Santa Catalina Bighorn Sheep Reintroduction Advisory Committee Minutes
August 5, 2014

Attendees: Joe Sacco, R. Vega, M. Quigley, S. Avila, B. Brochu, Brian Dolan, Trica Oshant Hawkins, Martin Guerena, Josh Taiz, Jim Heffelfinger, Joe Sheehey, Brian Ham, Nathan Jackson

Guest Speaker: None

Note Taker: J. Sacco

Location: Tucson Arizona Game and Fish Department Office

Time: 6PM-8PM

Meeting announcements: Nathan Jackson has been hired by the Research Branch and will be working on the sheep project in this capacity

Minutes:

- BHS Status report
    - 2 ewes are north of Pusch Ridge near Buster Spring.
    - Ram was exhibiting rutting behavior.
    - Distributed the Mortalities table and discussed the learning curve associated with the project.
- Joe Sheehey – concerned about the effectiveness of the collars
    - Discussed the results of the meeting with Lotek
    - Global Star vs. Iridium the pros and cons
        - IR can be reprogramed after collars are deployed GS cannot
    - Asked about Unit 1 and the results of using the IR collars there – no report
- Trica asked about preparing for the next release and having volunteers to help out.
    - Suggested having a backup plan in the case of the collar failure
    - Concerned about having enough volunteers to help out with mortalities.
    - Mortality functions on the collars appear to be functioning properly

    - The IR fills in the blanks during the time that the collars do not down load. The GS collars will have the data but will not be able download the data until the collars are retrieved.
    - Do we need more receivers? – No
- Reviewed Ram augmentation
    - Blocks are being placed in locations where sheep are at. The blocks could be used by deer as well.
    - Brian Dolan discussed the use of salt in Unit 27 and the positive effect on recruitment.
- Concerns about water in the PRWA
    - Issues with using primitive tools to adequately perform the renovation needed.IR
- Ben and Nathan provided a table w/ the mortalities, the cause, circumstances and lessons learned
    - Brian H. asked for kill site photos to be included
- Report on the conversation with the Lotek representative on Iridium vs. Global Star Collars
    - IR has two way communication allowing for programing to address issues such as false mortality alerts
    - Global Star does not have this feature so once programmed it cannot be changed until the collar is in hand.
    - IR tracks more satellites 97% vs. GS 87%
    - GS Mortality alert – uploads and provides 3 locations every 30 seconds.
    - If there is a delay in uploading once the upload happens IR fills in the gaps with GS if there are missed uploads they are not available until the collar is retrieved.
    - Suggested to proceed with the majority of the collars being Iridium and experimenting with a few Global Star collars.
    - Mark Albrecht has a study in Minnesota and uses both collars and has not had a problem with either one uploading indicating that our issues may not necessarily be collar related.
- Discussed training and recruiting volunteers – need to add more to the cadre of individuals
    - Who should we recruit? Want people we can trust that will put forth the effort needed.

- AGFD are working on getting the Wildlife Specialist 1 Position for the project
- The AC Members present – B. Ham, B. Dolan, T. Oshant Hawkins, voted to move forward with ordering collars and preparing for transplant.
- Trica believes that most in the community are comfortable with the second release
- Committee Membership – Members present and Randy Seraglio and Mike Quigley voted to reinstate Glen Dickens on the Committee. S. Avila did not vote.
- JW Harris will be attending the WAFWA Conference and asked if there were any issues that Committee would like him to explore
    - None were offered
- AC members believe that our focus should be on habitat maintenance and enhancement
    - Suggested that it may be necessary to take this up with the Senate Natural Resources Committee
    - It would be also good to show other success and what it took to get populations reestablished.

Action Items:

Next Meeting(s): August 05, 2014