SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP

The Sheepherder

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JULY - AUGUST 1979

LAVA BEDS BIGHORN SHEEP PROGRAM -- UPDATE

A report has been received from Robert A. Patton, the Interpretive Specialist of the Lava Beds National Monument in Northeastern California, under date of March 29, 1979.

THE SHEEPHERDER has endeavored to keep Society members and friends current with the progress of this project begun with the fencing of 1100 acres of Monument lands in 1970 and 1971. In October of 1971 the original transplant into the area was with two rams and eight ewes brought from near Williams Lake in British Columbia. There have been 'ups-and-downs' with this captive population since that time.

Patton reports that the year 1978 was a good productive year. Seven lambs were born between April 15th and May 28th. Two additional lambs were born in late June and early July. All ewes apparantly did have lambs and there was no apparant twinning. The youngest of the late lambs was still pretty small at the onset of winter, which it did survive in good shape. No unusual weather factors were experienced in 1978.

Accurate surveys are becoming increasingly difficult to obtain as the herd scatters over the 1100 acre enclosure. Snows during the winter of 1978 - 79 made foot travel over the volcanic terrain hazardous, consequently only a few days were such that reliable counts could be made. The highest count showed a total of 36 animals with a loss of four ewes. During a later survey one lamb was not accounted for. Hopefully it was just overlooked--it may have been hidden. There is uncertainty concerning the four missing ewes, as no remains have been found. A possibility of predation does exist, although there has been no evidence of any having occurred to any healthy animal. The missing ewes may be a part of the original group that was introduced eight years ago. Mortality in that group would be a natural event, and is to be expected. It is known that coyotes, bobcats, golden and bald eagles are a part of the bighorn environment and do move freely in and out of the enclosure. A transient cougar may also be an occasional visitor. There has been no known predation by a cougar--mountain lion at any time, fortunately.

Counts of rams have been fifteen. During the rut the rams have been seen frequently in groups of nine to twelve.

So far as is known there has been no mortality from disease since that of 1975.

Herd composition at present is given as fifteen rams, twelve ewes and nine lambs(sex not listed).

No major managment problems had been experienced during the year of 1978. A prescribed burn had been held of several acres of the eastern part of the pasture containing brush. No suppression of this burn had been required. Another prescrition burn is planned for this year of 1979. One of the guzzlers--built by the Forest Service had gone dry last August. However, the other guzzlers provided the needed water for the bighorn without interuption. The continuing of the salting on the snow in the effort to establish a more natural 'salt-ground' condition. was carried out this past winter season. This has been found to be an effective manner in reducing to likelihood of disease transmission at a salt lick.

The Raider Canyon in the Warner Mountains of the Modoc National Forest has been recommended as the site for the first reestablishment of sheep from the Lava Beds into a 'wild' situation. The target date for this release into the wild could be as early as 1982.

Originally the number of sheep to be within the enclosure prior to a transplant had been set at 25 breeding ewes. Presently this is being considered for modification to twenty ewes. The reason being that in a crowded environment an outbreak of disease might wipe-out the greater portion of the herd at one time. This would be a disaster to the re-introduction program.

Samples of blood from the present herd will not be taken for a study of Genetics until such time as the sheep are captured for the transplant purposes. This will not create undue additional stresses to the sheep being transferred.

During the fall of 1978, a lone mature ram was observed near the Park Headquarters, six miles from the enclosure. For several days thereafter he was observed by visitors and Park personnel, working his way back toward the enclosure--which he did re-enter. The entire fence line was examined in an effort to find both his method and place of exit and entrance but without success.

James A. "Jim" Blaisdell has concluded his reasearch project with this band of bighorns and has been transferred by the National Park Service to the Regional Office in Seattle, Washington. Jim's interest in the bighorn sheep will not be diminished by this transfer of assignment. Jim and wife Bonnie were in attendance at the Desert Bighorn Council meeting of April in Boulder City, Nevada, where he also reported on the successes at the Lava Beds.

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DESERT BIGHORN COUNCIL

The 23rd Annual Meeting of the Desert Bighorn Council was held in Boulder City, Nevada this past pril 4th and 5th, with a field trip into the Water Mountains on the 6th.

Bob McQuivey, of the Nevada Department of Fish and Game was the Chairman of the DBC for the year ending with the close of the Annual Meeting.

The welcoming address was given by Mr. Glen Griffith, Director of the Nevada State Department of Fish and Game. Griffith spoke concerning the fact that the State of Nevada is 87% under Federal management. At one ti me, many years ago the state had been literally overrun by bighorn sheep. This population had been severely reduced by 1900 and had become very low by 1920. Reasons for this depletion of population have been from many causes, some of which are: mining--which has been widespread through the state and the miners needed meat and the wild sheep were an available source of this meat; also the introduction of domestic livestock and its taking of needed food sources for wildlife and also the diseases of that livestock which have been spread into the herds of wild sheep.

Mr. Griffith was very alarmed by the attitudes and obstructions imposed by the anti-hunters during a recent hunt that was conducted in a small mountain area near Phoenix. Arizona had granted four permits for the area. The anti-hunters went into the area the opening days of the hunt and followed the lawful hunters about the maountain and blew whistles and fired guns in an effort to frighten the sheep away from the hunters. These protectionists did succede in frightening the sheep so badly that the sheep were running all over the mountain and were disregarding the humans. The net result was that all of the permit holders were successful in harvesting a ram. Only one hunter of the legal four was able to get his ram without this 'assist' from the protectionists. Without this interference it is very doubtful that the success ratio would have been any better than that of the balance of the state of Arizona.

Nevada is endeavoring to reintroduce bighorns into all of the historic sheep ranges that are presently unoccupied. The State of Nevada relies upon the knowledge and expertise of the professional biologists and game managers of the state and on the knowledge and information that has been developed over the years by the Desert Bighorn Council.

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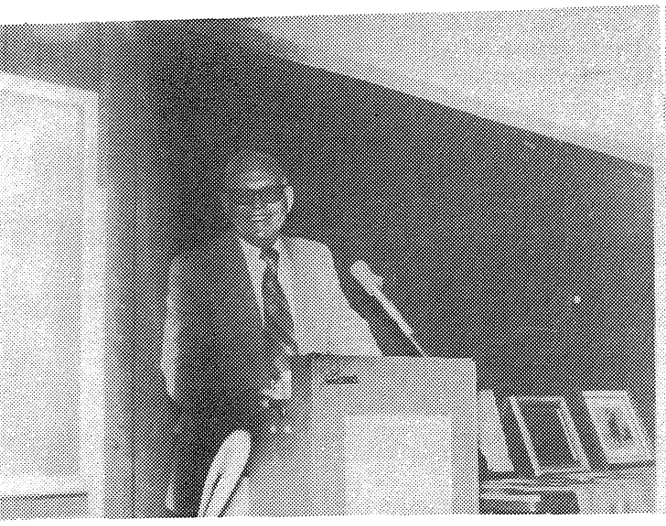
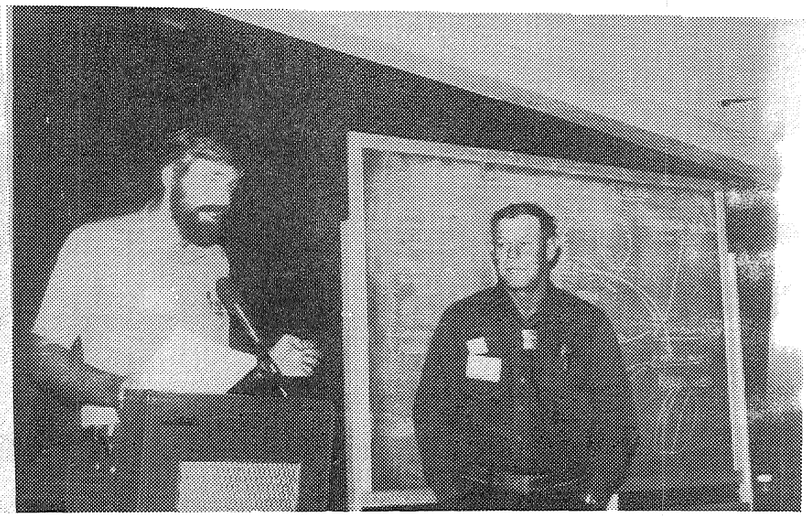


Mr. Glen Griffith, Director, Nevada Department of Fish and Game gives Welcoming address.



Bob McQuivey (left) Chairman of Desert Bighorn Council 1978 - 79 and Carl Mahon, Cedar City, Utah elected Chairman for 1979 - 1980

A NEW LOOK AT WILD SHEEP

Chairman Bob McQuivey introduced Juan Spillett of the U.S. F.S. who spoke to the above topic. Spillett has traveled extensively and had recently returned from Iran. He had been studying the wild sheep while in that country. A few notes from the talk by Juan which he had illustrated with many slides. Wild sheep first appeared during the Pleistocene era. The evolution of the present wild sheep of North America seems to follow pretty closely that which was written about by James L. Clark back in 1964 in his book "The Great Arc of the Wild Sheep", although Spillett did not mention either Clark or the book. Spillett noted that apparantly the North American pronghorn 'antelope was derived from the chamois and the bighorns came from the oudads---now sometimes called the Barbary Sheep.....Sheep were one of the first

