SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP

The Sheepherder

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B.L.M. CREATES SHOCK WAVES

People around the country almost went into a state of shock this past fall when it was announced that the Caliente District of the Bureau of Land Management was considering the reduction of a strong herd of desert bighorn sheep in order, apparantly, to create more grazing for domestic cattle.

The BLM has written an EIS for the Caliente District. The part of the district with which we are concerned lies in the Mormon Mountains of southeastern Nevada. According to the BLM's EIS the present livestock use is licensed at 259 AUMS (Animal use months---the equivalent of one cow and calf for one month). The proposal is to increase this grazing allottment to 1209 AUMs during the next ten years---1980 - 1990. The area contains 64,619 acres, approxiamtely. Present numbers of Bighorn Sheep are given as 404 animals. Effects of the proposal are given as a reduction of 204 sheep between now and the year 2015. During the proposed period of use the BLM would reduce livestock graing in the Breedlove area by 379 AUMs and estimate that sheep populations would increase by 96 animals.

However, BLM's EIS also states that studies made by Lanny O. Wilson of the BLM has shown that with the introduction of domestic cattle into a bighorn range that there was a very great decline in sheep numbers and in some areas that the bighorns left the area entirely, and not returning until after cattle had been removed from the range. "Because of this competition for space, the quantity of forage and water present in the area is not the only consideration when meeting bighorn needs."......

MITIGATING MEASURES-- Chapter 4. QUOTE:
"WILDLIFE: IMPACT:- Bighorn sheep numbers in the Mormon Mountains (BY -1) would be reduced by 50 percent (404 bighorn sheep to 200 bighorn sheep by 1985) due to increased competition for space by domestic livestock."

"MEASURE - retain livestock forage allocation at the 1977 level (328 AUMs) pending completion of a Habitat Management Plan and an Allotment Management Plan for the Mormon Peak allottment. Increase the forage allocation only if the detailed activity plans determine that detrimental effects will not occur to bighorn sheep." end quote.

The Technical Staff of the Desert Bighorn Council on learning of the above proposal did write to the BLM offices in protest of the proposal.

A copy of a response from John S. Boyles, District Manger has come to the hand of this Editor. This response states in part: "Although the final decision has not been made (Dec. 7, 1979) the recommended decision is to modify the proposed action as recommended in the EIS. Efforts are underway in the District to develop and implement a Habitat Management Plan for desert bighorn sheep in the Mormon Mountains, the area of the identified impact." end quote.

EDITOR NOTE: the above was received on January 5, 1980 and is the latest word to this date. The editor has been in these Mormon Mountains hunting. BLM has built water storage and watering devices for the domestic cattle. He has seen the bighorn sheep tracks around these watering areas. There are wild horses in the area, we saw them. No burros were observed although there may be some.
Caliente District Manager, John S. Boyles may be reached at P.O. Box 5400, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102. PH. (702) 385 - 6403

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The Foundation for North American Wild Sheep has also lodged a strong protest with the Bureau of Land Management against the proposed increase of domestic cattle allotted to this Mormon Mountain area,

One of the Sheep organizations are presently contemplating an injuntive suit against the Bureau of Land Management.

SIERRA CLUB PLANNING BURRO FILM

Under the date of November 20, 1978 the Editor T.S. was sent a copy of a proposed script to be used by the Sierra Club in the making of a moving picture film for public showing.

This script sent by Bill Neill a member of the Sierra Club and also of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep will show the need for the strict management of burro numbers on the public lands. Neill can be contacted at 533 South Harvard, Apt. #203, Los Angeles, 90020 should anyone be willing to make any suggestions or help in the financing of this very needed project. At the present (Nov. 20) the Safari Club International has made a committment of $6,000. Other committments bring the total to $8,650. This is about the one-half of proposed budget. The proposed title is: "TRESPASSERS OF THE DESERT". It is hoped that the title will integue people into viewing the film.

Ike Eastvold of the Desert Committee is to be the narrator and the interviewer of the film. He is an instructor in courses of archeology and is experienced in speaking 'on camera'.

Among those to be interviewed 'on camera' for the film are knowledable persons such as our good friend Richard "Dick" Weaver of the California Department of Fish and Game. Dick is known to most of the Society membership as being a devotee of the desert bighorns during the past at least 20 years. He presently is taking the lead in the transplanting programs in California and with Jerry Mensch made the original study of California's bighorns and of the feral burros in 1969, and 1970-71.

Another of those interviewed is to be Dr. Robert Omart, Department of Zoology of the Arizona State University. The Sheepherder has reported on several occasions concerning Dr. Omart's studies dealing with the feral burro in the Alamo Lake area and along the Colorado River in Arizona.

Part of the filming is to be in the Grand Canyon National Park and will be done by use of helicopter with Dr. Stephen Carothers, biologist at the Museum of Northern Arizona as a guide in that area.

Filming in the Death Valley National Monument will have Peter G. Sanchez, Resource Management Specialist as the guide. "Pete" knows the Death Valley mountains and canyon intimately. He has watched the bighorn numbers diminish rapidly during the past number of years while the numbers of non-native burros have rapidly increased.

Dr. Kristin Barry will be interviewed and discuss the plight of the desert tortoise and many of the plants that are endangered by the eating habits of the burros and their destructive 'trailings'.

NOTE: One area that is not mentioned in the script and which this editor believes should be is that of the China Lake Naval Weapons Center and that of the contiguous Ridgecrest areas. The CLNWC is presently developing and Environmental Impact Statement concerning plans for an intensive management plan for the large numbers of feral burros in the area. Burros are encroaching into the yards of residents and are becoming a traffic hazard on roads leading to the areas as well as on Naval Center lands. These lands do extend over a very large area and into the Argus Mountains to the east and north of Trona. In these Argus mountains a few years ago this editor with Pete Petron of Fresno did develope the Bainter Spring and build a water storage facility for the desert bighorns and for other native wildlife. On last inspection of this facility there were no signs of bighorns in the area. It is now overrun by burros.

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DESERT SHEEP IMPERILED

NEW MEXICO SCABIES--UPDATE

"A scabies mite infestation during the winter of 1978 - 79 destroyed 60 % or more of the San Andres Mountain desert bighorn sheep herd, reducing it from around 200 to about 70 head. In October, the Game and Fish biologists were planning to live-capture sheep to determine whether the infestation is repeating itself and if a crisis situation exists. In all probability, it does; and you will be asked to contribute to a desert sheep rescue fund.

If the infestation repeats itself this winter, untreated, it may wlll be the end of the sheep herd in the San Andres. Once reduced to a certain point, the sheep herd may be unable to reproduce itself and slowly dwindle away.

To prevent this, the agency will--if the crisis is confirmed- launch a rescue operation of a kind never before attempted. It will try to live-capture as many San Andres bighorns as possible--using a helicopter to drive them into nets, or as a platform for darting sheep with tranquilizers--remove them to a holding pen, treat them for scabies and, after quarantine is no longer necessary, take them to the Red Rock game pastures for holding until they can be restocked in the an Andres or other suitable places.

The San Andres Herd, even at its reduced size, represents more than two-thirds of the wild desert sheep in New Mexico and half of the total population, including those already captive at Red Rock. Loss of this herd would be an impoverishment of the state's wildlife that is beyond measure.

If the crisis is confirmed and the rescue launched, it will begin in the first half of November. You-and your friends, relatives, businesses and organizations--may well be the key to its success. The department will be attempting to capture from 40 to 50 head or more --at a cost of around $100,000.

Thus, we are turning to you. The operation, if indeed it is necessary, will be widely publicized. We hope that if, or when, you hear about it and are called upon to contribute to the desert sheep rescue fund, you will contribute generously--and persuaae others to contribute also." end quote. New Mexico-- WILDLIFE magazine. Nov./ Dec. 1979

NOTE: The May - June 1979 issue of THE SHEEPHERDER did carry articles concerning thescabies mite outbreak in the San Andres Mountain herd of desert bighorn. We will attempt to keep you posted as the program developes. lew.

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TWO CASES OF DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP POACHING COME TO LIGHT

On June 27, 1979 the Honorable Michael Sauer of the Los Angeles Municipal Court sentenced Hector H. Crespo of the Western Taxidermy Studio to an 18 month suspended jail term and assessed him $625 as a result of Crespo having attempted to sell a desert bighorn sheep head to the brother of a Department of Fish and Game Warden.

