

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

PROJECT INFORMATION

| | | |
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| Project Title: 13A Cooperative Catchment Maintenance 2010 | | Project No. 09-207 |
| Region/GMU: Region II/GMU 13A | | HPC: Fredonia |
| Project Type: Livestock/Wildlife Water Catchment Redevelopment | | |
| <p>Project Description: On the Arizona Strip, in GMU 13B from 2004 to 2009, 11 cooperative wildlife/livestock catchments have been maintained with updated HDPE aprons and new metal tank lids installed over the storage tanks to reduce evaporation and address safety issues of wildlife. This project is proposed to continue this successful effort in GMU 13A, on similar facilities that have not had this level of maintenance performed in recent years. Specifically, funding will be used to install tank lids on 3 cooperative catchments in 13A. The BLM has already purchased and acquired materials for 3 tank lids as their cost-share for this proposal.</p> | | |
| Wildlife Species to Benefit: Mule Deer 100% | | |
| Possible Funding Partners: | | |
| Implementation Schedule: Beginning: Summer 2010 Completed: Summer 2011 *approximate dates | | NEPA Compliance: (if applicable) Completed: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Please see attached letter of support from BLM staff. |
| PROJECT FUNDING | | |
| SBG Funds Requested: \$ 15000.00 Cost Share Funds: \$ 10750.00 Total Project Costs: \$ 25750.00 | | |
| PARTICIPANT INFORMATION | | |
| Applicant: Luke F. Thompson Telephone: 435-574-2978 | | Address: 3500 S Lake Mary Road Flagstaff, AZ 86001 |
| AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel) | | |
| Coordinated with: BLM Range and Wildlife Staff, Livestock Permittee | | Date: Ongoing 2009 |
| Applicant's signature: | | Date: September 1, 2009 |

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:

**Game Branch
 AZ Game and Fish Dept.
 5000 W Carefree Highway
 Phoenix, AZ 85086**

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

The Fredonia HPC did not meet in 2009. This overall project was presented to the Fredonia HPC in 2004, 2005, and 2006. It is the extension of the grants submitted and approved in 2004, 2007 and 2008 titled Hurricane Valley Catchments, and 13B Cooperative Catchment Maintenance respectively. The project is an incremental effort to replace existing components of existing dilapidated cooperative catchments across the Arizona Strip.

This is a BLM project that the AZGFD is a cooperator on.

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

This stage of the project has not been submitted in prior years.

NEED STATEMENT/PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

In 2004 an effort was initiated to begin replacing worn out components of cooperative wildlife/livestock waters in GMU 13B on the Arizona Strip. 3 HPC grants have been funded towards this endeavour and in 13B to date, 11 catchments have been completed. This proposal is a continuation of that effort on similar facilities in GMU 13A.

Water collection, water quality, and safety to animals are issues that have been noted on many of these projects across the Arizona Strip. Most of these facilities have open top storage tanks approaching 80,000 gallons. In the summer, evaporative loss often approaches 40% or 30,000 gallons of the storage capabilities of the tanks.

These waters are often the only catchment waters available to wildlife as there are few to no wildlife only catchments in many of these areas. Concerns over Pronghorn fawning and the ability of Pronghorn to have available water during fawning have been documented as potential limiting factors to the growth of the Strip populations. There are similar concerns over the mule deer population. A catchment that has limited collection ability and high evaporation in the storage tank is of limited value to these animals.

This effort involves replacing biddum tar aprons with High Density Polyethylene Sheeting, and installing metal r-panel roofing over the storage tanks to reduce or eliminate evaporation, and to reduce drowning hazards to animals. It has already been documented that evaporative barriers on storage tanks significantly reduce water loss, and greatly improve the value of the project to wildlife.

The tank lids also provide safety to big game and other animals that may fall into the tanks. Many of these tanks are at or near ground level, and there have been instances where big game and other animals have drowned in these catchments. A photo is attached documenting this fact. A comment from the Arizona Strip BLM range staff sums up the benefit of these tank lids as:

“...it would be improving upon the project by eliminating the ability of animals and humans

for that matter from gaining access to the tank and drowning and polluting the water. It would further serve to reduce evaporation and help ensure an adequate water supply for wildlife during periods of drought that are common in our area.” – Robert Sandberg , 2007.



Dead Animals Removed from storage tank Twist Hills 2007: From Left to Right – Mule Deer Buck, Hind quarter of antelope, coyote, coyote, jackrabbit.

Below are some before and after photos of work that already was completed with the previous efforts:



Photographs of Whitmore Point Completed in 2008 as part of 2007 Grant – Apron work shown with completed tank lid in background.



Cox Atkin Apron After



Cox Atkin Apron Before



Higley Tank Lid After



Higley Tank Before



Diamond Butte Tank Lid



Pocum Tank Lid

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

1. Build on previous efforts and continue Statewide efforts of maintaining existing catchment facilities across the Arizona Strip to meet wildlife and livestock needs.
2. Greatly improve available water distribution for mule deer and other wildlife across 13A.
3. Improve rainwater collection capabilities of cooperative livestock/wildlife catchments in 13A.
4. Increase apron life, improve water quality and water collection minimizing maintenance needs and water hauling.

