SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP

The Sheepherder

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NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1979

FOREST SERVICE PROPOSES A ROAD INTO BIGHORN HABITAT

It has been reported to the editor that the U.S.Forest Service's Angeles National Forest is proposing to build a road up the Cattle Canyon. Reportedly the purpose of the road is for the benefit of a person who claims to have made the discovery of a workable deposit of some mineral. A letter directed to Miss Margie Brayton, Biologist for the Angeles N.F. has gone unanswered and not acknowledged to this date. We are unable to determine whether or not the 'miner's' claim of a discovery is valid or not. Irregardless of its validity a road up and into the Cattle Canyon drainage will have a very serious adverse effect on the herd of bighorn sheep that make this area their range.

Throughout the past several years Society Director James DeForge has been making a study of these bighorns of the San Gabriel Mountains which lie only about 60 miles airline from the center of downtown Los Angeles. It has been learned that the bighorn sheep do have a very low level of tolerance for human encroachment into their habitat and the vehicular use does create a disturbance. Also, a roadway of any type will encourage some people to drive on it for different purposes. Even that of satisfying a curiosity of seeing where the road leads to.

DeForge has written to the Forest Supervisor William T. Dresser of the Angeles N.F. in protest to construction of the road. Concerning which he writes, in part,:"However, here in the San Gabriels, we have seen examples of avoidance behaviour. For instatnce, we had radio-collared a ewe that was the leader of a band with a minimum of five and a maximum of 19 sheep. She was shot, and the remaining 18 sheep immediately and completely abandoned that portion of the range(south side of Buck Point, Lytle Creek area). After this event in October of 1976, there was no sign of sheep residence in the canyon for well over one and one half years. Today there appears to be an occasional animal seen in this section of the range, but no residence exists like that prior to October 1976.

The access into this area is Buck Point Road, which cuts through the sheep range. Three months prior to this animal's death, this road was closed. With a special-use permit from the Forest Service, I was able to study this band's behaviour without the everyday use of this area by others. I found this band of sheep to be already highly stressed and untrustful of humans, with the sheep responding to human encounters with direct flight. After approximately two weeks with them, flight was reduced to alertness on sight of me, with flight responses still continuing on the sight of others.

The poaching of this dominant ewe may have been nothing more than the final culminating factor in a chain of events which resulted in this highly stressed population leaving the area. The loss of habitat like this can produce a congregation of sheep in another area which may not be able to support the added population. This brings about further stress."

The San Gabriels offer a unique bighorn habitat like nowere else in California. The range holds approximately one sixth of the total bighorn population in the state. The sheep inhabit the eastern one third of the Gabriels, with little hope of expanding outside of today's ranges.

Four years of winter range data have revealed a population estimation of 650 - 700 bighorn, showing a stable to slightly declining trend. The Cattle Canyon herd, however, shows a population increase over the last four years, resulting from the range extension onto the south-facing side of Lookout Ridge due to the opening up of the chapparal from the fire of 1975. This trend can, and may, reverse itself if envir onmental suppression, such as an increase in human-bighorn interactions, takes place."

Hopefully, the Supervisor of the Angeles National Forest may withdraw the plan to open this road, 2N06 up Cattle Canyon. It certainly would not be a bad idea for those of you having knowledge of this area to write to Mr. William T. Dresser, Supervisor, Angeles National Forest, 150 South Los Robles Ave., Suite 300, Pasadena, California 91101 and express your views.

NOTE: James DeForge is planning to stage a ONE DAY SHEEP COUNT on the San Gabriel Mountain in March. At this time you should reserve the first two weekends of March for this important activity. The date had not at this time finalized.

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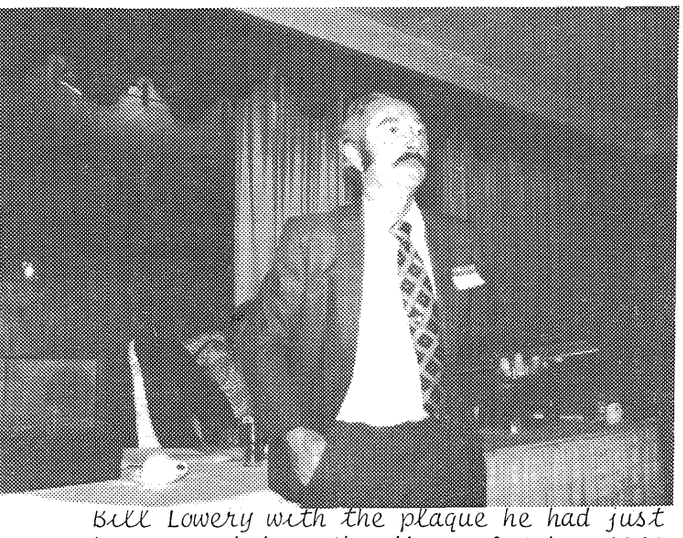
WILDLIFE LOSES AN ARDENT CONSERVATIONIST