The crime had been committeed last January when Crespo had attempted to sell the head for $1,500. to Dick Stuckey himself an employee of the Department of Fish and Game and a brother of DFG Warden Don Stuckey of Willows, North of Sacramento. On the 31st of that month Stuckey returned to the taxidermy studio with marked money and a hidden radio transmitter to use during the purchasing process monitored by DFG Lt. Brian Replogle and Warden Larry St. Clair working in plain clothes.

The officers subsequently found two other desert bighorn heads and evidence of inadequate record keeping.

IN THE SECOND CASE:

The Honorable Joseph Kalin, Judge of the Glendale Municipal Court, placed Juan Oribio Bautista of Los Angeles on two years summary probation and assessed a total of $895 in penalties, for the taking and possession of a bighorn sheep. All of the bighorn sheep species has been a completely protected specie ever since the California Legislature in 1873 made that decision. In addition to the above penalties Judge Kalin also ruled that that three loaded guns found in the suspects car were to be forfeited to the state.

The case began on August 19, 1979 when Los Angeles County Sherriff's Deputy Sylvia Lindquist, patrolling the Angeles Crest area north of Glendale, stopped Bautista's car for swerving across the center line of the highway. She was assisted by deputy trainee David Silversparre. Deputy Lindquist noticed bloodstains in the car and asked about them.. Bautista replied that he had just killed an animal. On request, he opened the trunk of the car, revealing the beheaded and dismembered carcass of a bighorn sheep, an adult ram with a full curl of horns.

A radio call to the DFG brought Warden Dan Murphy of Sunland to the La Crescenta Valley Sheriff's Substation, where he took charge of the sheep remains and the weapons and placed Bautista under arrest for taking and possession of a fully protected mammal. Five other occupants of Bautista's car were released.

EDITORIAL OPINION In comparing the severity of the two above crimes it appears to the editor that the taxidermist was guilty of a far greater crime than was Bautista. Crespo had an illegally taken animal from which he was endeavoring to sell for monetary gain. This does not in any manner absolve Bautista from his violation. I believe that the taxidermist should have been required to serve a jail term and a larger civil penalty commensurate with his prior knowledge that he was committing a felony. Lew Carpenter.

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NOTE: The lead to the story about the Bautista poaching effort was sent to me by Bob Campbell. The Specifics were obtained through a request of DFG Region 5's Bill Richardson made during the September meeting of the Sportsmen's Council of Central California. Thanks Bill. As the Editor - I do appreciate all the assistance I can get concerning our sheep and their welfare.

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JOE GREENLEY BECOMES DIRECTOR OF NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

Mr. Joseph C. Greenley has left his position as director of the Department of Fish and Game for Idaho to accept an appointment to the like position with the Nevada Department of Wildlife. The appointment became effective as of January 1, 1980 as was reported in the News Release of the Idaho DFG in early December.

Richard A. Scwartz, Idaho Falls, chairman of the F. & G. Commission, described Greeley's departure as a "Tremendous loss to the state. Nevada is extremely lucky to get him back."

Greenley had previously spent eight years with the Nevada DFG--1950 to 1968 He had then Served as Director of The Alaska DFG for nearly four years before being appointed to the Idaho post that he has now vacated.

During his tenure in Idaho that state's program of bighorn sheep re-introductions have been many and successful. Certainly his past experiences show him to be well qualified to face the nuberous problems confronting Nevada. One of these first problems will be the persuit of the suit against the various branches of the Bureau of Land Management as the Nevada Department of Wildlife seeks to get some meaningful burro management programs undertaken by the BLM.

A letter from departing Glen K. Griffith, says in part, "Please be assured that we will continue with the wild horse suit. I have Mr. Peter Kirby, and attorney for the National Wildlife Federation reviewing archives in Washington D.C. to see if he can determine congressional intent at the time the law was enacted. Hopefully, we will get that information before the end of the month,(December) the the Attorney General's office will begin the discovery process of the action which involves reviewing the Bureau of Land Management files."

EDITORIAL COMMENT: Certainly we of the bighorn sheep enthusiasts do wish these two gentlemen Greenley and Griffith successes in the coming years.

