

Betsy D. Warner
bwarner@desertmuseum.org
520-883-3070 (d)
520-268-5652 (m)
2021 N. Kinney Rd
Tucson, AZ 85743
www.desertmuseum.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BIGHORN SHEEP LAMB ARRIVES

Tucson, AZ (March 24, 2016)—The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is celebrating the arrival of a Bighorn lamb born at approximately 1:15 PM on March 23.

“This is the fourth lamb for this ewe and they are both doing great,” said Shawnee Riplog-Peterson, the Museum’s Curator of Mammalogy and Ornithology. “We are so pleased to have another successful birth as part of the Species Survival Program (SSP) for Bighorn Sheep organized by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA).”

Visitors were able to watch the birth and see the ewe give her gentle “foot-stamp” to encourage the lamb to stand and take its first steps. The ram was seen in action too as he walked slowly passed the lamb to get his first look.

“Visitors will be surprised how quickly lambs begin romping over the steep terrain, so we encourage everyone to come soon to watch this lamb gain strength and climbing proficiency,” Riplog-Peterson added. “Bighorns are difficult to spot in the wild, so it’s always a delight for visitors to see newborns up close.”

The ewe that gave birth yesterday is the same ewe which delivered a female lamb just before Easter, 2015. This ewe was obtained in an exchange from the Los Angeles Zoo in early 2014 as part of the SSP’s efforts to expand the genetic diversity in captive populations. Yesterday’s event is the eighth successful lamb birth at the Museum.

The mission of an AZA Species Survival Plan® (SSP) Program is to cooperatively manage specific, and typically threatened or endangered, species population within AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums, certified related facilities, and sustainability partners. The Desert Museum is an AZA-accredited institution.

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NOTE: Photos and video are available for media use. Please contact Desert Museum at 520/883-3070 or bwarner@desertmuseum.org to request images and/or arrange for a photo or filming session.

Focused on the preservation of the Sonoran Desert, the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum will turn your idea of a museum inside out. Set on a 98-acre botanical garden, a two mile walking trail features 230 animal species, an art gallery, an aquarium, educational activities, one of the world’s most comprehensive regional mineral collections and more. Ongoing conservation and research programs enhance everything we do. The Museum is open every day from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Plan your visit at www.desertmuseum.org