

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number:	11-414
Possible Funding Partners:	

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Region IV Seasonal Wildlife Water Monitoring and Maintenance Position

Region and Game Management Unit: IV/39, 40B, 41, 43A&B

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):

- Southwest AZ HPC

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: Seasonal Technician - Water Monitoring and Maintenance Position

Brief Project Summary:

Funding of a seasonal position to assist Wildlife Mangers with the monitoring and maintenance of bighorn sheep and mule deer water catchments in the southern portion of Region IV.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Bighorn Sheep and Mule Deer (future potential for Sonoran Pronghorn)

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date:
Spring 2012 or as soon as possible thereafter

Project End Date:
Fall 2013

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: YES No N/A

Projected Completion Date: _____

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: _____

Projected Completion Date: _____

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:

\$12,726

Cost Share or Matching Funds:

\$12,726

Total Project Costs:

\$25.452

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):

Mike Sumner

Address:

9140 E. Street
Yuma, AZ 85365

E-mail:

msumner@azgfd.gov

Telephone: (928) 580-8076

Date: 08-29-11

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

Project has been coordinated with:

Mark Wise, SSDV

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

The arid environments of the southern portion of Region IV dictate the need for the monitoring and maintenance of numerous wildlife waters which are critical to retaining healthy populations of big game species, primarily desert bighorn sheep and mule deer, as well as Sonoran pronghorn. The monitoring and maintenance of these numerous systems over a vast geographic area takes considerable time and effort. Currently five district Wildlife Managers (WMs) spend approximately 1520 hours per year on these duties. Volunteers have been sought to assist with the workload but because of the vast areas involved, remote locations, harsh road and hiking conditions, and requirements for consistent checks during the summer, efforts to find such assistance have been unsuccessful to date. Internship positions are generally too short to utilize efficiently.

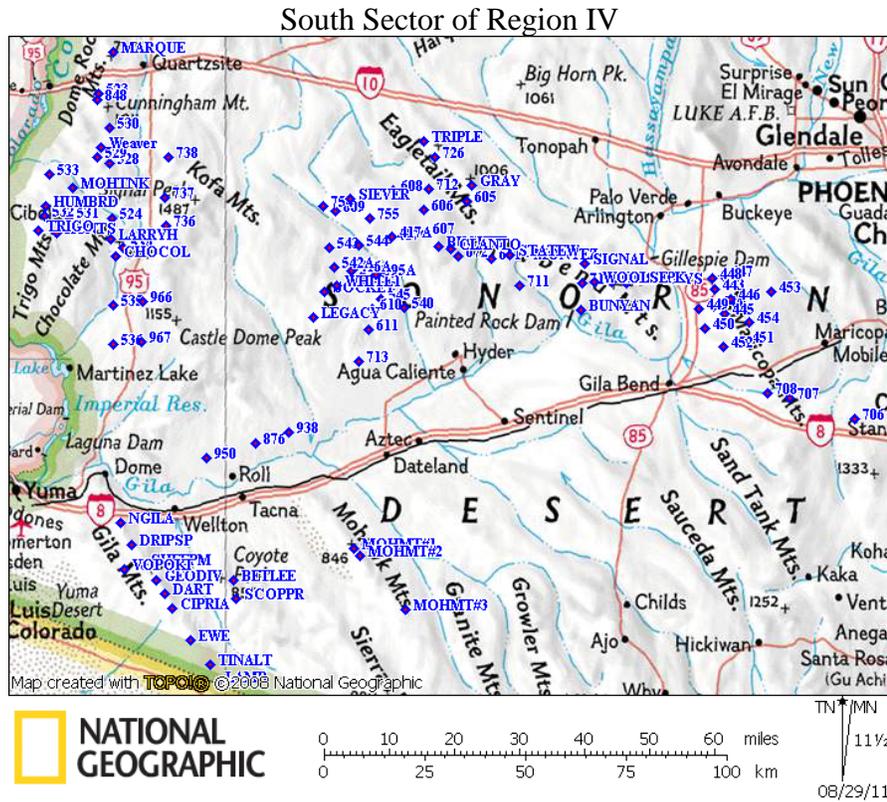
PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Funding for a seasonal position is sought in order to assist with the monitoring and maintenance of approximately 94 bighorn sheep (BS) and mule deer (MD) water catchments. Numbers of catchments per GMU to be monitored include: GMU 39 – 23 (4 BS); GMU 40B – 15 (14 BS); GMU 41 – 30 (7 BS); 43A – 11 (4 BS); GMU 43B – 15 (6 BS). Catchments not listed as BS waters are either primarily MD waters or are used by both species. With the addition of a new population of Sonoran pronghorn in King Valley beginning in 2012, there is strong potential that as this group expands, they will begin to use many of the catchments within deer habitat in GMUs 41 and 43AB. Catchments located south of Interstate 8 in areas with ongoing border safety issues were not selected to be monitored with this position.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

While WMs would still interpret and analyze monitoring data and coordinate maintenance needs, the funding of this position would free up considerable time for them to focus on other habitat needs and proposals, game management activities, as well as allow them to spend additional time on law enforcement needs within their districts. As an example; in order to propose a new water development, significant time must be devoted to evaluate potentially suitable locations, coordinate with land management agencies, initiate NEPA work, and secure project funding. The intent of funding this monitoring position is to provide the district WMs in southwest Arizona the necessary time to on and accomplish more of these types of goals.

PROJECT LOCATION:



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

BLM and DOD

IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A STEWARDSHIP or LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?
YES[] NO[]

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

Sonoran Desert, Lower Colorado Subdivision

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

Fund 1/2 of salary for seasonal technician position

Salary plus 20% ERE = \$12,726

Cost Share or Matching Funds

Fund 1/2 of salary for seasonal technician position

Salary plus 20% ERE = \$12,726

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

Mark Wise, Chief - Development Branch

Provide matching funds for ½ of the position salary.

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

Sector WMs will be responsible for tracking and analyzing monitoring data and coordinating maintenance needs. WM hours will be tracked and compared to the previous year to evaluate the effectiveness of freeing up significant portions of their time for additional habitat, game management and law enforcement related activities.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

A follow up proposal may be submitted in order to continue the position until a longer term funding solution can be developed.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Mike Sumner

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (*see attached worksheet*):

NA

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

NA