Bill Lowery with the plaque he had just been awarded at the dinner October 1976

We are sorry to report that the desert bighorn sheep and other wildlife of the desert regions of Southern California have lost one of their hardest workers and a very dedicated conservationist with the death this last September First of John W. "Bill" Lowery.

Bill together with his wife Carol and their sons Matt and Bill have been on virtually all of the water storage construction projects throughout Southern California for the past many years. Bill and Carol have been the sponsors of a Troop of Explorer Scouts Post 621X.
Bill has been a respected member of the California Wildlife Federation, a Past President of the Southern Council of Conservation Clubs. Bill was the first sportsman to be appointed to the Los Angeles Water Quality Control Board. After his appointment by the Governor of California he served for a period of five years.

Some of the people who say that those of us who enjoy hunting and fishing have no other interest in fish and/or wildlife than in its lawf ul harvest of surplus certainly would have learned differently had they known Bill and his devotion to these species and not those alone that are hunted or fished for.

Under the leadership of the Lowerys the Explorer Post 621X received many awards such as the District Award of Merit from the Hollywood - Wilshire District; the Northern Award for Scouting; awards from the California Department of Fish and Game; The William P. Hornaday Award for distinguished service to Conservation given through the New York Zoological Society, A National award; and at the Annual Dinner of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep Bill received a plaque from the Society as a token for his services.

Bill was still a fairly young man of 58 at the time of his death while on a dove hunting trip to Southern California. He was an avid duck hunter as well. He is interred at Forest Lawn in the Hollywood Hills, as of September 7, 1979.

NOTE: PLEASE REFER TO THE BOTTOM OF PAGE SEVEN AND TOP OF PAGE EIGHT OF THE SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER ISSUE OF THE SHEEPHERDER FOR AN ARTICLE THAT DOCTOR LUTZ HAD WRITTEN LAUDING THE LOWERYS FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS. A FINE AND TIMELY TRIBUTE.

DESERT BIGHORN COUNCIL -----AGENCY STATUS REPORT ---State of Utah

Grant Jensen

Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep have been introduced back into the state of Utah since 1952..the desert bighorns have suffered a great deal the past few years due to the uranium exploitation that occurs in their habitat, especially in the drainages of the Green and the Colorado Rivers. Attempts are being made to transplant bighorns into historic habitat that is now devoid of them. Attempts are also being made to increase the populations in order thatthere may be a harvestable surplus..... Population in the southeastern corner of San Juan County is estimated to be 540 bighorn.

Historically there were no regulations concerning bighorn sheep in Utah prior to 1876, nor were there for other species as well. In 1899 the b ighorn became recognized as a big game specie for pu rposes of protection. In 1967 regulations were adopted setting specifications for a legally defined ram. These are the same as have been adopted in Nevada, namely the ram must be either seven (7) years of age or the Boone and Crocket Club points must be not less than 144 points using the larger horn score doubled. To date since the establishment of the regulations 49 rams have been harvested for a 41 percent ratio of success. In 1978 the first year for granting of a permit to a non-resident there were a total of 23 permits granted of which 20 were for residents and three for non resident hunters. The ratio of rams to ewes was found to be 7 7 to 100 ewes. The main study effort during the past two years has been in the Colorado River drainage. Many other minerals besides the uranium are to be found in the bighorn habitat. As a result the terrain is overrun with mineral prospectors.....Canyon Lands National Park lands use has been rapidly increasing due to the upswing in backpacking and most of the backpacking is done in the bighorn sheep habitats. Livestock competition continues to be an increasing problem on the BLM and Forest Service lands.....Sinusitus is prevalent in the Colorado River drainage of San Juan County.

James Balas continued the Utah report. telling how very "hairy" and experience it is to capture bighorn sheep in the rough Green-Colorado River areas.... It is imperative to have a veterinarian on board the helicopter during these flight in attempts to capture sheep.

