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.

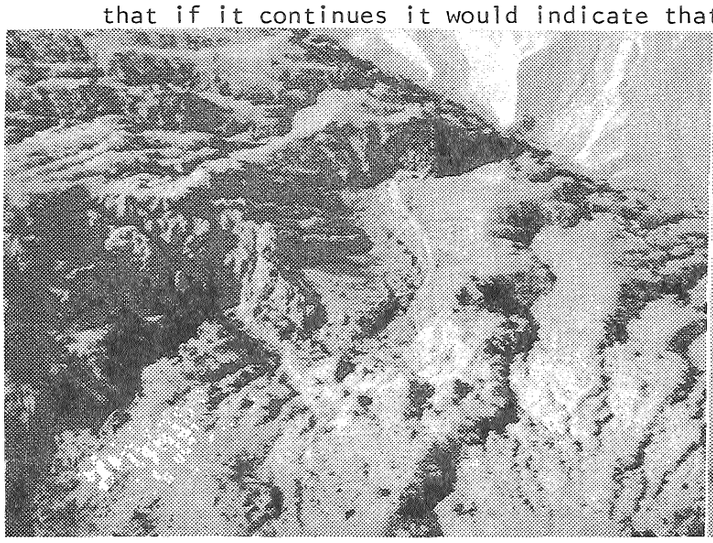
JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1981

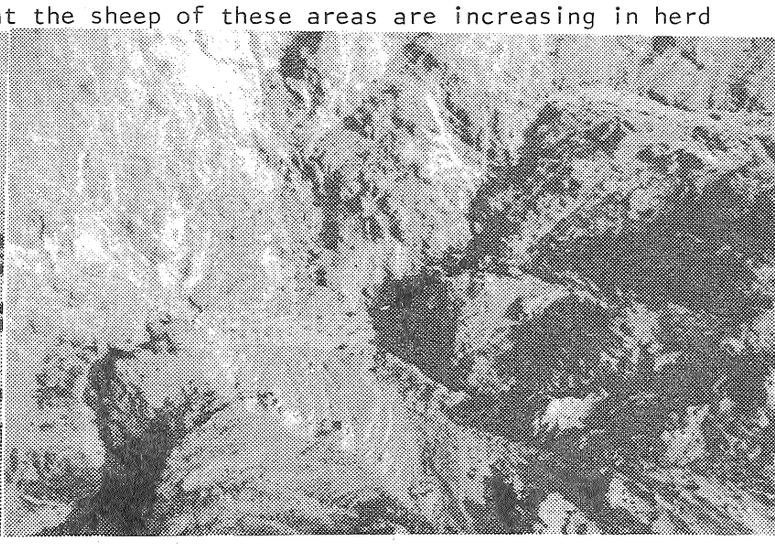
REPORTS FROM DRY MOUNTAIN AND LAST CHANCE

Reports have been received from Rocklin Wooley, and from Tom Blankinship--by way of Dick Weaver. Rocklin writes that he had had an opportunity on October 14th to take a flight over the Dry Mountains and the Last Chance Mts. in the fixed wing airplane of the Department of Fish and Game. He took the pictures at that time. No bighorns were seen during this flight.

However, Tom Blankinship reports that on October 22nd he and Vern Bleich and Les Coombs had made use of six hours of helicopter time and they had surveyed the areas around the Dry Mountain and Last Chance Big Game guzzlers. In all they observed five sheep near the Last Chance drinker and 24 near the Dry Mountain drinker. These sheep were classified as two adult rams, one yearling ram, one ewe and one lamb all at a point about 500 yards east of the drinker.
At the Dry Mountain they observed four ewes, one lamb, two adult rams about one-half mile east of the drinker; one ewe about 600 yards southeast of the drinker and two adult rams, two yearling rams, eight ewes and four lambs located about one-third mile southwest of the drinker. Tom also reported that both drinkers are currently receiving very heavy usage by the bighorns.

Dick Weaver penned an additional note that these above figures give a lamb to ewe ratio of about 36 lambs to 100 ewes. This is a good ratio for the month of October, and that if it continues it would indicate that the sheep of these areas are increasing in herd





Guzzlers observed from the D.F.G. airplane. Photos by Rocklin Wooley. Very similar terrain. Dry Mountain above Las Chance guzzler above

EWE LOST FROM WARNER MT. HERD

The new band of California bighorn sheep roaming the slopes of the Warner Mountains in Modoc County has suffered its first casualty, a two-year-old ewe that died of a skull fracture after apparantly falling from a cliff.

