



Santa Catalina Bighorn Sheep Reintroduction Project

June 23 – July 27, 2016

BRIEFING

The following is a summary of bighorn sheep reintroduction activities on the Coronado National Forest from June 23 through July 27, 2016.

RESEARCH NOTES

Over the last two weeks, Research Branch biologists recorded visual observations of 11 groups of bighorn sheep in the Santa Catalina Mountains. Of these 11 groups, three contained at least one lamb. One group contained two juvenile ewes, and two groups contained one juvenile ewe. Additionally, juvenile rams were observed in three groups, and six groups contained at least one uncollared adult ewe from the 2013 release. Many of the groups are now comprised of both rams and ewes. During this reporting period, rams were observed displaying rutting behavior including lip-curling and pursuit of females. Rams were also showing antagonistic behavior toward one another.

MORTALITIES

There were no known mortalities of collared sheep during this reporting period. The last known mortality was on May 21, 2016.

CURRENT POPULATION STATUS

As of July 27, 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 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, 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 August 26, 2016.

CONTACT

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