SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP

The Sheepherder

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NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1977

FALL DINNER WELL ATTENDED

The Fall dinner meeting of the Society for the conservation of Bighorn Sheep was attended by 80 faithful 'Sheepherders' at Michael's in Los Angeles the evening of October first. As has been the case with the previous dinners served at Michael's it was excellent. During a break between courses Dr. Loren L. Lutz, Society President introduced those at the head table. These were Dick Weaver, Department of Fish and Game from Sacramento; Mr. & Mrs. Robert P. McQuivey, Department of Fish and Game, Las Vegas, Nevada; Mr. & Mrs. Les Coombes, Calif. DFG, Long Beach, Les has taken over the Habitat Supervision since the transfer of John Massie to Redding; Mrs. Loren Lutz; and Dr. Warren E. Thomas, Director of the Health Center of the Los Angeles Zoo.

Richard A. 'Dick' Weaver makes a report

Dick Weaver who has been deeply involved in the problems of the bighorns for many years was asked to give a brief report concerning the bighorns in California. Dick reported that John Wehausen of the University of Michigan has been making a study of the herd of California bighorns in the Mt. Baxter area of the Inyo National Forest, during the past two years. Wehausen has stated that this herd of bighorns had increased by 65 members during this period of time as the result of two successive mild winters. Weaver has confirmed the population increase reported by Wehausen and he believes that the time is NOW for the capture and transplant of sheep from this herd into some of the former ranges that are not now inhabited by bighorns. Three areas have been determined to meet the requirements for sucb a transplant. The initial transplant would be to the Wheeler Ridge to the north of Pine Creek and to the northwest of the city of Bishop. Other areas would be near Pigeon Creek in the vicinity of Kearsarge Pass and in the Olanche Peak and Creek area. The Inyo National Forest is drafting an Environmental Assessment for the project, it being within the Inyo National Forest. Plans are to build a demountable drop-panel trap 70 feet square, and then remove it; then begin the baiting of the area and sheep with the use of apple pulp. Dick has been searching for and finding sources where he can obtain this needed apple pulp. It must be fermented before use. Baiting will need to be continuous over a three month period before the trap will be re-installed for trapping purposes. Each sheep will eat about 3½ pounds of this apple pulp daily and Dick says," They really do get hooked on the apple pulp." About 10½ tons of the pulp will be required during this time. Trapping dates will probably be in early February. There is no plan to confine the trapped sheep near the trapping site or at the release site. For this reason it will be necessary that there be rather heavy snow fall and on the ground before the trapping will be done, in order that snow drifts above the release site will confine the sheep in the lower elevations. The sheep all being acquainted with each other will help to avoid dispersement of those captured. If more than 20 sheep can be captured, then there would be more than the one trans - plant.

Mrs. Robert P. McQuivey, holding the framed certificate and Bob converse with an unidentified couple at the left.

Dr. Lutz announced that the last water development project for 1977 would be on October 22nd in the West Panamint Buttes to the west of Death Valley National Monument. Les Coombes has put-off his vacation until after completion of this project. Also, on December 17th the completion of the Blue Springs Project in the Pinion Mountains of the Anza-Borrego State Park----the tanks are to be fibreglassed. Those interested were asked to contact Glen Sudmeier for particulars on both projects.

CONTACT GLEN SUDMEIER AT:
1728 Hillside Ave., TELEPHONE: (714) 735- 4387
Norco, California 92760

Dr. Loren L. Lutz (l) shows his pleasure as Bud Wiedeman reads the citation on the plaque.

Mrs. Loren Lutz shows her happiness to Les Coombes as she reads the inscription on the award.

Dr. Earl R. 'Bob' Hein has just received an engraved award from Doctor Lutz. (Technicolor apologized for damage done to film negatives during processing.)

Dr. Lutz called for announcements. Director Bud Wiedeman said that he had an announcement. Bud then presented an engraved plaque to Dr. Loren L. Lutz in token of the Society's appreciation for his guiding genius and dedicated efforts on behalf of the bighorn sheep during the years since the formation of the Society in 1964.

