SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP

The Sheepherder

office
401 North Garfield
Alhambra, California 91801
213 284-5113

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

MARCH - APRIL 1980

THE MORMON MTS. - NEVADA

In the January-February 1980 issue of T.S. the first article dealt with the shock wave engendered by the proposal of Bureau of Land Management to increase the domestic livestock grazing permits for the area from 259 AUMs to 1209 AUMs and which would result in the loss of fifty percent of the desert bighorn sheep population of that mountain.
The Editor has been taken to task by one BLM District Manager, recently for being too hard on the BLM.

However, the report by Robert P. McQuivey, biologist for the Nevada Department of Wildlife shows the picture given to be fully justified. (Nevada-D.O.W. Report 79-2--TheStatus and Trend of Desert Bighorn Sheep in Nevada). October 1979

According to McQuivey the Mormon Mts do have a very viable sheep population. There are only seven water sources known by McQuivey in these mountains, although he presumes that there must be several more, in order to funish needed water to the 404 sheep of the area. Of these seven water sources, three have been filed upon by the Foremaster Brothers of St. George, Utah. No water is presently available to sheep at either the Hackberry spring or the Horse Spring. The latter having it's water piped three miles distant for the cattle. Analysis of paunch contents of harvested rams in the Mormon Mts. has shown that grasses furnished about 32% of the diet, browse species accounted for 66% and forbs 2%.
McQuivey states: " Recent recommendations in the published Caliente Environmental Statement pose some very serious threats to the native population of bighorn sheep within the Mormon Peak allotment. Even though forage conditions in the area were classed as only "fair" by the range survey crew, the report recommends an increase in AUMs from 259 in 1977 to 1209 by year 1990. The Environmental Statement projected that the proposed increase in cattle would result in a loss of at least 200 bighorn from the area because of increased competition between the species."
This area is reported to have no burro population and only a few wild horses, and these on the western side of the mountain. Some horse use is permitted on the East Mormon Mts. This editor has seen unbranded horses in the area east of Horse Spring and between the two mountain areas. Whether or not they were wild we could not tell.

McQuivey states, "It is important to note that three major areas on the Mormon Range totaling about 6,700 acres have been subjected to vegetal changes that resulted from wildfires during the four years 1976-77-78-79. Aerial flights conducted in the area during October of 1979 resulted in the observation of 289 total sheep of which 36% were actually observed in the burned areas. Heavy trailing noted in the burned areas also documents the importance of vegetal changes in providing preferred forage species for desert bighorn sheep."
Additional surveys are needed in the area to fully document the locations of seasonal and permanent water sources. Permanent water should be made available near the source of Horse Spring for use by bighorn sheep with only the excess piped to the valley floor for use by livestock. There is ample water at this source for both the bighorn sheep and also the domestic livestock.
According to the Federal Land Policy and Managemnt Act the BLM MUST operate under the MULTIPLE USE ACT. IN THIS AREA THIS IS NOT BEING DONE. Editorial comment.
Livestock grazing at the present is not a problem for the bighorns of Mormon Mts. Sheep populations have stabilized, or perhaps, even been slightly augmented.
It is further recommended that selected portions of the Mormons be allowed to burn via wildlifres or that controlled fire be used as a management tool in order to increase the forage available for bighorn sheep.

****

ANGELES FOREST DECIDES TO BUILD ROAD

Mr. William T. Dresser, Forest Supervisor, Angeles National Forest has decided to build the road up through the Cattle Canyon as was reported by The Sheepherder in the issue of November- December 1979. Dresser states: "Based upon the revised analysis and evaluation described in the Environmental Assessment Report for Curtis Tungsten Special Use Permit Application, it is my decision to adopt Alternative B. Alternative B states:
1. Approve the special use permit application by Curtis Tungsten, granting limited use of former Road 2N06 from the Forest Boundary Section 25, T. 2N, R. 8W., to Cattle Canyon, Sec. 27, T. 2N., R 8W. No use allowed during the bighorn sheep lambing season. April 1 to July 1)

2. Continue use of Road 2N09 from East Fork to Thompson Ranch as alternate access to both private land and the mining claims.

This Alternative was chosen for the following reasons:

a. Reconstruction of former Rd. 2N06 will have no significant adverse impacts on the ecosystem of the area.
b. No irreversible resource commitments and no irretrievable loss of habitat are made.
c. The critical concerns of the bighorn sheep have been mitigated.
d. No apparant adverse cumulative or secondary effect were found.
e. No known unique or rare resources were found.
f. The area in the vicinity of former Road 2N06 between Cow Canyon Saddle and Cattle Canyon does not meet the criteria for Wilderness as outlined in the Rare II process, basically due to the existence of the present road.
g. The determination of the appropriate access is based on the current plan of operation.
h. Alt. B adequately minimizes potential floodplain losses

The Environmental Assessment Report and the chosen Alternative B do not indicate there will be any significant effects upon the quality of the environment. Therefore, it has been determined that an Enviornmental Statement is not needed.

This decision is subject to administrative review as provided by regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture (36CFR 211.19).

Implementation of this decision may take place on or after March 28, 1980 following public distributiion of this decision notice. A minimum of 30 days is allowed before any implementation will take place to allow a reasonable period of public review as required by E.O. 11990.

Questions regarding this decision should be sent to the Forest Service, 150 South Los Robles Ave., Suite 300, Pasadena, Ca. 91101."

Signed William T. Dresser, Forest Supervisor Date 2/12/80

****

A letter from Doctor Lutz, President of the Society reports that he has spoken to Mr. Dresser concerning this road into and through sheep habitat of the San Grabriel herd, and of the serious affects that such a road would engender Dr. Lutz has also informed Mr. Dresser that if need be the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep would institute Court action(s) in order toblock such a road construction.

According to the very archaic Mining Laws of 1872 a mine claimant on the national Forest lands is entitled to and must be granted access to such a mine prospect and its development. The law does not state however that such claimant MUST have an access that may be the easiest or most convenient route to that claim or prospect. It is on this issue of location of a roadway where a large part of the controversy does exist. Doctor states in his last sentence of the letter to the Ediotr, "Our position on that is that no mine is acceptable but we would allow the use of the wash up to the mine."

Information that I,as Editor, have been able to gather is that this Curtis Tungsten Mine does seem to be a valid discovery of tungsten. Tungsten is a valuable metal.

March 15, 1980

A letter from Angeles Forest Watershed and Resources Managemnt Officer, David M. Jones indicates that the Forest is now awakened to the necessity for taking a closer look at the proposed road and possible adverse impacts. I my mail today a letter arrived from Mr. Jones informing me of a meeting to be held in the Glendora Office of the U.S.Forest Service, 110 North Wabash Ave., at 10 A.M. March 22, 1980.
At this meeting, representatives of the Forest Service who are responsible for the bighorn sheep monitoring program now in grocess in the Cattle-Cow Canyon Area of the Angles National Forest will describe the details of the program and ask for comments and suggestions for the meeting paricipants.
A redesigned monitoring program is being considered to answer specific questions, e.g., what are the critical periods for the sheep aside from the accepted lambing-breeding period; what other factors have arisen that were not initially anticipated; what system is best to analyze and determine changes in sheep ecology.

COMMENT

It is very doubtful that I can attend. The distance being 230 miles one way from Fresno. I do hope that there are attendees at the above meeting who are knowledgable of this area and do offer constructive comments. I am pleased that the Mr. Dresser and staff are now responding and willing to set down and talk about equitable solutions of the problem.

****

CALIFORNIA BIGHORNS TO MOVE TO NEVADA

by

Department of Fish and Game, State of Idaho
March 13, 1980

Some California bighorn sheep from the herd in North central Owyhee County are headed for a new home in Nevada, transportation provided by the Department of Fish and Game.
The transfer involves 10 - 12 sheep -- including two yound rams if all goes well-- as part of an agreement between the two states to relocate the bighorns in Nevada's Granite Mountains.

Originally, the Nevada Department of Wildlife was to bring Rocky Mountain bighorns from Wyoming, but the Idaho Department wanted to avoid the possibility of mixing the two species.

The Idaho agency is meeting its part of the bargain by providing the California bighorns. "They will come from a healthy herd that numbers more than 100 with lots of big rams, which we won't take," says Jerry Thiessen, state big game manager.

"We won't be jeopardizing either the prospects for a quality hunting or the population," He adds.

The program is being financed by the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the Bureau of Land Management.

Department personnel planned to combine a helicopter and experienced shooters using tranquilizer dart guns to gather the animals. After a sheep is tranquilized, it will be loaded on a specially designed sling and transported to the truck that will make the trip to Nevada.

Thiessen says the sheep in the herd are in good physical condition and he is confident that they will show no ill effects.

