

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

<b>PROJECT INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Project Title:</b> Leonard Point/Buckhorn Dirt Tank Renovation	<b>Project No.</b> 09-201
<b>Region/GMU:</b> Region II, GMU 5A	<b>HPC:</b>
<b>Project Type:</b> Renovations of existing dirt tanks on Buck Springs Allotment	
<b>Project Description:</b> This project would increase water storage in up to 10 dirt tanks on the Bar T Bar Allotment (Buckhorn pastures) and the Leonard Point area. The availability of dependable water will draw large mammals up from the sponge meadows/riparian areas into the upland habitats and help evenly distribute the elk population. With reduced use, the now dry meadows will be restored to natural sponge meadows and riparian communities. The improved water distribution will benefit many species, including the Federally-listed Little Colorado River spinedace.	
<b>Wildlife Species to Benefit:</b> Whitetail Deer, Mule Deer, Elk, Turkey, Black Bear, various song birds, and Little Colorado River spinedace	
<b>Possible Funding Partners:</b> Bob and Judy Prosser (Bar T Bar Allotment holders). There is possible funding match through National Forest Grant being re-submitted by AES in Fiscal year 2011.	
<b>Implementation Schedule:</b> Beginning: July 1, 2010 Completed: June 30, 2012	<b>NEPA Compliance:</b> (if applicable) Completed: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Projected Completion Date:
<b>PROJECT FUNDING</b>	
<b>SBG Funds Requested:</b> \$ 15,000	
<b>Cost Share Funds:</b> \$ 5,000.00 Bar T Bar	
<b>Total Project Costs:</b> \$20,000.00	
<b>PARTICIPANT INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Applicant:</b> Garrett Fabian (please print) <b>Telephone:</b> 928-474-2053	<b>Address:</b> Arizona Game and Fish Dept. 3500 S. Lake Mary Rd. Flagstaff, AZ 86001
<b>AGFD Contact and Phone No.</b> (If applicant is not AGFD personnel)	
<b>Coordinated with:</b> US Forest Service, AZ Elk Society, Bar T Bar	<b>Date:</b> 2008/2009
<b>Applicant's signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>

**SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:**

Game Branch  
2221 W. Greenway Rd.  
Phoenix, AZ 85023  
mdisney@azgfd.gov

**WAS PROJECT PRESENTED TO THE LOCAL HPC?      YES   X        NO**

**HAS PROJECT BEEN SUBMITTED IN PREVIOUS YEARS? IF SO WAS IT FUNDED?**

No

**NEED STATEMENT/PROBLEM ANALYSIS:**

The Buck Springs allotment is comprised of approximately 70,000 acres located in the southeast corner of the Coconino National Forest in north-central Arizona. Approximately 96% of this allotment is contained within the East Clear Creek watershed, which is one of the most ecologically diverse areas in the region. Due to this areas significant topographical features, it is not fit for significant grazing. In 2009, the AZ Game and Fish Department and AZ Elk society purchased the base property and thus obtained the grazing allotment permit in an effort to improve the habitat for all wildlife in this rich ecosystem.

Vegetation within the area consists of two major communities; ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forests. There are small inclusions of deciduous species including aspen, maple, southwestern white pine, juniper woodlands, and open mountain meadows. One of the key ecological components of this area is the sponge meadows that once existed in the area but have largely become dry, upland meadows. When these meadows were more functional, they acted as sponges, holding water which in turn flowed into streams and provided important riparian habitat for the plethora of species that call this region home. This project will help with the restoration of sponge meadows which in turn will restore a more natural stream flow. This project will directly benefit many species by improving the riparian habitat.

Bordering the Buck Springs allotment to the north is the Buckhorn pastures of the Bar T Bar Allotment. This area is occupied by a small resident elk herd and wintering/transitional elk from the Buck Springs Allotment. Currently, there is so little water (degraded dirt tanks) on Leonard Points that the permittee cannot even run cattle. Not only does this lack of water affect the permittee, but it significantly reduced the carry capacity of the habitat for all wildlife.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVES:**

Improving existing dirt tanks on the uplands of the Buckhorn pastures should attract wildlife from the Buck Springs Allotment, thus helping distribute wildlife. This should reduce the use of the riparian areas and sponge meadows by large animals such as mule deer and elk, thus restoring the meadows natural functions.

**PROJECT STRATEGIES:**

Ten dirt tanks located on upland areas that have reduced water capacity will be chosen for renovation. Heavy equipment will be used to reduce the silt load, reseal the bottom for better water retention, and perform maintenance to the earthen dam, diversion ditch, and spillway that creates the water source.

**PROJECT LOCATION:**

Ten dirt tanks identified by the AZGFD local Wildlife Manager and US Forest Service on Buck Springs Allotment or on Leonard Points in the Buckhorn pastures of the Bar T Bar allotment. See attached map.

**LAND OWNERSHIP AT PROJECT SITE (Please state specifically if PRIVATE PROPERTY and provide landowner's name):**

US Forest Service, Bar T Bar (permittee)

**IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?**

**HABITAT DESCRIPTION:**

Vegetation within the area consists of two major communities; ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forests. There are small inclusions of deciduous species including aspen, maple, southwestern white pine, juniper woodlands, and open mountain meadows. One of the key ecological components of this area is the sponge meadows that once existed in the area but have largely become dry, upland meadows.

**ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:**

AZ Elk Society estimates the cost of renovation using one of their contractors at \$2000.00 per tank. Ten tanks would require \$20,000.00. The Bar T Bar committed up to \$5,000.00 for restoration of the 10 tanks. The AZ Elk Society also submitted a grant through the National Forest Foundation grant process for another \$5,000.00, which was denied by the local FS. Through coordination, the FS stated AES could re-submit the grant for fiscal year 2011.

**LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:**

US Forest Service for potential tank clearance. Bar T Bar through cost share for the hired AES contractor.

**PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:**

AZGFD and AES will monitor for project completion.

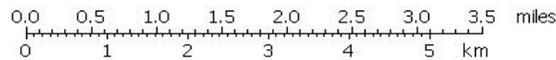
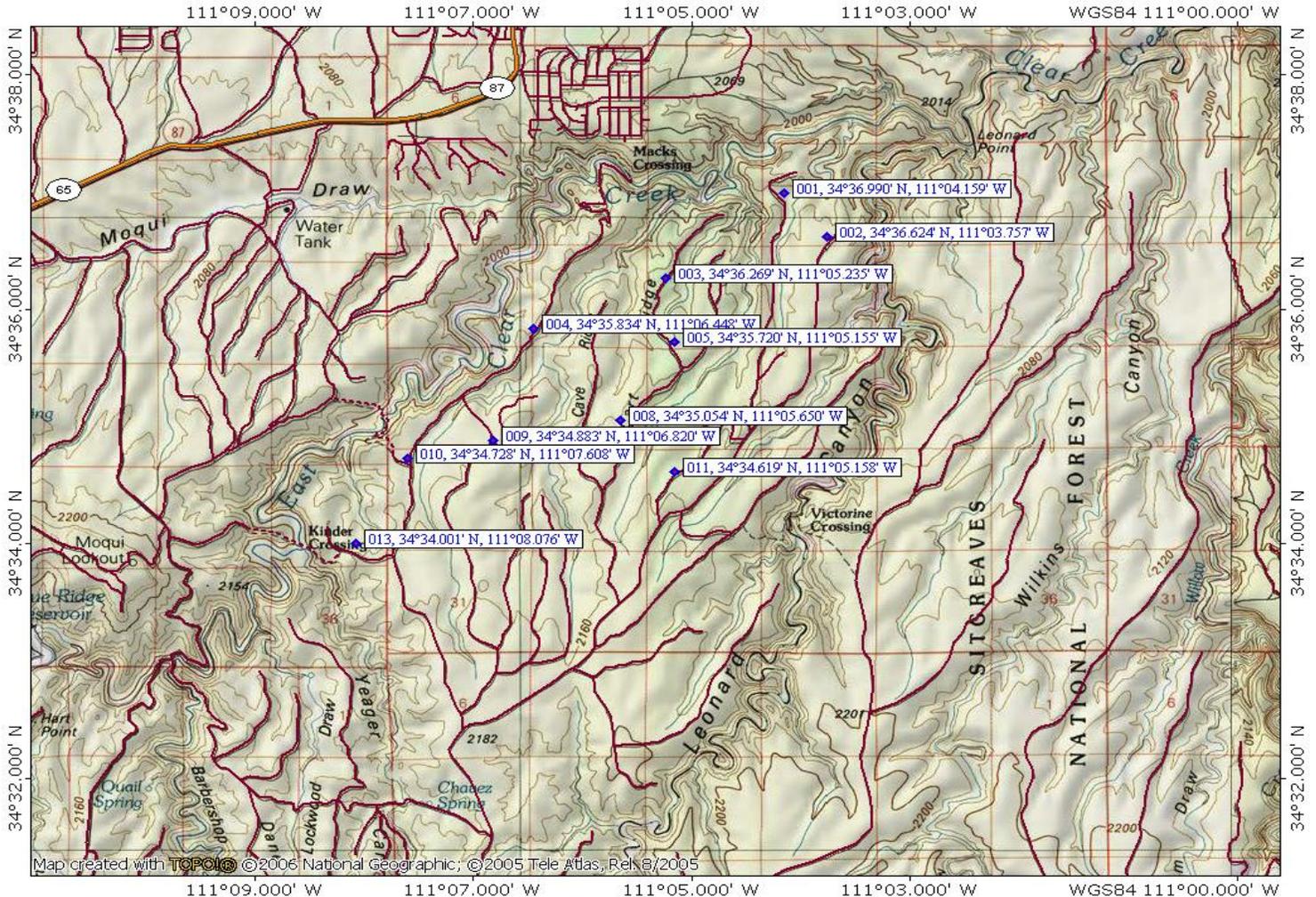
**PROJECT MAINTENANCE:**

N/A.

**PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:**

AZGFD Wildlife Manager Garrett Fabian

TOPO! map printed on 08/31/09 from "LP dirt tanks for 2010.tpo"



1. Needs dug out and sealed.
2. Needs dug out and sealed.
3. Needs dug out, diversion ditch repaired, and sealed.
4. Needs dug out, diversion ditch repaired, and sealed.
5. Needs dug out and sealed.
8. Needs dug out and sealed.
9. Needs dug out and sealed.
10. Needs dug out and sealed.
11. Needs dug out and sealed.
13. Needs dug out and sealed.