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.

MAY -- JUNE 1981

MANAGEMENT OF CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP NEEDS CHANGE

As has been noted in previous issues of THE SHEEPHERDER there has been a drastic decline in the bighorn sheep populations of the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Mountains. Dr. Lutz has sent along a documented article that depicts that which has occured in the San Jacinto Mts. with which he has been intensly involved during the past many years, and has seen first hand. It typifies what happens when wild animal populations are ignored.

The wild bighorn sheep of California have been "protected" by the California Legislature since 1873, and have steadily declined in numbers during this past 106 years. Twenty-five (25) mountain ranges have been lost to bighorns. The reasons are unclear. What is clear is that the California Department of Fish and Game cannot-by law-spend Fish and Game money on a protected species, and the Legislature, to date, has refused to spend money on this specie.

Clearly, the Department must be given control so that it can reverse the trend.

To quote the article: "The climb up was steep and taxing, triless, strewn with boulders ready at a touch to turn and roll, and hot-boy, was it hot! I was lucky, for the July sun had not touched on the ridge I was traversing to reach the top. When it did the air temperature would hit 120 degrees. I paused on the ridge to control my labored breathing, loosen my fity-five pounds of camera gear, water jugs plus canteens and binoculars and to survey the best way up the ridge. It was there that the relentless sun caught me in its first heat, just beyond the ridge, I picked up a faint sheep trail leading along a vertical granite cliff. It was there also that I found my first sheep sign: a small hoof, a few hanks of hair, some splinter-edbones--a pitiful remnant of what was once the epitome of bouncing joy--a wild bighorn lamb. I wondered if it had suffered much when coyotes ahd killed it, and what the coyote lovers--the"ket nature be" people- would say about it.

I was engaged in a project of wildlife counting in the San Jacinto range of Southern California. We had a crew of fourteen volunteers dedicated to wildlife conservation. They had agreed to to sit on several different water sources for three days to see what came to water. This mountain range towers into the sky from alluvial fans of Palm Springs to 10,805 feet. Wild sheep here are classified as *Ovis canadensis cremnobates*, the peninsular bighorn sheep. Fish and Game personnel had estimated a resident herd complex of sixty-eight sheep. We were attempting to verify this figure. I had decided to "count" a spring located above a huge cliff some miles above the valley floor. I carried equipment in to do both 35mm, and 16mm. camera work.

The faint trail I was following swept upward along the broken sheer rock cliff. A Swainson's hawk flew out of a broken tree top, startling me in my climb. My clothing was now saturated with perspiration, my eyes smarted with salt, and I had to stop to clear my vision. Glassing the cliffs above I saw a lone ewe step out from behind a boulder. Before I managed to get my tripod and camera mated, two rams appeared on the skyline behind me. I decided that I had better seek a vantage point that included shade from the sun. I found it in a huge eroded outcropping of rock with a large boulder in front of the cavelike overhang. Fortunately it also offered a tremendous view of the pool of water formed just before it trickled over the cliff. All I had to do was move with the swing of the sun as it progressed across the brazen sky.

Shortly after eight o'clock, sheep started coming to water, some cautiously, others with a clatter of rocks and hooves . A few older rams and ewes would actually charge down a mountain pell-mell, seeminly heedless in their rush to water. Lone sheep would sometimes be more nervous that groups, but there seemed to be no rules that would apply. Lambs would sometimes follow their mothers others would precede them. Occasionally a ram or ewe would stand silhouetted on a distant ridge for hours and then come to water slowly or in a headlong rush. Several stood on the cliff above me, casting their shadow on the smooth rocks below. Some would stamp their feet or blow through their noses. One ewe even came around the rock in front and started into the cave where I was sitting.

Around eleven o'clock I smelled smoke but couldn't pinpoint the source. Later I was informed that our sheep counters were run out of an adjacent canyon by fire started by a lightning bolt.

Until seven that evening I watched the interaction of more sheep than most outdoorsmen see in a lifetime. The sheep were coming into rut, and a lot of rams were chasing ewes. I saw one young rambunctious ram chase his proposed girl-friend up and down one rocky slope after another, scampering around like fool kids. They kept it up for a full hour in the midday sun.

The ritualistic ram relationships with the fore-foot strike, head butting, the striving for dominance by Rocky Mountain bighorn so carefully described by many authors was totally absent on this count. There was however, a lot of testing and low neck stretching by rams after ewes.

A majority of the sheep obseved exhibited some form of physical illness. Diarrhea was quite evident in both sexes. Respiratory embarrassment was pronounced in all age classes. The pelage was quite coarse and dull boking on many sheep. One old ewe was blind in one eye. With her was a capricious and quite healthy young female lamb who watched me carefully while her otherwise healthy mother drank, snoozed, chewed her cud and cared not a whit what I did. Another old ewe was one horned, but exhibited no other physical problems. Being constitutionlly unable to sit still too long I took a hike up the canyon a short distance beyond the sole Washingtonia palm. I started into a small cave made by some jumbled house-size boulders. A young ewe squirted out from the back and jumped past my right shoulder. She also had gastro-intestinal problems, leaving evidence on my arm.

When the sun disappeared behind ridges and the temperature dropped to a more favorable climate for walking, I walked back to my car.

The next morning I was joined by Bill Phiffer and Roy Cutter, who had been run out of their count by the fire whose smoke I had smelled the previous day. The minute we reached our cave, I suggested that we set up our tripods and 16mm. cameras. Half done, I heard up canyon horn clahing and rolling rocks. I hissed to ill , "Hurry up - here they come!" Hurry as we could, all of a sudden a huge full-curl ram came charging around the corner, running right behind our tripods. When he saw what he'd run into, his eyes popped out, his nostrils flared, and his lips stretched back into a tight curl. After he came to a full halt, he sort of minced off down the water-worn slope, prepared to dash to safety if we made an offensive move.

This day's yiewing was a repeat of the first day's, as was the third day, with of course different characters.

At one point Bill and I decided to sit in a clump of cat-claw bushes to take some close-up shots. After we were settled down, I discovered that pack rats had made a nest of cholla cactus which I had sat on and sunk into. They reciprocated by sinking into me. One hour of that and my posterior was really sensitized to external stimuli of all kinds for days. As compensation we got some great shots.

Bill and I repeated the trek in August but found the waterhole dried up so we went to another spring and took a lot of footage of some great rams.

Subsequently we covered this range for seven more years. The sheep count onthis one spring dwindled form a high of 213 animals on the first count to a low of seven animals on the last count in June of 1980. In 1978, 1979, and 1980 no lambs or yearlings were evident. The dramatic loss cannot be attributed to loss of habitat--it is a game refuge, nor to a loss of water or to burro depredation. A disaster of this magnitude could only be caused by some vicious disease epidemic.

One day my son Kennie and I tried to circle a sick lamb but gave up after two hours of steady climbing up the sheer rock faces, a dangerous climb which found me clinging to little cracks in the smooth surfaces by my finger tips, feet unable to find purchase. By working my way laterally I managed to reach safer ground. All I lost out of that was fingernails.

Bighorn have such tremendous physical tenacity that sheep like this are literally "walking dead".

The lamb-ewe relationship was 52 / 100 in 1973. This dropped steadily to 8/100 in 1979 and 1980. The yearling survival dropped dramatically also, which means that the lams did not survive. The percentage of yearlings in the population dropped from 11/9% to 0 in seven years. The recruitment base - that is, young sheep - up to 4 years of age changed from a high of 48% to 0 in eight years. In other words, there is now a population of aged sheep in the San Jacinto Mts. probably not capable of vital reproduction as a younger base would be.

One can speculate on these figures in many ways. It is possible to correlate this trend with other desert ranges which had sheep but now do not. Does this indicate the idiocy of setting up parks, monumnets, and preseryes and then ignoring the animals from then on? Are wild sheep destined to disappear because of their inability to cope with modern conditions? Do the officials in charge really care?

Seven water sources were monitored in this eight-year span of time. In 1973 the total sheep population estimate was 485 animals. This considered a counting repeat reduction factor

of 20% on sheep that returned to water and drank again and could not be identified individually and a 40% increase factor of animals that did not come to water during the count or watered elsewhere. The chart indicates what occurred.

Alarmed by what we were finding, Bill Phiffer and I hired a helicopter to thoroughly contour fly the whole San Jacinto sheep range. In the drainages that we had been counting we found 4 rams, 11 ewes, and one lamb. One ram was very old and the other rams were at least eight years of age. It is difficult to establish the ages of rams from a helicopter, however, these were all full curl, pot-bellied rams. It is impossible to age ewes from an airship. The one lamb was emaciated, with dull pelage and undoubtedly would not survive.

We spotted four ewes and another old ram in an unnamed canyon that is impossible to count. We found no sheep in the west fork of Palm Canyon drainages, where cattle rancher Wellman claimed about 140 sheep lived.

This gave us a total of 5 rams, 15 ewes and 1 lamb- 21 sheep in all. Since we could have missed a small band of ewes and the rams should equal the number of ewes and are easily missed because of their wide ranging tendencies, we estimated the population left would number close to 50 animals. This means that the existing population of sheep in 1980 was only 10.3% of the 1973 population.

This decline occurred in a "game preserve" rich in vegetation, water and solitude. It graphically illustrates the failure of game preserves and the "Hands-off" policy of wildlife management.

For comparative data we flew Bradley Canyon in the Santa Rosa Mountains. There we found one yearling ewe, one ram and 12 ewes. The Santa Rosa areahas also had a bighorn decline.

The Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep and the local council of the California Wildlife Federation--the Southern California Council of Conservation Clubs ahve been conducting sheep counts since 1968. They have seen the bighorn dedline from many ranges in that time and disappear from quite a few. The protection offered by the "protected specie" category is a farce and must be changed. Scientific study afforded by money and manpower must be the replacement for a non-workable and disastrous policy that is not only allowing but causing the loss of our wild bighorn.

EDITORIAL COMMENT: The foregoing article by Dr. Loren L. Lutz, DDS the President of the Society is the reason why he requested State Senator H.L. "Bill" Richardson to introducetwo bills into the State Legislature. One of these bills would have removed the bighorn sheep from the protected species list and made it a responsibillity of the Department of Fish and Game to manage properly. The "Preservationists" jumped on this bill fearing that the purpose of the bill was so that people could hunt the bighorns as a game animal. The other bill SB-834 would have provided a grant to the DFG of $307,000 and require it to conduct an in-depth study of California's bighorn sheep populations, and to then write a full management plan for this specie of mammal. The bill passed the Senate without trouble and was sent to the Assembly Committee on Wa ys and Means. Here it was stuck in some pigeonhole apparantly by the Chairman or an assistant and then refused permission to be even discussed. Had the bill been enacted then there would have been federal money available from the Pittman-Robertson Act on a basis of 3 to 1 federal-state basis.

James DeForge is beginning his study in the Santa Rosa Mountains---permission was granted for the study by the California Fish and Game Commission during their April 3rd meeting. There are some restrictions that have been imposed by the Non-game Wildlife Committee.
On Wednesday April 29 Dick Weaver and three other biologists from the Sacramento office of California DFG will begin a helicopter survey in the Santa Rosa Mts. THe survey may take two days of flying. We hope to have a late report on the findings for this issue of T.S.

LATEST WORD FROM SANTA ROSA MOUNTAINS: via a telephone call-report from Dick Weaver 5/4/81

James DeForge is beginning his study in the Santa Roasa Mts. Permission was granted for the study by the California Fish and game Commission during their meeting of April 3rd. There are some restriction to the permit that have been imposed bythe Non-Game Wildlife Advisory Commission. On Wednesday April 29th Dick Weaver and three other biologists from the Sacramento office of the California D.F.G. began a helicopter survey and capture program that was expected to take two days.

There was an excellent turnout by Society members anxious to assist on this project. Among these were Marvin Wood, first Vice President, Dr. Charles W. Jenner, D.V.M. and Stephen V. Segreto both of whomc are members of the Board of Directors. In all there were four Veterinarians participating on the project, which was very well covered by the news media. There were reportrs from the Riverside Enterprise--Desert Edition and the Los Angeles Times. Their reports were publicized as far away as in the Fresno Bee.

Project work days began with breakfast shortly after 3:30 a.m. Helicopter flights began at daybreak. A total of seventeen hours of helicopter flight time was logged.

Thirteen wild peninsular bighorn sheep were captured. The sheep being driven off Bradley Mountain and down Bradley Canyon into a 400' drive-net across the canyon mouth. As soon as captured the volunteers bound and blindfolded the sheep. Once blindfolded the sheep become very docile and hence under little stress. Of the sheep captured two were adult rams, one a ram lamb, nine adult ewes and one yearling ewe.

