SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP

The Sheepherder

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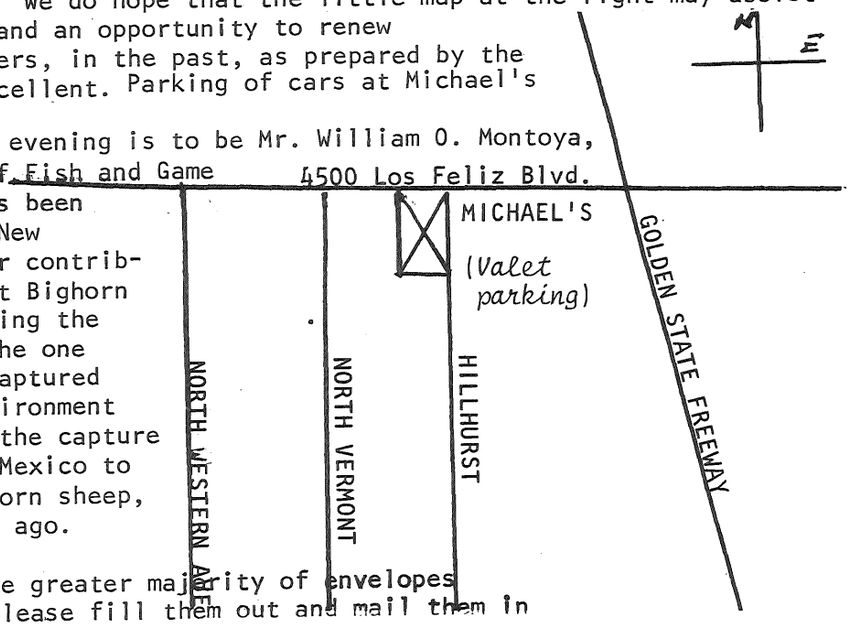
SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1979

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER SIXTH

A.W. "Uncle Bud" Wiedeman has made arrangements for the Annual dinner meeting of theSociety for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep to again hold the Southern California affair at the Michael's Restuarant, 4500 Los Feliz Blvd., in Los Angeles, as has been for the past three or four years. We do hope that the little map at the right may assist you in finding your way to the dinner and an opportunity to renew friendships for the evening. The dinners, in the past, as prepared by the chefs of Michael's have always been excellent. Parking of cars at Michael's is by Valet parking.

The after - dinner speaker for the evening is to be Mr. William O. Montoya, Assistant Director of the Department of Fish and Game for the State of New Mexico. Bill has been involved in bighorn sheep projects of New Mexico for many years. He is a regular contributor to the reports given to the Desert Bighorn Council concerning the projects involving the bighorn sheep of New Mexico. He is the one responsible for the transplanting of captured bighorns out of Mexico into a like environment in New Mexico. That project involved the capture and transportation of antelope in New Mexico to Mexico in a trade for the desert bighorn sheep, (*Ovis canadensis mexicana*) a few years ago.



Response cards will be found in the greater majority of envelopes with this issue of THE SHEEPHERDER. Please fill them out and mail them in to Dr. Lutz even if you are unable to attend.

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"THE GENETIC IMPLICATIONS IN THE DECLINE OF BIGHORN SHEEP"

Concerning the search for funds for the Society's current research project:

Charles W. Jenner, DVM, Chairman, Research Committee of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep states: "As you know by reading the "SHEEPHERDER", the Society is sponsoring a major research project which will investigate the genetic implication in the decline of bighorn sheep. The first phase of the project will take approximately three years, and will include immobilizing a number of bighorn from select mountain ranges in the California Desert. Our research team will utilize a helicopter to capture bighorn, which will be tested)by blood samples) for specific physiological factors, and released. Team leader for the project is Society Board Member James DeForge, who is currently working toward a Ph.D. in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology at the University of California, Davis.

The project budget, approved by the Board of Directors, includes financial support for the principal investigator, DeForge, and funds for helicopter time, field supplies, laboratory procedures, and for publication of research data.

Due to the scope of the project, our research committee is turning to large donor foundations for support."

NOTE: Dr. Jenner then listed a great many of the Foundations and Companies that have shown an interest in furthering the knowledge of Man and he does ask that the Society Members make an effort to promote the gathering of funds by personal contact with members of these institutions, and to do so as soon as is possible.

Dr. Jenner lists phone numbers where you may reach him: Home: (213) 431 - 7531 and at his office: (213) 598 - 8621 or (213) 598 - 1714.

