

# Henry's Bajada Hanging Canal Preliminary Field Notes

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Only a six kilometer portion of Henry's **prehistoric Canal** is presently known, ranging from a wash crossing or takein at **32.71810 -109.76715** to a possible historic tank overlying field destination or a merging with the **Roper Canal** found at **32.74558 -109.72845**.

The canal is characterized by being of "flatland" architecture without any known hanging portions. At a meter width, it is somewhat wider and shallower than normal. Elevations of this portion range from 3340 to 3220 feet with a typical slope in the one to two percent range. Much of this canal portion is readily traced on **Acme Mapper**.

The water source remains unknown, but it is likely a branch of the **Marijilda Canal** at **32.71810 -109.76715** or a stream channel near **32.71244 -109.76455**. A full combined length in the ten kilometer range might be anticipated.

Here is a map of the known portion of Henry's Canal...



Although the canal was ultimately obviously sourced from Marijilda Creek, just how the water got to **32.73711 -109.74237** from **32.70633 -109.77709** is not yet at all clear. Possible would be a branching of the **Marijilda Canal**, perhaps around **32.71810 -109.76715**. Braided natural channels of Marijilda Creek might also have delivered water further downstream during wetter times.

Limited field and satellite checking has revealed nothing obvious. There are some smaller and isolated canal branches in the **32.73701 -109.74344** area, but these presently seem to be unrelated shorter delivery channels and appear to be rather small. Terms like "primitive" or "awkward" come to mind.

Another mystery is that **Henry's Canal would seem to duplicate the routing of the high Lebanon Canal**, placing a wide, flat, and easily engineered canal largely "in parallel" with a difficult to design and construct lower flow hanging one. There appears to be no obvious historic reuse of the Henry's route, while a "bypassed for storage" high Lebanon route remains in use today as the **Roper Canal**.

**Ownership** of the Henry Canal appears to be predominately **Arizona State lands**.

This prehistoric **bajada canal** is located in Arizona's **Safford Basin** in the **Upper Gila Valley** and is believed to date through the 1350's. Access involves mostly reasonable hiking, either from the Lower Marijilda and Lower Lebanon Road junction or via rough 4WD tracks from the Thunderbird Estates area.

Here are some noteworthy **Henry's Canal** features and locations...

- 32.70629 -109.77724** Usual perennial limit of Marijilda Creek.
- 32.71542 -109.76326** Possible braided channel of Marijilda Creek.
- 32.73589 -109.74455** Hints of an unexplored possible canal route.
- 32.73684 -109.74340** Secondary and largely unexplored smaller canal.
- 32.73711 -109.74233** Limit and possible takein of Henry's study area.
- 32.73802 -109.73988** Canal route well defined on **Acme Mapper**.
- 32.73911 -109.73896** Channel wider and shallower than others.
- 32.73911 -109.73896** Power line crossing.
- 32.74317 -109.72835** Henry's Canal swings northerly.
- 32.74515 -109.72854** Possible destination field underlying modern tank.
- 32.74629 -109.72837** Crossing of modern **Roper Canal**.

Further Henry's Canal work might include...

- 1 — Determine the water source.
- 2 — Resolve "missing" four kilometer segment near **32.72507 -109.75218**.
- 3 — Seek proof of **Marijilda Canal** involvement.
- 4 — Determine why dual parallel high hanging and low flat routings.
- 5 — Map short southerly canal hints near **32.73705 -109.74356**.
- 6 — Determine destination fields and/or **Roper Canal** involvement.
- 7 — Significantly improve photography and annotation of canal complex.
- 8 — Do fly over drone and videotape survey.
- 9 — Mentor students and create field camps.

Many thanks to Henry Schneiker for his field work assistance.

**More Hanging Canal Resources:** <http://www.tinaja.com/tinsamp1.shtml>

**New Hanging Canal Discoveries:** <http://www.tinaja.com/whtnu17.shtml> , etc...



**HENRY1** - Henry's canal is atypically wider, flatter, and shallower than most and has no yet known hanging portions. Half of the canal remains unexplored, but is believed to source from the historically adapted and still flowing [Marijilda Canal](#). The view is to the east at [32.73889 -109.73768](#).



**HENRY9** - Portions of the canal routing are quite apparent from [Acme Mapper](#). Curiously, there seem to be a pair of "high hanging" and "low flat" canals largely along the same parallel route. View is to the southeast at [32.73711 -109.74237](#).