

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

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Orme Ranch Wildlife Water Development (Phase 2)

Project No. 09-308

Region/GMU: Region III, GMU 19A

HPC: Prescott

Project Type: Wildlife Waters

Project Description: The Orme Ranch is located north of Cordes Lakes, Arizona in Yavapai County. The ranch straddles Interstate 17 at the junction of Dugas/Orme Roads, and falls within Game Management Units 19A and 21. The ranch allows access to hunters, but has no formal agreement in place with AGFD. The project area lies within GMU 19A, and is located on the northwest portion of the ranch in the V-Bar drainage, on Prescott National Forest land. Mule deer, antelope, javelina, dove and Gambel's quail are the primary game species utilizing this locale, which is lacking in year-round available water. On-going drought has been particularly pronounced on this region of the ranch, reducing the habitat potential. A current water distribution system is already in place in the V-Bar drainage, consisting of a well, water storage tanks, and a two-mile, 3-inch water line connecting the system. Because of the well, this drainage has the potential to be watered year-round. Game species use the V-Bar drainage heavily until the water dries up, generally just prior to summer. During the late spring and summer, when game species are reproducing and facing the harshest months for survival, reliable water was unavailable for a distance of approximately two miles from the drainage --- until 2009, when a water storage tank and associated drinkers were installed at V-Bar Tank with funding from USFS, Orme Ranch, and Phase I of this HPC program (submitted in 2008 & completed in 2009 – see attached diagram).

This current 2009 HPC proposal is Phase II (the final phase) of the program and seeks to secure water availability for wildlife in the area by adding two water troughs (drinkers) to the system and funding a small generator to facilitate the pumping of water from the existing well. One water trough would be placed near the V-Bar Well and the second placed near Horseshoe Tank (see attached diagram). At each of these water sources, the current ranch troughs are located within corrals, in which the ranch sometimes holds cattle, and which also act to separate cattle pastures. Locating these new proposed troughs outside of the fenced corrals would enable uninhibited use of the waters by wildlife. The proposed funding of a new 4500-watt generator would supplement the ranch's current equipment. Presently, Orme Ranch has a large trailer-mounted generator to pump water. This generator is moved and set up seasonally in the pastures where cattle are present. When livestock are taken out of the V-Bar drainage, generally in the spring/summer months, the generator is removed to follow the cattle. The ranch has one other small, portable generator to move around as needed, but it is in high demand in pastures containing cattle and gets much use. The ranch started with three such generators and is down to one. The new generator would be set up at V-Bar Well within an existing enclosed, locked, weather-resistant metal cage to prevent theft. At this well, USFS recently purchased two (2) 5300 gallon water storage tanks (currently on site and ready for placement) to replace the current dilapidated storage tank (see attached photo). The V-Bar Well, storage tanks, and generator will also be utilized, under agreement, to distribute water northward to the neighboring Ash Creek Allotment, where the Arizona Antelope Foundation and AGFD removed four miles of sheep fence in late winter 2009. These proposed improvements will allow water to be maintained on a consistent, year-round basis, enhancing overall habitat needs for wildlife, while providing greater flexibility to the ranch in managing livestock and forage.

Wildlife Species to Benefit: Mule Deer (75%), Antelope (20%), Javelina (5%), Dove & Gambel Quail

Possible Funding Partners: Orme Ranch Ownership (allotment holder), US Forest Service

Implementation Schedule: Beginning: November 2009 Completed: August 2010		NEPA Compliance: (if applicable) Completed: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Projected Completion Date: January/February	
PROJECT FUNDING			
SBG Funds Requested: \$3,900 Cost Share Funds: \$10,000 (including \$7, 000 USFS already has purchased) Total Project Costs: \$13,900			
PARTICIPANT INFORMATION			
Applicant: Tom Bagley Telephone: (928) 567-2478 Applicant: Alan Kessler Telephone: (928) 632-5330		Address: Arizona Game and Fish Department 5325 N. Stockton Hill Rd. Kingman, AZ 86409 Address: Orme Ranch HC 63 Box 3042 Mayer, AZ 86333-9799	
		Date:	
Applicant's signature: Thomas J. Bagley		Date: 09/01/09	

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:
Game Branch
5000 W Carefree Highway.
Phoenix, AZ 85086
rthompson@azgfd.gov

WAS PROJECT PRESENTED TO THE LOCAL HPC? YES NO

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

No: Phase One (of 2) was funded independently in 2008 and completed in 2009 (sse attached photo and map). This proposal is the final phase of the water development project.

