SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP

The Sheepherder

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Dedicated to study and promote the conservation, propogation and preservation of the wild sheep of North America.

JULY - AUGUST 1980

BAD NEWS CONCERNING 1980 LAMB CROP

Doctor Loren L. Lutz, Society President has reported (2 July 1980) that he and his crew of Volunteers had just returned from their annual Waterhole Census in the San Jacinto Mountains near Palm Springs.

The San Jacinto Mts. have had a very productive sheep herd until this just past three or four years. During his census of 1973 Doctor Lutz counted 213 bighorn sheep come to one spring for water during the three day period of the count. Another observer during the same period of time observed 12 sheep at a different spring. Therefore, it is known for certain that there were not less than 225 bighorn sheep in those mountains at that time. During the counting period of 1978 and 1979 neither Doctor Lutz or any member of his team observed even one lamb of-the-year or a single yearling sheep. The last week of June 1980 the census period used by this team saw not even one sheep of any age in the San Jacinto Mts. They then spread out and attempted to find sheep or a trace of any sheep in the region. They had no success at all. No sheep were seen. Furthermore, NONE OF THIS TEAM COULD FIND EVEN ONE TRACK MADE BY A BIGHORN SHEEP ANYWHERE THAT THEY WENT.

Doctor Lutz also reported that during the last three weeks of June Dr. Jack Turner, PhD, now an instructor at the University of Wyoming was in the Santa Rosa Mountains to the southeast of Palm Springs and in the vicinity of the Deep Canyon Research facility. Turner has made many studies concerning the bighorns at this research facility, both while a Graduate Student and since that time as well. He and a companion searched in the Santa Rosa Mts. for lambs of the year and also for yearling sheep. No yearling sheep could be found during the three week period of search. Turner did observe one lamb of the year in an area near the Deep Canyon. Furthermore, as reported in this newsletter. There has been no apparant lamb survival in the Santa Rosa Mts. since 1976.

Because of the reports from the field observers the Board of Directors of the Society did decide to call upon the California Legislature for assistance in attempts to solve the cause(s) of this drastic sheep population decline. Senator H.L.Richardson of Arcadia was asked to introduce a bill that would empower the Department of Fish and Game to make a in-depth study of California's bighorn sheep, and there is $307,000. grant in the bill to provide the needed funds for this research project. This bill SB-834 was introduced by Senator Richardson early in 1979. It did clear the Senate early in December 1979 and was sent to the Assembly. This bill---SB-834 has now been before the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means ever since December 1979. The Committee has held no hearing(s) on the bill. There is no evidence that the Committee has even informally given it any consideration. The Sportsmen's Council of Central California has three times requested that the Committee study this bill and enact it. The California Legislature will adjourn for the summer on July 11th. At this time it seems,to this editor, very doubtful that there will be any consideration given to the plight of the bighorns prior to this adjournment.

EDITORIAL COMMENT. Some members and others will say : Well why doesn't the Department of Fish and Game do something about solving this problem? T his I will attempt to answer. In 1873 the California Legislature removed management of the bighorn sheep from the Department of Fish and Game and declared the bighorns to be a completely protected specie. Under the law----the DFG is required to use all money received from the sale of fishing and hunting licenses and their associated tags and permits to be used exclusively for the enhancement, protection and propogation of fish and game species. As a result, the DFG has no funds that can lawfully be used for non-game species. Desert water storage projects completed during the past eight years have not come from these funds. Weekend participation on these water projects by Fish and Game personnel have been on their days off work, and they are also volunteers, in this respect.

The Senate Bill -834 now in the doldrums was devised to meet this shortage of funds. It is unfortunate that the Assembly will not respond to their responsibilities that they created by the removal of the bighorns from managment by the Department of Fish and Game.

MORE BAD NEWS. Doctor Lutz reports that the roadway problem on the Angeles National Forest has still not been solved in a manner that will protect the future existence of this prime herd of desert bighorn sheep.

Mr. William T. Dresser, Supervisor of the Angeles Forest has to date given no indication that he will even consider the routing of the roadway to serve the Curtis Tungsten Mine so that it will not transgress upon the historic lambing grounds of the San Gabriel Mtn. herd of bighorns. In all probability the lambing ground areas of the home range of any segment of bighorns is of the greatest importance to their well-being.

Editorial

NOTE: It is the opinion of the Sportsmen's Council of Central California that the decision of Mr. Dresser does not meet the intent of the MULTIPLE USE ACT of 1960. The first paragraph of that Act States, in part: " That it is the policy of the Congress that the national forests are established and shall be administered for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, and wildlife and fish purposes." Nothing herein shall be construed as affecting the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the several States with respect to wildlife and fish on the national forests. Nothing herein shall be construed so as to affect the use or administration of the mineral resources of national forest lands or to affect the use or administration of Federal lands not within national forests."....."that some land will be used for less than all of the resources; and harmonious and coordinated m,anagement of the various resources, each with the other, without impairment of the productivity of the land, with consideration being given to the relative values of the various resources, and not necessarily the combination of uses that will give the greatest dollar return or the greatest unit output."

