SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP

The Sheepherder

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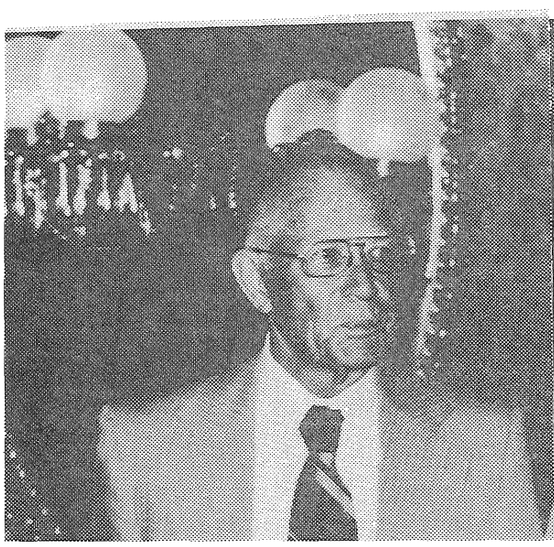
NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1978

ANNUAL FALL DINNER A SUCCESS

The annual Fall meeting of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep held at Michael's in Los Angeles the evening of October 7th was attended by 128 bighorn 'filberts'. "Uncle" Bud Wiedeman had, as usual, made all of the arrangements, and, at a moderate cost.

Dr. Loren L. Lutz, President of the Society introduced the officers and those members of the founding group who were present. Among these the group welcomed Judge Kenneth Williams. Judge Williams has been the legal advisor of the Society since its founding in 1964. Also introduced was Sarah Phifer the daughter of Director Bill Phifer. At ten years of age Sarah is the youngest 'sheepherder' and 'waterhole counter' of our records.



Mr. Marvin Wood, member Board of Directors & team Captain of The Old Woman Mountains

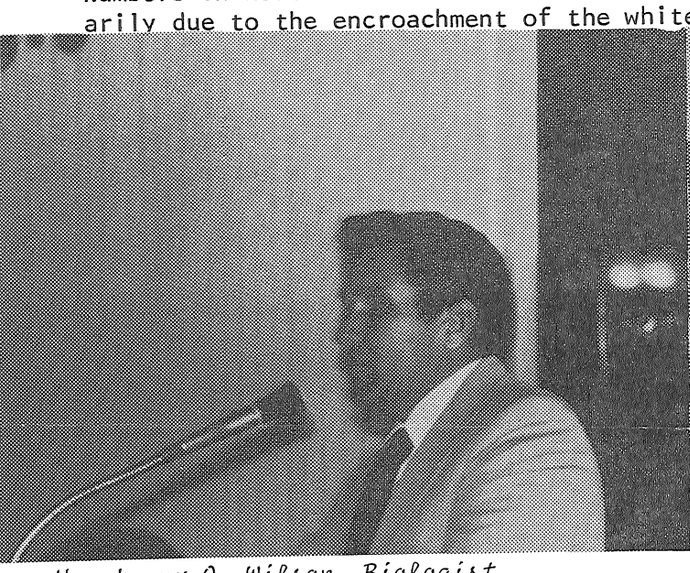
Miss Sarah Phifer our youngest "SHEEPHERDER".

Hon. Judge Kenneth William - one of Society founders and Legal Guide.

Guest speaker of the evening, introduced by Dr. Lutz, was Mr. Lanny O. Wilson, a Biologist of the Bureau of Land Management, Boise, Idaho. "Lanny O.", as known to his many friends, has served the BLM in many areas of the western states and in Alaska. He is well known for his devotion to the causes of the bighorns and has received many honors for his achievements. Chairman 'Bud' presented Lanny O. with a membership in the Society and a plaque expressing the appreciation of the Society.

Wilson used two slide projectors to illustrate his talk concerning the things that are common to all species of bighorn, such as:habitat, foods, defenses from predators, non-agressive behaviour toward other species of mammals and the problems facing them.....Lanny showed that among all bighorn species they require a wilderness type of environment but not necessarily one that is managed as a 'declared Wilderness Area', there is a difference. They need an area that might be defined as spacious---uncluttered by human endeavors..... All sheep are dependent on their exceptional eyesight for their safety and to a lesser degree on the senses of smell and hearing. Their sense of smell however is very acute.....Their range must contain 'escape cover'---a rough rugged terrain very near-by, in which they will have safety from the predators.....Water is highly essential in all populations....All sheep are primarily grass eaters as are all herbivores. In the Northern Zone the Dall sheep uses the grasses almost exclusively. Sheep do show a good ability to adapt to the vegetation of the area in hwich they live. This is shown by the fact that the further south they are found in North America that the greater is their utilization of browse species in their diet. But even in the Southern

Ranges the grasses are still the primary food source. This reliance on the grasses for their staple food is also a cause oftheir conflicts with the other herbivores on these same ranges. The occurrences of fires in sheep habitat is therefore of benefits to the sheep. Following fires there is a profusion of grasses and forbs that then become available. With the lack of re-occuring fire the habitats in the southern areas become overgrown by brush species which when young and low to the ground did provide browse for these same herbivores.....Lambing areas of bighorns are used year after year and hence are extremely important to bighorn welfare. Human intrusion into these lambing areas by summer homes, dams, highways, campgrounds, etc. of human origin are disastrous..... Many flat areas, near escape cover, are critical to the bighorns. These are the areas of the better soils and hence the better, more nourishing grasses. In these areas there are many conflicting uses by other wildlife species and in particular by the grazing of domestic livestock , as well as the above human intrusions.....Mineral licks--usually salts --are areas of concentration and interactions of different family groups of bighorns. Sheep also seek phosphorus. In the colder and snowy climates the use of salt on highways in order to clear these roadways of snow does attract sheep to these highways for the salt. This does create problems. Losses to bighorns by the collisions with motor vehicles causes death and injury to many. Also, too much salt in the diet causes 'lump-jaw' and 'sore-mouth'. These may become epidemic and cause many deaths.....ater as noted before is a critical part of the total environment. The farther south in bighorn ranges the water sources become scarcer, and each becomes more vital, and yet less dependable. In Mexico sheep, at timesmust rely on the pulp of sahuaro and other cacti for the needed moisture.....In the cold areas of sheep habitat (all areas) the sheep will frequent the cover of trees and brush to screen them from the blast of severe and cold winds. (NOTE: the count on the San Gabriel Mt. northeast of Los Angeles in 1978 found many sheep in these pockets of protection.).....Sheep numbers in North America have decreased drastically during the past 150 years. This is primarily due to the encroachment of the whiteman and his type of civlilization, land uses, and



Mr. Lanny O. Wilson, Biologist Bureau of Land Management, Boise, Idaho Guest Dinner Speaker.

"Uncle" Bud Weiedeman Presents Lanny O. Wilson With a plaque and membership as a token of the Society's appreciation.

his domestic livestock. The habitat has shrunk in area and has been degraded in value by the non-compatible uses of farming, mining, housing, water projects highways and domestic livestock. The domestic livestock, primarily sheep and cattle have brought infestations of scabies mite, botfly, blue tongue and lungworms and these have decimated the once plentiful herds of bighorn. Present estimated populations of North American sheep are: Dall sheep in Alaska-35,000 to 50,000, in Canada some 64,000 to 84,000; Stone sheep of British Columbia and southern Yukon 12,000 to 15,000; Rocky Mountain bighorns in Canada 19,000 to 23,000 and in the United States 18,500 to 21,400; Desert bighorn--- in the South-Western states perhaps 12,000 to 13,000 in Mexico about 3,400 to 3,500 and in Baja California between 2300 and 3,900.

The Morgan Creek, Idaho herd of bighorn are making a good come-back following the lessening of the over-grazing oftheir winter range by cattle (NOTE: about five years ago THE SHEEPHERDER ran a report concerning this conflict use).....It is imperative for the future of desert bighorns that the numbers of the so-called Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros be controlled. During the past three years burros have moved into desert mountain areas in which they were not found in 1971 when PL 92-195 was enacted.....Wilson asked:" HOW CAN OUR AMERICAN PUBLIC HAVE SUCH A LOVE AFFAIR WITH AN ANIMAL LIKE THAT(the burro) AND HOW IN HELL CAN WE HAVE A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR WILD HORSES AND BURROS BUT NOT FOR THE (native american) BIGHORNS?

Even bighorns can, in some areas, overpopulate their range. This does result in major "die-offs" until but few members of the population still survive. Efforts in some states to prevent this occurring have been made by the harvest of surplus by hunting; some are removed by transplant-into closely matched environments. Transplants of 'family groups' is most successful as they adjust better to the new habitat. Usually these transplants are into a large paddock for a period of time in which they may adjust to the new area prior to being released into the wild. Poaching is out of control in some areas. The worst being in Alberta and in British Columbia. The greatest of these offenders are the Native American Indians and is done on the winter ranges. Bighorn rams have an economic value of between $6,000 and $10,000 each when harvested.....