Radio telemetry collars were installed on the two adult rams and on the nine adult ewes. An identification collar put on the yearling ewe and the ram lamb received ear tags. All sheep

were carefully examined by the four Veterinarians in attendance for evidence of external parasites----none were found; blood samples were taken as well as nose swab and fecal culture samples,to be examined later for evidence of internal parasitism or infections. All sheep seemed to be in excellent physical condition.

Examination of the nine adult ewes was made for evidence of reproduction. Two ewes are apparantly pregnant and will soon give birth to their lambs; two ewes are presently lactating giving evidence that they have lambs at present; the other five ewes appeared to have had and lost their lambs already this year as they are now dry. The other ewe is not yet of breedable age. The sheep were each under restraint and blindfolded for not over 25 minutes and then released back into the mountains.

Jim DeForge is now living in the vicinity of the release site and will be monitoring these bighorns for a long period of time. Biologists expect that a great deal of information will be coming from this research project. T.S. will attempt to keep reports current.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SOCIETY HELD MEETING MARCH 14

On March 14th at Michael's Restaurant outstanding sportsmen from Southern California were honored at a dinner sponsored by the Southern Council of Conservation Clubs and the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep.

One won't find them in the Hunting Hall of Fame or given awards for their big game trophies, but they are the "nuts and bolts" of the conservation movement.

They are the leaders in the "Water for Wildlife" projects, sheep census, wildlife counts, trout planting, save the sardine and anchovy movements, Colorado River protection, duck habitat protection, sea reef projects, Salton Sea legislation, and many other varied public land use issues.

Honored were: Bud Weideman, Jerry David, LeRoy Nichols, Ron Vickery, Bob Johnson, Dutch Doornbos, Walter Powell and Fred Burlin.

Honored for special citation was former Deputy Sheriff Sylvia J. Lindquist, who apprehended sheep poachers on Angles Crest Highway after stopping a car for erratic driving, finding blood in the car, and then finding a bighorn carcass in the trunk.

The awards were given by Don Carper, California Wildlife Federation President, Bob Fusco, Vice President of the C.W.F. and Sheep Society President, Loren L. Lutz, D.D.S.

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SOCIETY LOSES AN AVID SUPPORTER

The Board of Directors, the Officers and also the membership of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep were saddened early this spring to learn of the death of long-time member Ed Curl. In addition to his long service in his church Mr. Curl had been a personal friend of many of the Board and a diligent worker in efforts to preserve the bighorn habitat on Mt. Baldy. He had long worked for the preservation of the natural environment of the Griffith Park and it was there one morning as he led his thrice weekly introductory walks with a group of people when he suffered a fatal heart attack. Reverend Ed Curl deceased at age 80.

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TWO BIGHORN SHEEP POACHERS SENTENCED

Two convicted bighorn sheep poachers have each been sentenced to a $650. fine, one day in jail, 80 hours of community service under the supervision of a probation officer, and three years probation, during which they may not hunt, according to the Department of Fish and Game.

John Ralph Marquez, 37, of Ontario, and James Allen Shearer, 23, of Pomona, received the sentences March 2nd from Judge David Aaron in Valley Municipal Court, Fontana, after both men pled guilty to the illegal take and possession of a bighorn sheep, a fully protected mammal in California. Deputy District Attorney Stephen Ashworth prosecuted the case.

A third suspect in the case, 23 year-old Joel Lee Morgan of Fontana, entered a plea of innocent and faces a jury trial on April 1.

The three men were arrested November 9th by DFG Warden John Slaughter of Riverside after he and Wildlife Conservation Aid Richard Coelho saw them drive to the dead sheep, cut off its head with a hacksaw and place it in the trunk of their car. The arrest culminated an 18-hour stakeout by Slaughter and Coelho at the scene of the violation near Cajon Pass in San Bernardino County.

Slaughter first learned of the killing of the bighorn through an anonymous telephone call. The dead sheep estimated to be six to eight years old, was a Nelson bighorn ram with a full curl of horns.

California Department of Fish and Game --News Release

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NOTE: Again-- a poaching crime against the bighorn sheep population and all of us has first been discovered by a private citizen.

The Wildlife Management Agencies of each of the Western States are badly handicapped by rises costs of everything and reduced budgets. California is no exception. Instead of being permitted to increase warden staff numbers these numbers have been curtailed. With increased costs of fuel wardens have been restricted in the numbers of miles permitted for use in enforcement. To me, the editor of T.S., this means that each of us who have an interest in the wildlife resources of our state(s) must be watchful and willing to 'put-ourselves-out' a little bit by reporting any violations against wildlife that we may become aware of. Report what you learn to any law enforcement agency personnel. They will see that the message gets to DFG office at once for action.

The National Rofle Association a number of years ago started a program called "Help Our Wildlife." A number of the Western States have adopted some form of HOW programs--such as Idaho's Citizens Against Poaching (CAP) or New Mexico's "Operation Game Thief." California is toying with such an idea. The Sportsmen's Council of Central California has urged such a program for several years, unsuccessfully.

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POACHER SENTENCED AFTER CHANGING PLEA

The above Joel Lee Morgan of Fontana had originally pled not guilty to the above poaching effort. However, on the trial date of April 1, 1981 he changed his plea to guilty and received his sentence from Judge Dana S. Henry in Valley Municipal Court, Fontana. Morgan was sentenced to a $130 fine plus seven days in jail and placed on probation for two years on the charge of illegal take and possession of a bighorn sheep.

NOTE: According to information given this editor the prosecution of this case was the result of the culprits having been observed by a concerned citizen who notified the Department of Fish and Game of the illegal act that had been committed.

SHEEP DISAPPEAR FROM NWC

During the second morning of the DBC meetings James DeForge the Biologist of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep reported that he had obtained the necessary permits for a study of the bighorns of the Naval Weapons Center at China Lake, near Ridgecrest in mid-November.

The NWC has been closed to the public for use sine 1947, except for a couple of days during some of the fall for the purpose of hunting chukar and quail and that only by permit and a limited numbers of hunters.

The Argus and Eagle Crag Mountains were known to have bighorn populations at the time of this restricted use. The last reported sighting of sheep was during a helicopter survey for a two or three hour period on December 6, 1975. At which time there were five sheep sighted by Dick Weaver who was guiding the Chairmen of the Wild horse and Burro Advisory Board on a 'show-me trip into the area.

The NWC has long been a site for mining explorations and there are the remains of many old mine cabins in the area. hese are each located near known water sources.

Present burro population on the NWC has grown to somwhere between 4,000 and 6,000 animals. In addition there have been noted approxiamately 600 so-called wild horses. The burros have moved onto the base from the Coso Mts, on the west.

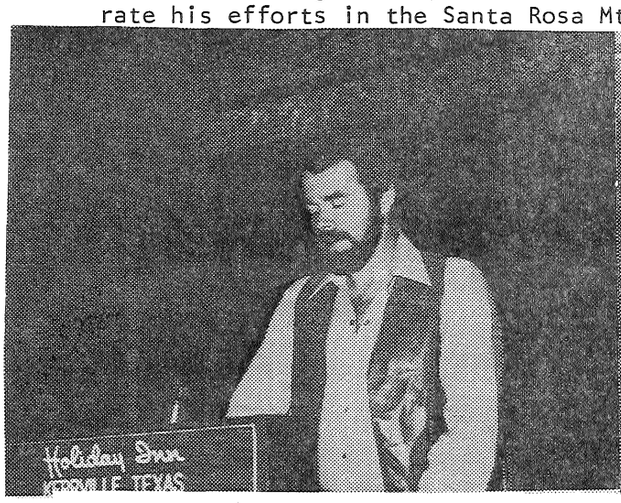
DeForge and his survey crew found the Eagle Crag Mts. to be a pristine area. Elswhere, the burro herds had made severe impacts on vegetation and their trailings crisscrossed the hillsides. There was heavy trailings radiating out from the water sources.

The Naval administration had removed about 700 burros from the NWC during March of this year. This has made a dent in the population, but even so, will not be equal to the annual normal increase.