NOTE: In another section of T.S. you will read that the FOUNDATION FOR NORTH AMERICAN WILD SHEEP has already made a monetary committment to this project. James DeForge made a report to the Desert Bighorn Council in April concerning the project. Dr. Lutz has informed the Editor that Mr. Charles Fullerton, Director, California Department of Fish and Game has made an oral agreement to permit this research project to procede. However, at this time Mr. Heuy Johnson, Secretary for the Resource Agency of California has not signed the agreement. Until this is signed the actual work on the project is being held up.

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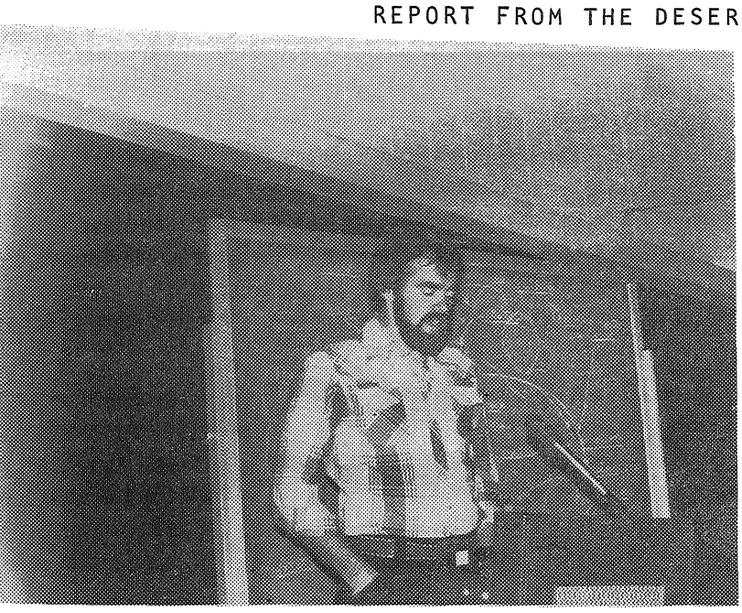
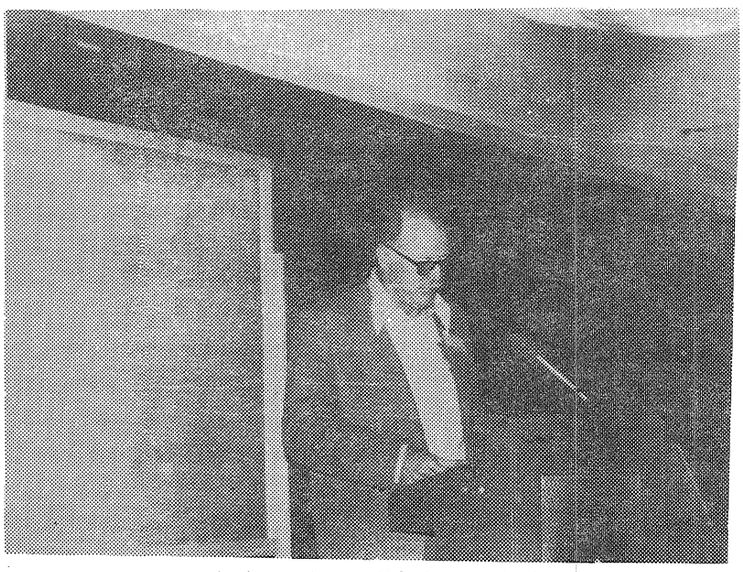
REPORT FROM THE DESERT BIGHORN COUNCIL



James DeForge, above, made a presentation to the Desert Bighorn Council in April that was very much like that in the preceding article.



Warren Kelley, abobe, is a Biologist for the U.S.Forest Service' Humbolt National Forest in eastern Nevada, and made the following report

A COMPARISON OF THREE BIGHORN AREAS ON THE HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST

During the second morning's session of the Desert Bighorn Council Warren E. Kelly the Biologist on the Humboldt National Forest of Northeastern Nevada gave a report on the above topic.

The Humboldt N.F. has the desert bighorn sheep in the Grant Range, the California Bighorn, is found in the Santa Rosa Mountains and the Rocky Mountain bighorn which is found on Mount Moriah. Of these three populations only the desert bighorn is an old established herd and on its historic range. The other two: the California and the Rocky Mountain bighorns are reintroductions into historic ranges.

The purposes of Kelly's studies have been an effort to determine the present vegetative resource, the present and past utilization of this vegetative resource and the probable needs of an increasing numbers of bighorns on these ranges and what possible changes in livestock grazing alottments may be advisable to recommend. To get the basics for this evaluation it was necessary to amke a thorogh Range Environmental Analysis survey. It was necessary to update vegetative type maps and classifications into eleven different types. It was also necessary to determine the suitability of the different areas for livestock grazing; these were based upon steepness of slope, soil stability, water location and amounts, the anticipated intensity of grazing, distributional habits of livestock and the other multiple use considerations. It was also necessary to determine the amounts of forage that could be produced and available on each of the different soil types and areas. What was the average expected usage of the vegetation on a per day basis and for the different types of herbivores that would be expected to use the resource.

