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

MARCH - APRIL 1979

TWO SHEEPHERDERS NOW TENDING THEIR FLOCKS IN ANOTHER LAND

Wildlife in general and the bighorn sheep in particular have lost two of their friends recently. Members of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn sheep have lost two of its ardent supports.

Dwayne Moeller, one of the incorporators of the Society, suffered a heart attack recently from which he did not recover. Moeller a resident of Pasadena was one of the five men who formed the nucleus from which the Society has gained a great deal of respect over the years since 1964. Dwayne will be sorely missed by his family and many friends.

Arthur W. Carlsberg, was a young man of 46 at the time he suffered the fatal fall while hunting Tur in the Caucus Mountains of Russia. Carlsberg of Los Angeles dealt in real estate and was well know as a leader of that industry. Carlsberg was also the winner of the presigeous Weatherby Trophy for 1978. It was presented posthumously to his widow the evening of December 1, 1978.

The world is certainly better off for their having been a part of it.

NOTE: It is interesting to note that the vast majority of those men and women who contribute of their time, financial resources and labors for the betterment of our fish and wildlife resources are those people who are the outdoor people who do hunt and fish. They know the problems and are willing to really do something toward the solutions other than just to give a verbal treatment to a recognized necessity.
In speaking of Carlberg and of hunters the NRA's American Rifleman states: "He was a proud member of that fraternity of hunters he once wrote: 'We are in love with the outdoors...the sunsets, the mountain tops, the rivers and streams, the deserts and the forests. We hunters are the true children of Mother Nature, and it is nice to leave our modern civilization and go home...to a clear clean air, the mountains, the outdoors." This both have now done.

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BOB MONTGOMERY HONORED

The evening of February 2, 1979, the Department of Fish and Game, Region 5 held a dinner dance at the Elk's Club in Long Beach, California honoring Robert D. "Bob" Montgomery on his retirement.

Bob has served the Department of Fish and Game through the past twenty-five years. He h has had the duties of Regional Manager for the past nine of those years. Region 5 is a large region containing the counties of Inyo and Mono on the north, the San Bernardino county and all of the counties to the south. It has been a challenging position and is the area of the greatest concern in problems concerning the bighorn sheep____IT IS SHEEP COUNTRY.

Dr. Loren L. Lutz, President of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, presented Bob with a beautiful placque, honoring him for his dedicated concern for the habitat and welfare of the bighorn sheep, and for his leadership and continued efforts in maintaining the Volunteer Desert Water for Wiidlife program in the State of California..

Bob we wish you well in your retirement years.

A.W. 'Bud' Wiedeman.

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

April 4 - 5 - 6 Desert Bighorn Council meeting in Boulder City Nevada---See related article on this.

April 21-- Society holds its Spring Dinner meeting at the TOWNHOUSE in Fresno. See related article.

April 7 & 8 Reposition the drinker and build a burro exclosure at the Big Game Guzzler on South I - 40

April 28 & 29 a new development at the Smith Spring in the Sacramento Mountains to the southwest of Needles about eleven miles. See article on this.

May 19 & 20 Paint the tanks of the two big game guzzlers in the Piute Mountains and in the Clipper Mountains.

IF YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN THESE WORK PROJECTS BE SURE TO CONTACT GLENN SUDMEIER, the Society's Water Projects Coordinator at 1728 Hillside, Norco, California 92760 or telephone him at (714) 735- 4387 well in advance of the above dates.

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NOTICE -- NOTICE

Secretary John E.O. Larronde has notified the Editor of THE SHEEPHERDER that there are a number of 1978 members who have not as yet sent in their dues for 1979. The Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, like other conservation organizations cannot long operate without funds. It will be painful to us to have to discontinue sending out copies of THE SHEEPHERDER on a free basis to one-time members.

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SPRING DINNER TO BE HELD IN FRESNO

The Spring dinner meetings of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep have for several years been held in Bakersfield. This year there is to be a change. The site will be THE TOWNHOUSE in Fresno. The location is in the block directly across Tulare Street from the Courthouse Park, a well known and easily found landmark of the city. Entrance may be either Tulare St., M St., or from "L" St.

