SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP

The Sheepherder

Non-Profit Organization
401 North Garfield
Alhambra, California 91801
213-284-5113

PRESIDENT LOREN L. LUTZ, D.D.S.

EDITOR
LEWIS E. CARPENTER
815 W. GETTYSBURG
FRESNO, CAL 93705
(209) 227-9140

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

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1981

SANTA ROSA MOUNTAIN BIGHORN PROJECT

The May - June issue of THE SHEEPHERDER reported the capture of bighorn sheep in the above named area as a part of the study presently underway which is striving to learn the reason(s) for the extremely low survival of lambs of these Peninsular bighorns. The study area lies between Palm Canyon and Highway 74. The study team spent 17 days and 30 man-days in the field prior to April 27 this year. During the months of June and July another another 45 days were logged in the field.

Members of the Society that have participated in field studies on the Santa Rosa Mtn. are James DeForge the Research Team Leader- and Biologist, Joan Scott, Steve Segreto and Dick Graham, Biologists; Claudia Collier, Glenn Sudmeier, Mike Dee and Jennifer Dee. Others who participated in the capture efforts included many of the above and also of the Society: Marvin Wood, Charles Jenner, D.V.M., Peter Cyrog DVM, Bill Phifer, photographer ; from the L.A. Zoo: Jerry Exra, DVM, Mike Dee,DVM; from the DFG: Dick Weaver,Bob Orcutt, both Biologists, veterinarians: Dave Jessup, and Bill Clark who is also a pathologist, Warden Jay Harris; from the U.S.Forest Service - Steve Holl a Biologist. Other Veterinarians present: Rod Melchert, Bruce Levine; Veterinarian students Mark Ford, Beth Ford; Living Desert Reserve, Director Karen Sausman and Fred LaRue and Art Carillo of the LDR; From UCRiverside Research Center Jan Zabriskie andKathy Smith other Biologists were Daye Jensen, Lloyd Treyis; from Western Helicopter Service Dorsey Wingo and Craig Wooton and alsoDave Dick DFG Editor of CALIFORNIA OUTDOOR, Fred Schuck. The Helicopter crew, made up of Fish and Game personnel, gently drove the animals to the capture site and into drive nets. Then members took blood, hair, and fecal samples, noted general health conditions, attached ear tags and collars, and released the animals. Four ewes were captured in teh drive net April 29, five ewes April 30, and one ewe and her lamb and one ram on May 1. Additionally, one ram was captured via helicopter darting on April 30 north of haystack Mountain; samples were taken, radio collar attached, and he was released. The two rams and seven of the ewes received radio collars; three ewees received color-coded ribbon collars; the lamb was only ear-tagged. On May 1, five of the penned animals from the Living Desert Reserve were also captured and samples taken. Also on May 1, a helicopter flight was m ade over the study area, Visual observations were made on four of the captured animals, including both ewes that had lambs, and normal telemetry readings were received on two more of the animals, including the helicopter-darted ram.

Starting May 2, Society research team members began tracking the radio-collared animals. Through June 30, team members spent an additional 44 days and 80 man-days in the field. All collared animals have been visually observed and sightings and telemetry readings are being plotted on maps daily. All collared animals appear healthy (with the exception of one mortallity) and showing no ill-effects from the capture. All radio-collars are working normally. On June 18, the California Department of Fish and Game provided research team members with 1½ hours of fixed wing flight over the study area. Normal telemetry readings were received on all animals except one, and she has since been observed visually(collar operating normally).

The one mortallity that occurred was one ofthe captured rams. This was the ram that was helicopter darted. The mortallity frequency was received from the radio collar on April 14, and on April 15 the research team found the remains. The animal was found one to four days post-mortum, and the body had been fed on extensively by coyotes, so determination of the cause of death was not possible.

Society team members have placed permanent transects through the study area to analyze the vegetation as part of the nutritional study. The transects have been counted for the first three month period, and the data is currently being compiled. Fresh fecal pellets are being collected for lab analysis. Data is recorded daily on lamb-to-ewe ratios and behaviour, movements, predation, feeding habits, rutting behaviour and timing, human impact, etc. several dead animals have been found in the range and have been inspected and recorded. As of June 30, results of all blood tests have not been received, but indications of diseases in the range are apparant.

This project is a cooperative effort between the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep and the California Department of Fish and Game. The Society's research efforts have

been funded by the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep and by fund raising efforts of the Society. he helicopter time was provided by grants to California Fish and Game from Shikar Safari and Mzuri Safari to study this Santa Rosa Mountain bighorn decline . Additionally, the Society appreciates the assistance and cooperation of the Living Desert Reserve and its Director, Karen Sausman; the University of California- Riverside Phillip L. Boyd Deep Canyon Research Center; Rod Melchert, DVM; Terry Hicks, D.V.M.; Pete Cyrog, D.V.M.; Steve Segreto; Dick Graham; Glenn Sudmeier; Mike Dee; and Claudia Collier.

Report No. 1, June 30, 1981----James R. DeForge, Research Team Leader.

