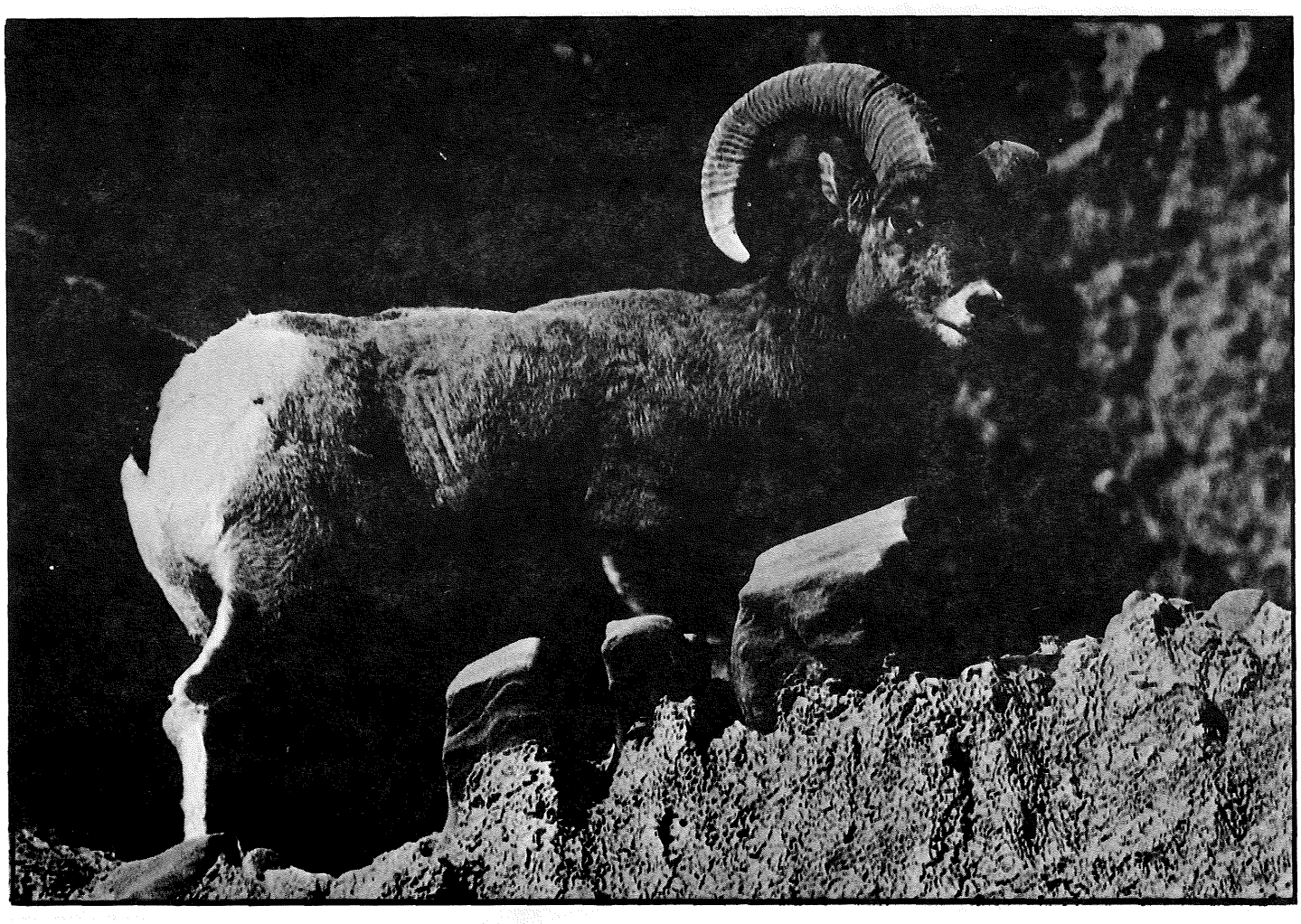
JUNE 1989

THE SOCIETY FOR
THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP

THE SHEEPHERDER



SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP

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The opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily the views or opinions of the Board of Directors.

