

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number:	13-303
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**PROJECT INFORMATION**

**Project Title:** Region III Inter-region Bighorn Sheep Translocation

**Region and Game Management Unit:** Region 3, Unit 15D and Unit 16A

**Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):**

- Kingman HPC

**Was the project presented to the LHPC?**

YES[] NO[X]

**Has this project been submitted in previous years?** YES[] NO[X]

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

**Project Type:** Bighorn Sheep Translocation & Monitoring

**Brief Project Summary:**

In the early 2000s the Black Mountains suffered population declines and the region began implementing management actions to help recovery. Most portions of the range have begun to recover, with Unit 15D at record levels. Unit 15D, located in the southern portions of the Black Mountains was fragmented from the rest of the population by Highway 68 following upgrades and fencing of the right-of-way over two decades ago. The region believes the unit may be reaching carrying capacity and therefore slight reductions will help maintain health and productivity within the unit.

Unit 16A is on the southern edge of the region and bordered by Units 18B and 44A. Units 16A and 44A have numerous small, isolated mountain ranges with small sheep populations. The region worked with the Bureau of Land Management to identify several release locations within these units to reintroduce sheep or bolster populations. Unit 18B received two translocations in 2006 and 2007, and population levels have reached management objectives set by the region. In 2011, the state released sheep from the Navajo Nation (Mexican Hat, Utah) into a release site in Unit 16A, just across Highway 93 from the Unit 18B population. In 2013 the region plans to move an additional 30-40 sheep into the area and a capture in 2014 will further support these efforts.

This project would capture approximately 30-40 bighorn sheep from Unit 15D and transplant them to People's Canyon in Unit 16A. The release site is approximately 1-2 miles west of Highway 93 along a wilderness boundary. Monitoring would occur via GPS radio collars, if refurbished radio collars are available for redeployment on up to 10 of the bighorn sheep translocated from Unit 15D. Disease, cause-specific mortalities, highway crossing and migration monitoring will occur. Annual helicopter surveys should continue within the unit to monitor population changes.

This project is being submitted in conjunction with a predator/prey interaction project being submitted by Research branch. The bighorn sheep being transplanted will be an integral part of the research project.

**Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit:** Bighorn Sheep will benefit from the increased number of sheep in the area, to support health and productivity of these smaller populations.

<p><b>Implementation Schedule</b> (Month/Day/Year):</p> <p><u>Project Start Date:</u> October 1, 2014</p> <p><u>Project End Date:</u> Sheep will be monitored for a minimum of 2 years after transplant in November 2014; or till collars</p>	<p><b>Environmental Compliance:</b></p> <p>NEPA Completed: YES[<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No[<input type="checkbox"/>] N/A[<input type="checkbox"/>]                  Projected Completion Date: <u>March 2003</u></p> <p>State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:                  YES[<input type="checkbox"/>] No[<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] N/A[<input type="checkbox"/>]                  Projected Completion Date: _____</p> <p>Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A[<input type="checkbox"/>]                  To be Completed by: <u>Erin Butler</u>                  Projected Completion Date: <u>March 2015</u></p>
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**PROJECT FUNDING**

<b>Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:</b>	\$ 35,000
<b>Cost Share or Matching Funds:</b>	\$ 20,000
<b>Total Project Costs:</b>	<b>\$ 55,000</b>

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION**

<p><b>Applicant</b> (please print): Erin Butler</p>	<p><b>Address:</b> Arizona Game and Fish Department Kingman Region 5325 N. Stockton Hill Rd. Kingman, AZ, 86409</p>	<p><b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:ebutler@azgfd.gov">ebutler@azgfd.gov</a></p>
<p><b>Telephone:</b> 928-692-7700 x 2330</p>		<p><b>Date:</b> 8-28-2013</p>

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

**Project has been coordinated with:**  
 Game Branch, Research Branch, Region 3 Wildlife Program, Bureau of Land Management

**NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:**

As part of the continued effort to recover desert bighorn sheep populations, this activity would facilitate the translocation of additional sheep to areas identified as highest priority. Additional Unit 16A releases should occur to support the translocation begun in 2011; and eventually to increase populations in all release site locations.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVES:**

Improve bighorn sheep numbers and distribution in Unit 16A.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:**

Transplant 40 bighorn sheep from Unit 15D to Unit 16A.  
 Complete disease testing and body condition exams on bighorn sheep.  
 GPS radio collar, if refurbished collars are available, will be placed on up to 10 bighorn sheep for monitoring of cause-specific mortalities and movements.

**PROJECT LOCATION:**

There are multiple Township, Range and Sections in Arizona Game Management Unit 15D and 16A. See attached maps of the Black Mountains and People’s Canyon release site.

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

BLM at capture site and release sites

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

**HABITAT DESCRIPTION:**

**ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:**

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

\$25,000: Tag funds will be used to pay helicopter expenses for Department personnel to capture bighorn sheep.

