

Santa Catalina Bighorn Sheep Reintroduction Advisory Committee Minutes

September 26, 2013

Attendees: Mike Quigley, Brian Dolan, Joe Sacco, Joe Sheehey, Trica Oshant Hawkins, Brian Ham, Ben Brochu, John McGehee, Martin Guerena, Stan Helin, Shalonda Guy, Mindi Lehew, Acasia Berry, Mark Hart

Guest Speaker: None

Note Taker: Kathy Nation

Location: Tucson Arizona Game and Fish Department Office

Time: 6PM-8PM

Meeting announcements:

Minutes:

Fire & Firescape-/ forest Service Stan Helin: Fire plan will be completed late fall 2014. The FS wants to bring fire to Pusch Ridge Wilderness, but that is not an easy thing.

Can Committee be of any assistance? It would be worth exploring ideas on how to help.

Fire and prescribed burns are decided at Regional level not locally.

Fire can only happen if all of the conditions are met (environmental). Firefighter safety is also a factor. There is also an increased scrutiny on Wilderness areas.

The burn would be a Type 1 prescribed, there are plans to bring in the Type 1 boss from the Kaibab forest to evaluate conditions.

There are no natural barriers to Summerhaven to slow the fire.

There have been over 100 natural ignitions in one 24 hour period with none of them burning.

Aspen Fire- Decision was made to stop fire intentionally from Romero Pass to Ventana because of cost to fire and safety concerns.

How adaptive will the fire plan be with knowledge from past with sheep on mountain? The plan will be vey adaptive.

HPC grant to create a fire break from Romero Trail to Sabino Canyon. Can Youth Conservation Corp. be used to create fire break? Yes

Sheep are not the reason to bring fire back; FS doesn't consider wildlife needs to determine fire needs.

Sending a letter to the FS regional office from the Committee sends the wrong message, only concerned about sheep. It is better to have each individual group and other interested groups send their own letters of support for bring fire back. The sheep project is an opportunity for the FS to meet their fire goals.

The biggest concern in bring fire back is the top of the mountain where Summerhaven and antennas are located

Public Meetings discussion:

Mic ladies not very attentive to getting the mic to people waiting to speak.

Disappointed with turn out. Can meeting dates and times be included in each group's newsletter. Mark H. will prepare press release.

Instead of starting with a video, make the video part of the presentation.

Westward Look wants to help spread the word.

Committee members and G&F personnel worked well together to show cohesiveness & balance.

Panel discussion was good format

State upfront that this is a Q&A format

Keep as simple as possible, Remember your audience.

Have a Sign-in table

Hiking Restrictions: Designated trail 400' off trail during lambing season- any other trail is off limits. Be proactive and send letters to hiking clubs. Post signs saying "This area closed due to lambing season"

Bring in rep from hiking clubs

Lambing season is from Jan. 1 to April 30th

Fund Raising: 2 efforts, Sheep Society will put together list of every tag holder for last 10 years and raise funds

Local business

La Reserve had at one time a fund set up for bighorn habitat

Developments & redevelopments: La Reserve tank and maybe Table Mtn needs rehabbing, may need helicopter to bring in power washers.

Wilderness Society against use of mechanical means to rehab water tanks and building any new tanks or artificial water sources.

Previous Action Items:

Look for Celebration venue (El Conquistador, Ventana Canyon etc.) - Joe Sacco

Status: Westward Look is reserved for 10/09/2013; waiting on confirmation on date for Ventana Canyon

Contact AZGFD Legislative Liaison - Joe

Status: Completed

Contact TO Tribal Council Members to see if a resolution for the project is possible - Trica

Status: Unknown

New Action Items:

Next Meeting(s): 10/15, & 10/29

Public Meetings: Westward Look 10/9 6:30-8:30 and Ventana Canyon 10/23 6:30-8:30.

Future Agenda Items: