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.

MARCH - APRIL 1981

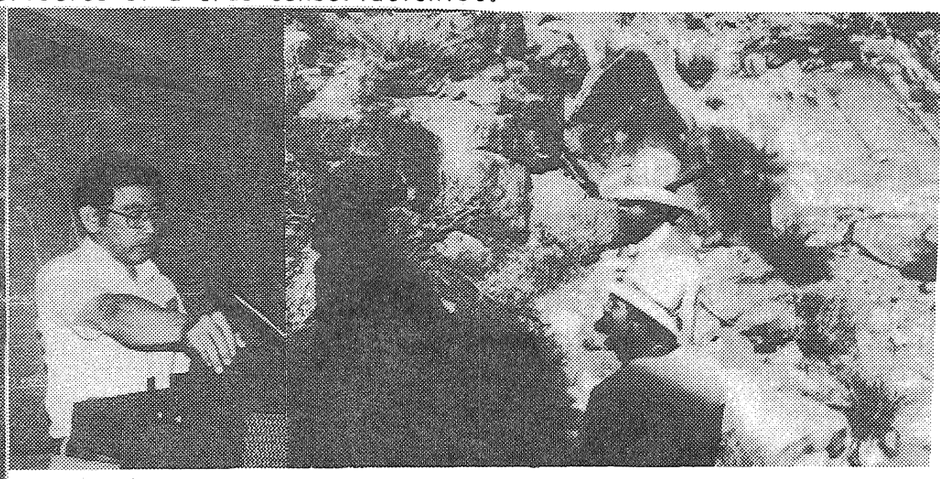
WILDLIFE SOCIETY'S 1981 CONSERVATIONIST AWARD TO GLENN SUDMEIER

During the Annual Meeting of the Wildlife Society - Western Section held in San Luis Obispo the 30th and 31st of January 1981 Glenn Sudmeier the Water Projects Committee Chairman Glenn Sudmeier of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep was awarded the highest honor that can be bestowed by this prestigeous group.

George Tsukamoto, President of the Western Section, is a Wildlife Biologist of the Nevada Department of Fish and Game at Reno. In presenting the award to Sudmeier, Mr. Tsukamoto stated,: "It is with great pleasure the Western Section of the Wildlife Society honors Glenn W. Sudmeier as the 1981 Conservationist Award recipient. He is hereby recognized for his outstanding contributions to the conservation of desert wildlife.

For nearly a decade, Glenn has served as Water Project Coordinator for the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep. In this role, he has organized and directed the activities of volunteer groups assisting resource management agencies in developing and maintaining critical water sources for desert wildlife. Glenn is extremely successful in bringing together individuals with diverse interests in desert resources and uniting them into effective work teams. In addition, he has provided invaluable assistance with bighorn sheep surveys and other desert wildlife programs.

Glenn's knowledge of the desert is extensive and his dedication to the protection and enhancement of wildlife and its habitat is exceptional. His untiring efforts have been largely responsible for the development of a detailed water source inventory for many important wildlife ranges in the southeastern deserts of California. The fact that his concern for wildlife is directed into programs and projects in cooperation with, or approval by, appropriate resource agencies can be appreciated by all wildlife professionals. Glenn exemplifies the finest characteristics of a true conservationist.



At the left Glenn Sudmeier at a project site. Center George Tsukamoto of Nevada Department of Fish and Game made the presentation to Glenn.

At right above Glenn Sudmeier (tall hat with the feather) at the Smith Spring installation project February 7, 1981.

The Editor apologizes for no photo of Glenn receiving his award. Two people promised a photo--neither one came through.

REPORT OF SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

The Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep membership has been received from John Larronde, Secretary.

The meeting held on January 31st at the Best WEstern Motor Hotel in La Habra, Calif. was very well attended. Also there had been a good response of members who sent in their proxies to the officers. This large representation is appreciated by the officers of the Society.