It is difficult for the editor to understand why Mr. Dresser is willing to sacrifice a major segment of the San Gabriel Mtn. bighorn sheep herd simply for the possible convenience of the Curtis Tungsten Mine operators as they plunder the mineral resources of the forest for their private financial benefits.

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PAPER BIGHORNS? OR WILD SHEEP ON THE RANGE?

DESERT BIGHORN COUNCIL

The opening address for the Annual Meeting of the Desert Bighorn Council held in St. George, Utah on April 9th was given by Mr. Douglas F. Day, Director, Division of Wildlife Resources, for the State of Utah. While Mr. Day is speaking from a viewpoint of his work in Utah that of which he spoke does apply to every state and of the many challenges that are constantly faced by all game management agencies. It is to be hped that we, the laymen will be able to render services and assist in these needed solutions.

Mr. Day stated: "As a wildlife administrator, I am committed to carrying out good wildlife management programs. I find the realization of this seemingly simple objective to be extremely complicated and frustrating. For example, we know the opportunity exists to expand the range of desert bighorns in Utah and are attempting to do this. Since we have an increasing population in one area we ought to be able to simply move a few of these animals to a vacant bighorn range. It would seem that the simple, logical, reasonable way to accomplish this would be to have our game management people go to the bighorn area, catch a few bighorns and move them.

As you know, it's not quite that easy. Numerous meetings, plans, approvals, and agreements have to be made by and with many persons. It's not just a matter of directing a few people to get the job done. Budgets have to be set up; expenditures identified; cooperating agencies involved; land users consulted; and laws, rules, and regulations must be complied with. After all this, there is an excellent chance someone or something will be left out. This would then necessitate a special meeting or two to mend a few fences to point out specific circumstances, events, and the politics of the situation.

Lest the above seem too farfetched, let me illustrate the truth of it by relating my recent experience in getting two mountain lakes planted with fish. I received a request from some sportsmen to plant a certain two high mountain lakes. These had been stocked by airplane in years past but had been neglected in recent years. In checking, I found our pilots had taken the fish planting tanks out of their airplanes, which meant they couldn't do this job for another year. I called a friend who had access to a helicopter by means of which I was able to have these lakes planted. Unfortunately, I did not remember they were in a Wilderness

Area. All hell broke loose. I was threatened with arrest (but not by the Forest Service). I made apologies, I appeared at an administrative hearing, I made phone calls, received phone calls, wrote letters, reviewed political ramifications, answered questions, received commendations as well as condemnations, and almost lost sight of the fact that the two lakes were now stocked with fish.

I believe a certain range management consultant, E. William Anderson, (of Oregon) makes a valid point in a recent article in the Rangelands magazine when he says: "Complicated planning procedures, voluminous environmental impact statements, time-consuming referrals, the retinue of planners and reviewers, resulting litigations and conferences, albeit encouraged by NEPA and accepted as an integral part of the land use planning process,....One result has been that the major objective of some of those involved seems to be compliance with procedural matters and the successful completion of the paperwork involved. They seem to have lost sight of the real objectine of resource management planning, which is to make decisions that will result in an action program of use with preservation out on the land."

"I believe we all benefit by working together--state and federal agencies, educational institutions, organized interest groups, land resource users, stockmen and sportsmen. But we must not lose sight of the real objectives. A good part of the battle comes from opposing forces who want to let nature take its course and are opposed to all forms of sport hunting and scientific management.

In 1969 Division of Wildlife Resources records indicated a basic inventory of 60 desert bighorns. By 1978 the figure had risen to 518, an increase of over 700 percent. We have a good management program, and we are making progress in spite of frustrations. Wildlife programs involving bighorns, moose, buffalo, mountain goat, etc., are generally very expensive compared to the number of animals involved.

Our bighorn programs have cost approximately $22,000 over the past two years. It costs $450 to transplant a sheep. How can we justify such expenditures in these times when costs are rising and dollars short? Can we continue to spend scarce wildlife dollars on limited programs? It is a basic philosophy of our Division to preserve, manage, propogate and protect all wildlife, not just those species that bring in the greatest income; ie., deer, elk, etc. Putting the bighorn strictily on an economic basis under Utah's one-in-a-lifetime permit system of $100 per animal for 10 - 20 animals per year----this system hardly justifies our expenditures on a strictly economic basis.

And while I am thinking of the economics of bighorns, I would like to mention the significant contribution of the Safari Club International, Utah chapter, and thank them for thier $4,000. contribution to the Division of Wildlife Resources to help continue our desert bighorn transplant program in southern Utah, to reestablish sheep to their former range. This type of support and committment by sportsmen is sincerely appreciated.

I have been questioned by State Budget personnel about how we can continue our present bighorn management program, which is not paying its way. The only answer is the obligation we have to maintain healthy wildlife populations of all species---in harmony and compatibility with habitats and the social structure of our environment. By their own right, bighorns have an important place in our world. I intend to do all I can to protect that right as well as to protect the right of all our wildlfie species to exist. Economics is not the deciding factor, and I hope it never is.

Most wildlife agencies are facing tough times. To meet rising costs, most of us are cutting programs and personnel. Here in Utah we have cut mileage and fish production, closed one hatchery, curtailed seasonal employment, eliminated collection of some data, and are not filling vacancies. In spite of a recent license increase, we see little chance of resuming normal services unless inflation is checked. What all of this means is wildlife is going to be shortchanged if we do not find new and innovative ways to curtail some of the paperwork and cooperate to the fullest extent to get the job done. I beleive we cn meet this challenge.

Do we want only paper bighorns? Or, do we want bighorns on the range? It's up to us!

NOTE: These above statements made by Mr. Day would certainly fit in with that which is occuring in each of our western states. When we, the laymen, sometimes think that our wildlife agencies are 'dogging - it' perhaps we need to also keep in mind the magnitude of the problems faced by these same agencies. What would we do under like circumstances and restrictions?

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DESERT WATER FOR WILDLIFE PROJECTS-- REHABILITATED

report by
Bob Juergens

SACRAMENTO MTS. -- Red Rock Caves. On May 3rd. There were about twenty people present in all. The work done was to replace the plastic screen on the 'pick-up' pipe just above the small rock and concrete dam and the installation of a union in the pipeline just below the dam, in order that should occasion again require that the pipe be cleaned, the work would

become simpler. The Johnson Screen now in place should be much less prone to becoming clogged with silt. The two large green colored plastic storage tanks were painted a tan color for two purposes: one is so that they better blend in with the terrain of the area and secondly to prevent the formation of algae within the tanks as did occur this past summer. The tanks were found full of water and the drinker in good operating condition. As previously reported (March- April) a masonry rock wall had been built in January to keep sand and other debris from filling the drinker.

RUSTLER SPRING. a crew went to this spring and cleaned it of debris that had entered it a month or two previously. (It was clean the last of January).

PIUTE MT. PROJECT. On Sunday May 4th Glenn and Todd Sudmeier, Marvin Wood, Vern Bleich, Gary Roberts and Bob Juergens had hiked in to the installation. The drinker was not in operating condition. The needed repairs were made. The drinker is now in full operating condition and will be available to the sheep during this coming summer.

Also during the drive through Eagle Pass an observation was made of one lamb above the Pass.

Furnishing transportation to these projects were:
Pomona Rod and Gun Club ------Chuck Kerr;
Sierra Club --------- Al White;
California Department of Fish and Game ----Vern Bleich;
Hollywood Rod and Gun Club ----Frank Perrina;
Southern Council of Conservation Clubs----Jerry David
Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep:
Glenn and Todd Sudmeier,
Marvin Wood,
Bob Juergens, also a member of Southern Council,
Gary Roberts,

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BARBARY SHEEP TRANSACTIONS READY

A recent letter from Dr. C. David Simpson, Chairman of the Barbary Sheep Committee of the Desert Bighorn Council states in part, "A note in haste as I leave for Africa on Saturday.....Could you please print the enclosed information in the next issue of the Sheepherder? I beleive that the people who are involved with desert bighorn are those most likely to benefit from the Proceedings and so would like them to have first crack at the surplus copies. Otherwise they will end up buried in libraries across the nation and be lost to any practical use."

"The First Symposium on Ecology and Management of Barbary Sheep was held at Texas Tech University, Lubbock in November 1979. Papaers presented ranged from systematics and population characteristics to food habit, home range and competition studies. The 150 page Proceedings of the symposium represents a comprehensive collection of recent information on Barbary sheep ecology and should be ready for distribution in September 1980. As only a limited number of copies are available, DBC members are encouraged to place their orders early. Cost will be $5.50 per copy and checks or Purchase Orders should be sent to:

Barbary Sheep Symposium
Department of Range and Wildlife Management
College of Agricultural Sciences
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, Texas 79409

NOTE: Undoubtedly many Society members who are not members of DBC will be interested in getting these Transactions--many have expressed concern about the threats to desert bighorns that may well occur should the barbary sheep encroach into bighorn habitats. I have attempted to keep the Society current on information as it comes in.----lew.