Modoc National Forest personnel said they discovered the problem a morning in early December while they were monitoring signals from a radio transmitter collars carried by six bighorn. The collars are designed to change frequency if an animal wearing it dies.

Department of Fish and Game officials said they conducted a ground search of the rugged canyon area later in the day and found the dead ewe at the base of a 30-foot cliff. The animal's skull had been fractured and one horn broken off, they reported.

Further search of the area showed bighorn tracks at the top of the cliff, an area where the ewe frequently had been seen during earlier surveys, the department said. Fish and Game speculated the ewe may have been startled and stumbled off the cliff in response to the appearance of a predator.

The ewe was one of four bighorn transplanted to the Warners from the Lava Beds National Monument sheep enclosure in February and was described as a "Prime" breeding animal.

The Forest SErvice reported that it had accounted for all of the remaining 15 sheep during the monitoring work that day. This number of bighorn includes two lambs born in the Warner Mts. in the spring and 10 bighorn moved to the area from the Inyo County herd in March.

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COLORADO RECEIVES DESERT BIGHORNS

Sheep roundup at Lake Mead NRA, Ariz.-Nev.

In June 1980 a nineteen member group composed of people from the National Park Service, U.S.Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and also representatives from the New Zealand National Park Service hid out near the water-trap adjacent tothe Southern Nevada Water Project facility westerly from Lake Mead. The objective of the group was to capture 20 desert bighorn sheep to be transferred to the Devil's Canyon area of Colorado.

After waiting for several hours and watching some 40 sheep milling around the trap, and during which time several small groups of sheep did use the water available, about three o'clock in the afternoon there were twelve sheep of the desired sexes and ratios in the trap and it was sprung. This signalled the 19 observers to rush to the trap and capture and tie-up the sheep in the trap.

This Southern Nevada Water Project has been the site of several successful trappings of bighorns for transplants into other historic but unstocked ranges in Nevada. Also, a few years ago 12 sheep were captured at this site and became the nucleus of the herd of sheep introduced into the Zion National Park of southern Utah. This has been reported on at different times in THE SHEEPHERDER.

This River Mountain herd of bighorns has been a very healthy herd and has been the source of much information gathered by the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

The twelve sheep captured that first day consisted of three rams, three lambs and six ewes. During the second day of the capture project another six sheep had been captured. Among this group were one ram, three lambs and two ewes. This made a total of 18 sheep that had been captured and the Colorado people accepted as being 'close enough to the 20' they were hoping for.

The trip to Colorado went smoothly for the sheep and they were met near the release site by a team of veterinarians. After a checkup, they were airlifted by helicopter to the release site in Devil's Canyon.

It is hoped that these sheep, along with others captured in Arizona, will form the nucleus of a strong and healthy herd of desert bighorn in the canyonlands of Colorado.

(From a report by Doug Wilson, Interpretive Specialist of the Lake Mead National Recreation Area of Arizona and Nevada.-------Courtesy--Dick Thomas of the NPS).

ARIZONA BIGHORNS TAKE A BOAT RIDE

During the evening of November 11, while most Arizonans were enjoying their Veterans Day holiday, wildlife managers, biologists and their assistants worked late into the night.

Twenty bighorns were captured on the tenth and eleventh and hauled more than 200 miles from the Kofa and Plomosa Mountains to Apache Lake, arriving at the marina at sundown. Since there are no roads on the north side of the lake, where the plant was to take place, another obstacle in the form of a lake had to be negotiated. Furthermore, the task had to be accomplished that night, because it was considered vital that the sheep be held no longer than absolutely necessary, and that they be released at dawn.

No one knows exactly when the last bighorn disappeared from the rough canyon country along the north shores of Apache and Canyon Lakes, but it was at least 30 years ago. Unrestricted grazing and hunting by early settlers probably wiped the sheep out, or maybe it was disease introduced by the domestic livestock.

During the past eight years the department together with the Tonto National Forest, has been evaluating the habitat in the area to determine its present suitability for a bighorn reintroduction. The land appears ready to have some desert bighorns back on it.

Departmental Wildlife Managers and the regional game specialist in charge of the area together with the biologistof the Tonto National Forest were waiting at Apache Lake marina for the horse trailers used to transfer the sheep from point of capture.