Tom Wyley continued with a report from Canyonlands. In 1974 it was estimated that there were from 60 to 100 bighorn on the "Island in the sky" area. In 1977 December they used a helicopter for six hours in a survey and counted 39 sheep. Then in 1978 using twelve hours of helicopter time the survey showed 162 animals, and two-thirds of the time was spent again on "The Island in the Sky" area. During this time the weather was bitter --cold and snow---so the animals were concentrated. From this study a count showed a total of 232 sheep in the Park and brought the population estimate to 300 animals. There appears to be a slight population increase; judging from pellet counts and tracks found in areas where not found previously. It is beleived that the sheep do move in and out of the Park in the northwestern area. Livestock grazing in the Canyon Lands was discontinued in 1975 with the formation of the area into a National Park. A small amount of trespass livestock usage continues.

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FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY 1980 -- Write letters to your California Assemblymen and urge their support of the enactment of SB-834

RESERVE the first two weekends of March 1980 for the one-day sheep count on San Gabriel Mountain. Finalized date will be publicized in the Jan./Feb. issue of THE SHEEPHERDER.

APRIL 9-10 & 11, 1980 Desert Bighorn Council Annual Meeting to be held in St. George, Utah.

June 27 - 28 - & 29, 1980 JOINT MEETING OF CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE FEDERATION AND THE SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP there is to be a SYMPOSIUM concerning the bighorn sheep of California. Meeting will be in Fresno, Ca.

Begin to make your plans for WATERHOLE COUNTS FOR NEXT SUMMER. Try to pick the very hottest time of the summer for your area.

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A NEW PUBLICATION

A new publication WILD SHEEP INTERNATIONAL (illustrated) made its Volume 1 - number 1 issue appearance in April during the meetings of the Desert Bighorn Council. The note from the Editor states: " The goal of Wild Sheep International (WSI) is to establish a common ground where people who have a general or specific interest in the legacy of our wild sheep can learn more about their past history; become involved intheir present; and/or help assure them of a future. Wild Sheep International will be published bi-annually and cover a broad range of topics on a semi- or non-technical basis. Each issue will feature 2-3 articles that deal with basic biological aspects (i.e. genetics, taxonomy, status, morphology, history, reproduction, physiology, ecology, disease, management, conservation, preservation, etc.) of wild sheep.

Wild Sheep International also will present articles on wild goats and other closely related species of the wild sheep such as the aoudad, the Bharal or blue sheep and the tahrs."

Subscription rates are $10.00 for one year. If interested, send subscriptions to : Circulation Department, International Sheep and Goat Institute, UMC 48, Utah State University Logan, Utah 84321 . The Editor is Dr. Raul Valdez, Department of Fishery and Wildlife Sciences, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003

This first issue does have articles of interest. One of these is the paper given by Mr. Lanny O. Wilson, of the BLM, Idaho. He gave this as an illustrated (with slides) after dinner program during the Annual Dinner Meeting of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep held last October 1978 at Michael's in Los Angeles. Dr. Thomas Bunch has also contributed an article on The Wild Sheep of Southwest Asia .

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BARBARY SHEEP SYMPOSIUM

Dr. C. David Simpson, Chairman of the Barbary Sheep Committee of the Desert Bighorn Council has announced that there will be a symposium dealing with this subject.

The Symposium is to be held at the Texas Tech University campus November 19th - 20th and 21st. The program will include a history of the animal in its original environment of Ancient North Africa; its introduction into the arid lands of New Mexico, Texas, and Californias' Hearst Ranch; its Social Organization and behaviour, Diseases and parasites, Habitat utilization, the effects of this specie and other exotics on native wildlife and habitats; dietary overlaps between barbary sheep and other species of wildlife; management needs for the barbary sheep and the needs for research and management of barbary sheep in the future.

Simpson has noted that participants arriving and leaving by air transportation will need to have firm travel space bookings as November 21st is the beginning of the Thanksgiving holiday for Tech students and space will be at a premium for air travellers. Simpson suggests that accomodations can be obtained at the Rodeway Inn Motell (806)763-8081 or at Lubbock Inn (*06) 792- 5181

Registration fee of $20 also covers a banquet and a copy of the Transactions.

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN LAMBS SEEN

Two Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep lambs have been observed near the area where six pregnant ewes were released by the Arizona Game and Fish Department on May 10, 1979. The lambs must have been born in Arizona, since no Rocky Mountain sheep existed here before the release.

Jim Brooks, Department wildlife manager for the Alpine district, spotted the two lambs July 8th. They were with two rams and three ewes.

The May 10 transplant consisted of two rams plus six ewes, and was made in the hope of establishing a population of Rocky Mountain bighorns in the White Mountain area.

All the animals released were mature but relatively young, a factor which should help them become established successfully. The observation of the two lambs is a very encouraging sign that the effort is realizing some measure of success.