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NORTHERN WILD SHEEP AND GOAT COUNCIL

W.O Hickey, Senior Wildlife Research Biologist of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game is requesting papers concerning wild sheep and goats for presentation during the first of which is hoped to be an annual meeting of this newly formed organization. The Sheepherder issue of this past November-December carried an article about it. Hickey is particularly interested in getting papers dealing with trapping and capture, reintroductions---site determination for projected use, successes and for trapping and capture myopothy, treatments for lungworm infestations and the effects of removal of some members of a herd may have on the remaining members of that herd. Hickey's address is P.O. Box 1336, Salmon, Idaho 83467

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CALIFORNIA PLANNING MORE TRAPPING AND TRANSPLANTING OF SHEEP 1980

A note from Dick Weaver, California DFG to the Editor reports that the department is busy baiting trapping sites both at the Lava Beds National Monument and also on the winter range of the Mt. Baxter herd. These are both herds of the California bighorn, or Sierra bighorns (*Ovis canadensis californiana*)

It was from the Mt. Baxter-Sawmill Cyn. herd of bighorn that the transplant of nine sheep nearly a year ago was successfully made to the Wheeler Ridge area to the northwest of the town of Bishop. Dick reports that this herd of the 1979 effort still looks good. The sheep are remaining in rough and remote areas of the terrain. Although some of the members of this transplant still wear funcioning radio transmitters it is still difficult to keep them under any kind of observation. Both of the mature rams have been seen with the band of ewes, although they do not stay with the ewes all of the time. It is presumed that the breeding of the ewes has taken place, even though none has been observed. We will know this for certain during late spring of 1980--probably by early June.

The herd in the Lava Beds N.M. had its beginning with the ten bighorns captured in British Columbia and brought by truck to the release site in the fall of 1972. There are presently about 45 members in this herd. Game managers of the cooperating Agencies are beginning to get worried that the herd is getting too large for the 1100 acre enclosure and for the possibility of some disastrous epizootic stiking as it has in the past.

Lawrence H. White, Wildlife Technician has submitted a report concerning the transplant from the Mt. Baxter herd to Wheeler Ridge.

This project was reported in T.S. in the May - June issue. White's report is concerned with the time span beginning on March 6, 1979 with the capture and its re-introduction. Radio tracking and direct observation indicated that the sheep immediately found and remained in suitable winter habitat. During May all four ewes gave birth to lambs and all survived through the September 30, 1979 period of study. This raised the herd numbers from nine to thirteen. The old rams did not stay with the ewes during this span of time. It was thought probable that the sexually mature two-year old ram would be with the ewes during the rut, even should the older rams not appear at that time.

The release site on Wheeler Ridge is only 38 air-line miles from the site of capture near the mouth of Sawmill Canyon, in Inyo County.

F.L. Jones in his Masters Thesis in 1949 reported a number of observations of bighorns in a number of the drainages of the Mt. Baxter - Mt. Williamson areas.

Six of the captured animals were outfitted with radio transmitters and the collars were also color coded for visual recognition. Signals from the radios can be monitored for several miles on a line of sight (no interveneing mountain ridges between the sheep and the observer).

On and after July 6th the sheep were observed on the summer range. They were all on top of Wheeler Crest near Pt. 12,743. Here they ranged to both east and west at altitudes between 11,800 and 13,000 feet. There was no indication that these sheep explored other areas during the summer.

The majority of the eastern escarpment of Wheeler Ridge is excellent winter habitat for bighorn containing the essential forage vegetation, topography and slope exposure. O ne of the greatest limiting factors of bighorn occurence in the Sierra Nevada is suitable winter habitat.

Topographically Wheeler Crest is ideal bighorn habitat due to extensive rock towers and broken cliffs which are essential for bighorn cover requirements. The sheep were consistently observed in or adjacent to these formations and never found to range onto the lower alluvial fans. They frequently foraged in the steep gully systems between the rocks.

At the time of capture the bighorn were examined by veterinarians. They were determined to be in good condition and tests indicated insignificant occurence of lungworm. Results

were negative in regards to disease such as blue tongue, sore mouth and others. Prior to release the sheep were wormed and injected with a general antibotic. The sheep had significant, but common tick infection at the time of capture.

PREDATION:

No evidence of predation were observed during this study. Mountain lion and coyote scats were found in the area. Golden eagles were seen taking looks at the ewes and lambs. However, there was no eagle molestations observed. The potential competition in several forms was noted within the sheep range. It is probable that most, if not all, of these are insignificant in respect to the sheep increasing toward a viable population. Mule deer and bighorn ranges do overlap slightly.