Life Member Bob Wood of Firebaugh is spearheading the arrangements. Many of the leading MOTEL CHAINS have facilities within short walking distances from The Townhouse. Fresno being the scene of many Conventions it will be wise to make room reservations early. Available nearby: Hilton Hotel, Imperial-400. Other good facilities are available--but beyond easy walking distance of the TOWNHOUSE HOTEL.---See your AAA book. Evening Schedule:

6:30 p.m. NO-HOST Social Hour---or-Waterhole Count

7:30 p.m. DINNER IS TO BE SERVED---a NEW YORK STEAK DINNER IS TO BE ORDERED--Price $12.50

8:15 p.m. is the approx. time sceduled for the evening program. The Primary speaker is to be Mr. John Wehausen A graduate of the University of Michigan will be the primary speaker of the evening. Wehausen has during the past two-years been living in the habitat of the Sawmill Canyon-Mt. Baxter area of the eastern side of the Sierras making a study of the California bighorn sheep of that area (*Ovis canadensis californiana*). Wehausen's study is to complete his thesis for a Doctoral Degree from the University of Michigan. 9There is a related article this issue).

Glenn Sudmeier, Water Chairman for the Society will relate the history and the objectives of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep.

Richard "Dick" Weaver a Game Management Biologist and Researcher for the California Department of Fish and Game---Sacramento office will relate some of his two-year study of the desert bighorn sheep (*O. c. nelsoni & O.c. cremnotaes*) and its relationship to the Society.

People who are not attending the dinner will be welcome to aktend the after-dinner program of the evening. THERE WILL BE NO CHARGE TO THIS MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Dr. Loren L. Lutz, DDS, Presidnet of the Society will introduce the speakers.

THE PURPOSES OF THE MEETING ARE TO INFORM THE NON_MEMBER PUBLIC CONCERNING THE BIGHORN SHEEP AND TO ENLARGE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP.

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TO THOSE RECEIVING REPLY POST CARDS------PLEASE USE THEM - WHETHER YOU PLAN TO COME OR NOT.

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SMITH SPRING PROJECT

This is the only completely new water development project that the Society and the Department of Fish and Game have scheduled, to this date, for the year of 1979. On the most of previous projects of this nature we have completed them or nearly so in one day. This may be the case on this project. Howver, do allow for a possible second day of work. A letter from Glen Sudmeier assures the Editor that the 'road'? from Needles will be passable for two-wheel drive vehicles. This is not always the case.

Directions: On Broadway, in Needles take the "L" St. undercrossing of Highway I- 40. Then make a hard right turn on the first street----even though it is signed DEAD END. Pavement soon ends---go over a real high levee and down into and across a wash working toward the Southwest. You will soon---400 yards-- get out of the wash and onto a once bladed dirt and gravel road. This road goes through the Eagle Pass to the Southwest. Go about 6.5 miles and you come to a levee. Campground will be just beyond this first of three levees. We leave camp at 7:00 a.m. Saturday morning April 28. Go by 4-Wheel drive down one wash then up another about 4.5 or 5. miles. From that point it is about 2½ miles to walk up along the wash to the project site. THERE ARE TO BE DIRECTION SIGNS ALONG THE WAY At Needles. WALK WITH CARE THE TRAIL IS EASY--BUT I HAVE SEENSNAKES IN THE AREA ON MORE THAN ONE TRIP.

NOTE: Glenn's letter says "L" Street undercrossing. I thought it was the "K" Street undercrossing. NO MATTER-- there are to be signs. lew.

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BURROS OF GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK AGAIN TAKE THE SPOTLIGHT

In June 1976 the National Park Service presented a preliminary burro management plan for the Grand Canyon National Park. Between then and January 1977 this generated a great deal of public concern both pro and con. Much of which was begun by a Colorado River Guide during a Chicago television interview. His presentation seems suspect he being in the business of carrying passengers down the Colorado River in rafts, and realizing the positive effect that burro watching might have on river running customers. The heat generated a demand for a full blown Environmental Impact Statement. This has taken two years to accomplish. On January 22, 1979 the Plan was submitted by the National Park Service for public review and six public meeting were scheduled to take place between February 27th and March 8th of this year. Public comments must be received by the Park Service prior to April 5, 1979.

