



Santa Catalina Bighorn Sheep Reintroduction Project

April 9 through 22, 2015

BRIEFING

The following is a summary of bighorn sheep reintroduction activities on the Coronado National Forest from April 9-22, 2015.

LAMBS

There are no updates on lambs for this reporting period.

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.

VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

This project benefits from the phenomenal efforts of a core group of volunteers who ensure that VHF telemetry checks of collared sheep are conducted every day of the week. We would like to recognize Ron and Karen Yee, Doug Dalby, Joe and Lindy Sheehey, and Danielle Parrish for their dedication to the success of this project. These six people have completed daily VHF checks for the past 15 months, volunteering over 2,700 hours of time to the project thus far!

The Ram Rangers, comprised of 80 members of the Santa Catalina Volunteer Patrol, have contributed to the critical human dynamic of this project. Approximately 200 times per month, these volunteers can be found on major trails in the bighorn sheep management area educating recreationists about trail restrictions to benefit the sheep, in addition to explaining the reasons for the restrictions and providing some background on this project.

Yet another cadre of 17 volunteers spent January through March hiking in much of the challenging terrain in the Pusch Ridge Wilderness, visiting a sample of sites where the bighorn sheep have spent time as well

as random points in order to characterize habitat and gather data on which factors might influence the risk of mortality for individual sheep.

Projects of this scale simply cannot be successful through the efforts of staff alone; we rely on the generous contributions of numerous volunteers in our community who continue to donate thousands of hours of their precious time in order to see bighorn sheep restored to the Catalinas. Thank you!

PROJECT SPONSORS

We would like to recognize the following groups as major funding partners for the project: Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation, Arizona Chapter of Safari Club International, Safari Club International Foundation, Wild Sheep Foundation, and the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society.



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 ldesouza@azgfd.gov.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

The next written briefing will be provided on May 8, 2015.

CONTACT

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