5. Develop Cooperative agreements between BLM, Permittee, and AZGFD to ensure projects continue to meet wildlife and livestock needs into the future.
6. Improve safety of the facilities by eliminating drowning danger of big game and other animals.

PROJECT STRATEGIES:

1. Install metal r-panel type evaporative covers over the storage tanks of Robinson, Preserve, and South June Catchments. A steel beam design nearly identical to the previous efforts will be used as structural support for the roofs. If additional funding becomes available through the BLM, replace asphalt aprons at these facilities.
2. **The BLM has already purchased materials for 3 tank lids and has them on hand ready for implementation.**
3. **It is recognized by all cooperators that Catchment priorities can change and other appropriate catchments may be substituted from those described in this grant.**

PROJECT LOCATIONS:

Robinson Catchment: T 37 N R5 W Sec 34 NE 1/4

Preserve Catchment: T 35 N R4 W Sec 16 SE SW

South June Catchment: T 35 N R6 W Sec 15 SW 1/4

LAND OWNERSHIP AT PROJECT SITE (Please state specifically if PRIVATE PROPERTY and provide landowner's name): Land ownership at the sites is 100% federal, managed by the BLM – Arizona Strip Field Office.

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

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

Habitat consists of a great-plains grassland giving way to a sagebrush-steppe community and finally a pinyon-juniper woodland at higher elevations. Common grass species include galleta grass, dropseed, and Indian Rice grass. Forb species that are common are winterfat, globe mallow, and several species of buckwheat. Shrub species include big sage, cliffrose, and ephedra. Tree species include Utah Juniper, and Pinyon Pine. The average elevation of the area is 5,000-6,000 feet ASL.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

The BLM – Arizona Strip Field Office would request payment and administer the distribution of the majority of funds. Funds would provide additional dollars needed for purchase of roof materials and associated labor to install. AZGFD may issue a contract to complete tank lid work.

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST SHEET
13A Cooperative Catchment Maintenance 2010

| Costs Category-Equipment, Labor, Administrative, Material | Grant Dollars Requested – Special Tag | Cost Share Dollars – Arizona Strip BLM |
|--|--|---|
| 4 x – 1300 sq. ft r-panel roofing material with steel beam support | | \$10750.00 |
| Contract Labor for Installation of Tank Lids | \$15000.00 | |
| Totals | \$15000.00 | \$10750.00 |

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

Arizona Game and Fish Department:

Provide funding for the labor of installation of 3 tank lids.

BLM:

Provide funding for purchase of r-panel roofing material. Materials for 3 tank lids have been purchased by the BLM and are on hand ready to go. Administrative support including funds administration.

LIVESTOCK PERMITTEE:

Labor and equipment necessary to install apron sheeting and tank roof material.

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

The Arizona Game and Fish Department will monitor the completion of this project, and ensure that water is available for wildlife year round. Photographs of the completed project will be taken and submitted to the game branch. The department will also monitor pronghorn antelope and mule deer use of the area, and complete population surveys in the area to provide population indexes.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

The Wildlife Manager, livestock permittee, and BLM staff will maintain these projects at least semi-annually as needed.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Luke Thompson – Wildlife Manager

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (see attached worksheet): Coordination with Development Branch was conducted and it was determined that the water development worksheet would not need to be completed as these projects are BLM projects that the



AZGFD will not be completing the work needed for implementation. The AZGFD is a partner in this project and all funding will be utilized by the BLM to complete these projects on the ground.

TREE SHEARING (AGRA-AXE, PUSH) PROJECTS (see attached worksheet): N/A

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

ARIZONA STRIP FIELD OFFICE

345 East Riverside Drive

St. George, Utah 84790

Phone: (435) 688-3200 Fax: (435) 688-3258

**In Reply Refer To:
(AZ-010-1020)**

September 1, 2009

Dear Grant Committee,

This letter is to confirm the Arizona Strip Field Offices' involvement in and support of the 13A Cooperative Catchment reconstruction grant proposal, on the BLM Arizona Strip District. Luke Thompson, Wildlife Manager for Game Unit 13B, has coordinated this grant effort very closely with the BLM and grazing permittees.

The grant proposal is a cooperative effort between BLM, the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the interested permittees, to provide more reliable sources of water in deer habitat where no natural water sources exist, or are available only seasonally. The BLM and grazing permittee fully support implementing the project and providing safe, dependable water storage in the area for both wildlife and livestock. Necessary project NEPA requirements have been satisfied and await implementation. We appreciate the opportunity to partner with Arizona Game and Fish on such worthwhile projects.

Sincerely,

Whit Bunting
Lead Rangeland Management Specialist
Arizona Strip Field Office