

BIG CREEK BIGHORN SHEEP
LAMB MORTALITY FORM
EWE 1990
#10

(5-23-T-B)

Observer Don J. Ray/Holly Date 23 May 90 Drainage Cliff Creek

Location In creek bottom 200 yds above Third Bench Quad map _____
+ below lambing cliff

Aspect SE Slope 10% Physiography creek bottom Topography rocky soil

Vegetation PsMe, Acgl, Pi/a, Cost, Ph le, Pi eg

Carcass information:

Time found 2:30 Time since death 2-3 weeks

Evidence of cause of death ? - carcass fed upon by a bear

Description of carcass Carcass lying 25 ft N of cliff creek in the bottom; mostly hide & bones

Samples taken femur, skull Print photo number 1+2

Chilling and transport of carcass NA

Probable source group of sheep (by radio number) (05-23-T-8 + 05-23-T-A)

Location of adjacent sheep group _____ distance 400 S. of #8 group

Search time & clues to finding carcass accidental find (tripped over it)

Comments:

- abscess in lower jaw & overgrown teeth (maxilla & mandible)
- about 12 piles of bear droppings within 20 ft. of carcass
- collared ewe - #10.
- no mortality signal

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1

Observer Dan Date 1 Jun 90 Drainage B. Cottonwood Cr.
Location _____ Quad map _____
Aspect S Slope 280% Physiography low. 1/3 Topography talus-rocky outcrop
Vegetation P. Me / Ribies

Carcass information:

Time found 1:30 PM Time since death < 12 hrs.

Evidence of cause of death unknown

Description of carcass carcass lying on rock outcrop =
2 ravens observed feeding on carcass - golden eagle in area

Samples taken nasal + tonsillar swabs Print photo number 3 + 4

Chilling and transport of carcass carcass to be taken out

Probable source group of sheep (by radio number) 06-01-T-3

Location of adjacent sheep group Enc #3 at carcass distance _____

Search time & clues to finding carcass crows on carcass - ewe approached spot

Comments:

- 2 ravens + eagle observed on outcrop where carcass found, ravens chased eagle away
- ewe observed alone, moving along slope toward outcrop
- ewe chased ravens away, then stood over carcass for \approx 1 min.
- eyes, all vital organs, + guts all pecked away

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Observer Jim Date 6/1/90 Drainage Big Creek

Location Ledge on Upper Cliffs Quad map _____

Aspect S Slope Ledge Physiography _____ Topography _____

Vegetation Mountain Mahogany, wheat grass

Carcass information:

Time found 2:00 p.m. Time since death 24 hours est.

Evidence of cause of death immediately following cold spring storm.

Description of carcass Chest cavity pecked open by Ravens, and lungs consumed.

Samples taken Head, leg, liver, intestine Print photo number _____

Chilling and transport of carcass Kept cold / flown out the same day

Probable source group of sheep (by radio number) _____

Location of adjacent sheep group Hidden Basin in Cliff Cr. distance 600 yds.

Search time & clues to finding carcass 2 hrs., raven/coyote activity

Comments: Followed raven activity. Ewe was defending carcass from coyote. Ravens still scavenged lamb.

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Group # JUI2-A-A
Aerial Photo EVO-37-84

Observer Holly Atkinson Date June 12, 90 Drainage Cliff Cr
Location South edge lambing cliff above 200' dropoff Quad map DAVE LEWIS
Aspect S Slope >90% Physiography Cliff Topography Top 1/3 slope
Vegetation CELE

Carcass information:

Time found 1:00pm Time since death 48 hr +

Evidence of cause of death none visible

Description of carcass ^{Rambomb ~ 20-25 lb live weight} Ravens & golden eagles had consumed all

body organs and meat from head/neck / front half of body; meat still fresh; small maggot eggs.
gut remains show evidence of feeding on vegetation.

Samples taken no swabs; sent out hind leg & head Print photo number H1-26-28

Chilling and transport of carcass sent out on mail plane 6/13/90 wrapped in newspaper, chilled

Probable source group of sheep (by radio number) #8 group 8+S(5E,3L)

Location of adjacent sheep group just west in same cliff distance <100M, in sight of carcass

Search time & clues to finding carcass Raven activity (<5 minutes)

Comments: Saw a ewe on 6/11/90 that was distressed - as if she lost a lamb. She was in hidden basin 1/2 mi away - we searched that area; saw general raven activity, but no localized use. Dan saw another agitated ewe on 6/8/90 maybe in the same area of this carcass.

Carcass was hung up on a Mt Mahogany over a 150' sheer drop off cliff. Ray C. eased out on the narrow ledge to retrieve the dead lamb.

copy of this form sent w/ sample

BIG CREEK BIGHORN SHEEP
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Observer Ray Date 6/17/90 Drainage Symonite
Location One draw West of Little Waterfall Cr. Quad map Big Baldy
Aspect SE Slope 70 Physiography _____ Topography Near bottom of draw, mostly solid rock near base of cliff
Vegetation Pine, Picea / Cele, bitter brush, juniper / dragon sage, Feid

Carcass information:

Time found 2:45 PM Time since death 48-24 hours

Evidence of cause of death None

Description of carcass Hole in chest, 3" in dia made by Ravens.