A search of literature failed to give a reference of how much vegetation a bighorn could be expected to consume in one day. As a result Kelly made made an estimate amde on a basis of comparison with the needs of domestic sheep, goats and of deer. He came up with an estimate of four pounds of forage per day for a bighorn.

The Santa Rosa Mts. are an historic range for bighorns. The last reported sighting had been in the 1930's. Reasons for the extirpation of these sheep are believed to have been from poaching, disease and competition with domestic livestock primarily sheep that had roamed the area in large nomadic herds, and compete tion with these domestic animals for the available food, water and living space. Eventually the domestic sheep were removed from the area and cattle allotments were reduced both in numbers and in lengths of grazing periods. During the past five years there has been no domestic livestock usage of the area. Eightmile Canyon is of volcanic origin and is a rough area. Some 40% of the area is unsuited for livestock grazing. As a result the alloted 125 cattle were difficult to control. This did result in severe overgrazing and damage to the riparian habitat along the stream in the canyon bottom. The winter range for this herd of bighorn is limited by its small size, about six square miles. Forage production itself on the winter range should be ample. However, it is segmented by a number of livestock fences that could prohibit easy movement from one area to another. A question does arise: What is the crowding density that the bighorns can tolerate on this winter range? ie. How many animals per square mile?

Kelly has recommended to his Forest Supervisor that this Eightmile Canyon area be declared a Zoological Area with the bighorn having the primary management priority. The original transplant of California Bighorns into this area began on March 23, 1978 Two mortalities have occurred, five lambs have been born and the latest estimate is that fifteen bighorn have come through the winter of 1978 in good condition.

Mt. Moriah lies directly to the East of Ely, Nevada near the boundary with Utah. This area was historic bighorn range populated with the Rocky Mountain sub-specie. They disappeared from the scene about the same that they did from the Santa Rosa Mts. and probably from the same causes. The original transplant was into the Smith Creek drainage on January 25, 1975. Twenty three animals have been observed during a single survey and the present population could be about 40 animals.....Elevations range from 5,500 to 12,000 feet in a distance of seven miles. Prior to 1910 this allotment area was heavily grazed by wild horses, domestic sheep and cattle. In 1910 the Forest Service took over administration of this area and a reduction in livestock usage began immediately. The grazing system utilized is a four pasture rest-rotation system.
The entire east side and portions of the west side of the Mount Moriah range is excellent bighorn habitat. Forage is more than adequate. Cattle grazing allotments in these areas will offer but little competition with the bighorns. The Mount Moriah bighorn habitat is quite extensive and continuous. The winter range extends along the east face of the mountain range and into the the canyon bottoms and side slopes.....Limiting factors are not evident at this time.....Water is well distributed on the summer range and snow is usually present at low elevations in winter..... Escape cover is well interspersed among the feeding areas.

The third bighorn area is the Troy area of the Grant Range. This is a desert bighorn population and probably have been on this mountain as long as there has been desert bighorn anywhere in the southwest. The Troy area lies about 7 5 miles southwest of the town of Ely. Elevations range from 5,500 to 11,000 feet at Troy Peak in a four mile distance. Precipitation averages five inches at the lower elevations and sixteen inches at the higher elevations. Drought conditions occur 45% of the time. Most of the precipitation falls as snow, however, severe rain storms do occur in summer. This is a similar pattern over the three ranges discussed.....-From 1951 to 1974, eighty-five cows grazed this area yearly in a season lasting five months. During the grazing period of 1975 through 1978 the area was in non-grazing use. Beginning in 1979 the grazing usage will be on a two year usage and followed by a two year rest period and with grazing seasons reduced to the three month period of June 16 through September 15th. Forage needs of the bighorns seem to be ample for the summer use periods. However, the winter range production seems to be barely enough to meet projected needs of an assumed optimum number of bighorns placed at 75 sheep. Revegetation of marginal and submarginal grazing areas does not seem to be a viable project(s).

In any habitat occupied by an animal population whether this animal population is domestic or wild, the habitat manager will always have problems achieving proper distribution. Domestic livestock can be manipulated by salting and herding. There is no easy way to achieve proper distribution of wild ungulates. Even though forage may be produced rather uniformily throughout a winter range, there will be areas that are still unused when spring comes. The Troy winter range does produce forage that should be more than sufficient for a bighorn herd of 75 animals. Under 'normal' conditions these sheep would not consume more than 75% of available forage. However, if drought conditions exist 45% of the time then these same bighorns may well be undernourished about 45% of the time. This would seem to be a definite limiting factor for these desert bighorns. Consequently, this herd can be expected to increase in population numbers during good forage years and to decrease during years of poor forage production. The Eightmile Canyon and Mt. Moriah ranges have a good variety and diversity of forage. Even during drought years more forage will be produced than the bighorn can consume.

Kelly reports that the grazing of domestic livestock has been given a good study. He states:" If all of the livestock were removed--we would still have a situation where more than 50% of the forage produced occurs on 17% of the allotment....We would still have a situation where the majority of the forage produced is unavailable for four months of the year... We would still have a limited winter range that only produces thirteen pounds of forage per acre and a total forage production of 52,000 pounds...There would still be a forage demand on the winter range that is nearly as high as the forage production.

NOTE: Warren Kelly has raised a question that has been troublingwildlife managers for many years: Why is it that ungulates---both wild and domestic will in may different areas and different species browse or graze the forage virtually to the ground and fifty feet distant the same specie of grass, forbs or browse plants will be virtually untouched?

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BIGHORN SHEEP CENSUS REPORT FROM DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME, REGION 5

SANTA ROSA MOUNTAINS - LAMB SURVIVAL

Bighorn herd composition counts made in the Santa Rosa Mountains during the spring of 1979, have shown a good survival of lambs to date. (June 25, 1979) The possibility of a serious population decline appears to have diminished. An additional count is planned for the fall of 1979.

Low lamb survival occurred in the Santa Rosa Mountains in 1977 and in 1978, which appeared contrary to the excellent condition of the habitat.

Lamb ratios dropped from 61 lambs per 100 ewes in April 1977 to 12 lambs per 100 ewes in July, and 7 lambs per 100 ewes by September 1977. A similar lamb loss was observed in 1978, resulting in a ratio of 9 lambs per 100 ewes recorded by October 1978.

Additional counts by helicopter were scheduled for the spring of 1979 with staff funding to examine the role of disease concerning lamb mortallity, if a heavy loss of lambs occurred in 1979. Four herd composition counts were conducted this spring, which indicated an acceptable pattern of lamb survival. A summary of the ratios obtained from these aerial counts is shown below.

Date	Sample	Ram	Ewe	Lamb	Yearling
4-3-79	107	38	100	49	7
5-28-79	89	2	100	30	2
6-11-79	69	11	100	36	9
6-25-79	112	26	100	30	6

All of the major canyons were surveyed in the Santa Rosa Mountains on June 25, where as the previous counts covered the northern area between Bradley Canyon and Martinez Canyon.

The San Jacinto Mountains were also checked on June 25 between Blaisdell Canyon and Murray Canyon. No lambs or yearlings were observed, but 5 rams and 15 ewes were recorded. This small sample would indicate low lamb survival for the San Jacinto Mountains"

NOTE: It will be recalled that Dr. Lutz also made a report that he had observed no lambs in the San Jacinto Mts.---See July - August issue.

ANZA BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK----NORTHERN SECTOR--Count period July 7th through July 9, 1979

Twenty two water sources were under observation during this period of time. The Temperature were very hot. As a result the best samples for this area were obtained than had been obtained in previous years. In all 288 sheep were observed. Of these there were 74 rams; 154 ewes, 36 lambs, 17 yearling and 9 unclassified. Ratios were therefore:

Ram: Ewe	Lamb: Ewe	Yearling: Ewe
49 : 100	24 : 100	11 : 100

Southern Sector census held June 30 through July 2, 1979 at eleven (11) water sources. Totals of sheep observed were : 5 rams, 49 ewes, 4 lambs and 2 yearlings for a total of 60. Ratios for the southern sector were:

10 :100	8 :100	4 : 100

These are in Comparison to census reports during 1978 of:

NORTHERN SECTOR !978	Total	Ram	Ewe	lamb	Yearling	unident.
	199	79	86	14	16	4
Southern Sector 1978	70	17	47	0	5	1

RATIOS

	Ram : Ewe	Lamb : Ewe	Yearling : Ewe
Northern	92 : 100	16 : 100	19 : 100
Southern	36 : 100	0 : 100	11 : 100

Previous years census for this park area :

	Southern	Northern
1975	total 122 14 rams, 76 ewes, 7 yearlings, 15 lambs	Total: 196, 36 rams, 92 ewes, 28 yearlings, 31 lambs
1976	" 138 19 rams, 95 ewes, 7 yearlings, 9 lambs	" 134 37 rams, 72 ewes, 7 yearlings, 13 lambs.
1977	" 84, 20 rams, 59 ewes, 2 yearlings, 1 lamb.	" 128 33 rams, 81 ewes, 10 yearlings, 4 lambs.

Report furnished by Dick Weaver, California Department of Fish and Game.