Committee reports:

James DeForge reported on the Research Committee's work in the China Lake area. The committee members had spent 100 man-days within the area in covering the Coso, Argus, Slate, and Eagle Crag Mountains. During which time they did not find any bighorn sheep in any of these ranges and have increasing fears of the bighorn extinction in this area. On November 13, 1980 the Research team had met with Mrs. Tilly Barling, Captain Jon Ives and Commander Duane Ringel of the Naval Weapons Center. The Navy is very interested in preserving the land under its control and has indicated some interest in a re-introduction program for bighorn sheep. There might be some funding available from the navy for such a program. "We will be working with China Lake to for a proposal for this work." As a result of these finding the Research Team headed by DeForge has decided to concentrate on the immediate prolems of the lamb mortalities suffered the past few years in the Santa Rosa Mountains. The Committee has applied to the California Fish and Game Commission for permission "for authorization to conduct bighorn sheep studies in the Santa Rosa Mountains, Riverside County. DeForge's proposal called for a study into the reasons for high lamb mortality and population decline of bighorn sheep in the Santa Rosa Mountains, Riverside County. He noted that the proposal involved intensive serological and field investigations in search of a means to reverse the four-year trend of poor lamb recruitment. Mr. Cribbs (F. & G. Commission secretary), stated that the Commissioners had before them the Department's environmental analysis of the proposed study. He reminded the Commissioners that under recently adopted regulations which pertained to studies involving fully protected species, this was one spcies in which the Department was required to bring memorandums of understanding before the Commission for it's approval. He noted the request before the Commission was for authorization for the study and for the Department to enter into a memorandum of understanding, which would cover the study.

Cribbs stated that a letter was received from Mr. Lewis Carpenter, Sportsmen's Council of Central California, in support of the proposed study." end quote from the Minutes of the Calif. Fish and Game Commission meeting of Feb., 6, 1981.

The request for the study was put over until the March 6th meeting of the Commission for further action.

In the interim the Non-Game Adyisory Committee to the DFG was consulted about the proposed study. The DFG's Biologists are in favor of the project. However, during the intervening month Some person wrote a letter to the Non-Game Wildlife Committee objecting to the capture of any sheep from the area for purposes of study --reporting that he or she had seen nine lambs and 24 ewes in the Santa Rosa Mts.-- which would give a ratio of 36+ lambs per 100 ewes. Consequently during the March 6th meeting of the Commission only a tentative approval was given by the Commission to DeForge for him to pursue the planned study. There is, of course, much that he can do which will not involve the actual capture or examination of sheep at close hand.

Ronald Vickery gave a report on the Wildlife Symposium to be held in San Jose on June 5th, 6th and 7th, 1981. This symposium like the one held in Fresno in June 1980 is being jointly sponsored by the Society and the Californai Wildlife Federation. Further information and raffle tickets are being mailed to all society members.

James DeForge reported that the San Gabriel Mountain Sheep Count had been set for March 8, 1981.

NOTE: This date is a correction from that announced in THE SHEEPHERDER issue of Jan.-Feb. The date of March 22nd was in error, and had been given to the editor by phone by another person --not DeForge.

Glenn Sudmeier reported that the Water Hole projects were all set for this spring. The one set for January 17th at Surveyor Spring in the Old Woman Mountain had been completed as scheduled. Other project are scheduled under "Coming Events of this issue. Sudmeier reported that reports coming from waterhole counts and use of time-lapse camers has shown that at least 80 percent of these 29 water storage project facilities---guzzlers-- are being used by the bighorns.

President Loren Lutz reported that the Foundation For North American Wild Sheep symposium was to be held in Phoenix, Arizona February 25, 26, and 27th, 1981. The Society will have representation at the conference.