Dr. Loren Lutz, past president

DR. LUTZ RETIRES AS PRESIDENT OF BIGHORN SHEEP SOCIETY

By George Taylorson

After over twenty years as the Sheep Society's only president, Dr. Loren Lutz decides to retire as President. Dr. Lutz, better known as "Doc," has decided to turn over the leadership of the organization he helped found to the younger generation. The Board of Directors has elected George Kerr to take the responsibility of President.

Dr. Lutz was one of the founding members of the Sheep Society and has become nationally known as one of the foremost authorities in America on the bighorn sheep. His knowledge and expertise is recognized by Fish and Game Departments, hunters, and sportsmen throughout the United States. He is presently writing a book on the subject of bighorn sheep that is soon to be published and made available to the general public. Further information concerning how to obtain this book can be obtained by contacting the general offices of the Bighorn Sheep Society, listed in the front of this publication.

As past president, it has been Dr. Lutz's goal to try to save the bighorn sheep from extinction in the state of California. With very few sheep left in the state some twenty years ago, under the efforts of Dr. Loren Lutz and many volunteers, the latest census has shown that there are now over 5,000 bighorn sheep located throughout the state of California. Several years, ago Dr. Lutz and the Board of Directors set a goal of trying to have 10,000 bighorn sheep in the state by the year 2000. Thus, the motto **"Ten Thousand by 2000."** It is Dr. Lutz's goal to see that this occurs.

It is with a lot of sad feelings and deep regret, a fond farewell is being bid to Dr. Lutz as president of the Society. The Board of Directors is not going to allow this great man to just fade into oblivion. At the annual membership meeting in January a new position was created in the Society, that of Executive Director. Dr. Loren Lutz was elected as the first executive director. You will be hearing more about this new position and its functions in future Sheepherder's.

The new president of the Society is George Kerr, who has served for a long time on the Board Vice President. George Kerr is the son of the late Chuck Kerr who was one of the great supporters of the Society for a number of years and who's name is on a guzzler providing water to the sheep in the desert. George owns a nursery and landscape business in Simi Valley and hopes to be able to carry on the precedents set by Dr. Lutz. The Sheepherder wishes George our congratulations and support in the years ahead and we knew that, under your great leadership, the Society will press forward with the many challenges that await you and its members and friends.

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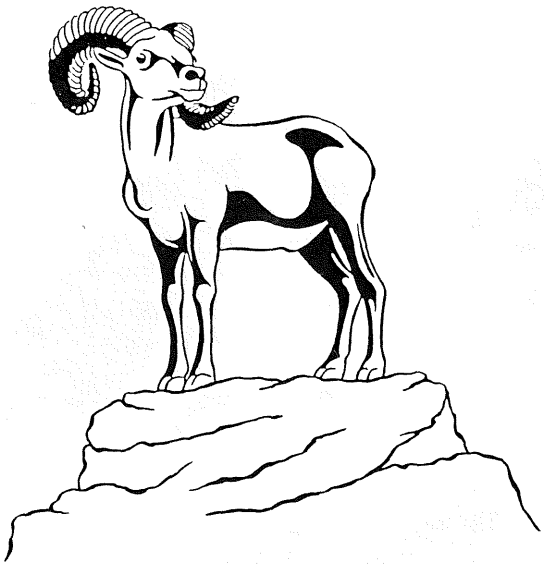
DONATIONS BADLY NEEDED

Do you have some extra wrenches, hammers, crowbars, shovels, picks etc. laying around that just aren't getting the use that they should? What about some buckets, maybe an electric portable generator, or some cement tools that you no longer need? Have we got a place for them, and you know what the best news is? You can write their cost off of the next year's income tax. That is if you donate them to the Sheep Society. You might even have a Mac truck or a four-wheel drive sitting in the backyard that the wife has been telling you to get rid of. Why not donate them to the Sheep Society so they can be used in our program to build and repair the many drinkers we have in the desert.

We can even use tents, camping equipment, lanterns, tables, just about anything you can think of on the many projects that the Sheep Society is involved in. Did you know that if you don't have anything at all like this, we can even take money? That's right, real, genuine money. Why the Sheep Society has even been known to take large and small checks, and the best part of it all is you can deduct it from next year's income tax. Why not do a little inventory and see if you can't come up with something to help the bighorn sheep. It will actually give you a real good feeling inside. When was the last time you actually gave to help our wildlife? Do it now, call (818) 794-7680 and tell them what you have and that the Sheepherder made you do it. Thanks to everyone for your help.



