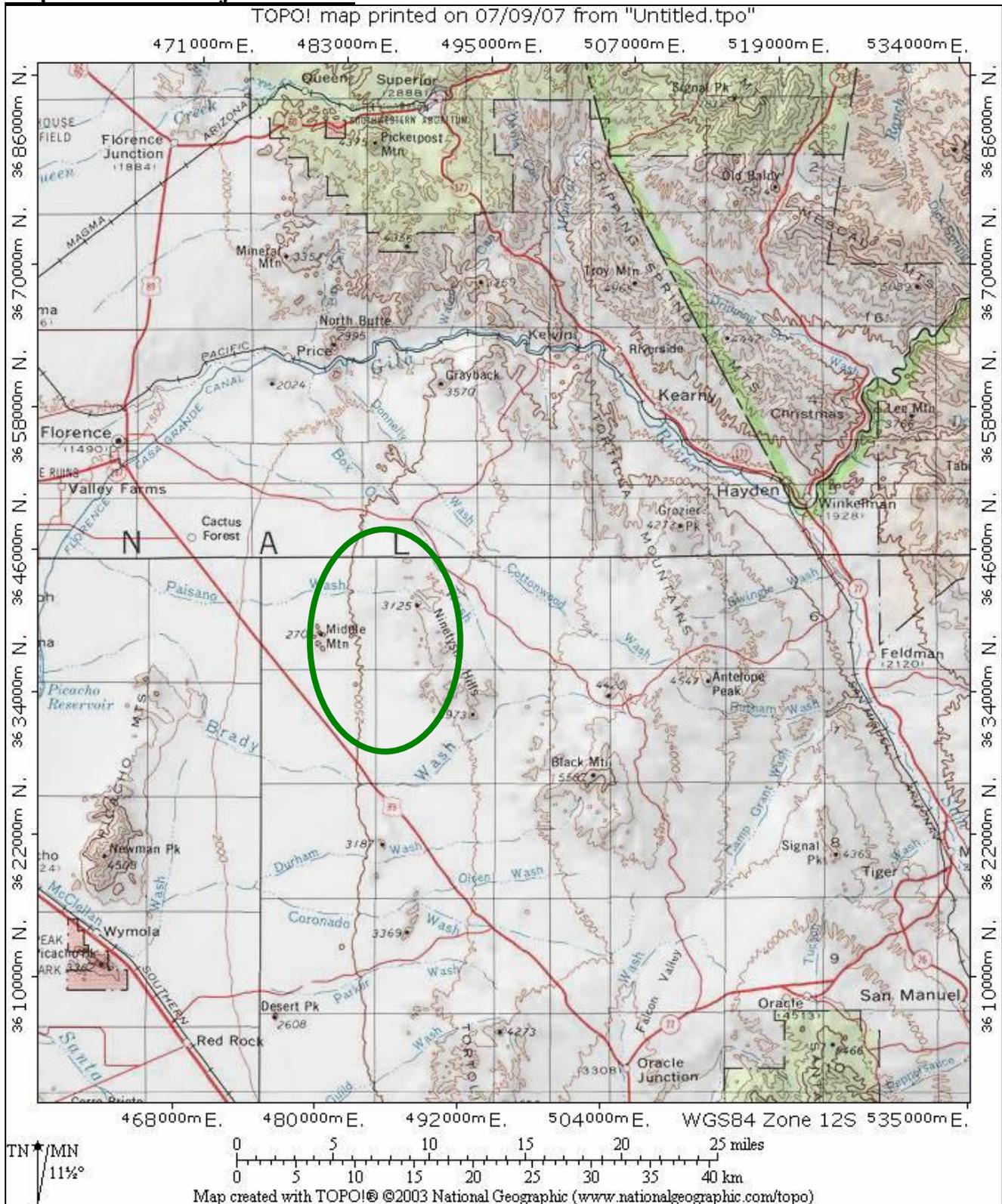
- (4) 24"x100' PVC pipe tanks
- (1) 3' fiberglass walk-in drinker for PVC system
- 150'x150' wildlife friendly piperail fence
- (1-2) 6" collection points and ~ 100' of 6" Sch10 Gruv-lok pipe and ~90' of 4" Sch80 PVC pipe
- (1) reinforced concrete sediment trap
- Required plumbing components