(Arizona Game and Fish Department----WILDLIFE NEWSLETTER --July 27, 1979.)

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NORTH DAKOTO BIGHORNS HAVE A PROBLEM

Steven D. Fairaizi, Research Biologist Associate of the North Dakato Game and Fish Department has reported in their NORTH DAKOTA OUTDOORS publication of May and June 1979 concerning their bighorns.

The bighorns of North Dakota we originally obtained from British Columbia as has been the case for the states of California, Oregon, Washington and of northwestern Nevada as well. This orgininal transplant was in November 1956. The sheep were transported by truck and transplanted into an enclosure on Magpie Creek in McKenzie County. Four years later the herd had reached such numbers that additional transplants might be made. A corral trap was constructed and some 20 biologists and wardens walked the enclosure and drove the sheep into the corral. This worked pretty well the first time. However, subsequent attempts were fruitless as the sheep learned quickly not to be driven and simply ran between the men or ran over them. Fortunately, by this time enough sheep had been caught to start three additional herds. Then in 1975 there became a need and desire to trap sheep in order to attach radio transmitter collars. At this time, however, the sheep were no longer in an enclosure but were roaming across the badlands, and it was impossible to drive the sheep anywhere to another corral trap. The North Dakota range is different than that of British Columbia in that there is no distinct summer and winter ranges----the sheep use the same range throughout the entire year.

An attempt was made to set-up permanent bait stations----first use of 50 lb. salt blocks were tried---but recieved only use of domestic livestock. Then salt blocks and green alfalfa was tried, but only gained use by porkupines. Then lettuce and cabbage trimmings were tried in the bait station areas and bighorn did begin using the stations----but not on a daily basis. The sheep never did get addicted to this bait. Only one ewe was trapped by this use and she did receive a radio collar. The next year a helicopter was rented--and it crashed, the occupants were uninjured, fortunately. Another helicopter was rented and was successful in the capture of five ewes that were radio collared. This revealed a very serious lamb mortallity probably due to lungworm infestation.

As a result another enclosure was erected by the U.S.Forest Service and its Youth Conservation Corps during 1978. A helicopter was again rented and three ewes were darted and released into the enclosure. Another capture attempt is to be made during the fall of 1979.

Researchers in the western part of the country have been using apple pulp as a bait for thier studies. In fall of 1978 the department got 3½tons of apple pulp and 3 tons of beet pulp and place in piles in the badlands and allowed to ferment. Howefully to get the sheep addicted to this fermented apple pulp. Drop net traps were installed over the bait stations. This procedure has been used in other states. However, in North Dakota is still having its problems. Due to the extreme cold of the state's climate during January and February these piles of pulp became 6½ tons of ice. Hopefully with the thawing of the pulp the trapping was to further attempted. Furthermore, once the bighorns start using a bait daily, lungworm retardant drugs can be miced with the bait and treatment of this problem can be effected. Hopefully current and future studies will provide a great deal of information, if not a solution, to the trapping dilemma.

NOTE: We have reported on lungworm infestations elsewhere, from time to time. However, perhaps a review of the problem will be of interest. lew.

Again, from the report of Fairaizi. "Lungworms are highly specialized parasites occurring exclusively in bighorn sheep. They infect bighorn herds all across the western part of the country and apparantly have infected these herds since pristine times. The small roundworms infect the lungs and are potentially devastating.

Adult lungworms exist in clusters or nodules in the lungs of the sheep. As eggs and immature or larval stages of the lungworm are produced, they are coughed up from the lungs, swallowed, nd passed out of the bighorn with the fecal material. The larvae will either form a cyst and lie dormant on the ground for a considerable length of time or, when they encounter a land snail will burrow intoit and grow. The bighorn, during the normal grazing, will eat and digest the snail thereby liberating the lungworms and reinfecting itself. The problem is further complicated in that some of the larvae will cross the placental barrier and the lambs are born with this parasite.

Once the lungworm problem in a bighorn population is aggravated by such things as overcrowding on the herd range, the potential for complete decimation (of the herd) exists. For example, the Pike's Peak herd in colorado was nearly wiped out by a lungworm outbreak, and the Rock Creek herd in Montana was apparantly eliminated by lungworms. Since lambs are born with the parasite, numerous herds have had 100 percent lamb mortallity. The cases in point reveal the disastrous effects of lungworms and that this parasite is not restricted to any one herd or part of the country but, in fact, is quite ubiquitous. North Dakota's bighorn sheep, unfortunately, are not without lungworm problems. The lungworm dilemma originated ith the first transplant, as the North Dakota bighorns were probably infected when they arrived from British Columbia.

