SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP

The Sheepherder

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NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1975

ANNUAL DINNER IN LOS ANGEEES A SUCCESS

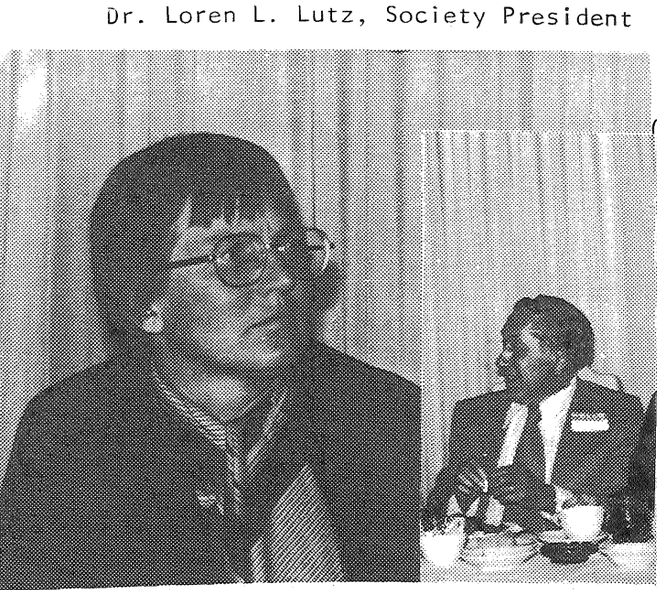
The Ocotber 4th, 1975 dinner meeting of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep at Michael's in Los Angeles was an enjoyable and informative one.

With the last issue of THE SHEEPHERDER 300 addressed and stamped postcards were included, with the request that all be returned. Of this number 133 replied that they would be in attendance and 40 replied that they could not be present. On the basis of this return Bud Weideman, banquet chairman guaranteed 110 dinners. However, there were only 88 people in attendance. With a 10% disc ount the Society only had to buy an additional 11 dinners and the Society only went-in-the-hole $85. The dinner was excellent.

Dr. Loren L. Lutz, Society President

Society President Dr. Loren L. Lutz acted as the chairman for the evening and introduced the people at the head table. These were: Mr. and Mrs Keith Gaffaney; (Keith is the Legislative Advocate for the California Wildlife Federation in the State Capitol) Mr. and Mrs. John Massie-(John is the Wildlife Habitat Supervisor for the Department of Fish and GAme, Region 5, Long Beach, and is the director of the water projects for our desert wildlife; Mr. and Mrs Ben Romero. These two people have been making a study of the Desert's ecology for the past several years and were to present their slide program, "The Jacks are Wild." Peter G. Sanches, Natural Resource Specialist for the Death Valley National Monument. Doctor Lutz also introduced Mrs. Lutz, the fine lady who permits the Doctor to spend nearly all of his waking hours either in the practice of dentistry or in working for the wild sheep. Also introduced were: Don Heinze and Allen Cooperrider of the Bureau of Land Management; Riverside office; Les Coombes, Calif. Department of Fish and Game and a member of the team that are to be engaged in the drilling of the horizontal wells. (See another article on this one), Earl R. Hein, John E.O. Larronde Treasurer and Secretary respectively and your editor.

Docotr Lutz announced that Glenn Sudmeier is taking over the job of coordinating the water development projects and that Ron Vickery will be his right hand man in this endeavor.



rs. Miriam Romero, above; Ben Romero, insert

Ben and Miriam Romero have received many awards for their endeavors as conservationists from the Sierra Club; National Audubon Society; the Bureau of Land Management; the Sears Roebuck Foundation and from the California Conservation Council. They are listed among the top ten ranking conservationists of the United States. On a trip to the Death Valley National MOnument a few years ago they observed the degredation of the desert environment in the Wildrose Canyon area, in which they counted 57 burros in a 3½ mile stretch of the canyon. This posed the question, "What is the effect that these feral burros are having on the desert ecosystem? They resolved to attempt to get some answers to this question. This was to lead them on a 15 month long research of the problem, over the southwestern states of Utah, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona. Nevada and California. Mrs Romero in her college studies specialized in

