



Santa Catalina Bighorn Sheep Reintroduction Project

January 29 through February 11, 2015

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 January 29 through February 11, 2015.



LAMBS

On February 3, 2015, Arizona Game and Fish biologists observed 13 sheep in a group comprised of 8 ewes and 5 lambs. Three of the lambs are new observations. This brings our total lamb count to 8 for this year, surpassing last year's total count of 5 known lambs. We believe that there may be more lambs and we will be working to confirm this over the next few months. These additions are encouraging, and although lamb survivorship is generally low, we are optimistic that this will be beneficial in establishing a sustainable bighorn sheep herd in the Catalina Mountains. This is a good reminder for hikers and recreationists to stay on designated trails, maintain a good distance away from sheep, and to never take dogs into the Bighorn Sheep

Management Area. The addition of lambs is critical to the establishment of the herd and their survival could be jeopardized by human-caused disturbance.

To see videos of our latest known additions check out these links:

<http://youtu.be/hMxAcGNxvXk>

http://youtu.be/xgCbPzpi_vE

http://youtu.be/CrA_Dy9NOJU

Photos and videos courtesy of Ben Brochu.





A ewe released in 2014 from the Plomosa Mountains with her lamb documented earlier this year.

NINTH LAMB CONFIRMED

On February 8th, 2015, Arizona Game and Fish Department biologists confirmed the ninth lamb born this season. The ewe, captured in the Plomosa Mountains in November 2014, and her newborn lamb were observed from a long distance using spotting scopes to minimize disturbance. In addition, biologists observed another ewe, also from the Plomosa Mountains and released this past fall, who appears to be pregnant and ready to give birth any day now.

Ewe captured in the Plomosa Mountains this past fall; she is expecting any day now.



MORTALITIES

There were no known mortalities of collared sheep during this reporting period.

CURRENT POPULATION STATUS

As of February 11, 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/catalinabighorn.

Additional project information can be obtained by visiting the Arizona Game and Fish Department Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CatalinaBighorns, the Arizona Game and Fish Department webpage at www.azgfd.gov/catalinabighorn, 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 jsacco@azgfd.gov.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

The next written briefing will be provided on February 27, 2015.

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 notes for this reporting period.