SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP

The Sheepherder

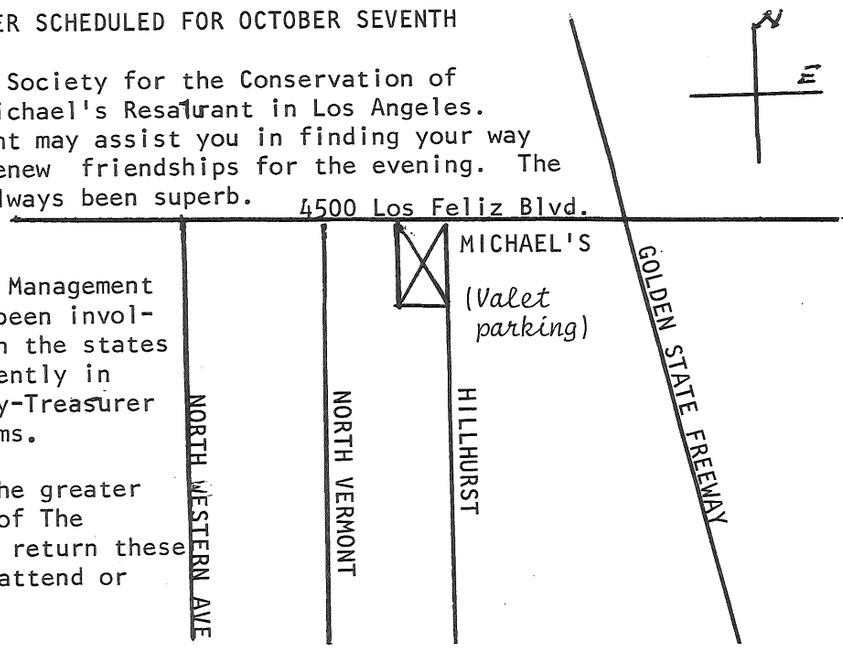
office
401 North Garfield
Alhambra, California 91801
213 284-5113

editor
LEWIS E. CARPENTER
815 W. Gettysburg
Fresno, Ca. 93705
(209) 227-9140

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1978

ANNUAL DINNER SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER SEVENTH

The Annual dinner meeting of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep is again to be held at Michael's Resaurant in Los Angeles. We hope that the little map at the right may assist you in finding your way to the dinner and an apportunity to renew friendships for the evening. The food prepared by Michael's chefs has always been superb.



After dinner speaker is to be Mr. Lanny O. Wilson, of the Bureau of Land Management office in Boise, Idaho. Lanny O. has been involved with the bighorns for many years in the states of New Mexico and Utah as well as presently in Idaho. He has served as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Desert Bighorn Council, two terms.

Response cards will be found in the greater majority of envelopes with this issue of The Sheepherder. Please fill them out and return these cards to Doctor Lutz whether you can attend or not.

Parking of cars for Michael's is off-street with valet parking.

The No-Host Social Hour is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. with dinner to be served at 7:30 p.m. The evening's program will begin at about 9:00 p.m.

The dinner tab of $9.00 will include tax and gratuities. We have been promised the usual splendid filet mignon dinner. We have asked Michael's to set tables for at least 100 people. We do hope to have at least 125 in attendance.

"Uncle" Bud Weideman has as usual been making the various arrangements. Those of you who know Uncle Bud know how devotedly he has served the Society for the past many years, both in our social affairs and also on virtually all of the water storage projects across the California deserts.

****

RUMOR OF OUDAD SHEEP IN SAN ANDREAS MTS. OF NEW MEXICO PROVES FALSE

Aletter from Andrew Sandoval Desert Bighorn Biologist for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish under date of A ugust 23rd. informs the editor that this rumor of there being Barbary sheep in the San Andreas Mts. arose from an unconfirmed report from a hunter participating in the 1975 bighorn hunt in those mountains of the San Andreas National Refuge. Andy says: " However, six helicopter flights and extensive ground surveys failed to reveal any Aoudads in this area during my 18 months of field work." Andy also says: "I am not aware of any Aoudad (Barbary sheep) release in the San Andreas Mountains. I can assure you that the Department would not consider any action that would seemingly threaten the viability of New Mexico's indigenous wildlife species and their habitat. Our second priority is to maintain viable populations and the adopted habitats of those nonindigenous species desired by the public so long as the presence of the nonindigenous species does not threaten the viability of indigenous wildlife."

"The San Andres Refuge was created in 1941. These lands were withdrawn by executive order from settlement, location, sale or entry, for use by the Department of the Interior for the management of Mexican bighorn sheep. Amemorandum of understanding executed in September 1945 between the Department of Defense and the US Fish and Wildlife Service authorized the Army to use the entire refuge as a buffer zone for the White Sands Missle Range to test and evaluate

missles. The refuge came under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense in 1951when a co-use contract was signed.