Highways through sheep habitat destroy migration corridors and lessen the amount of usable habitat.....Barbed wild fences have proven to the death traps to many bighorns. Reasearch by Jack Helvie has found a spacing between these wires that can eliminate this hazard and yet not be adverse to the primary purpose of turning cattle.....Motorcycles and to a lesser degree other ORV's can and do have serious adverse effects on sheep habitat.....Mining ventures have

serious impacts on habitat and scarce waters as have those recreational 'squatters' on the National Resource Lands under pseudo mining claims.....Burros in some areas outnumber the bighorns by a ratio of two to one, and in some areas have completely eliminated all bighorns.

Many questions were asked of Wilson following his presentation.

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UNITED THEY STAND
by

Valerius Geist

The interesting article written byDr. Geist, a Professor at the University of Calgary in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Dr. Geist is the author of *Mountain Sheep (University of Chicago Press, 1971* and *Mountain Sheep and Man* (Cornell University Press, 1975.) People with an interest in the bighorns will want to purchase copies of these books for your library. Dr. Geist has published a good many of highly challenging papers following the many studies he has made among the bighorns. One of his studies dealt with 'The Home Range Concept' of the wild sheep and nearly all studies since 1970 that are made by researchers in the field conerning bighorns do have a portion of their study devoted to the determination of the 'home ranges' of the sheep being studied. This principle has been carried also into the studies of other species of wildlife. The editor's first hearing of this 'home range principle' was during a paper on the subject that Dr. Geist presented to the Desert Bighorn Council during the meeting in Bishop, California April 1970.

This present paper of Dr. Geist is published in the September/ October 1978 issue of International Wildlife----the official publication of the National Wildlife Federation and the Canadian Wildlife Federation. This we will attempt to summarize. Again Dr. Geist writes about the social behaviour of the bighorns and explains the purposes of the roles played by them; why the rams gather by themselves in groups and apart from the ewes and the lambs. It is common knowledge that these sexes are apart through the year for the exception of the time of the rut, for which their togetherness is obvious.

Dr. Geist says: "Why is it that the males form their gangs, oblivious of the females for all but that one violent season? To choose a bachelor's life is not so odd but to spurn females on one hand while on the other to treat other gang members like females--as the really big rams do--is a puzzle. I love puzzles. As a scientist, I thrive on them." NOTE:(If this did not occur among scientists there would be no independent research accomplished.) "When I saw my first sheep at the height of the mating sesson one bright, cold November day, I puzzled over what they did. The image of those heavy horned rams acting out peculiar gestures never left me. Some day, I resolved, I would know the meaning, and I set off to study sheep in the wilds of northern British Columbia, in the rugged cliffs and slopes of the Alberta Rockies, in the glacier-laden St. Elias Mountains of the Yukon, and off and on in other ranges of Canada's vast west.....Why do males segregate? One reason is to avoid competing withtheir own children. By instinctively leaving the females alone, the rams increase the chances that the young they have sired will be able to obtain enough food. It takes a lot of energy to grow into a strong, healthy sheep. The mother must turn as much fodder as possible into milk as possible for every drop counts. So the rams leave all of the best grazing areas for females.....Big is beautiful among sheep, and the better the milk intake, the more beautiful the sheep.....But any inconveniences have been more than offset by our findings..... we discovered that although the females tend to run year around in much the same company, the rams do not form permanent bands, but rearrange themseves seasonally. Of course, the rams could strike out on their own. Mountain goats and bull moose do that. Instead they form tight bands and engage in odd behaviour. In particular, they bash heads, not only in the rutting season, but throughout the year.....the most spectacular battle I saw occurred in the spring, the longest one lasting 25 hours and 20 minutes. You would think that that after a thrashing, in which males reel from exhaustion the winner would chase off the loser. Far from it! The loser stays. The winner mounts him and insults him, but does not expel him. Expulsion occurs only during the brief breeding season when the winner guards a female in heat from the attentions of other would-be suitors. .....To learn migratory habits and seasonal ranges, a young sheep must attach itself to older animals. That is simpleenough matter for a young female. She follows her mother and aunts, adopting the home ranges of the band she is born into. Males obviously cannot do that--not if they are to leave as much food as possible for their offspring. So a young ram seeks attachment to older rams, and therein lies his dilemma.....he must be tolerated by larger, unrelated individuals...he needs a different kind of protection. His instinctive solution: to play female in the presence of large males.....Why all the fighting between old and young? It is practice for serious clashes for dominance between rams of the same size. Secondly fighting helps to set up the group's social organization.....Only rams of equal horn size fight intensely. Thus the horns of rams are weapons, shields and rank indicators, all in one..... The fact that rams in a band do not expel each other after defeat hinges on another necessity. In order to feed in a safe zone some distance from a cliff, the ram band requires many pairs of eyes to watch for wolves. If only a few sheep are in a band, they either spend a lot of time watching, rather than feeding, or move to the safety of cliffs to feed. To expel a companion is to lose one pair of sharp eyes, as well as to lose a buffer against being cought and eaten. The more buddies a ram has, the safer he is from wolves. Thus, for the white sheep with amber horns, life goes on across windraked slopes in the blackness and cold of the arctic winter and, in summer, along high mountain ridges on the fringes of glaciers. They are creatures of habit with a remarkable memory and a great capacity to adjust....."

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DR. LOREN L. LUTZ RECEIVES ANOTHER HONOR

Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep President Loren L. Lutz, D.D.S. has held that office since the Society was formed in 1964. He has been involved in the Conservation Effort for many years. Dr. Lutz is also a member of the California Recreation and Parks Commission and is a former Chairman of that Commission; he has been serving as the President of the California Wildlife Federation, and now in his third year at the helm of that Conservation organization.

Marian and Loren L. Lutz. Sheepherder Photo

The Society for the Protection and Care of Wildlife is the sponsor of this "Conservationist of Distinction Award Banquet" being held in Honor of Dr. Lutz. The gala affair is being held at the Century Plaza Hotel on the Avenue of the Stars in Century City, Los Angeles, California the evening of November 27, 1978.

We have reported on former occasions that Dr. Lutz has also been deeply involved in the affairs of the California Society for the Protection and Care of Wildlife and its ongoing project to provide suitable habitat for the California Tule Elk and California bighorn sheep in the area a few miles to the northwest of Mojave. A number of elk were introduced into that area during the early spring of 1978.

On infrequent occasions Dr. Lutz does get up to his ranch in Wyoming and enjoy a few days of hunting and relaxing from his many activities.

It is also 'rumored' that Dr. Lutz, does actually, on some days, practice a little bit of Dentistry---- The rumor is, however, somewhat difficult to substantiate. He is usually at some meeting on those few times that this editor attempts to reach him by telephone.

A great deal of the honors and credits given to Dr. Lutz must also be shared with his charming wife Marian. She is a very understanding and sympathetic person and she does, indeed, need these attributes having such a very busy person as her husband.

The Editor of THE SHEEPHERDER does extend congratulations to both Marian and Loren Lutz.

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BIGHORNS OF YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK ARE DOING WELL

Mr. David Trimmer a Staff writer of the Livingston, Montana, Enterprise, reports that even though there are not too many record book sized mountain sheep in the area outside the Yellowstone National Park, and that makes the large rams of the park more desireable---to a certain class of people, there has been no evidence of any poaching of sheep within the park during this year of 1978. There has been some poaching of elk along the northern boundary of the park. However, the Park personnel believe that this poaching has been, for the most part at least, inadvertant. And, has been due to confusion by hunters as to the boundary of the park, even though it is well signed. There are, of course, some few persons who do purposely commit acts of poaching, and who do, also, use the poor excuse of 'not knowing that they were in trespass' on National Park lands. Therefore, all people caught in acts of trespass must havetheir days in Court as to their innocence or guilt.
NOTE: During a recent sojourn in Montana the editor did have an opportunity to talk with two of Montana's Outfitters concerning the problem of poaching. About two years ago the Montana Department of Fish and Game together with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service did charge, in Federal Court an outfitter of Montana, a member of a certain taxidermy firm of Seattle, Washington and a former taxidermist of Southern California with having poached and/or conspired to poach both elk and bighorns in the Yellowstone National Park. The outcome of the charges was that the taxidermists in question did pay specified sums of money and the outfitter in question had his outfittinhg license suspended for a one year period. None of the culprits served any time in any detention facility.