Committee assignments for 1981 are: Lew Carpenter continues as Editor
Glenn Sudmeier--Star Route Box 4C, Hesperia, Calif. 92345 ---WATER HOLE COORDINATOR,
Gary Roberts, 13142 Thistle Brook, Sunnymead, Cal. 92388----MEMBERSHIP & PUBLICITY
Jim DeForge --218 E. J.St., Ontario, Cal. 91764 and Charles Jenner--11381 Loch Lomond Road, Los Alamitos, Calif 90720------RESEARCH
Thomas Clotfelter--P.O. Box 717, Rancho Santa Fe, CAl. 92067--FUND RAISING
G.E. David--3560 Francis Ave., Los Angeles, Cal. 90066 ---FIELD TRIPS

Loren L. Lutz and G.E.DAvid -----LEGISLATION
James DeForge -----ENTERTAINMENT AND CORRESPONDENCE

OFFICERS ELECTED:
Loren L. Lutz, DDS ----PRESIDENT
Marvin Wood, 19 Byron Drive, Lemoore, Cal. 93245----FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
A. W. "Bud" Wiedeman, 367 North Laurel Ave., Los Angeles, Cal. 90048--SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
Rocklin Wooley, 3423 Hillsborough Way, San Jose, Cal. 95121---THIRD VICE PRESIDENT
John E.O. Larronde, P.O. Box 395, Malibu, Cal. 90265-----SECRETARY, and
Wayne A. Dickson 2844 Adelita Drive, Hacienda Heights, Calif.91745------TREASURER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS :

Robert A. Johnson a member of the Board of Directors since 1965 resigned. In his place Don Carper --726 California St., El Segundo, Ca. 90245 will serve. Other members of the Board will be : G.E. David, Wayne A. Dickson, Charles W. Jenner, D.V.M., Glenn Sudmeier, A.W. Wiedeman, Richard L. Graham, 23881 Cirus Ave., Parris, Cal. 92370; Stephen V. Segreto 1445 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA. 92631; Ronald D. Vickery--4139 West Big Tujunga Canyon Road, Tujunga, Cal. 91042.

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SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAIN sheep count of March 8th, 1981. Totals are not in at press time. However, 425 bighorns were spotted from an aerial survey helicopter that day. More than 100 people were on hand and walked assigned routes on that day. We will have a complete report in the next issue of T.S.

PLEASE NOTE there are still FIVE water projects sceduled for the balance of this Spring, together with dates---locations and the number of Volunteers needed.
CONTACT Water Project Leader Glenn Sudmeier for particulars if uncertain of location of camp sites or projects. His address is: Star Route Box 4 - C, Hesperia, Ca. 92345. Glenn's phone number is (714) 389 - 2498

It is time to begin to plan for your Waterhole Counts for the coming summer. Pick that time, if possible, when the weater will be it's hottest and driest and less likely for thunderstorms

DATES	Project	TYPE OF WORK	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
March 21, 1981	Blue Springs--Pinyon Mts.	Install new tanks, Insulate pipes, relocate drinker and paint the tanks	50 to 75
	The Society is buying these tanks--the Southern Council of Conservation Clubs is contributing $200.00 of cost.		
April 11, 1981	Clark Mt. B.G.G. Clark Mts.	Insulate pipes, install new catchment basin above the existing dam. Secure the burro exclusion fence.	35 to 50
May 2, 1981	Coxcomb B.G.G. Coxcomb Mts. AND Weavernoy B.G.G. Granite Mts.	Trench and lay 1,000 feet of new drinker supply pipe, reset the drinker, paint tanks, insulate pipe.	40 to 50
May 16, 1981	Old Woman Statue B.G.G. Old Woman Mountains.	Replace Johnson screen, replace section of 2 inch pipe to the tanks and insulate the pipes.	15 to25

Other dates on schedule:
March 14, 1981 meeting of the Board of Directors with Southern Council of Conservation Clubs at Michael's Resturaunt, 1400 Los Feliz Blvd., Los Angeles---6:30 p.m. to plan for joint efforts

April 8 - 9 &10th, 1981 the Desert Bighorn Council's Annual Meeting at the Holiday Inn in Kerrville, Texas.

March 26th, 1981 Board of Directors meet with U.S. Forest Service at home of Director Ron Vichery to discuss mutual cooperative plans for bighorn benefits

June 5, 6, & 7, 1981 Joint meeting of the Society and the California Wildlife Federation to be held in San Jose, California. There will be a Symposium held of similar nature to the one held in Fresno, California in June 1980

LABOR DAY WEEKEND the annual waterhole counts in the Death Valley National Monument. More about this in later issues.