THE SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP
IN CONJUNCTION WITH
THE ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER OF SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL
IS PLEASED TO RE-ANNOUNCE THE ANNUAL AUCTION AND DINNER

JUNE 9, 1989
THE IRVINE HILTON AND TOWERS
17900 JAMBOREE BLVD.
IRVINE, CALIFORNIA 92714
(JAMBOREE EXIT OFF 405-SAN DIEGO FWY.)

COCKTAILS: 6:30 P.M.
DINNER: 7:30 P.M.
AUCTION: 8:30 P.M. SHARP
COST PER PERSON: $30.00

THERE WILL BE NUMEROUS AUCTION ITEMS INCLUDING SOME OUTSTANDING HUNTS, JEWELRY, ART ITEMS, FISHING TRIPS, ETC.

SO PLEASE COME AND ENJOY SOME GOOD FOOD AND VISIT WITH OLD FRIENDS!

WE NEED FULL SUPPORT OF THIS AUCTION AS THERE ARE NUMEROUS SHEEP PROJECTS THAT NEED IMMEDIATE ATTENTION THIS YEAR. PLEASE MAIL IN YOUR PRE-PAID RESERVATIONS BY NO LATER THAN MAY 20, 1989 TO:

SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP
4139 W. BIG TUJUNGA CANYON ROAD
TUJUNGA, CALIFORNIA 91042

----------CUT HERE----------

_____ YES I/WE WILL ATTEND. ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND PREPAID RESERVATIONS FOR _____ PEOPLE.

_____ NO I/WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND.

_____ NO I/WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND, HOWEVER, ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND A DONATION TO HELP THE SHEEP THIS YEAR.

NAME(S): _____

Alissa Hall-under blanket of snow
that surprised everyone.

LAST CHANCE PROJECT SNOWED OUT

By Allissa Hall

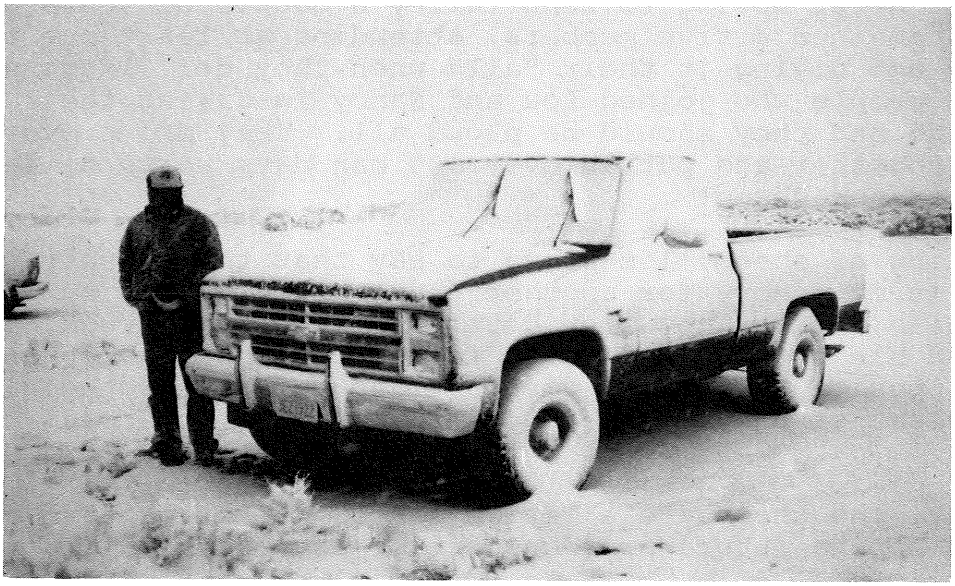
The Hot Shot Crew at the Last Chance Mountains repair project February 3rd and 4th had a rude awakening when they discovered their camp under a six inch blanket of snow. Even worse, it was still snowing with no end in sight! These conditions made it necessary to cancel the work scheduled, which included building gabiens for erosion control, relocating the guzzler box and painting the tanks. Fortunately some of the chores had been completed the day before when John Doll, Bill Parrack, and Debbie Christapherson successfully inspected the guzzler at Little Chute.

