



Santa Catalina Bighorn Sheep Reintroduction Project

March 12 through 25, 2015

BRIEFING

The following is a summary of bighorn sheep reintroduction activities on the Coronado National Forest from March 12-25, 2015.



A photo of ewes (2) and lambs (3) observed on March 17, 2015 in the Santa Catalina Mountains. Photo courtesy of Mike Cross.

LAMBS

Arizona Game and Fish Department biologists continue to observe ewe and lamb groups in the Pusch Ridge Wilderness. The bighorn sheep lambing season can last for several months, often occurring from December through April. The continued lamb observations are encouraging for the future of the herd; however, they are not a guarantee that the population will increase proportionately as lamb survivorship is typically low. It is important to remember that the success of reintroduction efforts are generally determined over several years and that our most seasoned sheep have only been on the ground in the Santa Catalina Mountains for a year and a half. The continued observation of new born lambs 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.

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 March 25, 2015, 40 collared sheep are known to be alive.



Sheep observed on March 17, 2015, in the Pusch Ridge Wilderness. Photo courtesy of Mike Cross.

RESEARCH FIELD NOTES

There are no research updates.

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 lidesouza@azgfd.gov.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

The next written briefing will be provided on April 10, 2015.

CONTACT

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