These lands were withdrawn from all appropriations including the mining and mineral leasing laws and the grazing of livestock. All cattle were removed from the White Sands Missle Range by July 1, 1951. A total of 293 feral horses were shot and killed within the refuge during this period. By restricting all activities (grazing, mining, h uman disturbance) detrimental to bighorn sheep, military control of the San Andreas Refuge has enhanced the bighorn population.

Only the San Andreas Refuge and the White Sands National Monument have co-use priviledges as all other lands are reserved for exclusive use by the Army. In 1975, a memorandum of understanding among the WSMR, USF&W and the N.M D.G&F was signed expressing a mutual interest and desire for the continued management and conservation of the desert bighorn occupying the San Andreas Refuge. The Army permitted the entrance of designated D.G.&.F personnel and those contracted by the Department to perform necessary work as stated in the agreeement.

The San Andreas Refuge supports a viable, huntable population numbering about 200± 18. The density is approximately 7.9 to 9.4 sheep per square mile, making it one of the densest in western North America. The refuge encompasses about 20% of the 75 mile-long mountain range. Limited observations suggest that a significant number of bighorn occupy the northern portion of the San Andreas Mountains. I observed three different groups totalling 12 sheep about 25 miles north of the refuge. This area is used by the Air Force as an aerial gunnery range and has an abundance of unexploded ordanance, consequently access is strictly prohibited. I have recommended an extensive helicopter survey of the northern portion to ascertain population numbers, composition, and distribution of bighorn. This would, hopefully, substantiate the presence or absence of Aoudads. Since we do not own a helicopter, the cost of such a survey would be prohibitive. I have approached the Army for the use of a military helicopter and have been advised that non-military personnel are not allowed to fly military aircraft. Therefore, until funds become available, the question of bighorn distribution and the presence of Aoudads in the northern San Andres Mountains, will remain unanswered." end quote.

NOTE: The question comes to the mind of the Editor----Is there, perhaps some one in the US Army--with proper clearances and with the needed expertise who could act as an observer in a military helicopter and make such a survey? --someone like, perhaps, Colonel Joe Zybilski in Colorado?

NOTE: The Editor does appreciate the response from Andy Snadoval. He was in the field all of the month of July working with the desert bighorn sheep and hence could not respond sooner.

NEW MEXICO PLANS FURTHER RE-INTRODUCTION OF BIGHORN SHEEP IN THEIR STATE

In another letter from Andrew Sandoval, Desert Bighorn Project Biologist informs us: "The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service is attempting to reestablish desrt bighorn in their historic range where habitat conditions and human related activities are or can be, made compatible with the sheep. We have recently evaluated (May 29 1978) and rated 17 mountain ranges, encompassing two-thirds of the state, in order of suitibility for the reestablishment and perpetuation of desert bighorn populations.

We will be undertaking our first desert bighorn transplant this fall, into the Big Hatchet mountains located in the extreme southwest part of the state. A remnant herd numbering less than 20 bighorn are associated with the Big Hatchets. Based upon subjective judgement of desert habitat criteria and Hansen's habitat evaluation system, the Hatchet bighorn are utilizing marginal habitat. Therefore, the objective will be to reestablish a new herd in what appears to be the most suitable part of the mountain range. This will be a paddock release with captive sheep from Red Rock. We hope to make yearly transplants, from the captive herd and through direct releases of wild trapped sheep from the San Andreas Refuge." end quote.

*

****

WATERHOLE COUNTS ACCUMULATE VERY SLOWLY.

The editor is sorry that he has but three waterhole count results to report this issue.

Doctor Loren L. Lutz, Society President sent in a report under date of August 19th, as follows: " A short note on - I think - the first sheep count in the desert this year:

Tachevah : Seven animals, Three rams, four ewees, no lambs, no yearlings

Hurricane : 0

Blaisdale: - 19 animals, no lambs, one yearling ram, 14 ewes, four adult rams

Snow Creek: 0

Contrast this you will, six years ago, where I counted in three days 213 animals at Tachevah with most ewes having lambs, and comparable results at the other springs. Of course a lot of them were sick and the count has been going down every year.

(Signed) Loren L. Lutz, DDS,
Presidnet.

The second report is from Bonnar Blong under the date of July 31st. It was received too

late to incorporate in the July - August issue of T.S. Bonnar is an Associate Wildlife Manager for the Department of Fish and Game, Region 5, based at Long Beach. In his report Bonnar says: "Here are the results of the two bighorn counts conducted early this summer.