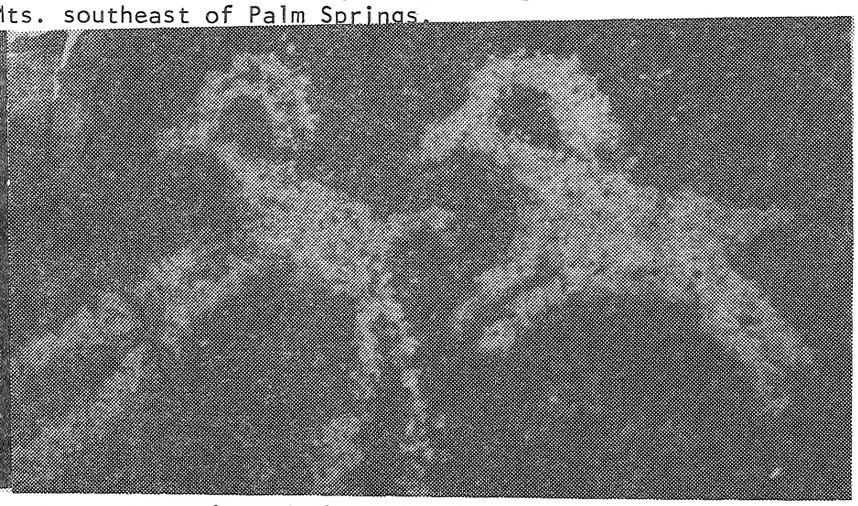
It was noted that there are deer in the Coso and Argus ranges, as well as many predators, More than 30 coyotes were sighted as well as a few bobcats.

There are some 1,700 square miles of land in the study area. Petroglyph Canyon shows that this NWC was an historic range of the bighorn sheep as there are a great numbers of petroglyphs to be seen.

After some 165 man-days of searching the mountains of the NWC DeForge and his research team could only conclude that there are no more bighorn sheep within the Naval Weapons Center at China Lake. No sheep were seen. No sheep sign could be found. There was no evidence to show that a single sheep remains in these mountains. Consequently DeForge will now concentrate his efforts in the Santa Rosa Mts. southeast of Palm Springs.



Jim DeForge reports to Desert Bighorn Council about conditions of sheep at China Lake N.W.C.



One of the petroglyphs along the walls of the Petroglyph Canyon at China Lake N.W.C.

ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST ROAD 2N06

As has been noted in previous issues of THE SHEEPHERDER the controversy continues regarding the very controversial road 2N06 up Cattle Canyon through a very important lambing area of the desert bighorn sheep that inhabit the San Gabriel Mts. of the ngeles National Forest. The Foun dation for North American Wild Sheep joined with the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep in efforts to not allow the building of this road to serve the Curtis Tungsten

Mine property. Especially so as there is another roadway that would serve the needs of the mine without conflict with the bighorns. The F.N.A.W.S. in it's issue for April 1981 states: "The Foundation continues to press forward with our battle with the U.S. Forest Service and Curtis Tungsten Mining for use of a road through critical sheep range in the Angeles National Fores in southern California. The case has been taken to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal.

In the meantime our attorneys held a very positive meeting with new Angeles Forest Supervisor, Gray Reynolds and other key forst service personnel regarding the violations of the Curtis Tungsten permit for the road.

The outcome of the meeting was that the Forest Service will reevaluate the Curtis permit to determine if violations now exist to warrant revocation. The violations we pointed out concern the displacement of substantial numbers of Bighorn sheep from the area. The Forest Service is to conduct a sheep count in April to determine the validity of our allegations.

Supervisor Reynolds assured us that if displacement has occured, the permit will be revoked. The meeting was left on a positive note, allowing for future communication.

Also, Curtis Tungsten has been unable to commence mining due to lack of mine water. Now that rain has come to California, Curtis has only a short time to start mining. In April they will not be permitted to use the upper road due to the lambing season. The permit expires in June and we are hopeful-----based upon allegations and the sheep count---that it will not be renewed." End quote.

The F.N.A.W.S. had stated in February it was illegal for the Forest Service to issue a permit to the mining company to open the road 2N06 without having done a NEPA study. That the road had been open for use and they understand that the sheep have disappeared from the Cow Canyon area. The road goes through prime desert bighorn country and a historic lambing area. FNAWS did thank every one who have made a donation to carry on the legal battle. The list of donors has many names of members of the Society. There aer also many donors from the several Provinces of Canada, and from people all across the United States. Let us remember that many hands make light burdens. Donations to either the Society or to the Foundation are fully deductible for income tax purposes. Loss of this case would be a severe blow to the protection of wildlife habitat from the building of totally unnecessary roads such as this one authorized by the U.S.Forest Service to the Curtis Tungsten mine operators.

