

Santa Catalina Bighorn Sheep Reintroduction Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: December 12, 2012	Start Time: 6:00 PM
Meeting Place: Arizona Game and Fish Dept. Regional Office 555 N Greasewood Rd, Tucson AZ 85745	End Time: 8:00 PM

Note Taker: _____ **Agenda Prepared By:** J. Sacco & M. Quigley

Attendees:
 J. Sacco, R. Vega, J. Harris, M. Quigley, G. Dickens, J. Neeley, L. Corey, R. Serraglio, T. Hawkins, B. Dolan, J. Sheehey, B. Ham, S Helin, B. Brochu, J. Heffelfinger, J. McGehee, M. Guarena

Guests: _____

Please Bring: Calendars to Schedule next several meetings

#	Agenda Topics	Time	Person(s) Responsible
1.	Introductions	10 Minutes	J. Sacco
2.	Background	20 Minutes	B. Brochu/J. Sacco
3.	Purpose and Goals of the group	30 Minutes	All
4.	Break	10 Minutes	All
5.	How do we function?	20 Minutes	All
6.	Ground Rules	30 Minutes	All
7.	Set Meeting Dates. Place and Time	10 Minutes	All
8.	Adjourn		
	← OBJECTIVE 110 BHS ← Restoration effort of habitat? - WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR FIRESCAPE? - NO PRESERVED BOUNDARY SCHEDULED - 4500' level due to Saguaro concerns - Restoration or Maintenance - Habitat evaluation Criteria - Is this a habitat maintenance motivator. - Advisory Group Fresh Firescape		

? what is good enough habitat to put sheep in? what is long term.

Santa Catalina Bighorn Sheep Restoration Project

12/12/12 Meeting Notes

- **Group determined future Meeting Dates**
 - January 22, 24, Feb 7, 19 March 5
- **Ben Brochu and Joe Sacco provided a PowerPoint presentation.**
 - Discussion of limiting factors
 - What should be priority; restoration effort or habitat sustainability?
 - What is the timeline for implementing Firescape? 2014 is the desired date but it is unsure at this time.
 - Advisory Committee would like to forward support of Firescape
 - No prescribed burning currently scheduled
 - Extinguish fires below 4500' feet to protect saguaros. This is done to maintain habitat for lesser long-nosed bats. Fire frequency in desert areas historically is low.
 - Discussion on the habitat evaluation
 - Next meeting will focus on the habitat evaluation methodology and similar restoration effort(s) habitat evaluation scores and results of restoration effort in comparison to the habitat evaluation.
 - Work to determine the threshold when the habitat is suitable to support a sustainable restoration effort.
- **Individual Group Members Expectations:**
 - Healthy and functioning eco system sheep lions and without subsidy
 - Expectation that it will be contentious at times and to look for compromises
 - Broad base of support for the project
 - Request that committee members consent on given issues and work to that conclusion

- The value of BHS is to provide the interface and opportunity for people to see BHS
- To be able to see diverse wildlife in the Catalina's
- Commission wants this to be an effective process "model" for future efforts.
- Restoration is important to maintain diverse wildlife examples gould's turkeys, black-tailed prairie dogs, Project is important to the agency.
- Catalinas are missing something the mountain deserves sheep and the sheep deserve the mountain we need to put our best foot forward. Fire has given us this opportunity
- Invest energy in collaborative manner to come up with a successful project
- Remove the controversy from the project – broad base of support rally funding sources
- Work to get sheep on the mountain, working as a group; if it fails then we still accomplished something because we will learn
- Forest service values having the diversity and work on having alignment with other Forest plans.
- Ideal outcome is a healthy ecosystem. It is highly regarded and visited.
- Collaboration advances conservation so much further. Here in good faith and we will have difficult conversations. Increase the trust between the community and the Department (agencies). Very interested in the success of this process.
- Committed to the process; start fresh try not to carry baggage into the process. Spent time researching BHS on the Catalinas so there is a personal connection.
- Just knowing they are there is extremely important to influence conservation
- This is a new beginning and success will benefit future efforts
- Businessman, sportsman, excited about the project. Draw for tourism is important. Was also a student of Paul Krausman and is committed to work hard on the restoration effort

- Process will succeed to the degree as to why the BHS are so important. Proximity to the 2nd largest population center in the state is huge and will further conservation awareness
- Remembered the loss of the sheep; wants to work and collaborate. Forest service will be transparent.
- No reason that we shouldn't be able to work to a successful outcome
- Watchable wildlife is something the public values. Collars will ensure

Action Items:

Next meeting Firescape and media information will be the agenda items – Joe Mike and Brian D.