WHAT CAN WE--THE PUBLIC DO ABOUT THIS SERIOUS PROBLEM OF POACHING? both of game as well as non-game fish and wildlife? <u>WE CAN GET INVOLVED, IF WE ONLY HAVE THE WILL TO DO SO.</u> Should we see an act being performed that appears to be illegal----we canget a description of the persons involved, licenses number of any vehicle involved, place and date of the act, AND THEN REPORT IT TO THE NEAREST LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENT---WHO WILL IN TURN CONTACT AN AGENT FOR INVESTGATION OF THE INCIDENT. SOME STATES SUCH AS ARIZONA HAVE A TOLL FREE TELEPHONE 1-800-352-0700. California UNFORTUNATELY does not have such a HOW (Help our Wildlife) number to call. Also in California as in many other western states the amount of wildlife taken by poachers is far in excess of that taken legally by the people who hunt. During the past three years this editor has publicized five poaching cases the solutions of which can all be attributed to some member of the public careing enough to get involved to the extent of making a report to a law enforcement agent.

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UPDATE ON MANAGEMENT OF WILD HORSES AND BURRO NUMBERS

SPORTSMEN'S COUNCIL OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

COUNTIES OF
FRESNO, KERN, KINGS, MADERA, MARIPOSA, MERCED, MONTEREY, SAN BENITO, STANISLAUS, SAN LUIS OBISPO, SANTA BARBARA, SANTA CRUZ AND TULARE

As has been previously reported the Hon. G. William Whitehurst of Virginia introduced, at my request, his H.R. 7121 which would permit the Secretary of Interior to transfer title of captured wild horses and burros to private ownership. HR 7121 was assigned to the Subcommittees on Public Lands and Indian Affairs chaired by the Hon. Teno Roncalio of Wyoming and the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment chaired by Hon. Robert Leggett of California. Roncalio and Leggett are both retiring this year from the Congress. Congressman Roncalio introduced a stronger section to his HR 10587 than the HR 7121, and the bill was passed by the House in September. The U.S.Senate's companion bill, however, did not contain a section dealing with the wild horse and burro problem. The two bills were then sent to the House-Senate Conference Committee. On learning this I sent telegrams to members of this Conference Committee and to other Members of Congress requesting that the language of Sec 7, HR 10587 be incorporated into the Conferees bill. This was done, in an amended form, and was subsequently signed by President Carter on October 25, 1978. This then became Public Law---PL 95-514. Sec. 7 became section 14 of the final bill and does provide: (1) the Secretary shall maintain a current inventory of wild free roaming horses and burros on the Public Lands; (2) whether or not there is overpopulation and what if any action is needed to remove excess animals in order to keep populations at appropriate levels; (3) to transfer of title to not more than four animals to any person after one year of satisfactory custodial care; (4) to achieve this the U.S.Fish and Wildlife Service, the agencies of the several states haveing wild horses and burros, and a "research design panel" which is to be appointed by the President of the National Academy of Sciences will work together in solution of the problem. The 'research design panel' chosen by the National Academy of Sciences is to be composed of members having expertise and knowledge of Wild horses and burro protection, wildlife management and animal husbandry as related to rangeland management. This research study is to be completed and reported on to the Congress by January 1, 1983.

EDITORIAL NOTE: The part of this section 14 of the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978 (PL 95-514) which presently concerns me the most is the membership of this 'research design panel' as appointed by the National Academy of Sciences, and its unbiased objectivity.

Lew Carpenter, Legislative Secretary.

WILDERNESS CLASSIFICATION OF DESERT LANDS

The Sportsmen's Council of Central California is deeply concerned regarding the possible and in some areas the probabillity of certain roadless desert areas being given the Wilderness Classification or the Wilderness Classification as a study area.

Certainly sheep habitat must be maintained in a primitive manner or the bighorns will suffer. Our concern is that in wilderness there can be no use of any type of motorized equipment other than for emergency purposes for people in distress or accident victims. Hence there could be no further transporting of equipment or materials for the building of any further water storage devices for wildlife in those desert areas. Also precluded would be repairs to existing facilities that are beyond the distance greater than a person can walk from a paved road. Hence all guzzlers for both large and small animals and birds will soon cease to function and would be lost for their intended purposes---hence there would be a decline in populations of affected wildlife and the possible loss of entire populations. Also, under the terms of the Wilderness Act of 1964 there can be no visible man made structures. And, therefore, those visible water storage facilities would have to be removed. If the desert bighorn sheep of California were declared to be endangered species, then, perhaps, in some areas these water storage facilities in those areas would be permitted to remain and to be serviced. However, California has a greater number of desert bighorn sheep than are in the other states that have desert bighorns. They are, therefore, not an endangered specie, at least at present.

I have written to Mr. Charles Fullerton, Director of the California Department of Fish and Game and have asked him (October 10,1978) for comments on my assessment of the possible reclassification of desert mountain ranges into wilderness areas, and its effects on wildlife And, also, for the position taken, if any, of the California Resource Agency on this matter. To date November 27, 1978 I have had no response.