of the wild animals to be domesticated and this did occur as long as 10,000 years ago. Sheep are depicted in the murals of very old buildings in Iran. In Iran Spillett found the sheep to be on the rolling hill country and goats were found on the steep and rocky areas....These sheep are longer legged than those of North America and are better suited for running as an escapement device.....The four different Glacieal Periods served as the causative agent for the dispersal of sheep into new areas and for the development of the different species. The Glacial Periods caused great variance of sea levels on the continents and resulted in the raising and lowering of sea levels from ± 10 meters to as much as ± 70 meters. As a result there was for a long period of time a distinct land bridge betweenthat which is now Alaska and that which is Russia..... 11,000 years ago about 30% of the land surface of the continents was covered by ice. At the present time only about 10% of the same area is so covered by ice. Also at this time there was a great variance in average temperatures as much as 12 C. and this affected the length of the hair coats of the animals.....The various species of Ovis are wider spread around the world than any other species. ....Some of the remnant species of the 'true' sheep are: in North Africa---the Oudad or Barbary sheep; in Iraq and Iran there are the Blue sheep; in the Himalaya --the tahr; Saudi Arabia has Ibex and also these are found along the Red Sea of North Africa.....The true goats have 60 chromosomes---which are used so frequently by biologist to classify the various animal species....Horn configuration is also one phase of any classification of goats and sheep. Spillett also spoke of thelbex, Markhors, Siberian Ibex which is the largest in Afgahanistan..... .The Spanish Ibex is really a Spanish goat.....The Tur is more a goat than some of the domestic goats and has spiralling horns like the Markhor.....The true sheep are hard to distinguish between goats in some instances unless that males are available for comparison.....When goats are disturbed they put thier tail up and the sheep keep their tail down.....Some Taxonomists claim that there are only two species of wild sheep----there is a lot of disagreement on this....Chromosomes of the wild sheep vary from 54 to 58. In general the Asiatic sheep are divided into four classes North American sheep apparantly derived from the Asiatic snow sheep..... Pure Moufflon sheep are very rare. NOTE: THEY SEEM TO HAVEa record of crossbreeding with most anything closely related.....The red sheep of Afghanistan thesoutheastern part of Iran and some of the sheep and all goats of Asia have beards....the Argali in Central Asia has seven sub-species..The Marco Polo sheep reaches a maximum spread of 75" but are light in weight.....The Amon Amon may stand 50" at the shoulder and weigh up to 500 pounds....Sheep are very adaptable to climatic condition into which they have been dispersed.....The Asiatic Snow Sheep is found near the Arctic Circle in Siberia above Mongolia, Manchuria and the Bering Sea--this sheep has only 52 chromosomes...The related sheep of North America the Dall sheep, the Stone sheep, the Rocky Mountain bighorn and the desert sheep.....As previously noted the domestication of wild sheep began some 10,000 to 12,000 years B.C. By 7,000domestic sheep were in the Mediterranian area and by 5,000 B.C. they were in southern Europe.....With crossbreeding the chromosome count became either 54 or 54.....western breeds have been developed primarily for their fleece, sometimes for meat or milk---this varies with time and place. .....A World wide food shortage is spreading. The United States, Canda, New Zealand and Argentina are the only major exporting food countries.....62% of U.S grain is used at present for livestock feeding and the balance of 38% is used for human consumption.....At present only about 10% of land surface is cropland, 30% is forest and woodland----40% of the land surface is rangeland. THIS MAKES PROPER MANAGEMENT OF THIS LAND VITALLY IMPORTANT.....Overgrazing has caused man-made deserts all around the world and is probably the most important problem to be faced by land managers

Land Managers must determine the best type of vegetation that can be used to re-establish a vegetative cover on these overgrazed lands. Vegetative types that are native to the area are the ones usually that are best suited.....THEN: What type of animals can best utilize the forage provided and do so without destroying the resource, that so frequently is occurring at present--around the World.....Cattle are least efficient animals to convert vegetation to protein for human consumption...-.Small animals can utilize the environment than can the large animals such as cattle....Sheep are much more versatile on range adaptability. The milk of the sheep has more solids, fats and protein than either the cow, buffalo or goat....Some sheep have multiple births, some may even have more than two births per year .....With the need for more protein for human comsumption, other sources are not utilized. For many the use of either horse, burro, goat or sheep meat is not acceptable. The only way in which these attitudes of people can be altered is through the educational process....Crossbred sheep with wild strains would result in a better and more nutricious meat. However, this poses special problems: wildness is not compatable with husbandry; wild sheep are more susceptible to disease, have a lower reproductivity, there is a lack of wool and the harvesting of the animals is not economical. ....Advantages of crossbreeding : greater vigor, crossbreeding of domestic varieties can increase reproduction, adaptabillity to types of forage, qualities of meat and/or wool, larger size.

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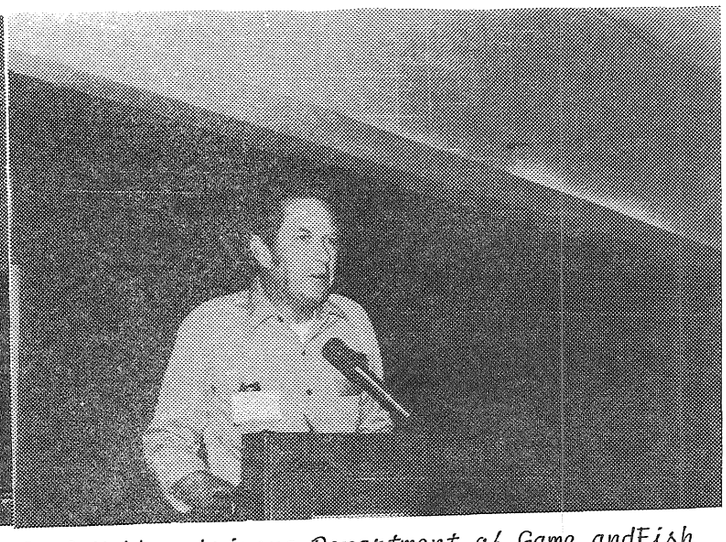
REPORT FROM ARIZONA

The report of the Arizona Game and Fish Department was given by Paul Webb.