SMITH SPRING COMPLETED

The water storage facility at the Smith Spring--seep has been finally built. The building of this project has been recommended by area Team Captain Lew Carpenter ever since the spring of 1972. This small seep was first publicized by Dan Smith and Dick Weaver in 1971. They had been searching for water in the Sacramento Mts. Smith went up one fork of the canyon and Weaver up the other. Weaver found a tenaja they named Broken Mule Shoe Tank. The other source was named for Smith. Since the 1972 recommendation several men of the Department of Fish and Game, as had Weaver and Smith, have been guided into the area. They had also seen the need and had also recommended the building of the facility. As with so many needed projects there is always a question of priorities and funding, as well as permissions to be granted by land managment agency managers. Happily this past summer (1980) Riverside District Manager for the Bureau of Land Management did grant authorization and most importantly he did make a grant of the essential $5,000. to pay for materials and the necessary helicopter time.

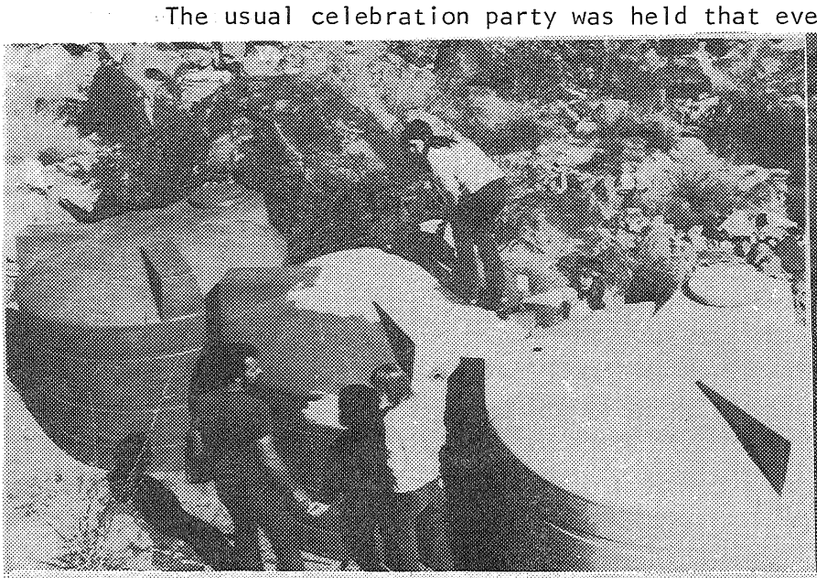
Friday evening the some 40 Volunteers, the men from California Department of Fish and Game gathered in camp about seven miles southwesterly from Needles. Mr. Jim Bicket, Wildlife Biologist for the BLM represented that agency. The work force began gathering at the work site about 8:30 a.m. and immediately got to work. It was not necessary to build a platform on which to set the three-1,500 gallon storage tanks as a level space had been provided by the miners who had worked on a nearby mine some 60 to 80 years before. This not only did save a lot of work but also saved on materials as no concrete was needed to prepare the platform.

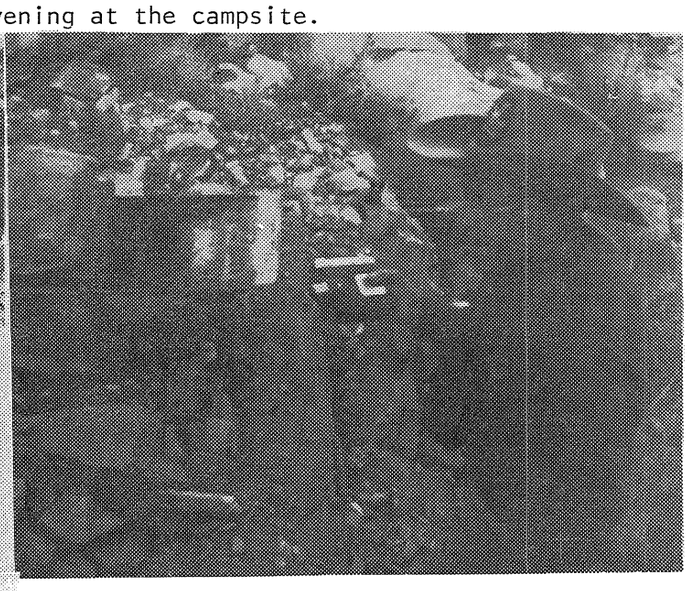
A year ago another work party had done some work at the Smith Spring. the lower lip of the catchment had been raised a few inches and a Johnson Screen had been installed on the two-inch pipe used to lead water to a drinker along the canyon wall a short distance. This eliminated the need to do this work on February 7th 1981.