Bill Hickey, a senior wildlife research biologist from Salmon, will help with the project. A veteran in working with transplants and sheep research, he is an expert in the proper use of the tranquilizers.

The department tried throughout the winter to trap the animals by more conventional methods. "But they just wouldn't come to the bait, even the apple pulp that has worked so well with the Rocky Mountain bighorns," Thiessen says.

The Owyhee County herd was started in 1963, when 19 California bighorns from Canada were released and an additional 31 sheep were relocated in later years. The population in the county was estimated to toal more than 300 in 1978.

****

NOTE: It seem interesting to this editor that both Idaho and California have had trouble in trying to capture the California Bighorn sheep specie with the use of fermented apple pulp. Colorado has experienced great success using this pulp with capture of the Rocky Mountain specie. California FG did capture nine bighorns a year ago using apple pulp for bait---but only after a two year effort. And, then this past winter were unable to capture any of the bighorns in the enclosure at Lava Beds National Monument using this procedure.

****

DON SWARTHOUT DECEASED

DON SWARTHOUT receiving an award Mar. 20, 1976

Many members of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep have been and will be sad to learn of the death of Don Swarthout.

Doctor Loren L. Lutz, President of the Society has written to the Editor of T.S. as follows:

"It was my good fortune to have as a friend and neighbor Don Swarthout, who passed away February 12, 1980. Don was a rare individual who combined practical business sense with pungent humor. Having been raised on the family cattle ranch, he was truly a link between the old west and now. A consummate story teller, Don always was the center of entertainment with his tales of cows, horses, and people who used them. His stories of cattle drives between the desert and the high mountains of San Gorgonio should have been recorded.

Don was an international hunter and an avid conservationist. His contributions to the sheep society and the San Bernardino County Museum are well known.

Don was a warm personallity and devoted much of his time to his wife, children and grandchildren. He took them on many expeditions into the desert on sheep conservation and camping projects.

We will miss him. Sincerely, Loren "

NOTE:

Don Swarthout did do at least some writing of his experiences. The OUTDOOR CALIFORNIA magazine published by the California Department of Fish and Game carried his story, "The Other Side of the Burro" in the November - December 1975 issue. The article was reviewed in THE SHEEPHERDER.

The Society had honored Swarthout for his assistance to the wild sheep by presenting him with an award on March 20, 1976 at the Annual Meeting held in Bakersfield, "For his knowledge of the desert ecology, and his ability to convey this knowledge to others."

****

DESERT BIGHORNS RETURN TO COLORADO

In an effort to reestablish the desert bighorn sheep in Colorado the Division of Wildlife has released 11 of the wild sheep in the dry canyon country west of Grand Junction. The sheep were obtained from Arizona as part of an agreement that will eventually bring 40 desert bighorns to Colorado from Arizona and New Mexico. In exchange Colorado will send 20 Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep to each of those states.

Historical data indicates that the desert bighorn was once fairly abundant in the arid canyon country on Colorado's western border. The reintroduction meets part of the Division's goal to reintroduce native species in areas where they have been seriously depleted or have actually disappeared over the years, and to establish desirable wildlife species in suitable unoccupied habitat.

Colorado Outdoors---January-February 1980

****

ARAVAIPA BIGHORN STUDY

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission recently approved a Department proposal to conduct studies of bighorn sheep in the Aravaipa Canyon area.

The objectives of the study are to determine cattle numbers as well as bighorn population level, age and sex structure of the herd, reproduction and lamb survival within the dispersal area, plus the seasonal diets of bighorn and cattle to determine any competitive overlap in bighorn-cattle use of forage, water and space.

The Department is interested in this data as it is highly pertinent in determining whether a huntable population now exists in the canyon, and whether cattle grazing competes directly with the sheep.

The Aravaipa restoration project began in 1957, when a 112 acre enclosure was completed near Aravaipa Canyon in the Galluro Mountains. Beginning in 1958, desert bighorn sheep were placed in the predator-free enclosure. he sheep were collected from various sites in western Arizona and from 1958 to 1973, 16 bighorns were placed in the protected pasture. During this period, the sheep within the fence were successfully breeding, and in 1973, 30 sheep were turned out of the enclosure into the surrounding area.

Bighorns will be surveyed seasonally by direct counts from aircraft and the ground. Agae and sex structure can be estimated from these surveys. Some of the animals will be captured and fitted with radio transmitting collars. Monitoring of these sheep will aid in determining seasonal movements and range utili2ation. By this method, critical areas of use such as lambing grounds can be found and observed, and with other data gathered can be analyzed to give biologists information necessary to make recommendations.