The Arizona Department census of bighorns in Arizona was the basis of the determination to allow 56 permits for the year 1978. Of the 56 applicants who drew permits there were 54 who did show up to hunt of these 34 were successful.....In the area just to the north of Tucson there had been four permits issued to hunters. Preservationists (As reported earlier by Glen Griffith of Nevada) attempted to obstruct the hunters in every way possible---they blew whistles and fired blank cartridges(supposedly blank) in their efforts to scare the sheep away from the hunters. They were successful in frightening the sheep, it is true. However, the sheep in their fright practically ran over the hunters. As a result all permittees did successfully fill their permits. Only one hunter succeeded without this 'assist from the 'Anti-

Juan Spillett, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Paul Webb, Arizona Department of Game and Fish

hunters'.....The "Aravaipa " rams horns that were found last fall have been scored at 191 B. & C. points.....Rocky Mountain Bighorns have been introduced into the San Francisco Mountains drainage. Efforts are being made to get another transplant of Rocky Mountain bighorn from the State of Colorado.... Arizona plans to stock the Superstion Mts. in an area to the north of Salt River. Here they will set up an enclsoure for the introduction. After the sheep become accustomed to the area the fences will be removed.

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NOTES FROM DESERT BIGHORN COUNCIL MEETINGS.

The first afternoon Dick Weaver of California Department of Fish and Game reported on present status of bighorns in California.:

Senate Bill 834 now before the Legislature, will if enacted, require the CDFG to write a Management Plan for California's bighorn sheep. AS of June 15th. this bill has been passed out of two committees of the Senate: The Finance Committee and the Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife. It now goes to the floor of the Senate for consideration.

It was found during the time that the bighorns were being baited for capture and transplant from Sawmill Canyon to Wheeler Ridge that some of the Tule Elk nearby showed evidence of having incidence of "Blue Tongue". No eviedence was found among the sheep of this disease. Blue Tong ravaged the herd of California bighorns at the Lava Beds a few years ago..... There are now 28 operating Big Game Guzzlers spread across the California Desert Mountains. Some have had to be repaired again this year. Voluteer labor from those people interested in the well being of bighorns is a tremendous factor in this on-going project. Some 547 man days of labor were logged by these voluteers on water projects during 1978. No estimate is given f the numbers of days of labor donated and not logged.....The University of California during 1978 sought permits to build an obseratory on top of White Mountain at the 14,000' level. The Inyo National Forest has not granted such a permit, as yet. In this area during early summer the lamb--ewe ratio was 57 lambs to 100 ewes. Before the onset of cool weather this ratio had shrunk t 32 lambs per 100 ewes.....Wild horses do use the southend of the White Mts. and in this end of the White Mts. the bighorn sheep have apparantly disappeared during the past 10 years and are apparantly lost. Dr. Charles Douglas plans to use time-lapse photography in a waterhole study in the Death Valley National Monument. Here evidence shows that there is a rapid decline in the numbers of desert bighorns and that there is also a rapid increase in the numbers of feral burros within the Monument. During a recent survey there were 1,600 burros actually seen in the monument and probably many more escaped the vision of the counters. A road-killed ewe had been found near Ridgecrest. This is just out side the China Lake Naval Weapons Center. There are a few bighorns within the Naval area.....53 bighorns with seven lambs had been counted in the Granite Mountains.....In the Providence Mts. the Wood Mt. Spring has a new burro proof fence around it. Burros will have access to water down the mountain a ways and out of sheep habitat.....In the San Gabriel Mts., Jim DeForge has succeeded with 110 people on the ground and with use of helicopter observers to amke a count of 220 bighorns seen from the ground and 420 from the air. From this the actual population is assumed to be 520 bighorn.....Dr. Douglas has hope that during this year of 1979 he will be able to get another water source for bighorns in the Joshua Tree National Monument.....In the Santa Rosa Mts. during the last two years there has been no survival of lambs. However, during late March 1979 a helicopter flight showed a ratio of 52 lambs to 100 ewes. No totals of actual sightings was given. These Santa Rosa Mts. are a checkerboard of private and BLM lands. The Society has been involved in land purchases in these mountains for a number of years. During 1978 the State of California acquired title to 24,000 of these acres. This gives protection from "development" to a great deal larger area.....There is a new Visitor Center at the Anza Borrego State Park.

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Report from North Dakota

During January 1978, three bighorn ewes were tranquilized from a helicopter using the drug M-99. One ewe from each of three study areas, Moody Plateau, South Unit of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, and Magpie Creek, received a radio-transmitter collar. These three animals were monitored to gather data ondaily and seasonal movements. home range, population

interactions, habitat utilization, natality and lamb survival, mortallity, influence of human harassment, and effects of energy developments. Except for natality and lamb survival, data are imcomplete and studies are still in progress.. By August 1978, the bighorn herd in the Moody Plateau study area had 100 percent reproduction and 50 percent lamb survival. The Park herd had 37 percent reproduction and zero lamb survival, and the Magpie Creek herd had 42 percent reproduction and zero lamb survival.....At no time during the study period did any other family group enter or cross the home range of the study group.....The problem of lamb survival is not unique to North Dakota and in fact is quite ubiquitous.....In most of the sheep ranges the cause has been lungworms and preliminary data indicate this too is the problem in the North Dakota herd. All the lambs in the Park and Magpie Creek herds died at two to 4 weeks of age and the Moody Plateau lambs died at 10 to 12 weeks of age. These data follow the pattern observed in Colorado where lamb mortality was attributed to transplancental migration of lungworm larvae.....Three hypotheses are proposed to explain the cause of the lungworm outbreak: cold, wet weather during April and May predisposed the lamb to bacterial pneumonia, stress from overcrowding lowered the resistance of the lambs, and the age of the transplants may be causing a degeneration in population quality.

All ten hunters in the 1978 bighorn season were successful in bagging rams.

NORTH DAKOTA OUTDOORS ---- Steven D. Fairaizi, Research Associate, Univ. N.D.

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORNS PLANTED

On May 10 eight Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep were released in the Blue Range Primitive area in eastern Arizona, creating what is hoped will be the nucleus of the resident population in the area.

The two rams and six pregnant ewes were trapped the night before the release near Estes Park, Colorado. They were delivered by Colorado Game, Fish and Parks sheep biologists and released by the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

New Mexico began a Rocky Mountain bighorn reintroduction program fifteen years ago, beginning with twenty animals, and that herd has multiplied to establish a wide ranging resident population. Some of the New Mexico sheep have been sighted in the Blue Ridge area, and it is hoped that eventually the sheep will establish themselves throughout a large area of historic Rocky Mountain sheep habitat in the border region.

Two of the ewes were equipped with radio transmitter collars before they were released so that the herds movements can be tracked.

June 1, 1979 Arizona Game and Fish Department WILDLIFE NEWSLETTER

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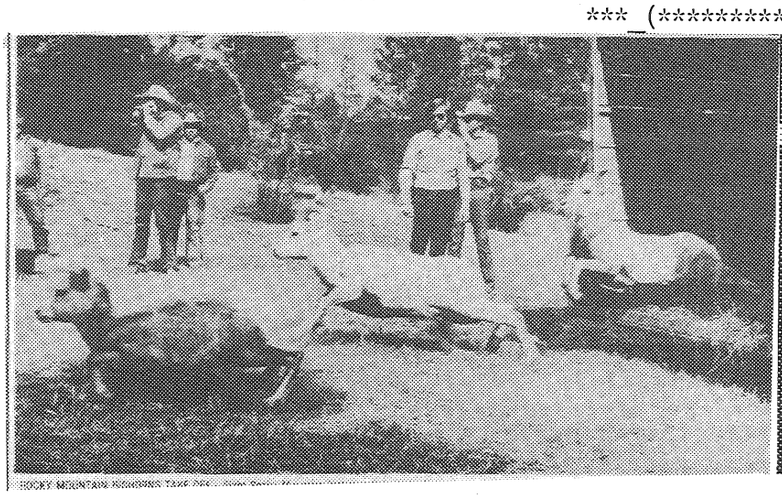

Rocky Mountain bighorns being released onto the Blue Range Primitive Area. Photo: Arizona Dep't Game and Fish

Dr. Valerius Geist of the University of Calgary on left is presented the Outstanding Achievement Award by Lloyd Zeman, President of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep. Zeman is on the right; M.C. Dr. James H."Red" Duke is in background.

Dr. Valerius Geist, pictured at right above has presented numerous thought provoking articles that have been used at times in THE SHEEPHERDER. During his discussion before the Foundation meeting this spring Dr. Geist also did express his deep concern about the introduction of true desert sheep such as the Barbary Sheep into desert bighorn habitat. Geist is a strong advocator of research projects into the well-being of all bighorns.

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NEVADA REPORT

George Tsukamoto reported for the Nevada Department of Fish and Game. Two helicopter surveys have been made during late winter on the winter range and on the Desert Wildlife Range. During a two hour flight 489 sheep had been classified. These were in a ratios of 54 lambs and 28 rams to each 100 ewes. This is approximately the same as that found in 1978. During these surveys they use a tape - photo camera. Nevada wishes to have a better age classification of the rams ages as it is related to harvest.. In 1978 there were 582 residents applied for the 72 permits and 381 applications for the 9 non-resident permits. 55 rams were harvested for a success ratio of 68% This compares with the 75% of 1976 and 72 % success of 1977; ages ranged from four years to thirteen years with an average of 7.2 years of age; 23 were less than seven years of age. There has been good forage the past two years and this did

result in good horn growth. Average score was 156-2/8 points with two rams making the B.& C. Record book. Hunters spent an average of eight days hunting---this seemed to be near the limit of hunter endurance.....Nevada lands have been inventoried concerning suitable habitat for bighorns and emphasis will be placed upon trapping and transplanting into suitable habitats and in the developement of water in ranges where it is needed. The Virgin Mountains are ready to receive a transplant of California bighorns sometime in August 1979 .....Horizontal wells are proving beneficial. However, the Department of Fish and Game is handicapped in their drilling program due to the insistence by the management agency that any water that may be developed through horizontal well drilling be in positions where it is available to domestic livestock---through the 'Multiple Use principle'.