The work was all finished and the area cleaned up shortly before 2:30 p.m. At that time water in the catchment was turned into the three tanks and on to the drinker which immediately filled.

The $5,000. granted by District Manager Gerald Hillier of BLM had been used to purchase the needed materials and to helicopter deliver them to the project site. Therefore, it was up to the Volunteers to carry out all tools such as pipe wrenches, hammers, picks, shovels, pipe vise, crowbars, buckets and the unused lengths of 2" and 3/4" steel pipe. The area was left to the wildlife by 2:35 p.m. Carpenter was the last one to stagger down the canyon a little more than an hour later.

The usual celebration party was held that evening at the campsite.





Upper left "paint crew"--mainly girls paint the tanks--serves two purposes--not so conspicuous as the green to which BLM objects, but moreimportantly the paint prevents the growth of algae in the stored water.
Lower left Glenn udmeier in big hat inspects the almost finished project.
Above Marvin Wood, First Vice Pres. of the Society makes color movies of project and admires the water flowing into the drinker. Note that the pipe from tanks to drinker has been insulated and covered with rocks.

own expenses, to capture and remove as many burros as possible. The second phase of the park's management plan is that of shooting and will be implemented only if public live removal efforts fail.
On October 27 a Federal Court decision supported the full implementation of the Feral Burro Management Plan in Grand Canyon, including shooting if necessary. It is our sincerest hope that the public will continue to be successful in removing all burros alive from the Grand Canyon and the shooting program will not need to be implemented.

To date over 350 feral burros have beeen removed alive as part of this program. Two were captured by private individuals, the remainder by the Fund For Animals, Inc. (F.F.A.). The F.F.A. is now working to remove the remaining burros from the park. An estimated 120 burros remain in the park, mostly in the rugged lower canyon area. A few scattered animals remain in the Tonto Plateau area, but F.F.A. plans to remove them before leaving the park.

Although the live removal program is open to the general public, the F.F.A. organization is the only group to have actually implemented a major removal effort. Their live removal effort consists of burros being captured by cowboys and helicopter sling loaded to the canyon rim. So far, this technique has proven very successful and the F.F.A. has demonstrated excellent cooperation with the National Park Service.

Animals removed from the Grand Canyon by the F.F.A. will be placed in suitable homes by that organization. Persons interested in obtaining one of these burros should contact:
The Fund For Animals, Inc.,
140 West 57th Street,
New York City, N.Y. 10019 (212) 246 - 2632

Further damage to the canyon's archeological and natural resources by burros will cease with their removal, and recovery of the canyon eco-system will begin. With time all disturbed soils, vegetation and animal communities will return to a natural state.

Signed: Richard W. Marks, Superintendent.

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BURRO FILM NOW BEING SCREENED

Society member Bill Neill is also Chairman of the Sierra Club's Southern California Regional Conservation Committee film committee.

Neill reports that many agencies and National organizations have previewed copies of the film. Among these have been staff members in the Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management in Washington. It was to be shown before the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep at Phoenix---late February and will be shown at the Desert Bighorn Council at Kerrville, Texas in April. Viewers are giving the film high marks and are enthusiastic. Film costs have skyrocketed since before the undertaking of this project. As a result there have been large over-run to costs----nearly double that which was expected. At this time Bill Neill is "holding the sack". He can use some assistance. Bill's address is:
533 South Harvard, Apt. #203, Los Angeles, California 90020

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Dr. Loren L. Lutz, President of the Society was along on one of the burro photographing expeditions to the desert. He reported that it was very interesting to him.