Funding for the study will be shared by the Department and the Bureau of Land Management and will be conducted over a four-year period. The study period does not preclude the possibility of recommending bighorn hunting permits if it is determined that a huntable population exists.

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH ---WILDLIFE VIEWS-Feb. 1980

****

GUIDE FINED $1,500.

Mr. Bob McQuivey of the Nevada Department of Fish and Game has sent the Editor the following report concerning a recent poaching case in Nevada.

" A state-licensed hunting guide Tuesday (September 4, 1979) was fined $1,500. and had his license suspended for three years for the illegal killing of a bighorn sheep last December.

Jeffrey Willis Starr, 4135 Decling Circle, was found guilty on three counts by Henderson Justice Court Judge Reginald Tabony."

NOTE: Henderson is on the outskirts of Las Vegas, Nevada.

"The three counts were unlawful possession of prohibited wildlife, possession of wildlife without a tag and hunting in an restricted area. Each carried a $500. fine and a one-year suspension of his master guide license.

Officials from the Nevada Department of Wildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlfie Service and the National Park Service arrested Starr as he was leaving the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, where about 1,500 of the prized sheep are found.

Starr was reportedly carrying the desert sheep in the back of his truck, hidden by a tarp and other miscellaneous belongings."

McQuivey also noted that there have been several other sheep cases in the state with more expected to be prosecuted during the next several months. The Department plans to make a presentation concerning poaching during the Desert Bighorn Council meetings this coming April.

##########

BIGHORNS OF NORTH DAKOTA

Jack Samuelson and Bryan Statts, a Graduate Student at the University of North Dakota have reported that 63 head of bighorn were obsefved during the 1979 survey period and were classified as seven rams, 42 ewes, 13 lambs and one yearling.

In late April and early May, four bighorn lambs were radio collared in an effort to determine the cause of high lamb mortallity that had been occurring over the past few years. The results showed that of the four lambs collared, one still survives. Two lambs were killed by coyotes and one disappeared. In addition another lamb was found dead and was believed to have died from natural causes, probably related to premature birth. Over the whole herd, however, survival was much better than this. Aerial surveys carried out in the fall showed an overall ratio of 30 lambs per 100 ewes.(13 actual lambs) This indicates a good lamb:ewe ratio after two years of poor reproduction.

The Department continued to gather home range information throughout the year with the aid of the radio collars placed on ewes the year before. No increase in home range was noted for the herds studied.

Future plans for bighorns include the monitoring of lungworm numbers in the population development of a baiting program for use in future trapping and drug treatment efforts, building up a herd in the Dutchman's Barn enclosure to use as a study herd and a source of sheep for transplanting attempts, and the placing of more radio collars on lambs to continue the mortallity work, and on ewes for more home range studies.

Only two permits were issued for the 1979 bighorn season. One hunter was successful.

NORTH DAKOTA OUTDOORS--January 1980.

****

COXCOMB PROJECT COMPLETED

report by
Rocklin Wooley

COXCOMB PROJECT PHOTO by Rocklin Wooley

Fourteen people spent Saturday February 9th cleaning the apron and patching it to prevent water loss through the checks and cracks. This needed work had not been done since installation of the project in 1955. We also cleaned out the walk-in ramp and drinker; and cleaned and repaired the storage tank. The latter had a cracked wall that was filling with sand. The unit was not able to fill itself, and the lack of water inside the tank had allowed the buildup of wet sand on the outside of the tank to collapse it. Before leaving, an alternate filler pipe was installed to prevent this from occuring again if the drinker plugs up with sediment.

While the unit has had virtually all the required work done to make it aperational it still has to have it's alternate filler pipe connected with a Johnson screen, the remote, or alternate drinker must be primed; and the apron also needs some more patching. This will be done soon, perhaps even as I write these lines (Feb. 15th).

Beside representatives of the Sheep Society, the DFG sent three persons and the BLM was represented by hard working Fay Davis, who did most of the messy patch work.

This guzzler will soon be the only good water source in this range as the Coscomb Tunnel leak is slated to be repaired soon. There is no other known bighorn sheep water source in this range that can be used by the small sheep population that still hangs on in this range

****

RED ROCK CAVES

Lew Carpenter & "Pete" Petron
Sheepherder photo

One phase of the work to be done on this project was completed after one long hard day of work on January 26th by O.A. 'Pete' Petron and Lew Carpenter, two elderly retirees from Fresno.