The 'shocking barge' of the Department was to be the vehicle to tranport the sheep across the lake to the north shore. Three trips were needed. However, the barge quit after two successful trips. Fortunately two Sea Rays were on hand as backups and with a little more difficulty, the job was completed.

Once across the lake, the sheep, hobbled but not tranquilized, had to be carried 50 yards up a sandy wash and placed in the burlap covered holding pen at the base of a large butte called Goat Mountain. The sheep were all in the pen by midnight and the crew was able to grab a few hours sleep.

Before daylight the next morning Regional Game Specialist Tom Britt and Wildlife Assistant John Theobald crawled into the pen and quietly removed the hobbles and blindfolds from the animals. By daylight the sound of the rams butting heads could be heard from a hundred yards away, indicating that the animals were healthy and ready to go.

When the gate was opened at early dawn the sheep wasted no time in leaving. Seven rams and eleven ewes quickly filed out of the small opening, and then, acting almost as if nothing unusual had happened to them, ambled up the hillside and along the ridge, taking the exact path that the biologists had hoped they would. Two ewes were slow to leave the holding pen. One of them was picked up and taken to the Phoenix Zoo, apparantly having been injured during te capture or tranfer. With tender loving care she recoverd. The other ewe apparantly regained her strength and joined the band. Two of the rams and eight of the ewes are outfitted with radio transmitters. Their movements are being monitored. The ewes have stayed within three miles of the release point. The rams, as expected, have moved away some five to seven miles. When the rutting season arrived it is expected that the rams will rejoin the ewes.

WILDLIFE VIEWS, December 1980---publication of Department of Game & Fish--Arizona

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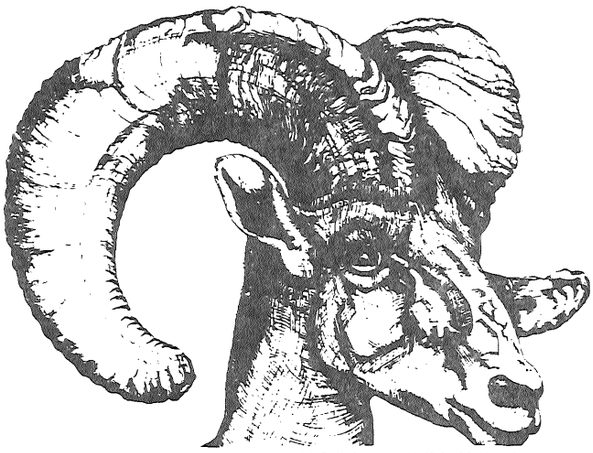
HART MOUNTAIN-MODOC REFUGE



DESERT BIGHORN COUNCIL

During the DBC Meeting at St. George, Utah last April Ken Vought, Assistant Refuge Manager for the Sheldon-Hart Mountain National Refuges reported on the present status of the bighorn sheep of those two areas. Mike Hansen as a Biological Technician supplemented Vought's report. The status of the bighorns of Oregon was also reported in the August issue of Oregon Wildlife, a publication of the Oregon Fish and Game Commission, in 1978.

The Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge was set aside by Executive Order in 1936, to protect fast dwindling herds of pronghorn antelope indigenous to the area. It contains some 240,000 acres. The dominant feature of the refuge is the massive 'fault-block' geologic structure of the entire western edge of the refuge and contains a 3500 feet precipitous west face. Warner Pk. is the predominant feature.

The California bighorn (*Ovis canadensis californiana*) was once common throughout the southeastern parts of Oregon and the adjacent portions of Idaho, Nevada and California. The coming of vast herds of cattle and sheep together with unregulated hunting had resulted in the wild sheep being lost to the area. The last recoded sighting of a wild sheep on Hart Mt. was reported in 1912. The first transplant effort to reintroduce california bighorns to the area came in 1939. A captive flock of bighorn at the National Bison Range in Montana was experiencing poor reproduction with high incidences of disease and general poor health throughout the herd It was thought that a general reduction in herd plus relocation to a new area might stimulate productivity and health once again. There was a high incidence of pasturella pneumonia in the herd and the animals transplanted and released on Hart Mountain were sickly and in poor health at the time of release. There was no holding pen, no management plan or any other plan in evidence. The sheep were merely released at the base of the mountain. To sum it up--they did not survive. The last sheep, a lone ram, was observed in 1947.