During the past four bighorn hunting seasons, all animals harvested were autopsied for parasites. All of the rams were infected with lungworms. Over the years three ewes have also been autopsied and the same results were found.

Studies in 1978 have determined that individual herds in three separate areas had from 40 to 100 percent reproduction. However, the lamb survival rate has in each area been zero. Another herd showed an 80 percent loss of lambs. Additionally, this preliminary data suggests that this lambmortallity may be worsening. Hunting of rams has been successful in reducing the numbers of excess rams in all areas and resulted in an increase in production- in some areas fairly dramatically.

Researchers in Colorado have developed a drug called fenbendazole which has proven to be about 95 percent effective. Once the sheep move onto the winter range, large piles of the apple pulp are placed where the sheep can find and use them. The shhp treated in late winter, which is during the third trimester of pregnancy. The drug will kill both adult and larval stagaes of the worm, which allows fewer worms to cross the placental barrier and the lambs are born relatively lungworm free. Through this treatment, researchers in Colorado have increased lamb survival by 98 percent. Washington state is attempting to develope a lungworm retardant that will be 100 percent effective.

In light of their findings it is very probable that the North Dakota Game and Fish Department will close hunting of bighorn rams until this dilemma is solved, at least for the time being . With the increased lamb production and acceptable lungworm control, the bighorn sheep will soon proliferate wnd a huntable surplus of rams will again occur. With continued intensive management practices, the bighorn sheep will thrive for generations to come."

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NOTE: In a letter to the editor under date of October 15, 1979 Jim Blaisdell of the National Park Service, says in part: ".....In answer to your query regarding lungworm: The Junction Band, from which the Lava Beds bighorns came, have always been considered a "clean" herd. I do not know if they have recently contracted any disease problems. But to be sure we did not have this parasite in our sheep, we twice sent droppings to labs---one to Oregon State University of Veterinary Medecine, and to the California Department of Fish and Game. Both times the results were negative." end quote. THANK YOU JIM.

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ANNUAL DINNER IN LOS ANGELES POORLY ATTENDED

The Fall dinner of the Society held at Machael's as it has been during the past several years was attended by the smallest group that we have ever had at one of these functions. Why this is true, we have no idea. there were only 78 diners---what happened to the 40 plus members who sent in asking for reservations we have no idea. This does pose a financial problem to our Treasurer as the Society was obligated for a specified number to be served. The dinner itself was excellent. Those in attendance were not disappointed in the program that followed the dinner.

The raffle conducted was for the purpose of gaining funds for the research programs that are presently being conducted. The C-B radio was won by Harry Tristan; the Portable smoker won by Joan Scott and one of the two cases of oil being won by Secretary John Larronde.

The research program into the Genetics of Bighorn sheep is presently being held up for some revisions of minor parts of the Plan. The general purposes of the Planned Research has been approved by California Department of Fish and Game. Funding is making progress. The Foundation for North American Wild Sheep has made a sizeable financial committment. With the final approval by DFG other financial committments are assured. The leaders of this research project are Dr. Charles Jenner, DVM; Dr. Al Pleschner and James DeForge. DeForge is presently commuting back and forth between his home in Ontario and Davis, Cal. where he is presently working on his Doctoral degree.

After dinner speaker was Michael J. Crotty, Curator of Mammals for the Los Angeles Zoo. Dr. Crotty had a slide program concerning basically the evolvement of the wild sheep of North America from their beginnings in North Africa, around the Mediterranian and eastward through Asia to the land bridge that extended between Russia and Alaska. Following what has been termed "The Great Arc of the Wild Sheep" in a book by that title authored by James L. Clark, of the American Museum of Natural History. The program of Dr. Crotty was very interesting. Due to the fact that a similar program given during the Desert Bighorn Council this past April by Dr. Juan Spillett and which was reported on in the issue of July/August 1979, we will not repeat the information at this time. Crotty reported that the Los Angeles Zoo does have many of the different species of wild sheep found in the "Great Arc" represented in their Zoo. People are invited to come see these animals and compare their likenesses and differences.

Also in attendance at the dinner were Mr. Fred Wortheley, Manager of Region 5, Calif. DFG and Mr. Verne Bleich, Assoc. Willdlife Biologist, DFG who has taken over the position vacated by John Massie after his transfer to northern California.