The location of the drinker makes it very vulnerable to filling with sand, rock and dirt from the steep and sandy ridge by which it is placed. The objective of the project is an attempt to divert this debris away from the drinker. This has become a very important water source for the bighorns and other wildlife of this part of the Sacramento Mts. to the southwest of Needles. Time.

Time-lapse photography was used this past July and showed that many sheep do come to this water. Personal observations by the editorT.S. have noted bighorns each summer. Also, as many as 1,000 mourning dove have been observed during a one morning count, and in excess of 175 quail observed during one morning.
The photo will show the cement mortar-rock wall on the three sides of the drinker.

OTHER SACRAMENTO MT. WATER SOURCES

Smith Spring & Broken Mule Shoe Tank

Both of these water sources were full on January 27th.

The Smith Spring was the site of a project completed this past fall. This consisted of raising the down canyon side of the catchment a few inches; the instatllation of a drinker down canyon a short distance. The DFG also has planned to erect a shade over this catchment. The material to build this shade had been left alongside of the catchment and was in such a position that would block usage at the catchment by bighorns at their favored side of the catchment. Therefore, the redwood planks were restacked at a nearby location where they would not impede use of the water.

F. MORSE & MORT SPRING

These water sources on the eastern side drainage were checked January 28th. F. Morse was filled to capacity with water still flowing--but feebly. It also was nearly filled, again, with growths of tules. An attempt was made to remove all of the tules. Regeneration of the tules will probably continue and need to be removed once a year.

Mort spring contained but little water this time, and especially so for that time of year. No work was done here, even though considerable sand had stayed in the catchment basin. These two water sources like the Broken Mule Shoe Tank are not reliable---and do frequently go dry in the time of greatest need. All three are used by bighorns when there is water available, F. Morse and Mort Springs are both on Southern Pacific Railroad lands and are therefore not sites for future projects even though such would be a desireable project for future planning.

RUSTLER SPRING like Mort and F. Morse was very low on water. Apparantly the areas of these water sources had been bypassed by winter storms to that date. Work done during the spring of 1979 was still in good shape.

FENNER SPRING This water source in the Little Piute Mts. has been apparantly usurped by some one who seeks minerals in this mountain area. This spring had originally been developed by the railroad as a water source for the locomotives. With the advent of deisel power, the water was abandoned. Many new location notices are posted in this small mountain area. The entrance to Fenner Spring has been blocked by net and barbed wire. Excavation work has begun in the tunnel. No water is visible, but does appear down the ravine a short distance. The Little Piute Mts. did contain a herd of bighorns until the advent of burros into the mountain. This had occurred during the mid-1950's when a pregnant jennie escaped from an owner from Mountain Springs a few miles distant. Other water source and vegetation near them have been destroyed by the burros since that time. Population of burros was estimated to be about 28 some five years ago.

****

March 22 Repair and cleaning work at the Surveyor Spring project--east side of Old Woman Mt. Will require about two mile hike.

April 9 & 10 Desert Bighorn Council meeting at the Four Seasons Motor Inn-747 East St. George Blvd., St. George Utah----Field trip on the11th.

April 12---Kelso Mts. cleaning and repairs.

May 3rd. Red Rock Caves in Sacramento Mts. soutwest of Needles about 18 miles. Paint tanks and install new pickup screen. Also this same weekend may build shade over the Smith Spring catchment. Materials are at site. Requires a 45 minute hike, with altitude gain of about 1100 feet.
Contact Glenn Sudmeier for particulars, Star Route 4C, Hesperia, Ca. 92345 or phone him at (714) 389 - 2498 concerning above work projects.

June 6 - 7- &8 --Hacienda in Fresno---Joint meeting of Clifornia Wildlife Federation, Society for the Conservation of ighorn Sheep and Sportsmen's Council of Central California. A bighorn sheep and other wildlife symposium planned for one day.

***** **********

UPDATE SAN ANDRES MTS. BIGHORN SHEEP SCABIES MITE PROBLEMS

The May - June 1979 issue of THE SHEEPHERDER carried an article concerning the scabies mite infestation among the bighorn sheep of the San Andres Mts. of New Mexico. We expressed concern about the future of this herd of wild sheep. Now, under date of December 14, 1979 the Editor has received an updated report on this topic from Bill Montoya, Assistant Director of Operations , New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.

