

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

PROJECT INFORMATION	
Project Title: Fisher Point Wildlife Catchment Redevelopment - 2009	Project No. 09-210
Region/GMU: Region II/ GMU 12BE	HPC: Fredonia
Project Type: Wildlife Water Development	
<p>Project Description: Improve the water collection and storage capabilities of Fisher Point Wildlife Catchment, in the Paria Canyon-Vermillion Cliffs of eastern 12B. This project will involve redeveloping the existing catchment with new and existing materials, replacing the float valve system with a gravity fed drinker. New r-panel type roofing panels will be added to the current metal sheeting at the site, increasing the apron to a 24 x 96' metal frame. Two 3' x 18' fiberglass tanks will replace the existing fiberglass tank, and a new 3' walk in style fiberglass trough will replace the existing metal drinker and float valve system. The redevelopment of this water will greatly improve water availability for Bighorn Sheep and Mule Deer in the area. This project is part of a multi-agency landscape scale plan to increase available wasters and habitat use on the Paria Plateau for wildlife.</p> <p>Wildlife Species to Benefit: Primarily Desert Bighorn Sheep, additional benefits to Mule Deer</p>	
Possible Funding Partners:	
Implementation Schedule: Beginning: Fall 2009 Completed: Fall 2010	NEPA Compliance: (if applicable) Completed: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Projected Completion Date:
PROJECT FUNDING	
SBG Funds Requested: \$ 48,770.00	
Cost Share Funds: \$ -10,000.00 (Arizona Strip BLM) -2,000.00 (ADA-Buckskin Chapter)	
Total Project Costs: \$ 36,770.00	
PARTICIPANT INFORMATION	
Applicant: Sophia L. Fong Telephone: 928-660-2417	Address: 3500 S Lake Mary Road Flagstaff, AZ 86001
AGFD Contact and Phone No. Joe Currie (623) 236-7867; Ed Jahrke (623) 236-7482 (If applicant is not AGFD personnel)	
Coordinated with: BLM – Arizona Strip Field Office, ADBSS, ADA and AGFD-Development	Date: August 2009
Applicant's signature:	Date: August 31, 2009

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:

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

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

Local Fredonia HPC committee is no longer active.

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

Yes. No, due to limited funding and other projects that were funded on the Paria Plateau.

NEED STATEMENT/PROBLEM ANALYSIS: Fisher Point wildlife catchment is a BLM-AZGFD owned catchment in the Paria Canyon-Vermillion Cliffs of eastern 12B. Fisher Point wildlife catchment currently has a “sausage” style tank that is approximately 3,000 gallons, which feeds into a small metal drinking trough, controlled by a failing float valve system. There is 4wd road access to the facility, although during the summer months access is by ATV only. This project would be part of a landscape scale plan to increase available waters and habitat use on the Paria Plateau for wildlife (Please see map).

Because of its age, Fisher Point wildlife catchment has begun to fail. Although a new apron was replaced in 2005, the ability of the undersized apron to collect water limits this facilities value to the bighorn sheep in the area, even when the storage tank can hold water near capacity. During a site visit in April 2008 with ADBSS, Fisher Point was found to be completely empty, due to the small apron and storage capabilities as well as the failing float valve system and leaking attached pipelines. Water was helicoptered in early May 2008 and temporary repairs were done in order to get the WLC some limited function. Although monsoons in 2008 graciously came early and temporarily alleviated some of the need of the WLC, this would have not been the case in the typical drier years for the area. The redevelopment of Fisher Point WLC will involve replacing the old failing float valve system with a lower maintenance, reliable gravity fed water system. Bush Head WLC, which was redeveloped in April 2008, is located approximately 5.25 miles northwest of Fisher Point WLC. Powell’s Monument WLC is located approximately 4.5 miles to the southeast along Paria Canyon. There are no other reliable waters in the area other than the ones mentioned above. Redevelopment would greatly improve water availability for bighorn sheep and mule deer in the area. Two bighorn sheep, including one class III ram, were observed near Fisher Point in July 2008. Additional bighorn sheep are consistently observed in the area during surveys and patrols. Surveys in 2008 for 12BE revealed 11 class III and 2 class IV rams, with a total count of 98 animals.

The habitat surrounding this catchment is highly beneficial to bighorn sheep. The wildlife catchment is located in pinyon-juniper woodland (Utah juniper, manzanita, ephedra, etc.) on the edge of the Vermillion Cliffs Wilderness, which transitions to a black brush community. Black brush, buckwheat, various shrubs, many grass and forb species are present in the transition zone with the cliff benches below. Bighorn sheep have been documented using this area, and hunters have spent a significant amount of time hunting in the area. Powell’s Monument WLC, as well as all of the wildlife catchments located on the Paria Canyon-Vermillion Cliffs, is listed in The Arizona Strip Desert Bighorn Sheep Management Plan as a strategy to improve bighorn sheep distribution in eastern 12B. Increasing the availability and distribution of perennial waters within the Paria Canyon-Vermillion Cliffs bighorn sheep habitat area is a high priority and is a focal point for the Arizona Strip Bighorn Sheep Core Team. With the current disease issues in Kanab Creek, the Paria Canyon-Vermillion Cliffs area is an area of focus for future bighorn sheep transplants on the Arizona Strip. Without improving the ability of this wildlife catchment to collect and hold water, it will continue to have limited value to bighorn and could limit the ability of bighorn sheep to use associated habitats. The redevelopment of Fisher Point WLC will increase its water storage capacity from approximately 3,000 gallons to almost 12,000 gallons securing water availability during extended dry periods.

Although the desert bighorn sheep is the target species, Fisher Point WLC has also become a very important water for the small herd of mule deer located on the Paria Plateau. These deer travel great distances across the Paria Plateau for reliable water sources, including Fisher Point WLC, as well as feeding areas. California Condors, peregrines, spotted bats as well as other game and non-game species are found in the surrounding area.

NEPA and the archeological clearance have been completed by the Arizona Strip BLM office. The Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist was completed and signed in August 2005. In addition, the local ADA-Buckskin Chapter has contributed \$2,000.00 and the Arizona Strip BLM office has contributed \$10,000 to the project.



PROJECT OBJECTIVES: There are several objectives of this project:

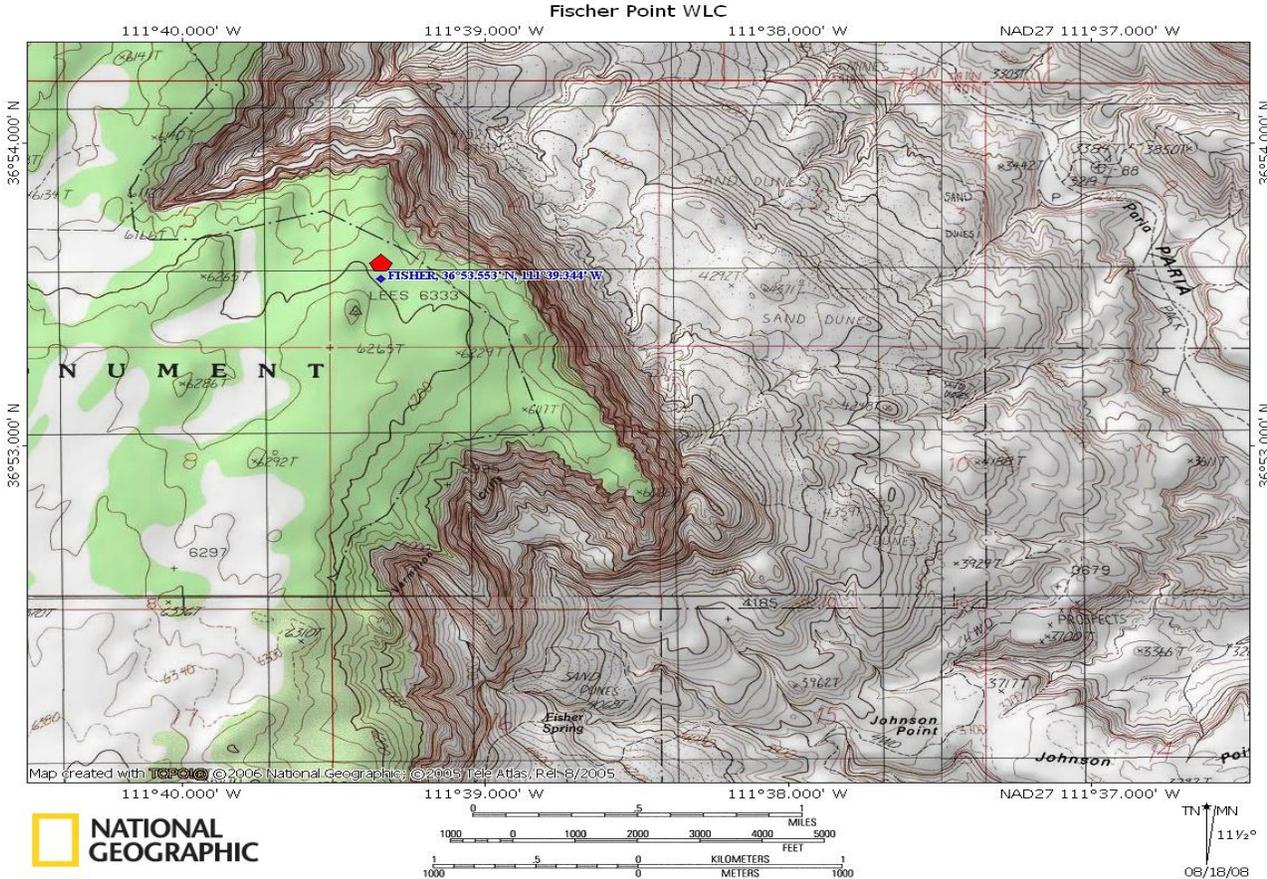
1. Improve water availability and distribution for bighorn sheep in the Paria Canyon-Vermillion Cliffs of eastern 12B.
2. Improve habitat use and distribution of bighorn sheep, by providing an additional reliable water source in the area.
3. Continue the task of redeveloping wildlife water catchments in 12B that have failed or are in disrepair because of their age.