NEED STATEMENT/PROBLEM ANALYSIS: Orme Ranch encompasses almost 28,000 acres of deeded, BLM and State Lands found at the elevations 3800 to 5100 feet. The lack of consistent year-round water on the west portion of the ranch has led to an under-utilized wildlife habitat. This problem is compounded by persistent drought this portion of the ranch has suffered through for the last dozen years. The current AGFD Wildlife Manager in Unit 19A (Tom Bagley) has been assigned to the area for the past seventeen years, and has often noted mule deer and antelope clinging to V-Bar Tank as it dried up in the summer, then forced out of the area to seek water elsewhere, since there is no other reliable water nearby.. The proposed water improvements within the V-Bar drainage will provide year-round water availability, leading to greater abundance and distribution of mule deer and antelope throughout the ranch. In addition, these areas should see greater use by javelina, upland birds, nongame animals, and other desired species, improving the ranch biodiversity.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES: The west side of the Orme Ranch is lacking in year-round water availability. The proposed improvements will provide reliable year-round water to wildlife, improving deer and antelope habitat, increasing utilization of the entire ranch by wildlife and potentially increasing numbers of these game species. In addition to increasing recruitment and distribution of mule deer and antelope, populations of javelina, dove and quail should also respond favorably. Having year-round waters will provide the ranch with increased management options, particularly in times when drought is a major limiting factor.

PROJECT STRATEGIES: This proposal (Phase 2) seeks build on the success of Phase 1 (completed summer 2009) by connecting two additional wildlife water troughs to the existing water distribution infrastructure (pipeline, storage tanks, and a well) in the V-Bar drainage on Orme Ranch. Phase I funded the cement pad and water trough for a large water storage tank at V-Bar Tank, which is the end of the water distribution line in this system. Phase 2 proposes to ensure year-round availability of water to wildlife with drinking sources outside of ranch corral fencing. The proposed generator would enable the ranch to utilize V-Bar Well and keep water tanks full in this drainage when livestock and the trailer-mounted generator are moved seasonally to other pastures.

PROJECT LOCATION: Orme Ranch, Mayer AZ (see attached map)
T 12N, R 2E, Section 2 (SE ¼ of NE ¼); and
T 13N, R2E, Section 34 (SE ¼ of NW ¼)

LAND OWNERSHIP AT PROJECT SITE (Please state specifically if PRIVATE PROPERTY and provide landowner's name): Prescott National Forest (Verde Ranger District)

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

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

The habitat at the project site is classified as semi-desert grassland, at an elevation of approximately 4000 feet. In addition to the tobosa and grama grass species that make up this habitat type, bur sage, curly mesquite and scattered junipers make up the low-shrub and overstory component. Average rainfall in the area is approximately 11 inches per year, with most precipitation occurring in the winter and during the late-summer monsoon seasons. The project area is within a U.S. Forest Service livestock grazing allotment and seasonally supports cattle, typically in the winter months.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Water Troughs (2- 750gal)	= \$2300
4500 Watt Generator	= \$1300
Misc Labor/Const.Materials	= <u>\$ 300</u>
Total	= <u>\$3,900</u>

BUDGET SUMMARY

Requested	\$3,900
<u>Cost Share</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>
TOTAL	\$13,900

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

Orme Ranch (allotment holder): supplied well, 2 miles of 3-inch water line, two large metal water storage tanks (about 10 feet diameter), two livestock/wildlife drinking troughs with float valves, and labor for installation and maintenance of these materials. The ranch will install the proposed wildlife drinking troughs outside of corral fencing, and utilize the generator to provide year-round water availability to wildlife in the V-Bar drainage by means of the existing water distribution system.

Prescott National Forest: has already purchased and delivered (2) 5300 gallon water storage tanks to be utilized at V-Bar Well. Additionally, USFS has contributed ¼ mile of water line and a water trough to run north from V-Bar Well to distribute water from V-Bar Well to the Ash Creek Allotment.

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN: Orme Ranch personnel will monitor tanks and troughs to ensure year-round water. The AGFD Wildlife Manager for GMU 19A will monitor improvements and impacts on game species populations and other wildlife.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE: Orme Ranch personnel will make any necessary repairs to tanks, pipeline, and troughs should this be required.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:
Wade Albrecht and/or Trevor Buhr (AGFD, Kingman Region)

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (see attached worksheet):

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

NA



**V-Bar Tank:
Water storage tank and cement water trough
completed summer 2009 (Phase I)**



V-Bar Well Site:

Photo Shows:

- **Existing (rusted) water storage tank**
- **New (green) replacement storage tank (1 of 2) by USFS**

Proposed for this site (Phase II):

- **Drinking trough outside of corral**
- **Generator would be used at nearby well site to pump water and fill existing storage tanks and troughs throughout the drainage year-round**