



Santa Catalina Bighorn Sheep Reintroduction Project

March 26 through April 8, 2015

BRIEFING

The following is a summary of bighorn sheep reintroduction activities on the Coronado National Forest from March 26 – April 8, 2015.

LAMBS

On March 29, 2015, an Arizona Game and Fish Department biologist confirmed the sixteenth lamb of this season. The ewe, captured in the Plomosa Mountains in November 2014, and her lamb were observed with a group of four other ewes and their four lambs. The group was observed from a long distance using optics to minimize disturbance.



The three ewes and two lambs shown in this photo were observed as part of a group of ten bighorn sheep on March 29, 2015. Photo by Mike Cross/AZGFD.

The bighorn sheep lambing season can last for several months, occurring from December through April. The welcomed additions are encouraging for the future of the herd; however, not all lambs survive to their first birthday to contribute to population growth. It is important to remember that the success of a reintroduction effort is generally determined over several years and that our most seasoned sheep have only been on the ground in the Santa Catalina Mountains for 17 months. The continued observation of newly born lambs is a good reminder for hikers and recreationists to stay on designated trails, maintain ample distance 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 April 8, 2015, 40 collared sheep are known to be alive.

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 24, 2015.

CONTACT

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