In 1950, negotiations began between Oregon Game Commission and the British Columbia Game Department to obtain bighorn for transplanting purposes. Hart mountain was the site chosen for the reintroduction effort. The British Columbia trap site was on the Jack Moon Ranch, about 26 miles west of Williams Lake. The chosen release site on Hart Mountain was in Juniper Canyon and a 34 acre holding pasture was constructed with 600 acre enclosure around it to receive the sheep. In 1954 20 sheep were transported from the British Columbia trap site. Eight lambs were born among the ten adult ewes that were transplanted and from then on the program was off and running. The herd size had doubled by 1957 and the first bunch of sheep (18) was released onto the confined space of Hart Mountain that year. The sheep pasture on Hart Mt. in Juniper Canyon was abandoned during the early 1960's as a sheep holding facility.

The sheep of Hart Mt. became the nucleus for transplanting efforts to other areas of the state. Including the transplant to Steens Mountain nine transplants have been made from the Hart Mt. herd. In all 97 bighorn have been removed from Hart Mt.

A ram only "trophy" hunt was initiated in 1965 with six permits being issued. Since that beginning permits issued have varied from three to twelve, except for two years in which none were issued. Through 1979 75 permits have been issued in all with 47 rams being taken for a 63% success ratio.

To date there have been no major disease outbreaks on Hart Mountain, except for the one of the original transplant from Montana.

Vought believes that the California bighorn population on Hart Mountain may be near its population limits. They do not know what the total capacity of the range is, nor what would be the optimum numbers. The perimeter of the sheep range on the mountain is still not firmly established. They do know that the rams range far wider than do the ewes and lambs. This seems to fit the usual patern.

THE SHELDON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE lies within the High Desert Resource Province in the northwestern corner of Nevada. The area is typified by extensive tables of volvanic origin which are cut by several small watercourses, while rim-rock exists around the periphery of which are cut by several small water courses, There are cliff areas along these watercourses. Rim rock exists around the periphery of the table land areas.

The reintroduction of California bighorn sheep to the Hell Creek area in 1968 when eight bighorns from the Hart Mt. herd were released within a 1700 acre enclosure. The sheep re-ained within the enclosure for approximately six years. During 1975 they were found to be using both the interior and the exterior of the enclosure. It was found that they were using the rock cribs, built to support the fence, for the means for crossing the fence. study was begun be the Oregon State University of the sheep and their habitat preferences. A in 1978.

The present population appears to have leveleed off at between 30 and 35 animals.

In the time since the sheep first began leaving the enclosure, the rams have formed a loose band and have established a home range in the Virgin Canyon area. The ewe band seems to have remained fairly close to the enclosure. Lossses to the herd seems to be disproportionately higher among the females than in the males. The majority of the losses therefore have occurred in or near the Hell Creek area.

Sheldon Area managers hope that there will be some Graduate Students who would care to use this herd for an indepth study as a research project.

No transplants from the Hell Creek herd has occurred or is present plans. It is hoped that sheep can be obtained to introduce into the Virgin Creek area and thus increase the range expansion, of the California bighorn in Nevada.

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POACHER KILLS, ABANDONS BIGHORN RAM

A bighorn ram was killed and let to rot on a hillside near the old Safford-Clifton bighway in Unit 28, on or about November 1.

The Department started looking for the carcass after receiving a HOW Line report on Monday, November 3rd, that a bighorn had been killed.

Wildlife managers were only slightly less surprised than the caller since the nearest bighorn sheep on the region are Rocky Mountain bighorns released by the Department in the Upper Blue River Canyon in 1979 and 1980 and some released earlier by the New Mexico Department in that state's nearby San Francisco River drainage.

The ram was found lying on a southwest slope in the Black Hills about 30 yards above the road, which is the main access into the Black Hills.

Anyone with information about the poaching of this (or other) bighorn sheep is urged to call the Departmen's toll-free HOW Line at 1-800-352-0700.

WILDLIFE NEWSLETTER--Arizona Game & Fish Department--Nov., 14, 1980

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NOTE: The Sportsmen's Council of Central California has endeavored to get the California Department of Fish and Game to adopt a similar HOW LINE ---Help Our Wildlife for the past several years. We have met with no success. We are told that such a telephone program would cost the department about $200,000 per year to operate. Distances in California are so much greater than is some of the states that do have such an operation.

HOWEVER, the success in the making of the following case is due to a telephone message sent in by a concerned citizen of Southern California to the Department of Fish and Game.