Bleich spoke of the serious problems in sheep habitat that are being experienced as caused by increasing numbers of feral burros, and the BLM's failure to cope with the problem as is required by Federal statutes. Preservation of sheep habitat is an increasingly difficult problem. Subdivisions keep moving into sheep habitat and yet people say "What is happening to the bighorn sheep"?.....The DFG is assessing the failures of some of the water storage projects, hoping to preclude the re-occurence of these failures. Some---like at Red Rock Caves, as previously reported, are due to the caustic waters found in some areas and which cause the deterioration of metal tanks, drinkers and their float-valve assemblies. One predominant cause of failure has been the freezing of pipes and their bursting during the very cold winter nights. Some of these nights approach zero degrees Farenheit.....Time lapse cameras have been used on eight different water projects to determine usage by the wild sheep. Six of these projects have shown a very high degree of u sage.....Insulation will be applied to metal piping in an effort to prevent breakage due to freezing; fibreglass tanks will be used to replace those metal tanks destryoed by the caustic waters .....Piping used on the ater projects is now being standardized....storage tanks are being re-fitted with piping to assure that should one of the three tanks become inoperative that all water lost from the other two will still be available....several tanks have been blown over by high desert winds. Tanks are now being guyed by cables.....Areas that have been recommended for storage projects are being re-evaluated by the department prior to scheduling any further projects.

The Editor must apologize for there being no pictures of speakers and people in attendance at the dinner. He was unaware that the film had broken within his camera.

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Dr. Loren L. Lutz, DDS, President of the Society returned home November 12th from a trip to Washington, D.C. where he had been stumping the Halls of Congress and the Department of Interior trying to get relief from the incursions of feral burros into sheep habitat and also advocating the need for changes in the Wilderness Act which would permit installations of water storage projects in designated wildernesses and permit their servicing through vehicular usage, as is permitted for domestic livestock.

A BIT MORE INFO ON LUNGWORM PROBLEM

The lungworm induced illness of bighorn sheep has been well documented. The prevention of lungworm infestation and the treatment of the wild sheep suffering from these infestations, is however, a very difficult problem. Headway toward a solution is, hopefully, being accomplished.

On October 31, 1979 Mr. Harold M. Swope, Wildlife Research Chief of the Colorado Division of Wildlife wrote concerning this to Jim Blaisdell of the National Park Service. Jim is now assigned duties in Seattle, Washington. Jim has in turn sent a copy of Mr. Swope's letter to him. For this information the Editor of THE SHEEPHERDER is grateful.

Mr. Swope states, in part----- Quote: " I regret that we have no treatment for bedground areas to control snails" NOTE: a small land-snail is a host during the life cycle of the lungworm....."Some effort was expended to locate a chemical for this purpose, with no success. As I recall we found that very few chemicals were effective molluscicides. Those that were effective were not permissable for application on watersheds. We also reviewed the literature on biological control for snails, one again with little or no success.

We are treating sheep with two anthelmintic drugs-- cambendazole and Fenbendazole. These have been administered by oral drench and by placing known dosages in apple pulp given *ad libitum* to free ranging bighorns.

I hesitate to try and explain dosages because they vary with the product obtained from the manufacturer. Dr. Charles Hibler, in charge of the Wild Animal Disease Center at Colorado State University has cooperated closely with the Colorado Division of Wildlife for the past eight years to develop this drug treatment.....:" end quote.

NOTE: We have written about this type of treatment for lungworm as has been carried out in Colorado during the past two or three years---and, it has had very significant results on the raising of bighorn lambs. Unfortunately, it is a possible solution to lamb mortallity from lungworm causes it is a very difficult program to arry out on an extensive scale on the wild - free roaming herds of bighorn sheep.

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ARTICLES OF INTEREST--- at least to this editor

WESTERN GUIDELINES the October 1979 issue of The Western Guides and Outfitters Assoc. of British Columbia carries two articles which particularly directed to the hunting fraternity who go into Canada for that activity can also apply to those sheep philberts infested with the sheep disease sometimes known as *Ovis Pyrexia*.

The first article written by well-known and highly respected Chilco Choate of Riske Creek, B.C. and concerns the difficulties in approaching the California specie of bighorn sheep, (*Ovis canadensis californiana*) in comparison with the Rocky Mountain bighorn (*O.c.canadensis*) Choate reports that the California specie to be a great deal more wary and difficult to approach at all times; that it does not bed down for as long a period as does the R.M.B.H. Also that predominantly the ♂ seemingly characteristically have a wider flaring horns, and lighter in weight and color of pelage. Then to confuse these last two items there are frequently rams that are very dark in color and have very tightly curled horns with very large bases and with the horns closely curled to the head. The Boone and Crocket Club considers

both the Rocky Mountain and the Californian's to be the same specie. Other writers and some biologists have spoken of the California bighorn as being a desert specie.