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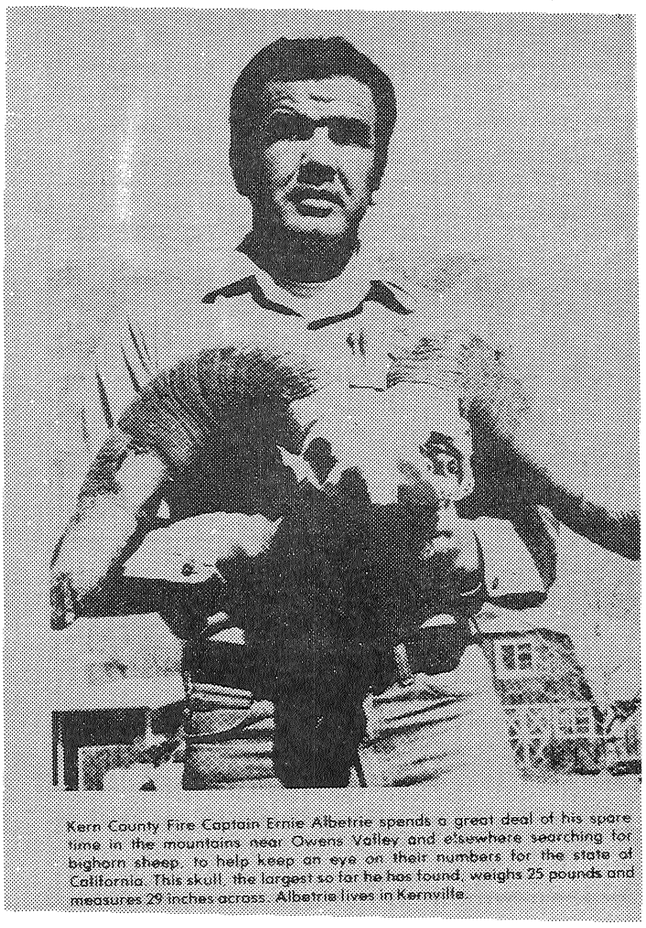
THIS FIRE CAPTAIN RELAXES BY COUNTING SHEEP

It is not due to inability to sleep that is reason for Ernest "Ernie" Albetrie using spare time for sheep counting. Neither is the counting done on a ranch but is in the mountains of California. It may be in the Inyo, White Mts., or in the Sierras or in the desert. Ernie has a great deal of interest and concern for the wild sheep of California. In one report from Ernie he wrote of his having checked the big game guzzlers in both the Dry Mts. and in the Last Chance range as well. In the Dry Mts. he found the three tanks to be dry (report of April 3rd) and no water in the guzzler. The guzzler of the Last Chance Range was fully operational and the three tanks were filled. Although he saw no sheep at the latter he did observe recent sheep dropping about the guzzler. He did enclose photos of the guzzlers. Ernie is deeplly involved with Native American affairs, having been born in Bakersfield as a member of the Charachapache tribe, he is past chairman of the American Indian Council of Central California. Not only does he serve the people of Kern County as a Captain of the Fire Department but also serve both the Kern County Sheriff and Fire Departments on their Search and Rescue teams.



Kern County Fire Captain Ernie Albetrie spends a great deal of his spare time in the mountains near Owens Valley and elsewhere searching for bighorn sheep to help keep an eye on their numbers for the state of California. This skull, the largest so far he has found, weighs 25 pounds and measures 29 inches across. Albetrie lives in Kernville.

Ernie has been a hard worker in efforts to get some solutions to the problems facing the bighorns. One of these is the conflict with the feral burro and its adverse effects upon the habitat of all the desert wildlife and especially that of the desert bighorns. Ernie is the one who sought and obtained the cooperation of the Inter-Tribal Council of Native American Indians here in California and in its efforts to obtain permission of the Congress for these Native Americans to utilize the meat of the feral burro as a source of protein

Unfortunately, the effrots of Ernie and of the Sportsmen's Council of Central California were unsuccessf ul in enlisting the support of other Indian Nations of the Southwestern States. The Tribal Councils of the Hualapai, the Hopi and the Navajo Nations were all approached for their support during the past several months. But, to no avail. Consensus of opinion being that getting the burro meat is just too much work; this is also coupled with a general ample income and the supplemental food allotments. Many of these tribal members are working in the coal fields of Arizona, and in Utah and reportedly receiving pay checks of approxiametely $1200.00 during a two-week pay period. Jim Walters, a Resource Management Specialist and Biologist for the Grand Cany on National Park did go before the various mentionedTribal Council of Arizona and endeavored to gain their cooperation.