DESERT BIGHORN COUNCIL CHOOSES NEW OFFICERS

During the business session of the Desert Bighorn Council held at Kerrville, Texas the first week of April the new officers of the group were chosen to be: Chairman, Mark Jorgensen, of Anza Borrego State Park; Secretary - Treasurer is Rick Brigham, Bureau of Land Management his address is P.O. Box 1806, Carson City, Nevada 89701. Many of the readers of this bulletin will wish to send Rick your check for $5.00 to ensure that you will be getting a copy of the Transactions-----which will cover the reports given during this year's sessions. Back copies can also be obtained through Brigham also for $5.00.

The Annual Meeting of the DBC for 1982 will be held at the Borrego Springs within the Park the Wednesday and Thursday of the first full week of April.

During the business session Pete Sanchez, of Death Valley National Monumnet displayed a Tee-shirt similar to the sketch below, and with that message on it. The Editor was asked to give the address and prices of the shirts and their seller. These are shown below.

DEATH

BEFORE

DEFOLIATION

The Desert Bighorn Council has requested that this editor let interested people know that T-shirts printed as here shown are available at Olivia's

Prices: 6 or less @ $6.65
10 to 14 mixed sizes $5.90
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May 12, 1981 There is to be a meeting of the Society's Board of Directors, probably a dinner meeting. They are being notified--time and place.

May 16thOld Woman Statue B.G.G. in the Old Woman Mountains--replace the Johnson screen, replace a section of the 2" filler pipe to the tanks, paint tanks and insulate pipes.

June 5 - 6- & 7, 1981 Joint meeting with the CWF at the Hyatt Hosue in San Jose--Rocklin Wooley arranging program--make efforts to attend--Sell your raffle tickets.

June 27, 28 & 29th, 1981 Waterhole counts in the San Jacinto Mountains---Contact Dr. Lutz for details---if you can and care to participate--Address and Phone on front page.

The summer is before you make your plans for your Waterhole counts.

Labor Day Weekend ---Annual Waterhole counts in the Death Valley National Monument. More later on this one.

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BLUE SPRING PROJECT COMPLETED ON SCHEDULE

On Saturday March 21st some 75 people gathered to work on the Blue Springs water storage installation and re-habillitation project. This had been the original project of the Society a number of years ago. The original location had not proven to be completely satisfactory. Also, problems had developed in that orignal project with some of the materials used.

Mr. Doug Daer a cameraman from the studios of television station KTTV spent a four day period with Doctor Lutz and the other Volunteers for the Desert Water for Wildlife program. Mr. Daer did an excellent job of photographing the installation which was shown by the KTTV television station in two segments. There have been numerous complimentary responses received concerning this fine program. Mr. Chuck Young , Station Manager of KTTV is also to be commended for having sent Mr. Daer on this photographic mission.

Mr. Daer proved to be a person very interested in the programs of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep. After having completed the project at Blue Springs in the Anza Borrego Desert he travelled with Doctor Lutz on an explorative trip into the Whipple Mountains. During their trip into the Whipple Mts. only one sheep was seen and it could not not be identified as to sex or age---the distance was just too great. Very little sheep sign was seen by them. Droppings noted in caves did not appear to have been of recent origin. Doctor Lutz reports that the Whipple Mts. have much very suitable sheep habitat. However, there is a definite lack of water sources in the area. A water storage project needs to be planned for this mountain area and then it must be built. Another limiting factor in the Whipple Mts. is due to the encroachment of people. This had been Doctor Lutz first return to the Whipples since he had been there in the years of 1968 - '69 and 1970. Dr. Lutz has a feeling that sheep in the Whipples may be transient and come from and to the Chemehuevil Mts. a short distance away. They saw no sign of burros having entered the Whipple Mts.

Society member J. George Taylorson of Pasadena is also to be commended for having made all of the arrangemnts with the television station Manager Chuck Young for having sent his ace cameraman Doug Daer to film the Blue Spring project. Programs such as this are very productive in terms of exposure for conservation awareness purposes.

Doctor Lutz has also reported that, at the present time, it appears very hopeful that Governor Brown's budget for the next Fiscal Year will contain an item of between $75,000 and $100,000. earmarked for studies and projects for the bighorn sheep of California. Keith Gaffaney, Legislative Advocate for the California Wildlife Federation has proven himself to be invaluable to the Society and in getting Governor Brown to give this budget item his careful scrutiny and present approval.