Recreatio use was observed to be light in the newly established sheep range. Within the winter range rock climbers were occassionally on the cliffs and chutes below Pt 8400 or on the cliffs in the Sheelite area. No encounters with sh-ep were evident. Summit registers were reviewed in the summer range. Only two visits were recorded by mountaineers within the last several years were noted on the southern end of Wheeler Ridge. However, nearby Mt. Morgan (13,748") had been climbed by many people every year including parties of up to 25 climbers. This peak lies within the potential range of this sheep herd. Hang gliders frequently used the portion of Wheeler Grest northof Round Valley Peak as a take-off point. ccess to this point is via a 4-wheel drive road from Sand Canyon. However this area is well out of the sheep range anc habitat suitability is relatively poor. ....Union Carbide Tungsten Mine uses the road up Morgan Creek Road from the mine daily. The sheep a distance of half a mile away and 1,500 feet higherdo not seem disturbed.

Management actions deemed to have the most significant effects on this herd are: additional reintroductions, limitations on human use, and habitat manipulation. Of these items it is noted above that plans are being made for additional transplants into the area this year. A small area on the winter range is to be manipulated by removal of juniper trees of that area on an experimental basis.

Herd numbers of the Mt. Baxter unit have augmented the past several years. However, the bighorn herd on Mt. Williamson seems to be barely static. The Sheep of Mt. Williamson are much more nervous and flighty than those of the Mt. Baxter. This may be due to the greater amount of human use around Mt. Williamson and people climbing that mountain.

NOTE: During the writing of the Management Plan to be used in this Wilderness Area the Sportsmen's Council of Central California did request that the Mt. Williamson area be closed to human use, except under special permits and frequently monitored. A very well-known organization that specializes in demands for Wildlernesses was requested to remove the Mt. Williamson as one of the mountains that club members should climb. The request was denied. However, the Agencies involved did ban the over-night camping of people in what is known as the Rae Lakes Loop. This did lessen the amount of human use in that area, about one-third of the way from Mt. Baxter to Mt. Williamson to the south and a little east.

The new 'home-range' of those bighorn transplanted from the Lava Beds will be in the East Warner Mountains of Modoc County. It is hoped that fifteen sheep will be captured for this translocation. The East Warner Mountains are an historic sheep range. Plans are to outfit six of the sheep with radio transmitter collars.

Included among funds for this project is $5,000 that is being provided by the California Nongame Wildlife Fund. This money will probably be used for the radio transmitting equipment and for the needed monitoring services. This source of funds has been used before this year of 1980 for the purchase of water storage tanks, drinkers and piping needed for three desert water storage projects.

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POPE AND YOUNG INVEST IN IDAHO'S BIGHORN FUTURES

Pope and Young, a worldwide organization of bowhunters dedicated to quality big game hunting, has invested $1,000 in the Idaho Department of Fish and Game's sheep relocation program. The money is to be used to assist the Departmentsefforts toward returning the bighorns to historic ranges, strengthening existing populations and transplanting the animals into new areas that are capable of supporting herds.

Pope and Young maintains the "Bowhunters Big Game Records of North America" and its members "promote the principles of fair chase and quality, rather than quantity, of game harvest."

Bighorns were counted in the thousands by the first settlers in south central Idaho's Lemhi Valley and the Lost River country, but the herds had all but disappeared by the beginning of the 20th Century. The department Policy Plan lists unregulated hunting, disease and human activity and development as principal causes for the bighorn losses and the Plan assigns a high priority to trapping and transplanting as a means of restoring the populations.

THE SHEEPHERDER has reported on numerous occasions the efforts beingmade in Idaho to restore these populations. Jim Thiessen, state game manager, says the department would like to move about 40 Rocky Mountain bighorns each year from the Panther Creek herd in the Salmon River drainage. He says, "We believe we can move that many and continue to maintain the strong Panther Creek population."

In Owyhee County, the department intends to shift some California bighorns from Deep Creek to the Bruneau Canyon Area.. Theissen adds, "We haven't had a failure yet on historic range transplants."

BIG GAME HUNTER IS BIG LOSER AFTER RIGGING THE ODDS TO GET A DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP

A California man was indicted by a federal grand jury on Wednesday September 19, 1979 in connection with the illegal slaughter of one of Nevada'a desert bighorn sheep.

Khosrow Sanjabi, 41, of Chino, California killed a bighorn without having a tag and with transportation of wildlife taken in violation of state laws.

Sanjabi's more than sporting chance to get the trophy animal cost him a $10,000. fine, a monthly report to a probabtion officer for two years, and loss of all hunting, fishing, and trapping priviledges throughout the United States for two years. Sanjabi had persuaded 22 of his friends to file applications for one of the non-resident permits issued by Nevada during the year of 1977. One of these 'friends' did obtain a permit. Then, accompanied by the legal tag-holder, his wife and son, none of whom hunted, as well as by two licensed Nevada hunting guides, Sanjabi hunted the mountains of southern Nevada and bagged the big nimal without having the required tag issued in his own name. He then took the sheep across State lines to California, a violation of the Lacey Act. (afederal crime)

The manipulation of Nevada's random drawing came to light when he accompanied the legal tagholder to the Devada Department of Wildlife where hunters are required to fill out report forms on their hunt and the sheep obtained. He was recognized by Nevada wildlife officers, whose suspicions were aroused. Together with Special Agents of the Fish and Wildlife Service they began an investigation of the incident which was culminated in May 1979 when Sanjabi was served a search warrant. The illegal sheep mount, on which Sanjabi had substituted a longer set of horns, was seized along with the original horns from the illegally killed sheep. The sentencing of Sanjabi took place in California.

Assistant U.S.Attorney Shirley Smith of Reno, Nevada, called the $10,000 fine "One of the largest ever handed down in this part of the country for a hunting violation.

Clark Bavin, Chief of the U.S.F. & W. Service Division of Law Enforcement, said that in taking the desert big horn sheep, Sanjabi became part of the elite group to get a "Grand Slam," some of whom have been known to pay up to $25,000 to complete.

NEWS RELEASE of U.S.F. & W. Service----December 28, 1979 and from the Las Vegas Review Journal--Sept., 20, 1979---Courtesy 'Chuck Stribling, U.S.F. & W.S

EDITOR OPINION: Perhaps if more of the Judges in the Courts of the states would hand-out penalties such as these for crimes involving wildlife, then, perhaps those persons who consider the poaching of wildlife of no consequences would mend their ways.

Furthermore: there was no report concerning the very obvious conspiracy that existed between Sanjabi and his 'friends' or between Sanjabi and the two hunting guides of Nevada. These latter individuals seemingly are only too anxious to "turn-a-buck". Most certainly any reputable "hunting guide" would make certain of the permit holder and who he was in the field guiding.

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ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT REPORTS TO DESERT BIGHORN COUNCIL

. The department has been making an intensive study of the bighorns to the north of the Kofa Game Range. The area contains three major types of vegetation, creosote on the rolling hills; a second type containing palo verde and grasses and the third habitat type on the Black Mesa and the New Water Mountains. 22 sheep were captured---ages ranged from the 2-3 year olds to 10 years of age. Radio transmitter collars were installed on the sheep and from several locations. Sheep patterns of use arestudied and plotted in the area to the north of Interstate 40 and highway 66 and another to the south and on the east side of the New Water Mountains. Three prime areas of use it was found are being divided by Highway I -10. The rams have shown some transfer across Highway I-10 and Hwy. 60.....-.Some rams have been found to winter in the center of the Kofa Game Range. Jim Witham also reported that the rams do show a great deal of interchange of ranges and do travel distances up to 40 kilometers total distance.

Paul Webb, Big Game Supervisor of the department reported concerning finding of sinusitis among the sheep of Arizona. A previous report of 1978 was made by Thomas Bunch concerning the incidence of sinusitis among the bighorns of Zion National Park. Arizona has studied 20 ewes and 49 rams in the western and southwestern sections of Arizona for incidence of the sinusitis problem. It was found that at least 30 percent of these animals showed evidence of sinusitis infections... In 1977only 2 of 27 rams harvested by hunters did indicate any of the sinusitis infections. The majority of deaths occur among the rams of the six to eight years of age group. One of the evidences of this infection is the gross loss of body weight and emaciation. Ewes are frequently unable to nurse their lambs... Death among the ewes from sinusitis again is found to be most frequent among the 6 to 8 year old group of sheep.

----------Dr. Juan Spillett reported more concerning the above sinusitis. This had been, probably, the most important report of the 1978 meeting of the DBC.