Ernie also spend a part of his leisure moments in assisting the California State Parks and Recreation Commission in the preservation and locating of historical sites of the native American cultures of Kern County and norther Los Angeles County.

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SOCIETY SHEEPHERDERS GATHER IN FRESNO

by

Wayne A. Dickson

The Rams and Ewes of the Society together with their guests began to gather around the "Watering Hole" obout 6:30 p.m.. The event wasthe annual spring dinner of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep which was held this year at the Townhouse in Fresno, California on April 21, 1979. The gathering brought together new and old friends with the common bond for helping the ighorn in any way they can.

The "browse" provided by the Townhouse was excellent and the program which followd was even better. T he guest speaker, John Wehausen, documented his story with magnificent color slides of the Eastern Sierra Nevada sheep habitat in and around Mt. Baxter and Mt. Williamson. The slides and John's commentary about the beautiful high alpine meadows was in sharp contrast to the more familiar desert haunts we have become accustomed to. All members wish to thank John for his contributions, both in the field and as our guest speaker.

Following John Wehausen to the speaking platform was a figure familiar to sheep lovers everywhere. Dick Weaver had a 20 minute color film, hot out of the laboratory documenting the capture of the nine sheep in Sawmill Canyon. Also portrayed was the transportation to and the release some 40 miles north at Pine Creek Canyon.

It wasn't many years ago that this type of transplant project would have been impossible here in the state of California. The time has been long and the work has been hard, but we are finally measuring successful progress. Lets keep up the good work.

The "Fresno Safari", coordinated by our northern father and sons hosts (Marvin, Paul and Bob Wood) was a great night and we here from southern California appreciated your hospitallity. We look forward to seeing "you-all" at next Fall's get together.

NOTE: Tentative and probable date will be October 6th and at Michael's----CIRCLE THE DATE.

If you do not now own a membership T-shirt with a picture of Spots imprinted on the front you really are not in-the-know...To catch upwith the rest of us contact Jeanette Svenson, 3666 Adler Place, Chino Hills, California 91710 --Ph. (714) 597 - 6120. Jeanette, a sheep club member and a very active field participant, has ample supply of all sizes-small, medium, large and extra large. Just forward $6.50 to Jeanette and she will mail you one or more immediately. Don't be left out, they are well worth the money and will give us some advertising too.

NOTE: The Editor does appreciate the help given by Wayne Dickson for having written this report. The Editor could not attend--he had lost a battle with the 'flu'.

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BLM PROPOSES TOUGHER RULES FOR WILD HORSE ADOPTIONS

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

The May 1979 issue of BLM's NEWSBEAT carried an article concerning the newly proposed rules for the adoption of the feral horses and burros captured on the National Resource Lands. The Sportsmen's Council of Central California believes that implementation of these rules will be an asset in the management of the "Adopt-a wild-horse-or burro Program". However, these rules by themselves are not going to solve the problems associated with the ever increasing numbers of these feral animals. To the present (June 20) the program has not even met the numbers of animals in the annual increase. Furthermore, it appears that the actual reduction of horse and burro numbers may be forced to wait until the Commission to be appointed and it's recommendations reported to the Congress sometime prior to January 1, 1983. This is required under the Public Law 95-514---The Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978. Concerning these "rules" the National Wildlife Federation also asks the Director of the BLM: How long do all excess or problem horses and/or burros have to be held awaiting a possible "Adopter" before they may be declared 'excess' and then disposed of? What shall be done with the carcasses of the 'excess' animals?

NOTE: The Horse protectionist groups did raise a great stink about the fact that the BLM did bury a great many of the excess horses in the state of Nevada and which had been killed after having been found diseased and ill by a team of licensed Veterinarians after these horses had been captured and for whom no homes had been found.

NWF also asks the BLM Director, Mr. Frank Gregg, if it would be possible to transfer the carcasses of such destroyed horses or burros to wildlife zoos to serve as food for such zoo animals.

The Sportsmen's Council has also adopted a Resolution to be sent to all members of the California Delegation from Central California for their assistance in the implementation of the plans of the Grand Canyon National Park for the removal of feral burros from that park.

A rumor has been laid to rest. This was one that the Senator Mathias of Maryland had introduced legislation to ban the removal of burros from Grand Canyon National Park. I have learned by way of Hon. G. William Whitehurst of Virginia that Senator Mathis did introduce such a bill into the Congress. However, that bill did die with the close of the 95th Congress and Senator Mathias has no intention of reintroducing that bill during the present 96th Congress.

BURRO PROGRAM UPDATE- - - B.L.M. ----October 1, 1978 to June 1, 1979

Louis A. Boll, Bakersfield District Manger for the Bureau of Land Management announced in mid-June that the B LM has expanded its trapping areas in Fiscal 1979. In addition to trapping in the Saline Valley and Lee Flat, traps have been set up in the Panamint Vallley and Hunter Mountain areas. Bakersfield BLM wranglers have spent many hours in the field setting traps, transporting burros and moving traps to the areas of more concentrated burro numbers. They have also been at the holding corral to load burros for adopters.