The FERAL BURRO MANAGEMENT AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PLAN for the Grand Canyon National Park evolved from studies conducted. They found burros occupying some 116,000 acres in the Tonto Plateau, Shimunu, Lower Canyon and Grand Wash areas. Burro census showed there was some 300 animals, actually 266 were counted. NOTE: Studies by Dr. Robert Omart have shown that the very best censuses of burros are very much below the actual population levels. Population increments were found to range in the herds from 11% to 17% per annum.

National Park Service Management Objectives state that they are : QUOTE:
"To maintain, preserve, and perpetuate the esthetic setting and the natural/ cultural resources of Park areas.

To restore conditions conducive to the perpetuation of the natural processes as they functioned before disruption by technological man or competition from non-native plants and animals.

To restore native plants and animals to their original range.

To restore to natural appearance the land surfaces disturbed by man, recognizing that significant cultural values must be preserved.

To ensure perpetuation of rare and endangered plants and animals and those species endemic to the national park.

To develop and execute continuing research progarams for natural and cultural resources."

Sixteen species of threatened and endangered plants occur in the Grand Canyon National Park areas ranged by the burro herds. Many of these species are being utilized by the burros for food, others are being damaged by trampling and erosian.

Archeological sites in nine different areas have been as much as fifty percent destroyed by trampling, rolling and fecal deposits.

Water resources and quality are being severely degraded in at least 26 different areas frequented by burros.

Soils on the talus slopes are severely eroded as a result of burro trailings. Furthmore the displacement of the 'desert pavement' by their sharp hooves induces wind action erosian and dust storms.

Small mamal populations (rodents) in areas of burro utilization are only one-fourth that of comparable areas undisturbed by burros. Similarly, it has been determined by studies by Buechner 1960, Bendt 1957 and Russo 1956 that desert bighorn sheep have been on a decline throughout the southwest during the past 200 years. "A decline can be attributed to a number

of factors, mainly man's activities such as mining, ranching and recreation. The habitat necessary to support normal populations of bighorn is gradually disappearing. The feralization of the burro, a direct result of man's activities, may be one of the many important factors leading to loss of bighorn habitat in some desert areas."

The first recorded release of burros in the Grand Canyon was by William Bass during the early 1880's. He was apparantly trying to assure himself of replacement pack animals for use in the canyon. Burros had escaped from Spanish esplorers and from mineral explorers prior to and following that period of history throughout the southwestern states. Burro population in Arizona is placed at 3,000; some 4,000 in California. At least 13,000 burros roam the public lands of the western states. Mexico claims a population of 3, 841,000 burros and have informed the Park Service that they have too many themselves and cannot control their numbers in Baja California. World wide burro population is at least 40 million. This assures us that certainly the burro cannot be considered in any manner to be an endangered specie.

Carefully kept records of the costs of capture and live removal of burros have been made in two types of terrain---those accessible by use of horses for capture by roping and removal by leading or herding and secondly in terrain where helicopters must be used for both purposes. Two different areas of each categories were used for this study. The average costs in the first were $921.00 per animal and in the second using helicopters the cost was $442.00 per burro. Costs in both cases being so very high as to discourage participation by private individuals, especially so when burros can be bought on the open market at a cost of $6.00 to $20.00 per animal depending upon its age, sex and whether or not it is broken for use.

As a result of this re-study of the well-known problem the National Park Service has determined its onl yrecourse is that qualified teams of Park personnel armed with telescopic sighted rifles be taken into burro areas by helicopter and that the burros be shot and left to removal by scavengers and decomposition in places not in sight of or frequented by park visitors. Plans call for the complete reduction of the herds in the Lower Canyon, the Tonto Plateau and in the Shinumu areas. The Grand Wash herd, however, consisting of some ten or twelve animals (it is thought) are to be herded off park lands and then a burro-proof fence is to be erected to prevent their re-entry. The fence will also prevent the entry of trespass domestic livestock grazing upon nearby lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management. The National Park Service plans a six-month period of time, during which the general public will be invited to capture and remove what burros they desire.

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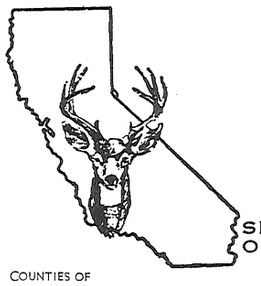

LEWIS CARPENTER
815 W. GETTYSBURG AVE.
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93705
PHONE (209) 227-9140

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 Sportsmen's Council of Central California has fully endorsed the above burro management plan and urges that every one interested in the protection of the flora and fauna of the Southwestern States write letters in support of the implementation of this FERAL BURRO MANAGEMENT AND ECOSYSTEM RESORATION PLAN for the Grand Canyon National Park.