Santa Rosa Mountains:
A bighorn census was conducted June 19, 1978 by helicopter in the Santa Rosa Mts. which produced low lamb and yearling ratios. Herd composition counts indicate that the bighorn population for these mountains peaked in numbers between 1973 and 1976. Since then survival of lambs to the second year of life has been depressed.

	Sample	Ram	Yearling	Ewe	Lamb
June 1978	69	24	8	100	12
Sept. 1978	46	51	0	100	7
July 1977	76	28	14	100	12
Sept. 1976	73	66	48	100	38
June 1976 *	253	48	37	100	38
July 1973 *	272	53	27	100	38

* indicates waterhole counts.
NOTE: (Game Managers put a great deal of reliance upon herd composition, ie., the ratios of the rams, lambs and yearlings to the ewes as it better shows the trends of the herd.)

Water distribution and forage growth within the range has been good since September 1976. Water is flowing now in many of the canyons thatnormally support only a spring or seeps. However, water availability has decreased in the lower quarter of the mountain range.

EAST CHOCALATE MOUNTAINS:

Eleven observers, nine from the Department of Fish and Game and two from the Bureau of Land Management conducted a waterhole count in the Chocalate Mountains near the Colorado River - July 3 through 6. Temperatures reached 104 to 108 degrees Fahrenheit, not too hot for this area.

Observers counted 42 bighorn at six sites: Trap Tank (most sheep seen), Ewe Tank, 39 Stick Tank and Italian Tank. The sheep appeared in good shape. Lamb and yearling survival was excellent as indicated by the following ratios per 100 ewes: 33 rams, 39 yearlings and 63 lambs.

Picacho Peak Tank was confirmed as a trap tank. A female lamb was found dead in the tank and the sheep would not drink at the tank during the count. Sheep were observed near the tank, but did not attempt to approach thetank. Construction of a ramp into this tank is planned during next winter by the habitat developement crew.

OROCOPIA AND CHUCKWALLA MOUNTAINS:
A helicopter survey was made in these mountains on the morning of July 6, 1978. One ram (2 year old) was seen near Spring Tank in the Chuckwalla Mts. Few beds or trailing was observed in the Chuckwalla Mts. indicating a low population.

No bighorn were observed in the Orocopia Mts. Old trails were evident in these mountains, but current use of these trails and the present sign of beds was light. However, approx. 14 bighorn were seen in these mountains this spring. Two observers were stationed at Hidden Spring in the Mecca Mud Hills during the count. No bighorn were seen, only recent sign.
Sincerely, Bonnar Blong, Associate Wildlife Manager.

NOTE: The Editor of The Sheepherder does appreciate getting such a full report of these counts. The Statistics of these above counts were also sent to the editor by Dick Weaver. Thank you Dick.

ANIMALS AND OTHER WILDLIFE NEED WATER ALSO

The Departments of Fish and Game of the several western states have reserved many water sources for the especial use of wildlife species. In the majority of these accessible springs the Departments have erected signs to inform the travelling public that this water has been reserved for wildlife and do direct people not to camp within the proximity of the water. Usually this distance is specified as not less than one-quarter of a mile. Many species of wildlife such as the bighorn sheep will not come in to use the water if people are in the vicinity. Being deprived of this water does severely stress the specie and may cause its demise. It is also against the law to camp next to or within this restricted distance in such a way as to deny wildlife or livestock reasonable access to the water.

Of course, if you should find someone illegally camping in the restricted area, they may be willing to move if the reason for the exclusion is explained to them. As a last resort a person can always report this transgression to the DFG or the BLM for their action.

BIGHORN CENSUS
OF
ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK

NORTHERN SECTOR:

TOTAL	RAM	EWE	LAMB	YEARLINGS	UNIDENTIFIED
199	79	86	14	16	4

AGE AND SEX RATIOS : RAM: EWE 92 : 100 LAMB: EWE: 16:100 YEARLING:EWE: 19: 100

SOUTHERN SECTOR:

TOTAL	RAM	EWE	LAMB	YEARLINGS	UNIDENTIFIED
70	17	47	0	5	1

AGE & SEX TATUIS:
RAM:EWE 36:100 LAMB: EWE: 0:100 YEARLING: EWE 11: 100

	SOUTH	NORTH
1975 TOTAL -	122 14 rams, 76 ewes, 7 yearlings, 15 lambs	TOTAL -196, 36 rams, 92 ewes 28 yearlings, 31 lambs.
1976 TOTAL -	138, 19 rams, 95 ewes, 7 yearlings, 9 rams.	TOTAL - 134 37 rams, 72 ewes, 7 yearlings, 13 lambs.
1977 TOTAL -	84, 20 rams, 59 ewes, 2 yearlings, 1 lamb.	TOAL - 128 33 rams, 81 ewes, 10 yearlings, 4 lambs.