A second article is by Dr. Robert E. "Bob" Speegle of Garland, Texas, a suburb of Dallas. Speegle is a member of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep. He writes of very great importance of 'physical-fitness' for sheep hunting. However, what Dr. Speegle advises does apply to all of us who go into our desert sheep habitat either for pleasure, to work on the various water project- or to make our waterhole-counts during the heat of summer, or any combination of these activities. The very best 'physical-fitness that we can achieve will be none too good.

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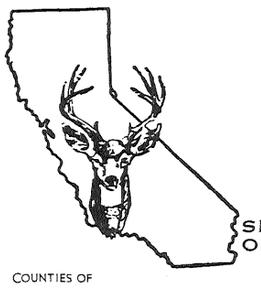
BURRO MANAGEMENT STILL ON HOLD---IT SEEMS



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 Editor of T.S. has recently received a letter from the Honorable G. William Whitehurst of Virginia with an enclosure from the Department of the Interior to him written by Mr. John Gingles of D. of Interior. Congressman Whitehurst had been seeking latest information for your editor. It will be remembered that it was Congressman Whitehurst who introduced the bills at my request to give the Secretary of Interior authorization for the use of aircraft in capturing burros and who also introduced bills to authorize the Secretary of Interior to transfer title to individuals. These became parts of the Public Lands Policy and Management Act and of the Public Rangelands Improvement Act. Mr. Gingles informed the Congressman that the D. of I. had established adoption centers in Texas and Tennessee and with success in having an unspecified number of burros adopted. No mention being made of the exhorbitant costs involved. Nor did Mr. Gingles write concerning the Complaint that the Nevada Department of Wildlife has filed in the U.S. District Court of Nevada against Cecil D. Andrus, Secretary of the Interior, Frank Gregg, Director, Bureau of Land Management, Edward F. Spang, Nevada State Director, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, as defendants. This Complaint for Mandamus, Injunctive Relief, Specific Performance and Declatory Relief for their failures to(in brief) to abide by and conform to the terms specified terms of the Taylor Grazing Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, The Public Rangelands Improvement Act and the Wild Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act. It is alleged that the Defendants have not performed their duties to control the propogation of excessive numbers of wild horses and burros within the plaintiff State of Nevada's borders . but has permitted the numbers of these feral animals to both expand their ranges and to significantly increase their numbers beyond those present in 1971 at which time the PL 92-195 was implemented.

In a letter to me(the editor of T.S.) Mr. Glenn K. Griffith states that he considers that he has a good case and that "If our judicial system is valid we will prevail."
The Safari Club International and the Boone and Crocket club will support the complaint in any manner requested. The Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep has also gone on record its willingness to assist in any capacity called upon, The Sportsmen's Council has also made this committment. Mr. Don Carper of the California Wildlife Federation has been asked for the endorsement of that organization. However, the President Don Carper has not responded. However the C.W.Federation is joining the action as is Southern Council Conser. Clubs No word has been received by the editor, as yet, concerning any hearing dates for the Complaint.

The Grand Canyon National Park's Burro Management Plan is still being held in abeyance. It was expected to be reported out sometime during the latter part of November 1979.

The National Wildlife Federation has lent its support to the Management Plan of the GCNP. The NWF attorney is presently researching to determine congressional intent on passage of the act. The NWF has f ully supported management of the numbers of these feral animals. In a letter to Mr. Frank Gregg, Director of BLM, last June 4th, Mr. Thomas L. Kimball, Executive Vice President of NWF stated, in part: "...the Adopt-a-Horse program administered by the BLM offers only limited potential. According to the Bureau's figures, in the five years of the programs existence, only 13,196 horses have been adopted. With an annual increase of 3,200 estimated this does not even take care of the annual increment". The final paragraph of this letter to Gregg states, "To conclude, NWF hopes the Bureau will modify the proposed regulations to include a timetable so as "to preserve and maintain a thriving ecological balance and multiple use relationship" (Sec. 4700-0-5(d)). As we testified on several occasions, it is necessary for the Department to"bite the bullet" and take the surpluses to the slaughterhouses. Reasonable and humane controls must be exerted on excess numbers of feral horses and burros, otherwise, the environment upon which the animals depend will be destroyed." end quote.