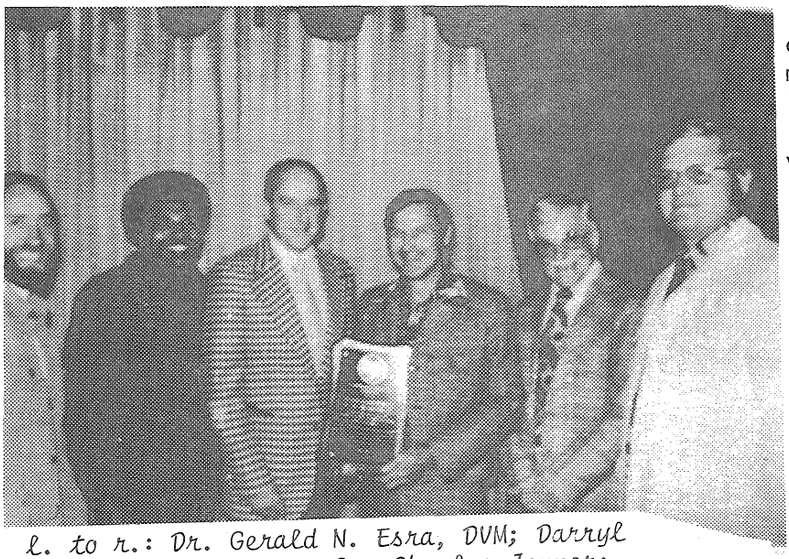
NOTE: The Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep had been formed in 1964 by Dr. Lutz, Dr. Earl R. "Bob" Hein; John E.O. Larronde, Harry Sanford, L.D. Moeller and Judge Kenneth Williams.

Doctor Lutz then introduced Dr. Charles W. Jenner, D.V.M. who from time-to-time does assist the Health Center Staff of the Los Angles Zoo in their care of ailing animals. Dr. Jenner then presented an engraved plaque to the Zoo' Health Center staff. This was formally accepted by Dr. Warren E. Thomas, Director of the Health Center.

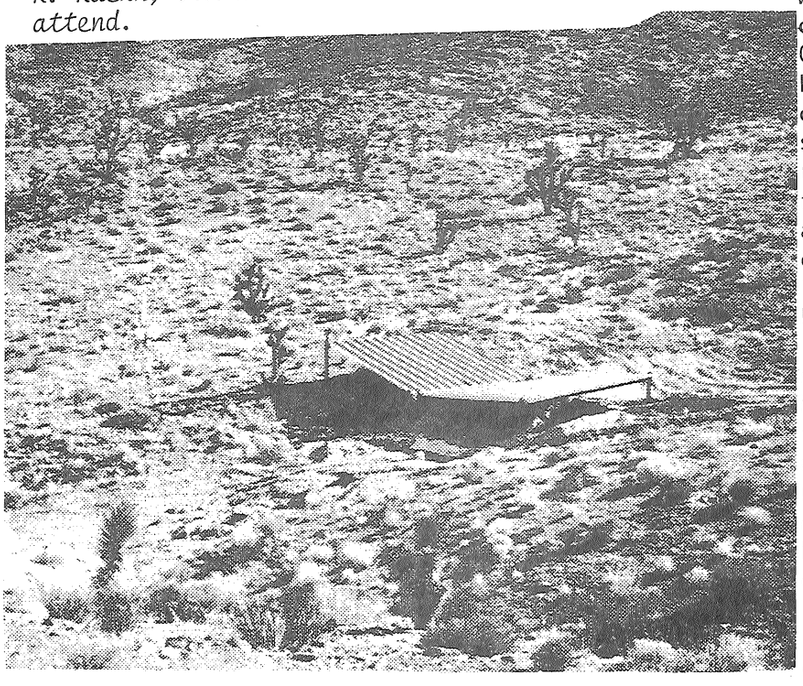
Dr. Lutz then introduced Dr. Earl R. "Bob" Hein one of the founders of the Society and the Treasurer for thirteen years, until ill health forced him to relinquish that responsibility. Bob has now seemingly fully recovered. Dr. Lutz presented Bob with an engraved plaque in token of appreciation for his long services.