IT IS IMPRERATIVE TO REMEMBER thatthe data found in this two year study applies also to all those other National Resource Lands outside of Grand Canyon. The Death Valley National Monument is in at least as dire straits as are the ecosystems of the Grand Canyon. Death Valley is waiting for a 'Green Light' to implement a plan of its own. Similar plans need to be made for those National Resource Lands not under the National Park Service.

THEREFORE WRITE YOUR LETTERS IN SUPPORT TO:
Mr. Merle E. Stitt, Superintendent,
Grand Canyon National Park,
Post Office Box 129
Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023

REMEMBER

NOT LATER THAN

APRIL 5, 1979

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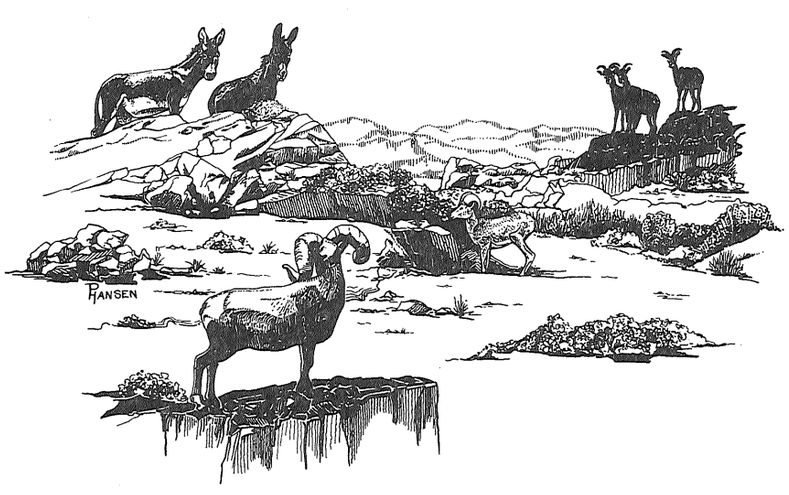
You have an opportunity to express your beliefs and opinions.

Do you prefer the exotic, North African feral burro? Or do you support the continued existence of the native desert bighorn sheep and the other species of wildlife found in the desert areas?



Peter G. Sanchez, Resource Management Specialst for the Death Valley National monument put it this way.
"If burro control is unacceptable, the public must accept the ecological fact of life that the Death Valley ecosystem will continue to alter until a new equilibrium is reached and native populations will continue to decline significantly. In the long term, the disappearance of some native species can be expected."

SO WRITE YOUR LETTERS

DESERT BIGHORN COUNCIL

The Annual Meeting of the DBC will be held at the Elks Lodge in Boulder City, Nevada April 4 and 5 with the Field trip on the 6th. This field trip will be into the River Mountains---the cooperative study area of the National Park Service and the Nevada Department of Fish and Game and will include the viewing of vegetative study plots and the demonstration of the workings of the Drop Gate Panel Trap which has been so successfully used during marking projects and the capturing of bighorns used for the several transplanting projects both in Nevada and elsewhwere including the Zion National Park.

Conference attendees will be welcomed by Glen Griffith, Director of the Nevada DFG. Leading off the program will be Juan Spillett, U.S.F.&W. Service and Tom Bunch of Utah State University giving "A New Look at Wild Sheep. There will be status reports from seven western states; from four National Parks and Monuments and from our Southern neighbors in Mexico. Bunch will also update his studies concerning Sinusitis which has been one of the causes of mortallity among the bighorns. A study sponsored by the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, titled:Decline of Bighorn Sheep--The Genetic Implications, will be presented by James DeForge, Charles W. Jenner, D.V.M., Glenn Sudmeier and A.J. Plechner D.V.M. Dr. David Simpson of the Texas State University will give The Implications of Head Size to the Desert Bighorn Transplant Program.

