

Santa Catalina Bighorn Sheep Reintroduction Advisory Committee Minutes

April 4, 2013

Attendees: Mike Quigley, Brian Ham, Martin Guerena, Ben Brochu, Joe Sheehey, J.W. Harris, Shalonda Guy, Stan Helin, John McGehee, Jenny Neeley, Les Corey, Trica Hawkins, Mark Stamer, Jim Heffelfinger, Brian Dolan, Randy Serraglio, Joe Sacco

Note Taker: N/A

Location: [REDACTED]

Time: 6PM-9PM

Meeting announcements: Habitat Partnership Committee meeting April 15, 2013 at the Tucson Game and Fish Office, 6-8PM.

Introductions

The Advisory Committee reviewed Multiple Bag Limit mountain lion hunt structure. There was a spirited debate that culminated with a recommendation to not use the MBL strategy.

The Advisory Committee reviewed the hunt closure idea. Randy asked for sport harvest to be prohibited in the Pusch Ridge Wilderness area. There was discourse about the proposal and the ramification of taking a recommendation of this nature forward. The final recommendation was a closure to take mountain lions with the aid of dogs in an area similar in size and shape of the Bighorn Management Area as described in Coronado National Forest Special Closure order 05-123.

At the conclusion of the discussion it was determined that the bighorn sheep reintroduction effort will move forward and sheep will be released in the Santa Catalinas in the fall of 2013. The Department will be moving forward with the purchase of necessary items i.e. the GPS collars and scheduling of resources.

The Advisory Committee had a brainstorming session regarding the use of mechanized equipment for the minimum required decision guide lead by Mark Stamer. The discussion concluded with a well defined vision of what an when mechanized use would occur in the Wilderness Area. Most was centered on the use of a helicopter. Mark will use the information to craft the MRDG that will then be subject to an Environmental Assessment.

Action Items:

Draft of Commission Order Change: Joe Sacco and Jim H.

Draft of timeline: Mike Q

Send out notification on how to attend/ watch the Commission Meeting: Joe Sacco.

Next Meeting:

Scheduling of future meetings.

Talking Points – Addition of AC talking point

Mountain lions killed discussion – understanding of what would constitute concerns (gut check) i.e. total number removed in a year, number removed in a short time period (how many per month, every 3 months, 6 months etc).

What is the measure of a success? Definition of what a success is.

Matrix that that guides actions/considerations