Spirits were not dampened for long, however, and the group decided to make their way out of Eureka Valley via one of the back roads into Death Valley. That route was better, even though it was a four-wheel drive road, because there was less snow. After a pleasant lunch at Scotty's Castle, the decision was made to take Don Jones up on his offer to "drop by" after the project. Surely he wouldn't mind a little earlier arrival time and a little larger group, right?

Surprised, but not the least bit taken aback by their thirteen unexpected guests, Don and Carrol Jones were wonderful hosts and made everyone feel welcome. The projectless waifs soon lost all hint of disappointment as they indulged in a great pot luck feast. Everyone contributed some food, some cooking and some exaggerated blizzard stories.

Eleven of the members of the Hot Shot Crew stayed over until Sunday, enjoying a warm, comfy spot for their sleeping bags in front of the wood stove. Sunday morning brought better weather

for the trek back home and hopes that the next time the Last Chance project was scheduled the weather would be better.



Scott Yo at snowed-out Last Chance project

THREE CHEERS FOR THE CLIPPER MOUNTAINS VOLUNTEERS!

By Allissa Hall

One hundred and one volunteers deserve a big pat on the back for a job well done February 25th and 26th at the Clipper Mountains. Two major tasks were completed. A tank was replaced at the Marvin Wood site by a small group led by Jerry Mulchahy of DFG, and the SB9 site was upgraded with construction of an apron and installation of a parabolic drinker by the remaining members of the group. Les Coombes of DFG (joined by Al Lapp), supervised the work at the SB9 site.

Les was delighted that the project was completed in one weekend and would like to thank each volunteer that endured this grueling project. Grueling it was because of all of the rock and dirt that had to be moved to complete the apron. Over 40 cubic yards were needed, which amounts to two or three average dump truck loads! That is an amazing accomplishment that could only have been done by people with lots of devotion, determination and elbow grease!

Most of the apron was completed Saturday, with finishing touches completed by a seventeen member Hot Shot Crew on Sunday. Two of those members are good examples of the type of devotion it takes to do what we do. Lou and Nancy Kovach drove over eight

hundred miles to attend the project. They rearranged their Sunday plans to join their son in Reno for skiing so they could be part of the Hot Shot Crew Sunday and finish the project. They joined the Sheep Society in the early 1980's when they lived in Lancaster. After moving to Penn Valley a couple of years ago, they have remained active members, attending at least one project per year - and giving it their "all" when they do! There were many other people who joined Lou and Nancy in giving their all that weekend and they should be proud all. They drove over 15,000 miles all together and put in over 300 man days worth of labor. A big plus for the sheep!

Speaking of sheep, I'm proud to say that the Clipper project is bright in my memory for another reason. I sighted my first sheep! While filling up water bottles back at the truck, Dennis Selich used his spotting scope to find a ewe and lamb on the hillside opposite. To say I was thrilled when I saw them is the understatement of the year - as other members of the crew can attest to!

Anyway, the sheep are a little better off after that project and here's hoping future projects can be as successful!