The above report received from Dick Weaver. In his remarks about this report Dick observes: "As you can see the volunteer counting in the Anza Borrego Desert State Park had a large sample. The weather was good(= HOT)

The south one half of the Park again isn't producing lambs. There were more yearlings than there were lambs in the last year count.

One would suspect that during August three day period you miss more of the lambs than other bighorn.)Or perhaps the volunteerdon't classify yearlings and lambs correctly.)

****

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Outstanding Achievement Award for 1979 of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep will be presented to Dr. Valerius Geist a Professor of The University of Calgary for his oustanding contribution to wild sheep and their management. His excellent book "Mountain Sheep, - A study in Behaviour and Evolution" is one of the most intensive behavioral studies done on any hoofed animal. Dr. Geist is probably the world's leading authority on the biology of northern wild sheep, particularly in the area of animal behavior. He has published more research papers on the wild sheep, probably, than any other person. The above mentioned book is considered a classic.

In accepting the invitation to attend the meetings of February 22 -24, 1979 in Minneapolis, Minnesota , Dr. Geist wrote the Foundation: "You may put me down as a participant on your program. I very likely will speak on some of the research work we have done in recent years. I am likely to show some films and slides. But, above all, I would like to deliver a rather optomistic lecture because I do not believe thatwe have great reason for pessimism in protecting and expanding the range of mountain sheep on this continent. We are in the fortunate position of probably knowing more about mountain sheep than any other wild ruminant at this time, and the conservation and propogation of these animals under human care can most certainly be carried out. We can surely have a lot more mountain sheep than we nave at present."

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Lanny Wilson, center, received the Foundation's Outstanding Achievement Award. He is being congratulated by Senior Vice President, Frank Bays.

Lanny O. Wilson, the recipient of the award in the photo at the left, as has been previously noted is to be the afterdinner speaker at the October 7th dinner meeting of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep in Los Angeles.

Other items of note in this newsletter of the FNAWS is the report that during the meeting of that group in Memphis early in 1978 there had been a net return of the convention of some $21,000. The money so raised together with money collected from dues has all gone to the betterment of North American Wild Sheep---There have been purchases of jeeps and other equipment which has been then given to the Mexican Game Department to help them in their management problems; additional funds have gone into research. This is a similar procedure followed by the Soceity for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep.

****

The above items concerning Dr. Valerius Geist and the award to Lanny O. Wilson have been taken from the Summer 1978 newsletter of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep.

****

SHEEP HUNTER CLINICS ARE SCHEDULED FOR IDAHO AND ARIZONA

This year the Idaho Department of Fish and Game is conducting schools in Salmon and in Boise for permit holders who wish to attend. The "students" will be instructed in such subject as identification of a trophy ram and his behavior, the physical requirements for a hunt and suitable firearms and equipment.

Permits for a controlled sheep hunts totaled 100. There were 1,250 applicants and the one unclaimed permit went to an alternate in a second drawing.

Jerry Thiessen, state big game manager, says a large percentage of those who drew permits are novices. "We want to give them every chance for success", he adds, "in what can truly be a once-in-a-lifetime experience." A lifetime limit of one bighorn has been in effect for several years.

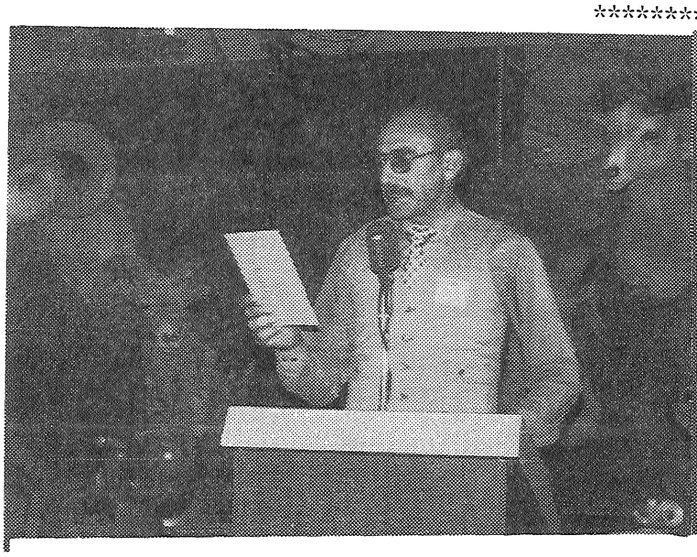
IN ARIZONA: The Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society's 12th Annual Sheep Hunters Clinic will be held on Saturday, October 7th. Harry Hussey's committee has an interesting schedule lined up for this year's clinic. Sheep hunters, new and old, won't want to miss this. As in the past, the Varmettes will provide lunch and dinner at a modest fee.

