THE SHEEPHERDER

The News Bulletin of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep

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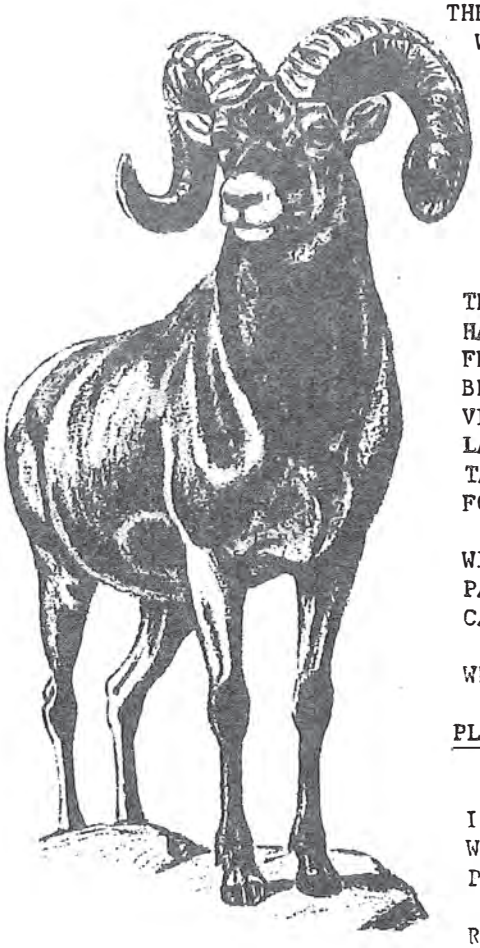
JUNE 1970

FOREST SERVICE ISSUES NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO BE HELD TO DISCUSS MT. BALDY/STOCKTON FLATS

THE FOREST SERVICE HAS ANNOUNCED A PUBLIC MEETING TO BE HELD TO DISCUSS THE FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FOREST SERVICE RECREATION PLANS FOR THE MOUNT BALDY/STOCKTON FLATS AREA. ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY AND ITS FRIENDS ARE URGED TO ATTEND THE MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 1970, AT 175 WEST FIFTH STREET, SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA. THERE WILL BE TWO SEPARATE SESSIONS; 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. AND 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

TO MAKE OUR POSITION CLEAR, THE SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP OBJECTS TO THE PROPOSED EXTENSION OF THE MOUNT BALDY SKI AREA DOWN TOWARDS STOCKTON FLATS. THIS AREA IS VITAL TO THE NEEDS OF BIGHORN SHEEP, A WILD, SOLITUDE NEEDING ANIMAL.



ONE OF THE MANY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FOREST SERVICE IS THE PRESERVATION, ENHANCEMENT, AND MANIPULATION OF THE HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE. BY UTILIZING SHEEP-BEDDING GROUNDS, LAMBING AREAS, ESCAPE TERRAIN, FOOD AREAS, AND VITAL OPEN SPACE FOR OTHER PURPOSES, THE FOREST SERVICE WILL BE GUILTY OF DESTROYING ONE OF THE REMNANT BANDS OF BIGHORN LEFT IN THE STATE.

THE SOCIETY IS ASKING FOR AN EXTENSIVE STUDY WITH A MINIMUM TIME ELAPSE OF AT LEAST ONE YEAR TO DETERMINE IF THERE ARE ALTERNATIVES TO THIS PLAN WHICH WILL NOT ELIMINATE THESE RARE SHEEP.

IN 1964 THE SHEEP SOCIETY STARTED A SERIES OF FIELD TRIPS THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA. ONE AREA UNDER OBSERVATION HAS BEEN THE SAN ANTONIO REGION (MOUNT BALDY). ON A FIELD TRIP FROM STOCKTON FLATS TOWARD MOUNT BALDY (MT. SAN ANTONIO) MANY SHEEP BEDS, PELLETS, TRACKS, AND TRAILINGS WERE FOUND IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE PROPOSED SKI EXTENSION 1-A; THREE EWES AND ONE LAMB WERE ALSO OBSERVED IN THIS TERRAIN. A GONDOLA-TRAMWAY-RESTAURANT-SKIING FACILITY ON A YEAR ROUND BASIS WILL RUIN THIS AREA FOR SHEEP!!!