Desert bighorns have always been present in the San Andres Mountains. The San Dndres Mts. lie within the boundary of the White Sands Missle Range managed by the U.S. Army. NOTE: as previously reported being within this restricted area has posed severe management problems and also in observing the welfare of this herd.

A national wildlife refuge was established on the area in 1941.

There has been no domestic stock since 1954.

The populatiion has grown slowly from a remnant population in 1914. (Estimated population on refuge in 1941 was 28 - 33. Estimated numbers in October 1978 were 200 to 250. Present population has had a decline in New Mexico's total population. Decline:

Scabies and associated mite parasites were found during routine examinations of five rams killed by hunters in October 1978. All had a moderate level of infection.

Herd was monitored by ground and aerial surveys during winter of 1978 and all of 1979.

November 1978 Total population 200 - 250
Ram / Ewe ratio 80/100
Lamb/ Ewe ratio 19/100
These compared favorably with surveys three years before (1976)

April 1979 Total population 100 - 120

June 1979 Total population 85 - 95

September 1979 Total population 60 - 70
Ram/ Ewe ratio 16/100
Lamb/ewe ratio 0/100----no lambs could be found.

Disease and the parasites:

Scabies is a disease caused by small parasitic mites (*Psoroptes ovis*) that are barely visible to the naked eye. They feed under the skin causing crusty scabs to develop. They are found in the ears, neck, withers and body. Their reproductive cycle is 8 to 10 days from egg to egg laying adult. Numbers build rapidly to epidemic proportions with onset of cold weather.

Two sheep captured October 14, 1979 were three times higher than the infestation level of the five rams in October 1978. This indicates a more severe problem than last year, when the population suffered a 60 to 70 % loss.

Infestations of mites cause a weakening of the animals that ends in death from other causes. Lambs do not survive.

TREATMENT: Mites can be eliminated by immersing the sheep in an insecticide solution, probably toxaphene or lindane. Animals must be dipped twice---the second ti me to kill any mites that have hatched after the first dip.
Dipping and mite-free certification will be supervised by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Unless treated, most, if not all of the 70 to 90 remaining sheep on the San Andres Mountains will die this winter of 1979.

A massive recue operation termed the Desert Sheep Rescue Operation ran during November 17 to 24, 1979. It had been hoped to capture between 15 to 30 animals as a goal hopefully more.

Sheep to captured by tranquilization from helicopter and transferred by helicopter to the base of the mountain, dipped, and placed in a 40 acre holding paddock constructed of rope netting. Here they would be treated until free of infestation and then moved. It had been planned to also use drive teqniques by helicopter, and by use of cannon fired nets.

The capture project was successful in capture of a total of 49 sheep.

Present live sheep: 2 from the October survey
32 from the rescue operation total 34.

Animals lost to accidents, stress, etc was 15

The sheep are presently at the New Mexico Sate University quarantine facility for drug and cross-transmission studies there are seven sheep (7)
The other 27 treated animals are at the Red Rock Experimental Wildlife area to be held for future release.

It is planned that at least 15 of these sheep will be held until some time in the future when they would eventually be released back into their home range. Probably some 10 to 15 sheep will be taken to the Big Hatchet Mountains to supplement restoration efforts already under way. This is the only other area in the state that has desert bighorn sheep population. Any additional sheep may be stocked in the Alamo Hueco Mountains, historic desert sheep range provided the Bureau of Land Management approves and environmental Impact Statements can be completed.

This project had the cooperation of these agencies:
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish,
U.S. Army - White Sands Missle Range Command,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
U.S. Department of Agriculture,
New Mexico State University,
Colorado State University, and
U.S. D.A. research station at Kerrville, Texas.

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish did not any funds budgeted for this extrordinary expense. However, realizing the severity of the problems and the very great speed with which this recue must take place in order to preserve any of this population they took-the-bit in thier teeth and went ahead with the program.

NOW to their aid have come sportsmen and other societies interested in preserving this race of bighorns and the effort to solve, if possible, the scabies mite problems to which all sheep can be affected the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep immediatly send a check in amount of $5,000 to help in the projected costs of $100,000. and is now trying to raise additional funds from members and non-members.