NEVADA?

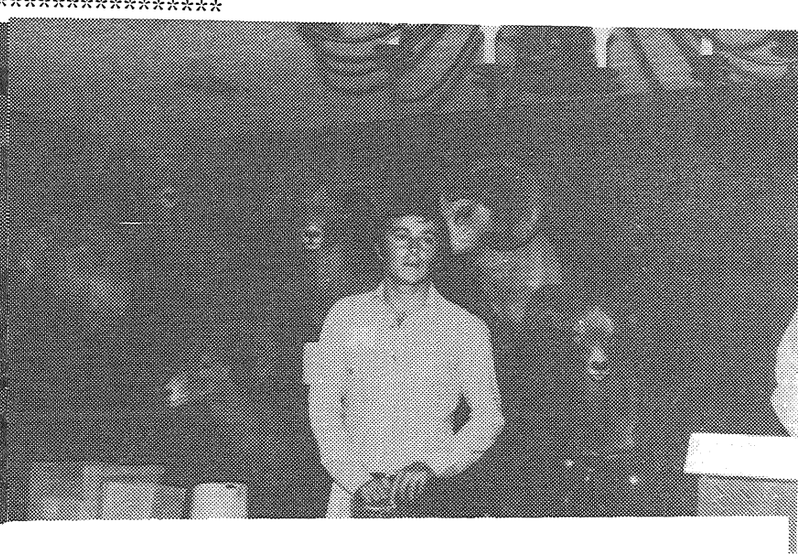
Nevada has customarily also conducted an indoctrination clinic for permit holders and has in previous years required permit holders to attend and pass a test prior to going into the field for their hunts. No word has been received by the Editor related to the fall of 1978.

NOTE: These Clinics are really of interest even to those who are not hunters and are very informative and interesting. Also during that day Dr. Robert D. Omart will offer a hardhitting talk on the challenge of the feral burro to desert sheep and their habitat.

****



John Russo, Arizona Game and Fish Dep't.



Sr. Victor M. Orihyela Gonzalez

REPORTS FROM MEXICO

During one of the sessions of the Desert Bighorn Council meeting in Kingman, Arizona, John Russo of the Araizona Departtment of Fish and Game was the chairman. He introduced Sr. Victor M. Orihyela Gonzalez and Sr.Eliseo Araujo, both of the Department of Fauna-Silvestre, Mexicali, Baja California.

Sr. Gonzalez described an investigation that he had been making the past year on the aging of desert bighorn sheep by microscopic studies he had been making of annual rings that are grown in the teeth of the bighorn. The samples, 13 in number, that he had been working with had all come from the jaws of rams legally harvested by hunters, which in every case were accompanied by departmental biologists. These biologists, as has been previously reported, do make a careful examination of the entire carcass of all such harvest rams. A field laboratory is actually carried into the hunting field so that all samples may be closely studied , and in a short a period of time as is possible. The majority of the harvested rams have been in the 13 or13+ years old bracket. The guide for the hunter choses the animal to be harvested and picks an old animal and one with severly broomed horn as possible.

The process of preparation for the microscopic study of the annual rings of the teeth is an involved one, there are many steps to make in this preparation before the 60 power microscope can be used.

Gonzalez has found that years of severe drought are indicated in the annual rings of the teeth similarly to that found in trees also effected by drought. Although Victor was searching for a means of determining the age of a bighorn by some means other than that of counting the annual rings on the horns, he could not arrive at any conclusion for this means of aging. It is recognized that as the sheep grow older the annual rings are less well defined and very difficult to distinguish one from another. Bill Montoya of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish did the interpreting for Sr. Gonzalez.

George Tsukamoto of the Nevada Department of Fish and Game stated that he believes that the counting of the annual rings is the better procedure. Paul Webb of the Arizona Department of GAme and Fish stated that he agrees with George Tsakamoto that the horn rings seem more valid than tooth structure aging.

Sr. Eliseo Araujo, Game Manager- Fauna Silvestre, Baja California

From left: Sr. Eliseo Araujo, Victor M. Orihyela Gonzalez and Bill Montoya of New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

Sr. Eliseo Araujo, who is in charge of hunting in Baja California reported concerning their continuing program. During 1977 there were 90 permits granted for rams in Baja. There were a total of 83 rams harvested. The sheep that scored the greatest number of Boone & Crocket points, 180+, was taken in the Arroyo Grande Mountains.