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IS CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING ALL THE WILD SHEEP IN THE STATE. IT IS ALSO WORKING WITH THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ON A PLAN TO TRANSPLANT CALIFORNIA BIGHORN IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA.

HOW WASTEFUL FOR ONE PUBLIC AGENCY TO CONSERVE AND ENHANCE, WHILE ANOTHER DESTROYS THE SAME RESOURCE.

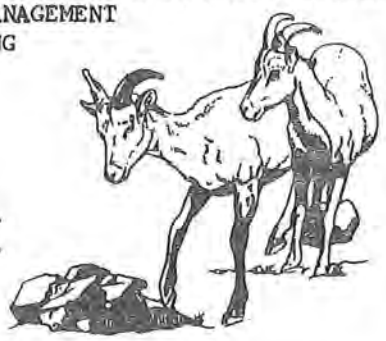
PLEASE ATTEND THIS MEETING

I URGE YOU TO ATTEND THIS MEETING AS WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND PLEASE EXPRESS YOUR FEELINGS IN WRITING AND MAIL THEM TO 401 NORTH GARFIELD, ALHAMBRA, CA. 91801. PLEASE GET YOUR LETTER IN TODAY, AS WE MUST HAVE THEM BY June 16.

THE SOCIETY IS AGAINST THE LETTING OF ANY PERMITS OR RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, OR ADDITIONAL HIGHWAYS AT MT. BALDY UNTIL A DEFINITIVE STUDY HAS BEEN MADE.

SOUTHERN COUNCIL OF CONSERVATION CLUBS EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON MOUNT BALDY

MR. LEROY NICHOLS, PRESIDENT, STATES: BY PRECONCLUDING THE RESULTS OF STUDIES BY HYDROLOGISTS, GEOLOGISTS, AND WILDLIFE BIOLOGISTS IN ITS EMPLOY, THE FOREST SERVICE IS NEGATING A PROPER SEQUEL INVESTIGATION. FIRST, THEY SAY THAT A SKIING RUN WILL BE BUILT, THEN THEY SAY THAT THERE WILL BE THOROUGH STUDIES MADE ON THE EFFECTS OF THE SKI RUN. THIS MEANS THEN THAT ANY STUDIES BEING MADE WILL BE DIRECTED TO BUTTRESSING THE POSITION THAT THE SAN BERNARDINO FOREST HAS TAKEN A NON-RATIONAL, UNSCIENTIFIC APPROACH TO A DIFFICULT PROBLEM.



IN A PUBLICATION ENTITLED " SAN GABRIEL BIGHORN MANAGEMENT PLAN--ANGELES AND SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FORESTS--DEVELOPING WILDLIFE RESOURCES", APPROVED BY DON BAUER, AMONG OTHERS, PUBLISHED AUGUST 1967, IT IS STATED THAT (1) BIGHORN WOULD BE EXTINCT, AS ARE THE ELK OF THE VALLEYS AND HILLS OF CALIFORNIA, IF IT WERE NOT FOR THEIR WILDNERNESS HABITAT REQUIREMENTS, (2) ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND RESULTANT CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE BACK COUNTRY REDUCED SHEEP RANGE AND NUMBERS, (3) CUCAMONGA LAND USE PATTERN -- AN AREA WHICH INCLUDES THE PROPOSED SKIING DEVELOPMENT -- IS FOR WILDNERNESS RECREATION FOR ITS KEY VALUE AND THE WILDLIFE DIRECTION SHOULD BE TO COOPERATE IN MANAGEMENT PROTECTION OF BIGHORN AND MINIMIZE FIREARM CLOSURE, (4) THE FOREST SERVICE WILL MAINTAIN AND STRIVE TO IMPROVE BIGHORN HABITAT WITHIN THE NATIONAL FOREST; (5) THE STOCKTON FLATS RECREATION AREA PLAN WAS APPROVED WITHOUT EVALUATION OF THE NEEDS OF A SMALL NUCLEUS OF BIGHORN IN THE AREA. CARE MUST BE TAKEN IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF WATER, TRAILS, AND SITE PREPARATION TO AVOID CONFLICT WITH SHEEP CONCENTRATIONS. FORSEEABLE CONFLICTS WILL BE RE SOLVED.

