

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

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 12-102

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: 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[]

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:

Brief Project Summary:

This project will allow the Department to better manage the Bighorn herds in Game Management Units 1 and 27. We will be able to continue a program of packing mineral blocks into seven locations throughout the Bear Canyon and Foote Creek areas of Unit 27, as well as maintain up to 4 locations in Black River that were started in 2012. These mineral blocks are to provide a supplement to the bighorn sheep, as well as a focal point for trail cameras to assist in gathering population data. Initial review of the previous year's supplement provision leads agency personnel to believe there may be at least some correlation to placing these supplements and increased lamb recruitment. This will additionally assist the Department in completing surveys and maintaining the trail cameras throughout several areas of Units 1 and 27.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Big Horn Sheep

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date:
In Progress

Project End Date:

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: _____

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested: \$ 2,600.00

Cost Share or Matching Funds: \$ 7,360.00

Total Project Costs: \$ 9,960.00

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):
Aaron Hartzell

Address:
2878 E. White Mountain Blvd

E-mail:
ahartzell@azgfd.gov

Telephone: 928-358-0842	Pinetop, AZ 85935	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 Foote Creek and Bear Canyon areas as well as four locations in the Black River area. 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. In 2012 the department received funding for one horse allotment as well as funding for one pallet of mineral blocks. The mineral blocks purchased should last for up to three years. In addition to distributing these mineral blocks throughout these sheep areas we rely on horses to conduct surveys, maintain a series of trail cameras on these mineral blocks to assist with population estimates, and patrol the areas around this sheep country. In the last couple years department personal and volunteers have expended approximately 45 horse days to conduct sheep surveys and management related activities within the Bear Canyon, Foote Creek, and Black River sheep management areas. In order to continue this program as well as to ensure other management related activities we are seeking funds to the equivalent of one horse allotment (minimum of 25 horse use days) to ensure continued availability of horse days to complete all of these critical activities (\$2,600). In light of the current fire impacts due to the Wallow fire this additional funding will insure we are able to continue with increased monitoring that will be needed over the course of the next several years.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Deliver traced mineralized salt blocks to seven sites within the Bear Canyon and Foote Creek areas and evaluate the effect of those supplements on the bighorn sheep recruitment within the sheep population. Maintain four sites with trace mineralized salt blocks within the Black River herd area. Maintain up to 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 continue packing mineral blocks into five areas in the Foote Creek area and two areas of the Bear Canyon area, as well as four new sites in Black River. These blocks will provide a supplement to the bighorn sheep's diet in these areas. Additionally, we will again conduct surveys in Foote Creek, Bear Canyon and Black River to gather information on the health of the heard and the potential effect of these mineral blocks. Finally we will maintain up to 13 trail cameras in these areas to assist in monitoring these herds and gathering population data. This will be done in cooperation with the ADBSS who has provided four cameras for the project.

PROJECT LOCATION:

The project is located in the Foote creek and Bear Canyon areas 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

\$2,600.00 – To provide funding for one horse allotment (a minimum of 25 horse days) to conduct sheep management activities.

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

\$2,080.00 – An additional 20 horse days above and beyond the horse allotment.

\$5,280.00 – Minimum AGFD personal time to conduct project activities.

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

Cooperators include the Arizona Game and Fish Department as well as the US Forest Service. We will continue to coordinate survey dates with Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society personal to assist in survey efforts where and when possible.

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 (a minimum of three times per year).

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

Mineral blocks will be replaced as needed. This will be a yearly request for continued sheep management activities. The amount requested will be the current equivalent to one horse allotment and additional traced mineralized salt when necessary.

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 **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				