The poaching of bighorns is now pretty well controlled. They are spotted by the use of the Departmental airplane. A case was successfully presecuted against a hunter reportedly from Montana by the name of Ronald Jacobs.

NOTE: We have reported previously of the airplane given to the Mexican DFG by the Safari Club International. We are glad to learn that it has had an effective use. lew. c.

The hurricane that stormed across Baja California and into the desert regions of California completely wiped out many of the water storage projects that had been completed in Baja. The Mexican DFG in their water projects have been making a series of dams in canyon bottoms to capture rainwater run-off. These dams must be heavy and wide in order to withstand the severe flows of water. These dams form tenajas between them.

Many areas in which vehicle access is possible but not compatible with the wildlife program are blocked off by the use of used one inch steel cables.

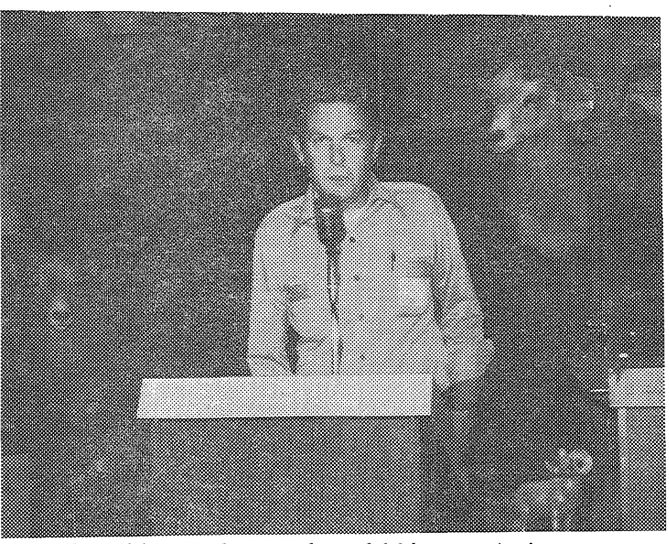
The hunters camps are neat and clean with the hunter sleeping quarters removed tosome distance from the cooking and eating area and that used by the Mexican personnel. This is to give the hunter an opportunity to rest in a quiet area, as the guides and other personnel like to play their musical instruments and have a happy time while in camp.

One of the most severe problems faced by the Mexican DFG is to try to control their own people whowith .22 caliber rifles shoot at nearly everything that they see. Consequently there are many sheep that are wounded by this practice, even though there are very few of these animals that are recovered----but excape to die somewhere else.

During the 1977 season five of the hunters were women and each of them was successful in harvesting a ram.

Eliseo reported that there is also a good waterfowl population on one of the lakes that have been formed by the Colorado River. There are lots of snow geese as well as mallard ducks. There is also a herd of about 300 pronghorn antelope to the north of Verdugo Bay

****



Paul Webb, Information Officer, Arizona Game and Fish Department. The small statue of a ram at Paul's left was a gift to the Desert Bighorn Council from the Mexico Game Department.

The report from the state of Arizona was given by Paul Webb, Information Officer for the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

In 1977 there were 57 permits granted to Araizona residents and 7 to non-residents to have an opportunity to harvest a desert ram. Of the 64 people there were 53 successful hunters for an 88% success ratio.

Arizona DG &F is proposing to use some Sikes Act Funds to build a pasture and to fence it as a part of their on-going reintroduction program.

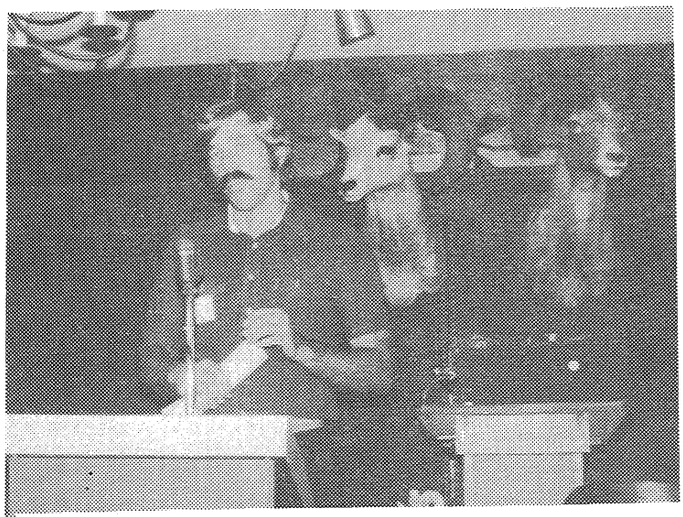
The research Program involving the proposed transmission line from a nuclear power plant to near the city of Palm Springs continues. The objective of the study is an effort to determine such a project will have on the home range of desert sheep through which such a transmission line may be built.