As has been previously reported the sinusitis infection is the result of the bot fly entering the nostrils of the sheep and then traveling upward in the nasal passages and getting trapped in a sinus. Here the bot fly dies and a bacterial infection sets in and creates lesions in the sinuses. These bot fly induced infections are virtually impossible to treat successfully even under ideal conditions where the animal can be kept in the laboratory. Hence a bot fly induced sinusitis is considered to be a terminal situation for the infected animal.

The horn structure and the skulls of the bighorns have a great many of the sinus voids within them. Spillett believes that in the area of bot fly prevalence that probably as many as 45 percent of the sheep will show degrees of infestation. Formation of fistulas is a common external indication of this infection; sneezing is another indication....Tunneling of the skull and horn cores occurs as well as the pitting of the brain case.....Lesions near the eyes can the the cause of blindness, and this does lead to further emaciation as the animal is no longer able to feed properly.

VIRGIN RIVER MOUNTAIN TRANSPLANT

Bob MCQuivey of the Nevada Department of Fish and Game has reported that during June 1979 they had been successful in capturing 21 bighorn sheep at their trap site in the River Mountains adjoining the Lake Mead on the west.

These 21 sheep have been released into the Virgin Mountain Range in Clark County. Eight of these sheep have been given radio collars and the department personnel have been keeping track of these sheep sincethat time - a period of three months. To this date all of the sheep have been doing very well.

A SECOND VIRGIN RIVER MOUNTAIN TRANSPLANT

The latter part of November 1979 the Arizona G.&.F. Department, in cooperation with the BLM was engaged in the capture and transplanting of desert bighorn from the Black Mountains near Kingman to a 700 acre enclosure in the Virgin Mountains on the Arizona Strip. (this area is in the Northwestern corner of the State of Arizona).

A total of three rams and nine ewes were captured and taken by helicopter to the enclosure that had been constructed by the Bureau of Land Management. This is an historic range of the desert bighorn and has been unoccupied by them for probably the last fifty years, at least. The enclosure is along two water courses and will support the sheep until after the lambing period this coming spring. After the lambs have grown to a reasonable size, and the health of the sheep has been determined to be satisfactory, they will be turned out of the enclosure and free to roam in the Black Mountain area.

Breeding success of the transplanted sheep is one of the things that the department will closely monitor. In the past, transplanted animals have met with good success in terms of breeding and survival of adults. Lamb survival is another problem, and the department specialists are working to improve in this area.

The Black Mts. were chosen for the sheep capture because of the high population density and good reproductive trend of recent years. Wildlife Manager George Welsh confirmed this and reported that since the 60's the sheep population in the Black Mts. had tripled. He sets the present population at 400 animals. The Black Mts. and the Virgin Mts. are virtually the same. Both areas are desert with mountains rising quickly to desert-scrub-juniper habitat type. John Morgart a bilogist will have the full time job of monitoring the health and behaviour of the herd, and the condition of the range, both within the enclosure and in the surrounding area where the sheep will roam after release. The salary of Morgart will be equally shared by the BLM and the Department. Capture of this group of twelve sheep was all by use of tranquilling darts fired from a helicopter. There were no losses during this project

Another re-introduction is planned for Goat Mountain, at the end of the Mazatal range on the north side of Apache Lake. An enclosure is being constructed with the cooperation of the Tonto National Forest, and it is hoped that the initial plant of sheep will be completed by December 1980.

ARIZONA BIGHORNS TO COLORADO

Early in November (1979) eleven bighorns were captured in the Kofa Mountains and taken to southwestern Colorado, where they were released into historic habitat. By the end of December another five sheep were to be captured in the Plumosa mountains of Western Arizona and given a new home in western Texas, where it is hoped they will form the nucleus of a re-introduction program.

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IT IS NOW TIME FOR MANY PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP TO GET THEIR MEMBERSHIP CURRENT.

NON MEMBERS ARE URGED TO BECOME A MEMBER AND WITH THESE FEW DOLLARS GIVE THE SOCIETY SOME OF THE FUNDS NEEDED TO ACHIEVE SOME OF IT'S OBJECTIVES.

The Society was formed for the purposes of the Conservation, Preservation and the wise use of the wild sheep of North America. Memebership is open to anyone and to any person of any age. The Society badly needs more members who are aware of the great range and severeness of some of the problems, and who are determined to assist in the solution of some of the problems. A Conservation attitude and a willingness to assist, when called upon, are all that is necessary. If you are interested, then, send in your check and application today.