the field of Wildlife Management. Ben Romero was an employee of the Lockhead Aircraft Co. They have developed 6 different slide programs and have given more than 200 of these programs in the Los Angeles and Southern California areas. In their program the Romeros reported The feral burro of the western states is an import from the Nubian Desert and only about 200 of these still exist in Ethiopia. The Nubian Ass or burro has been domesticated for more than 3,000 years and is a close relative of the Onager, not a true ass. Consequently there are 10's of thousands of these animals---and all over the world. It is true they were used as a beast of burden by the early day prospector of the western deserts. With the advent of the automobile, a cheap and much more reliable transportation became available and the burros were generally abandoned to the wild. The wild horse and the feral burro's habitat across the western states do not overlap except in isolated places. Mrs. Romero estimates that there are at least 5,000 of these feral burros in California alone. This is considerably more than the estimate of 3,612 estimate given by the Department of Fish and Game as a result of their census of 1973.....The surface of the desert is covered with what is known as 'desert pavement'--- this is in general made up of small pebbles and this 'pavement' is only one pebble thick. Any disturbance of this 'pavement' even by a man walking across it can subject the underlying dirt or soil to the almost constant winds of the desert, and hence the loss of these soils. The burro with his small and sharp hooves therefore can and does expose a great deal of this fragile environment to wind and water erosian....All herbivores rely primarily on the grasses of the area they are in. The grasses of the desert are in short supply at the best. Overuse by too many animal units of domestic livestock is compounded by the grazing and degredation committed by the feral burros...The eating and/or grazing habits of the different herbivores are also different. The deer and bighorn sheep as they feed they take a bite here and there as they move along, and so, do not tend to reduce the annual growth too far. Cattle, sheep, and burros on the other hand, tend to graze and/or browse more slowly and to eat the forage much closer to the ground. This in turn has the effect of reducing the capacity of these grasses and shrubs to extend their root systems and hence to grow and produce seed for another year. To be properly managed no annual growth of the grasses or browse plants should be reduced by more that 60% of their annual growth in order to maintain their vigor. (This 60% removal of annual growth is itself considered to be too much in the opinions of many.) People who visit the Death Valley National Monument are urged to take a good look at the exclosure near the Ranger Station in the Wildrose Canyon, when next in that area. The difference between the plant communities within and outside of this exclosure is very dramatic, and it was only built about 2 to 3 years ago.....The various reptiles of the desert region the snakes, lizards and tortoise are important parts of this ecosystem. The rodents such as the squirrels, mice and the various species of rats are important prey species of the raptors and such other predators as the fox, coyote and bobcat. As their burrows are destroyed by the trampling of large herbivores, then they themselves are diminished in numbers andwith their diminished numbers the predators themselves lack a food supply. With the denuding of vegetation around the few water sources the quail and other small birds as well as the rabbits and squirrels lack any escape cover when coming in to get a drink of water, and so become more vulnerable to the predators. The burro being the most dominant animal of the desert, will by his presence at the waterhole keep other forms of wildlife from getting to the water. Mrs. Romero also spoke of the Burro Management Policy adopted by the Sierra Club, of which they are members. This policy was quoted in the May-June issue of THE SHEEPHERDER.

Peter G. Sanchez, Natural Resource Specialist, Death Valley National Monument

Doctor Lutz next re-introduced Peter G. Sanchez and spoke of Pete's service in many of our National Parks--among them Mt. McKinley in Alaska.

Pete spoke of his plans for waterhole surveys of the Armagosa Range in which some 300 springs are to be covered during that period of time. Burros now inhabit some 780 square miles of the Monument, and are presently expanding their range. All burros have been removed from the eastern side of the Monument. All areas presently occupied in the Monument by burros are considered to have fully reached their carrying capacity and have even probably surpassed this capacity. Within the past five years the burros have even come down into those parts of the monument which are below sea level, and are here destroying the grasses that have existed here for centuries.....The boundaries of the Monument are not fenced. Therefore, the burros can and do move freely into and out of the Monument. Trackings show that these burros do travel as far away from the Monument as the U.S. Naval Weapons Center boundaries in the Argus Mountains, to the north of Trona. A great many of the springs of this region are seasonal.... flowing only during and shortly after periods of rainfall. Another severe problem here in the Monument is the fouling of springs and other waters by the urine and feces of the burro. This, therefore, creates a problem for those people who come as visitors to the Monument and desire to hike and/or backpack away from their vehicles. While it is possible

to make this water biologically safe to use; these contaminants of feces and urine and the accompanying odors cannot be removed except by distillation . ...The deserts are primarily a shrub-grassland community of vegetation prior to the advent of burro. The burro like other herbivores prefers the grasses. Soon, therefore, this vegetative community becomes only shrubs. Then other wildlife forms which depend on the grasses for their subsistence are deprived of their food and consequently they die of starvation and disease. There are some 1400 known Archeological sites in the Monument. Many of these are presently being destroyed by the burros. The burros may possible be peaking out as to population. This is surmised as a result of finding a few dead burros.....If the burros were to be completely removed from the Monument now, these lands could not possible restore their vegetative cover during any of our lifetimes.....The bighorn sheep of the Monument are presently being restricted that habitat within some enclaves. Originally the bighorns occupied all of the ranges of all of the desert mountains....Present bighorn population in the Monument is believed to be 583. During the pre-pioneer days the biologists believe that the population in these same areas was some 4,800 sheep....Of course, the burro is not the only cause of the bighorn sheep populations decline. Livestock grazing on these desert lands has been a very serious cause in decline of bighorns all over the western parts of North America.....Burro population of the Monument in 1939 was given as 1500. By 1942 all burro had been removed from the eastern side of the Monument and population dropped to about 700. These numbers then began to increase again to 800 in 1951; 1,000 in 1967; In 1969 to 1,350 and in 1972 the census showed numbers back to 1,500, about one-half the range occupied in 1939. In April of 1975 an aerial survey by actual count showed 1250 burros. However, because of the coloration of these burros, there being many that are white gray or mottled in color, they are extremely hard to see or to find in a photograph. Consequently Sanchez is certain that a great many of these burros were not included in the aerial census of 1975.....Death Valley National Monument like all Public Agencies is very sensitive to public opinion. They are loath to initiate new programs or actions even on many problems that they know full well need positive and sometime severe action without the views of the public at large. It is necessary therefore that those people interested in haveing problems such as that of the feral burro solved must themselves get involved and write letters to the Agencies and request that corrective measures be taken, and without delay.....During 1975,135 burros were captured and given away by the Monument. However, this is not even equal to the natural increase of burro within the Monument. On the highways of the Monument and leading to it, the burro has become a major hazard to safe travel. There have been four (4) major wrecks to travelors in recent weeks, although there were no fatalities to people in these wrecks. One of the "burro-crossing zones" extends for a 20 mile stretch of a major highway.....In February of 1975 Park personnel constructed a steel pipe fence around a major spring in the Cottonwood Canyon areas. The design of this fencing was the outcome of a study performed by Jack Helvie.NOTE: this has been reported on in a previous issue --concerning reports of the Desert Bighorn Council) The use of time-lapse cameras around this drinker have shown that the bighorns do come and go to this drinker at will, and that the burros have not (as yet) had access to the water, and have not yet destroyed this fencing as they did to the one at the Wood Mt. Spring in the Mid Hills of eastern San Bernardino County. Should any of our readers desire more information when in the Monument, drop in to see Sanchez at the Visitors Center. If there is a group of you who would like to see for yourselves, then, Pete will arrange a personally guided tour-----He does desire public imput of peoples' desires for management and of what nature. The 1975 waterhole census in the Monument, had a total of 30 volunteers. Not all have sent in their reports. Some of these volunteers did not see any sheep and so did not consider that they had a report to give. The lack of any sightings is just as important to a census as is the gratification of seeing many sheep. It is expected that a report on this census will be completed by the end of October. At the pre-census briefing of observers, Banky Curtis gave an indocrination of how observers can classify any sheep seen as to sex and ages. The monument needs a total of about 300 sheep skulls in the problem of censusing and now have about 80 on hand....Observers saw some 100 trespass cattle in the Grapevine Mts. as well as a number of mule deer.....Sanchez believes that it would be advisable to have the boundaries of the Monument fenced, as this would prevent the trespassing of domestic livestock and might also keep out burro migrating into the Monument. The depredation of the burro on the desert ecosystem is the result of man's freeing of these one time beasts of burden. Therefore, it should be the responsibility of man to correct the results of his actions. .....The question then becomes ," NOT JUST WHETHER IT IS TO BE THE SURVIVAL OF THE BIGHORN SHEEP OR THE BURRO----BUT RATHER IS THE DESERT ECOSYSTEM ITSELF TO SURVIVE?"

Doctor Lutz then reported that the totals of all counts of waterholes censused in July was 581 sheep observed. He reaffirmed the statement of Sanchez that every waterhole observer should send in a report even though no sheep or other wildlife was observed.-----The Federal District Court's ruling that PL 92-195 (The socalled Wild Horse and Burro Act of 1971) was unconstitutional is still on appeal before the U.S. Supreme Court for decision and that no date has been given for such decision. In the meantime the Public Land managing agencies, the US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management are continuing to act under the terms of PL 92-195-----and nothing is being done by them to solve these problems. Under the terms of the Environmental Policy Act(EPA) any planning and/or actions from such plans must have the , now necessary, Environmental Impact Statements, etc. The BLM has had to release back on to Public Lands some 70 of these so-called wild horses that they had captured in Nevada. The BLM is further strapped for manpower and funds. Allen Cooperrider further reported that He had been pulled-off burro studies and had been put to work writing some of the, now necessary, EIS's on the grazing of livestock on some of the Units of our National Resource Lands; on the geothermal projects; on range studies; and on the effects of power transmission lines across these lands. Cooperrider has done some work in the Argus mountains. He has hope of being able to successfully put together andEIS that the

burro lovers will not be able to successfully challenge....,Bud Weideman asked Cooperrider whether or not the EIS on burro management would also take into consideration the needs of the Department of Fish and Game for proper management of California's mule deer populations which occupy parts of the range areas usurped by the feral burro. Cooperrider responded that hopefully every facet of wildlife management would be included in such an EIS.
John Massie noted that the BLM has until 1989 to do some 220 EIS's on grazing on the National Resource Lands, and that some 12 of these units are in the Riverside District of the BLM.....The California DFG has an appropriation for a total vegetative study of the New York and Providence Mts. of Inyo County and has until 1979 to complete this study. However 1979 may already be too late to save some of these sheepwhich now inhabit many of these areas-----PL 92-195 says that the feral burro is the principal and best use of these desert ranges.
Walt Powell noted that the National Park Service has the responsibility for maintaining the quality of the environment of the National Monument.
Sanchez replied that he already completed two chapters of an Environmental Statement and expects the remainder to be ready for review in March or April of 1976.
Lew Carpenter asked Sanchez concerning the reported open-pit and strip-mining now going on and contemplated in the Monument. Pete replied that such mining in the Monument is not compatible with the desert environment in any manner. The soil of this fragile region cannot be restored in a millinium. Bighorn sheep herd groups which include about one-seventh of the population of the Monument are being adversely effected. Sanchez said," You just cannot mine the wildlife habitat and still have the wildlife."
Bud Weideman reported that the waterhole project in the Old Dad Mountains had been completed in one day. There had been a one and one-half mile hike to and from the project taking most of the participants about 1½ hours of walking. The work itself took only 5½ hours to complete. All debris has been removed from the site.

NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

NEW MEXICO-- WILDLIFE MAGAZINE:
The only sheep herd in the Northwest Area is the Rocky Mountain sheep found along the crest of the Sandia Mountains. This herd doesn't seem to be thriving as well as it should. So, there will be no hunts in this area during the 1975-1976 season.
The Pecos bighorn hunt should be a good one this season.----several good rams were spotted during the winter surveys----The e is a good probability of adverse weather during the time of the hunt.....At least 3 of the rams seen should score in the B. & C. books.
Five New Mexico and one nonresident will get the rare opportunity of hunting the desert bighorn again this season in the San Andreas National Wildlife Reguge northeast of Las Cruces.

From the above it appears that at least some of the reintroduction of bighorns to historic ranges has been successful. THE SHEEPHERDER has carried articles concerning these transplant introductions during the past five years.
News Release of August 1975.

Santa Fe, N.M. Two research biologists are clambering over the rocks of the rugged San Andres and Florida Mountains and stalking across the expanse of White Sands Missle Range, learning more about the native Mexican bighorn sheep and the introduced exotics, the Persian ibex and the gemsbok, an African antelope.

N. M. Game and Fish Department researcher Richard Saiz is conducting the research on the two exotic species; Andrew Sandoval, on educational leave from the department, is studying the bighorn sheep through department-funded research grant to a university.

Sandoval's research into the bighorn's habits, their habitat and the uses to which they put it, will aid the department in its program of restocking the native animals into places where they once were found.

Among his research tools---is a time-lapsed camera hidden at a waterhole. The camera takes a picture every minute for several days, recording activity throughout the period.

Saiz, who earned his master of science degree for his research on the gemsbok, is studying the Persian ibex in the Florida Mountains as well. He reports that the gemsbok herd is growing and estimates the White Sands population at from 130 to 150 head, He has observed one herd of ibex that numbered 52 head, about half of them this year's kids. The population may be in excess of 100, but it is difficult to pin down because of the nature of the animal and the terrain.

Sandoval, in his counts of the native bighorns, has recorded 77 lambs per 100 ewes. The San Andres herd has provided several ewes for the department's propogation program at it's Red Rock Game Pasure.

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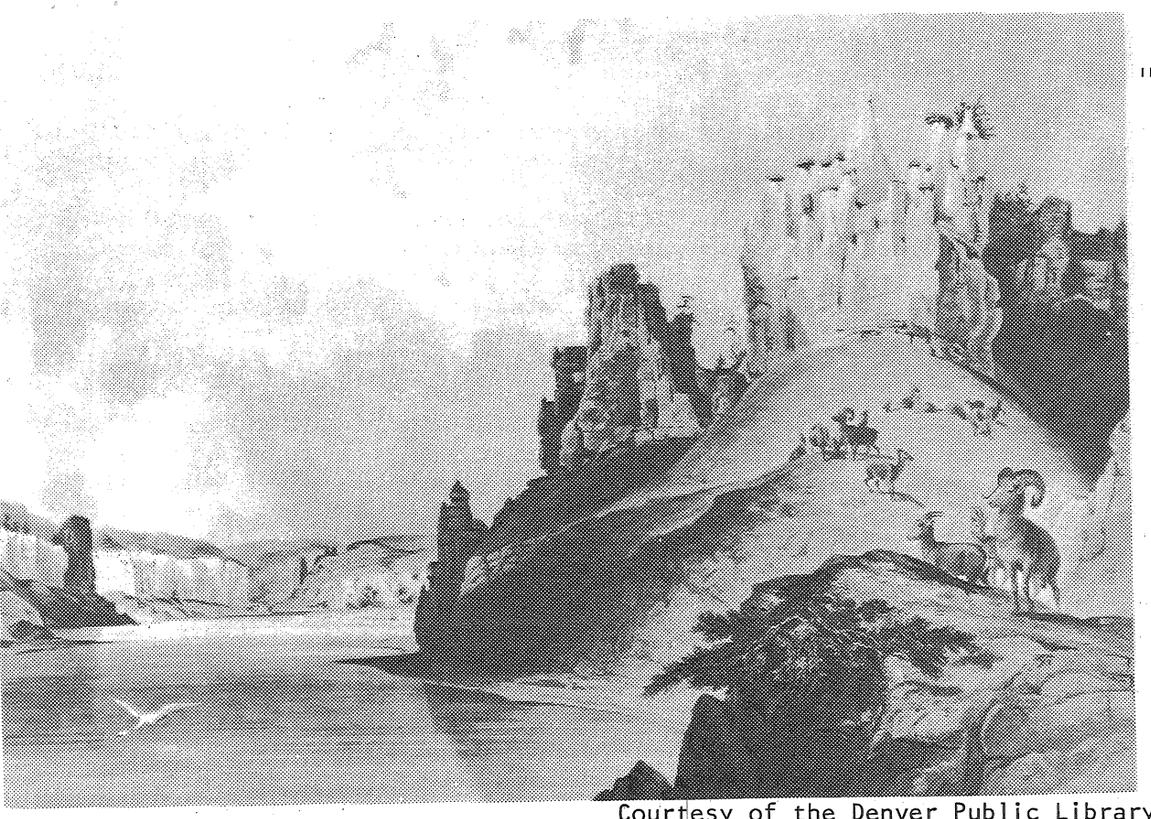
A NOTE FROM OUR SECRETARY JOHN E.O. LARRONDE

Following the Banquet held at Michael's October 4, 1975 there was found a pair of glasses, clear with black rims, in a black case, Found on the floor under the table, and after the meeting was over. The name, Dr. Rios, Los Angeles was on the case. The glasses are being held at Dr. Lutz's office at 401 N. Garfield, Alhambra- 91801 telephone (213) 284-5113



"VIEW OF THE STONE WALLS OF THE UPPER MISSOURI." Karl Bodmer (1809-1893) was a Swiss draftsman and water colorist who accompanied Prince Maximilian of Wied Neuwied on a tour of the United States that began in 1832.

Sketches he produced during their trip up the Missouri River supplemented the publication of Maximilian's journal in London, and are considered today to represent the finest extant pictorial record of the Missouri frontier.

Courtesy of the Denver Public Library

"View of the Stone Walls--" is atypical; Bodmer preferred to depict, with his fine artistic training, active scenes of frontier life at the river crossings forts and settlements. He was exceptionally prolific, and his work, published as engravings, was highly regarded. But in the spring of 1834 he returned to Europe forever, his American odyssey ended.

The August 1974 issue of Wyoming Wildlife carried an interesting article. "The Gamut of Wild Sheep", by Doug Crowe. He states, "Obviously Lt. William Clark was very impressed by his first glimpse of bighorn sheep. Few people since that day have failed to be equally impressed at the sight of this magnificent animal. Clarke wrote the following: "...somewhat larger than the mail of the Common Deer, the body rather thicker deeper and not so long in proportion to it's hight as the common Deer; the head and horns of the male are remarkably large compared with the other parts of the animal....they feed on grass, but principally on the arramatic herbs which grow on the clifts and inaxcessible hights which they frequent most commonly, and the places they generally collect to lodge is the cranies or crevices of the rocks in the face of inaccessable precepices, where the wolf nor Bear can reach them, and where indeed man himself would in many instances find a similar deficiency, yet these animals bound from rock to rock and stand apparantly in the most careless manner on the Side of precepices of maney hundred feet. They are very shy and quick of both sent and sight."