\$10,000: Tag funds will be used to pay to refurbish up to 10 bighorn sheep collars for redeployment and additional airtime/data transmissions.

Cost Share or Matching Funds

\$20,000: Primarily capture personnel time and materials.

**LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:**

Primarily financial cooperation will come from Department funds for equipment, personnel, and vehicle use. Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society representatives may participate and assist in operation. BLM personnel will complete Environment Compliance documents and BLM biologists may participate at the capture and/or release but will cover their expenses.

**PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:**

The Region will assist Research Branch in monitoring the bighorn sheep released and investigate any mortality according to established protocol. The Region should continue to survey this population for a minimum of 5 years post release.

**PROJECT MAINTENANCE:**

N/A

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

This will be submitted as part of the annual performance reporting through the game subprogram. Completion will be the Region's responsibility.

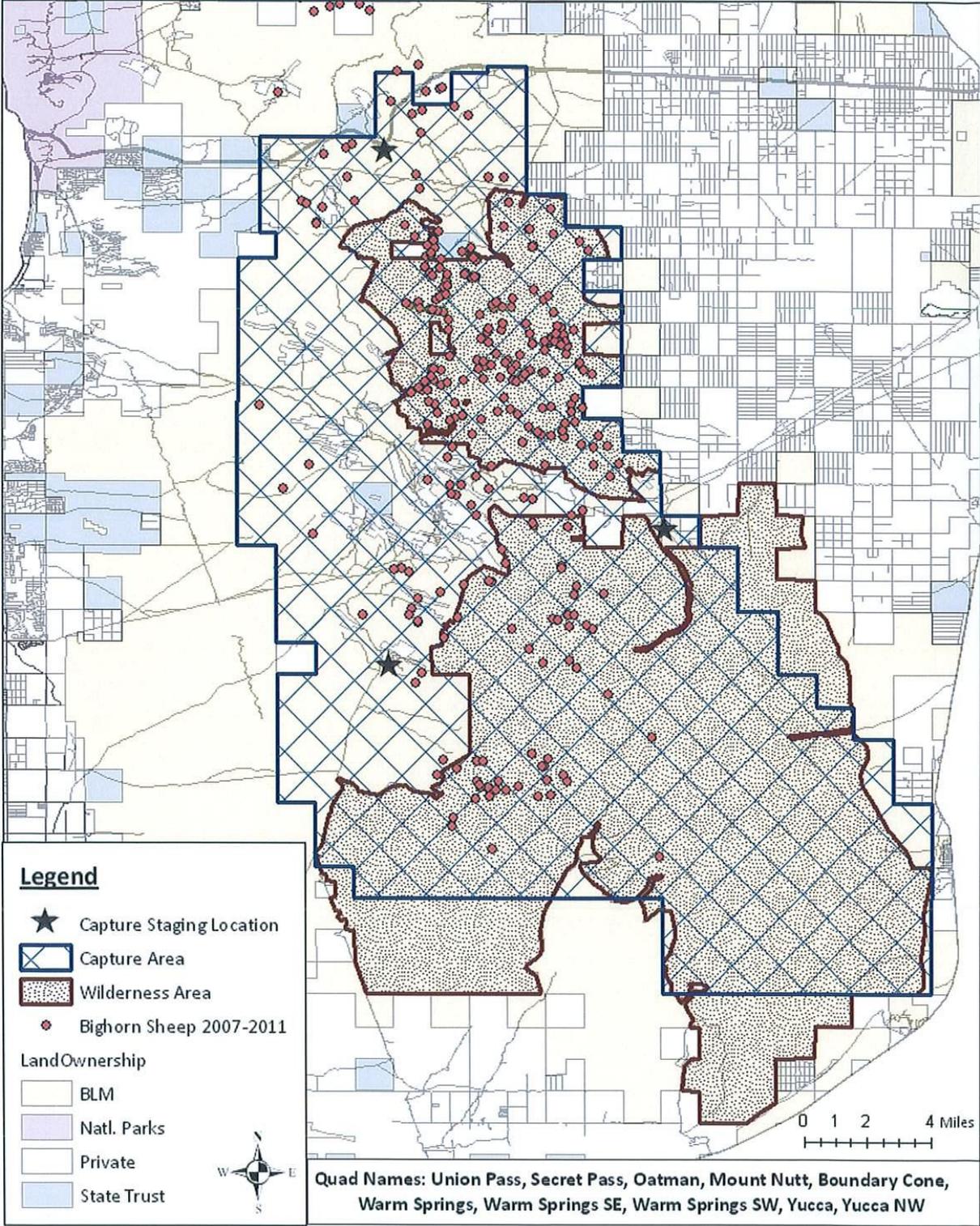
**WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (see attached worksheet):**

N/A

**TREE CLEARING/REMOVAL PROJECTS (see attached worksheet):**

N/A

# Map #1: Black Mountains Bighorn Sheep Capture Area



Map 1. Bighorn Sheep Translocations Region III & IV  
Peoples Canyon: T12N, R10W, sec 3