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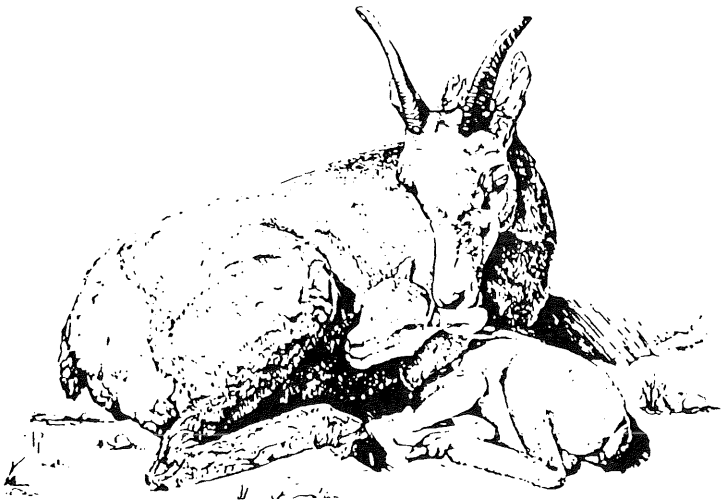
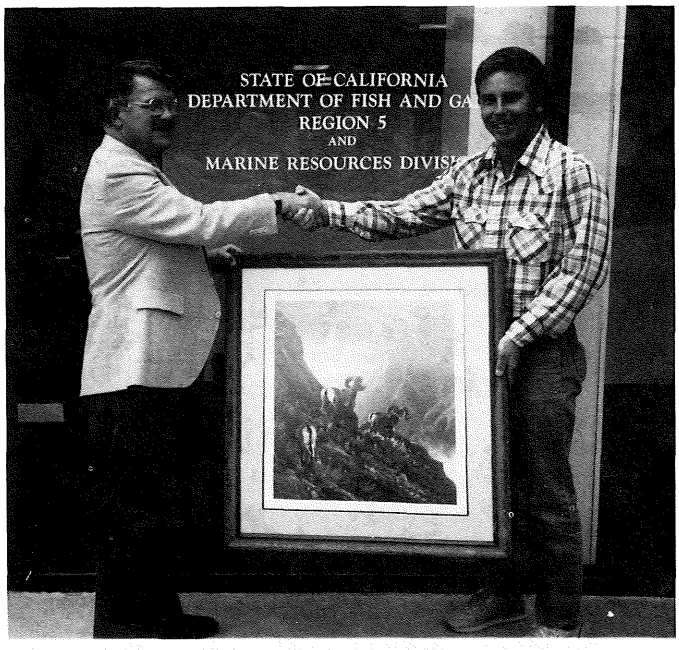
WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADVERTISE IN THE SHEEPHERDER?

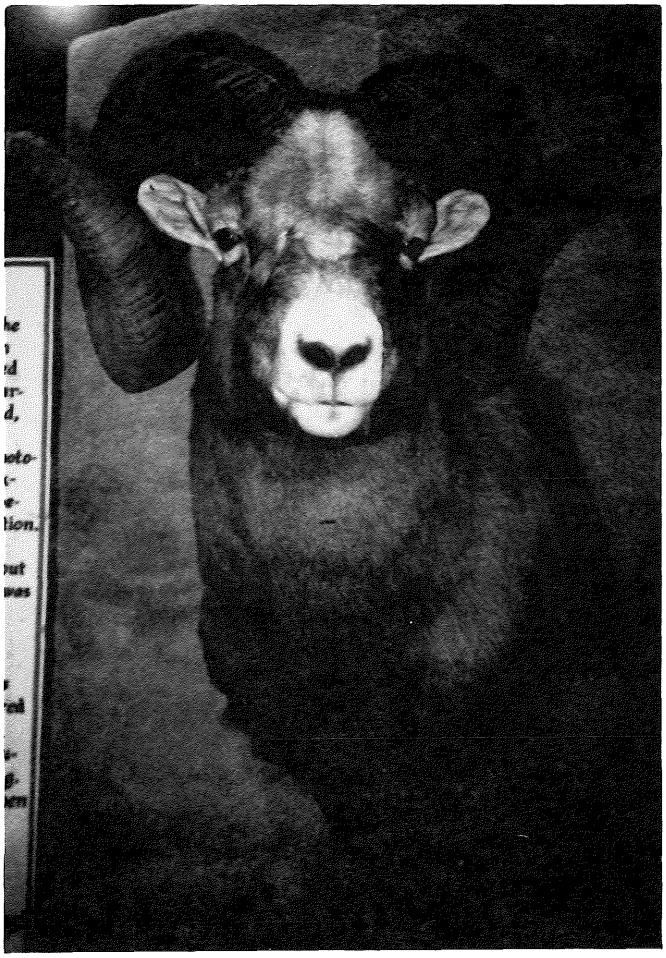
The Sheepherder has a very wide distribution of the publication and reaches many professional people. The cost of publication has risen so sharply that the Sheepherder is giving thought to taking advertisements. To begin with, all ads would need to be copy ready either business card size, quarter page, half page or full page. A business card size in one issue would cost $35.00; a quarter page, $70.00; a half page, $125.00; and a full page, $195.00. If you are interested and would like further information call or write the editor, George Taylorson (further information on inside cover of Sheepherder).



