

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number:	14-512
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PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Replacement Camera Traps for Units 31, 32, 37A and 37B for 2015/2016	
Region and Game Management Unit: Region 5/ Units 31, 32, 37A and B	
Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC): • Tucson	Was the project presented to the LHPC? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input 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: Supplemental Survey Tools	
Brief Project Summary: Camera traps have been shown to be an inexpensive and effective way to gather supplemental survey data on big game species, specifically with bighorn sheep, and deer in low, flat and brushy terrain where aerial and foot surveys are ineffective. As the cost of conducting helicopter surveys continue to rise and survey time is reduced, managers must be able to gather supplemental data to be able to make good informed wildlife management decisions.	
Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Bighorn sheep (58%), mule deer (42%)	
Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year): <u>Project Start Date:</u> Immediately <u>Project End Date:</u> 2016	Environmental Compliance: NEPA Completed: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Projected Completion Date: _____ State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" 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: _____

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:	\$ 8,580 (2 yrs.) or \$4,290 per year
Cost Share or Matching Funds: (over the last 5 yrs.)	\$ 9050 (\$7800-ADBSS, \$1250 – MDF)
*** Additionally, Gary and Janet Drake, Joe Sheehey and Wayne Lackner have spent considerable volunteer time in the field setting and checking cameras on their own time and dime.***	
Total Project Costs:	\$ 17,630

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print): Ben Brochu	Address: 555 N. Greasewood Road	E-mail: bbrochu@azgfd.gov
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Telephone: 520-591-7636	Tucson, AZ 85745	Date: September 1, 2014
AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel):		
Project has been coordinated with:		

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

As the cost of conducting helicopter surveys continue to rise and survey time is reduced, managers must be able to gather supplemental data to be able to make good informed wildlife management decisions. Twenty five percent reductions in helicopter survey time has occurred in the aforementioned units for mule deer and javelina while sheep surveys are now flown in three year cycles making the detection of population level reductions problematic at times. While wildlife managers often speculate about these changes, it is often difficult to gather the necessary hard data to show this.

Camera traps offer an inexpensive and effective way to gather supplemental survey data on big game species, specifically with bighorn sheep, and deer in low, flat and brushy terrain where aerial and foot surveys are ineffective and where survey time has been reduced. In terms of setting bighorn sheep permits, horn characteristics can be easily compared to develop a minimum number of Class 3 and 4 rams inhabiting an area which permits can then be recommended from. Additionally, cameras have provided supplemental data on lambing and nursery areas and offer insight on year-to-year recruitment. They have also assisted managers in detecting diseases in some cases as well.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

To develop an effective and inexpensive way to gather supplemental survey data for bighorn and mule deer herds in the aforementioned units.

We propose purchasing the following in two phases:

- 2015: 6 cameras for 31/32 (Aravaipa), 5 cameras for 37A, 8 cameras in 37B to replace existing aged ones which are beginning to fail – 19 total
- 2016: 6 cameras for 31/32 (Aravaipa), 5 cameras for 37A, 8 cameras in 37B – 19 total
- Purchase heavy duty 7/16” shank locks to deter theft.

We suggest using DLC Covert Red 40 cameras with security boxes. These cameras have the ability to be password protected and have proven to be extremely reliable. We suggest purchasing these with AGFD funds rather than directly requesting funds from the respective wildlife conservation groups (Bighorn sheep and deer) because in the event they are stolen or vandalized, we have the ability to file a claim for the loss with our insurance and replace the camera.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

Purchase cameras and set or replace existing nonfunctional cameras as needed.

PROJECT LOCATION:

Cameras will be placed water catchment sites, main travel corridors, bedding and lambing areas in all units. In 37B, catchment sites will only be used.

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S): ASLD and BLM lands

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

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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 project sites are located southeast of Phoenix. Two main biotic community types, Sonoran Desertscrub and Semidesert Grassland, comprise the bulk of the habitat. Average rainfall is approximately 12-15" and elevation ranges from approximately 2300' to 3500'.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

2015

- 19 Cameras with security boxes (31/32-6 for bighorn; 37A – 5 for bighorn, 37B – 8 for deer) @ \$200 ea.
- Purchase 19 heavy duty locks at \$26 each

2016

- 19 Cameras with security boxes (31/32-6 for bighorn; 37A – 5 for bighorn, 37B – 8 for deer) @ \$200 ea.
- Purchase 19 heavy duty locks at \$26 each

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

Gary and Janet Drake, Joe Sheehy and Wayne Lackner have spent considerable volunteer time and effort in the field setting and checking cameras on their own time and dime. Also, over the last five years, the ADBSS has contributed ~\$7800 in internal monies toward these efforts and the MDF has donated ~\$1250 in funds and cameras.

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society (assisting in camera trap placement and monitoring and providing trail cameras in some areas), Arizona Deer Association and Mule Deer Foundation (have provided trail cameras for monitoring on some catchments).

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(s) and/or ADBSS/ADA/MDF volunteers will evaluate use quarterly to determine if cameras need to be placed at the established locations.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

Cameras will be set and replaced as needed.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Updates will be given out annually by the local wildlife manager.

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

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