Dr. Lutz re-introduced Robert P. McQuivey. During the past three years Bob has been involved in the Nevada DFG's study of the desert bighorn sheep. The study has been very largely funded by the Shikar-Safari International. Funds for the study have amounted to $100,000 over the years. Until 1974, when his study began, all information information gathered by the department for laboratory study had come from successful sheep hunters and from accidental road kills. These permit holders had been required to bring in samples of rumen, lungs, heart, liver, kidneys, blood and bone over the previous years for study by departmental technicians. Petroglyphs in Nevada and other southwestern states have shown that the prehistoric people of the area were well acquinted with the bighorns. Early day residents have been interviewed for information related to sightings of sheep and numbers. History has shown that there had been populations of both desert bighorns and also rocky mountain bighorns in Nevada, but that these populations were not large in any one area..... The DFG has used both fixed wing and rotor aircraft for making census surveys of bighorn numbers annually. Helicopters were used some 400 hours. Population census shows that there are about 4,500 bighorns in Nevada. Photos taken from helicopters show that bighorns frequently attempt to hide in ravine bottoms, under cu-banks, in caves and under trees during these censuses. McQuivey was showing slides during his discussion and one of these showed a white ewe on a mountain near the Nevada-California boundary and near the Clark Mountains--(a site of the May t, 1977 water project) A 1969 helicopter sur-

Dr. Charles W. Jenner, DVM a member of the Board of Directors of the Society.



l. to r.: Dr. Gerald N. Esra, DVM; Darryl S. Finks, Assistant; Dr. Charles Jenner; Dr. Warren D. Thomas, DVM; Ivan E. Cloos, M.T.,R.T. and Robert A. Pedersen, Assistant. Dr. Gary R. Kuehn, DVM was also cited but unable to attend.



A typical guzzler installation in Nevada, noted by McQuivey. Photo courtesy of Jim Yoakum

vey showed that nearly all of the Nevada mountains do have resident populations of sheep. By these air-censuses the DFG can determine numbers, sexes and age ranges. These surveys conducted both in summer and winter also determine survival rates and ratios within the population.

McQuivey reported rather extensively, with slides, concerning the bighorns of the River Mountain herd. (THE SHEEPHERDER - Sept. - Oct. 1977 carried a report on this herd.) By use of the trapping facility at Boulder Beach and the other at the Southern Nevada Water Project 165 sheep were trapped, with a loss of only three animals. Color coded neck collars were applied. Then knowing how many animals were marked and then counting animals coming in to water a ratio of marked to unmarked sheep is determined and this can then be used to determine with pretty good accuracy the total numbers in the population. (A similar procedure was used last year, 1976, in the Santa Rosa Mts. of California.) Use of radio collars helps establish patterns of movement, ranges and migration routes. It is known that there is some poaching of sheep and there are sheep killed on highways by vehicles, which add to the numbers that are legally harvested by hunters.

Legal harvest of rams has had no effect upon Nevada's sheep population or patterns of range uses. Receding water line of the Colorado River has, in nearly all areas, created a wide open shore line between the escape cover and the water and this open area the sheep refuse to cross even when stressed for water. In Nevada many small dams have been built in ravines and other water storage projects using metal roofs to collect rain water and then diverted into storage tanks. A good many of these guzzlers have been used by both wildlife and domestic livestock. Lungworm infestations have also been a limiting factor in population density, as in other western states. (NOTE: this seems to be associated with over-population levels. Ed.) Over grazing by livestock as well as by feral horses and burros are having an adverse affect onthe sheep ranges of Nevada. Highway constructions have adverse affects by creating road hazards and by dividing the ranges -and thereby barring movement of sheep to other areas of historic ranges.....Shikar-Safari of Nevada purchased a horizontal well drilling equipment at a cost of about $7,500... Environmental Impact Reports are being written in studies concerning proposed site for transplanting sheep to presently unoccupied but historic ranges.....Hunters harvest shows that less than 3% of legal rams are harvested and that this is less than 1% of the sheep populations. No differences can be determined in the age structure of hunted and unhunted sheep populations. Approximately 17% of the sheep population dies annually. The DFG has plans to harvest about 25% of the ram population annually that are seven years or more years of age. (NOTE: Nevada DFG issues about 55 permits annually, ten percent of which go to non-residents of Nevada. Harvest is between 35 and 40%.) Editor.

ARE YOU MOVING? OR CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

If you are moving or having a change of address---PLEASE let the Society know of it and give us your new address as soon as you know what it is or will be. We wish to serve the membership as well as we can. This will also save the Society considerable funds which can be put to a better use that subsidizing the Postal Department.

