

Santa Catalina Bighorn Sheep Reintroduction Advisory Committee Meeting  
05/13/14

The next meeting is June 3<sup>rd</sup> at AZGFD.

Population Augmentation:

E Staff is behind the plan to relocate 2 rams to augment the remaining sheep.

Where will the rams come from?

Region 4 has some rams that can be used.

Mike Q. would prefer sheep that didn't come from source populations that have active lion management on going.

It was stated that the reason there are source populations of sheep is due to lion management

Mt. Lions are expanding their territories into the Eastern U.S. from source populations in the west.

Brian D. wants the rams to come from Units 22 or 24B because they are lion savvy already.

Silverbell Mtns. Are not an option due to disease and other mitigating factors.

The timeline for release is the end of June, July 1<sup>st</sup> the latest.

The committee is supportive of the augmentation plan.

This is a good opportunity to highlight the adaptive management plan.

There will be no advanced notice to public or media of upcoming augmentation, there will be no media present at release.

Release sit is tentatively in La Quiche Canyon which is a straight shot up to the remaining sheep.

Jim H. will get proposal started up the chain of command 5/14/14 to start the process for getting the rams.

Sergio A. Wants to know how do we learn from past experiences to make this release and the next one more successful?

The Department is taking over the EA checklist to be able to use helicopters for 2<sup>nd</sup> transplant.

Status:

It's been 60 days since last mortality, ewes and lambs are in historic bighorn habitat on Pusch Ridge, and all but one are together.

The lone mature ram is still in the Sabino Canyon area but is heading west towards the ewes.

The uncollared immature ram was last seen in late Feb.

There was discussion on using a different vendor, Norstar, for collars.

Firescape:

Invite Stan Helin and Jim Upchurch to the next meeting to start the firescape discussion. Joe S. has models and maps that were developed by an intern to show where fire is needed for sheep habitat, and he will send these to the Forest Service for their review.

Environmental community needs to pressure Rep. Grijalva to pressure the Forest Service to implement the firescape plan.

Jim Paxon discussed letter sent to Sandy Bahr of the Sierra Club in response to a letter she sent to Director Voyles and Commissioner Harris about her concerns about the project.