BIGHORN SHEEP POACHER ARRESTED

The Department of Fish and Game has arrested a Pomona man on a charge of illegal take and possession of a bighorn sheep, a fully protected specie in California since 1873, as a part of an ongoing investigation that may involve other bighorns and several additional suspects, the DFG reported on November 24, 1980.

Anarol Sandoval, 33, was cited Saturday morning, November 22nd, after DFG wardens armed with a search warrant found the head and horns of a bighorn sheep in his back yard and several packages of what appeared to be wild sheep meat in his freezer. The way the meat was cut and packaged, and the fact that some portions still had hair adhering to them, aided the wardens in their identification.

The DFG search party was led by Lt. Rod Shackelford accompanied by warden Warren Crooker, a wildlife conservation aid Leo Pacquine and Pomona police officers Linda Lovestedt and Randy Shintakur.

Shackelford reported that during the search Sandoval voluntarily turned over to the officers a color photograph showing himself and three other men posing with the carcass of a dead bighorn sheep.

Shackelford stated that the search warrant for Sandoval's premises had been issued after evidence pointing to Sandoval had been uncovered in a preliminary investigation by DFG wildlife conservation aid Richard Coelho of Riverside.

Other search warrants have been issued, the investigation is continuing, and it is expected that complaints will be sought shortly against other suspects, according to DFG Patrol Inspector Wally Callan in Long Beach.

California DFG, Region 5, Long Beach. (Courtesy Dick Weaver)

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2nd week June 1980 3 domestics near reintroduction sign Observer: A. Lumbreras

June 12, 1980 A ewe found shot at Gillem's Camp, (incident report in Monuument files)
Observer: H. Hansen

Mid-June 1980 From mid-June through July 5-6 domestics observed near reintroduction sign
Observer: R. Hilton
A. Lumbreras

BIGHORN DIE-OFF BEGAN ABOUT THE FIRST WEEK OF JULY, 1980

First week July 1980 Domestic sheep found dead on Laird's Camp road just south of the enclosure. Observer: E. Moorman

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Dr. David A. Jessup, DVM, Staff Wildlife Pathologist of the California Department of Fish and Game has added further information. "The Pasteurella pneumonia that killed the bighorn of Lava Beds probably infected the first animals sometime in early to mid June. Once in the bighorn it was probably passed from individual to individual. In absence of strong evidence that other factors started the bacterial pneumonia process in the Lava Beds bighorn, it is reiterated that contact with domestic sheep is the most likely source. One further piece of evidence should be considered."

" In the fall of 1978 six ewe and two ram Rocky Mt bighorn sheep were obtained from an island in Flathead Lake near Kalispell, Montana and moved to a small game farm near Twisp, Washington. They were obtained for testing of Albendizole as a worming compound. All had low levels of Protostrongulus sp. lungworm. In the spring of 1979 all six ewes lambed bringing the total to 14 animals. These animals were wormed in late spring or summer, all cleared completely of worm levels, all were healthy when examined. During their entire stay in Twisp they were maintained on hay and grain, supplemented by whatever grew in their paddock. The experiment was considered to be over by early November 1979 and due to another researchers interest in hybridization of sheep, domestic sheep which had been tested and considered healthy, were imported into an adjacent paddock at Twisp. By late November, 21 days after introduction of domestic sheep, seven head of bighorn had died. In December the bighorn band was down to four animals: one ram, one ewe and two lambs. By early January all bighorn were dead. No domestic sheep died or appeared ill. All animals autopsied had fibrinopurecent(sp) pleurisis and brochopneumonia by description identical to the disease that his destroyed the Lava Beds bighorns.....Dr. Foret's conclusions were that a more virulent Pasteurella Multicida being carried benignly in the upper respiratory tract of the domestic sheep was able to fatally infect the apparantly healthy, parasite free, unstressed bighorn sheep and kill them. He feels very strongly that domestic sheep were in this case the source of the fatal bacterial pneumonia in the absence of any identifiable stressing factors."

Editorial Comment The cases above show such a very parallel history that it is very difficult for me to assume that the deaths of Lava Beds bighorns could be attributed to any other factor than the nose-to-nose proximity of the Domestic sheep to the bighorns.
Nowhere in these reports do I find that the U.S.Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management personnel supposedly supervising the grazing of domestic sheep in proximity to the Lava Beds were notified of the trespass sheep or made any attempt to prevail on the grazing permittee to remove the domestic sheep from the "no-graze zone" about the Lava Beds National Monument as should have been done according to the grazing permit issued to the livestock operator. Violations of grazing permits and restriction are common throughout the western states. And, it is sad but true that the livestock operators' lobbies in the grazing states and in the halls of the Congress wield an awesome power. Improvement at during the 97th Congress seems very dubious, sorry to say. lec.

