

# Domestic Sheep and Goats in Bighorn Sheep Habitat: Incident Response

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# 3 events

- ~100 domestic sheep, 2 fields around Yuma
- ~40 domestic goats, Vekol Valley/Maricopa Mtns
- 1 domestic goat on Saddle Mountain



# Muggins Mountains/Red Bluff

- 9/27 Initial report received: dead domestic sheep along canal; incident contained
- 10/15 Second report received
  - 53 dead domestic sheep in canal
  - Many more at large
  - Received permission from owner to lethally remove
- 10/20 thru 10/27 - 77 domestic sheep lethally removed
- 3 bighorn sheep found in the vicinity also lethally removed
- Nasal and tracheal swabs collected from bighorns and 20 domestic sheep



# Muggins Mountains/Red Bluff

## Report: Vehicle strikes herd, 7 sheep killed, 10-15 hurt

BY JAMES GILBERT  
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Deputies from the Yuma County Sheriff's Office responded to a single vehicle traffic crash Sunday evening in which seven sheep were killed and another 10 to 15 were injured.

The accident happened at around 6:35 p.m. in the 2500 block of County 15th Street, according to YCSO

spokesperson Alfonso Zavala.

Zavala explained that the sheep were being herded west along the roadway, while the vehicle that eventually plowed into the herd had been traveling east on County 15th Street.

He said that the driver of the vehicle could not see the herd of sheep approaching due to their vision being obscured by a small hill

that goes over the canal in that block of County 15th.

"The driver collided with the group of sheep after clearing the crest of the hill," Zavala said.

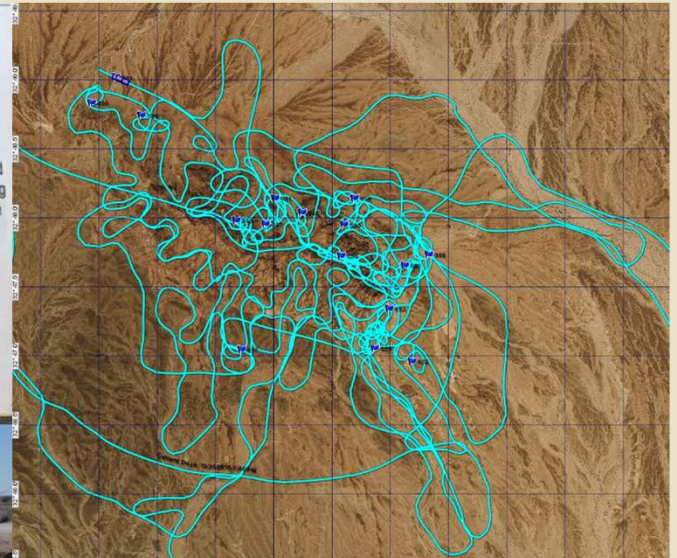
The driver of the vehicle, who was not injured, was not identified.

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SEVEN SHEEP WERE KILLED and another 10 to 15 were injured Sunday evening when a vehicle plowed into a flock along County 15th Street.

LOANED PHOTO



# Muggins Mountains/Red Bluff

## Resources expended

- Animals killed: 77 domestic sheep and 3 bighorn sheep
- Hours: 140 Department staff and 30 volunteer
- Miles driven: 1,172 Department and 200 volunteer
- Cost: \$22,101.00

## Laboratory results

- All of the domestic sheep had leukotoxin A positive bacteria
- 12 of 20 domestic sheep were positive for *M. ovipneumoniae*
- *M. ovipneumoniae* was very different from the strains found in bighorn sheep in the area





# Vekol Valley

- 12/17 Initial call received from BLM biologist, 11 goats observed by archery hunter
- 12/18 Owner of goats identified, 30 to 40 animals had been “lost” about 30 d prior, assumed killed by predators
- 12/19 Owner gave permission to lethally remove after unsuccessful attempt to capture
- 12/20 to 12/21 removed 42 domestic goats in 3 groups, 2 groups were in bighorn sheep habitat; samples collected
- No bighorn sheep were observed during removal







# Saddle Mountain

- 12/1 Single “white floppy eared goat” observed by bighorn sheep hunter
- Department personnel attempted to locate animal on foot and by helicopter, unsuccessful
- Resources used:
  - 25 Staff hours
  - 230 miles in Department vehicles
  - Helicopter survey included in Vekol Valley total



# Planned follow-up

## Muggins/Red Bluff

- Monitor collars for mortality
- Fall surveys
- Sampling hunter harvested animals

## Vekol Valley

- Collar rams this week and maybe ewes later
- Fall surveys
- Possible ground surveys



# Thank you! Questions? Comments?

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