THEREFORE: If any of the readers of this article wish to do so they can send a tax-free donation either to: Foundation for North American Wild Sheep to Lloyd Zeman, President, 55 West Ivy Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55117, Or is you prefer to
DESERT SHEEP RESCUE FUND,
N.M. Department of Game and Fish,
State Capitol,
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503

Information for this article received from Bill Montoya, Assistant Director, Operations, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish , and from
Andy Oldfield, President (Past)
Safari Club International.

****

FERAL BURRO MANAGEMENT PLAN

On January 30, 1980 the National Park Service released it's Final Environmental Statement and feral burro management and Restoration Plan for the Grand Canyon National Park.

The Summary states in it's brief description of Action: "A management plan to restore natural ecosystems within four areas impacted by feral burros in Grand Canyon National Park, Mojave and Coconino Counties, Arizona. The plan proposes to remove approximately 350 feral burros bylive removal attempts including trapping and herding. Animals that cannot be removed alive will be shot. A 2.5 mile section of park boundary fence will be constructed to prevent ingress of burros and trespass cattle from surrounding Federal lands."

"Some damage to plants and soils will occur resulting from live removal techniques and from the construction of temporary holding pens. The natural ecosystems adversely affected by feral burros will recover when burro herds are removed. Soils will begin to stabilize and natural plant and animal communities will become normalized. Archeological sites will no longer be subject to burro damage. Burros will no longer be part of the Grand Canyon scene as viewed by backcountry hikers and river runners. Some burro carcasses may remain visible to a few visitors until natural recycling takes place."

NOTE: From this Final E.S. the respondents to the draft E.I.S. were almost unanimous in support of this removal of all burros from the park. The exceptions being horse and burro protection organizations. The Fund for Animals, The Wild Burro Protection Association, the American Horse Protection Association and the Humane Society of the United Sttes will monitor effort of live removal. The Fund for Animals has agreed to furnish the sum of $120,000.00 for live removal and that the Fund be given the burros after capture for placement in private custody. This is acceptable to the Park Service, which will authorize such capture by person(s) found to be qualified for this ardous task. Removal to be begun within 60 days of the acceptance of the Final E.I.S. Ifcapture of animals does not procede orderly and speedily the NPS will procede with the plans to have Park personnel, on foot, shoot the burros. This latter is to be a three year project. It is expected that the majority of the burros would be eliminated within a few weeks time. The recycling of burro carcasses was found in the Bandelier National Park to take but about three weeks. It seems to tbis writer that the funds alloted by F.F.A. will be insufficient for this removal. The BLM has found costs of capture of burros on a far lesser rough terrain to ahve been $300. per animal (1976).

****

BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT UNDERTAKES BURRO MANAGEMENT

Three years ago the National Park Service conducted a burro number reduction program at Bandelier National Monument. Since that time burro numbers have again become so large as to endanger ecosystems in the Monument. NPS biologists have determined that these increasing burro numbers must be reduced in order to protect these ecosystems. Plans for the burro reduction program were pubicized in the Federal Register and copies were sent to 370 individuals and organization, including thevarious protectionist groups such as the Fund for Animals and the horse and burro protection groups. A total of 17 responses to the plan were received by Monumnent Superintendent John Hunter. Only one of these respondents had any objection tothe proposed reduction.

NPS personnel were transported by helicopter to the planned reduction sites on March 12th and 23 burros were shot that day. Cleveland Amory president of the Fund for Animals then launched a bitter denunciation against the NPS for this reduction and sought a Federal District Court injunction to stop the reduction, March 13th. Park personnel were again in the field the 13th, with plans to continue the reduction until the desired management levels weee reached, or the action stopped by a court order.

Bandelier NM covers about 32,000 acres and burro census was reported to be 129 animals. Managemnt plans were to remove about 100 burros from this population.

Amory reportedly said that his Fund for Animals would have been willing to underwrite the financial costs of live capture and removal of the burros. However, he had not responded to the Plan that had been sent to him long before Hunter had decided to implement the Plan.

THE FRESNO BEE---March 15, 1980

BOOKS

TROPHY ROOM BOOKS

An outlet for obtaining rare, scarce and out of print big game hunting books of North America, Africa, and Asia has been recently opened by Ellen Enzler at 4858 Dempsey Avenue, Encino, Calif. 91436. A post card sent there will get you a catalog of many titles otherwise hard to get. OUT OF THE YUKON a book by friend Jim Bond is fascinating. He was the first to write and report concerning the plight of the Rocky Mountain Bighorns of Horsehead Island in Flathead Lake, Montana.---but not in the mentioned book.