UTILITIES FINANCE LONG-NEEDED BIGHORN SHEEP STUDY
Arizona Game & Fish Department newsletter of October 7, 1977

The scarcity of biological information on desert bighorn sheep should soon be remedied, thanks to a $250,000 research project which will be financed by two public utilities companies. Southern California Edison and Arizona Public Service are footing the bill for a five-year study which should identify friction points between desert bighorns and power lines in the Dome Rock, New Water and Plomosa Mountains in western Arizona.

E. Linwood Smith and Associates, an environmental consulting firm based in Tucson, has won the contract for the study, and it will base its research on the pre-construction and post construction phases of the power transmission line which the two companies will build between the Palo Verde nuclear generating plant and a California substation. The study, which will be one of the most significant research projects ever undertaken on desert bighorns, will rely primarily on the fitting of sheep with radio transmitters

The study beginning November first, will be coordinated with the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Arizona Wildlife Federation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management. The Southern California Edison Co.'s sub-station near Palm Springs will be connected to the system.

BIGHORN SHEEP COULD ABANDON VEKOL OPEN PIT AREA.

An article in the October issue of WILDLIFE VIEWS predicts that if a proposed open-pit mine in the Vekol Mountains is excavated, disruption of bighorn sheep could result from the increased human activities in the bighorn range. Several organizations including the Department, have requsted a full-fledged research project in the area before final approval of the mine goes through.

The authors of the article seem to feel that the people concerned with the mining project are not concerned with the sheep. Judging from the contents of a draft Environmental Impact Statement, in which bighorn sheep were not even mentioned, the authors could very well be right.

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BIGHORNS SUCCESSFULLY RETURN TO NORTH DAKOTA

In 1907, the last Audubon bighorn sheep was killed in North Dakota, vacating an ecological niched that then remained empty for half a century. Then,1956 marked the return of the bighorn to North Dakota, and on November 28th, 1975, the first modern-day bighorn season opened----nineteen years later. Here as in other areas there were several causes for the loss of these bighorns. Westward migration of people through the area, mining, homesteading and settling of the areas, the over-grazing of domestic livestock and even the physical geography of the country as well as hunting for food all had adverse effect on the bighorns. The habitat of *ovis canadensis audubon*i is unique. There are steep walled canyons and sheer cliffs. Hunters however, had the unique situation for hunting sheep in that they dould hunt downward from the plains above instead of the usual having to climb steep mountains for perhaps hundreds and often thousands of feet.

The original bighorn transplants were the California subspecies, *Ovis canadensis californiana.* They were acquired from the British Columbia Game and Fish Department in 1956. This stock came from the same herd area as did the transplants into the states of Washington, Oregon, Nevada and to the Lava Beds National Monument here in California.

Funds for this transplanting of bighorns project has come , 75% from Pittman-Robertson Act Wildlife Restoration funds. As previously reported, these P-R funds are derived from an 11% excise tax paid by sportsmen on all sporting firearms and ammunition and was a tax requested by these sportsmen-conservationists. The other 25% of costs was derived from the fish and game licensing funds. The 18 California bighorns obtained from British Columbia were transferred to an enclosure near Magpie Creek in McKenzie County. Then during the following years as their numbers increased sheep were transferred to yet other enclosures throughout the badlands. After eleven years of these enclosures all bighorns were released into the wild..

In 1975 the State Legislature passed legislation that did provide for a hunting season. The sheep population had by this time was nearly equally devided between rams and ewes. One herd had 32 adult rams and 28 ewes with only two lambs of the year. This led the Department to believe that the herd had reached the carrying capacity of that range and it would be advisable to reduce herd numbers. Another area had only three known rams and 8 ewes this small band produced seven lambs. Twelve permits were issued and all hunters were successful, in a population that had never been hunted. Each hunter was required to bring in all of the viscera as well as blood samples and to examine the carcass for ectoparasites such as ticks, fleas and lice. It was required that a ram to be legal must be not less than a half-curl. Ages of rams harvested ranged from 3½ to 11½ years of age. From the samples brought in examinations were made of hair, heart, liver, kidneys as well as rumen. These samples did furnish a considereable amount of needed information.

"Since available wildlife habitat continues to decline, the animals are becoming concentrated in smaller area. If their population continues to increase and the habitat con tinues to decline, the animals themselves may completely destroy the remaining habitat which would then result in large scale mortality. In such situations, hunting can be used to keep population at a level that the habitat can support, thereby preventing a useless

die off. Hunting also can be used to help prevent death due to disease and parasite outbreaks, which, in many cases, are known as density dependent mortality factors; meaning that as the population density increases so do the chances of an outbreak. This is especially isgnificant since the bighorns are very susceptible to lungworm infestations, which can decimate an entire herd. The incidence of infections can be reduced significantly by dispersing the population and controlling the density."