Most of heart, lungs, liver & intestines gone. Eyes gone

Samples taken Nasal / Tonsillar / Lung Print photo number _____

Chilling and transport of carcass _____

Probable source group of sheep (by radio number) #6 is only radioed ewe in area last seen 6/15/90 approx 1/2 mi away but she was by herself

Location of adjacent sheep group _____ distance _____

Search time & clues to finding carcass N/A

Comments: Raven activity in area. ^{early in morning} thought there may be dead sheep at mid-slope. While trying to traverse into area, looked below me and there it was. Lone ewe spotted approx. 200 yds. away as I approached lamb.

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EWE

Observer AKENSON Date 6/29/90 Drainage Goat Cr
Location Below Goat Basin on E side 100m above ^{stream in small talus slide} Quad map _____
Aspect W Slope 30 Physiography lower 1/3 Topography scattered outcrops & talus
Vegetation on edge of PSME/PHMA and AGSP/FEID grassland ^{lower} _{slopes}

Carcass information:

Time found 11:30* Time since death ~5 days
Evidence of cause of death NONE ^{old ewe;} 1 tooth abscess on lower jaw, irregular
^{bone growth on upper jaw; irregular tooth wear}
Description of carcass *When Wayne saw it, there was a rotten smell and a 5" hole in
^{but meat & hide was intact} the side & it may have been slid downhill after its death. I found only a dried out ^{whole} carcass
^{with a few maggots.}
Samples taken femur, head Print photo number _____
Chilling and transport of carcass femur refrigerated
Probable source group of sheep (by radio number) #13
Location of adjacent sheep group Wayne saw 8S (GE, ZL) including #13
on W side Goat Cr, below Basin distance 400M
Search time & clues to finding carcass SMELL; <15 minutes

Comments:

* Wayne Minshall found this ewe on 6/26. Ray Guse searched for it on 6/27, but couldn't locate it.

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Observer Ray & Don Date 5 Jul 90 Drainage Big Cottonwood Cr.
Location N. side, midway up B. Cottonwood Cr. Quad map Rainbow Pk.
Aspect SE Slope 50% Physiography low $\frac{1}{3}$ Topography rocky soil, creek bottom
Vegetation Ps Me, Juniperus, Dragon Sage, Ribies,

Carcass information:

Time found 10:05 AM Time since death 8-9 days

Evidence of cause of death _____

Description of carcass Carcass laying about 15 feet from creek; all internal organs gone; bird manure around carcass

Samples taken Femur, nasal + tonsilar swabs Print photo number 13-18

Chilling and transport of carcass hiked out ASAP

Probable source group of sheep (by radio number) _____

Location of adjacent sheep group _____ distance _____

Search time & clues to finding carcass found carcass on hike out

Comments:

- nasal + tonsilar swabs probably not useful
- carcass lying along route used to get in and out of B. Cottonwood
- we apparently passed within 20 yds. of carcass 8 days ago on our way in; at that time, we saw a lone ewe about 100 yds. above where carcass was found

Big Creek Lamb Sample #3

BIG CREEK BIGHORN SHEEP
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Observer Holly Atkinson Date 7/7/90 Drainage Big Creek
Location Ram Canyon - mouth at Pecks Plot - just above riparian Quad map Dave Lewis Peak
Aspect S Slope 40% Physiography lower 1/3 slope Topography outcrops / talus
Vegetation CEIE, RICE, AGSP scattered PSME

Carcass information:

* Time found 10AM Time since death 2-3 days

Evidence of cause of death NONE

Description of carcass Yearling bear feeding on / next to carcass;
lower legs, hide & skull parts nearby; fat maggots, but hind leg meat mostly
pink.

Samples taken ① hind leg / femur Print photo number _____
② nasal swab of maggot
infested skull fragment

Chilling and transport of carcass Refrigerated until a plane is in.

Probable source group of sheep (by radio number) 2 ewes, unmarked

Location of adjacent sheep group 100 M. uphill from lamb carcass distance _____

Search time & clues to finding carcass * smell, chance

Comments:

* Lamb found the day before by Jeff Yeo's class -
intact body, only fly eggs, eyes still present,
smelly.

BIG CREEK BIGHORN SHEEP
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♀ 1990
Ewe

Observer Ray Date 7-11-90 Drainage Head of Annie Cr.
Location Base of talus directly below saddle on Big Cottonwood divide Quad map Pavilion
Aspect NE Slope 20% Physiography _____ Topography _____
Vegetation Pine, Pinal, Abbs, juniper, Fe id

Carcass information:

Time found 2:15 PM Time since death 24 hrs +
Evidence of cause of death Dead ewe 30 feet away...?
Description of carcass Rigor mortis has set in, but carcass is complete, even eyes.
Samples taken Nasal, Tonsil, whole carcass ^{packed out} Print photo number 20-24
lung, blood from atrium
Chilling and transport of carcass _____

Probable source group of sheep (by radio number) #5 (or 3) was bedded ^{30 yds away}
^{see JL-11-G-5}
Location of adjacent sheep group bedded in adj talus distance 30 yds
Search time & clues to finding carcass Bird activity in the area, found them in < 1 hr. I was looking on Big Cottonwood side, once
Comments: I looked over ridge into Annie Cr. they were visible.

Ewe: Appears to have been dead longer than lamb. No apparent cause of death. 48 hrs +. Animals have eaten into groin area, but aside from that carcass is intact.

Samples: Eye; Nasal; tonsil; Femur; blood from Atrium; lung.
She is 5+ years old. Appears not to have any broken legs.

7/15/90: Holly and I examined her teeth. The right side molars were quite worn, while the left side molars were not. ~~the teeth show~~ The lower incisors were worn down to the nerves. However, there were no gross abnormalities with her dentition.