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WORK PROJECTS COMPLETED

Glen Sudmeier reports the successful completion of work projects:

1. In the Nopah Range B.G.G. repair project that took place on January 13 & 14, 1979 was a complete success. Thrty-theee people attended including Vern Bleich, Les Coombes and Jim Davis all of the D.F.G., Region 5. The system is now awaiting the seasonal rains that will fill the three-1,700 gallon plastic holding tanks. Vern Bleich directed the installation of three sheep pellet transect areas. These transect areas were swept clean of any sheep sign, and on future visits new pellet groups will be counted, then removed. This practice will provide solid information that sheep are visiting the site.

2. The Chuckwalla BGG repair project that took place on Feb., 3 & 4, 1979 was successful as far as repairing all of the known problems. However, upon arrival at the site a new problem was displaying itself. Water flowing down the canyon from a recent storm was going under the dam and not into the pickup pipe. So, on our next visit we will seal the basin behind

the dam allow the water to pool and be fed into the pipe for delivery to the holding tanks. Fourteen people attended this project in spite of bad weather and difficult hike.

3. The Pyramid Peak BGG repair project that took place on Feb., 24 & 25, 1979 was a complete success. 38 people attended including 12 from the Panorama Sportsmen's Club. Vern Bleich, Tom Blankenship, Les Coombes and Jim Davis all DFG personnel, and several other regular volunteers also were present. Sheep pellet transects were established here as at the Nopah site. This system has now had the defective tank removed and two new tanks installed. This leaves us with a total of three tanks: one-1,200 gal. steel tank, and two-1,700 gallon plastic tanks for a total of 4,600 gallon storage capacity. All this system now needs is rain. Glen says "LET US PRAY."

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OLD DAD MT. AND KELSO MT. STUDY BEING MADE

Two California Polytechnic University -Pomona Graduate Students, David Crosley and Don Moody are presently making a study in the above area of the Mojave Desert. The Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep is partially funding this study. Crosley and Moody will be making periodic reports to the Society concerning their activities and findings as their study continues. One of their objectives is to define:

1. Range extensions of the bighorn in Old Dad and Kelso ranges;
2. The possibility of sheep crossing between Old Dad and Kelso Mountain ranges;
3. The food habits and plant types within these areas----the plants used and preferences.

We anticipate that this work could prove very valuable in proving the usefullness of our Big Gam Guzzler storage systems. Some years ago when Dick Weaver did his study of these two ranges his conclusions were that the sheep were in trouble and in great need of water. Since then two B.G.G. systems have been installed; one in the Old Dad Mtn. and one in the Kelso Peak area. Since then and until now no study has been done. So, with the work currently being done by David and Don, some proof might be realized that guzzlers are stabilizing and possibly increasing the sheep herds in these two areas.

Glen Sudmeier.

HIGHWAY I - 40 GUZZLER RELOCATED

Society Director Bud Wiedeman has sent in a report written by Mark Sherin of the Pierce College in Los Angeles. Sherin is a member of The Earth Watch Club of the college. The Earth Watch Club has assumed responsibility for monitoring and making repairs to the water storage facilities in the Cady Mountains and along Highway I - 40. They have also had many people in attendance as workers on building of other projects such as the aborted Smith Spring Project in the Sacramento Mts. this past April.

Due to lack of space the Editor of T.S. has excerpt the report of Sherin that he had submitted as a paper at Pierce College. Mrs Barbara Hopper of the College is the Advisor of the Earth Watch Club.

The guzzler reported on is located near the intersection of Highway I - 40 and the Kelbaker Road to the east of Ludlow in eastern San Bernardino County. It was originally installed by Caltrans as part of the agreement to build the highway. There are also passageways under the highway near the crest of mountain ranges intersected by this highway, also by agreements made prior to construction. The drinker in this case was apparantly place too close to the roadway. This proximity has discouraged use of the water by the bighorns.

Sherin says: "Our goals for the weekend were to move the drinker away from the highway another 1,000 feet and build a corral around it. The water pipe had to be buried to prevent breakage from freezing. In many instances, this involved piling rocks around the pipe and filling it in with sand from the gully bottom. While picking up one of these rocks, two baby cottontails were discovered peeking out of their den. Apparantly our activity had chased the mother away and though frightened, they were surprisingly curious. The only other wildlife encountered was a pair of ravens nesting on the mountain wall high above us.

While some of us were busy with the pipe, others built the burro exclosure. It is about 30 feet long and 20 feet wide, built out of galvanized pipe tubing. If this exclosure were any smaller it is doubtful that the bighorn sheep would enter it to get to the water."
NOTE: The Granite Mountains to the north a few short miles are infested with feral burros.

