

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number:	12-302
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PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Black Hills Prescribed Fire	
Region and Game Management Unit: Region 3 GMU 19A	
Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescott (Not Formulated) 	Was the project presented to the LHPC? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Has this project been submitted in previous years? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, was it funded? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> → Funded HPC Project #(s):	
Project Type: Prescribed Burn	
Brief Project Summary: The Black Hills Prescribed fire is part of a large landscape size prescribe burn in the central part of GMU 19A. This is an extension of previously and ongoing projects within the Black Hills Vegetation Management Plan Project on Mingus Mountain. Additional burning would continue to extend the benefits that have already been seen from previous large scale prescribed burns in the area. Benefits include increased forage and water yields, more resilient stands of new growth chaparral, greater diversity of age class and species, protection of values at risk and maintaining fire return intervals. In the fall of 2012, the Prescott National Forest has work planned, approved and funded for 2,424 acres within the Black Hills Project. With this proposal the project would be extended to 3,520 acres.	
Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Mule Deer (80%) Elk (20%) Elk and deer will benefit from increased forage to cover ratio and improved browse and grass forage quality.	

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year): <u>Project Start Date:</u> March 1, 2013 <u>Project End Date:</u> December 15, 2013	Environmental Compliance: NEPA Completed: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Projected Completion Date: <u>November 2, 2011</u> State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Projected Completion Date: _____ Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To be Completed by: _____ Projected Completion Date: _____
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PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:	\$ 100,000 for 1,096 acres
Cost Share or Matching Funds:	\$ 430,000 for 2,424 acres
Total Project Costs:	\$ 530,000 for 3520 acres

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print): Aaron Hulburd	Address: Prescott National Forest 2400 Melville Rd. Prescott, AZ 86301	E-mail: ahulburd@fs.fed.us
Telephone: 928-777-5666		Date: August 15, 2012
AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel): Virginia Gouldsbury 928-856-0785		
Project has been coordinated with: Virginia Gouldsbury – Wildlife Manager GMU 19A, Tom Bagley – Wildlife Manager GMU 19A, Tom Finley – Field Supervisor – Prescott, Celeste Gordon – Verde District Ranger – Prescott National Forest, Scott Spleiss – Fuels Battalion Chief – Verde Ranger District		

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

The Black Hills Vegetation Management Plan (BHVMP) responds to goals and objectives of the Prescott National Forest and managing Mingus Mountain and the surrounding area. Comparison of the existing condition of the BHVMP area and the desired conditions from the Forest Plan indicates a need to:

- improve and manage wildlife habitat for a variety of native species, including species determined to be threatened, endangered, or sensitive;
- manage for a diverse and healthy native vegetation component that is resilient, resistant to extreme weather patterns, and would support wildfires that more closely resemble their historic range of size, frequency, and intensities;
- maintain or improve soil stability, soil productivity, and watershed conditions;
- increase water yield within the chaparral component; and
- reduce risk to life, property, and natural resources from high-severity wildfires while increasing the safety to fire suppression resources

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The purpose of this burn is to improve the forage to cover ratio for wildlife and range, re-establish fire into various biophysical environments, and improve the horizontal age class diversity of the chaparral species. Reducing the over story density should improve watershed conditions by improving herbaceous species growth and density to a more desired level.

There will be many beneficial aspects of this project relating to food production for wildlife. In addition, the result of mosaics of different vegetation types and age classes with openings will produce a variety of different habitat niches and edge spacing desired by wildlife. This burn should also increase the water supply available for plants and water sources such as stock tanks, springs and ephemeral streams.

