JULY 1985

THE SOCIETY FOR
THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP

THE SHEEPHERDER

SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP

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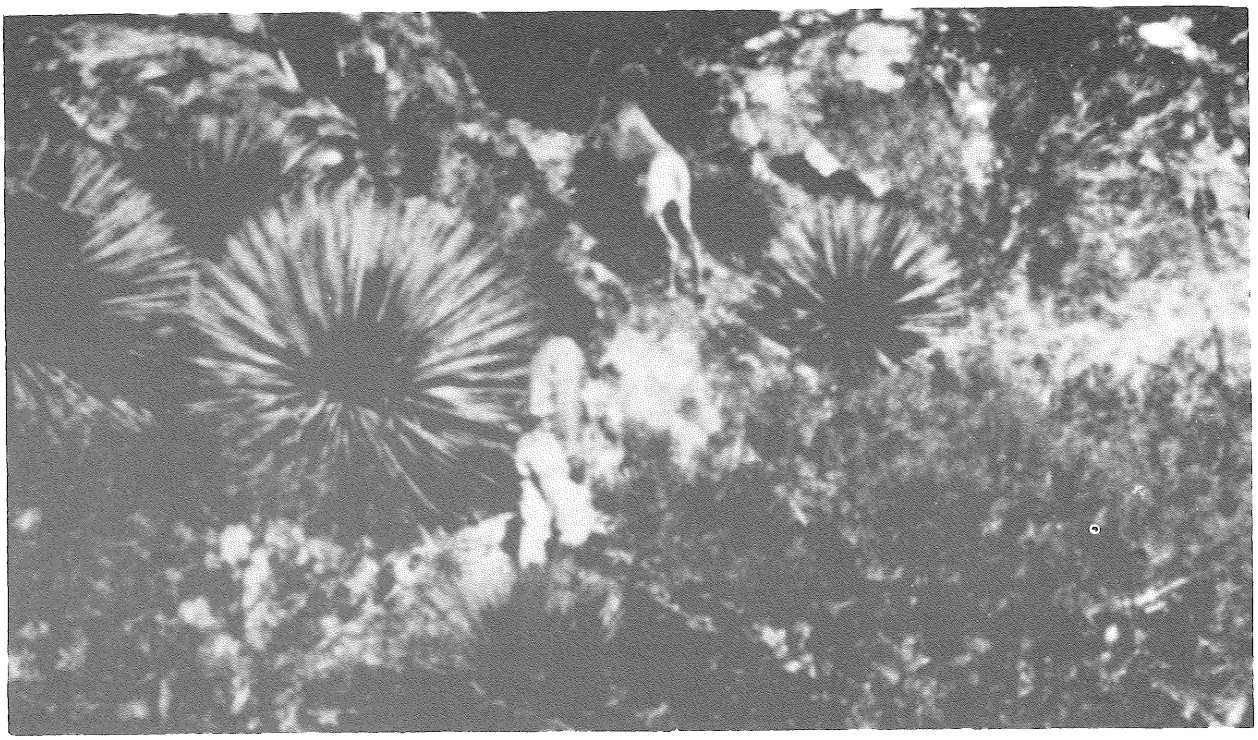
ON THE COVER

This cover picture was taken by Bill Beebe during a precapture program last year.



Suspect, Rasalio Esquivel of Ontario Calif., chasing a wounded ram.

POACHING A TRAVESTY OF JUSTICE

By George Taylorson
Editor

The photo above is a very rare photo of an actual poacher chasing a wounded ram very recently. The photo shows the suspect Rasalio Esquivel, male mexican, 32 years of age chasing a wounded ram. In the original photograph you can see (photo in editors possession) red blood on the left side of the neck from the bullet wound. The picture was taken by a young man who happened to witness the incident.

Rosalio Esquivel was with 5 other suspects who have all been charged in the Pomona Court. The sentences handed down were as follows. Two suspects pled guilty and paid $850.00. The third subject pled guilty and paid $250.00. The shooter pled guilty and paid $1,750.00 and was ordered to donate 250 hours of community service. He was also placed on two years probation.

The remaining two suspects opted for a jury trial. These kinds of sentences are a travesty of justice. They don't even amount to a slap of the hand. With sentences like these, the courts are paying people to poach. Today, a good pelt and set of horns can be sold for $5,000.00 and even more. It is hard for this writer to see where these kinds of sentences create any kind of penalty or deterent to poaching. I know poeple that will pay well over $10,000.00 to have a tag to kill a ram. Yet the courts only charged one man $250.00 for his license to kill. I hope this type of behavior by our courts doesn't reach the public or our hills will be crawling with sheep hunters knowing that if caught they will only have to pay $250.00 to $1,750.00. What a bargain!

This type of criminal behavior by our judges and court system must stop. What can be done? Below are a few suggestions that will help.

1. Write the Pomona Court House, Pomona, Califorina and let them know how you feel about this type of sentence.

2. Write a letter to your editor of your local paper and to the Pomona paper critizing this type of sentencing by our courts.

3. Write your Assemblyman and Senator at Sacramento asking for tougher laws and sentencing from our courts.

When you tabulate the value of a Big Horn Sheep in California you would find that the replacement value could run will over $50,000.00 per ram.

With the effort put in by the Department of Fish and Game as well as other agencies, in addition to all the volunteer hours, it seems that we deserve a little more respect than $250.00 for all our time and efforts.

NEEDED-1 COMPUTER

Did you buy a computer for your usage and find you just don't have time to use it and would sure like to get rid of it? Or maybe you would just love to make a contribution to the Big Horn Sheep of California.

The Sheep Society is in need of a home computer so that we can store all the information received from surveys and censuses. We have an operator but need the computer. This would be a major improvement to our Society.

If you have a computer that you would like to donate to the Society, or would like to purchase one and donate it, please give your editor a call: George Taylorson, (818) 794-0027. Remember you can take it off as a tax deduction on your IRS statement.

YUMA MAN ARRESTED, ACCUSED OF KILLING BIGHORN SHEEP IN CALIFORNIA

A Yuma, Arizona man was scheduled to be arraigned in El Centro Municipal Court Wednesday, May 8th, on charges of killing a bighorn sheep in California and taking its horns. The incident occurred in November of 1984.

Randy E. Holder, 21, was arrested in Winterhaven Friday, April 26, after he voluntarily crossed the state border to discuss the case with California Department of Fish and Game Wardens.

DFG Warden Denis "Rusty" McBride said that Holder is accused of shooting a bighorn sheep with a .22-caliber rifle in the area of Picacho Peak on the California side of the Colorado Piver just north of Yuma. The big horn sheep is protected by state law.

Holder posted $5,000 bail on Saturday, April 27, and returned to Yuma.

The case, which is being handled by the Imperial County District Attorney's office, culminates an investigation of two months by DFG wardens and Arizona officials.

During the investigation a search warrant was obtained and wardens seized a set of horns from Holder's home in Yuma on March 27, McBride said. Holder subsequently agreed to show wardens where he had found the horns on a "carcass."

Further investgation, however, pointed to Holder, McBride said.

THE GREAT SHEEPHERDER IN THE SKY MAKES A CALL

By George Taylorson

That great sheepherder recently found it necessary to solicit the help of one of our members. He needed one who loves the desert and loves giving of himself to the betterment of sheep. Thus it is, with much regret that A.W. "Bud" Wiedeman was called to assist the Great Sheepherder. While it is our loss you can be assured "Bud" is hard at work in the greener pastures of the Head Sheepherder, "Bud" transferred effective May 14, 1985. You will be greatly missed by each of us and it will be very difficult to fill the void you left, but we all rejoice in your transfer and know that our loss will be the Great Sheepherders gain.