I have also written to Hon. Frederick N. Ferguson, Deputy Solicitor, of the Solicitors Office, Department of Interior (October 30, 1978) for comments on my assessments concerning this possible re-classification of desert lands. I have asked him why he considers that in the State of Nevada he considers that that state may be given special consideration concerning a definition of a road for that state, and why such a definition applying to Nevada might not also apply to the desert lands of California? No response has been received from Mr. Ferguson at the time THE SHEEPHERDER goes to press.

At the time(1964) when the Wilderness Act was signed into law, the Congress did not see fit, for some reason or other, to define what either a road is or what a 'roadless area' is. What then was the intent of the Congress in 1964 when it implemented the Wilderness Act? And not haveing defined a 'road' -for wilderness purposes can an area be determined to be a Wilderness under the intent of Congress in 1964? I have read, probably, about 1,000 pages of

transcripts of "Oversight Committee Hearings On Wilderness" Nowhere Have I seen the terms "road" or Roadless area" defined, nor have I seen anything that tells me that anything which could be done for wildlife outside a wilderness can be done within a wilderness area.

Lew Carpenter, Legislative Secretary

A LITTLE KNOWN DENIZEN OF THE DESERT

From time to time we have published articles concerning desert wildlife other than the desert bighorn sheep. Therefore, it is of interest to the editor to receive an article from Rocklin Wooley a member of our Society concerning the burro deer of the Colorado Desert. Very probably there are but few of the members of the Society that know that such a creature does exist and fewer have ever seen a member of that specie.

Mr. Wooley says, in part, "I have made a study of California's deer for the past two years, and of course, this one is my favorite. So is the desert in which he lives. The males rarely grow spike antlers. They have no ticks and fleas.....Many of the readers of THE SHEEPHERDER are aware of deer inhabiting some of the desert mountain ranges that also have populations of desert bighorn sheep. The White and Inyo Mts. have Inyo mule deer. The Santa Rosa Mountains have Southern Mule Deer, and the New York - Providence Mts. have Rocky Mt. Mule Deer. Almost without exception, these deer live in the Upper Sonoran Zone, or higher areas if conditions permit. But there is one desert deer that lives all year long in the Ironwood washes of the Colorado Desert. He can exist for long periods without open water, and the males grow very impressive antlers. This is the Burro Deer (*Odocoileus eremicus*) of the Colorado Desert.

How big does he get? Richard Weaver and I suspect that they may be the largest of the California mule deer(species.) He (Weaver) has told me that in years past, bucks weighing over 250 lbs. dressed have been taken by horseback hunters.

Would you like to see some fine examples of this deer? If so, see page 35 of the 18th edition of The Weatherby Guide. Mr. Ernesto Satibanz Cepeda is shown with a truly outstanding example. or pages 12 and 13 in the Outdoor Lifes's "Deer Hunting Book". Another reference of an outstanding example of a burro deer and an excellent article by the late Jack O'Connor.

In many ways these deer are similar to the desert bighorn that live in the same general area. Burro deer have beenknown to range long distances from open water, and when fresh green feed is available they can exist without any open water at all. To just what extent they can do this has not been determined. Some early observers such as Douglas McLean of the California Department of Fish and Game in an early article published in California Fish and Game in 1930, believed that these deer were even less dependent on open water than the desert bighorn. However, this may not be true as burro deer often do go to water during the night. They can use water sources that are not available to the bighorns.

The burro deer are still the least known of the California deer. They are believed to rut during the period between January through March. The fawns are dropped in the July to September period. This is, apparantly, done to allow them to take advantage of the green feed made available by the summer rains.

Most observers seem to believe that during the summer most of these deer are found near the Colorado River, or near the few springs and tanks in surrounding mountain ranges. When the infrequent rains produce fresh green feed they then disperse in the surrounding areas that have Ironwood.

How many of these deer live in California? The best estimate is four per square mile in good population areas. Perhaps there are from 1,000 to 1,500---spread over their entire range.

Should these unique deer be hunted? Each year an average of 18 are taken by sportsmen. The hunter succes if about one in thirty. This has had no effect on their numbers. The buck to doe ratio seems to be as high as in an unhuted herd.

Presently, the Dep't. of Fish and Game is attempting to develop a deer (management) plan for these deer. While they do not appear to be in any danger, they do appear to be limited to areas with Ironwood trees. Some people believe that too much hunter pressure may be detrimental to them. The new hunting regulations (adopted for 1978) will undoubtedly make itmuch easier to monitor the hunting pressure applied to this specie.