Lt. William Clark, 1805

Osborne Russell, an early fur trapper, travelled across the Absoakas in the summer of 1835 and the entry in his journal for June 1835 gives an idea as the numbers of sheep that were then present. "On the North and West were towering rocks several thousand feet high which seem to overhang this little vale...Thousands of mountain sheep were scattered up and down feeding on the short grass which grew among the cliffs and crevices: some so high that it required a telescope to see them."

Otto Franc who established the Pitchfork Ranch on the upper Greybull River, found thousands of bighorn wintering in that drainage during the winter of 1880. One year later the sheep had been nearly exterminated by the scab mite and Franc found only a few scattered animals ranging the same area. Such a tremendous loss was general throughout the state; records of scab among bighorn populations during that era can be found for every other area. The greatly reduced populations then lacked the reproductive potential to compensate for animals removed by market hunters and unrestricted sport hunting, and many of the easily accessible herds were exterminated.

Today, for the most part, our bighorn herds winter in the same general areas where they summer and it is this range restriction that governs their numbers. Sound management practices and range improvement have increased the population from an estimated 2,500 animals in 1940 to over 3,500 today. The present population is kept in balance with the available forage by harvesting the excess. Hunting permits are provided annually on a drawing basis and the demand far excedes the supply. A bighorn ram is widely recognized as the premium game animal on this continent and there are few outdoosmen who have not dreamed of some day taking one. Yet many fail to recognize the mental, physical and monetary trauma associated with collecting a good ram. Why one person catches 'sheep fever' and another doesn't is a mystery.

Your editor discussed this 'sheep fever' with his guide, Sam Kostynuk, this fall while hunting along the Bighorn River of western Alberta. We decided that YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE CRAZY IN ORDER TO BE A SHEEP HUNTER, BUT IT SURE HELPS. Incidentally we did find and collect a good ram after three different trips and 32 days of hunting.

DESERT BIGHORN COUNCIL TAKES POSITION ON CLOUD SEEDING

DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP

DESERT BIGHORN COUNCIL

The Desert Bighorn Council was recently asked for their opinions concerning the proposed cloud seeding program to take place in the San Bernardino Mountains.

The following statement was prepared and presented by the Technical Staff of the DBC, and sent to Mr. Larry Rowe of the S.B.V.W.D. in San Bernardino. Quote: Thanks for the opportunity to comment on your Draft Environmental Impact Report.

Our primary concern is the impacts this project could have on the precipitation in mountain ranges to the east toward and including the western portions of Arizona and Nevada. Your report has not adequately addressed itself to this. It seems logical that if snow or rain is forced from clouds in the San Bernardino Mountains that areas to the east will receive proportionally less moisture. These areas receive low percipitation now and any unnatural factors that would tend to decrease this could have a disastrous impact on wildlife populations and their habitats. The report mentions downwind monitoring to determine increases or decreases of precipitation. We suggest that the report should state how many sites and where they are to be located. The report should also include a map showing these downwind monitoring sites. The California Department of Fish and Game should be consulted when locating these monitoring sites to insure the most benefits to wildlife. The report should address itself to the agency's action if data shows there is a loss of moisture in the desert areas; will the project be curtailed or halted?

Throughout the report the author speaks of an augmentation of 1-2 inches of precipitation. Has the silver iodide precipitation augmentation process reached such a stage of scientific sophistication to insure this, or could we have a repeat of what happened in the watershed behind Rapid City, South Dakota?

The Desert Bighorn Council thanks you for the opportunity to comment on your report." end quote. Signed by Warren E. Kelly, a member of the Technical Staff.

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GUMDROP PASSES ON from Bleats and Blats of the Desert Bighorn Council.

Jack Turner's Gumdrop has died. She was badly injured and Jack and company tried to save her. It's the Gumdrop's, Tag-A-Longs, Whitey's, etc. who really make the significant contributions to putting the pieces of the bighorn life history together. Knowing there will be others, we won't forget those special bighorn who gave us so much

BURROS ARE A PROBLEM

Recently Dick Weaver and Miriam Romero participated in a panel discussion on the problems of burros. The panel was included on the agenda of the Wild Horse and Burro Forum, held in Reno, Nevada recently. The Forum was sponsored by the Sierra Club. Hurrah! for Weavers and Romeros who show they really care by doing!!!