PROJECT STRATEGIES: This project will involve redeveloping the existing catchment with new materials. New r-panel type roofing panels will be added to the current r-panel roofing panels at the site that were installed in April 2005. These panels will be fastened to an expanded 24 x 96' metal frame cutting the material costs of the project by several thousand dollars. Two 3' x 18' fiberglass tanks will replace the existing metal tank, and a new 3' walk in style fiberglass trough will replace the existing drinker. The water storage capacity will be increased from approximately 3,000 gallons to almost 12,000 gallons.

Because of the location of the project, a helicopter will be needed to sling load materials from the staging area, to the project site. The staging area is projected to be at Lee's Ferry.

These steps will ensure that the water collection and storage capabilities of this wildlife catchment will improve greatly and ensure that objectives of this project are met.

PROJECT LOCATION: GPS: 36° 53.553' N 111° 39.344' W
Legal: T 40N R 7E sec 4 SW NW



LAND OWNERSHIP AT PROJECT SITE (Please state specifically if PRIVATE PROPERTY and

provide landowner’s name): 100% federal administered 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: The habitat surrounding this catchment can best be described as a pinyon-juniper woodland community which is located on the edge of a black brush transition. Elevation at the site is 6186 feet ASL. Associated species at the catchment site include Utah Juniper, Single Leaf Pinyon, big sagebrush, narrow leaf yucca, bitterbrush and several grass and forb species. Additional associated species include black brush, various shrubs, many forb species, and several grass species in the transition zone with the cliff benches below.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST SHEET

Fisher Point Wildlife Catchment Redevelopment – 2009

Costs Category-Equipment, Labor, Administrative, Material	Grant Dollars Requested – Special Tag
Add 8 elevated r-panels to existing 24’ x 72’ apron – Includes r-panel roofing	\$1,100.00
Helicopter including ferry time and fuel truck	\$20,000.00
2- 18’x3’ fiberglass tanks - Includes Tax	\$19,900.00
Associated Plumbing, Concrete and Miscellaneous Hardware Materials	\$1000.00
3’ Walk-in fiberglass trough	\$3270.00
Piperail fence package-Includes piperail and concrete	\$3500.00
Totals	\$48,770.00
Arizona Strip BLM	-\$10,000.00
ADA-Buckskin Chapter	-\$2,000.00
Project Total	\$36,770.00

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION: Additional volunteer labor may be provided by the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society and the Arizona Deer Association-Buckskin Chapter, The Grand Canyon Trust and local wildlife enthusiast and boy scout groups. BLM-

Arizona Strip Field Office.