North Dakota Outdoors, Feb. 1976

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TRANSACTIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

A letter from Eugene Decker, Associate Professor in the Department of Fishery and Wildlife Biology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado 80523 tells the editor that the Transactions of the Second North American Wild Sheep Conference---held at Denver in April 1976 can now be obtained from him at the above address. The cost postpaid is only $4.00. Checks should be made out to "CSU Development Fund".

I would like to recommend that those of you interested in what determines the well-being of the sheep order a copy....lew.

Another interesting article for you to read is : BURRO OR THE BIGHORNS? by Ronald B. Taylor in the September 1977 issue of the National Parks and Conservation Magazine.

The Defenders of Wildlife Magzine for October 1977 has two very emotional articles related to the capture of the so-called wild horses. Very little mention is made concerning the feral burros however.

NOTE: No evidence has come to the editor that there is or has been any conflict, at least here in California, between bighorn sheep and feral horses. A great deal of hard evidence, however, has been documented of the severe conflict between burros and other wildlife, especially with the bighorn sheep of the desert regions. lew. C.

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WILDLIFE POPULATION TRENDS--a report of California Department of Fish and Game--Region 5
September 1977 Courtesy of Dick Weaver

Bighorn Sheep

Bighorn in the Santa Rosa Mountains have dispersed from their summer concentration areas because of rains during August and September. The desert slopes have turned green as they did in September 1976. Early relief from the dry period and good water distribution should have been followed by high lamb production and survival next spring. It didn't happen. Following what appeared to be a favorable rainfall season in 1976-1977 came unexpected high lamb and yearling mortality in June and July. A helicopter survey made September 15, 1977 produced the following ratios compared to the count made April 1977:

Date	ewes	lambs	yearlings	rams	Sample
September '77	100 (29)	7 (2)	0 (0)	51 (15)	46 (46)
April 1977	100 (38)	61 (23)	37 (14)	18 (7)	82 (82)

observed

EDITOR NOTE: to translate this I have also computed the number of animals of each category and have place these in parenthses ( ) Ratios of numbers of animals and age groups are of importance to wildlife management-----The layman usually wishes to know HOW MANY. lew c

Also reported in the above:
"A sick three-year-old ram was captured in August in a back yard of a home in Palm Desert. It was taken to the Los Angeles Zoo for observation and treatment. After two weeks the ram appeared healthy and was returned to the mountains above Palm Desert. One horn was painted red before the ram was released. Helicopter and foot surveys in the area did not yield observations of the ram since released."
NOTE: Dr. Jenner and the members of the Zoo Staff previously mentioned were all involved in this treatment to this ram. lew. c.
IN ADDITION Dick Weaver penned the following"...As you can see we were concerned with the apparant poor year for bighorn in some areas, and did make a four hour helicopter flight. We did not see any sick animals. What ever happens, happens early in the summer. We will alert for the situation next year."
NOTE: We have been mentioning in THE SHEEPHERDER during the past 15 months that the sheep of the Santa Rosa Mountains may be in serious trouble. Dr. Jack Turner has been working of some of the possible troubles. And, as has been previously stated the Directors of the Society believe that the time is NOW for the trapping and transplant of sheep from this herd to other and presently unoccupied, but historic ranges. lew c.

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A WATERHOLE COUNT IN THE SANTA ROSA MOUNTAINS -- summer of 1977 is reported to have no lambs seen during observation periods . This report would seem to again indicate that the Santa Rosa Mountain sheep herd is over populated. Experiences in other states--Colorado and New Mexico as well as Alaska and in Canada show that when a herd over-populates its range, that unless dispersal of herd members occurs, there has on all occasions been a very severe die-off in that herd-- and that this die-off will be so severe that 20 to 30 or more years may have to pass before the herd again builds up to goodly numbers on that range. The Board of Directors of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep have been dis-

cussing the advisability of trapping & transplanting members of the Santa Rosa herd to some other historic ranges of this sub-species which is presently unoccupied. However, is there some historic range of the *Ovis canadensis cremnobatis* (the Peninsular bighorn sheep) in California that has no Peninsular bighorns presently? If so, then where is it? It is contrary to the policies of the DFG to transplant any bighorns into any area that cannot be shown to have been a historic range of that particular specie---no matter how closely related such species may be. There is always the possibility that there may be a relict band of a few members of the original specie in that historic range. And, if there is then there would be the likelihood of specie contamination by cross-breeding of species.