The bi-monthly newsletter THE SHEEPHERDER, attempts to encompass each aspect of events and causes that are of concern to the well-being of this rare, and insome areas, endangered specie.

The Society advocates: Placing the management and control of the bighorn sheep under the State Fish and Game Commissions of the several states rather than under the Legislature; the developement and improvement of bighorn habitat --especially the water sources; elimination of the checker-board patterns on National Resource Lands; reduction of competition from domestic and feral livestock on sheep ranges; the transplanting of sheep into matched environments; continuation of the annual census of sheep throughout their ranges; and the making of recommendations for management as a result of these censuses; the finding of the cause(s) of infant mortallity and endeavor to correct these cause(s); the obtaining of adequate funding for the Departments of Fish and Game in order that they may be more effective.

San Gabriel Mountain One Day Sheep Count. At press time (14 January) no confirmation of date. However, it will be either Sunday March 9 or Sunday March 16. Contact Jim DeForge at 218 East J St., Ontario, Ca. 91764 or telephone: (714) 756 - 3272 for particulars.

April 9 and 10 Desert Bighorn Council annual conference -- at the FOUR SEASONS--747 East St. George Blvd., St. George, Utah 84770. A field trip is planned for Friday April 11th.

JUNE 6 - 7 - 8, 1980 Joint meeting of California Wildlife Federation and the Society for the Conservation of bighorn Sheep in Fresno. A SYMPOSIUM ON BIGHORN SHEEP is planned for one day.

Begin making your plans for your WATERHOLE COUNTS FOR THIS COMING SUMMER. If possible pick the very hottest summer weather for your area.

THE TIME IS NOW to check those water sources in your area of responsibillity. Get everything in readiness for summer usage. DO NOT WAIT JUST FOR A CONVENIENT DATE TO DO THIS.

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BIGHORN DEATH CLUE FOUND

Two of those twelve desert bighorn sheep found dead in southwestern Arizona showed evidence of bronchial pneumonia when examined at the Arizona State University pathological laboratory.

Jim DeVos, regional game specialist for the Arizona Game and Fish Department, has reported that three sonewhat decomposed carcasses examined at the lab showed symptoms very similar to a fibrous pneumonia common in cattle.

Twelve dead or dying sheep were found in separate incidents during the early summer in the northern Plomosa and Buckskin Mountains. Investigation by the Departeat has involved collecting specimens for analysis to determine the cause of death.

Investigation into the deaths is still underway, and will continue through the hunting season this year. Hunters using the area will be asked to collect biological samples from sheep they take, and the Department will do some capture work to sample sheep populations for possible diseased animals. ASU will continue to work on the problem, DeVos said, by providing a virologist and a pathologist to examine specimens. He added that specimens taken alive; no sheep will be killed for study purposes.

Arizona Wildlife Federation---A.W. News, October 1979.

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Later word on the above.

According to the WILDLIFE NEWSLETTER of the Arizona GAme and Fish Department (Dec.,21, 1979): " The Lazarus Tank water catchment in the Plumosa Mountains will be enlarged and cleaned for the use of desert bighorn sheep in the area." This is a joint project between the A. G.&.F. Dep't. the Bureau of Land Mangement and the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society The work was scheduled for the weekend of January 11 - 13, 1980.
The A.G.&.F. states:"This particular catchment is important, as it is one of the few water sources in the area used by sheep, and is also in the area where mysterious sheep mortallity occurred last summer.

Thecause of the mortallity may never be known. However, water contamination cannot be ruled out as a cause. Because of this, the Department and BLM believe that reconstruction of this and other tanks and catchments when possible is necessary and desirable."
ADBSS told members to bring packframes as all materials-other than water had to be carried in to the project site.

TEAR OFF HERE AND USE THE APPLICATION

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
or renewal

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

_____

Telephone number : Home-_____ Business_____

Place of Birth_____ Date of Birth: _____

Occupation_____

ENCLOSED: you will find my check or money order for $20.00. This includes my initiation fee of ($5.00) and my first year's dues of $15.00. (Students dues are $5.00 per year.)
I will endeavor to do my part on behalf of the bighorn sheep.

Signature:_____