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ANOTHER BIGHORN SHEEP POACHING CASE

A California Department of Fish and Game news release of October 18th reported that Louis Roque of San Diego had been cited by DFG Warden Carl Bumgarner on October 13th after allegedly seizing part of a bighorn carcass in Roque's garage. Bumgarner was following up a report of a bighorn shooting the afternoon before at Anza-Borrego State Park. Other information reports that Roque had been observed by two witnesses who reported the incident and the license number of Roque's car to park rangers. Roque is to appear in the Ramona Justice Court on November 10 on the charge.

NOTE: The witnesses are to be commended for reporting this violation of fish and game laws. If every person observing violation of such laws were to follow the same procedure, then, I believe that we would find that there would be a very sharp decline in the numbers of such crimes. WE MUST HAVE THE COURAGE, WILLINGNESS AND DESIRE TO STOP AND PREVENT THESE CRIMES.

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A letter from Mrs. Pat Hansen, now residing at 8111 Somoma Highway, Santa Rosa, Ca. 95405. Pat has been gracious enough to give us permission to reproduce many of her sketches of bighorns. Her folio of five ---11" X 14" bighorn sketches are again on sale at the Death Valley Natural History Association, P.O. Box 188, Death Valley, California 92328

One of her sketches graces the top of this page.

Pat and her daughter Debi were on vacation in Oregon visiting son Mike who is now working on the Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge just 60 miles west of the Malheur

Refuge where he had been born 19 years ago. While travelling through these areas they saw many antelope, sage grouse deer and bighorn sheep ----saw at least 42 sheep one day. Pat is very proud that son Mike is following in the footsteps of his father Dr. Charles Hansen, lost over the Canyonlands about 2½ years ago. Jim and Bonnie Blaisdell were with them part of the time of their stay in Oregon.

Received from Pat Hansen and from Jim Blaisdell copy of the just published booklet, RETURN OF THE BIGHORN to Lava Beds National Monument. This booklet was written by Jim Blaisdell and was illustrated by Pat Hansen. Every one with an interest in the bighorns will wish to have a copy of this booklet.

STATUS CONCERNING THE HORIZONTAL WELL DRILLING PROJECTS

A letter from Earl Lauppe, Department of Fish and Game, Region 5 in Long Beach.

"...it is my understanding that John Massie has received the necessary diamond drill bits and will schedule a drilling operation at Magnesia Spring in late November or early December.

John is on vacation until November 12th and Les Coombes plans vacation from November 9th to 17th. Hopefully, we can fill John's vacant position and hire seasonal help to fill out his crew.

For the remainder of this fiscal year, we are facing a funding problem for the development of large big game drinkers. We may require some additional volunteer assistance on our well drilling projects.

I will have John Massie notify you as soon as he schedules the Magnesia Spring project." end quote.

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MORE ON THE HORIZONTAL WELLS

A phone call from John Massie (Nov. 13) tells me that he expects to move the well drilling equipment from Riverside to the Magnesia Spring site on November 17th and then to begin actual work on the 18th. John is very anxious to get at the project at once. An added incentive is the learning that Bud Smith, the manufacturer of the equipment wishes to supervise some of the work with the DFG drilling crew before he (Smith) leaves for Iran. Smith is taking another drill rig to Iran for demonstration of its capabilities and in an effort to interest the Iranians in the purchase of some of his drilling equipment. Smith plans to leave for Iran on December the 6th. Massie reports that he has hired a seasonal aide to assist Les Coombes on the drilling crew.

Massie also reports that he and Bonnar Blong, of the DFG and stationed at Idyllwild, have gone into the Martinez Canyon area to choose sites for other horizontal wells.

The transportation of equipment and materials into inaccessible place is now being done by the use of turbin powered helicopters. These turbins are capable of carrying greater loads, faster and at a cost of about 20% of the military type helicopters which have been used in the past.

It was unfortunate that the water development project that had been set for November 8th had to be put-off until a later date. The account of the Fish and Game Preservation Funds in the San Bernardino County had been badly depleted by past projects within the County. As soon as these funds have had oppportunity to be replenished, then other projects within the county will be applied for. Of late these Preservation Funds have been used exclusively for the benefits to non-game wildlife in the County and there are numerous other projects for fish and game which do need attention. In the meantime, Massie will be stressing wildlife projects in the Riverside County, which does still have a backlog of finances in their Preservation Fund. It will probably be sometime in March before we can get back to some of the desired projects in San Bernardino County

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IT IS NOW RENEWAL TIME FOR MANY OF THE SOCIETY'S MEMBERSHIP

The Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep was created for the purpose of Conservation, preservation and proper utilization of the wild sheep of North America.