The Aravaipa Canyon is known to have a sheep population of between 35 and 40 sheep. There is no concern about their well being at present.

****

DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP OF NEVADA ----Bob McQuivey

Bob McQuivey of the Nevada Department of Fish and Game reported concerning the status of Nevada's bighorns. In February 1978 the Department had published the Biological Bulletin



Bob McQuivey, Nevada Department of Fish and Game.

N. 6. A portion of the funds for this report had been from the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration. NOTE: (These funds are derived from the Pittman-Robertson Act of 40 years ago in which the Sportsmen-Conservationists had requested that their hunting equipment be taxed at the rate of 11 percent and that the funds so derived be used, in the main, for wildlife restoration and habitat enhancement projects.)

(From this bulletin): "The desert bighorn sheep, although not abundant, is an important resource in Nevada. It is relatively scarce in North American with only a few areas open to hunting. In terms of its trophy qualities, it is one of the most highly sought after big game species of North America with the demand coninuously increasing. The aesthetic values of sheep are also cecoming more important. During 1973 the Nevada Legislature designated the Nelson bighorn as the official state animal.

Prior to the inauguration of this project, the future of desert sh-ep in Nevada did not appear favorable.....A spring survey conducted in April of 1970 showed only 35 lambs per 100 ewes observed. A follow-up survey conducted in the same area during October 1970 revealed only 18 lambs for each 100 ewes had survived through the summer months. The low increment to the popultion portrayed a downward trend.

Reports from the Desert Game Range, which is managed specifically for the protection and propogation of the desert bighorn sheep, also showed that popultion levels of desert sheep had declined markedly between 1965 and 1973.

Numerous specualtions were made concerning the reason for the declining sheep numbers in the State, although no positive data were available to show the effect of any single factor. Increasing public use, livestock competition, disease, poaching, overhunting, and predation were only a few of the factors thought to be important in causing high mortality and resultant low population numbers. As the Department began to get involved in more sophisticated hunting quota programs, bighorn trapping and transplanting projects, and proposed development programs, it became apparant that if these were to be implemented properly we would have to obtain a better data base on bighorn sheep to work with. Consequently, this study was designed and implemented in 1974. The study was completed in 1977, and this bulletin represents the final report and summarizes the significant findings." end quote.

-

The Department is now making an annual aireal helicopter survey. By this method it is hoped that all areas can be well covered, at least by every other year.

The census of 1976 showed that there were 60 rams and 33 lambs per each 100 ewes.

In Nevada the hunting of desert bighorn sheep was first permitted (in recent times) in the year of 1952 During 1977 there were 81 permits granted to Nevada residents and nine granted to non-resident hunters. There were 532 people who submitted applications for the nine permits. 24% of the rams harvested were found to be 10 or more years of age. NOTE: Nevada has the unique requirement that for a desert ram to be a legal ram that it must be either seven years of age or that it score a minimum of 144 Boone and Crocket points using the doubling of the horn that scores the greater numer of points.

The Department is continuing its program of trapping bighorns out of the River Mountain herd near Lake Mead and then transplanting them into other areas that are historic ranges but are presently unoccupied or are understocked. There has been an approximate loss of 1.8 percent during these trapping and transplanting projects.

The last of the sheep remaining in the Dutch Creek enclosure near Hawthorne have been released on Mt. Grant, on a shoulder of which the enclosure is located. This release was of 20 animals.

Sixteen sheep of the Rocky Mt. bighorn specie were obtained from the Okanagen Game Farm in British Columbia and released on Mt. Maria in the Santa Rosa Mts. During the fall while making a deer survey on Mt Maria, McQuivey was able to count 23 bighorns. Another 15 to 20 were to be released the last part of April 1978.

The Mormon Mt.---northeast of Las Vegas and near the Utah-Arizona state line have a population at presnt of about 200 animals. Their future population is limited by a scarcity of water in thewe mountains. Bighorns are using some of the cattle watering troughs in some of the valleys that have nearby escape cover. (personal Obs. editor)

Livestock is and has been a continuing problem facing bighorns for their survival, as also has been the feral burro that occupies much of the bighorn ranges.

The Department has a 'horizontal well drilling rig'. (this has been reported on in previous issues). However, a Court has handed down a decision that any water that is developed for bighorn sheep or other wildlife must also be made available for livestock.

Bighorn sheep have been transplanted on to Mt. Wheeler---in the northeastern part of the state. Plans are to make other transplants also on this mountain.