George Kerr, President of the Sheep Society with Dick Weaver, DFG, standing by desert bighorn sheep at the FNAWS 1989 convention. Desert sheep is the first legal ram harvested by bow hunter in California.



On a recent trip to Long Beach office of the DFG, Region 5, George Kerr presents Fred Worthly of DFG with one of our outstanding prints from our print program for their new office facility.



Picture of Spot - the largest desert bighorn sheep in the world who died last year in Oregon. Note: You can read details of sheep on one photo.

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PHOTOGRAPHS AND ARTICLES FOR THE SHEEPHERDER NEEDED

Have you gone on one of the recent volunteer projects and taken some pictures? Was it a fun experience? If so, the Sheepherder would like to have you write a short article so we can share with our readers the good time you had. We are also in need of pictures to use on the cover and on the inside. If you have any sheep pictures or you have some candid shots that you think others would enjoy seeing, send them to the Sheepherder and you may see them in the next issue. Who knows, maybe someone will see them and want to make you famous!

If you have any ideas for the improvement of the Society we would like to hear from you. One idea that was recently submitted was to have a short monthly newsletter that would be sent to all members in addition to the "Sheepherder." Watch your mail as you should be receiving your first one very shortly, if you haven't already.

SHEEP POACHERS PAY

(Reprinted from Arizona Sheep Society's "Ram's Horn")

Last year on Valentine's Day weekend 2 poachers shot and killed a 4 to 6 year-old ram on the north side of Apache Lake. The ram was part of a herd that had been reintroduced to the area in two earlier transplant operations. After killing the ram, the poachers took the sheep's head and horns but left the rest of the carcass to rot.

A lengthy investigation by the Mesa regional officers of the Arizona Fish and Game resulted in the citing and prosecution of Kenneth Wishman and William J. DeLisle. Wishman pleaded guilty to possessing unlawfully-taken wildlife and was fined $1,370 and sentenced to two days in jail.

DeLisle entered a no-contest plea to possessing and transporting unlawfully taken wildlife and was fined $1,370 plus 24 hours in jail.

The investigation was assisted by several news releases, a silent-witness-style television spot, numerous reward posters placed throughout the area, and a combined reward of $4,000 offered by the Arizona Fish and Game and the Society.

Earlier, in May of this year, the Arizona Fish and Game Commissioners established a civil assessment for the loss of the poached ram. The minimum that could be charged was $750, but Commissioners assessed the two $9,832. Commissioner Woods, who came up with the figure, broke it down to $750 for the animal, $1,400 for producing a videotape that helped catch the pair, $153 for loss of a permit on that animal, $129 for the non-refundable part of permit applications that would have been submitted for that animal, $3,200 for the reward paid for information that resulted in the arrest, $1,200 in costs involved with transplanting the animal to the Apache Lake area and $3,000 loss for non-consumptive users, those who would have spent money around the lake just to see the animal.

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NEVADA WATERHOLE PROJECT NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed to assist in a waterhole project in the White Pines Range east of Ely, Nevada. The project will take place on June 17, 1989. If you are interested in attending and need further information concerning this fun experience, call the Sheep Society office at (818) 794-7680.

Hank Forbes looking for sheep in Middle Fork

SAN GABRIEL SHEEP CENSUS REPORT

By Bob Campbell

About 120 souls gathered on March 11 at the Lytle Creek Ranger station for this year's San Gabriel Mountains sheep census. The weather was mild, unlike the last two years, with higher snow levels which can make the sheep harder to find. A few words were said about the Sheep Society and about upcoming projects. DFG biologist Les Coombes used a collection of skulls to illustrate the fine points of ram classification. Then DFG biologist Jon Fischer took the audience through a slide show as a training exercise in identifying sheep. Fischer was charged with setting up flight operations for the census. This means that he had the biggest job and gets the most praise for the success of the operation.