A holding corral in Olancha has been facilitated since the addition of the trapping areas south of Saline Valley. This has cut down the expense of transporting captured burros the extra distance to Bishop, California.

Not having adoptions on a "walk-up" basis has lessened the number of transfers and helped with follow-ups by the more extensive screening possible.

One potential adopter visited the corral facility in Bishop during the Mule Days Celebration and commended the District's care of the burros and the lack of injuries to the animals. In spite of insufficient funding, the program has improved in each year of activity.

One of the goals in the future of the program is the use of Mobile Adoption Centers to reach potential adopters who presently must travel great distances to pick up their animals. This method of adoption may be used in California programs this year.

During the above time period 108 burros have been captured and 88 of them adopted. Of these Jacks were 50 and 36; Jennies 58 and 47; Two were Euthanised by DVM's. Also there were five horses captured and all were adopted. There remain 23 burros available for adoption.

BLM News Release by courtesy of Dick Weaver, California Dept.F. & G.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COMMUNICATION

A letter from Roland H. Wauer, Chief, Division of Natural Resources (dated July 10,1979) states in part: " Members of the Staff if Grand Canyon have analyzed all comments that were received on the Draft Environmental Statement and now are preparing a draft of an Action Plan and a Final Environmental Statement which will incorporate those comments plus Park Service analysis. This draft of the Action Plan and Final Environmental Statememt will be reviewed by members of our Regional and Washington Offices and by the Secretary's Office of Environmental Project Review. It then will be presented to Secretary Andrus for his decision, probably in the Fall of this year. Once Secretary Andrus has selected the appropriate course of action, we will publish the Final Environmental Statement and Plan, and thirty (30) days later, will begin to implement the adopted plan." end quote. Hence it wo ld seem that the wheels of government grind excedingly slow. Grand Canyon burro problem still a long way from solution.

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SUMMER WATERHOLE WILDLIFE COUNTS----- Many have been completed, probably. Many have perhaps not been done as yet. These are a necessary part of the Desert Water For Wildlife Program. Send your reports in to Glen Sudmeier---NOTE HIS NEW ADDRESS: Glen Sudmeier, Star Route, Box 4 - C, Hesperia, California 92345. Res. is 12121 Summit Valley Road, Summit Valley, Cal. Phone: (714) 389 - 2498. Reports are important even though you may see no sheep--temperatures and rains can nullify wildlife coming in to the water source.

Labor Day Weekend----Pete Sanchez in Death Valley National Monument is in need of people who can backpack into waterholes in the Panamint Mountains. These waterholes are well beyond the end of roads. Write to Sanchez at the Death Valley National Monument, Death Valley, Calif. 92328 or telephone him at DVNM (714) 786 - 2331 or home at (714) 786 - 2281.

October 6th---the Annual Dinner meeting of the Society to be held again at Michael's in Los Angeles

DOCTOR LUTZ IS NOW A GOLDEN BEAR

Doctor Loren L. Lutz, President of our Society , and a Pasadenan is also the past Chairman of the California State Parks and Recreation Commission. During March of this year he has received the Parks and Recreation Department's highest award, the Golden Bear, for his 12 years of dedicated service with the department. The award was presented during a dedication ceremony of the department's new vusutirs center at Borrego Springs. Victoria raujo of the commission made the presentation.. Dr. Lutz had been first appointed to the commission by overnor Reagan to the then called Riding and Hiking Trails Committee. Lutz then was appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission, of which he was twice chairman. While on the commission he was noted for his vigorous espousal of recreation on the public lands, including use of motorc ycles and four-wheel crive vehicles, and hunting. He was also instrumental in preserving bighorn sheep habitat and in acquisition of lands like San Luis Island for the T ule elk. Doctor Lutz was responsible for the off-road vehicle fund commonly called the Green Sticker program, and worked on many programs for riding and hiking trails and historic trails like the Butterfield Stage Route. He was instrumental in developing a state recreational policy which recognizes both consumptive and non-consumptive uses of natural resources. Additionally he has been Presidnet of the Society for the Consevation of Bighorn Sheep since its founding in 1964 and as President of the Los Angeles Chapter of Safari Club International. Doctor Lutz has a ranch in W yoming where on occassion he does go for a little relaxation and a bit of huntingin the fall of the year. On rare occassions he may found in his Dental Office in Alhambra. The trouble with his dental practice is that it interferes with his work in conservation with his labors for the Calfornia Wildlife Federation, Sheep Society, land acquisition projects for wildlife, etc.

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Dr. Lutz reported (7/19/79) that he had 'sat' on a waterhole July 3-4 &5th and had seen only nine sheep come in to water---in San Jacinto Mts. None of the sheep observered were either lambs or yearlings.

Lew and Marguerite Carpenter reported that they watched the B.G.G. at Red Rock Caves July 4 - 5- & 6th and saw only on adult bighorn. There were more than 160 Gambel Quail that did come to water one morning. Temperature was a mild 96 degrees in the cave. Us ally this area near Needles wo uld have been 108 to 110 degrees in the cave. Night-time temperature ranged down to the mid-60's.