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NOTE:
The cause of the losses of members of the Santa Rosa herd is presently unknown. It is suspected that 'blue tongue' may have been the cause as this disease is thought to be endemic to the area, and to be carried by domestic livestock and transmitted by a small gnat.

There is no evidence of there being any lung worm problems associated with this herd or of the area.

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November 24th-Thanksgiving Day--Give Thanks to your God for the many blessing we receive.

December 17-18 -- Work Project at Blue Springs Tanks are to be sealed using 'Thoroseal'. Contact Glen Sudmeier for directions to get to project. ADDRESS & PHONE ON PAGE TWO.

December 1, 1977 7:30 p.m. the Bureau of Land Management is holding and informational meeting at the Undergraduate Science Building of the U.C. San Diego campus concerning the McCain Valley Wildlife Habitat Management Plan. Your editor will appreciate a report concerning what transpires. SAN DIEGO MEMBERS SHOULD ATTEND THIS MEETING.

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EDITORIAL COMMENT:

Even though, in my opinion, there is a great need for many, many, more water storage projects in the desert for the benefits to our wildlife including the bighorns your editor has been unable to get anything from the Department of Fish and Game, Region 5 concerning any plans for the coming year of 1978 for such projects. Nor, have I been able to get a report concerning effectiveness of the horizontal wells that have been drilled during the past two years. lew.

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Setting It Straight

The September - October issue gave credit to the Shikar-Safari International for the donation of a Horizontal Well Drilling equipment. A later report shows that this equipment was donated by the Shikar-Safari Club of Nevada. The Southern California Safari Club was the donator of the Horizontal Well Drilling Equipment that was given to the California Department of Fish and Game in 1975. I must apologize for making such an error. It was not intentional. As editor, I must rely on the accuracy of statement made to me, and which I attempt, in my poor way, to report on with accuracy. IT WOULD BE A GREAT HELP IF PEOPLE WOULD WRITE AND SEND IN REPORTS TO ME OF THEIR ORGANIZATIONS ACCOMPLISHMENTS.
A past President of the Southern California Safari Club wrote to me concerning my error. This is appreciated as I do attempt to give credit where credit is due.

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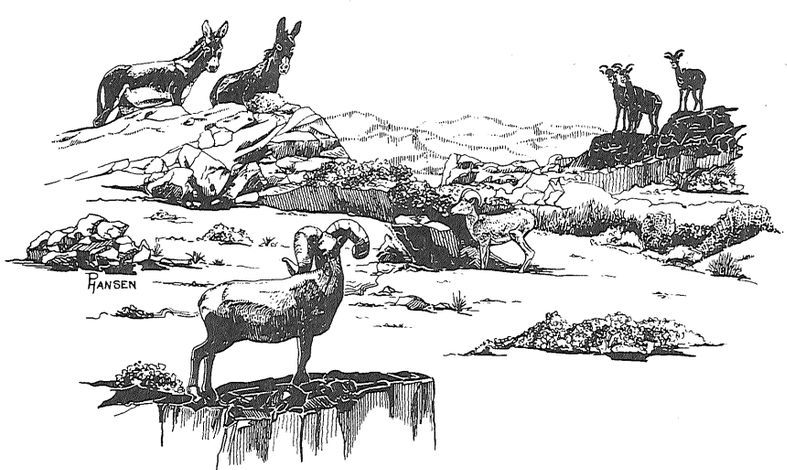
lew carpenter, ed.

PROBLEMS -PROBLEMS --- PROBLEMS -



Sketch courtesy Pat Hansen Wood.

Editorial comment: It seems that the bighave enough problems contending with poor water and forage availabillity in a harsh environment without having to contend with domestic and feral livestock, such as burro. Now: apparantly there are those people who wish to have the BLM close theeastern part of the Mojave Planning Unit, including the Granite Mts and Piute Springs area of the Piute Mts to all public uses. There is even a proposal to make this area a 'Wilderness Area' irregardless of the fact that there is a railroad and public highway(s) through these areas. This would preclude the building of any water storage facilities in these areas. This would preclude any management of the feral burros that infest these areas---to the detriment of the native wildlife- including the bighorns resident therein.