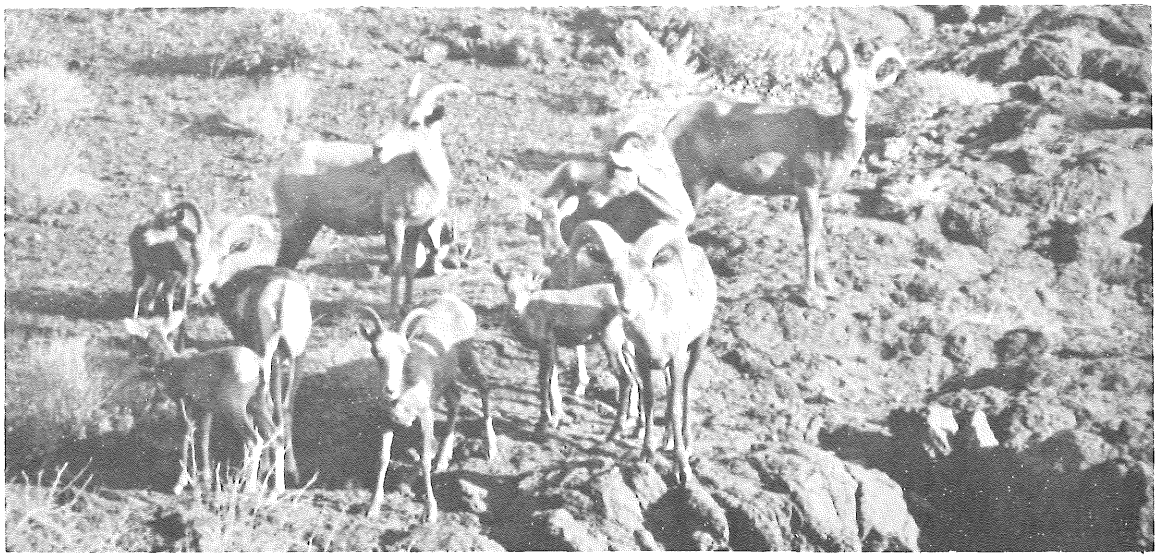
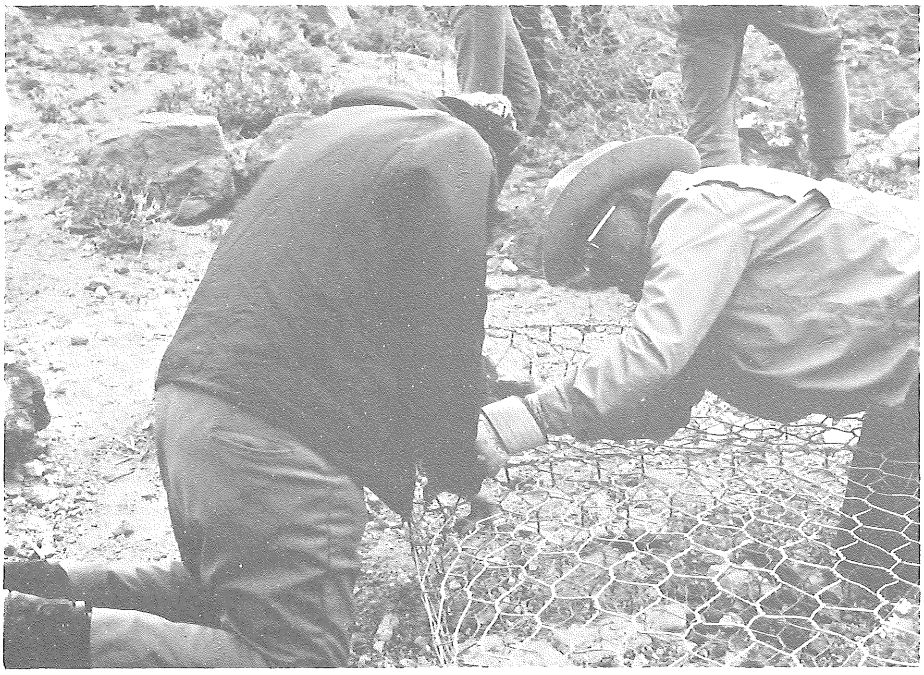


Photo taken by Glen Sudmeier



Marvin Wood on right doing what he enjoys most, working on a big game guzzler for the big horn sheep.

IT'S COMING-THE MARVIN WOODS MEMORIAL WATERHOLE PROJECT

That's right - in spite of all the resistance put up by Marvin, your Sheep Society Board members voted unanimously to have a memorial waterhole project in honor of Marvin Woods. The big date has been set for April 12 & 13, 1986, the site - to be announced.

This will be the event of the year and you will not want to miss it! It will include a work day with Marvin as honorary construction engineer followed with a steak dinner and entertainment out of this world. I even heard by the grapevine that there may be a Marvin Woods Roast at the campfire and believe it or not, its all free compliments of the Sheep Society. Don't miss it, mark your calendar now!

April 12 & 13, 1986

A BIG THANKS

A big "thank you" to Bob Jurgens, Mike Feance, and Ron and Shirley Vickrey for visiting their mountains and sending us their Desert Water Source Reports. These reports are a tremendous aid to the Society and the work it does.

See "Own A Mountain" this issue for further information on how you can own your own mountain, again, thanks.

ANIMAL RIGHTS GROUPS ATTACK PROJECT WILD

In recent months, a coalition of animal welfare groups has mounted a nationwide campaign against Project Wild, claiming the curriculum is slanted in favor of pro-hunting attitudes. Fish and Gamers can help to clear the air by learning about the controversy and providing information to concerned members of the public.

Here's what has happened: The animal welfare groups, headed by the Humane Society of the United States, sent letters to the governors of all 50 states, with copies to chief state school officers and state wildlife departments. The letter and accompanying position statement charged project WILD was a biased curriculum and urged its implementation be stopped until more material addressing their (animal welfare) point of view is added to the activity guides.

In California, humane groups have gained the support of the senate subcommittee on the education budget. (Partial funding for Project WILD comes from the Department of Education's Environmental License Plate Fund.) Through testimony at a hearing of the subcommittee on March 25, the humane groups persuaded the subcommittee to recommend that they be given veto power over the Project WILD materials.

In other words, if the materials are not modified in the way recommended by these groups, the groups can bring the entire program before the State Board of Education for a ruling on WILD's suitability to be used in the public schools. The subcommittee also recommended that, until the State Board of Education rules that the issues have been resolved, funding for WILD is to be withheld.

The subcommittee's recommendations have yet to be accepted or rejected by the full education budget committee. Until that happens, the DFG will be working hard to present our side of the story to key legislators.