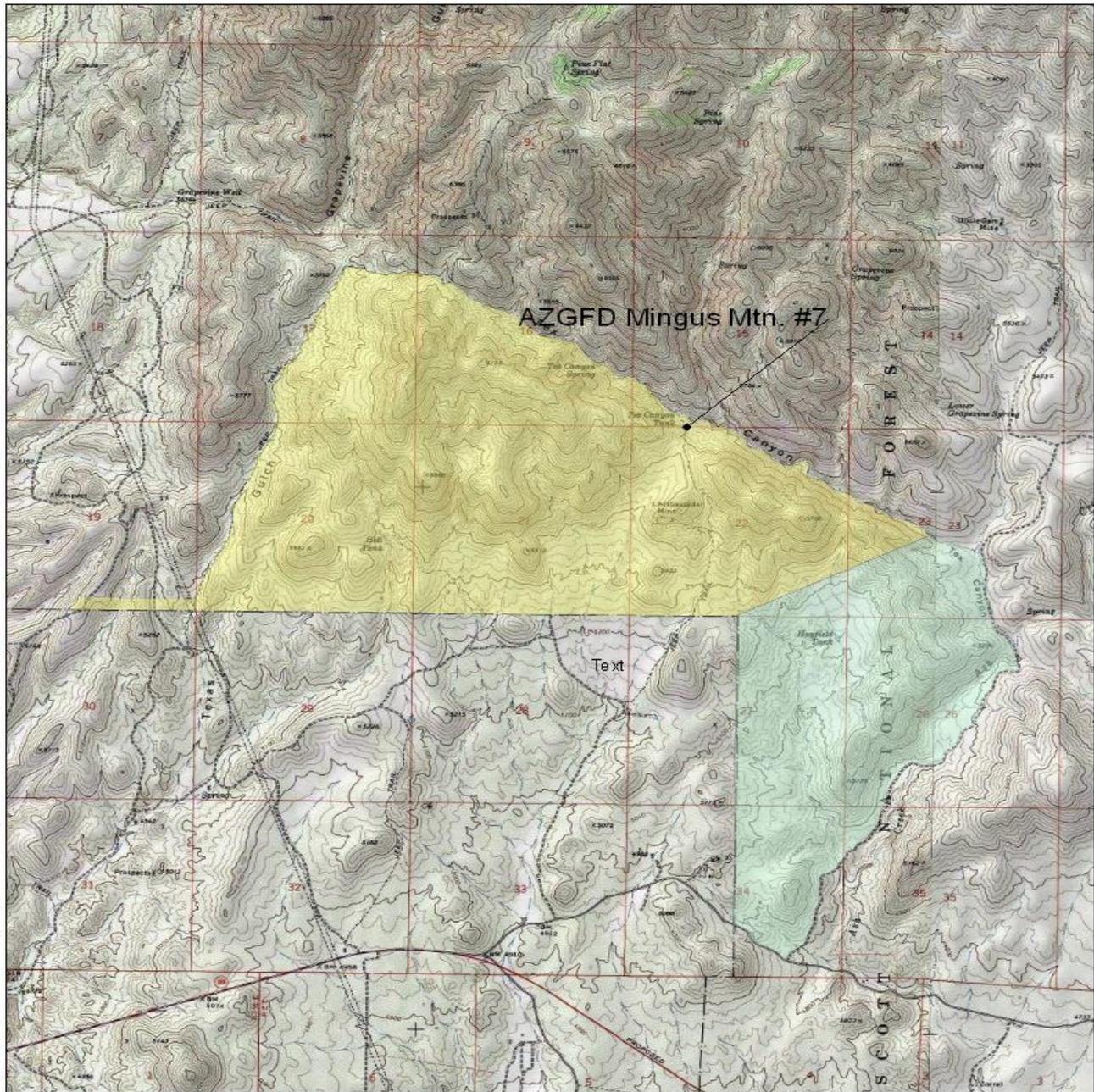
The AZGFD concrete apron wildlife guzzler (Mingus Mountain #7) located in the northeast part of the burn unit that will be targeted to enhance water yield and storage. Prescribed fire will enable wildlife to easily access the guzzler and open roads to allow maintenance to be performed when needed.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES: In 2010 the Prescott National Forest (PNF) designed, funded and implemented a 500 foot wide, 6 mile long fuel break around the east and north boundary of the Whitehorse subdivision. This masticated fuel break was constructed under a contract and used large rubber tired, articulated skidders with mower blades to chop and crush the standing chaparral vegetation. The project was 231 acres and cost to the PNF was \$70,000. The intent is to provide protection for both the subdivision and the Forest in the event of wildland fire as well as establish a control line for this specific prescribed burn. The Black Hills prescribed burn is an extension of this protection effort and will also enhance or benefit several other forest functions. Black line will be established where needed to protect values and burn perimeter prior to ignition of the main burn. Cultural sites, power lines, and range improvements will be protected by either removing brush or avoiding ignitions in proximity to these improvements. Previous experience in this fuel type in using aerial ignitions has proved very successful in producing mosaic burn patterns across the landscape. (See photo below) The use of a helicopter for aerial ignitions is planned for this prescribed burn. This strategy protects soils and drainages from large scale erosion, increases edge effect, protects visual integrity and creates additional protection opportunities for firefighters in the event of an unplanned ignition.



PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project borders the north and west boundaries of the White Horse Ranch on the Prescott National Forest. This is in the southwest foothills of Mingus Mountain approximately 4 miles west of Cherry, AZ.

2012 HPC Proposal



Legend:
HPC Proposal
Black Hills 2012

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

(if the project area is private property, please state specifically and provide the landowner's name)

- Prescott National Forest

IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A COOPERATIVE BIG GAME STEWARDSHIP or LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?

YES[] NO[] N/A[X]

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

The burn areas are predominantly covered with interior chaparral (high load, dry climate shrub). Species include turbinella oak, mountain mahogany and manzanita. The primary carrier of fire will be woody shrubs and dead aerial fuels suspended within and associated with the older growth shrubs. Grass is interspersed throughout the burn unit. Species include sideoats grama, blue grama, squirrel tail, three awn and tobosa. There are other annual grasses and forbs that will contribute to fire behavior and rates of spread. Juniper is scattered throughout the burn units to varying degrees but is not expected to be a major influence on fire behavior or effects.



ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

COOPERATOR AND PROJECT COMPONENT	COST-SHARE DOLLARS AVAILABLE	HPC FUNDS REQUESTED
Implementation of Black Hills Prescribe Fire Project	\$310,000 \$128 per Acre	\$100,000 \$91 per Acre
Line Preparation of Burn Unit \$20 per Acre	\$50,000	
Fuel Break around White Horse Ranch \$303 per Acre	\$70,000	
Total	\$430,000	\$100,000
Cost Share Ratio HPC:PNF = 1:4.3		
Total Project Cost = \$530,000		

Cost Share or Matching Funds (for volunteer labor rates please refer to the worksheet below)

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

WOULD IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT ASSIST IN PROVIDING, MAINTAINING, OR FACILITATING RECREATIONAL ACCESS?

YES NO N/A

Project will improve access by clearing vegetation bordering existing roads. Access will allow maintenance of existing water features and create more opportunity for hunters and other recreation.

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

In order to meet monitoring objectives the forest will initiate its Level 1 monitoring plan.

Level 1- General Landscape and Environment Monitoring

This level provides managers with a quick general photo of an area or landscape to demonstrate a change in conditions on a broad scale. Analysis is limited to ocular estimates and subjective assessments usually by qualified fire effects monitors or fuels technicians. These photo plots may or may not have permanent markers to indicate the location of the photos; however the location of the plot center (latitude and longitude), the camera, and the direction of photo should be noted. If change over time is an objective, photos should be taken at established and recorded locations to allow for return visits.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

As this area shifts toward the desired condition, natural disturbances such as wildfire can be better utilized and managed easier to maintain the project area. The interpolation of on-site post treatment monitoring data will be utilized to indicate the need for maintenance in the project area. If the monitoring data indicates a change, re-entry with prescribed fire or other management tools will be identified and implemented when feasible.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

A project completion report will be filed by the Prescott Forest Fuels Specialist, Aaron Hulburd or his Acting, in collaboration with the Verde Ranger District Fire Management Officer, the Prescott National Forest Deputy Fire staff, and Forest Wildlife Biologist. Aaron Hulburd will maintain contact with wildlife managers, Virginia Gouldsbury and Tom Bagley through the project to provide informal and formal status updates.

