

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 13-603

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Payson Campgrounds Bear-Proof Food Lockers

Region and Game Management Unit Region IV/Unit 22

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):
Payson Natural Resource Committee

Was the project presented to the LHPC?
YES X NO

Has this project been submitted in previous years? YES[X] NO
If Yes, was it funded? YES[X] NO[] → **Funded HPC Project #(s):** 12-602

Project Type: Materials Purchase – Bear Food Storage Containers

Brief Project Summary: Outfit remaining sites in Ponderosa Campground with bear proof food storage lockers. (Ponderosa CG is where two bear attacks occurred in summer 2012.)

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Black Bear

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date: Spring 2014

Project End Date: Spring 2014

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: Yes[] No[] N/A X
Projected Completion Date: no ground disturbance

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:
Yes[] No[] N/A X
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: \$ 10,000 (or amount available)

Cost Share or Matching Funds: \$ 21,717

Total Project Costs: \$ 31,717

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):
Rachael Hohl, Recreation
Staff

Address:
Payson Ranger District, Tonto NF
1009 E. Highway 260
Payson, AZ 85541

E-mail:
rhohl@fs.fed.us

Telephone: 928-474-7930

Date: 8/23/2013

AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel):
Dave Daniels, 480-528-8774

Project has been coordinated with: Payson Area AZGFD officers: Dave Daniels, Henry Apfel, & Jerrod McFarland

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

In the summer of 2012 there were 2 bear attacks in the within Ponderosa Campground. As a result and in an effort to resolve the problem bear, 3 bears were trapped and euthanized by AZGFD which resulted in inconclusive DNA evidence. After a nearly fatal attack, the campground was closed for the remainder of the season. In summer 2013, no bear attacks occurred however there was a consistent presence of two black bears within Sharp Creek Campground. Prior to monsoon season, one side of the campground was evacuated due to the bear presence within close proximity to campers. The lack of bear proof facilities in conjunction with high volumes of people within dense bear habitat necessitates the purchase and placement of bear food storage lockers in campgrounds. This proposal seeks to continuing outfitting sites in Ponderosa CG with bear food storage lockers. Ponderosa Campground has a total of 63 sites, 28 bear food storage boxes have been purchased and installed to date. The 2012 HPC funds will purchase an additional 10 boxes. Upon receipt of this grant 14 additional boxes will be purchased and 11 sites will need bear food storage boxes in the future.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The objective is to provide facilities for people to store their food so bears can't access it. These campgrounds are one of the more popular campgrounds in the area and it is important to allow outdoor recreationists access to their public lands in as safe a manner as possible, and prevent/minimize potential for bear/human conflicts in the future.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

Purchase and install 14 bear food storage lockers at campsites within Ponderosa Campground. The food lockers will be purchased using HPC funds and Forest Service will provide labor for installation. To date, 28 lockers have been purchased and installed by the Forest Service. HPC funds awarded last year will purchase 10 additional bear food storage lockers. (Please note we are in the final stages of completing the agreement paperwork with AZGFD and the Forest Service on the 2012 HPC grant. Additionally, we are trying to purchase bear food storage boxes in bulk and waiting on other grants.) The only provider of the lockers is Bearsaver and lockers cost \$711.00 per locker. We are pursuing working with a local metal fabrication company to have lockers made at reduced prices however don't want to violate patents held by Bearsaver. The labor for installation will be provided by USFS employees and volunteers and is estimated to cost: \$2764 [\$1045 (4 employees for 8 hours) + \$672(3 volunteers for 16 hours)].

PROJECT LOCATION: Ponderosa Campground, Payson Ranger District (T11N, R12E, Section 32)

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

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

- All lands are Forest System Lands owned by the US Forest Service.

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

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

Ponderosa Campground is predominately Ponderosa Pine with a low mix of Douglas Fir.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

14 bear food storage lockers @ \$711.00 each = \$10,000.

Note: If less funds are available/awarded, fewer bear food storage lockers will be purchased!

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

USFS: 28 bear food storage lockers @ \$711 each = \$20,000
Volunteer Labor: 3 volunteers at \$14.14/hour x 16 hours = \$672.00

Employee Labor: 4 employees at 8 hours day = \$1045.00

Total Cost Share / Matching Funds = \$21,264

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

- USFA and AZGFD
- We frequently get requests for Eagle Scout projects and installing of the food storage containers would be a great project
- Recreation Resource Management (RRM) – Campground Concession

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

YES X NO[] N/A[]

It is probable the campground and/or sites without food storage lockers will remain closed until it is fully outfitted with food storage lockers at every campsite and bear dumpsters (already in place).