The host motel will be the El Rancho Boulder, 725 Nevada Hw'y, Boulder City,Nevada 89005

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WORTH SEEING AND READING

The January 1979 issue of AUDUBON the publication of the National Audubon Society has two articles that should be of especial interest to SHEEPHERDERS. One is titled :Like not since a hundred years the rains came" by Steven C. Wilson/Entheos is about the desert and its vegetation. There are anumber of great color photos. This should remind us that this Spring the flowers on the desert will again be gorgeous.

A second Photo story is by James K. Morgan and is titled Fall into Grace. Jim is known to many of the bighorn fraternity for his devotion to the study and welfare of the bighorns. In the state of Idaho Jim has put his personal safety and his work right 'on-the-line' in his efforts to improve the habitat of the bighorns to the North of Cahllis. He has written about the bighorns and their plight on overgrazed cattle ranges in the Geographic Magazine and his article has been reviewed in THE SHEEPHERDER.

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A CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP TRANSPLANT MAY TAKE PLACE

During the months of February and March of 1978 the California DFG had high hopes of making a transplant from the Mt. Baxter herd of California bighorns into an historic but presently unoccupied range to the Northwest of Bishop. The trap had been built, long in advance of projected trapping dates. The nard to come by apple pulp had been obtained. There were volunteers to put the fermented apple pulp bait out for the sheep on a daily basis. However, the sheep were too skeptical and would not come in to the bait-trapping station area.

However, this year it may be a new ball game. First the apple pulp was put out on a regular basis and it also disappeared on a regular basis. Observation of the area by Marvin Wood and others, however, showed that it was not the sheep taking the bait but was a herd of mule deer. Marvin said that he saw the sheep at a distance from that first station, and near another area suitable for trapping. Consequently, the bait station was moved, and the sheep did come in to get the bait. Dick Weaver in a recent note reports that nine ewes are taking the bait. He has hopes that more sheep will also come in before an attempt is made to trap them. There being no rams in this particular band, and if none join in with the nine ewes, then the Department would capture two or three rams of breeding age by the use of helicopter and darting them with the drug M-99. This has proven an effective method.

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SYMPOSIUM ON THE ECOLOGY AND BEHAVIOR OF WILD HORSES, BURROS AND OTHER EQUIDS

Dr. Denniston, of the Department of Zoology and Physiology of the University of Wyoming in Laramie has announced that the above symposium will be held on their campus September 6 through 8, 1979. Papers are requested for this conference on the general topics of Equid Behavior, Dominanace Strategies, Habitat Usage, Movements & Home Ranges, Population Dynamics, Environmental Impacts, food habits, Foal Natality and Survivorship, Predation, Scientifc Background of Management of Wild Equids and Physiology of Water and Nutrient Requirements of Feral Equids.

The Procededings will be published and should furnish interesting background information.

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BLM'S DESERT WILDERNESS INVENTORY PROGRAM DELAYED

Notice has been received by me, the Editor, that the Final California Desert Conservation Area Wilderness Inventory Map and Narratives will not be available until March 31st. The original plan had been that these would be distrubet on February 28th. A great deal of public comment had been received during the week prior to the deadline for comments. Another unexpected problem has been the recent nationwide paper shortage, and the difficulties experienced by the Government Printing Office in locating a printer with enough paper to complete the job in necessary numbers to provide copies to their own commentators and to the interested public.

When they are received they will contain a list of the specific areas that the State Director will have decided should go to the BLM Desert Plan Staff for further study as Wilderness Study Areas.

The Wilderness Study Phase will be completed September 30, 1980, with publication of the California Desert Plan. Opportunities for study and comment will be given to those interested.

NOTES BELOW ARE OPINIONS OF THE EDITOR LEW CARPENTER

NOTE : There are many unanswered questions that have been asked and to which we cannot get an answer from anyone in a position of responsibility.

I have asked California Department of Fish and GAme some of these. One of which is: Will the water storage facilities that have been built in the desert for it's wildlife be permitted to remain if that area does become a Wilderness? THe Wilderness Act does say that water facilities for DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK MAY REMAIN AND BE SERVICED. However, it says nothing about wildlife. I have requested this answer also from the Solicitor of the Department of the Interior. I did receive a letter from him. However, he carefully avoided the question and also the question of what did the Congress intend back in 1964 when they adopted the Wilderness Act? Nowhere can we find a definition of a road until the Federal Land Plicy and Management Act of 1976 does touch on this term. However the Solicitor did state that that definition would be subject to review in the State of Nevada.
Also, even should these water storage facilites be permitted to remain in a designated Wilderness Area, the majority are far beyond the capabillity of even hardy hikers to do the necessary inspections and maintenance---up to three times a year, and aircraft would not be permitted to land in a Wilderness nor could a motor vehicle be used to transport either men or materials for any needed maintenance. In the Sierras a person can rent a horse(s) if needed. However, this is not possible in the desert regions.