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (*please use the worksheet below*):

N/A

TREE CLEARING/REMOVAL PROJECTS (*please use the worksheet below*):

N/A

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET

PROJECT TITLE: _____

- 1) Is the water development listed as a priority in the most recent “Wildlife Water Development Annual Implementation Schedule?”
- 2) Please list the Development Branch personnel and date coordinated with for this project.
- 3) What is the estimated annual inches of precipitation for the area? (mark one)
2-4 4-6 6-8 8-10 10-12 12-14 14-16 >16
- 4) Is there a perennial water source available to big game within four miles of this project?

YES (please complete #5 below) NO (skip #5 below)

- 5) For the accessible, perennial water source nearest this project:

Name of water source:

Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank):

Ownership of water source:

Distance in miles from project:

- 6) Is the target wildlife species a result of transplant efforts? YES NO

- 7) Please list any special land management status for the project site (i.e. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument). If private land, list landowner.

- 8) Please provide the following information about access to the proposed site:

Type of access (mark one): 2x4 vehicles 4x4 only foot only**

**If foot access only: Distance in miles: _____ Approximate hiking time: _____

-- Does access to this site require crossing private or tribal lands? YES NO

-- Please describe any restrictions to public access:

- 9) Please list below (or on a separate sheet) the material type and dimensions of each component proposed to be added, modified, or repaired.

- 10) Was a site visit completed? Yes No

If Yes, please list personnel that attended and date.

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT **TREE CLEARING/REMOVAL WORKSHEET**

PROJECT TITLE: _____

- 1) **What is the estimated acreage of the project?**

- 2) **How are the trees going to be cleared? (agra axe, chain saw, grubbing, push, chaining):**

- 3) **What is the estimated number of trees per acre?**

- 4) **Describe trees to be cleared (species, estimated diameter, single stem, multi-stem):**

- 5) **Describe terrain (slope, soil type, rocks)**

- 6) **Please list any special land management status for the project site (e.g. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument). If private land, list landowner.**

- 7) **Please provide the following information about access to the proposed site:**
Type of access (mark one): 2x4 vehicles 4x4 only Foot only**

**If foot access only: Distance in miles: Approx. hiking time:

Does access to this site require crossing private or tribal lands? YES[] NO[]

Is the site relatively accessible for tree removal equipment? YES[] NO[]

Please describe any restrictions to public access:

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEER HOURLY RATES AND CLASSIFICATIONS WORKSHEET

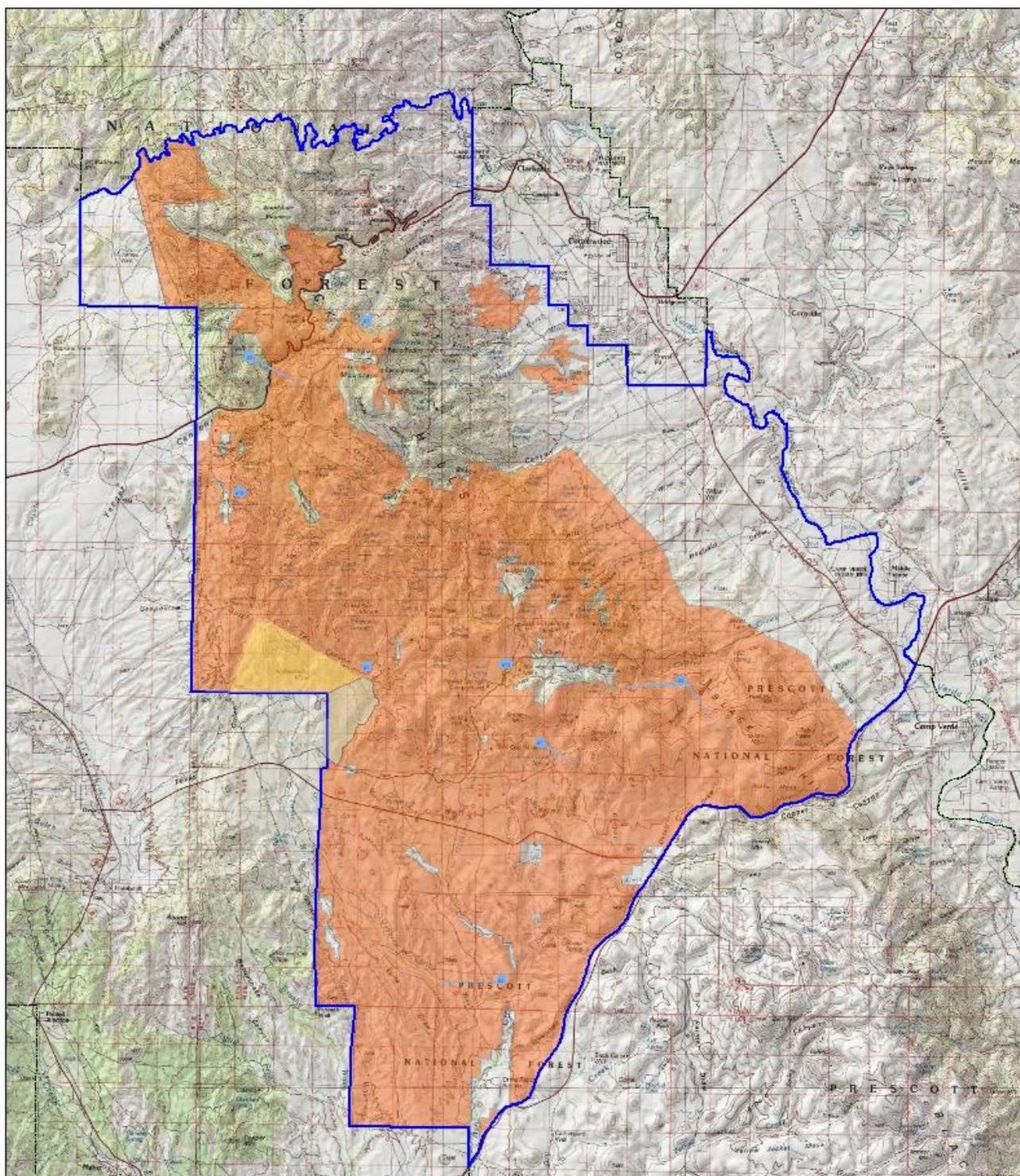
PROJECT TITLE: _____

The value of volunteer labor should be calculated at the hourly rate of an employee doing similar work, or using hourly rates from the Arizona Department of Administration's Human Resource web site, plus a standard ERE rate of 35%. http://www.hr.az.gov/HR_Professional/Class_Comp/PDF/alphacovered.pdf

\$0.445/mile should be the calculation used for mileage.

Water Development	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Habitat Restoration and Clean Up	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Fisheries	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Nongame Branch Project	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Misc/office work	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			varies	
Community Services	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$7.44	
Events and Other	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Research Branch	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$14.14	
Wildlife Area Hosts	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$17.44	
Education Programs	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
			\$16.07	
Totals				

Black Hills NEPA Boundary





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Prescott National Forest

344 South Cortez
Prescott, AZ 86303
Phone: (928) 443-8000
Fax: (928) 443-8008
TTY: (928) 443-8001

File Code: 5140/1580

Date: August 24, 2012

Reuben Teran
Big Game Habitat Specialist - HPC Coordinator
Arizona Game and Fish Department
5000 W. Carefree Highway
Phoenix, AZ 85086

Dear Mr. Teran:

Attached is a Habitat Partnership Committee proposal for the Black Hills Prescribed Fire Project on the Prescott National Forest. Aaron Hulburd, Forest Fuels Specialist, has been coordinating with Virginia Gouldsbury, Tom Bagley, and Tom Finley of the Arizona Game and Fish Department on this project proposal.

If you have any questions, please contact Aaron Hulburd at 928-777-5666 or ahulburd@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

BETTY A. MATHEWS
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

cc: Aaron T Hulburd, Peter A Gordon