The most important point we make is that the goal of Project WILD from the beginning has been to teach children about the needs of wildlife and the critical relationship between wildlife and habitat. The program is neutral on value-sensitive topics--issues such as hunting and trapping--recognizing that people need information from a variety of sources to make their own informed decisions. Project WILD's aim is to teach children how to think, not what to think, about wildlife issues.

Perhaps the best indication the materials are in fact neutral is that they have been criticized by groups at both ends of the spectrum. While certain animal welfare groups charge the materials are pro-hunting, the National Rifle Association has addressed the national Project WILD Steering Committee with concerns that the program is anti-hunting.

Obviously, with a program of this nature it is difficult to satisfy all of the opposing factions. Yet, in our estimation, Project WILD has made an honest attempt to do so while conveying critical messages about wildlife, habitat and human responsibilities.

The second important point is that the national Project WILD Steering Committee is currently working with the animal rights groups to attempt to resolve any differences. The animal rights groups have submitted written recommendations for changes and additions to the activity guides. In keeping with its commitment to quality education and fair treatment, the WILD Steering Committee is reviewing the recommendations to see what changes, if any, are warranted in the activity guides. The project's ongoing revision process is meant to insure that Project WILD's commitment to excellence and an evenhanded approach is upheld now and in the future.

Despite the controversy, Project WILD continues to be received enthusiastically by teachers all over the state. More than 5,000 teachers from Redding to El Centro have attended WILD workshops and received the guides.

Moreover, at its March 1 meeting, the Fish and Game Commission adopted a resolution in support of Project WILD, praising the project as "the first large scale education program in the state that promotes a clear understanding of (wildlife) ... by providing an instructional program for teachers." In addition, the National Audubon Society, the National Wildlife Federation and the California Natural Resources Federation have recently reaffirmed their support for Project WILD.

How can you help? There are several ways.

If you are asked, stress that (a) Project WILD is neither "pro" nor "con" on value-sensitive issues, that (b) it has been criticized as anti-hunting by some and pro-hunting by others, and that (c) the concerns of the animal welfare groups are being addressed through the standard review procedures of Project WILD.

Encourage critics of the program to attend a workshop. Generally, this is the best way to disarm them--they discover that our true intent genuinely is to teach about the needs of wildlife and the improtance of habitat.

Above all, remain optimistic! The current controversy will, in the long run, serve to further strengthen Project WILD and to rally even broader support for the program.

If you'd like more information on this matter, including the position statement of the animal rights groups, contact the Project WILD coordinator at ATSS 8-485-7613 or (916) 445-7613. #

--Jennifer Meyer
Project WILD Coordinator
Conservation Education

MARK YOUR CALENDER NOW

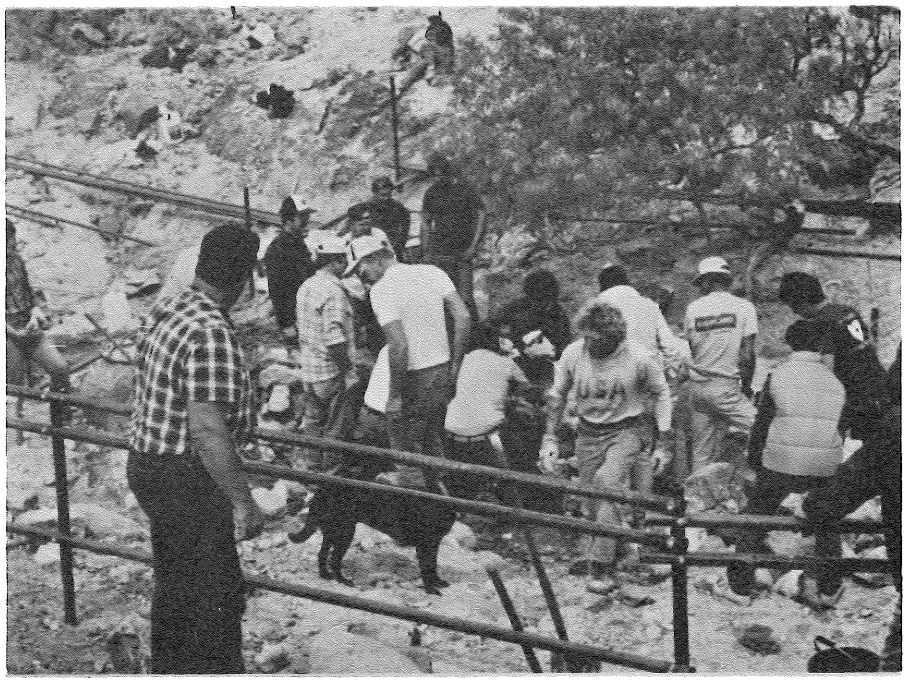
That's right, it's time to make your plans to attend our annual dinner banquet. This year we are asking that all members make every effort possible to attend. Wives, girlfriends, boyfriends, family and friends are invited. Because of the effort by the Sheep Society to become more active in the next year, we need to have every member make plans now to attend.

This meeting promises to be one of the finest yet. The annual Dinner meeting will be held at:

T & J Restaurant
8526 East Valley Blvd.
Rosemead, CA

6:30 p.m. - A No Host Social Hour
7:30 p.m. - Dinner - Steak
Cost $18.00 Per Person

Everyone, plan now to attend and be sure you mark your calendar today. There will be further information yet to come.



Working together at the Marble Mtns.

Counting sheep in the San Gabriels Laying a pipeline in the Old Dads

VERNON BLEICH REPORTS

Dripping Spring and Vernandyles Spring were developed, and development activities were begun on Andrea Spring. One quail guzzler was constructed. Seventeen quail guzzlers were inspected and maintained as necessary. The Sheepcamp Spring Big Game Guzzler was dismantled, and essentially rebuilt on a new concrete pad. Four other big game guzzlers were inspected. Six springs were inspected and their development possibilities were evaluated. Pipe racks were partially constructed for the new trucks, and one vehicle was in the shop for major maintenance. Intensive aerial surveys were flown in five desert mountain ranges, and eight sheep were captured, sampled and released in two mountain ranges. One telemetry flight was conducted, a meeting with a professor was attended, three Sheep Society meetings were attended, assistance was provided to inland fisheries personnel with their bass procurement effort.

During this report period, members of the Volunteer Desert Water and Wildlife Survey contributed 302 man-days of labor, 22,864 vehicle-miles, and $1,810.00 worth of goods and services to the project.

a. Development

1. DRIPPING SPRING, Old Woman Mountains, was developed to make water permanently available to wildlife. A series of gabions, and concrete, was used to protect the development from silting in during storm runoffs.

   During this effort, members of the Volunteer Desert Water and Wildlife Survey contributed 66 man-days of labor and 4,742 vehicle-miles to the project.

2. VERNANDYLES SPRING, Marble Mountains, was developed to make water permanently available to wildlife, and to prevent its use by feral asses. An "ass-proof" fence was constructed around the source, and gabions and cement were used to protect the excavated spring source from siltation.

   During this effort, members of the Volunteer Desert Water and Wildlife Survey contributed 138 man-days of labor, $1,180.00 worth of goods and services, and 8,596 vehicle-miles to the project.

3. ANDREA SPRING, in the Clipper Mountains was partially developed, and will be completed before the end of this year.

b. Maintenance

1. The Sheep Camp Big Game Guzzler, Old Woman Mountains, was dismantled, and the concrete foundation was replaced, the tanks reset, and the unit was replumbed. This unit is now in good condition, but with a storage capacity of only 3,000 gallons, as one tank had been destroyed by floods.

   During this effort, members of the Volunteer Desert Water and Wildlife Survey contributed 51 man-days of labor and 4,355 vehicle-miles to the project.

2. The Marble Mountains (South) BGG was inspected, and found to be 100% full, and in good condition.

3. The Celo Tank BGG was inspected, and found to be dry, and in need of major repairs. Tank flanges are leaking, and the drinker needs to be remounted.

4. The Anthes Tank BGG was inspected and found to be 100% full and is in good condition. Evidence of deer use in the area is heavy.

5. The Owl's Roost Tank BGG was inspected and, although 100% full, is in need of major repairs. The concrete pad has been undercut, and is in need of replacement. Evidence of deer use in the immediate area is heavy.

6. Two unnamed springs in the Woods Mountain area were inspected and evaluated for development possibilities.

7. Black Diamond Spring, in the Woods Mountain was inspected and evaluated for development possibilities.

8. Woods Mountain Spring was inspected, and found to be overflowing the ass-proof fence which was installed there several years ago. The source should be dug out, and the water running out under the fence should be buried under rock to prevent use by feral asses.

9. Boulder Spring in the Midhills, was inspected and maintained as necessary.

10. Coffin Spring, in the Turtle Mountains, was inspected, and evaluated for development possibilities.

c. Biological Studies

1. Project personnel conducted an intensive aerial survey of Old Dad Peak, which yielded observations of 181 individual mountain sheep, at a rate of 29.8 sheep per rotor-hour.

2. Project personnel conducted an intensive aerial survey of the Marble Mountains, which yielded observations of 150 individual mountain sheep, at a rate of 39.5 sheep per rotor-hour.

3. Project personnel conducted an intensive aerial survey of the Clipper Mountains, which yielded observations of 16 mountain sheep, at a rate of 6.2 sheep per rotor-hour.

4. Project personnel conducted a very nonintensive aerial survey of the Granite Mountains, which yielded observations of 18 mountain sheep, at a rate of 16.4 sheep per rotor-hour.