NOTE: Bill Neill reports that the capture effort of the Fund for Animals in the Grand Canyon had cost them at least $750,000 (estimated). This has been an expensive education for the FFA. It is believed that the FFA will take a good look at any future live removal of burros from any other park or National Monument.

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NAVY HOLDS WEEKEND BURRO REDUCTION AT CHINA LAKE

The Fresno Bee reported March 10, 1981 that the Navy had decided that the feral burros that infest the China Lake Naval Weapons Center were endangering the lives of Naval personnel and their million dollar airplanes by straying onto runways and roads at the installation. "The Navy said that professional civilian marksmen killed 381 burros over the weekend in an unannounced eradication program."

Supervised by Steven Caruthers, an Arizona animal population specialist affiliated with the Museum of Northern Arizona, the hired marksmen flew by helicopter over a 275 square mile area of the Navy's largest research and development facility, 115 miles north of Los Angeles, on Saturday and Sunday.

Helicopters were used to herd the burros onto test ranges where the sharpshooters left the aircraft and shot the burros, according to a Naval spokesman.

Captain William B. Haff, the commander of the Weapons Center stated that, "I have been concerned for some time that a Navy Jet aircraft will hit a burro on the runway. At night there is no way that burros can be seen either from the air or the traffic contrl tower ... felt the emergency reduction program was essential."

Cleveland Amory, president of the Fund for Animals, criticized the shootings as "outrageous and a horrible example of going off half-cocked."

NOTE:

To be realistic--- the 381 burros are not even equal to the number of burros the herd numbering not less than 2,225 would normally increase by this year--at the average rate of about 20% per annum.

IDAHO BIGHORNS MOVED TO NEVADA

The proposal to transfer a few California bighorn sheep from Idaho to Nevada was reported in THE SHEEPHERDER in the spring of 1980. This has now been accomplished according to Milt Williams of the Idaho Fish and Game Department. Milt tells me in a personal communication the background for this transfer, "Some more background on this deal might be appropriate--Nevada had planned to introduce Rocky Mountain sheep, but in order to retain the pure breeding of our California BH's, we offered some of ours in place of the RM's they planned to get from Wyoming. This was two to three years ago, and we just now got it done. Ranchers in that area were pressuring the BLM to get the sheep introduced, or to open that area to their cattle, so it looks like we got the job done before cattle invaded. This is only a few miles south of the Idaho line, so it will perhaps benefit us, too. I understand that Idaho now has about 30% of all California Bighorns, the first of which we got from British Columbia in 1963, and released on the Owyhee River, some 65 airline miles from the Jarbridge Mountains."

The Boise, Idaho Statesman covered the capture of these bighorns and reports, " After 45 minutes, helicopter pilot Jim Pope finally spotted a group of California bighorn sheep roaming along a rocky cliff in Owyhee County. He carefully guided the craft alongside the running herd, hoping to back them against a cliff. But just as Pope reached the desired position, the shy, fleet footed animals scattered."

The Idaho DFG's News reports: " Some deft helicopter maneuvers, expert markmanship with tranquilizer darts and careful handling have resulted in the promise of a new herd of California bighorn sheep just south of the Idaho-Nevada border.

Three rams and nine ewews were captured and relocated during a weeklong operation in Owyhee County carried out by the Department of Fish and Game. All but one were young animals and all were healthy, spiritied bighorns," said Jerry Thiessen, State big game manager. But, it was painstaking work he added.

Senior wildlife research biologist Bill Hickey then used a dart gun to immobilize the sheep until they could be carefully moved by helicopter to trucks for a three hour drive and another helicopter ride to the Jarbridge Mountains in Nevada. "If the animals prosper, and they should, we are confident -- this herd should eventually benefit both Idaho and Nevada," Thiessen stated.

The Owyhee County population is now estimated to be about 350 California bighorn. The worldwide population of this specie is numbered at less than 4,000 animals according to Thiessen. who also stated that this project was financed largely by a grant from the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep.