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Reports quoted above were obtained by Michael Valencia a member of the Board of Directors of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep for use by the Editor of THE SHEEPHERDER.

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SIERRA BIGHORN SHEEP TRANSPLANT REPORT

Louis Andaloro made a report to the Desert Bighorn Council this past April concerning the sheep transferred from the Mt. Baxter herd to the Wheeler Ridge and to the Lubkin Canyon. (May- June issue of THE SHEEPHERDER).

Andaloro this just past summer was a salaried emplyee of the U.S.Forest Service. He has been monitoring the bighorn transplants.

Since the first of August four bighorn have been accounted for of the Lubkin Creek group. These were three ewes and one lamb of the year. The original transplant consisted of four adult rams and eleven ewes. Some of this group weregiven radio-telemetry collars, in order that their movements might be traced. Lubkin Creek is near Lone Pine.

In late March 10 sheep from the Mt. Baxter herd had been captured and transferred to the Wheeler Ridge to join the 10 already there from the previous year, Andaloro was able to account for nineteen of the sheep on Wheeler Ridge. Among this group were three rams, eight ewes and three lambs of the year and one yearling ewe. The others were unclassified.

Calif. FG report for August 1980

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WATERTON CANYON SHEEP DIE-OFF

The Rocky Mountain Bighorn Society's newsletter of October 1980 reports the bighorn sheep of the waterton Canyon had recently suffered excessive losses.

It was reported in THE SHEEPHERDER last year that the City of Denver had plans to divert the waters from this canyon for domestic use. Concerns were expressed at that time as to the future welfare of the Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep of that region should the project be authorized. "The sheep of the Waterton Canyon area had been doing very well until the project was begun, and unfortunately this is no longer true. In mid October some sheep were coughing, and beginning to show signs of illness. The cause has been diagnosed as an acute bacterial pneumonia, and has spread through most of the 75 to 80 sheep known to occupy this canyon area. This type of pneumonia can be triggered by a number of factors, including virus, lungworm, poor nutrition, inclement weather, dust and stress. It appears at this time that stress and, to some extent, dust, are the major factors in this Waterton Canyon situation. The laboratory tests conducted at the Colorado State University indicate that the other normal factors listed above are not involved. It is not possible to expect a treatment program to work at this late date(although it has not been completely ruled out), and the prognosis is death for most of the sheep in the herd. Most estimates indicate that perhaps 20 of the animals will survive.

The Board of Directors of the Society has taken the position that the activities (construction) in the canyon are responsible for creating the stressed environment, and the Board wants the Denver Water Board to take the lead in solving the problem and assuring the future of the sheep herd. The Society will assist in any way it can, and will be having a meeting with the Denver Water Board and the Department of Wildlife in the near future."

EDITORIAL NOTE:

It is reports such as the above which worries the members of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep and the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep about the building or improvements and usage of road 2N06 up the Cattle Canyon and through the lambing grounds of the major segment of the Angeles Mountains desert bighorn sheep herd.
Stress caused by the efforts at Lava Beds in the transplant effort last spring has been ruled out as the cause of pneumonia in that herd that took place this last summer. Effects of the stress of early Spring would probably not lasted more than 30 days. Although, it is possible that that period of stress might have weakened resistance to disease for a short period of time.

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COLORADO WILDLIFE NEWS --December 1980. Article sent to the editor by Dick Weaver, Cal. DFG. titled "All of Waterton Canyon bighorn sheep are expected to die." The mortallity was determined by Gene Schonveld a biologist for the Department of Wildlife and the Colorado State University pathologists to be an all-age class die-off similar to the Tarryall-Kenosha, Pikes Peak herd die-offs that killed 439 sheep in the 1950's. A bacteria known as (*Pasteurella*) has been diagnosed as the primary culprit, with lungworm and the virus para-influenza 3 contributing tothe deaths.....only 13 sheep can be presently accounted for. Once the bighorns start showing symptoms, they usually die in one to three weeks. Efforts to treat the remaining sheep with tetracycline in apple pulp has been attempted, with little hope of it doing any good.