SMITH SPRING "Smith Spring is located high in a canyon facing east overlooking Needles, Calif. and the Colorado River. The Spring occassionally goes dry in the summer so we were hoping to increase it's storage capacity by building a small dam just below it. Also planned to install a dri nker a few feet away from the spring. All materials had to be backpacked into the project site. Cement was divided into 30 pound packs and the tools, drinker and pipes were distributed among the work party. Unfortunately, not very many people were there and the hike proved to be very strenuous. No installation was done though, since everyone was exhausted.

NOTE: Sherin does not report that the work party started up the wrong fork of the canyon toward Broken Mule Shoe Tank and that before Marvin Wood could catch up with the leaders and straighten them out a lot of unnecessary energy had been expended. Also there were only 17 volunteers . Nor, the fact that there is a little over 1,000 feet in altitude gained during that one and three-quarter mile walk.

Project completion will be some time later this fall after cooling weather comes.

OLD DAD MOUNTAIN "as at Smith Spring everything had to be carried in, some set off early to avoid the heat. At the trailhead, we found ancient Indian sleeping circles, which were remarkeably well definedareas cleared of rocks....When we reached the guzzler site, two hours later, the faulty drinker was quickly removed and the new one set in its place.....I helped put in two transects while the plumbing was being completed. This involved marking an area 8' by 20' with sections of rebar and then removing all sheep signs from within it. After three months someone will return and count all of the pellets in the area to determine amount of usage. The work project was completed in about three hours....on the return we flushed a prarie falcon from her nest....."

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NOTE: These young people--men and women, are to be congratulated for their interest in the well being of our desert wildlife. THE FUTURE DEPENDS OF THESE PEOPLE. Too many of our middle aged citizens are both uninformed and are apathetic.

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RED ROCK CAVES REPAIRS COMPLETED

Vernon C. Bleich, Associate Wildlife Biologist of the California Department of Fish and Game has reported that he has replaced the two water storage tanks of the Red Rock Caves Big Game Guzzler in the Sacramento Mts. as of June 26th. Water still present was stock piled and then pumped back into the new tanks. A new float and float valve completed the repairs.

Bleich also reported that the work at the Smith Spring project has had to be postponed until cooler weather of fall. The plans at this stage is only to raise the lower lip of the catch basin to increase water storage capacity and then to pipe water to a drinker.

NOTE: In the opinion of the Editor, who is also the Society's 'Field Captain' for this area, this type of installation is inadequate. In his opinion there should be storage tanks as have been used on not less than 28 other projects for the bighorns. Ample supplies of water could be trapped and stored for summer use. To the present time there has been no evidence of burros in this area, although 18 months ago five burros (judging from tracks) did traverse a nearby canyon. Gerald Hillier suggests that perhaps we need to study the possiility of the need for 'burro-proofing' these area water sources.

Bleich also reported that the Picachio Tank trap in the East Chocolate Mts. is no longer a hazard to bighorns using the water. His crew had taken a jackhammer to the tank and had cut a safe route for entrance and exit from this water source.

Bleich also reported that the Horizontal Drilling equipment is scheduled for a busy October. Well drillings have been scheduled in the Santa Rosa Mts and in the Coxcomb Mts. These are authorized for the fiscal year beginning July 1 this year.

The Piute Mt. big game guzzler is out of service. The feeder pipe from storage tanks to the drinker apparantly froze and burst. Bleich had only discovered it within the past two or three weeks. Your editor, Lew Carpenter should have checked this out several months ago but failed to do so. EXCUSES----excuses/.....xcuses.

AN AUGUST 15th REPORT FROM VERNON C. BLEICH, Associate Wildlife Manager-Biologist and concerning the Red Rock Caves facility. Vern says in part,: "You will be pleased to know that the storm of July 20th filled the tanks to overflowing. We also removed the old tanks, and replaced the float in the drinker. In short, the guzzler is operating nicely, and a few minor plumbing adjustments will have it in perfect operating condition soon.
You will also be pleased to know that we ran a time-lapse camera at the guzzler between July 17 and 24. The film recorded numerous bighorn using the drinker on several different days. I would say that the Red Rock Caves big game guzzler will be one of our most successful installations....."

NOTE: Your Editor being the Society's team captain for this area is indead very thrilled to receive the above verification of the extensive use of this facility.

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IF YOU GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO THEN READ---THE JACKASS MISSION as written by Richard Starnes in the Outdoor Life Magazine issue of July 1979. In it Starnes reviews the socalled Wild Free Roaming Horse and Burro legislation of 1971 and results since that time.

