



# Little Hatchet Mountains Habitat Connectivity Project (Fence Removal)

## Background Information

- The Little Hatchet bighorn subpopulation estimate has remained stable at 70-90 animals since 2017. The Hatchet desert bighorn population is considered extant but has also received translocated sheep. The last significant release in the Little Hatchets occurred in 2005.
- There is a section of boundary fence that is "double fenced", with two fences that are running parallel, and in very close proximity.
- This 3.4 miles of "double fenced" allotment boundary have created a barrier to wildlife movement, resulting in known instances of Bighorn Sheep mortality.
- Removal of the older fence, along with modification of the newer fence to meet wildlife friendly specifications will allow for easier movement of wildlife species, and eliminate the threat of further mortalities from entrapment or entanglement.

## Las Cruces District Office - BLM

### Project Contacts:

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### Proposed Management Action

- The NMDGF, in collaboration with the Las Cruces BLM, will contract the removal of 3.4 miles of redundant fence along with the modification of the second fence to meet current wildlife friendly specifications.
- Approximately 1.25 miles of this project will be on State Trust Land, and No HSP funds can be utilized on this section of fence. Other funding sources for this section have been identified.
- HSP funds will be utilized for the removal and modification of 2.15 miles of this fence, at an estimated cost of \$20,000 per mile.
- The removed fence will be disposed of off site by the contractor.
- [Google earth link](#)

**Estimated Budget for BLM Sections: \$43,000**



Photo: Martin Perea