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

We will work with AZGFD to monitor calls and input from the public on bear encounters and sightings. Campground hosts live in the campground during the operating season and monitor/report bear activity in the area. Additionally, every camper receives bear information pamphlets and is talked to individually about bear awareness. Camp hosts patrol the areas in the evening and educate campers and enforce food storage and trash disposal rules.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

The bear food storage containers will become property of the US Government and thus the USFS will be responsible for their maintenance.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Rachael Hoh, Recreation Staff, Payson Ranger District, Tonto National Forest

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: _____

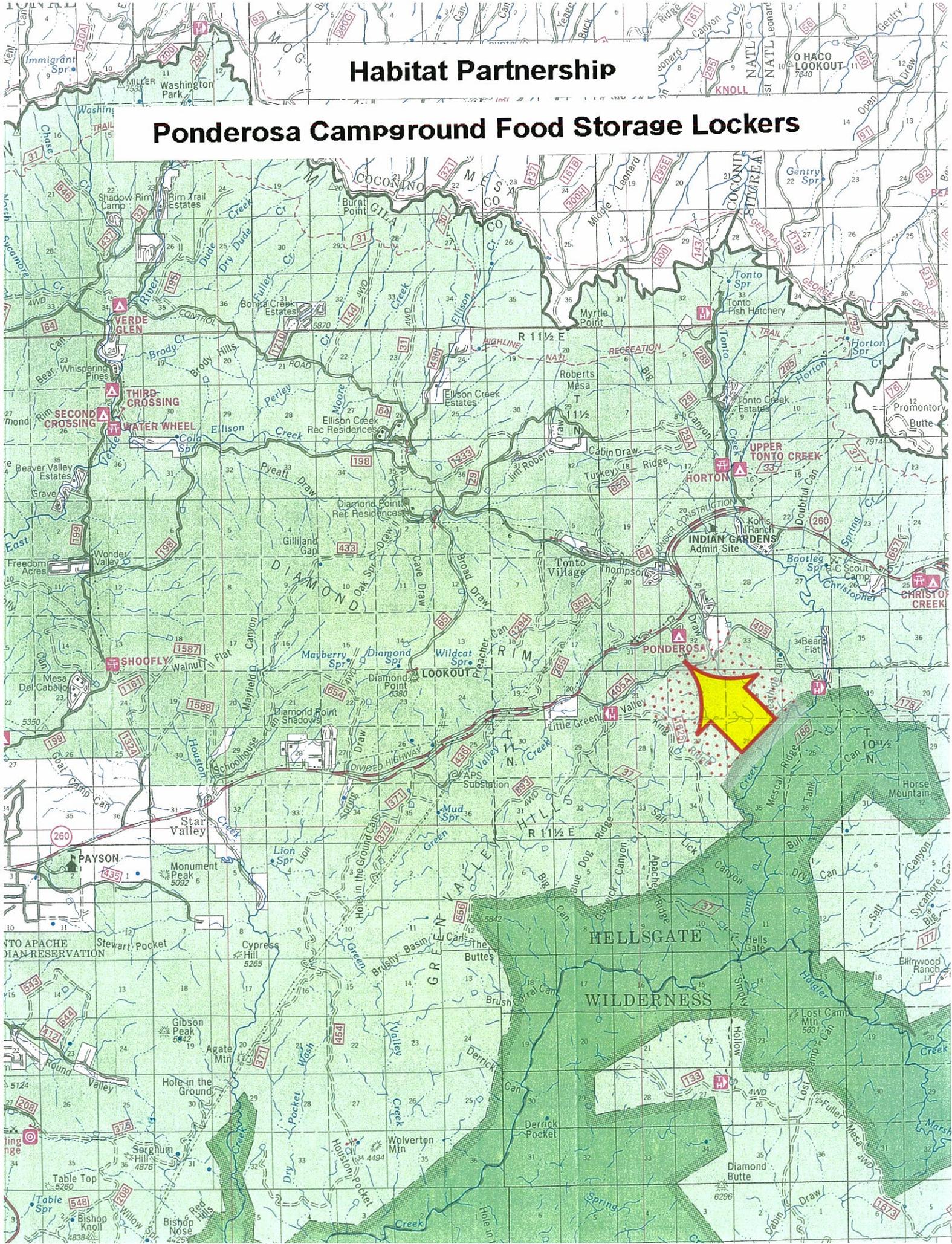
The value of volunteer labor should be calculated at the hourly rate of an employee doing similar work, or using hourly rates from the Arizona Department of Administration’s Human Resource web site, plus a standard ERE rate of 35%. http://www.hr.az.gov/HR_Professional/Class_Comp/PDF/alphacovered.pdf