Brian Novak of Landell's Aviation flew Saturday and Sunday with DFG and USFS observers. Results of the aerial count were:

105 Rams
155 Ewes
35 Lambs
1 Unclassified
296 Total, plus 2 bears

All ground sites that we have heard from saw some sheep. When DFG completes the correlation of ground and aerial observations and estimation of the total population, a report will be sent to all participating volunteers.

Some highlights from the operation:

Jack Glatt was struggling through dense chaparral toward the edge of a deep canyon when he detected, just in time, that there was nothing but air beyond the bush he was about to step through! A prescribed burn in this area (Cascade Canyon #2) would probably enhance the quality of deer/sheep forage.

The aerial survey indicated high utilization by sheep (and bears) of an area that burned four years ago.

Observers in the middle fork of Lytle Creek saw a three legged ewe. It was moving around the other sheep and did not appear to be in trouble.

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RESULTS OF HELICOPTER SURVEY, SAN RAFAEL PEAK BIGHORN SHEEP POPULATION

By Tom Paulek (DFG)

On the afternoon of November 27, 1988 a helicopter survey was conducted on the bighorn population located in the San Rafael Peak area of Ventura County (LPNF). The bighorn census was conducted in conjunction with the deer herd Hill Bill surveys for Santa Barbara/Ventura County. Dick Weaver previously approved funding for the helicopter fight (Bighorn account 787), and four hours of flight time were used to accomplish the survey.

The San Rafael bighorn population was established as a result of the relocation of animals from the San Gabriel Mountain herd. The original relocation was accomplished on December 3, 1985 and included 21 sheep (5 rams and 16 ewes). The original release was supplemented on January 31, 1987 with 15 additional sheep (4 rams and 11 ewes). All of the 36 relocated animals (9 rams and 27 ewes) were marked with ear tags on both ears and equipped with either a telemetry collar (28) or a color-coded collar (8). Since the 1985 release, the telemetered animals have been monitored by Steve Kimple and Teresa Nichols for mortality utilizing the Department's fixed-wing aircraft. At the time of the subject helicopter census, sixteen mortalities of the 28 telemetered adult bighorn had been confirmed and at least six of the remaining 12 telemetry collars are still operating. Since the December 1985 release, three lambing seasons have been completed. Prior to the November 1988 visual survey, two helicopter flights were completed; a summary of all helicopter survey results to date is provided below:

Date	Rams/Ewes/Lambs			Total	Marked Adults	Unmarked Adults
Nov. 1986	2	9	3	14	11	0
April 1988	2	6	2	10	6	2
Nov. 1988	5	10	5	20	13	2

On the November 27, 1988 survey, a total of 20 bighorn were observed. Telemetry equipment aided in locating the sheep, and it is believed that all six of the sheep thought to have operating transmitters were seen. Seventeen of the bighorn (4R, 9E, 4L) were recorded in the San Rafael Peak drainage; all of the adult sheep were marked animals with the exception of one Class II ram. A total of three sheep (1R, 1E, 1L) were recorded in the McDonald Peak area including one marked Class II ram and a unmarked ewe with lamb. The Cobblestone Mountain area was briefly surveyed and no bighorn were observed. In summary, a total of 15 adult bighorns were observed during the flight; 13 of the 15 adult animals were marked; 2 bighorn adults were unmarked.

The low number of unmarked adult animals observed (2) would indicate that recruitment to the population since the original 1985 relocation has been low. It should be noted, however, that mortality monitoring to date indicates that the majority of the mortalities occurred shortly after each of the two releases (6 to 7 months). The composition of the sheep observed during the latest census attempt (5R, 10E, 5L) is encouraging and it appears the remaining sheep have settled down on established ranges. Additional monitoring of recruitment in the future will be necessary to determine the ultimate success of the reintroduction effort.