IF THE FOREST SERVICE IS SINCERE IN ITS STATED OBJECTIVES HOW CAN IT JUSTIFY THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ALL YEAR ROUND RECREATIONAL COMPLEX?

THE MOUNT BALDY ARE A IS ALSO VALUABLE TO HUNTERS, CAMPERS, HIKERS, WILDERNESS LOVERS, HORSEBACK RIDERS, AND OTHER OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS. BY ELIMINATING THESE USES IS THIS MULTIPLE USE?

SOME AUTHORITIES CONTEND ALSO THAT CERTAIN RARE BOTANICAL SPECIMENS WILL BE ELIMINATED FROM THIS TERRAIN BY THE PROJECTED 12,555 PEOPLE USE CAPACITY.

THE COUNCIL WILL NOT BE SATISFIED BY ANY PLAN WHICH DOES NOT HAVE AN IN-DEPTH STUDY OF ALL ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS PRIOR TO A HEARING WHERE EVERY CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION'S VIEWS MAY BE PRESENTED AND IMPLEMENTED IN ANY PROJECTED USAGE OF THE NATIONAL FOREST. IT IS NOT INTERESTED IN ANY PUBLIC-RELATIONS CAMPAIGN PUT ON BY THE FOREST SERVICE AT THE BEHEST OF PRIVATE DEVELOPERS WHO ARE INTERESTED ONLY IN A PROFIT.

THE SOCIETY HAS MORE COMMENTS ON MOUNT BALDY/STOCKTON FLATS PROBLEM

THE SHEEP SOCIETY FEELS THAT ANY VALID BIOLOGICAL STUDY OF THE AREA SHOULD TAKE A MINIMUM OF FIVE YEARS...SHOULD STUDY IN DETAIL MOVEMENT OF THE ANIMALS, VALUE OF THE AREA TO SHEEP, AND THE IMPACT OF MAN. THE STUDY SHOULD COVER ALL SEASONS...WINTER, SPRING, SUMMER, AND FALL.

IF A FIVE YEAR STUDY CANNOT BE MADE THEM AN INTENSIVE STUDY COVERING ONE YEAR SHOULD BE MADE (AGAIN COVERING FOUR SEASONS)..... A STUDY LIKE THIS WOULD INDICATE A GENERAL TREND.

ONLY AFTER A ONE YEAR INTENSIVE STUDY...AND ONLY THEN...SHOULD AN OPEN HEARING BE HELD.

THERE IS A TRAMWAY IN THE SANDIA MOUNTAINS IN NEW MEXICO WHICH PASSED OVER BIGHORN FEEDING GROUNDS AND THEIR EXPERIENCE INDICATES THAT THE SHEEP HERD DROPPED FROM 300 ANIMALS TO 150 ANIMALS AND THAT WHEN THE RESIDENT SHEEP POPULATION CAME IN CONTACT WITH PEOPLE THEY (THE SHEEP) FLED.

BY ALLOWING A TRAMWAY TO BE BUILT THE FOREST SERVICE IS NOT PROVIDING THE PROPER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR MOUNT BALDY/STOCKTON FLATS----THEY ARE DESTROYING.

LETTER FROM DR. LOREN L. LUTZ, D.D.S., PRESIDENT OF SHEEP SOCIETY

FIRST OF ALL, I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR THE ZEALOUS SUPPORT OF OUR ANZA BORREGO PROJECT AND TO ASK THAT YOU CONTINUE YOUR HELP FOR OUR SOCIETY AND ITS AIMS IN THE FUTURE. THIS PARTICULAR PROJECT PROVES THAT THE CONCERN OF LAY CITIZENS CAN RESULT IN THE ACCOMLISHMENT OF OUR GOALS.

IN THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS CONSERVATION HAS BECOME A BYWORD, A POLITICAL FOOTBALL--THE "IN" THING. BUT, A GREAT MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN WORKING IN ALL FORMS OF CONSERVATION FOR MANY YEARS, STRIVING TO TURN THE TIDE OF DESTRUCTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES, AND CRYING OUT TO PEOPLE THE DESPERATE NEED FOR AN AWARENESS OF THE PROBLEMS CIVILIZATION HAS BEEN CREATING IN OUR ENVIRONMENT.