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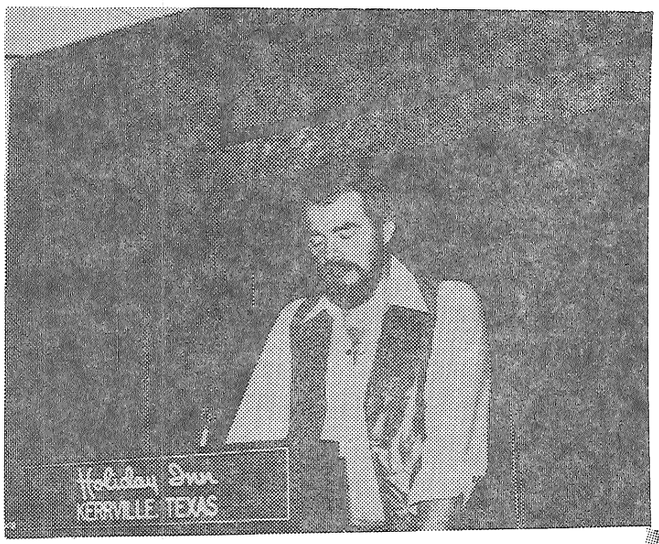

James DeForge the Research Biologist of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn sheep reports to the Desert Bighorn Council in Kerrville, Texas last April.

BIGHORN EVIDENCE - Cliff Jett, right, Nevada Department of Wildlife game warden, and Tom Harper, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service special agent, display desert bighorn sheep seized for evidence during recent investigation. Four defendants were charged with violations of the federal Lacey Act which prohibits interstate transportation of game animals and birds taken in violation of state laws.

TWO PLEAD GUILTY OF LACEY ACT

The Las Vegas Review-Journal reported on June 18,1981 that Philip Pro, U.S. Magistrate for the District of Nevada, had accepted guilty pleas from Jeffrey Starr of Las Vegaa and from Austin Meekin of Alaska for infractions of the Lacy Act which prohibits interstate transportataion of wild animals taken in violation of state laws.

Loren Stark of Texas was also charged with the sameoffense but pled innocent to violation of the law. Although Stark admitted killing a Nevada desert bighorn sheep and hunting without a license or tag, he was found innocent of the charges by the Federal Court jury.

Elmer Owen of Missouri was also charged with a similar offense and, as a result of plea barganing, is subject to civil penalties of $3,000. Starr and Meekin were scheduled for sentencing in July.

In a separate incident, Starr was convicted by state court in 1980 for illegal possession of a bighorn sheep and for hunting in a closed area. He was fined $1,000 and has his Nevada hunting and guiding priviledges revoked.

According to Cliff Jett, Department of Wildlife for Nevada the testimony presented during the preliminary hearing and trial revealed that bighorn sheep tags, obtained by legal means, were transferred to Starr and then sold to out-of-state hunters. The persons who originally obtained the tags were given immunity for the information they provided.

The Review then reported on July 15th that Jeffrey Starr was fined $4,500 by Magistrate Pro and was also prohibited from hunting or guiding for one year.

Austin Meekin came up for sentencing the last of July before U.S. Magistrate Phillip Pro and was fined $3,000 with two years on probation and one year ban on hunting in the state of Nevada. The hunt was a guided hunt for a fee of $3,000.

EDITORIAL OPINION

So long as the Judges of our courts do not make the penalties for game law violations meaningful they are not doing their part in making game law violations unprofitable. Note that the $3,000 fine is only equal to the fee that Meekin had collected for the hunt. Being from Alaska can anyone believe that to be barred from hunting in Nevadafor one year is any penalty at all?

Likewise the penalty assessed to Starr is only equal to the fees he collected for his having guided the client on the hunt for a bighorn sheep

A continuing investigation by the U.S.Fish and Wildlife Service and the Nevada Department of Wildlife has resulted in 12 convictions involving bighorn sheep and black bears, according to U.S. Attorney Lamon Mills. More cases for prosecution ar pending.

reports courtesy Tom Harper, U.S. F. & W. Service---Las Vegas, Nevada.

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WATERHOLE COUNTS

June 27, 28, & 29, 1981

San Jacinto Mountains, California ------Springs covered,: Blaisdale, Hurricane, Snow Creek, Chino and Tachevah.

Jerry David: sheep counted: One ewe at Tachevah. She was in bad shape stumbling, staggering, sneezing, rib showing, appeared to be walking dead.

David also counted five beds in Tachevah above the waterhole, that had not been seen by Steve Segreto on Saturday. Confirmed by Dr. Lutz and Walt Powell as being one ram plus ewes. Observed one set of ewe tracks in Hurricane area and one ram track in vicinity of Blaisdale.

Walt Powell and Dr. Lutz hiked extensively in Tachevah and climbed Canyon Ridge to an elevation of 4,000 feet to the north. Found one set of ewe tracks in that canyon. Extensive glassing produced no sheep. Grapevine canyon burned out plus the lone sycamore in Tachevah. Lone cottonwood plus the lone palm tree still alive. Country pretty well burned out. Lots of grass left, both annual and perennial. Barrel cactus dies readily from fire. