



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT**

#### **NEW BIG HORN LAMB BORN AT ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM**

**Tucson, AZ** (May 12, 2014) Mother's Day had tremendous meaning for the Desert Museum this year with the birth of its first Big Horn lamb since 2007. The new lamb arrived early Saturday morning, May 10, without fanfare. Over the years, the Museum has had six successful births.

The ewe, recently transferred from the Los Angeles Zoo, has given birth to one previous lamb. At this time, it's unknown if the newborn is male or female. The lamb is inquisitive, agile, and has been exploring its new home. Visitors may catch a glimpse of it in its habitat frolicking as newborns do. Visitors are likely to be surprised by how quickly lambs adapt to steep terrain.

"This 3-year old dam was part of an exchange program organized by the American Zoological Association's program to breed captive Big Horn sheep with the purpose of expanding the genetic diversity of the 46 animals held in captivity by six partner organizations," states Shawnee Riplog-Peterson, the Museum's Curator of Mammalogy. "By using extensive genetic DNA information, the goal of the program is to breed for the most diverse herd possible, thereby reducing the number of Big Horns taken in future from wild populations."

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**Photography and video opportunities are available. Please contact Desert Museum marketing representatives.**

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The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is one of the nation's leading outdoor, living museums, featuring more than 230 animals and 1,200 varieties of desert plants. Its purpose is to inspire people to live in harmony with the natural world by fostering love, appreciation, and understanding of the bi-national, Sonoran Desert region. The Museum is located at 2021 N. Kinney Road, in Tucson Mountain Park adjacent to Saguaro National Park (West). It is open daily year round with operating hours varying by season. Call (520) 883-2702 or visit [www.desertmuseum.org](http://www.desertmuseum.org) for more information.

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