

Factors Related to Poor Population Performance of California Bighorn Sheep on Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge, Oregon

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Abstract: In 1995 the end of winter population of California bighorn sheep on Hart Mountain National antelope refuge was estimated at 600 individuals. By 2003 this population was estimated at 300 individuals and lamb recruitment during the period was adequate to maintain the population. For a 4 year period beginning in January, 2004 we radio marked and monitored 48 adult bighorn to determine cause of adult mortality, measure lamb production and recruitment, monitor herd health and measure sex and age specific survival. We will present results of this research and discuss management implications.

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