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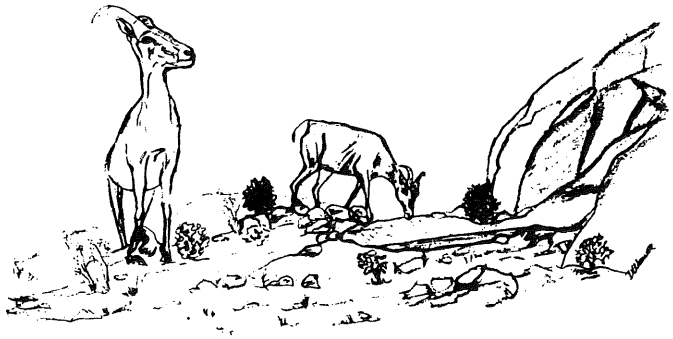
SPECIAL THANKS

A special thanks to the San Fernando Chapter of Safari Club International for its generous donation of $2,000 for our projects and an equally appreciated contribution from the Los Angeles Chapter of $2,000 for the Volunteer Water for Wildlife projects.



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UPCOMING DATES OF EVENTS AND PROJECTS

June 3 & 4	A New Spring Development	Contact Sheep Society office for additional information.
June 9	Sheep Society Auction	Irvine Hilton & Towers 17900 Jamboree Blvd. Irvine, CA 92714 6:30 p.m. (for additional information and reservations call (818) 794-7680)
July 1,2,3,4,	Bighorn Sheep Census	Call (818) 794-7680 for additional information.
Oct. 7 & 8	Anza Borrego State Park Year Project	

Be sure to mark down these dates on your calendar and plan to attend. The June 9th date is especially important as this is the major fund raiser for the Sheep Society.

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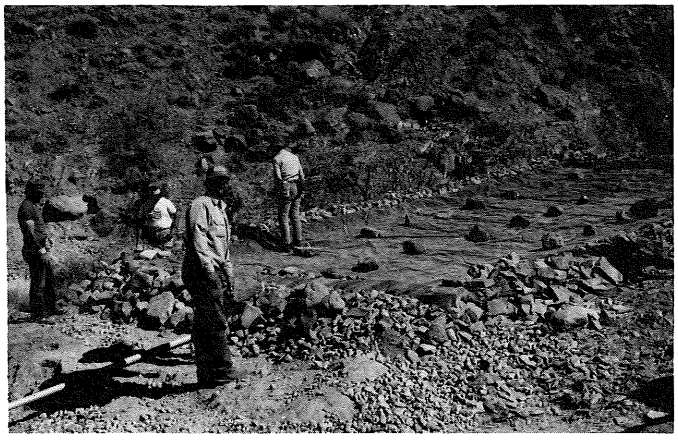
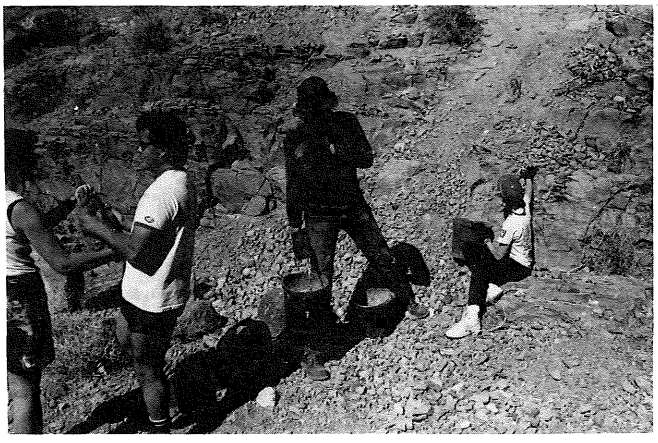
FEBRUARY 26, 1989



Jerry Mulchahy helping with finishing touches to Clipper Mt. apron.



Volunteers helping move rock & dirt for Clipper Mt. apron.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP

Non-Profit Organization
3113 Mesaloa Lane
Pasadena, California 91107
(818) 794-7680

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE: Home _____ Business _____

The kinds of memberships available are:

____Annual	$25.00
____Student (must be full time)	$10.00
____Life	$200.00
____Century	$500.00

(may be paid in four equal payments)
(transferable)
All donations are tax deductible.

Also included is my contribution of $_____ for Desert Waterhole Improvement

Enclosed you will find my check or money order for $_____

SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP
Non-Profit Organization
4139 W. Big Tujunga Canyon Road
Tujunga, CA 91042

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