Bill Hickey, left, prepares anti-shock injection as Jim Pope steadies sheep

Bighorns scramble up cliff

Center above--Bill Hickey ready to connect the carrying crate to the helicopter.
Photos all by David Brookman---courtesy the Boise, Idaho--STATESMAN

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UPDATE GRAND CANYON BURRO REMOVAL

A recently received letter, dated 5 February 1981, from Mr. Richard W. Marks, the Superintendent of the Grand Cayon National Park states: " Grand Canyon's Feral Burro Management and Ecosystem Restoration Plan was implemented in May, 1980. This plan is a two-phase program. The first phase allows the public an opportunity to come into the park, at their

BIGHORN SHEEP ADAPT WELL

In January 1980 HE SHEEPHERDER reported about the reintroduction of desert bighorn sheep into the Virgin Mountains in the northwestern corner of Arizona. The field trip of the Desert Bighorn Council last April was to view the installation not far from Littlefield. The photos of this release site shown below were taken at that time

The Arizona Wildlife Federation -----a really "gung-ho"organization reports the current progress of the herd in this reintroduction effort.

In November 1979 the Arizona G. &. F. Department in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management captured nine ewes and three rams in the Black Mts. near Kingman and transferred them to the Virgin Mts. enclosure by helicopter. The enclosure contains two water storage tanks, one of which is fed by a small spring and the other is re-filled occasionally by the Department personnel. The enclosure is surrounded by an eight foot high woven wire fence topped by two strands of battery operated electric fence to ward off depredation by Mt. lions. The Virgin Mts. show evidence of having been historic bighorn range, last sighting in 1933.

During February of 1980 six lambs were born in the enclosure. A seventh was born in early June. This latter birth indicated that successful breeding did take place within the enclosure, as the gestation period is six months for the bighorn.

John Morgart biologist of the G. &. F. Dep't. says that the plans for this growing herd are that when the herd has increased to some 25 to 30 animals that half of them will be released from the enclosure to roam into the surrounding mountains. As shown in the photos the area is a rolling upland desert with elevations rangeing from 2,800 to 4,972 feet and the egetation ranges from Mojave desert types to the pinyon-juniper type.

The visitors from the DBC did not see any of the sheep during their visit last April 1980. Morgart reported that he finds them usually in the vicinity of the bluffs and then by use of the radio detection equipment he uses to check up on them several times during the week.

The Virgin Mountains enclosure site of the 1979 transplant. Note the covered water storage tank in the photo tothe right.

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MONEY ON THE LINE

The above is the title of the editorial written by Jesse E.Williams in the New Mexico Wildlife Magazine for November-December, 1980 issue published by the Department of Game and Fish. Previous issues of THE SHEEPHERDER has spoken of the trials and tribulations of the desert bighorn sheep of the San Andres Mountains, their decimation by the scabies mite; their capture; treatments for the mites and their being placed within the enclosure at the Red Rock facility. We have reported concerning the extreme and unbudgeted expenses of theDepartment of Game and Fish as it has attempted to save a portion of that herd. Pleas were made for donation of funds to assist in meeting these extraordinary expenses that had amounted to in excess of 100,000. The Foundation for the North American Wild Sheep was a leader in raising these funds. Williams writes, in Part:

"The capture operation and the associated care of these animals was very expensive, and emergency had not been included in the agency's budget. The department asked for public contributions, and that help was forthcomeing in the form of more than $26,000 in donations. This donated money, matched three-to-one by federal aid money distributed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife SErvice under the Pitman-Robertson Act, has paid the $100,000 plus operation. Contributions continue to come in from time to time, even to this late date.

The hundreds of individual contributions really helped, and we know they came from the heart, as did those larger contributions from several organizations. The Foundation for North American Wild Sheep contributed $6,000, and the Camp Fire Club of America, a venerable wildlife conservation group founded in 1898, channeled an additional $3,000 through the foundation. Game Conservation International ("Game Coin") and the Shikar Safari Club each donated $5,000. Mzuri Safari Foundation gave $3,000, and Safari Club International donated $1,000.

