

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 15-706

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Translocation of Bighorn Sheep from Nevada to Arizona for Fall 2016

Region and Game Management Unit: Capture in Nevada (likely the Muddy Mountains) and release in Units 15A/15B East or Units 12A/12B West/13A (Kanab Creek)

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):

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[] → **Funded HPC Project #(s):**

Project Type: Bighorn Sheep Translocation

Brief Project Summary:

Capture of 40-50 bighorn sheep from Nevada (likely from Muddy Mountains) for translocation to Arizona (Units 15A/15B East or Units 12A/12B West/13A (Kanab Creek)). This proposal is to fund the cost of pre-testing for disease profile of 10 bighorn sheep (\$800 per bighorn sheep – capture and lab analysis) and the cost of helicopter capture at \$600 per bighorn sheep.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit (% benefit per species) : Bighorn sheep

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date: June 2016

Project End Date: June 2017

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: Yes[] No[] N/A[X]

Projected Completion Date: _____

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:
(Provide Attachment)

Yes[] No[] N/A[X]

Projected Completion Date: _____

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A[]

To be Completed by: Regions 2 and 3

Projected Completion Date: September 2015

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested: \$ 45,000.00

Cost Share or Matching Funds: \$

Total Project Costs: \$ 45,000.00

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):

Amber Munig

Address:

Game Branch
Arizona Game and Fish Department
5000 West Carefree Highway
Phoenix, AZ 85086

E-mail:

amunig@azgfd.gov

Telephone: 623-236-7355

Date:

August 31, 2015

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

Project has been coordinated with:
Region 2 and 3 Game Specialist and ADBSS

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

Translocation of desert bighorn sheep has been identified as a priority in the Arizona Bighorn Sheep Management Plan. In the specific Management Focus Area plans for Units 15A/15B East and Units 12A/12B West/13A (Kanab Creek), desert bighorn sheep populations have been identified as being below objectives. Desert bighorn sheep from Nevada may be available for translocation to Arizona which will assist the Department in achieving those objectives identified in the Management Focus Area plans.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

1. Assist Nevada in the pre-testing and helicopter capture of 40-50 desert bighorn sheep.
2. Captured bighorn sheep will be used to meet bighorn sheep management objectives in other parts of the state Units 15A/15B East or Units 12A/12B West/13A (Kanab Creek). Units 15A/15B East is expected to be the priority statewide, with Kanab Creek as an alternate option.
3. Continue to make progress towards meeting management objectives outlined in the Arizona Bighorn Sheep Management Plan, specific to captures and transplants.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

1. As appropriate based on this determination, a helicopter capture will occur in early November 2015. Capture operations will follow established Department protocols. Trained personnel will be on scene to address animal health. This may be a Department contracted veterinarian or Department personnel.
2. 40-50 desert bighorn sheep will be captured in a ratio of about 1 ram:4 ewes. Young rams will be targeted and attempts will be made to capture adult ewes with lambs.
3. The captured animals will be translocated to Units 15A/15B East or Units 12A/12B West/13A (Kanab Creek) to assist in meeting statewide and regional bighorn sheep management objectives.
4. VHF and/or GPS tracking collars may be placed on up to 10 of the bighorn to assist in post-release monitoring.

PROJECT LOCATION

Capture in Nevada (likely the Muddy Mountains) and release in Units 15A/15B East or Units 12A/12B West/13A (Kanab Creek)

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

Not a private property issue. Release will occur on public land.

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:

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

Capture for pretesting for disease prevalence and lab analysis –
\$1,000.00 per bighorn sheep (10 *\$1,000) = \$10,000

Capture coordinated by NDOW –
\$600 per bighorn sheep (40*\$600) = \$34,000.00

Cost Share or Matching Funds

Although not itemized, the personnel time for both AGFD and NDOW employees, whose salary may vary among participants, will count as match. Employee and related expenses are paid by the respective agencies.

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

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

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

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

Will be included as part of the annual performance reporting by game program staff.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

NA

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Will be included as part of the annual performance reporting by game program staff.

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (please use the worksheet below):

NA

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

NA

ATTACHMENTS:

(Please provide cultural clearance documentation from land management agency, e.g., FONSI, Inventory Standards, etc. Also attach any project pictures)

None