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN: After completion of this project, this wildlife catchment will continue to be monitored as part of the Region II/GMU 12B water development protocol. This protocol outlines facility inspection schedules, as well as maintenance schedules if needed. It is anticipated that this wildlife catchment will be inspected at least twice between April and October each year.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE: Maintenance of this wildlife water facility will be completed cooperatively with the BLM and the Arizona Game and Fish department as partners. Any future maintenance including water hauling, etc., will be coordinated between the agencies.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY: Sophia Fong – Reserve Ranger Region II

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (see attached worksheet): Yes

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

12BE Paria Plateau H2O sites



Franks- poss. coop. project w GCT
FRANKS, 36°56.977' N, 111°52.587' W

Wrather WLC needs redevelopment
WRATHER, 36°57.992' N, 111°43.531' W

Bush Head WLC- Redeveloped 04-2008
BUSH, 36°55.831' N, 111°42.545' W

Thousand Pockets- New Site
TPT, 36°54.401' N, 111°35.181' W

Dominguez- possible new site
DOMGZ, 36°53.743' N, 111°35.421' W

Fisher Point- needs redevelopment
FISHP, 36°53.553' N, 111°39.144' W

Powell Monument- needs redevelopment
POWEL, 36°49.522' N, 111°41.674' W

Jarvis Tanks- coop. project with GCT
JARVIS, 36°46.755' N, 111°54.217' W

Soap Creek Tank No.2- needs dam repair
SPCR2, 36°47.135' N, 111°45.718' W

Condor Release site
CONDOR, 36°46.822' N, 112°01.875' W

Benali WLC- New site
BENALI, 36°45.984' N, 111°57.981' W

Hancock WLC- New site
HANCOCK, 36°44.331' N, 111°53.678' W

Paria Point- Redeveloped 04-2008
PARIAPT, 36°43.565' N, 111°49.527' W

Existing WLC Site- Redeveloped

Existing WLC Site- Needs Redevelopment

New WLC Site (Future)



Fisher Point Wildlife Catchment Redevelopment Project

- This project is located on the Paria Plateau within the Paria Canyon-Vermillion Cliffs NM in GMU 12BE and is listed in the landscape scale, multi-agency Arizona Strip Desert Bighorn Sheep Management Plan as a strategy to improve bighorn distribution and habitat utilization.
- Extremely remote, important AGFD wildlife catchment is constantly failing and in disrepair. Nearest available waters is 5 miles to the northwest (Bush Head) and 6 miles to the south (Powell's Monument).
- Redevelopment would greatly improve water availability for Bighorn Sheep and Mule deer in the area by dramatically increasing water collection and storage capabilities.
- Project is part of a landscape scale plan to increase available waters and habitat use on the Paria Plateau for wildlife. (Please see map.)
- NEPA and archeological clearance completed.



Sophia Fong
Wildlife Manager 12B
(928) 645-6843

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET

PROJECT NAME: Fisher Point Wildlife Catchment Redevelopment- 2009

- 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 (623) 236-7867 Ed Jahrke (623) 236-7482
- 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:
Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank, etc.):
Ownership of water source:
Distance in miles from project:
- 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, etc). If private land, list landowner.** National Monument
- 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: Approx. hiking time:
*Approximately 29 miles of 4x4 only roads, most of which requires access by an ATV during the summer months due to deep loose sand. It takes approximately 4 hours one way to access Fisher Point WLC (1.5 hours by truck and another 2.5 hours by ATV) from Page.

-- 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.**
 - Elevated R-panel roofing metal apron package ~24' x 96'
 - 2- 3' x 18' fiberglass tanks
 - 3' Walk in fiberglass trough
 - 600' piperail fence
- 10) **Was a site visit completed?** Yes No

If Yes, please list personnel that attended and date.

Mark Vaughn, Ignacio Beltram (ADBSS), Larry Cullen (ADBSS) and Sophia Fong visited the site 04/22/08 via helicopter.