

## **Reintroducing Bighorn Sheep to Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument**

**HARRY BARBER**<sup>1</sup>, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument 190 E Center St. Kanab,  
UT 84741

**Abstract:** In 1999 the grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) in partnership with Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR), the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (FNAWS), and Brigham Young University (BYU) began an aggressive effort to reintroduce desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis Canadensis nelson*) into GSENM. Sheep were captured and released into GSENM in 1999, 2000, and 2006. Transplant animals came from 3 locations in Nevada. To better understand the movements of these animals, 20 were fitted with radio transmitters. Graduate students from BYU under the guidance of Dr. Jerran Flinders studied the movements of these animals in 1999 and 2000. Through their efforts and later the efforts of GSENM and UDWR biologists, important distribution data were collected and act as the basis of the GSENM sheep program. Today GSENM biologists have a much better understanding of appropriate sheep habitat and continue to locate areas that may act as future release sites while at the same time maintaining key areas as acceptable sheep habitat.

***BIENN. SYMP. NORTH. WILD SHEEP AND GOAT COUNC. 16:196***

<sup>1</sup>*Email: Harry\_Barber@blm.gov*