

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

<b>PROJECT INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Project Title:</b> 2011 – 13BN Bighorn Sheep Capture	<b>Project No.</b> 10-210
<b>Region/GMU:</b> Region 2/GMU 13BN	<b>HPC:</b>
<b>Project Type:</b> Big Game Capture	
<b>Project Description:</b> Helicopter aerial capture of desert bighorn sheep in the Virgin River Gorge area of 13BN.	
<b>Wildlife Species to Benefit:</b> Desert Bighorn Sheep	
<b>Possible Funding Partners:</b> ADBSS	
<b>Implementation Schedule:</b> Beginning: Fall (November) 2011 Completed: Fall (November) 2011	<b>NEPA Compliance: (if applicable)</b> Completed: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Projected Completion Date: 2005 and 2006
<b>PROJECT FUNDING</b>	
<b>SBG Funds Requested:</b> \$ 20,000.00 - \$25,000.00	
<b>Cost Share Funds:</b> \$ -----	
<b>Total Project Costs:</b> \$ 20,000.00 - \$25,000.00	
<b>PARTICIPANT INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Applicant:</b> Luke Thompson (please print) <b>Telephone:</b> 435-574-2978	<b>Address:</b> 3500 S lake Mary Road Flagstaff, AZ 86001
<b>AGFD Contact and Phone No.</b> (If applicant is not AGFD personnel)	
<b>Coordinated with:</b> Brian Wakeling – AZGFD Game Branch Lorraine Christian – BLM Arizona Strip Manager	<b>Date:</b> Ongoing 2010
<b>Applicant's signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b> August 30, 2010

**SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:**

AZ Game and Fish Department  
Attn: Game Branch  
5000 W. Carefree Highway  
Phoenix, AZ 85086  
[rgregory@azgfd.gov](mailto:rgregory@azgfd.gov)

WAS PROJECT PRESENTED TO THE LOCAL HPC?      YES \_\_\_\_\_      NO   X

The Fredonia HPC has not met in recent years, however, this project is an ongoing effort for bighorn management in 13BN and has been presented to the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society in past years.

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

This project is a new phase in bighorn sheep capture efforts in 13BN. 3 previous grants in 2005, 2006, and 2007 were presented and funded for capture operations in the unit.

**NEED STATEMENT/PROBLEM ANALYSIS:**

In 2005, the bighorn population in 13BN had expanded to a size that allowed the population to be used as a source population to meet bighorn management objectives related to translocations across the State. From 2005-2007, 3 captures of bighorn occurred in the Virgin River Gorge area of 13BN. A total of 82 bighorn were captured during these operations. The bighorn that were captured were used to supplement the populations in 13A (Kanab Creek) and the Hells Half acre area of 18B.

Each of these captures was completed following a thorough survey of the population to determine population characteristics. In 2008, capture operations were suspended based on survey data, and a capture has not occurred since.

A survey is scheduled in October 2011 (dates TBD). Following this survey and if population characteristics allow, a capture is again proposed to assist in meeting Statewide and regional objectives in bighorn sheep management. This includes efforts for translocations across the State, and efforts to meet population management goals in the 13BN population. The bighorn captured will be used to supplement the bighorn population in the Hell's half acre area of 18B.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVES:**

1. Following aerial surveys scheduled to occur in 2011, and if population characteristics allow, capture up to 30 desert bighorn sheep from 13BN.
2. Captured bighorn sheep will be utilized to meet bighorn sheep management objectives in other parts of the state. In the past bighorn from 13BN have been translocated to 13A (Kanab Creek) and the Hell's Half acre area of 18B.
3. Continue to make progress towards meeting management objectives outlined in the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Management Plan as amended May 2006. This includes the following objective related to captures and transplants:  
"Capture and transplant bighorn sheep to improve their distribution throughout suitable habitat. Conduct transplants at new or existing water sources to encourage site fidelity, rather than at dry sites in an attempt to draw bighorn into unoccupied habitat. The Core Team should prioritize proposed captures and transplants based upon the immediacy of need and habitat areas with higher percentages of unoccupied habitat. Transplants to support existing populations should be given higher priority than those which fill gaps in distribution or extend their range."

**PROJECT STRATEGIES:**

1. Following the currently scheduled survey in October of 2011, a determination will be made based on population characteristics whether a capture is warranted in 13BN.
2. As appropriate based on this determination, a helicopter capture will occur in early November 2011. Capture operations will follow established Department protocols. Trained personnel will be on scene to address animal health. This may be a Department contracted veterinarian or Department personnel.
3. Up to 30 desert bighorn sheep will be captured in a ratio of approximately 1 ram:4 ewes. Young rams

will be targeted and attempts will be made to capture adult ewes with lambs.

4. The captured animals will be translocated to other parts of Arizona to assist in meeting statewide and regional bighorn sheep management objectives. Currently, the Hells Half acre of 18B is slated to receive these bighorn.
5. VHF and/or GPS tracking collars may be placed on up to 10 of the bighorn to assist in post-release monitoring.

**PROJECT LOCATION:**

Capture area: Virgin and Beaver Dam Mountains in 13BN

Release Area: Hells Half Acre in 18B.

**LAND OWNERSHIP AT PROJECT SITE (Please state specifically if PRIVATE PROPERTY and provide landowner's name):**

Land ownership is nearly 100% federally designated wilderness managed by the Arizona Strip Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management. The remainder of the lands outside wilderness is also 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:**

Plant communities representative of Mojave Desert Scrub and higher elevation pinyon-juniper woodlands. Vegetative species include black brush, mortonia, cliffrose, creosote bush, bursage, and Utah Juniper in the higher elevations.

**ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:**

**ESTIMATED PROJECT COST SHEET**

2011 13BN Bighorn Sheep Capture

<b>Costs Category-Equipment, Labor, Administrative, Material</b>	<b>Special Tag Grant Dollars Requested</b>
~ 15 hours of helicopter capture operations. Includes fuel truck and ferry time. <b>**Estimate includes 2 capture pilots/helicopters</b>	\$20000.00- \$25000.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$20000.00- \$25000.00</b>

**LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:**

**Arizona Strip BLM** – Land management agency coordination with AGFD to meet project objectives.

**Papillion** – Contract helicopter services for survey.

**ADBSS** – Funding Partner.

**PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:**

This project will be monitored by AGFD personnel, including individuals from Game Branch, regional staff, and the wildlife manager of 13B. Regional personnel including the wildlife manager in 18B will conduct post-release monitoring.

Data obtained from this project will be utilized to determine future management objectives for the bighorn population in 13BN, and will also be used as part of the annual hunt recommendation process to aid in determination of permit levels in the units.

**PROJECT MAINTENANCE:**

Long-term maintenance of this project will be near zero. It is not anticipated that future maintenance of the individual animals captured and released will be needed, however monitoring will occur on the released animals as described above.

**PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:**

The project completion report will be completed by Luke Thompson.

**WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (see attached worksheet):**

N/A

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

N/A