Send out PowerPoint of the meeting – Ben B. → *FORWARD TO THE GROUP **

Forward notes ground rules and invitations for the scheduled meeting dates - Joe ✓

Send information and respond to Advisory Committee request- Joe and Ben. ✓

Solicitation of funding for second meeting – Joe, Ben, Mike, Brian D. ✓

Send out the video clip from the Catalina ASP Ranger - Joe. ✓

Note: 5mb limit for some so either CDs will be sent out or another method used

*Need
to place
on agenda
for next meeting
talk to Mike?
BRIAN*

Santa Catalina Bighorn Sheep Reintroduction Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: January 22, 2013	Start Time: 6:00 PM
Meeting Place: Arizona Game and Fish Dept. Regional Office 555 N Greasewood Rd, Tucson AZ 85745	End Time: 8:00 PM
Note Taker:	Agenda Prepared By: J. Sacco, B. Dolan, M. Quigley
Attendees: J. Sacco, R. Vega, J. Harris, M. Quigley, G. Dickens, J. Neeley, L. Corey, R. Serraglio, T. Hawkins, B. Dolan, J. Sheehey, B. Ham, S Helin, B. Brochu, J. Heffelfinger, J. McGehee, M. Guarena <i>MARK STAGNAR, Jim Upchurch, VANESSA</i>	
Guests:	
Please Bring:	
Agenda Topics	Person(s) Responsible
✓ 1. Introductions 10 Minutes	J. Sacco
✓ 2. Review Notes, Action Items and Ground Rules 10 Minutes	J. Sacco
✓ 3. Firescape and Habitat Evaluation Criteria 30 Minutes	B. Brochu/J. Sacco
✓ 4. Break 10 Minutes	All
✓ 5. Limiting Factors Discussion 30 Minutes	B. Brochu
✓ 5. Introduction to the Mountain Lion Management Plan 20 Minutes	B. Brochu
✓ 7. Parking Lot/Action Items Review 10 Minutes	All
8. Adjourn	
<i>Discuss meeting Dates!</i>	
<i>FEBRUARY 19th can we change</i>	
<i>Thursday - Ranney</i>	
<i>Solpeltarian Strategy</i>	

01/22/2013

Santa Catalina Bighorn Sheep Restoration Project

Ground Rules

1. Be on time and end on time
2. Come prepared – read materials
3. Listen effectively and don't interrupt
4. Disagree with respect for one another
5. Don't get personal
6. Duplicity is not permitted – practice honesty and transparency
7. Be aware of the effect of media interactions to the integrity of the group
8. Process to consult stake holders about media releases in advance that effect the restoration effort advisory committee
9. No surprises
10. Stay focused on the goal
11. Cell phones silenced
12. Have a parking lot for tabled items

How well ~~THE~~ GROUP WORK w/ THE MEDIA CAN WE REACH OUT?
Want to have a speaker and some information?
~~Jim~~ Jim TORLACK.

OUTREACH STATEMENT. - ~~For~~ To get out.

Couple of paragraphs on process.

Compressed timeline & ~~what we are~~ who we are.
and what we are do.

* get them together w/ Mark - BRIAN & MARK Q

* Send out Power Point to the group.



* Forest OFFERS A MEETING ON FIRESCAPE
- send out to groups to check interest
get w/ Stan.

- What about the score - BRIAN says he sees it
as better.

- Is unimproving better?

- we were LEARN From sheep

- score stay the same or improves.
- want to see the score improve

- Is there a way to predict the blocks?
- could look at successional change (modeling)

- How does this interact in the future.

WILDERNESS plays into this as well. - work for
natural process.

- More of a Holistic look.

- Some groups opposed prescribed burning.

- Restoration of Habitat ties to THIS PROJECT.

- Information on the effect of the Habitat score.

* Overlay Habitat EVALUATION w/ treatment options.

- Glen suggested placing sheep & Sabino Cyn.

* Get Powerpoint to Murre

- Previous scores - NOT AVAILABLE

- PLAN ~~DISCUSSES~~ DISCUSSES WHAT WE DO ABOUT THE
LIMITING FACTORS.

* - 80% mortality due to cannibalism a STARVATION - LIMITATION

* Need M. Iron data

- mandatory dead IN - when did it happen.

* Historic hunt data for bears

* Historic sheep data

- Stay Committed don't loose.
 - RACHAEL -
 - still looky into Forescope
 - Treatment Areas & PROPOSED - WHAT REALLY MATTER FOR BITS
 - FORESCOPE IS NEPA.
 - WILDERNESS GUIDELINES.
 - RESTORE the natural role of Fire
 - RESTORE unnatural burnout of fuels.
 - ARGUMENT IS WILDLIFE IS A WILDERNESS RESOURCE
 - Workable
 - MRDG - March 2013
 - Forescope planning effort 2014 Complete
 - Entrance fuel treatments around Sonnenbaven - 2013 thru 2015
 - Implement Rx burn - 2015/2016
 - LIGHTNING STRIKES NEAR SPECIFIC AREAS.
 - Better in HISTORICAL AREA, FIRE IN ~~THE~~ ROCK.
 - How can we make it faster & efficient?
-

GET AGENDA OUT Tomorrow.