Membership is open to persons of any age. The Society is specifically soliciting those who are concerned with our Country's wildlife and the conservation of it's natural resources. The Society needs members who are aware of the vast problems in these areas. and are determined to assist in solving them. A conservation attitude and a willingness to be of assistance, when called upon, are all that is necessary. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED DO NOT DELAY, MAKE YOUR APPLICATION TODAY. The bi-monthly publication - THE SHEEPHERDER attempts to encompass each aspect of events and causes that are of concern to this rare, and, in some areas, an endangered specie.

The Society advocates: putting the bighorn sheep under the control and management of the Fish and Game Commission, rather than the Legislature; development and improvement of water sources; elimination of the checker-board patterns on National Resource Lands; reduction of competition from domestic and feral animals on sheep ranges; the transplanting of sheep into matched environments; continue the annual census of sheep throughout their ranges, and make recommendations as a result of these censuses; find the basic cause(s) of infant mortallity and endeavor to correct the cause(s); and obtain adequate funding for the Department of Fish and Game so that it may be effective.

SOME RECOMMENDED READING

NATIONAL WILDLIFE magazine --issue of October-November 1975. Michael Tennesen has written an excellent article titled "Bighorn on the Run". Mr. Tennesen interviewed a number of the members of the Desert Bighorn Council and also members of the Society to gather information for his article. Mr. William L. Reavley, Western Regional Director of the National Wildlife Federation and your editor had been trying for nearly 1½ years to get such an article written and then published in the National Wildlife magazine. You will find it worthwhile reading.

Watch for the November-December issue of OUTDOOR CALIFORNIA the bi-monthly publication of the California Department of Fish and Game. Read the article written by Don Swarthout, First Vice President of the Society entitled,"THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BURRO". This is an interesting article and is written from the personal experiences of Mr. Swarthout concerning experiences back in his early ranching days in the Swarthout Valley of San Bernardino County.

Jack O'Connor has written a book "SHEEP AND SHEEP HUNTING' published by the Winchester Press. As usual, Jack does a good job of writing. The book is interesting and does have a lot of information in it. Jack has been an ardent sheep hunter ever since his youth and has studied the wild sheep of all of North America.

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SAFARI CLUB LENDS A HELPING HAND

The Safari Club International, Los Angeles Chapter Has again proven that the hunter-sportsmen-conservationists do put their money where their mouth is.

Safari Club President Andy Oldfield presented a check in the amount of $2,000.00 to the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep to be used for the purchase of habitat for the bighorn sheep. M.W. "Dutch" Doornbos a member of the Society and of the Southern Council of Conservation Clubs received the check from President Andy Oldfield.

The Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep will certainly put these dollars to work for the bighorns. The Society is grateful to the Safari Club International, Los Angeles Chapter for this assist.

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CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION COUNCIL PRESENTS AWARDS

The California Conservation Council, active since its founding in 1933, held it's Annual Awards Dinner at the Holiday Inn in Los Angeles Saturday evening November 15, 1975.

The Organizational Award was presented to the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep. Doctor Loren L. Lutz, President was present to accept the award for the Society. We will have a picture for the next issue of The Sheepherder.

An individual-team award was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Ben (Miriam) Romero for the outstanding work that they have been doing in their efforts to protect the desert environment from the ravages of the increasing numbers of feral burros.. They were present to receive their honors.

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BIGHORN HUNT SUCCESSFUL

Thirteen Oregon hunters were successful in a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to bag a bighorn sheep trophy ram in this year's seasons. Only 19 tags were authorized in four separate seasons on Hart Mountain, Steens Mountain, and on the breaks of the Owyhee River Only two of the five hunters on Hart Mt. were successful. Estimates now place the sheep population on Hart Mt. at more than 100 animals. It was the first site of release for the first sheep successfully reintroduced to Oregon from Canada in 1954. Bighon sheep have since been transplanted to a number of sites in southeastern and northwestern Oregon and are gradually expanding their numbers to fill many of the niches where native wild sheep existed before the turn of the century.

You are cordially invited to tear off and use this

APPLICATION OF MEMBERSHIP
or renewal

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

PHONE : HOME _____ BUSINESS _____

PLACE OF BIRTH _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

OCCUPATION _____

ENCLOSED: you will find my check or money order for $20.00. This includes my initiation fee ($5.00) and my first year's dues ($15.00). I will endeavor to do my part on behalf of the Bighorn Sheep.

Signature _____