PROJECT LOCATION:

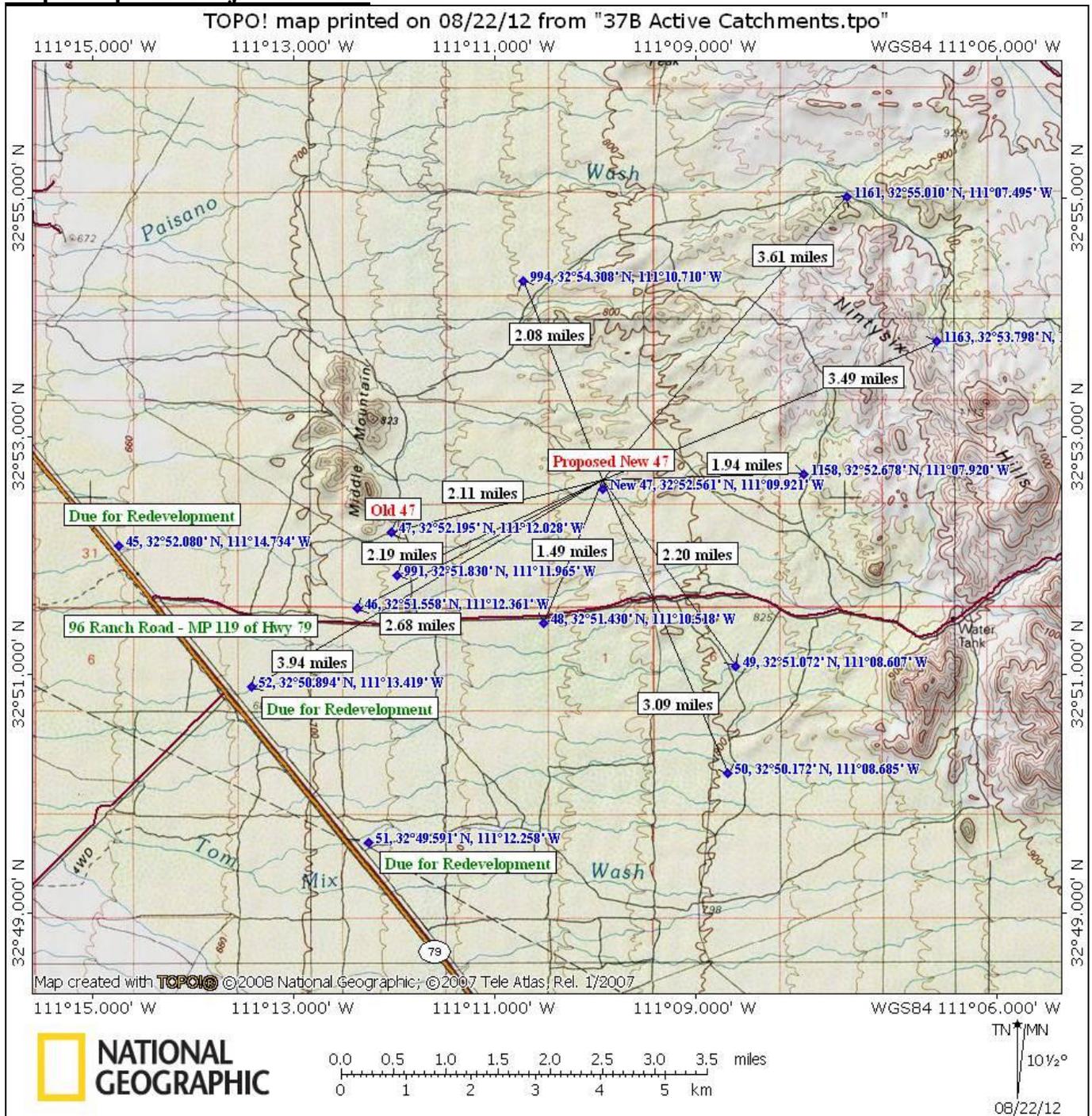
The project is located in west/central GMU 37B.