All these organizations are composed primarily of hunters who gave these substantial amounts knowing full well it will be at best many years before desert sheep are hunted again in New Mexico. They obviously contributed with the thought of the Species' welfare in mind.

Now comes the question: Where were the self-appointed wildlife protection and animal welfare groups? Letters identical to those that elicited more than $23,000 from sportsmen's organizations were sent to Defenders of Wildlife, Friends of Animals, The Fund for animals, Animal Welfare Institute and many others of similarly procalimed concern for our wild creatures. Not a simgle cent was donated; in fact, there was not even the courtesy of a reply or an expression of concern.

The sportsmen again, put their money on the line". end quote.

NOTE: The Pitman-Robertson Funds mentioned above are obtained through the imposition of an 11% excise tax levied upon shotguns and rifles and their amunition at the time of purchase. The P-R Funds are generated by the P-R Act which became law in 1938 at the insistance of the sportsmen themselves. In fact the organizations listed in the above paragraph have on several occasions attempted to get the Act negated; and have attempted to obtain a ban on the use of these funds for wildlife benefits.

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HELP NEEDED IN FINDING KILLER OF BIGHORN SHEEP

California Department of Fish and Game wardens have turned to the public for help in trying to locate the person or persons who killed a rare peninsular bighorn sheep at Anza Borrego Desert State Park, San Diego County, sometime in early November.

"We don't have a clue to go on at this time except blood and hair that we have identified as those of a bighorn sheep, " said DFG Inspector Wally Callan of Long Beach.

Callan said the incident is believed to have occurred within a few days prior to Thursday, November 14, when blood, hair and bootprints and drag marks were found by state park ranger Jeff Snyder just off State Highway 78 at the Narrows, approximately three miles east of Tamarisk Grove.

Possibly some passerby may have seen something that would give us a lead in this case," Callan stated. "A parked truck or some unusual activity in the Narrows where the killing of the bighorn apparantly took place."

DFG warden William Powell, who responded to the ranger's call, said distinctive bootprints had been found in the sand wash to the east of the apparant kill site. He said that it was felt that the sheep was probably a ewe because of the size of its tracks.

Callan said that persons with possible information on the incident could call him at (213) 590-5124 in Long Beach, or could get in touch with Captain Greg Laret at the Fish and Game office in San Diego at (714) 237-7311.

The peninsular bighorn sheep found on the desert slopes near Palm Springs south to Mexico has been classified as rare by the California Fish and Game Commission. It is estimated that the U.S. population totals only about 1,200.

Callan said that the incidence of bighorn sheep cases appeared on the upswing in Southern California after several years of relative quiet. He said that all bighorns were protected by state law and that the department would welcome any information about violations of the law.

News release of November 24, 1980, Calif. DFG, Long Beach Office.(courtesy of Dick Weaver)

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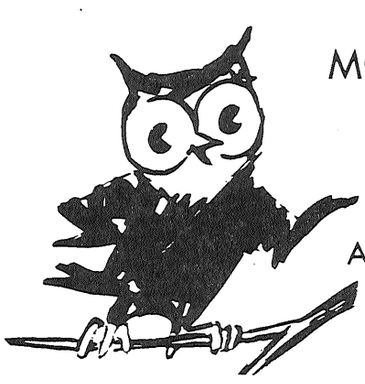
EDITORIAL NOTE:

Should you observe any violation concerning fish and wildlife resources then you should telephone the nearest DFG office as soon as possible. If this is not possible then contact any law enforcement agency and request that your observation(s) be relaid to a DFG Warden at once. If you do not wish your name known, then request this consideration.

WHAT SHOULD YOU REPORT? Violation and its location, as exact as possible. Vehicle license number , make, color, body type, model.
Violators sex----age----height----weight----color of hair and eyes----any identification marks or features. animal taken----how taken----what was done with the animal.
The more information you can give, then, the warden(s) will be able to successfully pursue the culprit(s).
The Department of Fish and Game will keep your identification secret, if that is your desire.



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