- TALK w/ Sethu ABOUT PRESENTATION TO COMMISSION
- CANCEL THE AGENDA
- Ground rules
- FORESCOPE
- OTHER ITEMS

Santa Catalina Bighorn Sheep Reintroduction Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: March 5, 2013	Start Time: 6:00 PM
Meeting Place: Arizona Game and Fish Dept. Regional Office 555 N Greasewood Rd, Tucson AZ 85745	End Time: 8:00 PM

Note Taker: Kathy Nation	Agenda Prepared By: J. Sacco, B. Dolan, M. Quigley
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Attendees:
J. Sacco, R. Vega, J. Harris, M. Quigley, J. Neeley, L. Corey, R. Serraglio, T. Hawkins, B. Dolan, J. Sheehey, B. Ham, S. Helin, B. Brochu, J. Heffelfinger, J. McGehee, M. Guereña

Guests:

Please Bring: Media Release, Life Table information, Mountain Lion Management Plan, Calendars



Agenda Topics	Time	Person(s) Responsible
✓ 1. Introductions and Schedule Meetings (4)	10 Minutes	J. Sacco/All
✓ 2. Media Contacts and Ground Rules	20 Minutes	J. Sacco/All
✓ 3. Commission Presentation (if necessary)	20 Minutes	B. Brochu/J. Sacco
4. Break	10 Minutes	All
✓ 5. Wilderness and Fuels Planning	20 Minutes	S. Helin
✓ 6. Mountain Lion Harvest Data	20 Minutes	M. Guereña/J. McGehee
7. Mountain Lion Management Strategy Recommendation(s)	10 Minutes	All
8. Triggers and Criteria (in place of item 3)	20 Minutes	B. Brochu
9. Parking Lot/Action Items Review	5 Minutes	All
10. Adjourn		
Legislature as well		
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> 3/19 → Y BULLDOG 3/19 - 4/2 4/9 4/11 </div>		

For next agenda

ACTION ITEMS - *TALKING POINTS JOE? MARK & BRIAN
 * MEETING INVITES - JOE
 * MEETING LOCATIONS - TRISA & MARK

- JOE DUFF <

* Do One Pager - Set of talking points - EXPECTATION

- Tucson - COMMISSION BRIEFING

- 4.5 MINUTE OVERVIEW

- PROACTIVE

- 1-2 People From Group

- TRIAL WORKING MODEL FOR FUTURE EFFORTS

- ITEM OUT OF AGENDA

* TRICA & BRIAN Presentation 1cs

- THMS AN INTERESTING THING & GO BACK

- ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT.

- APPROVED

- PHOTOS for revolving

* What happened to sheep what has & WILL

- FIRE SCAPE

* have 4 meetings

- Developed by the COMMITTEE - MRDG

- Collars are not a problem

- Ben has been working

- Does on the weekend

- Santa Catalina Patrol - TIGER TEAM

- FIRE (Stan) - WILLING TO DO PRESCRIBE FIRE

- For the FIRE - WHERE DOES FIRE MATTER MOST

- HABITAT EVALUATION

- 4500' IS SAGUARO MANAGEMENT - NO FIRE

- MIKE OFFERED TO HELP

- PROACTIVE MEDIA: HOW NCO CAN HELP

- Cumulative watershed response

- Stan will meet

- 10k's or 100,000 WILL GET A LOT BURNED

- BRIAN WANTS STAN TO PROVIDE HPC.

* ~~THE~~ IDEA OF CLOSURE IN BIGHORN SHEEP

- PRE TREATMENT

- SPORT HARVEST VS. HOUND (NO HOUNDS WOULD BE EASIEST)

Santa Catalina Bighorn Sheep Reintroduction Advisory Committee Minutes

03/05/13

Meeting Schedule for next 4 meetings:

March 19, April 2, April 4 and April 11.

Ben provided a handout and explained the information; mountain lion harvest and decision making priorities.

Ground rule changes: delete #8

#13 Proactive media outreach must be approved by Committee (elective release, not responding to requests)

#14 When responding to media inquiries stick to Talking points; example When asked a leading question respond with something like "That's an interesting thing, but here is what we are doing" and go back to talking points.

The modified/new ground rules were adopted by the committee.

Mike Quigley and Brian Dolan will develop talking points for committee review. They should only be one to two pages in length. They must be a fluid document that can be updated at the end of each meeting as work progresses Ben's Fund Solicitation presentation can be used as a guide. NOTE: The Advisory Committee and Agency Representatives refined the Talking Points on March 7th and 8th via email discussions.

The Game & Fish can't operate in secrecy; we have to respond to inquiries when we receive them.

