

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number:	14-114
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PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Mineral Supplement / Management

Region and Game Management Unit: Region 1, GMU's 1 and 27

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC): • Springerville / Alpine HPC	Was the project presented to the LHPC? YES[x] NO[]
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Has this project been submitted in previous years? YES[x] NO[]
If Yes, was it funded? YES[x] NO[] → **Funded HPC Project #(s):** 08-113, 09-101, 11-111

Project Type: Misc. Wildlife Management

Brief Project Summary:
 This project is to maintain and better our current management of Bighorn Sheep in the Upper Blue River and Black River areas. This project will allow us to continue a program of packing trace mineral blocks into sites which allow us to have focal points for trail cameras that are used to assist in sheep management. Review of the previous data leads agency personnel to believe there may be some correlation to placing these supplements and increased lamb recruitment. In addition these cameras provide information that is used to supplement population estimates and support hunt recommendations and permit levels.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Big Horn Sheep

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year): <u>Project Start Date:</u> In Progress <u>Project End Date:</u>	Environmental Compliance: NEPA Completed: Yes[] No[] N/A[x] Projected Completion Date: _____ State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance: Yes[] No[] N/A[x] Projected Completion Date: _____ Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A[x] To be Completed by: _____ Projected Completion Date: _____
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PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:	\$ 2,920.00
Cost Share or Matching Funds:	\$ 31,545.86
Total Project Costs:	\$ 34,465.86

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print): Aaron Hartzell	Address: 2878 E. White Mountain Blvd Pinetop, AZ 85935	E-mail: ahartzell@azgfd.gov
Telephone: 928-358-0842		Date: 08/30/2012

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

Project has been coordinated with: USFS, Springerville / Alpine HPC

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

The Department would like to continue providing supplemental minerals into seven areas of the Upper Blue River as well as up to six locations along Black River. In order to ensure that we can continue this work the region is looking for assistance to provide the funds necessary to accomplish this goal. The Department has been packing mineral blocks into the Upper Blue River area since 2005. Since 2008 the department has received additional funding to accomplish this work. In looking at survey data that has been collected annually the Department feels that this program is having positive impacts on the recruitment and retention of Bighorn Sheep into the population. We are currently down on our supply of mineral blocks and need to resupply. With the number of sites we are currently utilizing we are seeking funding for two pallets of mineral blocks. Additionally we are also looking to increase the number of sites in the Black River area as we feel we no longer need to fly that area for survey purposes, as they often do not result in many numbers observed. This additional camera data will allow us to supplement our ground survey data in that area to make hunt recommendations in the future.

Another issue that has come up is the ability to get to these sites with the frequency needed to ensure that we do not miss any important data. To remedy that situation the Department is looking for funding to add a solar component to some of the more remote sites. In addition to the solar we are looking to increase the capacity of the memory cards that are in the cameras so that more pictures can be taken without running out of space. These small adjustments will ensure that we are not missing any “windows” of time and that we have the best data possible.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Deliver traced mineralized salt blocks to seven sites within the Upper Blue River area and evaluate the effect of those supplements on the bighorn sheep recruitment within the sheep population. Maintain up to six sites with trace mineralized salt blocks within the Black River herd area. Maintain the 13 trail cameras on these mineral block sites to gather additional population data for these herd units. Additionally, gather the best data possible about these herds through comprehensive survey efforts.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

We hope to ensure that all of our camera sites are maintained so that they offer the best data possible. We want to ensure that the sites can last long enough between visits so that we do not have any “holes” in our data. This data will then be able to provide us supplemental information from which we can make quality hunt recommendations. We will continue to pack mineral blocks into all identified sites as a supplement for the bighorn sheep in the area.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The project is located in the Upper Blue River hunt area of Unit 27 and Black River in Units 1 and 27.

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

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

- All of the project area is on US Forest Service lands.

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 habitat can best be described as pinyon-juniper woodland with ponderosa pine stringers in the bottoms. Additionally most of the area is composed of rocky escarpments that are ideal sheep habitat. Those areas in the Black River canyon are ponderosa pine benches and mixed conifer slopes with intermixed gamble oak.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

\$520.00 – For two pallets (2 tons) of Trace Mineral Blocks

\$1000 – For 4 Covert Red40 cameras with metal bear boxes and python cables

\$450 – For 15 32GB SD cards

\$300 – For rechargeable batteries to ensure all the cameras are in good working order.

\$650 – For up to 10 solar chargers for the most remote cameras

\$2,920 Total requested funds

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

\$5,280.00 – Minimum AGFD personal time to conduct project activities over the course of the next two years.

\$26,265.86 – Volunteer labor and mileage estimates for next two years. (From 8/30/13 – 7/8/14 volunteers contributed 720 hours and drove 6,634 miles in support of this project. Because this is a multi-year project this volunteer match will be doubled during that time.)

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

US Forest Service – Coordination with mineral sites

ADBSS – Volunteer assistance for camera trap work as well as surveys. They have additionally provided up to 7 additional cameras in other areas for increased data collection.

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

YES[] NO[x] N/A[]

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

The local Wildlife Manager will evaluate use at least annually to determine if more mineral blocks need to be placed at the established locations. Additionally, through annual sheep surveys we will be able to determine the annual lamb recruitment. Game cameras will be monitored as necessary to maintain batteries and memory cards.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

Mineral blocks will be replaced as needed. Cameras will be check several times per year to ensure we are maintaining the batteries and SD cards in working order.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Aaron Hartzell

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

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

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEER HOURLY RATES AND CLASSIFICATIONS WORKSHEET

PROJECT TITLE: Bighorn Sheep Management in GMU's 1 and 27

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	
Game Management	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Miles	Hourly Rate	Estimated Value
	1440	13,268	\$14.14	\$26,265.86
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	1440	13,268		\$26,265.86