As a result of such questions the Board of Directors of the Society has gone on record as being in opposition to the declaration of any roadless areas as Designated Wilderness Areas, until such time as we can be assured that it will be permitted that the above items are possible to attain.

NOTE: At my personal request The Honorable G. William Whitehurst of Virginia did make a request of the Congressional Research Service for a definition of a 'road'. In response I received a computer print-out of instances where the term 'road' appears in the United States Code. The term 'road' does appear extensively. However, in only one instance is there a semblance of a definition this is found under Section 101(A) of title 23, U.S.Code.....
the term 'public road' means any road or street under the jurisdiction of and maintained by a public authority and open to public travel." end quote.

Nowhere in the Wilderness Act of 1964 is there a definition of a 'road'. This has been confirmed by the Solicitor, Department of the Interior. It seems, therefore, that the only presently given definition of the term 'road' is that being currently used by the BLM in the Wilderness Inventory Plan. This is subject to challenge, according to the Solicitor for the Department of Interior. A challenge was attempted this past year of 1978 by a Congressman of Arizona. He was not successful in getting a hearing. SO BACK TO SQUARE ONE ON THIS.

I have attempted to express my concerns to the Editor of The Desert Report---a Sierra Club bulletin giving thier recommendations for desert wildernesses. The response said only that my concerns would be passed on the the committee.
I have requested of local Sierra Club Conservation Committee members the name of a single roadless area sf 5,000 acres or more that the Club does not recommend for a wilderness classification. They could not name such an area.

The bighorn sheep whether they inhabit the hot dry deserts, the Rocky Mountains of the U.S. or in Canada or the Arctic regions do need a wild or wilderness type of environemnt. A designated Wilderness is not needed, in our estimation. The Alaska Magazine, issue of March 1979 carries an article giving the opinions of many people, among whom are, of course, the Alaskans themselves. It states: Quote: "Impacts on Alaskans and others who have hunted and trapped on the 56 million acres in Alaska that President Carter proclaimed last December to be 17 new or enlarged national monuments have been computed by Alaska's state wildlife administ rators.
Sport hunting and trapping will not be allowed on 13 of the monuments, but subsistence hunting by local residents is to be allowed. "Subsistence hunting" is not clearly defined bu federal government and it is not yet clear who will be priviliged to hunt on these vast acreages.

Of the 17 monuments, 13 administered by the National Park Service prohibit sport hunting and commercial trapping. National Wildlife Monuments in the Yukon Flats and at Becharof Lake permit both, as do Misty Fiords and Admiralty Island, administered by the U.S. Forest Service. The 17 new monuments are among the finest big game ranges in Alaska, for, although they encompass only 15% of all of the land in Alaska, losss of big game harvest for four major species averages about 28%. Thus establishment of the monuments is expected to reduce the annual Dall sheep harvest 50% to 60% (Average statewide kill in recent years has been about 1,200); it will possibly reduce the moose harvest from 10% to 20% (the average statewide moose kill in recent years has been about 7,000); it is likely to result in the loss of 25% to 30% of the statewide brown/grizzly bear harvest this has been about 700; and it is estimated it will result in the loss of 10% to 15% of the black bear harvest___Average statewide has been about 850.

In addition, loss of hunting in the monuments will result in the loss of 122 guide areas with the displacement or loss of livelihood of these guides and an estimated 915 additional assistant guides. Loss of guiding revenue will be from $4 to $¢ million annually.

Since commercial trapping will not be allowed in most monuments, an estimated annual loss of 11,780 fur bearers, worth $534,000. can be expected.

The state fish and game fund, which depends upon federal matching funds, and areas open to hunting, will be reduced by at least $330,000 annually.

Annually Alaskans will lose more than $! million worth of supplemental meat that has come from the new monuments.