5. Project personnel conducted an intensive aerial survey of the Old Woman Mountains, which yielded observations of nine mountain sheep, at a rate of 2.3

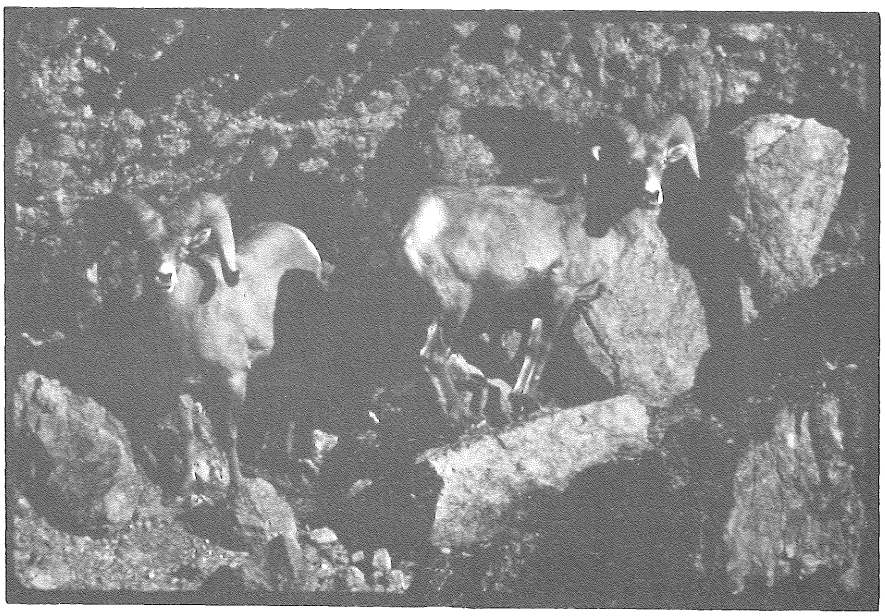
sheep per rotor-hour. Four animals were captured, radio-collared, blood-sampled, and then released, all with the assistance of contract veterinarian R. Clark and Volunteer veterinarian N. Kock.

6. Project personnel conducted one telemetry flight in the Whipple and Sheephole Mountains.

PRIZES NEEDED FOR 1986 RAFFLE

The Society is now making plans for the 1986 fund raiser which is planned to be a raffle with the drawing to be held at the April 11-12, 1986 Memorial Waterhole Project. We need the help of the membership in securing desirable gifts that will make our fund raising efforts productive for our woolly friends in the desert.

Anyone with ideas, contributions, or contacts should contact Mr. Steven D. Hill, who is organizing the project at 1548 North 3rd Avenue, Upland, California 91786. You may call him in the evening at (714) 985-9509. We need your help, so let's get to working on some ideas to raise the funds we need to continue our work.



A beautiful pair. Photo taken by Ron Sanford during recent aerial sheep count in the Marble Mountains.

A couple of rams getting acquainted in the Marble Mtns. Photo taken by Ron Sanford.

BLEICH REPORTS ON RESULTS OF AERIAL SURVEYS

Old Dad/Kelso, Marl, Granite, Marble, and Clipper Mountains

Between 17 and 20 April 1985, aerial surveys were conducted in subject mountain ranges. A total of 365 individual mountain sheep was recorded. The primary purpose of the surves was to obtain information on mountain sheep population structure and size; the surveys in the Marl Mountains and Granite Mountains should not be considered to have been intensive. Only 0.4 hours was expended in a small portion of the Marls; only 1.1 hours was expended in the Granite Mountains. Time adequate to intensively survey the other ranges was expended. The results of all surveys noted above are presented below, by geographic area.

1. Old Dad Peak/Kelso Mountains - 17 April 1985
   Observations: 181 Total, composed of 77 RR, 65 EE, and 39 LL
   Ratios: 118 RR:100 EE:60 LL

2. Marl Mountains - 17 April 1985
   Observations: None, but fresh sign was noted on the western-most ridge of range.

3. Marble Mountains - 18 April 1985
   Observations: 150 total, composed of 45 RR, 71 EE, and 34 LL
   Ratios: 63 RR:100 EE:48 LL

4. Granite Mountains - 19 April 1985
   Observations: 18 total, composed of 1 ram, 6 ewes, 1 lamb, and 10 unidentified.

5. Clipper Mountains - 20 April 1985
Observations: 16 total, composed of 4 RR and 12 EE
Ratios: 33 RR:100 EE

Analysis of these data suggests that the opportunity to remove additional animals for transplant purposes will again present itself this year for the Old Dad/Kelso Peak area, and for the Marble Mountains. It also suggests that both the Clipper and Granite Mountains populations have not responded to habitat improvement efforts and improved range conditions as have the adjacent Old Dad/Kelso and Marbles populations. The presence of cattle in the former ranges, and their total or near total absence at Old Dad/Kelso Peak and in the Marble Mountains leads me to suspect that cattle may be important factors limiting the Granite and Clipper populations. I do not care to speculate, however, on the role the cattle may be playing at this point, but would suggest that the Clipper Mountains population be sampled for livestock diseases during Dick Weaver's efforts this fiscal year.

