



Santa Catalina Bighorn Sheep Reintroduction Project

May 7 through 20, 2015

BRIEFING

The following is a summary of bighorn sheep reintroduction activities on the Coronado National Forest from May 7-20, 2015.

REPRODUCTION

An observation of ewes from the 2013 translocation, with lambs this year, is evidence of a ram from the same translocation breeding last year. This marks the first breeding in the Catalina Mountains among individuals of this reintroduction effort! Ewes in November are already pregnant by the time they are captured, so the lambs from 2014 were a result of breeding in the source population mountain ranges (Plomosa and Trigo ranges). Likewise, the lambs born this year are a result of breeding in their respective source population mountain ranges.

Also of note was a group of 6 ewes and 6 lambs observed last week, representing 100% survival of lambs in this particular group thus far. Continued survival is good news at this juncture. The statewide survival rate of lambs within their first year is approximately 25%; time will tell how many of these lambs will persist.

MORTALITIES

There were no known mortalities of collared sheep during this reporting period. The last known mortality was on December 23, 2014.

CURRENT POPULATION STATUS

As of May 20, 2015, 40 collared sheep are known to be alive.

RESEARCH FIELD NOTES

There are no research updates.

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 ldesouza@azgfd.gov.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

The next written briefing will be provided on June 5, 2015.

CONTACT

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