



Catalina Bighorn Sheep Reintroduction Project August 17- 31, 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 August 17 - 31, 2014. For project background and previously-reported information on project events, including photos and videos, please visit www.azgfd.gov/catalinabighorn.

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

Including this reporting period, it has been over four months since a sheep mortality. 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 August 31, 2014, 13 of the remaining 14 collared sheep are known to be alive; one of the collars may be malfunctioning.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

The next written briefing will be provided on September 19, 2014.

CONTACT

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

RESEARCH PROJECT FIELD NOTES

About a month ago, we sent out an invitation in regards to some of the vegetation sampling we'll be doing in the Catalinas. This effort will include some fairly simple measurements we'll make on the

ground at sheep locations that the GPS collars provide us so that we can estimate just how much a sheep might see as it stands in a spot and how much the view might be obstructed by things like boulders, topography, or vegetation. This is an important measure among many that we will be analyzing as we examine habitat use in great detail. The challenging part of this research effort won't be the measurements, but rather reaching a large number of the sheep locations in the Catalinas to make our measurements. A few brave souls have already volunteered to help (our many thanks to you who have!), and we're still looking for more who like to hike and want to be part of this effort, so if you'd like to get involved (and enjoy some pretty spectacular hiking along the way), please contact either Research Biologist Andrew Jones (ajones@azgfd.gov) or Larisa Harding (lharding@azgfd.gov) and let us know as we begin to organize this effort. Sampling will most likely occur from early January through the end of February 2015. Come join in the fun and contribute to the research efforts!