\$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				

Habitat Partnership

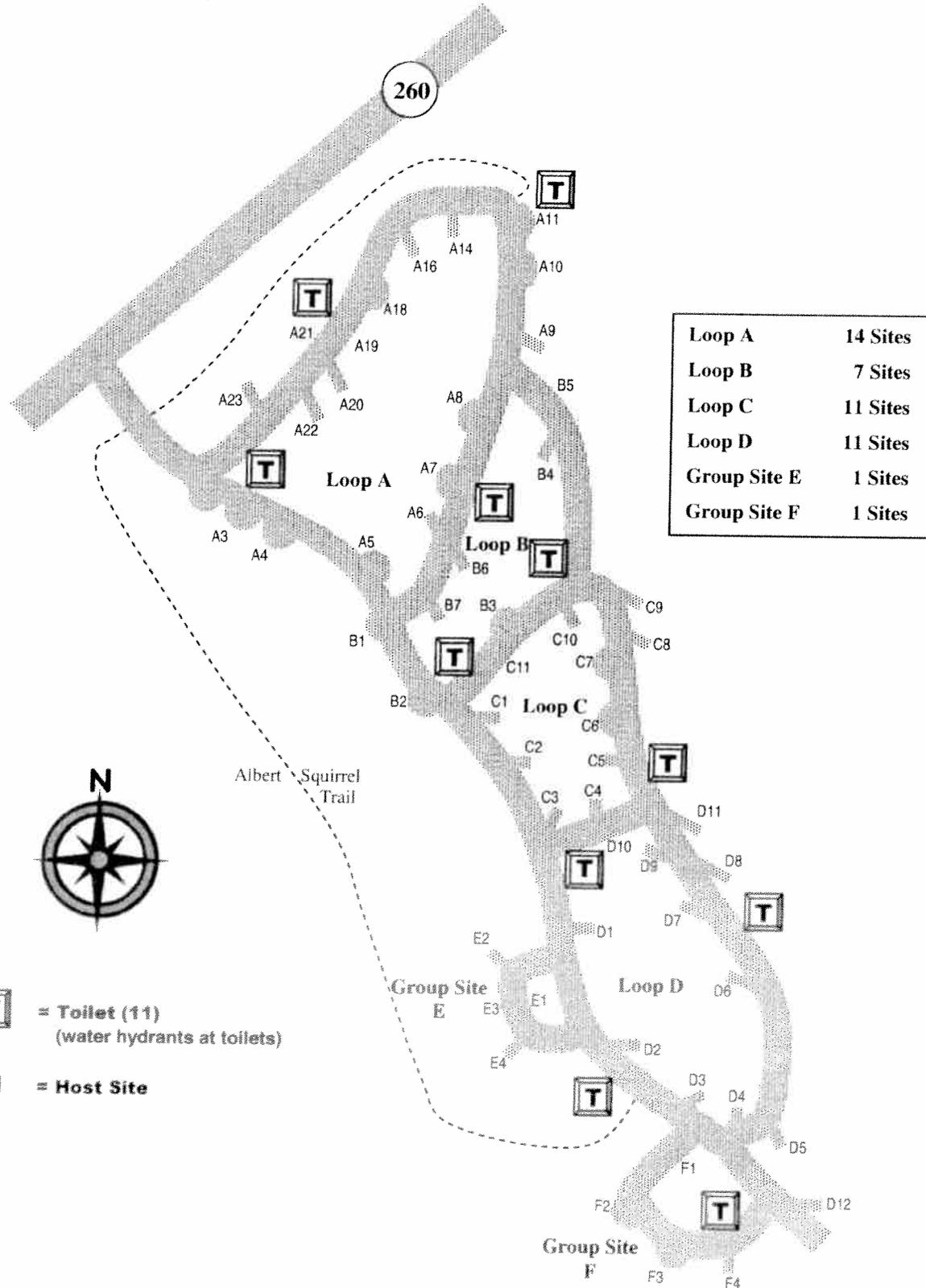
Ponderosa Campground Food Storage Lockers





Ponderosa Campground

USFS Payson Ranger District



Bear Food Storage Box Photos

(Ponderosa Campground)

