

Some Golf Course Canal Preliminary Field Notes

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While only a small portion of the Golf Course **prehistoric bajada hanging canal system** is presently known, evidence suggests this has the potential of being one of the longest and most significant in the entire grouping. The presently verified **Arizona State Lands** portion is only 0.6 miles or 1 kilometer long and now has an elevation differential of 35 feet from 3149 feet to 3114 feet...



The presently known portion begins with a Southern limit set by a fence at **N 32.79796 W 109.78311**. A credible, but yet still unproven, tentative taken source might be the terminus of the **HS Canal** at **N 32.75774 W 109.81499**, possibly routed via partially known braiding near **N 32.77812 W 109.78992** and hints of a Riggs Canal at **N 32.77985 W 109.78669** to **N 32.78197 W 109.78716**. For a total tentative possible channel full length of 7.2 miles or 12 kilometers. And a dedicated Golf Course Canal length of 4.8 miles or 8 kilometers.

Alternate less likely sources could include a tie in with the Roberston Canal at **N 32.80231 W 109.78958**, the Blue Ponds at **N 32.78869 W 109.76882**, or some involvement with four small artesian sources found at **N 32.79593 W 109.78523**,

N 32.79768 W 109.78412, N 32.79954 W 109.78345, and also at **N 32.80250 W 109.78098** . The artesian sources presently seem to have very little water flow, but it is highly unlikely they would not have been prehistorically exploited at least in some manner.

From the wash bottom at the fence, the Golf Course canal proceeds northerly, "climbing" out of the wash in a typical, well defined, and easily followed hanging route to the 4WD track at **N 32.79992 W 109.78020**. At this point, the canal swings suddenly eastward, initially on an obvious mesa top canal routing.

Some continuing portions of this routine seem untracable, while other short segments are fairly easily followed, especially at **N 32.79934 W 109.77794** and at **N 32.79908 W 109.77707**. Canal size is "medium" being typically one meter wide and half a meter deep.

The known northeastern limit of the Golf Course Canal would seem to be at **N 32.79884 W 109.77599**, owing to extensive modern development. One possible unverified destination might have been a field that underlies the Southernmost duck pond at **N 32.79944 W 109.77318**. Alternately, the entire Daley Estates area around **N 32.80251 W 109.76683** is unusually level and could easily have provided a wide ranging group of multiple fields.

Areas remaining undeveloped here clearly have a rich cultural prehistory, including a major ruin, numerous potsherds, and even sherd "spoil piles" from pothunting or field camps.

A short segment of another canal of indeterminate age and purpose can be found in the area at **N 32.80652 W 109.77828** . It has something of a "tailwater" look about it and it is not yet clear what its relationship might have been to the **Golf Course** canal.

Some observed features of the Golf Course Canal include...

- N 32.75772 W 109.81496** Possible Frye Creek diversion.
- N 32.75772 W 109.81496** End of known HS Canal.
- N 32.77732 W 109.78801** Riggs braided channel hints.
- N 32.78055 W 109.78683** Still unstudied potential Riggs canal segment.
- N 32.79796 W 109.78311** Southern fence limit of Golf Course Canal.
- N 32.79920 W 109.78114** Midway "up" the hanging canal portion.
- N 32.79980 W 109.77989** Shift between hanging and mesa top reaches.
- N 32.79934 W 109.77794** Short and well defined channel cut.

Continuing observed Golf Course Canal features...

- N 32.79884 W 109.77599** Second short channel cut.
- N 32.79884 W 109.77599** Limit apparently set by historical rework.
- N 32.79948 W 109.77322** Duck pond possible end use destination.
- N 32.80617 W 109.77637** Possibly related "tailwater" canal.

Further Golf Course Canal work might include...

- 1** — Verify potential Riggs area canal extensions.
- 2** — Droning, videotaping, and more photos of the known portions.
- 3** — Study canal source and destinations.
- 4** — Plot and map entire canal route.
- 5** — Evaluate potential and use of artesian sources.
- 6** — Map additional cultural resources and canal relationship.
- 7** — Determine relationship with "tailwater" canal segment.



GC1 – Much of this portion of the Golf Course Canal is indistinct and hard to find, with the exception of a pair of modest and reasonably interpreted cuts. This is the western one shown west at **32.79934 W 109.77794**.



GC2 – A second fairly well defined Golf Course Canal cut. Edge spoil banks are approximately half a meter high. View is west at **N 32.79884 W 109.77599**.



GOLF3 – A 4WD track defines the point where the Golf Course canal shifts from its northerly hanging mode to its easterly mesa top mode. Viewed northwest from **N 32.79994 W 109.78019**.

More Hanging Canal Resources: <http://www.tinaja.com/tinsamp1.shtml>
New Hanging Canal Developments: <http://www.tinaja.com/whtnu16.shtml>