Because hunters will be forced to hunt on lands other than the now-closed monuments, hunting pressures are expected to increase outside the monuments. It will cost an estimated $500,000 to $1 million annually to provide more intensive game management on these lands, which are largely marginal for big game.

Other losses that are expected to impact Alaskans include the loss of revenues that have been generated from air taxi operations, lodges and resident sport hunting on the lands now closed to such use." End quote. The report then lists the losses on each of the several areas.

SO THE CONTROVERSY HEATS UP---THERE WILL BE FIREWORKS IN WASHINGTON

AND MEANWHILE BACK ON THE B. L. M. RANGES----Controversies continue

There are problems As is frequently the occassion, there are lawless individuals who threaten the future existence of a worthwhile plan and program for the proper management of the resources of the National Resource Lands. One of these is the lawful and desireable effort to reduce the competition for available forage for wildlife and domestic livestock and also from the feral horses and burros on these lands. According to my(editors) information the abuses are nearly exclusively involved with the feral horses. The reasons seems to be, at least in the main, being the comparative size of the horse and the burro. The horse due to its larger size does, after slaughter, yield a great deal more of usable meat than does the burro. The theft of feral horses, which are federal property, from the National Resource Lands seems to be from 200 to 300 animals per year. These may be trucked to Edmonton, Canada or to an abattoir in Texas or elsewhere for slaughter. The processed meat then being shipped elsewhere. A large part of this meat is shipped to France and to Japan for human consumption or domestically, mainly for pet food. The high price of beef steak at $18.63 per pound in Japan does lend 'fuel-to-the-fire' for this rustling of horses.

BLM's NEWSBEAT for March 1979 carries articles on this occuraing. Two cases are presently being prosecuted by the BLM for these ellegal acts. One of these, Robert W. Harris of Fontana was arrainged before a U.S.Magistrate in San Bernardino on charges stemming from alleged illegal use of wild horses obtained in the Federal Government's "Adopt-a-Horse-Program". He had apparantly adopted 13 horses in Burns, Oregon and another 12 at Susanville and had then sold all 25 horses to a man in Oregon for slaughter. In another case Donald Hughes of New Pine Creek is charged with selling 109 wild horses also obtained through the same program. If found guilty these men face a possibility of receiving very large fines and prison terms. Under the terms of the PL 514-514 signed by President Carter on October 26, 1978 no person will be permitted to obtain more than four horses and/or burros during any one year.

Other things will also be done such as 'freeze branding' of all captured animals for identification; better corrals are being constructed; veterinarian assistance during all capture operations and tighter examination of all applying adopters.

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SCABIES INFESTATION FOUND IN NEW MEXICO

Checking rams taken by the five successful desert bighorn sheep hunters in the San Andres Mountains in October 1978, Game and Fish biologists found severe infestations of scabies, a problem not previously noted in the San Andres sheep herd. The scabies mite'(*Psoroptes cervinus and P. ovus*)presence could have potentially severe impacts on the herds, and the department is making an attempt to treat the problem.

With the aid of a military helicopter from the White Sands Missle Range, salt blocks and mite dust were dropped along 50 sheep trails, bedding areas and loafing sites. Andrew Sandoval, head of the desert sheep research project, has since trekked to the drop sites and suspended dustbags containing CO-RAL, the scabies treatment, over the blocks. The department hopes the sheep will be attracted to the salt and use the dust bags as rubs---the treatment has worked with elk--but anticipates problems. The sheep are not accustomed to salt blocks and so far are avoiding the artificial licks. Recent rains wet the dust bags, and the powder has solidified. Sandoval hopes the rains and additional moisture will help, however, by producing better food supplies for the sheep.

New Mexico WILDLIFE Jan uary -February 1979.

BIGHORNS MOVED TO HELLS CANYON

"A couple of Rocky Mountain bighorn rams in Hells Canyon needn't be lonely now.

If they behave as healthy rams should, they will discover their new friends -- seven ewes recently transplanted from the Panther Creek herd in the Salmon River country.

The ewes were flown by helicopter on the final leg of the journey to the mouth of Bernard Creek, an area which the Department of Fish and Game wildlife biologists say will provide excellent summer and winter range.

Earlier, the two rams had been sighted in the area. They are believed to be from the group that was transplanted in 1975-1976 at Granite Creek, not far from where the ewes landed in Hells Canyon.