The D. O. W. seems to agree with the R.M.B.S.S. that the cause is the dust and trauma of the construction of the dam which lowers the natural resistance to diseases.

The D.O..W. and the Denver Water Department are taking steps to insure that bighorns have a future in the canyon. Scoonveld has said. Studies conducted by the Division and Colorado State University and paid for by the Denver Water Department are underway to investigate methods of range manipulation to provide adequate habitat for bighorn sheep once the dam and reservoir are completed in 1983. At that time, the Division may reintroduce bighorns from other herds back into the canyon. With careful management and seasonal closures of critical habitat areas to public use, Waterton Canyon may once again be a haven for the Colorado State animal.

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It is believed that the cause of the Lava Beds losses is due to the 'nose-to-nose' contacts with the domestic sheep which were permitted to graze right up to the fence that encloses the 1100 acre enclosure. Craig Olson, Park Forester of the Lava Beds National Monument has documented the presence of the domestic sheep adjacent to the restricted area, as follows:

April 26, 1980 Three domestic sheep immediately across the road from the reintroduction sign. Observer: E. Moorman

June 6, 1980 100+ domestics just north of the Devil's Homestead Lookout.
Observer: W. Donati

Second week of June A ewe and two lambs domestics observed for two to three weeks near the junction of Laird's Camp Road and the main park road turn-off.
Observer: R. Hilton,
K. McLain

You will note that there have been SEVEN work projects scheduled for this spring. The first one being scheduled this month. Some of these work projects require a large number of workers.

It is also time for you to be planning your WATERHOLE COUNTS for the coming summer. Pick that time when the weather is the hotest and also lesslikely of thunder storms.

Contact Project Leader Glen Sudmeier at Star Route Box 4 - C, Hesperia, Ca. 92345 or phone him at (714) 389-2498 for a set of directions.

DATES	Project	Type of work	Volunteers needed
January 17, 1981	Surveyor Spring--Old Woman Mt. Big Game Guzzler (E. Side OWM and off Water Road)	Reconstruct the entire system--new tanks, new pipe line, new drinker, insulate pipelines.	75 to 100
February 7, 1981	Smith Spring BGG Sacramento Mts. (S.W. Needles--7 miles two mile walk-gain 1,000')	A complete new system, new tanks, pipe line drinker insulate pipes, paint tanks	50 to 75
February 28, 1981	Pyramid Pk. B.G.G. & Nopah B.G.G. Nopah Range	Paint tanks, insulate pipes, renovate drinker, install valves, install a new drinker	15 to 25
March 21, 1981	Blue Springs, Pinyon Mts.,	install new tanks, insulate pipes, relocate drinker, paint tanks	50 to 75
April 11, 1981	Clark Mt. B.G.G. Clark Mts.	insulate pipes, install new catchment basin above the existing dam. Secure burro fence	35 to 50
May 2, 1981	Coxcomb B.G.G. Coxcomb Mts. & Weavernoy B.G.G. Granite Mts.	Trench and lay 1,000 ft of new drinker pipe. reinstall drinker, paint tanks, insulate drinker pipe	40 to 50
May 16, 1981	Old Woman Statue B.G.G. Old Woman Mts.	replace Johnson screen, replace section in 2" pipe to tanks, insulate pipes	15 to 25

In addition to the above work project dates there are some other dates that will need your attention.

January 31, 1981 A membership meeting---all members invited. Call Dr. Lutz office for locatior

March 14, 1981- --a Saturday meeting at Michael's resturaunt,4500 Los Feliz Blvd., Los Angeles a meeting of the Society and the Southern Council of Conservation Clubs-- 6:30 p.m. And a meeting with the Department of Fish and Game to make plans for a research project in the Santa Rosa Mountains.

A meeting of the Board with the U.S. Forest Service--to finalize plans for the Annual Sheep Count on the San Gabriel Mountains to be held on March 22nd. THIS SHEEP COUNT is an ongoing yearly event. Every person available can be used on this walking project

IT IS NOW TIME FOR MANY PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP TO RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIP FOR THE COMING YEAR OF 1981

NON-MEMBERS ARE URGED TO BECOME MEMBERS AND WITH THESE FEW DOLLARS GIVE THE SOCIETY SOME OF THE FUNDS NEEDED IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE SOME OF IT'S GOALS.

The Society was formed for the purposes of the Conservation, Preservation and the wise use of the wild sheep of North America. Membership 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 severity of some of the problems, and who are determined to assist in the solution of some of these 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 in some areas, threatened or endangered specie.