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The Joint meeting of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep and the California Wildlife Federation, outlined on the following page, is the main money raising project for the Society during the year of 1981. Members of the Society are urged to attend the meeting in San Jose. Members are also urged to sell and/or buy the raffle tickets that have been sent to you. The Society and the CWF will share, 50 - 50 the net proceeds of the meeting, the raffle and the auction. Money is badly needed to build and sustain water project; to pay the expenses of the Society's biologist James De Forge as he makes his studies in the Santa Rosa Mts., where work is presently underway, and to defray expenses related to the battle about the road 2N06 in the San Gabriel Mts.

Participants on the Blue Springs water storage project came from, as usually they do, from the Society, from the Earth Watch Club and from the Southern Council of Conservation Clubs.

After having finished the Blue Spring job the volunteers also dug and cleaned out three tenajas in the area and raised one dam another ten feet in height. These were big jobs and were well done.

THE CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF 4 - WHEEL DRIVE CLUBS

THE HYATT HOUSE
in
San Jose, California

WILL HOST

JUNE 5, 6, and 7, 1981

WILDLIFE SYMPOSIUM -- ALL DAY SATURDAY

BUSINESS SESSIONS -- SUNDAY UNTIL COMPLETED.

Registration beginning on Friday June 5th at 4:00 p.m.

LUNCHEON -- Saturday Noon

Waterhole Count - NO-HOST
Saturday evening 6:30 p.m.

DINNER SERVED: 7:30 p.m. Saturday

THE ANNUAL JOINT MEETING
of
THE SOCIETY FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF
BIGHORN SHEEP
and
CALIFORNIA
WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Rocklin Wooley a Director of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep informs the editor that he believes he is putting together a busy, informative and enjoyable Annual-Joint Meeting for the Society and the California Wildlife Federation.

To recap the above Saturday June 6th will be devoted to a wildlife Symposium until 4:00 p.m. At 4:30 p.m. there is to be a competition Archery Shoot on the rear parking lot. Then the No-Host Waterhole or Cocktail hour at 6:30 p.m.

ALSO AND AT 4:30 p.m. Saturday there is to be an AUCTION -- under the auspices of the Society.

DINNER HOUR IS SET FOR 7:30 p.m. Master-of-Ceremonies is Mr. Fred Goldman, a stand-up comedian from San Francisco. The after-dinner speaker is our old friend Mr.G. Ray Arnett, recently appointed as the Assistant Scretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife under Secretary James Watt. The dinner priced at $17.00 will be: salad, 11oz. New York steak, potato, vegetables(2), dessert-Bavarian chocolate pie and beverage. Dinner reservations must be in by May 17th to be assured. After that time they will be "iffy" and will be cut-off on May 30th. Dinner dress requested for men is business suits and for the ladies--preferably long dresses.
Rocklin Wooley has organized programs and display booths by vendors and by organizations. The D.F.G. will demonstrate time-lapse photography and pictures taken during waterhole censuses, will show moving pictures ofbighorn transplants of Sierra bighorns to Wheeler Ridge. Also to be shown will be the Sierra Club's motion picture concerning the Burro--a real good film. The editor saw it shown at the recent Desert Bighorn Council in Kerrville, Texas.
The Society will have a display depicting a typical water storage construction project as done in our California deserts.
Wooley expects to have as other speakers: Alister McAlister of the 25th Assembly District and George Deukmejian, California Attorney General.

Make room reservation with San Jose Hyatt House, 1740 No.First St., SanJose, Ca. 95122

There will be NO DINNER TICKETS AVAILABLE for purchase during the convention they must be ordered through :
Raymond Smith, CWF Convention Chairman
1009 Jamaica St.,
Foster City, Calif. 94404. Phone (415) 341 - 8808

The form below may be used:
----------CUT ALONG THE LINE AND RETURN WITH YOUR CHECK----------

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

NUMBER FOR DINNER_____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED:_____

ORGANIZATION OR CLUB MEMBERSHIP_____
MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO CWF 1981 CONVENTION AND SEND TO RAYMOND SMITH AT ABOVE ADDRESS.
DEADLINE IS MAY 17, 1981 FOR ALL DINNER RESERVATIONS