



## **Santa Catalina Bighorn Sheep Reintroduction Project**

*May 26 – June 22, 2016*

### **BRIEFING**

The following is a summary of bighorn sheep reintroduction activities on the Coronado National Forest from May 26 through June 22, 2016.

### **RESEARCH NOTES**

From June 9 to 22, Department research biologists observed eleven groups of sheep in the Santa Catalina Mountains. This included three bachelor herds consisting of only rams, six groups of ewe-only bands, and two mixed groups containing adult ewes, adult rams, yearlings of both sexes, and lambs. Twenty-one collared sheep and a total of thirty-three sheep (adult ewes, adult rams, yearlings of both sexes, and lambs) were observed.

Of the eleven observed groups, five contained at least one sheep from the 2013 release that is no longer wearing a collar. Of the six groups of ewes, three contained at least one yearling, and one group contained two yearling rams. Also within the six ewe bands, three groups contained one lamb.



*Collared ram from the 2014 release with a vantage point. Photo by Andrew Jones/AZGFD.*



*Two collared ewes, one uncollared ewe, and a yearling female. Photo by Andrew Jones/AZGFD.*



*One collared ewe, one uncollared ewe, and a lamb browsing on acacia and prickly pear cactus. Photo by Andrew Jones/AZGFD.*

## **MORTALITIES**

Laboratory results were received for Ewe #37446 that died on May 21, and the cause of death was determined to be pneumonia.

## **CURRENT POPULATION STATUS**

As of June 22, 2016, 36 collared sheep are known to be alive. There could be as many as 45 uncollared sheep in this population as well, bringing the total potential population to 81 bighorn sheep. Uncollared bighorn sheep include those released without collars, those from the 2013 release whose collars have dropped off, and those born in the Santa Catalina Mountains.

## **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](http://www.azgfd.gov) and click on “Wildlife”, then

“Catalina Bighorn Sheep” under the heading “Additional Wildlife Information”.

Additional project information can be obtained by visiting the Arizona Game and Fish Department Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/CatalinaBighorns](http://www.facebook.com/CatalinaBighorns), the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society webpage at [www.adbss.org](http://www.adbss.org), or by visiting the Catalina Bighorn Advisory Committee webpage at [www.catalinabighornrestoration.org](http://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](mailto:ldesouza@azgfd.gov).

### **COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION**

The next written briefing will be provided on July 29, 2016.

### **CONTACT**

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