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FIELD AND STREAM MAGAZINE issue of August 1979 Lauds The Foundation for North American Wild Sheep Funds Projects as follows: " The Foundation for North American Wild Sheep has been funding projects for the management and re-establishment of wild sheep since its formation three years ago. A non-profit organization of hunters, outfitters, and others interested in the well-being of wild sheep, the Foundation has raised over $125,000. Funds have been donated to the following groups or individuals: The Nature Conservancy toward the purchase of land in Colorado for use by state Fish and Game Department. The REAL Alaska Coalition to assist in the land use question; Dr. Thomas Bunch of Utah State University for research in Chronic Frontal Sinusitis in desert bighorn; Society for Conservation of Bighorn Sheep; Dr. Valerius Geist for research on bighorns; Lanny Wilson of the Idaho BLM and Dr. Raul Valdez of New Mexico State University for publication costs of books on sheep studies; trucks, 4-wheel-drive vehicles, and radio equipment to the Mexico Game Department for usein sheep studies and law enforcement.

The Foundation is looking for those interested in North American wildlife in general to become members. For further information, contact the Foundation, Dept. FS, 1315 Sylvan St., St Paul, Minnesota 55117 (byline--Sharon Brown)"

NOTE: A number of members of the Foundation, including the President LloydZeman are members of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep and a number of the Society also support the Foundation (including this editor).

ARIZONA SHEEP SOCIETY WINS AMERICAN MOTORS AWARD

The Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society has wo n the Annual American Motors Group Conservation Award, sponsored by the American Motors Corporation. In recognition of their achievements, the Society will receive a special citation, a bronze plaque and a check for $500.00

The Societ y's nomination was submitted by Bill Sizer, Information and Education Chief of the department, who characterized the group as a "selfless, energenic and productive citizen' group, " and stated that "their projects are not mere outings; rather, they are designed to create positive, measurable improvements in bighorn habitat."

The Nomination listed 49 specific projects completed by the Society in bighorn habitat since 1968.

Courtesy: Arizona Game & Fish Department--Newsletter
July 13, 1979

The Arizona Society has also undertaken a large project in the literary field. The S Society is publishing the Final Journalsof Charles Sheldon, under the title THE WILDERNESS OF DESERT BIGHORNS AND SERI INDIANS. Two previous books written by Charles Sheldon are now Collectors items: The WILDERNESS OF DENALI and THE WILDERNESS OF THE UPPER YUKON. Both are very interesting to me (Ed. T.S.). Sheldon (1867 - 1928) was a man of wealth who had an intense interest in wildlife--of all species, but especially of the bighorns. He was a skillful hunter, an intrepid explorer---very frequently all alone; a well qualified naturalist; a friend and companion of people such as "Teddy " Roosevelt. He made outstanding contribution to the formation of the Mt. McKinleyNational Park and of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and to the passage of bills that enacted the Migratory Waterfowl Stamp---the revenue of which is used to buy private lands for waterfowl - these lands then becoming part of our National Preserves.

The Arizona Society is offering Collectors copies at $100.00 Regular copies are offered at $28.50 plus $1.50 postage---total $30.00. Pairs of regular copies may be purchased at 53.00 per pair including postage. Send you checks and orders to:

Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, P.O. Box 5241, Phoenix, Arizona 85010

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October 6, 1979 ANNUAL DINNER MEETING for the Southern California area. To be held again at Michael's at 4500 Los Feliz Blvd., in Los Angles, California. PLEASE MAIL in your card---whether you can or cannot attend. After dinner speaker is to be Mr. William O. Montoya, Assistant Director of the New Mexico Department of Fish and Game.

October 23rd there is to be an ART SHOW sponsored by the COAST FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION at their San Gabriel offices---time 8:00 p.m. You may expect to see many art works concerning the bighorn sheep.

The First week in April ---it's Wednesday, Thursday and Friday----1980---The DESERT BIGHORN COUNCIL will hold the Annual meeting in St. George, Utah. Carl Mahon, of the BLM, Cedar City, Utah is the Chairman at the present.

LAST WEEKEND of June 1980 a WILD SHEEP SYMPOSIUM is to be held in Fresno, California under the joint sponsorship of the California Wildlife Federation and the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep. WHAT CONSERVATION IS ALL ABOUT

by
LOREN L. LUTZ

Under the dateline of 27 April 1979, the above titled report has been received by the Editor of THE SHEEPHERDER.

"Last night I attended a rarity, one put on by the Southern Council of Conservation Clubs, in, of all places, Anza Borrego State Park.

Attending were eight "boys" of John and Carol Lowery's, their seventeen-year old dog and a friend Amber, a Laborador-golden retreiver cross-breed, plus Ernie Sanchez, Clara Garcia, Robert Garcia, Scott Anand, Paul Grant, Erik Strand, Romy Lourich, Eddie Avadakian, Pete Zabriskie, Jerry David, Phyllis and LeRoy Nichols, Merle Selder, and Marty Newman.

Hosts LeRoy Nichols and his wife Phyllis put on a barbeque, assisted by Carol Lowery.