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IDAHO CONTINUES ITS TRANSPLANT PROGRAM

Personnel from the Idaho and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department teamed up early this Spring to trap bighorns----four rams and seven ewes-- onthe Whiskey Mountain Game Range near Dubois, Wyoming, and move them to the Lost River Range near Mackey, Idaho.

Two years ago, 17 bighorns were transplanted in the same area. The program began in 1963, when 19 California bighorns were released in Owyhee County.

Other transplants were added to the Owyhee herd in 1965 and 1966. In 1969, the department reported at least 80bighorns in the area and the population was estimated at 200 to 250 in 1978.

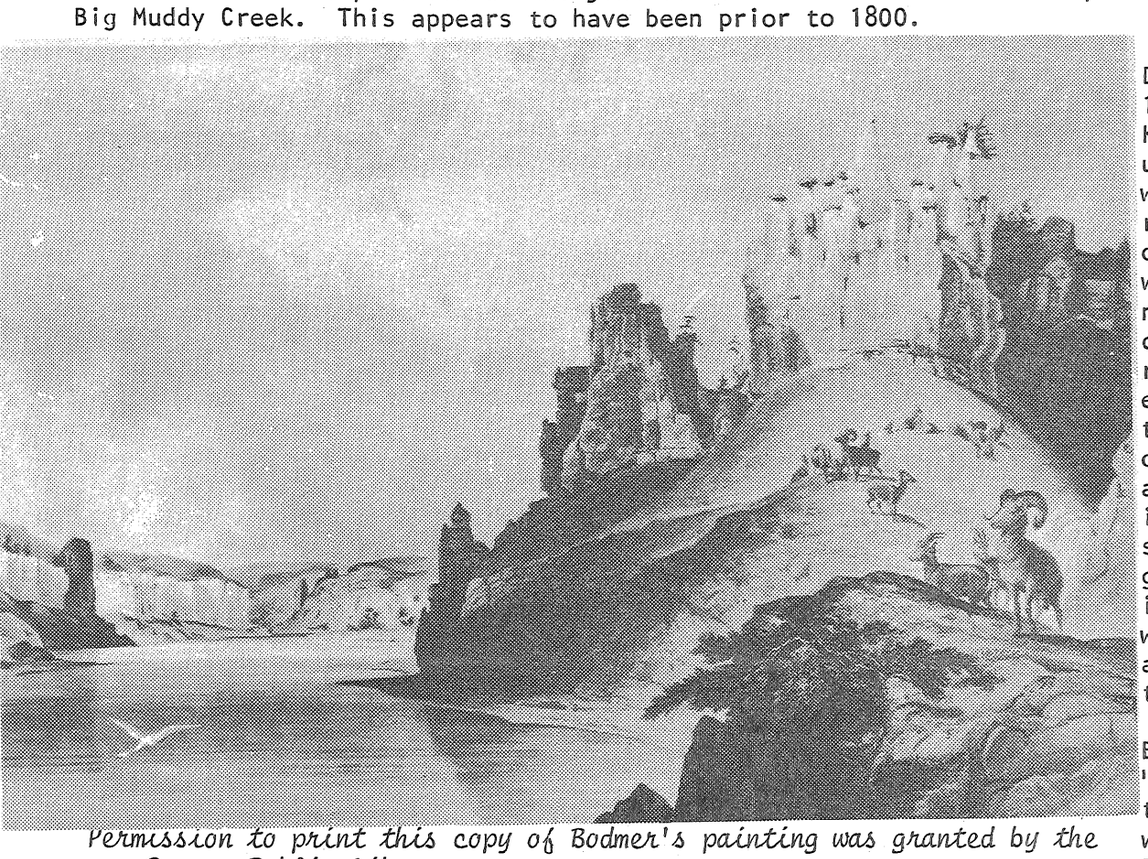
Rocky Mo ntain bighorns have been transplanted during the past 10 years in Hells Canyon areas, the upper Pahsimeroi country, araound Blue Dome-Birch Creek in Calrk County and in the Lost River Range.

The Idaho Department of Fish and GAme continues its objective to return the bighorns to their historic ranges in the State of Idaho.

