



Santa Catalina Bighorn Sheep Reintroduction Project

July 28 – August 24, 2016

BRIEFING

The following is a summary of bighorn sheep reintroduction activities on the Coronado National Forest from July 28 through August 24, 2016.

RESEARCH NOTES

Research Branch biologists observed seven groups of bighorn sheep in the Santa Catalina Mountains over a period of one week in August. Group size ranged from 2 to 19 individuals, which is the largest group observed this year. A total of 17 rams, 31 ewes, and 5 lambs were observed. However, the sheep observed may not all be unique individuals. Sheep groups fluctuate, so some animals could have been observed on multiple occasions as part of different groups.

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 August 24, 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.

Helicopter surveys will be conducted toward the end of September, and the results of those surveys will be used to develop a population estimate for bighorn sheep in the Catalinas.

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 September 30, 2016.

CONTACT

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