- **Map 1** – General project location in **GREEN** within GMU 37B
- **Map 2** – Location of the proposed catchment in **RED**. Existing catchments are noted in **BLUE**.

Map 1 – General Project Location



Map 2 – Specific Project Location



LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

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

- The project site is on land administered by the Arizona State Land Department, Tucson Field Office, 4455 S. Park Avenue Suite 101 Tucson, Arizona 85714 (520) 628-5480.

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:

Game management unit 37B is located in Pinal County, Arizona, southeast of Phoenix. Two main biotic community types, Sonoran Desertscrub and Semidesert Grassland, comprise the bulk of the habitat in 37B. The catchment locations in the 96 Hills are represented by both community types. Common vegetation includes various types of grama grasses (*Bouteloua spp.*), bush muhly (*Muhlenbergia porteri*), turpentine bush (*Ericameria laricifolia*), foothill palo verde (*Cercidium microphyllum*), mesquite (*Prosopis spp.*), jojoba (*Simmondsia chinensis*), desert hackberry (*Celtis pallida*) and fairy feather duster (*Calliandra eriophylla*). Average rainfall is approximately 12-15” and elevation ranges from approximately 2800’ to 3500’.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

• **PVC System - 10,500 gallon - Catchment 47**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Dimensions</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Cost Share</u>	<u>Funds Needed</u>
4- 24"x100' PVC systems (10,000 gallon) \$3250 ea	24"x100' buried	\$14,500		\$14,500
3' walk-in trough for PVC system	3'	\$3,500		\$3,500
Plumbing/collection point components	varies	\$2,000		\$2,000
Piperail livestock enclosure fence	150'x150'	\$3,700		\$3,700
Reinforced concrete sediment trap		\$600		\$600
Permitting – ADWR and ASLD		\$2150		\$2150
Tax @ 9.1%		\$2,407		\$2,407
Labor		\$20,000.00	AGFD, Volunteers	\$0.00
Total		\$48,857	\$20,000	\$28,857
Cost Per Catchment:		\$48,857	\$20,000	\$28,857

• **Remote Digital Monitoring Camera: \$500**

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

\$29,357

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

\$20,000

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

I’ve had tremendous volunteer support and expect the same with this project.

- Below is an all inclusive list of potential cooperators.
 - AGFD Development Branch: acquire the materials and provide equipment and minimal labor for construction if needed.
 - Arizona Deer Association – volunteer labor and equipment
 - Mule Deer Foundation – volunteer labor and equipment
 - Coues Whitetail.com chat room inquiries – volunteer labor and equipment
 - Tucson HPC: coordinate project funding opportunities
 - Arizona State Land Department – Arch and NEPA clearances

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

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

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

Remote digital cameras will be used to monitor density and frequency of wildlife water use all year long if cameras are available. This will enable the Wildlife Manager to make better informed decisions for the management of wildlife within GMU 37B.

Water levels will be monitored at least twice per year with emphasis during the warmer drier months by the Wildlife Manager. Additional monitoring will be conducted as needed. Minor maintenance will also be conducted as needed by the Wildlife Manager. The AGFD Development Branch will be responsible for major maintenance issues.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

The maintenance of each catchment will continue to be the responsibility of the AGFD. The Wildlife Manager will be responsible for coordinating this.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Ben Brochu

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

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

N/A

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT **WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET**

PROJECT TITLE: Redevelopment of Catchment 47 – 96 Ranch #3

- 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 Currie - September 15, 2011
- 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: See Map 2
Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank): Catchments
Ownership of water source: AGFD
Distance in miles from project: See Map 2
- 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.**
N/A
- 8) **Please provide the following information about access to the proposed site:**
Type of access (mark one): 2x4 vehicles 4x4 only foot only**

Accessing the site requires driving in heavy sand – 4x4 is required

**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

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

See itemized use of funds section above.

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

Joe Currie and I conducted site visits on September 15, 2011 and Willie Sommers (ASLD) and I conducted a site visit on February 16, 2012.

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				