AUDUBON BIGHORN SHEEP--GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

The Audubon bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis auduboni*)- namend for John James Audubon probably ceased to exist about 1920. Several things have contributed totheir demise. Diseases brought into their habitat by domestic livestock have been perhaps the greatest cause for these losses. Helmut K. Buechner has noted that Edward L. Munson, Assistant Surgeon in the U.S. Army wrote to George Bird Grinnell, a Naturalist, that in 1885 the Bearpaw Mts. southwest of Havre were full of bighorns but by that year of 1897 they had been destroyed by anthrax brought in by domestic sheep. Also the Homestead Act of 1904 induced thousands of people to homestead lands in eastern Montana on some 9.3 million acres of that state. The competition between the wild sheep and their domestic cousins and cattle for the available forage resulted in further losses. Also, of course, these thousands of people encroaching into sheep habitat resulted in a very heavy pressure from hunting. These wild sheep were especially vulnerable to hunting. They living along canyon walls could be readily approached from above and had inadequate escape possibilities.

The first documentation of the bighorns in eastern Montana was by Joseph Fields of the Lewis and Clark Expedition at the junction of the Yellowstone River probably at the Mouth of Big Muddy Creek. This appears to have been prior to 1800.



Permission to print this copy of Bodmer's painting was granted by the Denver Public Library.

During the summer of 1833 the Swiss Artist, Karl Bodmer travelled up the Missouri River with his German patron, Prince Maximilian of Wied. Maximilian was an experienced naturalist and Bodmer complemented his patron's scientific endeavors by capturing the sweeping vistas of the upper Missouri and its wildlife, including bighorn sheep. Bodmer's work gave the outside world its first look at what would be Montana and some of the species that lived there.

Bodmer's painting, "The Stone Walls on the Upper Missouri," was sketched near Eagle Creek and shows a band of bighorns resting beneath a formation of sandstone parapets. Although Bodmer did brush some of the characteristics of Austria's wildlife into the bighorn's appearance , the painting still leaves an indelible impression in many minds as to what the "Real" Audubon or badlands bighorn did look like.

There seems to be differences of opinion as to whether or not the Audubon bighorn is actually a separate specie. There have been too few examples of this race for scientists to be certain. Ian McTaggart Cowan wrote that there did seem to be a slight cranial difference between the *Auduboni* and the *O.c. canadensis*. It also seems that there is but a small cranial difference betwee *O.c. canadensis* and the *O.c. Californiana*. Whatever the differences may have been, it does seem that this specie did evolve during the ages in a special niche of habitat to the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains.

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has endeavored to reintroduce bighorn into that badlands environment. In 1947, 16 Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep from Colorado were released within a 128 acre fenced enclosure on Billy Creek in the breaks. By 1951, 54 sheep ranged in and out of the enclosure. Abbreviated permit hunting for 3/4-curl rams were conducted in 1955 and 1956. By the late 1950s, the population had started to decline and by 1963, it had disappeared, probably because of crossbreeding, disease, competition for forage and social intolerance of domestic sheep. Biologists of the department and of BLM speculated that the Rocky Mountain bighorns could perhaps not adapt to the breaks. Their speculation was partly based on an observation of bighorn sheep made by Lewis above the mouth of the Musselshell River on May 28, 1805, in which he stated: "The females have already brought forth their young, indeed from the size of the young I suppose that they produce them in March."-----Rocky Mountain bighorns normally lamb in May. The biologists pose the question"Could an earlier period for Audubon bighorns have been molded through thousands of years of natural selection to fit the physical and biotic characteristics of the Missouri Breaks?"-----Could the loss of herd be due to the migratory instincts of bighorns? Could they have simply wandered into some other mountain habitat and not have returned to the area from which they had been transplanted some 15 years previously?

Between 1958 - 61, 43 bighorns of Montana origin were introduced into the Two Calf Creek area of the Missouri Breaks in Fergus County. Similar procedures of reintroduction were used . There was a similar growth in numbers experienced and the similar decline in population experienced. The latter herd did experience a very severe winter in 1971-72 and there is also a competition between deer and sheep on the same wintering range. Some of the herd did wander--one group was observed 90 miles from the release site.

Apparantly Ken Walcheck, who wrote about the Audubon sheep in Montana Outdoors for January-February 1980 knows of only two full body mounts of the Audubon sheep. One is in the Science Building of Northern Montana College at Havre and the other in the Valley County Pioneer Museum in Glasgow. The first mentioned had been shot by Hans Lefeldt, south of Big Sandy, during the 1890s. It had then resided for more than 20 years in the Honky Tonk Saloon of Havre's old Montana Hotel. Lou Hagener, professor of biology at Northern, acquired the specimen for the college.