The Society advocates: Placing the management and control of the bighorn sheep under the State Fish and Game Commission of the several states rather than under the Legislature; the development and improvement of bighorn habitat--especially the water sources of desert areas; the elimination of checker-board patterns of 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; the making of recommendation 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.

HORN DEFORMITY MYSTIFIES SCIENTISTS

The ALASKA MAGAZINE for January 1981 carries an article concerning the deformation of ram horns among the Dall sheep on a range of about 700 square miles to the northeast of Kluane Lake in the Yukon Territory.

Dr. Manfred Hoefs, Assistant Director of the Yukon Wildlife Branch has been gathering information about the sheep population of the Yukon for a number of years. He discussed his research before the April 1980 meeting of the Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council at Salmon, Idaho. He indicated the need for more research which at that time was beyond the budget of his department. The Foundation for North American Wild Sheep came to the rescue with an initial grant of $10,000 and the offer of technical assistance from two American sheep specialists Dr. Tom Bunch, a pathologist of the Utah State University and Dr. Robert Glaze a Texas veterinarian. These latter two men did go into the field in the Yukon during this past summer to do some work with the officials of the Yukon.

The abnormalities, which have been reported by big game guides for some years appear to affect only mature rams, older than seven years, and is estimated to effect some 10% to 15% of that age group of that hunting area. One or both of the following problems affect the horns. Dr. Hoefs has learned: part of the horn sheath is lost, usually the first three annual increments, and the remaining horn changes its direction of growth, growing in a very tight angle back toward the skull and reaching it in the general area of of the orbit . The affected horns are retarded in growth rates, usually tightly curled and deformed in cross section. There have even been severe cases in which the horn has twisted around and grown back into the animal's skull. In two known cases the sheep died . In one case the horn grew back into the animal's eye causing blindness, and another curled into the animal's mouth, causing starvation.

Three theories as to the cause of the deformities have been proposed. One is that the sheep of the area are more prone to accidents, and the mal-growth is the result of the accident. A second theory is that the deformities are caused by some disease. Thirdly that these mal-formaties are a result of genetic defects.

Dr. Tom Bunch has made extensive studies into diseases and causes of death among the wild sheep populations. THE SHEEPHERDER has reported on his studies of the affects of the sinusitis--as caused by the bot fly, on several occasions.

This editor expects that probably Dr. Bunch will have, at least a preliminary report concerning the above deformities during the sessions of the Desert Bighorn Council during its meeting at Alpine, Texas this coming April.

Report in the Alaska Magazine written by Flo Whygard, the Canada editor.

BARBARY SHEEP IN THE UNITED STATES ---A partial Report

The following is the Foreword of the procedings of the Ecology and Management of Barbary sheep Symposioum held in November 1979. These procedings are available from the Department of Range and Wildlife Management of the Texas Tech University at P. O. Box 4169 Lubbock Texas 79409 for $6.50 U.S. currency including postage and handling.. Foreign delivery is an additional $2.00. The Foreword written by Dr. C. David Simpson says: "Since the first release of Barbary sheep to the wild in the United States in the late 1930's, this exotic ungulate has shown considerable ability to adapt to varying local conditions. In the past 40 y ears, Barbary sheep, or aoudad, have escaped or been translocated to a number of release sites on federal, state and private lands in California. New Mexico and Texas. Many of these transplants have resulted in the species becoming a permannent addition to the local fauna and a highly sought after trophy for sport-hunters. However, Barbary sheep from these releases have dispersed widely and extended the species range, appearing in new locations where their presence is often less than desireable.

The potential of Barbary sheep for serious ecological competition with endemic fauna, especially the dwindling desert bighorn sheep herds in the southwest, has given rise to concern among sportsmen and land managers alike. Several recent biological studies on Barbary sheep have suggested that the species may indeed represent a threat to endemic North American fauna, Their rapid spread into any rough, broken terrain, often some distance from original release sites, represents a problem to planned resource managemnt. In order to serve the interests of endemic wildlife, as well as to insure continued recreation offered by Barbary sheep, a synthesis of existing biological knowledge on this species was needed. This Symposium was organized to fulfill this need, as well as to develop guidelines for suturr management oriented research on Barbary sheep."

Dr. Simpson is the Chairman of the Barbary Sheep Committee of the Desert Bighorn Council.

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: _____