The Bureau of Land Management have said over the years that they needed authorization by the Congress for the use of aircraft and motor vehicles in order to manage the burros on public

lands. The Sportsmen's Council of Central California got a bill introduced into the Congress and got it passed which gave them this authorization, and are using it. However, to the present only to capture burros in order to donate tham to the public for custodial care and not outright ownership. The S.C. of C.C. has now obtained the assistance of the Honorable G. William Whitehurst of Virginia by which title, for non-commercial purposes could be given. This bill H.R. 7121 was referred to the Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs and Merchant Marine and Fisheries. The Sub-Committees that will be discussing this H 7121 soon are chaired by the Honorable Teno Roncalio, of Wyoming and Robert L. Leggett of California, respectively. LETTERS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THEM at House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

This transfer of title will perhaps assist in the solution of this conflict between burro and native wildlife---although it is not considered to be the best solution if we are to assure the future of these native wildlife species in the forseeable future. The only manner by which native wildlife can be protected from elimination by burro conflict is to eradicate the burro from areas where there is conflict with native wildlife. This is presently precluded by the infamous P.L. 92-195 the so-called Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971.

ANOTHER PROBLEM ---The Bureau of Land Management - Riverside District is reportedly permitting the expropriation of all of the water of a spring at the south end of the Granite Mountains. This water is badly needed by the bighorns and other native wildlife of these Granite Mountains. Instead of stopping this illegal practice it is reported to the editor that the BLM wants to study this for at least a year. With the loss of water, the wildlife dependent on this spring for existence will be lost---and the 'expropriators' are 'home free'.

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Desert Bighorn Council

Sketch courtesy of Pat Hansen Wood

The 21st Annual meeting of the DBC was held in Las Cruces, New Mexico April 6-8, 1977. Walt Snyder of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish was the Chairman and Bill Montoya also of the NM DGF the Vice-Chairman. Pete Sanchez of the Death Valley National Monument was the Secretary and will continue to be through the 1978 meeting which is to be held in Phoenix, Arizona next April. The Arizona Department of Fish and Game will host that meeting. These Annual meetings of the DBC are always held the first Wednesday thru Friday of April. Membership in the DBC is $5.00 annually and entitles members to a copy of the Transactions of the year at no extra cost. Many of the ladies of men attending also attend and have an enjoyable time. Reports given concerning the wild sheep are always of great interest. Fellowship is outstanding. The picnic in the San Andreas National Wildlife Refuge featuring barbequed beef and buffalo could not have been improved upon. The Field Trip on Friday to see what a real good sheep range looks like was interesting and informative, although no sheep were seen. Many of the papers presented will be reported on in these columes.

Dr, Jack Turner presented a paper concerning :CHLORINATED HYDROCARBON PESTICIDE RESIDUE IN DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP. Dr. Turner has conducted a number of studies concerning bighorn sheep at the Deep Canyon Research facility in the Santa Rosa Mts. southeast of Palm Springs. The Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep has assisted in the funding of these studie

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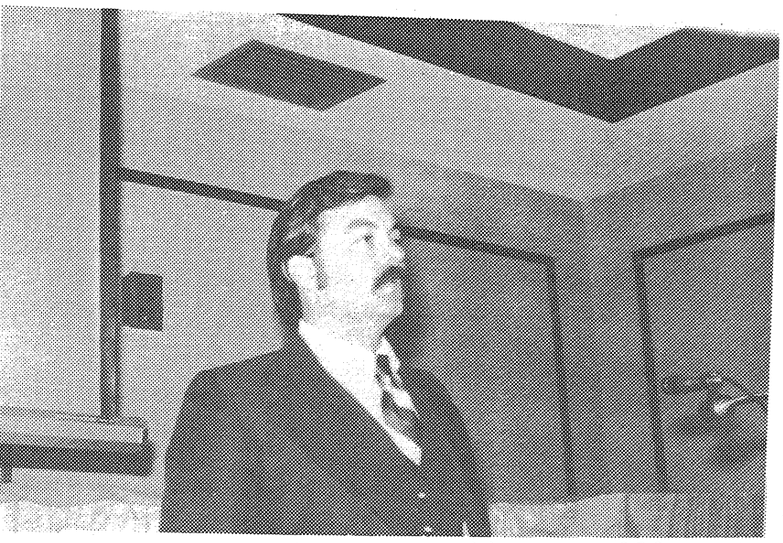
IT IS LONG PAST TIME FOR MANY OF THE SOCIETY TO GET THIER DUES CURRENT.

