



Santa Catalina Bighorn Sheep Reintroduction Project

February 12 through 25, 2015

BRIEFING

The following is a summary of Catalina Bighorn Sheep Reintroduction activities on the Coronado National Forest. This project status update covers the period from February 12 through 25, 2015.



Previously observed lamb from earlier this year.

LAMBS

On February 18th, 2015, an Arizona Game and Fish Department biologist observed the eleventh lamb this season with a ewe translocated from the Tonto National Forest last November. The ewe and her new born lamb were observed from a long distance to minimize disturbance.

On February 17th, 2015, an Arizona Game and Fish Department biologist observed the tenth lamb known to be born this season with a ewe translocated from the Tonto National Forest in November 2014. They were also observed from a long distance using optics to minimize disturbance.

We believe that there may be more lambs and we will be working to confirm this over the next few months. Although lamb survival is generally low, these additions to the population are encouraging and will help to establish a self-sustaining bighorn sheep herd in the Catalina Mountains.

This is a good reminder for hikers and recreationists to stay

on designated trails, maintain a good distance away from sheep, and to never take dogs into the Bighorn Sheep Management Area. The addition of lambs is critical to the reestablishment of the herd and their survival could be jeopardized by human-caused disturbance.

MORTALITIES

There were no known mortalities of collared sheep during this reporting period.

CURRENT POPULATION STATUS

As of February 25, 2015, 40 collared sheep are known to be alive.

LINKS

For project background and previously-reported information on project events, including photos and videos, as well as meeting notes and minutes please visit www.azgfd.gov/catalinabighorn.

Additional project information can be obtained by visiting the Arizona Game and Fish Department Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CatalinaBighorns, the Arizona Game and Fish Department webpage at www.azgfd.gov/catalinabighorn, the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society webpage at www.adbss.org or by visiting the Catalina Bighorn Advisory Committee webpage at www.catalinabighornrestoration.org. This update is a public document and information in it can be used for any purpose.

TO SUBSCRIBE

If you would like to receive project updates as they are published please send your email address to jsacco@azgfd.gov.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

The next written briefing will be provided on March 13, 2015.

CONTACT

Mark Hart is the Public Information Officer for this project and can be reached at (520) 628-5376.

RESEARCH FIELD NOTES

There are no new notes for this reporting period.