



## Santa Catalina Bighorn Sheep Reintroduction Project

July 2 – 15, 2015

### **BRIEFING**

The following is a summary of bighorn sheep reintroduction activities on the Coronado National Forest from July 2-15, 2015.

### **RESEARCH BRANCH UPDATES**

From July 7th to 10th, Arizona Game and Fish Research Biologists recorded visual observations of several groups of sheep in the Pusch Ridge Wilderness Area. One observation included 6 adult ewes, with individuals from the 2013 and 2014 releases grouped together. This group also included 3 lambs. A second observed group was composed of 6 adult ewes, 1 lamb, and 1 yearling ewe. The yearling ewe spotted in this group was born in the winter of 2014 to a ewe that was part of the first release in the fall of 2013.

*Shown on the right of this photo is a ewe from the 2014 transplant with her lamb born this year.*

*Photo by Nathan Jackson/AZGFD*





*The yearling ewe shown in the upper left corner of the photo (with no collar) was born in 2014 to a ewe from the 2013 transplant. Photo by Nathan Jackson/AZGFD*

### **RELATED NEWS**

On July 13, lightning ignited a fire on Buster Mountain within the Pusch Ridge Wilderness. The fire burned approximately 200 acres with low to moderate fire effects. This type of fire ignition and fire behavior is a natural process and is consequently helpful for restoring bighorn sheep habitat. The U.S. Forest Service has been monitoring the fire to assure its natural functioning occurs without risk to structures or safety. As of this report, it has been mostly extinguished due to recent rains.

### **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 July 15, 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](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 30, 2015.

### **CONTACT**

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