Actually, these deer do quite well, considering the area in which they live. They are more numerous than the bighorns that occupy the same general area. They appear to be much more difficult for poachers to take than the bighorn, thanks to their nocturnal habits

How did these deer get their name? They have the large ears like a mule, and a brown winter coat, not like their mountain cousins. At first glance they appear like a small burro.

They may also be the oldest surviving member of the North American deer family. They were hunted by the Indians long before the bighorn sheep came to North America, and perhaps survived the Ice Ages that so many other mammals did not."

Rocklin Wooley request that if anyone can give him further information about this specie or wishes to receive further information about the burro deer to contact him at 3423 Hillsborough Way, San Jose, Calif. 95121 or telephone him at (408) 274-1132

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DOES ANYONE FEEL FRUSTRATED BY WARM DRINKING WATER?

A note from Bill Phifer says that he thought that some of you 'desert wanderers' might be interested in a limited supply of cold water to carry with you. Bill reports that he has tested one of the Eddie Bauer insulated canteens. Bill says,"I took my regular plastic water jug and froze it overnight along with the insulated one. On a hot July day I put both in direct sunlight with temperature well over 120 degrees. My plastic jug thawed out in two to three hours. The insulated one did not thaw out after five hours." Volume is one

quart. Weight is 12 ounces empty. Has a carrying strap. Catalog number 7638D--price $5.95 Call Eddie Bauer toll freee: 1-800-426-8020, P.O. Box 3787, Seattle, Wash. 98124

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SHEEP CAPTURE FOR POWER LINE STUDY

As part of continued study on the effects that a powerline from Palo Verde Power Plant to Los Angeles might have on bighorns sheep in western Arizona, plans are being made to capture and radio collar fifteen sheep. Beginning November 20 (1978) personnel from the Department will attempt to capture ten "new" sheep and to recapture five rams that are presently wearing collars that are no longer functioning.

In the case of the rams that must be recaptured, the designers of the model of collar used during the previous sheep capture did not correctly anticipate the amount of shock that would be generated when the rams started butting to establish dominancy during the mating season. At the end of the first rutting season following that collaring operation, five of the six transmitters that had been placed on rams were no longer functioning."

Wildlife Newsletter--Arizona Game and Fish Dep't.
November 3, 1978

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WORK SCHEDULE DATES ARE CONFIRMID

On November 6, 1978 Glenn Sudmeier Coordinator for the Water for Desert Wildlife Program of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep met with Les Coombes, Assistant Wildlife Habitat Biologist of the Department of Fish and Game, Long Beach and with Vernon Bleich Associate Wildlife Biologist also of the DFG, at Hemet, California for a conference to determine the priorities and order of repairs and construction to be undertaken during the spring of 1979. Following are the list of dates and projects to be undertaken by Society members and other volunteers having an interest in the well being of our desert bighorns.

ANY INTERESTED VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST ON THESE PROJECTS AND JOBS WILL PLEASE CONTACT GLENN SUNDEIER AT: 1728 Hillside, Norco, Calif. 92760 or telephone him at (714) 735-4387 concerning arrival times on the projects and camping locations for these several projects.

December 25, 1978 - CHRISTMAS

January 1, 1979 - NEW YEAR Please resolve to be an active participant in the Society's Water for Desert Wildlife Projects

January 13 &14 --Replumb the Big Game Guzzler in the Nopah Range.

February 3 & 4 1979--Chuckwalla Big Game Guzzler--replumb the tanks.

February 24 & 25, 1979 Install new tanks at the Pyramid Big Game Guzzler.

March 17 & 18, 1979 Install a new drinker at the Old Dad Mt. Big Game Guzzler.

April 7 & 8, 1979 The Big Game Guzzler on South I-40- reposition the drinker and build a burro exclosure.