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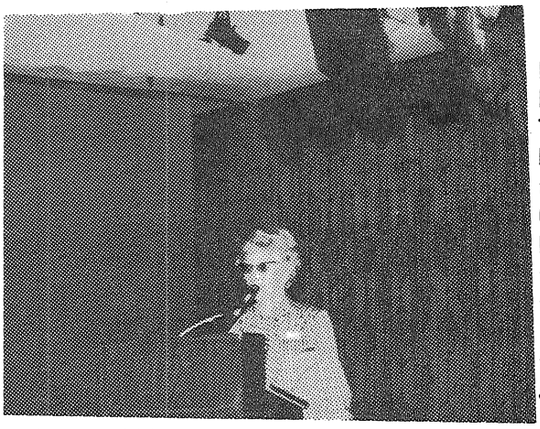
CHINA LAKE NAVAL WEAPONS TRAINING CENTER --- "REGARDING BURROS"



Mrs. Tilly Barling addresses the meeting of the CWF and the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep in Fresno

During the first morning of the Wildlife & Habitat Symposium held in Fresno, California the first week of June 1980, Mrs. Tilly Barling, Head, Natural Resource Management Office of the Naval Weapons Center spoke about the problems associated with the feral burros on the Naval Lands, adjacent to Ridgecrest, California. Mrs. Barling this spring received the Navy's Resource Conservation Award, the highest recognition given by the Service in that field. The 1,712 square mile Weapons Center is in BLM's Bakersfield District, of which Mr. Louis Boll is the District Manager. Mrs Barling was cited, among other things for her relationships with conservation groups and other agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management. Mrs. Barling has headed up the natural and cultural management for the Weapons Center approximately 65 miles north of Mojave. She is charged with the implementation of programs designed for the conservation and enhancement of these natural and cultural aspects of the environment.

During a census taken from helicopter during the spring of 1980 and in covering only five-eights of Weapons Center lands more than 2,000 burros were counted. According to Department of Fish and Game, these helicopter flights can give a census of only from 30 to 50 percent of the actual population.....The Commander of the Naval Weapons Center has directed the development of a management plan on an urgent priority. "In response to this mandate I am directing two parallel efforts: One, is an emergency interim management plan whereby the Center has executed a Memeorandum of Understanding with the Bakersfield District BLM to remove burros from about 200 square miles of our inner ranges. This action was precipitated by the presence of 15 to 20 burros loafing on aircraft runways at night. Neither the aircraft controllers in the tower nor the pilots can see them. A secondary hazard is the band of 15 to 25 burros that wander across State 178 and another nuisance band of 18 to 25 that hangs around mobile homes in the rural Inyokern area. Since Mid-March the BLM wranglers have removed 147 animals from about 200 square miles of our inner ranges i.e., those immediately surrounding downtown China Lake. They will probably remove another 200 during the next few weeks. The Navy is funding this interim emergency management plan at the estimated cost of $300 per animal removed."

Mrs. Barling also stated, "Professional resource managers in the western states face a long and trying test of their technical skills, their innovative capabilities and their public relations sensibilities. The few points of agreement between the managers and the burro preservationists are that there are too many feral asses; that herd control and management must be expeditiously implemented for the welfare of the habitats, the perpetuation of native species and the healthy existence of the asses themselves."

"The challenge to managers is clear cut: We monitor habitat trends; we monitor population trends of native wildlfe; we communicate our findings to the public.

"The challenge to the enlightened public is somewhat more complex: Exert strong pressures for rational attitudes; Inform the uncommitted; Only citizens---not the bureaucrats---can reform the existing state and federal laws."

The Status of burros at the Grand Canyon National Park on June 5th: The live removal program authorized by Secretary of Interior Andrus on May 19th has been opposed in Court by the American Horse Protection Association and by the Humane Society fo the United States. GCNP was able to get a change of venue to a local Arizona Court and the restraining order was denied. Fund for Animals had planned to capture the first burros by trapping on Fourth of July. They were to attempt to remove 40 burros by July 17th the last day of the 90 day period set by the terms of the Environmental Impact Statement. If they are successful there would be a 30 day extension. Dave Erick has been hired by the Fund to do the wrangling. The burros were to be herded into corrals and then lifted out of the canyon by helicopter.

NOTE: F.of A. should be able to make an initial showing by capture of burros in the canyon bottom where they are accustmed to see a great many people nearly every day of the year

Removal of burros from Bandelier National Monument was to begin on July 1st. Here again an agreement was signed with Fund for Animals for this capture and removal. It is expected, nowever, that again the AHPA / HSUS will againseek a court injunction for banning the capture and removal of burros----even though it would be done in a humane manner.

EDITORIAL REMARK: Wouldn't it be great if these preservationist organizations were as concerned about the welfare of native wildlife species as they are by these feral ass natives of Africa?