The Bernard Creek operation, carried off without a hitch, is part of the department's continuing program to establish and expand bighorn populations in areas where the animals have been absent since the 1800's.

Before the end of February, the department hopes to have 17 bighorns from Wyoming to augment the population on the Lost River Range of Mackay in central Idaho.

The Burdetter Prince segment of the Craig Mountain Wildlife Managemnt Area in northern Idaho is being considered as another possibility for a transplant.

1979 plans also call for the start of a new herd of California bighorns in Bruneau Canyon by relocating some of the sheep that range farther to the west in Owyhee County.

Possible sites are always carefully evaluated, in cooperation with the appropriate Federal land management agency, before a transplant is made.

The seven ewes started their journey from Panther Creek, near the main stem of the Salmon River above the mouth of the Middle Fork. A department crew, with help from the U.S.Forest Service personnel, took just 13 minutes to trap and tag the sheep and load them for transport.

A week or more of preparation preceded the 13 minutes, with most of the time spent acquainting the animals with the taste of apple pulp. They developed a liking for the bait and didn't hesitate to come back for another helping, even when the drop net was in place.

Bill Hickey of Salmon, a senior wildlife research biologist, was in charge at the trapping and Mike Dunbar, regional wildlife biologist stationed in Garden City, took over where the sheep st arted their 24-mile helicopter ride, two at a time, to the release point.

Bighorns from Panther Creek are regarded as a prime source for relocation projects for two reasons. The rams, according to Hickey, have the good horn growth that marks quality sheep and the population is thriving -- it has increased from 120 head about 25 years ago to 350 at the present.

NEWS --January 24, 1979, Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

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FIFTEEN BIGHORN SHEEP FROM IDAHO TAKE UP OREGON RESIDENCE

In another report in this issue is one of a bighorn transplant in Idaho from the Panther Creek herd. Dick Weaver of California DFG has sent along information from a News Release of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Release date of January 18,1979

Fifteen Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep from Idaho were trucked to Oregon recently and released in the lower Imnha River Canyon of Wallowa County. The transplant was a result of cooperative efforts by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Idaho Fish and Game Department and the U.S. Forest Service to reestablish this specie in the Snake River area.

The sheep-- nine ewes and six rams-- were trapped by Idaho Fish and Game personnel in the Panther Creek drainage, a tributary of Idaho's Salmon River. A 24-hour truck ride brought them to their new home in Oregon. Three ewes were equipped with radio transmitter collars to help keep track of the herd and all were marked with ear tags and red streamers.

Trapping efforts in the past in Oregon have been done by herding or baiting sheep into wooden traps. But in Idaho, Fish and Game personnel lured the sheep to a trap site with fermented apple pulp and then used a drop net to capture all fifteen animals simultaneously. Although it is hardly considered a natural food, sheep rapidly acquire a taste for apple pulp. Once they become accustomed to eating it, they will return regularly to a bait site. The use of this exotc bait was apparantly pioneered in Wyoming and Colorado.

Most of the animals are young, one or two years of age, said Oregon Fish and Wildlife Department biologist Vic Coggins, and they survived their long trip in fine shape. The young age and healthy condition is a real plus in upping the odds the sheep will adapt well to their new surroundings.

This is Oregon's second sheep transplant in Hells Canyon. The first release was made in April 1971 near Hells Canyon Dam. The sheep persisted in the area for several years but then disappeared. The animals from that first attempt came from Jasper Park in Alberta, Canada. Jasper Park is an alpine area, unfortunately, rather than a canyon habitat like the Snake River where they were released. The Idaho sheep from Panther Creek come from a canyon habitat very similar to the Snake River and may be better adapted to it than the Jasper Park animals were. Oregon has one other Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep herd in the Lostine area of the Wallowa Mountains. This herd has done well since its 1971 reintroduction and numbers are now estimated at 100 animals. Since there is very limited winter range for the animals at this site, some of them have been released in Bear Creek, a neighboring drainage---Unfortunately the majority of these ani mals returned to the Lostine area, so that effort failed to accomplish its purpose.

This shipment of bighorns from Idaho is a partial repayment to Oregon for Rocky Mountain elk which were trapped several years ago in Oregon and then sent to Idaho.

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