

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

<b>PROJECT INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Project Title:</b> Sheep Mineral Supplement / Management	<b>Project No.</b> 11-111
<b>Region/GMU:</b> Region 1, GMU 27 and 1	<b>HPC:</b> Springerville/Alpine
<b>Project Type:</b>	
<b>Project Description:</b> This project will allow the Department to better manage the Bighorn herds in Game Management Units 1 and 27. We will be able to continue a program of packing mineral blocks into seven locations throughout the Bear Canyon and Foote Creek areas of Unit 27, as well as initiate up to 6 locations in Black River. These mineral blocks are to provide a supplement to the bighorn sheep. Initial review of the previous years supplement provision leads agency personnel to believe there may be at least some correlation to placing these supplements and increased lamb recruitment. This will additionally assist the Department in completing surveys throughout several areas of Units 1 and 27.	
<b>Wildlife Species to Benefit:</b> Bighorn Sheep, Mule Deer, Whitetail Deer, Elk	
<b>Possible Funding Partners:</b>	
<b>Implementation Schedule:</b> <b>Beginning:</b> Immediately <b>Completed:</b> 2012	<b>NEPA Compliance: (if applicable)</b> <b>Completed:</b> Yes ___ No ___ <b>Projected Completion Date:</b> Ongoing annually
<b>PROJECT FUNDING</b>	
<b>SBG Funds Requested:</b> \$2,821 (25+ days of horseback sheep management, one pallet of trace mineral blocks)	
<b>Cost Share Funds:</b> \$5,485.50 (G&F hours, mileage, and additional horse use)	
<b>Total Project Costs:</b> \$8,306.50	
<b>PARTICIPANT INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Applicant:</b> Aaron Hartzell (please print) <b>Telephone:</b> 928-333-2827	<b>Address:</b> 2878 E. White Mountain Blvd Pinetop, AZ 85935
<b>AGFD Contact and Phone No.</b> (If applicant is not AGFD personnel)	
<b>Coordinated with:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Applicant's signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>

**SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:**  
 Game Branch  
 2221 W. Greenway Rd.

Phoenix, AZ 85023  
mdisney@azgfd.gov

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

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

The project had been submitted and funded in 2008 and 2009.

**NEED STATEMENT/PROBLEM ANALYSIS:**

The Department would like to continue providing supplemental minerals into seven areas of the Foote Creek and Bear Canyon areas. In addition we would like to expand this program to several locations in the Black River area. In order to ensure that we can continue this work the region is looking for assistance to provide the funds necessary to accomplish this goal. In 2008 the department received funding for one horse allotment as well as funding for one pallet of mineral blocks. The mineral blocks have been used annually and the supply has now been depleted. (The current price for a pallet of mineral blocks is \$240.02.) We ride approximately 35 horse days of sheep survey and management related activities within the Bear Canyon, Foote Creek, and Black River sheep management areas. In order to continue this program as well as to ensure other management related activities we are seeking funds to the equivalent of one horse allotment (minimum of 25 horse use days), and a pallet of mineral blocks to ensure continued availability of horse days to complete all of these critical activities (\$2,580.05). In light of the current fire impacts due to the Wallow fire this additional funding will insure we are able to continue with increased monitoring that will be needed over the course of the next several years.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVES:**

Deliver traced mineralized salt blocks to seven sites within the Bear Canyon and Foote Creek areas and evaluate the effect of those supplements on the bighorn sheep recruitment within the sheep population. Additionally, gather the best data possible about these herds through comprehensive survey efforts. Finally, establish up to six additional sites for trace mineralized salt blocks within the Black River herd area.

**PROJECT STRATEGIES:**

We hope to continue packing mineral blocks into five areas in the Foote Creek area and two areas of the Bear Canyon area, as well as several new sites in Black River. These blocks will provide a supplement to the bighorn sheep's diet in these areas. Additionally, we will again conduct surveys in these areas and Black River to gather information on the health of the heard and the potential effect of these mineral blocks.

**PROJECT LOCATION:**

Foote creek and Bear Canyon areas of Unit 27 and Black River in Units 1 and 27.

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

USFS lands

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

**HABITAT DESCRIPTION:**

The habitat can best be described as pinyon-juniper woodland with ponderosa pine stringers in the bottoms. Additionally most of the area is composed of rocky escarpments that are ideal sheep habitat. Those areas in the Black River canyon are ponderosa pine benches and mixed conifer slopes with intermixed gamble oak.

**ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:**

One year horse allotment: \$2,580.05

One pallet (40 blocks) of trace mineral blocks: \$240.02

**LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:**

Cooperators include the Arizona Game and Fish Department as well as the US Forest Service. We will continue to coordinate survey dates with Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society personal to assist in survey efforts where and when possible.

**PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:**

The local Wildlife Manager will evaluate use at least annually to determine if more mineral blocks need to be placed at the established locations. Additionally, through annual sheep surveys we will be able to determine the annual lamb recruitment. Game cameras will also be placed on a number of the different mineral salts to determine the extent of use as well.

**PROJECT MAINTENANCE:**

Mineral blocks will be replaced as needed. This will be a yearly request for continued sheep management activities. The amount requested will be the current equivalent to one horse allotment and additional traced mineralized salt when necessary.

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

Updates will be given out annually by the local wildlife manager.

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

N/A

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

N/A