Based on the results of these surveys, I feel that current Department estimates of 250 at Old Dad/Kelso Peak, and 40 in the Clipper Mountains are realistic, but probably conservative. Our current estimate for the Granite Mountains is 40, and should probably be raised to somewhat, perhaps to 50, based on the results of this flight and a recent BLM observation of 22 animals in a single group. Our estimate in the Marble Mountains is no doubt low, and should, in my opinion, be raised to at least 200, to conservatively reflect the observation of 150 individuals. The current classification of the Marl Mountains as transient range should be retained, although evidence suggests the possiblity of permanent occupation.

A brief flyover of Van Winkle Mountain and the north end of the Marble Mountains (N. of I-40) yielded observations of some recent sign, but these areas should continue to be considered as transient ranges.

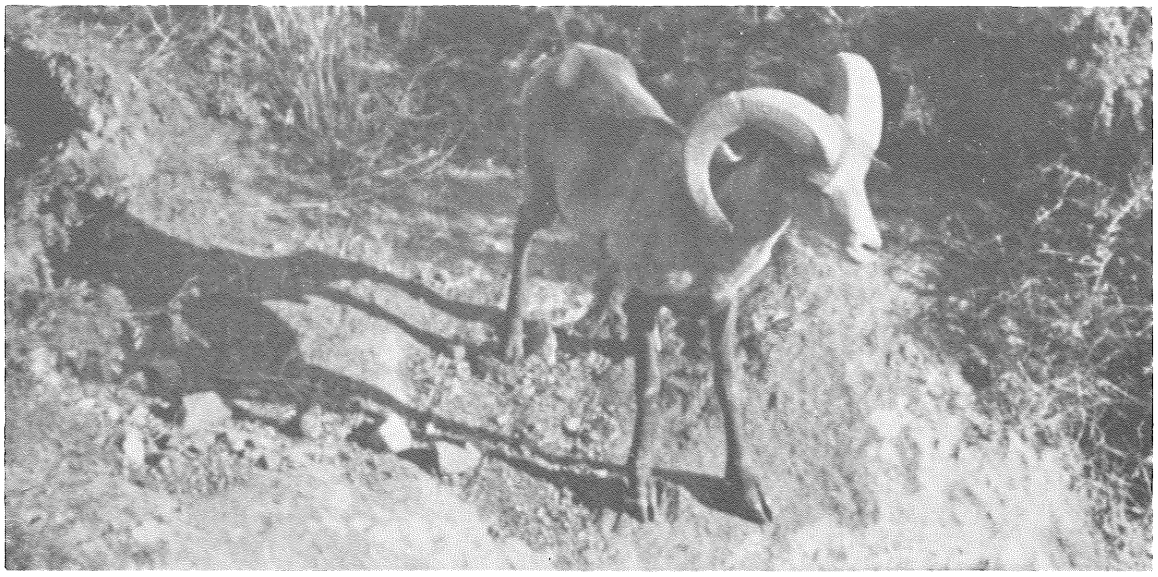


Photo taken by Glen Sudmeier

Mary Hart of Entertainment Tonight, interviewing guest on set provided by Big Horn Sheep Society for Childrens Hospital Telethon.

SHEEP SOCIETY AIDS CHILDRENS HOSPITAL NATIONAL TELETHON

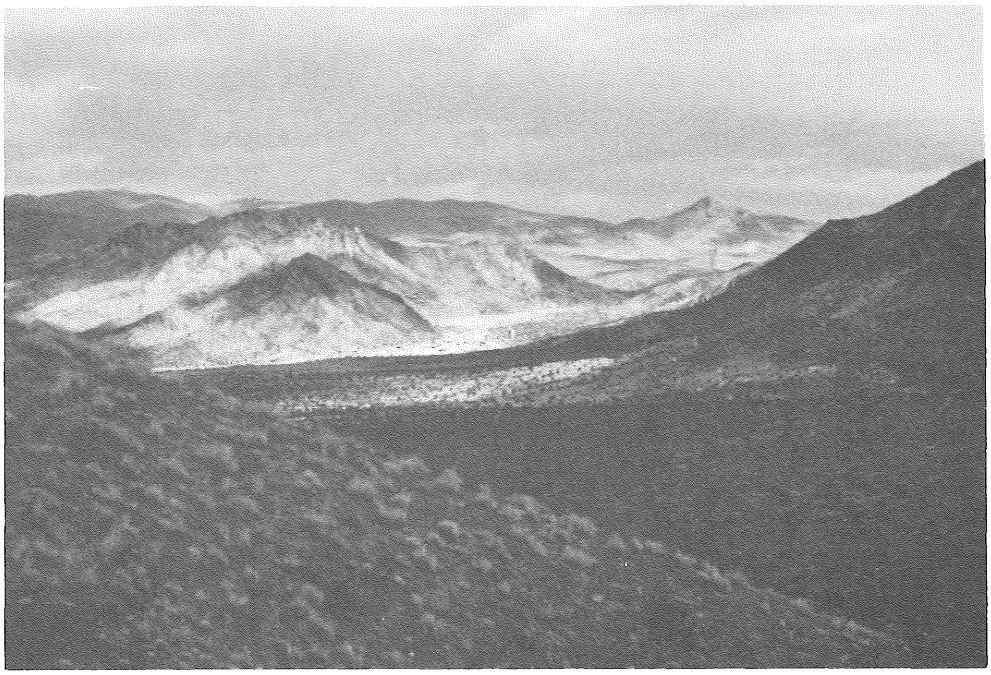
When called on to help, the Sheep Society is always there, whether it be for sheep or helping mankind. Recently, the Big Horn Sheep Society was asked if they could help the Childrens Hospital Telethon on June 1 and 2 by providing a set that would be very outdoors in appearance.

