

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number:	11-409
Possible Funding Partners:	

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Capture and Translocation of Bighorn Sheep from the Trigo Mountains of Unit 43B

Region and Game Management Unit: Region IV, GMU 43B

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):

- Southwest Arizona

Was the project presented to the LHPC?

YES NO

Has this project been submitted in previous years? YES NO

If Yes, was it funded? YES NO → **HPC Project #:**

Project Type: Wildlife translocation

Brief Project Summary: Up to 20 bighorn sheep of the *mexicana* type will be captured with net guns and helicopters from the Trigo Mountains in GMU 43B and transported to the Catalina Mountains in GMU 33, or another suitable location.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Bighorn Sheep

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date: November 2012

Project End Date: June 2013

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: YES No N/A

Projected Completion Date: July 2012

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:

YES No N/A

Projected Completion Date:

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A

To be Completed by: Bob Henry

Projected Completion Date: July 2012

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested: \$ 19425

Cost Share or Matching Funds: \$ 2600

Total Project Costs: \$ 22025

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):

Bob Henry

Address:

9140 E St
Yuma, AZ 85365

E-mail:

[@azgfd.](mailto:azgfd@azgfd.gov)

Telephone: 928-341-4048

Date: 8/17/11

AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel):

Project has been coordinated with:

Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

There exists a great need for desert bighorn sheep of the *mexicana* subspecies for translocation to a number of sites. In some cases the purpose would be to reestablish bighorns where they've been extirpated, and in other cases to augment extant but small and decreasing herds. The usual source for southern desert bighorns has been the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge, but this herd has declined recently and will not have sheep available for transplant for a number of years. The nearby Trigo Mountains complex has a robust herd of sheep numbering over 400 and this number has been increasing. We've been translocating small numbers of these sheep every other year. We should be able to again remove some of these sheep for transplant in 2012. The primary site to which these sheep will be moved is the Catalina Mountains in Unit 33. However, if this site is not ready for a release to take place then other suitable sites in need of *mexicana* sheep exist. The site in greatest need of sheep in 2012 will be determined before the time of capture.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Establish desert bighorn sheep in historic sheep habitat.
- 2) Monitor transplanted sheep after release.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

- 1) Capture for transplant 15 to 20 desert bighorn sheep from GMU 43B.
- 2) Inspect all captured bighorn and treat for injuries.
- 3) Attach ear tags to all and radio collars on a portion of the sheep.
- 4) Load the bighorns into transport boxes.

PROJECT LOCATION:

Capture will take place in any or all of the mountain ranges within GMU 43B, including the Trigo, Mohave Peak, Mohave Tank and Chocolate mountains, and Imperial Hills. This area is located north of Yuma and east of the Colorado River in Yuma and La Paz counties.
(map below)

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

Federally owned land managed by the U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground and the Bureau of Land Management, Yuma Field Office.

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

The Trigo Mountains are Sonoran desert scrub throughout, with rocky, steep mountain ridges separated by wide alluvial relatively flat valleys. The area is bounded on the west by the Colorado River.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Approximately \$18,425 will be requested by the aviation office of Game and Fish for payment to the outside helicopter contractor. About \$1,000 will be billed by Region IV, AGFD, for the purchase of miscellaneous supplies. Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society volunteers and veterinary services will donate approximately \$2600 in time and supplies.

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

Helicopter Services:

Capture - 2 ships, 1.5 days, 5 hours per day
15hours @ \$925/hr = \$ 13875

Ferry - 7 hours @ \$650/hr = \$ 4550

Miscellaneous Supplies (ear tags, medical, etc.): = \$ 1000

Total = \$ 19425

Cost Share or Matching Funds

Volunteer Labor (10 people x 16 hours @ \$10/hour) = \$ 1600

Volunteer Veterinary Services = \$ 1000

Total = \$ 2600

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

The U.S. Army, Yuma Proving Ground and the Bureau of Land Management, Yuma Field Office will have to approve capture operations on the lands under their responsibility. Employees of the Game and Fish Department, volunteer veterinarians and labor will perform the actual capture and transplant work, with a professional outside contractor providing helicopter services.

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

Monitoring of radio collars should continue monthly for at least 2 years at the release site, and costs are associated with fixed-wing use and personnel time. Annual fall population surveys will be needed to track population changes, both in the source and the receiving populations. Monitoring of the released bighorns will be the responsibility of the receiving Region.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

N.A.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Bob Henry, AGFD Region IV

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (*see attached worksheet*):
N.A.

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

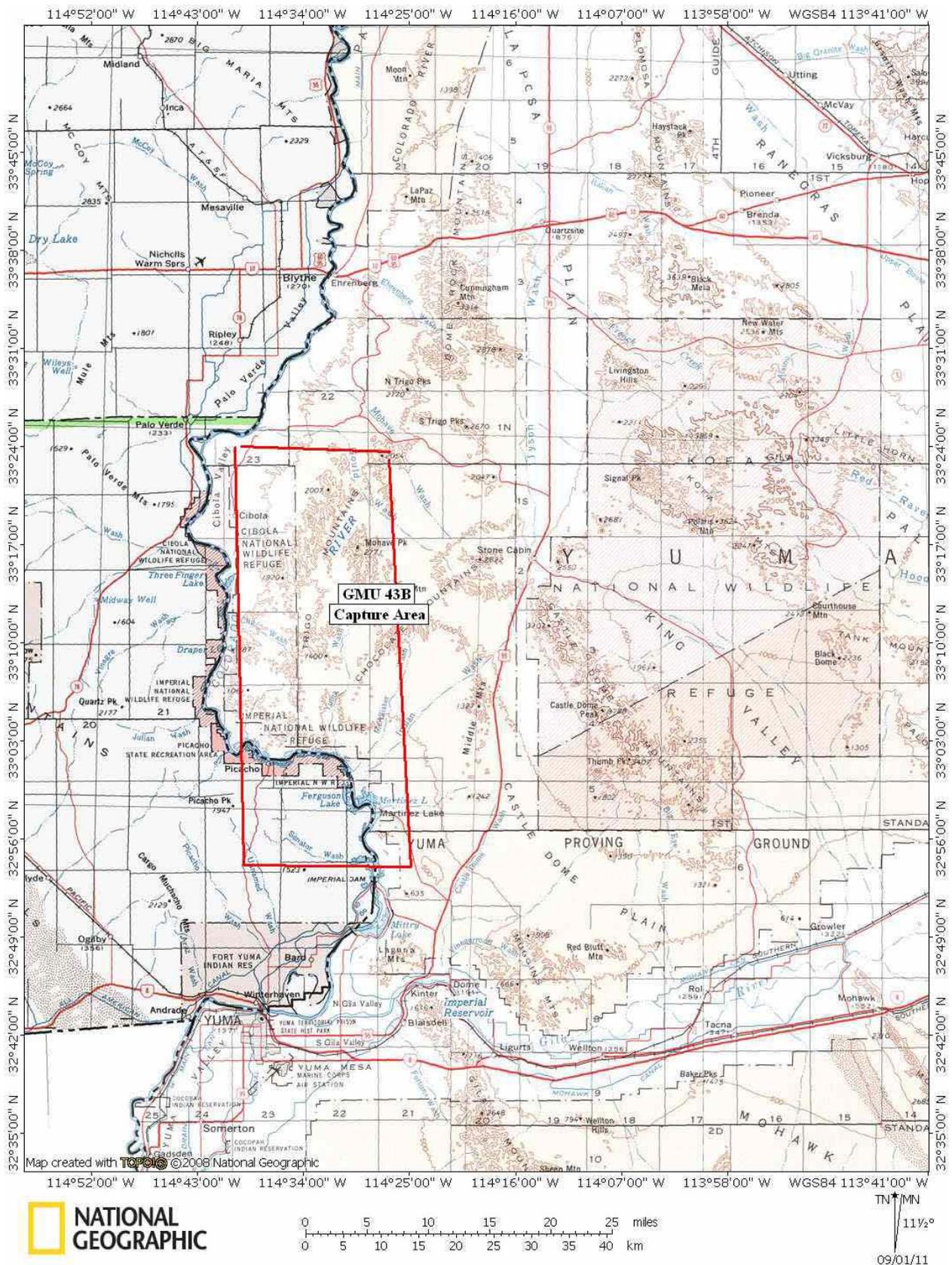


Figure 1. Overview map of project area.