NOW, AS INDIVIDUALS ALERTED TO THE DANGER WE FEEL HELPLESS. WE ARE DELUGED WITH OUR OWN PRIVATE PROBLEMS AND EXPEDIENCIES. WE ARE HAMMERED ON EVERY SIDE BY REPORTS ON DRUGS, TAXES, WARS, RIOTS, AND ASKED TO FIGHT, DONATE MONEY, TIME, AND ENERGY TO COMBAT THE EVILS OF SOCIETY, ILLNESS AND DISEASE. AND, AS A RESULT WE SUFFER A KIND OF "COMBAT" FATIGUE. WE SAY I CAN'T HELP....NOBODY WILL LISTEN TO ME.....WHAT I SAY DOES NOT COUNT.....LET SOMEONE ELSE DO IT....IT ISN'T MY FAULT....AND I DIDN'T CAUSE IT.

NO!

EACH OF US CAN DO SOMETHING. EACH OF US IS RESPONSIBLE....AND ALL OF US CAN FIGHT FOR PROPER CONSERVATION, PROPER USE OF OUR FORESTS, STREAMS, OCEANS, SOIL, AND AIR.

THE SOCIETY HAS AS ITS CHIEF CONCERN THE BIGHORN SHEEP. BUT ALL OF NATURE IS INTERRELATED, INTERDEPENDENT, AND EACH AND EVERY MEMBER OF THIS SOCIETY SHOULD CONCERN HIMSELF WITH THE LARGER ASPECTS OF CONSERVATION PROBLEMS. HE SHOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING OR MAY HAPPEN WITHIN HIS OWN COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD. CONSIDER THAT ZONING LAW, THIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, THAT OIL SUBSIDY. DIG IN, INVESTIGATE, WRITE TO YOUR POLITICIANS AND LET THEM KNOW THAT YOU CARE. IT'S YOUR WORLD NOW: MAKE IT GOOD FOR YOUR GRANDCHILDREN, TOO.

YOU CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

MECHANICAL TROUBLE DELAYS INSTALLATION OF WATERHOLDING TANK IN ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK

MECHANICAL TROUBLE WITH THE HELICOPTER PREVENTED LIFTING THE WATERHOLDING TANK IN PLACE AT BLUE SPRINGS. APPROXIMATELY SEVENTY (70) HARDY MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDERN TURNED OUT TO HELP THE SHEEP AND I AM CERTAIN THAT ALL PEOPLE WILL TESTIFY WHO WERE PRESENT THAT THERE IS A DEFINITE LACK OF WATER IN ANZA BORREGO PARK. IT WAS SO DRY THAT EVEN THE CACTUS HAD THEIR TONGUES HANGING OUT. ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE I HAVE A FEW SNAPSHOTS SUPPLIED TO ME FROM MARVIN WOOD. AT THIS WRITING IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT ADDITIONAL HELICOPTER TIME IS NOT AVAILABLE AND THAT ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO LOCATE THE TANK WILL BE MADE IN THE LATE FALL WHEN THE TEMPERATURE DOWN THERE DROPS TO A WORKABLE DEGREE. WE ALL HOPE THAT THE SHEEP CAN SURVIVE THE HOT AND DRY SUMMER MONTHS.

MAYBE NEXT YEAR THE SHEEP IN ANZA BORREGO
WILL BE SIPPING WATER FROM OUR TANK

SIDELINES

RECENTLY A ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN COUNCIL MEETING WAS HELD IN BRITISH COLUMBIA--THIS IS A NEWLY FORMED ORGANIZATION. THEY HAVE AGREED TO TRAP SOME CALIFORNIA BIGHORN THEY HAVE IN B.C. FOR TRANSPLANTING BACK INTO CALIFORNIA IN THE FALL OF 1971.

NEXT ISSUE I WILL REPORT ON A BRAILLE NATURE TRAIL AND ABOUT A YOUNG GAME WARDEN TRYING TO SAVE IDAHO'S BIGHORN SHEEP.

SEE YOU IN SAN BERNARDINO ON JUNE 17TH.

WILLIAM D. PHIFER, EDITOR
HACIENDA HEIGHTS, CA 91745

ANZA-BORREGO WATERHOLDING TANK
MAY1970

PACKERS RELAXING

HIKERS WITH PIPE

PACKERS WITH PIPE

CLEARING FOR TANK

CLEARING FOR "DRINKER"

FORMS FOR DAM