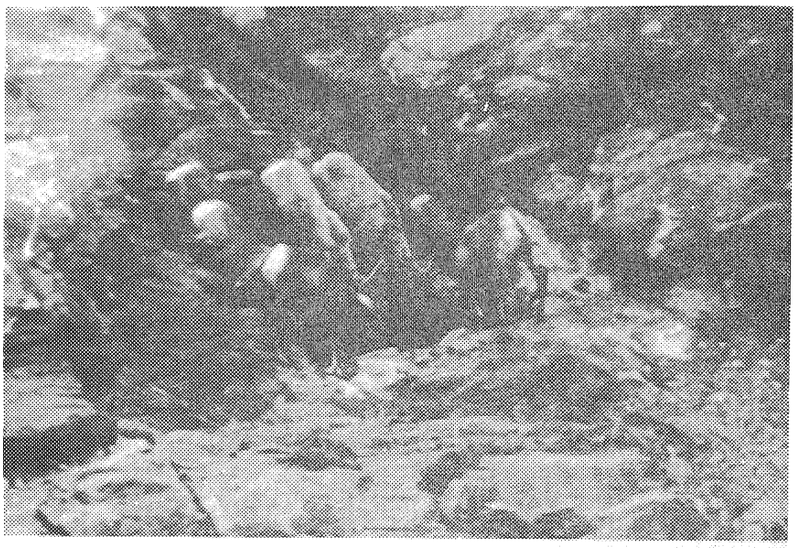
April 28 & 29, 1979 A new developement at the Smith Spring in the Sacramento Mts. to the southwest of Needles.

May 19 & 20, 1979 Paint the tanks of the two Big Game Guzzlers in the Piute Mountains and in the Clipper Mountain

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.



Sheepherder photo

NOTE:

The picture at the left was taken by the editor one day in June 1972. He and Marvin Wood were making the first waterhole count to be made at Smith Spring, in the Sacramento Mountains southwest of Needles. The spring had been found the previous summer by Dan Smith while he and Dick Weaver, both of Cal. DFG had been searching for water in these Sacramento Mountains. The editor, who is team captain for the Sacramento and Little Piute Mts., has been trying ever since that time to get the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep and the Department of Fish and Game to build a water storage facility in this vicinity. This is only a small seep. However, it is a very important one and unfortunately it is not a dependable one. it does receive heavy usage by the bighorns, when there is water. However, it does go dry during the time when most needed. Each year since 1972 except in 1978, the editor has found one dead sheep by the side of the Smith Spring that had gone dry.

I do hope that during this coming work season of 1979 that I am not again disappointed by nothing being done to remedy this situation. The plans made for the Smith Spring facility that had been scheduled for 1978, and then cancelled, were, in my estimation, not a satisfactory solution. Although, any improvement would be an asset to the wildlife of the area.

Lew Carpenter.

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A FEW WATER REPORTS

Les Coombes and Jim Davis, DFG. Region 5, Long Beach Were in to the Red Rock Caves project of the Sacramento Mts. on October 27th and patched the two bullet holes at the top of one tank---very little if any, water had been lost. They also installed a gate valve on the three-fourths inch line from tanks to drinker. They had also gone to the Smith Spring, found the small basin of about 40 gallons full and indications of heavy usage by the bighorns. Recommended that a proper storage facility be built as soon as possible. NOTE: THIS IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR CONSTRUCTION APRIL 28 & 29, 1979

Bob Campbell----probably the most tireless walker of the Society Had been to the Chuckwalla B.G.G.--found one tank apparantly knocked over by wind, some of piping damaged and must be repaired. Also recommended that the tanks be guyed in place by wiring them to stakes as there are probably no rocks of sufficient size to be used for the purpose. Bob also found a tinaja in the Chuchwalla Mts. to be full (9000 gallons)--saw 4 people near the tinaja who had come in from Desert Center.-----Another tinaja in the Chuchwalla Mts. is full (150 Gallons) Water was dirty and smelled pretty foul---suspected that there might be a dead animal in the tinaja---the sunshade is intact.------Coxcomb Tunnel Leak in Riverside County is adequate and basin contains an estimated 300 gallons. There was picnic trash at the site--clamshells on bank made him suspicious of either a coyote or a racoon working in the area. CLARK MTS. B.G.G. is still dry---no water had flowed into the dam catchment basin---noted the burro droppings in the area.

WEAVERNOY BG.G. in Granite Mts.---tanks seve-eigths full---sheep sign abundant around tanks, ALL OKEY. ALSO a tenaja near Weavernoy was dry-----evidence of sheep droppings near this tenaja indicate that when this tenaja has water the sheep use it in preference to Weavernoy----- SUGGESTS that it be considered for a counting site. There are six tenajas in 1/4th mile-the upper has 300 gal. capacity--lower one cap. approx. one to 2,000 gal. but has high evaporation rate due to full sun exposure. HAYFIELD in Orocopio Mts.---one gal. in seep, 75 gallons in a trough---recent sheep use-- LACK OF SPACE PREVENTS REMAINDER OF REPORT IN THIS ISSUE. lew.

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:_____