ANOTHER ITEM ON THE LEGISLATIVE FRONT

As we have reported previously, the California State Legislature has before it for consideration SB-834 authored by Senator Bill Richardson of Arcadia and which was introduced at the request of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep. This bill will require the Department of Fish and Game to develope a management plan for California's bighorn sheep and to submit it to the Fish and Game Commission for consideration. Due to the fact that in the State of California the bighorn sheep is not considered to be a game animal it is unlawful for the Department to expend any of its moneys derived from its license structure funds specifically for non-game wildlife. The bill includes an appropriation of $307,000. for this study.

The bill has passes the State Senate and is now before the Assembly Ways and Means Committee for its consideration. It being a two-year bill it will probablybe heard by that committee early in January 1980. Committee Chairman is Daniel E. Boatwright, Vice Chairman is Gordon W. Duffy. The Committee has a total of 21 members.
ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE as reports concerning losses to bighorn sheep numbers in New Mexico and Arizona from disease and infestations. Also we have publicized the plight of the sheep in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains and the lack of information concerning thedeaths of virtually all lambs born during the past two or three years in these areas. UNLESS THESE LOSSES CAN BE STOPPED these herds seem certain of extinction. (EDITORIAL OPINION). Consequently you are urged to write to your California Assemblymen and urge them to expedite the enactment of SB-834 (Richardson). Better yet write to each of the members of the Ways and Means Committee of the Assembly. They are: Boatwright, Duffy, Berman, Chacon, Egeland, Ellis Goggin, Hart, Hayden, Imbrecht, Knox, Levine, Mori, Nestande, Roos, Ryan,, Statham, Stirling, Vasconcellos, Norman Waters and Young.

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PROPOSED PAINTING OF BIGHORN SHEEP

We have received a communication from Robert R. Fiedler, professor of At at the California State University Los Angles, who states:

"Dear Interested Conservationist:

It is my hope, together with that of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, that you will enjoy and be significantly impressed with the work of Mr. John A. Ruthven, America's foremost wildlife artist.
It is hoped, furthermore that you will be so impressed soas to want to assist in a major effort to promote the conservation of the bighorn sheep. Although Mr. Ruthven has not yet painted the bighorn sheep, we are determined that he should do so. We wish to market a print of this painting, in part, to raise funds for the Society. Therefore, we are asking, on the basis of your response to the present exhibition of Mr. Ruthven's work, that you pledge the purchase of a print of the bighorn sheep for $125.00 , 40% of which proceeds can be taken as a tax deductible gift to the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep."

NOTE: the exhibition noted above was that of October 23rd in Los Angeles as written about in the Sept./ Oct. issue of THE SHEEPHERDER. Ruthven had an exhibit and it did receive a great many compliments for the detail and quality of his workmanship.
" You will not see the work ahead of time....." Mr. Fiedler will make necessary arrangements for the commission of Mr. Ruthven for this painting. ".....the limited edition of the ighorn sheep will be printed on 100% rag paper, each sheet will bear the artist's own "Watermark "Hill Grove" (named for the boyhood home of John James Audubon). The print will be approximately 25" x 33" in size. this is to be alimited edition of not more than 1000 peices. Each print to be numbered in sequence, as is customary for a limited edition print, and each will be personally signed by the artist in pencil. All prints will be suitably packaged and shipped to individual purchasers upon receipt of complete payment of $125.00 plus tax(6%) of $7.50 ($50.00 pledge plus $82.50 balance including tax).
On receipt of three hundred (300) subscriptions, on or before Nov. 30, 1979 your $50.00 pledge becomes non-refundable: in which instance such payment will be applied directly to the initial expense of producing the edition. If we do not receive pledges for (300) prints by Nov.30, 1979 (as above) your $50.00 will be refunded in full, we will not proceed with the printing and you will be under no further obligation.

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

You understand that you are purchasing a print, SIGHT UNSEEN, 40% of which proceeds (taken from your final payment) can be utilized as a tax deductibel gift to the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep. No guarantee is implied nor warranted except that the print which you receive shall be signed and limited reproduction of a painting of the bighorn sheep; such done by Mr. John A. Ruthven in his current style and manner.

Please complete the following:

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Telephone _____
(area code)

I enclose my pledge for $50.00 (check only, no cash please)
I understand and agree to ALL of the above conditions, being in support of the aims and goals of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep. Furthermore, I understand that an additional payment of $82.50 will be required before I receive my limited edition, signed and numbered print (of a painting) of the bighorn sheep.

Please sign your name directly below:

_____

mail this form, together with your check for 50.00 to: Contemporary Graphics, P.O.Box 713, Temple City, California 91780.

Framing can be arranged with Contemporary Graphics.