



Santa Catalina Bighorn Sheep Reintroduction Project

October 27 to November 12, 2014

BRIEFING

The following is a summary of Catalina Bighorn Sheep Reintroduction activities on the Coronado National Forest. This project status update covers the period from October 27 through November 12, 2014.

LINKS

For project background and previously-reported information on project events, including photos and videos, please visit www.azgfd.gov/catalinabighorn. To view meeting notes and minutes please visit http://www.azgfd.gov/w_c/CatBighornReintroProj.shtml.

Additional project information can be obtained by visiting the Arizona Game and Fish Department Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/azgafd#!/CatalinaBighorns>, the Arizona Game and Fish Department webpage at <http://www.azgfd.gov/catalinabighorn>, the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society webpage at <http://www.adbss.org> or by visiting the Catalina Bighorn Advisory Committee webpage at <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 jsacco@azgfd.gov.

CURRENT POPULATION STATUS

The original release of 31 sheep consisted of 21 adult females or ewes, three yearling/juvenile ewes, five adult males or rams, and two yearling/juvenile rams. Thirty of the released sheep were outfitted with satellite GPS collars to provide managers with up-to-date information to help make adaptive, data-driven decisions. As of November 12, 2014, 12 of the remaining 13 collared sheep are known to be alive; one of the collars may be malfunctioning.

MORTALITIES

During this reporting period there was one sheep mortality. On November 11, 2014 at approximately 4:30 PM the GPS collar on sheep 643 a ewe, transmitted a mortality signal indicating that it had not moved significantly for 10 hours. Ewe 643 was not known to have had a lamb this year. On November 12, 2014 at approximately 7:30 AM Arizona Game and Fish Department personnel located the sheep carcass and began to investigate the scene. A necropsy (investigative dissection similar to an autopsy) was performed and there were no obvious signs of trauma, eliminating that a predator (mountain lion,

bear, coyote) was the cause of death. Tissue samples were collected and will be submitted for further testing. The cause of death is not known at this time and once discovered will be reported in a future update.

LAMBS

No lambs were observed during this reporting period.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

The next written briefing will be provided on December 5, 2014 due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

CONTACT

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

RESEARCH FIELD NOTES

There are no new field notes for this reporting period.

PROJECT SPONSORS

A Special Thank You to Our Major Funding Partners

We would like to recognize the following groups as major funding partners for the project:

Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, Wild Sheep Foundation, Safari Club International Foundation, and the Arizona Chapter of Safari Club International