NON MEMBERS ARE URGED TO TAKE OUT A MEMBERSHIP AND HELP THE SOCIETY MEET

IT'S GOALS.

The Society was created for the purpose of Conservation, Preservation and wise use of the wild sheep of North America. Membership is open to anyone and to perosns of any age. The Society needs members who are aware of the vast problems in these areas and who are determined to assist in solving these problems. 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 under the control and management of the Fish and Game Commission, rather than under that of the State Legislature; the developement 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; continuance of the annual census of sheep throughout their ranges, and the making of recommendations as a result of these censuses: the finding of the basic cause(s) of infant mortallity and endeavor to correct these causes; the obtaining of adequate funding for the Departments of Fish and Game in order that they may be effective.



Dr. Jack Turner Addresses DBC

It has been necessary for Dr. Turner to obtain special permits from the California Department of Fish and Game in order to conduct his research studies with the bighorns. The bighorn sheep of California have been a completely protected specie for 104 years.

Population of bighorns in the Santa Rosa Mountains is thought to now be at or above the carrying capacity of the range's ability to support their numbers. Jack beleives that California may well be protecting this specie into its extinction. NOTE: reports from Colorado and New Mexico seem to support this contention--this has been reported in these columes). 'Knockers' off-spring of 'Gumdrop' died this year. Cause of death thought to have been BLUE-TONGUE, --this is the disease that decimated the herd of bighorns at the Lava Beds National Monument a few short years ago.

Laboratory specimens of bighorns are few in number. Specimens for necropsies (in California) are available almost only as a result of a highway road-kill. Automobiles vs. sheep along Highway 74.

These road-killsseem to only occur during summer months when the temperatures of nearly 120 degrees occur. Tissue from these animals therefore is somewhere between 'rare' and 'well-done'.....Disease is a management problem...Analysis of fatty acids in large bones approximates the temperature of the area of residence of the animals.....Hydro-carbon residue is apparant in bone marrow....collection of bone ma-row has been made and stored over the years. Turner has taken tissue samples from 26 living animals during the years of his study and has made a study of the fats for PCB's... He has looked at DDT, Aldrin, Deildrin, Lindane. The sheep ranges---even those of the desert bighorns is (are) adjacent to or down-wind from some agricultural or timbered areas. Lindane and Deildrin have been found in 70% of animals irregardless of age or sex and composed 30% of the pesticide load. There is a long time exposure at low levels of PCB's which come all the way from the Los Angeles Basin and found as far south as Ensenada and on all of the Channel Islands off the Southern California Coast. PCB's are not water soluble.... levels of pesticides are highest in the older animals although the 4th highest level was found in a lamb....Ewes while lactating pass pesticides to the nursing lamb and also there is a definite trans-placental transfer. An unborn lamb was found to be carrying a pesticide level equal to the ewe. The effects of these pesticides are not yet known. However, they are considered to be a strong factor as a debilitating agent..A 3 to 4 milligrams of pesticides to each gram of body fat have been found in some specimens.

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FROM THE FRESNO BEE ---November 4, 1977 --byline Gene Rose, Staff Writer

"Federal Judge M .D.Crocker is expected to rule before the end of the year on a preliminary injunction which would stop the federal government from removing any more wild burros from the Saline Valley area, the 5th District Court announced.

In seeking the injunction, the National Animal Welfare League has asked that the burro removal project be halted until a management program covering all federal lands in the West is completed.

The Bureau of Land Management has argued that some 400 to 700 feral burros have overgrazed the area near Death Valley and caused severe environmental damage.

The burros have been a similar problem in Grand Canyon National Park, Death Valley National Monument and other areas in the West, where their number is now estimated between 8,000 and 10,000 animals."

TEAR OFF HERE AND USE THE APPLICATION

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
or renewal

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

_____

Telephone number : 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 of ($5.00) and my first year's dues of $15.00. (Students dues are $5.00 per year.) I will endeavor to do my part on behalf of the bighorn sheep.

Signature:_____