One of the best parties I have attended in many years, put on under desert stars. It was, in a way, a culmination of nine years of effort by the "WATER FOR WILDLIFE PROGRAM, started by the Southern Council of Conservation Clubs and the Sheep Society. The latest effort being the installation of tie-in pipes between these water tanks and the cleaning out of three natural tanajas water proofed in previous years. All now full of water and not leaking.

This project was the first installation by this volunteer organization in May of 1970. It has provided water for thousands of doves; it has established families of both mountain quail and gambel quail; coyotes, bobcats, and bighorn sheep use this area frequently.

The project is located in the Pinyon Mountains of Anza Borrego State Park. At least three Eagle Scouts have attained their ranks in this project under the leadership of John Lowery, Post Leader.

Three past presidnets of the Southern Council were present, John Lowery, LeRoy Nichols, and Jerry David.

The water development is an hour and a half's hard hike from a four-wheel drive road. Equipment was carried in by back pack. The water tanks had been ferried in by helicopter in 1970, and other supplies had been carried in by horseback and foot power. Included in this was some four hundred yards of pipe. Prior to this project there had been no free water available in this desert range for wildlife." end quote.

NOTE: The above group of young people have been the very backbone of the majority of the water projects that have been constructed to this date. This Troop of Explorer Scouts do symbolize the finest tradition of Scouting in America. Dedicated leadership as is furnished by these adults are few and far between. Too much credit cannot be given to people of this stature.

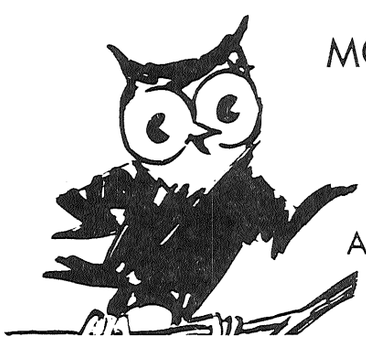
ARTICLES OF INTEREST ----------OUTDOOR CALIFORNIA--May-June 1979

The Editor of THE SHEEPHERDER does recommend that people interested in California's Fish and wildlife resources should subscribe to OUTDOOR CALIFORNIA published by the Department of Fish and Game. Published bi-monthly subscriptions are only $2.00 annually. Send check to : PUBLICATIONS SECTION, P.O. Box 1015, North Highlands, California 95660

The issue of May - June 1979 has two articles that are timely and both concern our bighorn sheep of California . The first titled: Horizontal Wells-- the DFG's new slant on water for wildlife, written by Lester Coombs and Vernon Bleich both of Region 5, Long Beach. This describes the horizontal wells and gives their locations and results. The idea of horizontal wells was originated on the foothill ranches of Fresno County in Central California. As it was first applied to wildlife was publicized by Carl Mahon of the BLM, Utah at a Desert Bighorn Council meeting. This was then publicized in THE SHEEPHERDER and attempts were made to get funding from the DFG and Wildlife Conservation Board for purchase of necessary equipment. The Southern California Safari Club in Los Angeles then became interested and did make the DFG a gift of a complete Horizontal Well Drilling machine together with all the needed tools this was at a cost of about $9,000.00 This was another instance of the Sportsmen-Conservationist coming to the aid of wildlife. We have carried articles on previous occassions together with pictures of this equipment and its successes. As the article states: All that is necessary now to increase the number of water sources using this equipment is MONEY. Wouldn't it be nice if some of the Protectionists were willing to put some of their money where their mouths are----instead of trying to keep these same concerned Sportsmen-Conservationists from assisting wildlife species.

The second article New California Bighorn Sheep Herd Established written by Dave Dick with photos by DFG Biologist Banky Curtis is concerned with the transplant of the nine sheep (*Ovis canadensis Californiana*) from the capture site near Mt. Baxter to the Wheeler Ridge area to the northwest of Bishop. The Nine orginal sheep released -- as of early March have now become thirteen sheep with the addition of four lambs. Each ewe successfully delivered a good lamb this spring. According to Larry White these sheep are all together still and are at the 10,000' level, where he is monitoring them.

Another article "Wild Animals Need Health Care Too has apicture of Society Director Charles Jenner, D.V.M. examining one of the captured sheep and explaning what he finds to Students of the University of California--Davis.



WE DO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP OUR MEMBERS ADDRESSES AS CURRENT AS POSSIBLE. YOU CAN HELP BY PUTTING THE Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep on your list of people to notify when you move--or before you move. This will assure that you will receive your bi-monthly issue of THE SHEEPHERDER, and other pertinant information on time and schedule to the best we can do. Each copy returned costs the Society not less than 25¢ PLUS then sending it on to you by FIRST CLASS MAIL