A number of recommendations have been made as a result of this study, some of these are: A complete census should be conducted at all water sources in Southern Nevada to document the importance of each site. NOTE: We have made this same priority recommendation for the past two summers. HAVE YOU TEAM CAPTAINS AND THOSE HELPING THEM BEEN MAKING THESE COUNTS?

Competition for needed foods and water supplies must be reduced. Feral horses and burros should be completely removed from all areas in the State that support populations of bighorn sheep andproperly managed in adjacent ranges.

Grazing by domestic sheep should not be allowed in any areas occupied by desert bighorn sheep and properly managed in adjacent areas

Grazing by cattle should continue to limited to the periphery of any and all sheep use areas.

All important waters utilized by bighorn sheep in Southern Nevada should be protected from all types of encroachment, both temporary and permanent

Permanent recreational developements should not be constructed within the limits of sheep distribution.

Land exchanges of sheep habitats should not be permitted.

Transportation corridors through bighorn sheep habitat should be kept at a minimum and designed for areas where the least impact will occur.

Mineral exploration in bighorn sheep habitat should be kept at a minimum and regulated to provide the least adverse impcts possible.

Fences should not be constructed within the limits of sheep distribution or between areas known to support migrating sheep.

Water piped away from important sheep use should bemodified to provide adequate water at the source.

Weak seeps and seasonal springs should be developed in an attempt to provide permanent water for bighorn

Natural and artificial water catchments should be constructed in suitable areas in an attempt to better distribute sheep populations.

A priority list of suitable habitat for re-introductions must be prepared.

An early determination of why sheep numbers are being reduced or are disappearing from an area

At least 20 sheep should be in the group reintroduced into an area, in a ratio of one ram to each five ewes. These transplants must be carefully monitored to determine their success or failure

****

EDITORIAL COMMENT: For whatever it may or may not be worth.

As the editor, I am disappointed that no one has sent to me a review of what did transpire during the meeting held in the Kennedy Center of El Cajon the evening of August 9th. This concerned the Draft Recreation Mangement Plan of the Bureau of Land Management--Riverside District and concerned the McCain Valley. As has been previously noted the BLM has made plans for water developement for bighorn sheep of the area and for vehicular restrictions in part of the area in order to protect these bighorns and their habitat. Your Editor is physically unable to go to every hearing concerning bighorns and/or other wildlife and must rely on the assistance of someone who does have an interest.

I am also concerned as the editor and as a Director of the Society that the only report of a waterhole count being made by Society members, and of which I have had information are the one from Doctor Lutz in this issue and the one made by Marguerite and I in the previous issue. I HAVE TRIED TO INFORM THE MEMBERSHIP THAT THE FUTURE OF OUR VOLUNTEER DESERT WATER FOR WILDLIFE PROGRAM may well hinge upon these waterhole counts having been made this summer and that the results of such observations being sent in to Glenn Sudmeier, 1728 Hillside Ave., Norco, California 92760.

I have been concerned by the fact that following each mailing of THE SHEEPHERDER that there are a number of people on our mailing list who move and do not give us a change of mailing address. If the Postal Service has a forwarding address it is sent to me. I then must re-send THE SHEEPHERDER to the new address---making the total cost to the Society of 42.7 cents instead of the 2.7 cents. The Society has better uses for this money.

ALSO AND THIS IS IMPORTANT: THE US FOREST SERVICE AND THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT are at present working on land management plans. IT MAY WELL BE THAT THE FUTURE OF OUR ABILITY TO DO ANY WORK IN EITHER HABITAT IMPROVEMENT OR WATER AVAILABILITIES MAY HINGE UPON THE DEFINTION OF WHAT IS A ROAD? I AM GETTING CONFLICTING DEFINITIONS OF "WHAT IS A ROAD? My WEBSTER'S SEVENTH NEW COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY says: "an open way for vehicles, persons, and animals." I do not believe that this defenition would be acceptable to Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management. I believe that the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society will each be much more restrictive. THE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP MUST GET PERSONALLY INVOLVED.

Lew Carpenter, Editor.

The present status of the House Resolution - HR 10587 is unknown to the Editor. It did pass the House of Representatives and was sent to the Senate. What the Senate has done about this measure I do not know. This bill did contain a strong section concerning the transfer of title of the so-called "Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros" and for the management of their numbers.

The acts of Congress and of the Courts are steadily chipping away at the "States Rights" to manage the wildlife resources of the several states. The Conference of Governors, meeting in Hawaii, during the summer did draft a strong resolution that requests the Congress of the United States to re-affirm the States Rights of the several states to manage the wildlife resources of their individual states.