Game & Fish has a comment process and needs to provide answers.

Jenny Neeley gave members who weren't present at the last meeting a brief review of why the committee was upset at the last meeting: Not being informed prior to press release, and not being told about the Commission meeting presentation before the meeting on the 25th of Feb. Several of their constituents called to inquire about the meeting

Commissioner Harris asked the Committee to reconsider giving the presentation and asked that Advisory Committee members provide the information as opposed to agency personnel. Brian will provide the information and Mike, Trica and Les will attend and provide support.

Joe Sacco will put together some photos to use with the presentation; Brian will give the presentation to the commission.

The first two hours of the Commission meeting is devoted to Region 5, Raul is giving updates on regional projects, it is also an open forum style so some questions may be asked.

Wilderness & Fuel Planning: Stan Helin requested a "minimum resource decision guide" (MRDG) decided on by the committee. Ben has been working on this.

Can change fire program to sheep recovery area, but needs to know which area need to be cleared so that they can be prioritized appropriately.

The National Preparedness level determines whether a fire will be fought in AZ or other areas of the country depending on the fire season if another area is having a bad fire season resources are sent there and suppression becomes the first option. The idea is to reduce the opportunity for a large fire by stopping it early. Also must consider firefighters safety and the difficulty in fighting fires in certain areas(terrain and other hazards)

Fire below 4500' has to be suppressed, saguaros can't be burned as the biome did not evolve with fire.

Smoke is also an issue on the front range. A proactive release will need to go out before any prescribed burn.

Unburned areas need to burn and burned areas need to burn again.

How many fires do you expect to need? 5 to 6

Burns will take in 2015-16

HPC grant would be needed. Prescribed burns can be funded in the 10s to 100s of thousands of dollars depending on defensibility/proximity to critical infrastructure i.e. Bigelow towers.

Brian offered to help Stan with a proposal for this HPC cycle.

Is there a way to remove fuel without burning, can Forest Service go into Wilderness area and remove fuel? Yes there are other techniques with varying degrees of success and cost.

The Forest Service needs to know the logistics of getting lions out of the wilderness area if they are part of the management plan. More than likely removals will involve ground efforts.

Collars aren't an issue in the wilderness area.

Helicopters in wilderness area, how often will they be used, duration of the use and how many?

The sheep will be released outside of wilderness area.

Arial surveys are in the wilderness plan. Brian stated that the surveys may need to be conducted on weekends because his volunteers have other obligations during the week. Stan said that the Santa Catalina Volunteer patrol would help with collar retrieval and surveys.

Mike offered to help with some of the logistics in particular if there are philosophical points to be overcome.

Need to factor in the cumulative watershed response. This may limit the extent that prescribed burning can be done in one season and needs to be considered in planning efforts.

Martin Guarena and John McGehee gave handouts on harvest data for the past 20 years. Mandatory check ins started in 2007 so any data before '07 is subjective.

Brian Dolan stated that the next meeting needs to be about the lion management strategy as we are getting close to the Commission deadline to submit for next year's Commission orders and the need to purchase collars if the sheep are to be transplanted in November.

The mountain lion Commission Order will be decided at the April Commission meeting and will take effect in July.

Brian addressed the Committee and stated that a total closure of the bighorn sheep management area to sport harvest is concerning since he feels it may make lawful sportsmen into unwitting violators. He said that he and his constituents would prefer the hound only closure if a closure is put in place. He also made the point that in many places pre-treatment; aggressive mountain lion removal is done prior to placing sheep; that has not been discussed in the case of the Catalina project.

A decision on the best approach for the Catalina Project will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Action Items:

Meeting Invites – Joe (Completed)

Meeting Locations – Trica, Mike and Joe

- When ~~how~~ will BE WRITTEN TO NAME AC MEMBERS
- FORESCAPE Comments - to Stan
- Do we need a plan in place? - Yes
- MBL - off the table?
- Look at the first two years then go to third year.
 - Flow chart or decision tree.
- have a review after 2 years
- Budget 3 years will BE BASED ON SURVEYS
- 5 up to 10
- PROJECT EVALUATION - OPTIONS
- SHARING, ADMIN REMOVAL
 - TARGET REMOVE OF MOUNTAIN CLOUS w/ Houndsman
 - ~~Revaluated after year~~ Methods Revaluated after ~~year~~ Quarterly
 - Maps of Mt. Lion movements

ACTION ITEM - RANDY MARK DOES NEPA APPLY

- next meeting

- What methods
- when will they be used?
 - Increase harvest IN RESPONSE to ACTIVITY.

80% success rate

- Launch w/ Admin Removal
- Gain support through schools
- NEPA NOT REQUIRED IN EXCHANGE FOR CLOSURE
 - HAVE FS come & talk about NEPA
- SURVEY PROTOCOL to determine #s ESTIMATED
 - How do we make a recruitment