With the expertise of George Kerr, the Sheep Society's V.P., a beautiful design was submitted and approved by the Director, George Taylorson, and producer Steven Bassett. Two days before going on the air, George Kerr with his crew built the set seen in the picture above.

Mary Hart, the host of Entertainment Tonight said it was "one of the most beautiful sets" she had ever seen. George Putnam called it "spectacular".

All of the production staff as well as the Childrens Hospital of Orange and Long Beach Harbor expressed their deepest appreciation for this gift. The Sheep Society received an excellent credit at the end of the telecast which was seen on Channel 9 as well as several other channels in California.

Once again, the Sheep Society has reached out and shown that not only is it interested in sheep, but also in helping our society as well. Thanks George Kerr and all members of the Sheep Society. You can be proud of your organization.



ADOPT A MOUNTAIN

By George Taylorson

Have you ever wanted to have a mountain all your own? If so now is your chance. Through the cooperation of the Big Horn Sheep Society and the Department of Fish and Game you can have your very own mountain. What's the catch? Well, really none, except you must visit it twice a year. Now it wouldn't be right to adopt a lonely mountain and never visit it, would it?

We need people that will adopt a mountain as an Area Captain or as a member of a team to check on the springs to make sure they are in proper conditon. You don't have to repair them just check on them twice a year and make a report to DFG as to the necessary repairs. There are 40 sites and with the DFG's work force being cut back 33 1/3% they can no longer keep up on the demand of checking each site every year.

We need to reactivate the Desert Waterhole Surveys twice a year in May and October, by selecting Area Captains and Teams to assist them. There are 52 areas laid out by Dick Weaver and Vern Bleich (DFG) 40 of which have sheep in them at the present time. The format will be the same as the earlier surveys but the area boundaries are changing. Vern will provide us with a new area map

showing the 52 areas and two sample packets of materials and forms for the Area Captains. At the time the material is received by Glen, there will be another meeting called to formalize a presentation to the Area Captains. The meeting of the Captains and volunteers for the orientation and assignments of areas will be held August 17 at 10:00 a.m. You will be notified later of the exact location.

The reason for reactivating the surveys is to assist the DFG in the work load, especially with Vern Bleich's position being dropped. This leaves Les, Andy, and one seasonal to do all the work. The hope of the committee is to have this program working for the May 1986 survey. The basic purpose of the survey is to check the working conditions of the Big Game guzzlers and springs, and counting pellet transects. The volunteers needed for this program will be filled by Society members first and if not enough members participate, from outside volunteers.

If you would be willing to serve in some capacity, please fill out the questionnaire and return it as soon as possible. Here's a chance for you to take an active part and do it on your own time and at your convenience.

Join in on the fun.

Photo taken by Bill Beebe during precapture program

ADOPT A MOUNTAIN
APPLICATION

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone: Home _____
Work _____

Age Group: 18-21 _____ 22-30 _____ 30-40 _____ 50 + _____

In order to assign you to a spring or area that would be suited to your abilities and capabilities, please put a check in front of the items that you have or desire.

___ I have no transportation, but would like to assist.
___ Have a 4-wheel drive vehicle.
___ Have horses.
___ Capable of camping out over night.
___ Must be easily accessable - 1 hour hike or less.
___ Like a medium accessable site 1-2 hour hike.
___ I like a challenge - 2 or more hour hike.
___ Only have a 2-wheel drive vehicle.
___ Am limited to the length of the hike because of physical limitations.
___ I would like to be an Area Captain.
___ I would like to be a team member only.

Please mail this application to:

Don Jones
23921 Via El Rocio
Mission Viejo, CA 92691

or

Dr. Loren Lutz
3113 MesaLoa Lane
Pasadena, CA 91107

For further information call:

Dr. Lutz (818) 794-7680 or 797-1287

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