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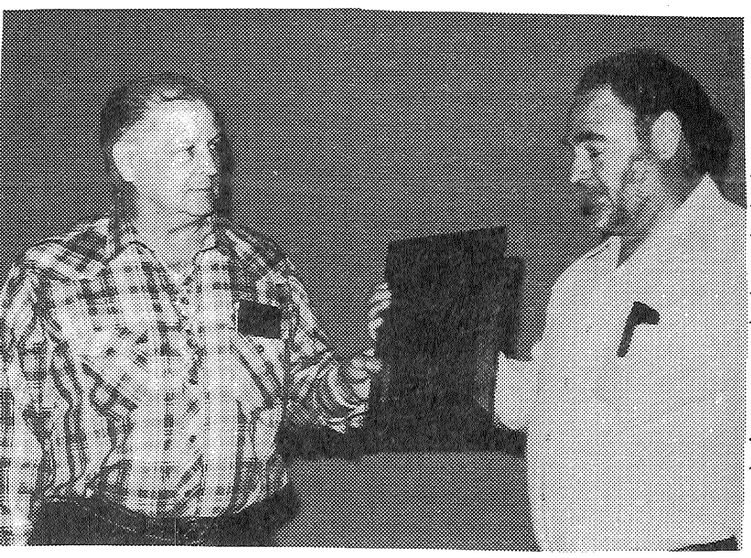

DESERT BIGHORN COUNCIL AWARD TO SOCIETY

Dr. Loren L. Lutz, President of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep receives, for the Society the award granted by the DBC this past April at the Annual Meeting held in St. George, Utah. Mention was made of the award in the May - June issue of T.S. Dick Weaver, Chairman of the Awards Committee of the DBC made the presentation during the business session of the Society following the Symposium.

The placque states: "The DESERT BIGHORN COUNCIL awards this honor to the members of the SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP individually and collectively for their work on behalf of the bighorns".

Courtesy Pat Hansen-Wood

WATERHOLE COUNTS ---- 1980

The lead article of this issue should convey the truth of the real importance of making our waterhole census counts---especially true, it seems, this year. Not only do we see sheep, but what is their apparant physical condition. We do not have to be a biologist to note if a sheep is coughing, has a runny nose, is thin or in good condition seemingly. It is then also very important to convey your findings to Project Chairman Glenn Sudmeier Star Route, Box 4-C, Hesperia, Calif. 92345 or phone (714) 389 - 2498.

LABOR DAY weekend---Waterhole censusin Death Valley National Monument. If you can participate contact Peter G. Sanchez, Research Management Specialist, D.V.N.M., Death Valley, Ca. 92328 or telephone (714) 786 - 2331

SAVE DATE OF OCTOBER 4th ----for Annual Dinner meeting of Society in Los Angeles area.

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AN ARIZONA BIGHORN SHEEP REPORT
from
George Welsh, - Wildlife Manager

"Just a quick note to let you know of our recent sheep helicopter surveys here in the Black Mountains of northwest Arizona.

In our management Units 15B, 15C, and 15D Art Fuller and I classified 942 bighorns as: 204 rams (all ages--97 legals), 495 ewes and 243 lambs. Sheep were seen at the rate of 24 per hour of flight time. We saw 653 in the same area last year. (Welsh and Fuller had good flights and weather conditions this year, and the numbers counted and classified reflected an excellent survey).

"I did locate the ram that Dr. Bob Omart (Burro Committee of Desert Bighorn Council) and of Arizona State University, and I radio collared 4 years ago near Warm Springs. The radio worked for only two months and then quit.

Two years ago, 1978, I picked him up on our annual surveys about 17 miles north of where we collared him. This year he has moved another 17 or 18 miles and is now about 35

miles north of where he was darted. The ram is now eight (8) years old and has grown into a nice trophy animal. He was the only ram collared in this whole area. So to pick him up was a real stroke of luck, or something."

NOTE: Seeing sheep, at all, has a lot of luck with it even when you do understand where to look, have good optics, are patient and work at it. Thanks George for your report. Items such as this are of interest and do add to our knowledge about the bighorns.

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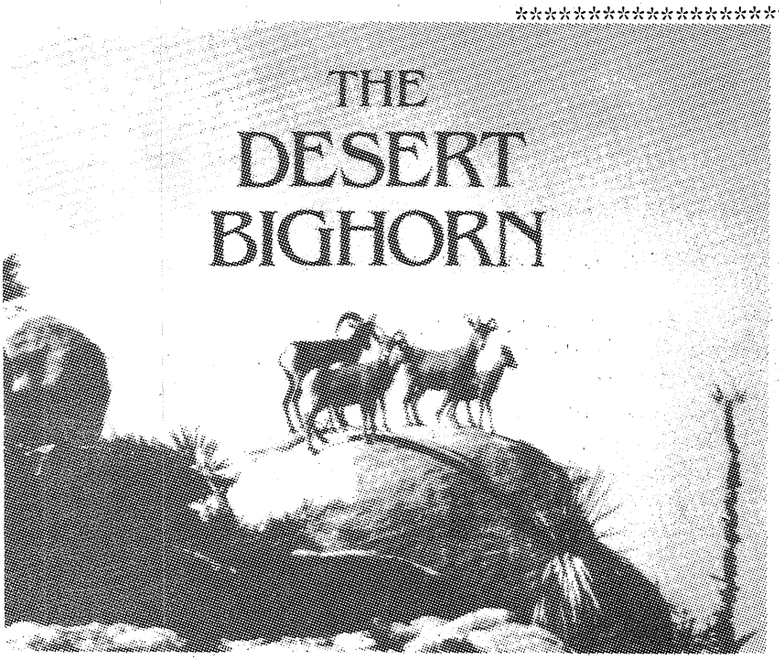

Its Life History, Ecology, and Management

Gale Monson and Lowell Sumner, Editors

Elusive dancers atop barren crags, bighorn sheep are as much valued for the sight of their profile against a western sky as for that of their horns above a mantelpiece. Desert bighorn—an ecologic designation for four species inhabiting the Southwest—have long been regarded by hunters as the noblest of all American game animals. Although their future is now threatened by other encroachments of civilization, a better understanding of these beasts can ensure that the mountains will always echo their dancing.

The Desert Bighorn is a compendium of current knowledge about the sheep as observed throughout their geographic range. Their natural history, physical characteristics, behavior, and life cycle are examined in detail. More importantly, however, their ecology is considered in terms of predator/competitor relationships, access to food and water, and habitat limitation—factors all heavily influenced by man's impact on the desert environment. Guidelines to field identification, transplantation, and habitat protection make the book an effective blueprint for safeguarding these untamed species, and an essential volume for every naturalist.

414 pages • 6 x 9 • 98 illustrations
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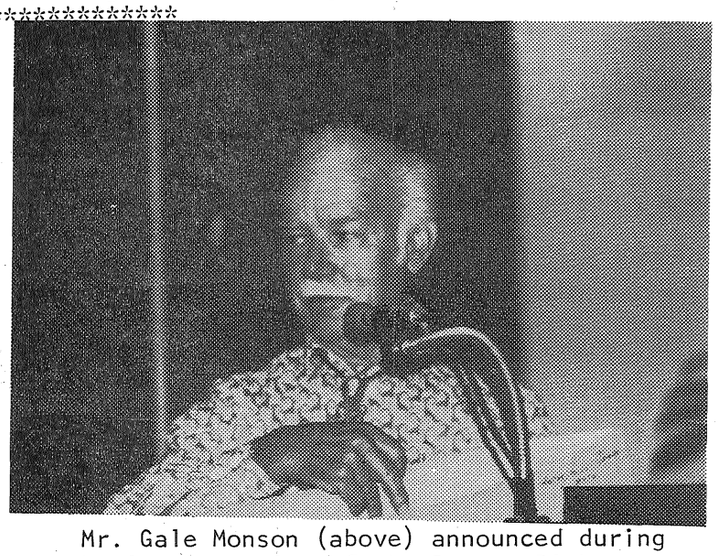

Mr. Gale Monson (above) announced during the business session of the Desert Bighorn Council meeting of April that he and Lowell Sumner, Editors of the Desert Bighorn Its History and Ecology would soon be ready for ordering

This is a long awaited book sponsored by the Desert Bighorn Council. Permission was given to Dr. Valerius Geist of the University of Calgary to use the unpublished manuscript in his classes several years ago.

Copies can now be ordered from:

Mr. Gale Monson,
8831 N. Riviera Dr.,
Tucson, Az. 85704

Actual publication date is:
10 October 1980. Prices include mailing and handling.

ARTISTS DISPLAY THEIR WORK AT C.W.F.

There were four artists who displayed some of their creative arts during the recent joint meeting of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep and the California Wildlife Federation. To this editor the works of Max Greiner Jr., were superior. I am not an artist, nor a judge of art other than from personal satisfaction. Greiner has made it a point to have studied the desert bighorns in their native habitats. For this he has had as guides Walt Powell, President of the Southern Council of Conservation Clubs and a member of the Volunteers who labor so strenuously on water projects for the sheep. Walt took him into the San Gabriel Mts. Later Dr. Lutz joined him and Powell and they traversed areas in the vicinity of Palm Springs. Greiner has a display of the wax sculpture that must be done prior to any castings that are made in bronze. Therefore he was constantly asking knowledgeable bighorn enthusiasts at the conference for criticisms of any detail in this model that needed any slight change or improvements. When completed this art work will weight about 40 pounds and stand 18 inches high. 24 of these castings will be made of the first model. Greiner expects to offer them for sale at about $3,000. each. Greiner's address is R.R. 1, Box 142, Woodville, Texas, 75979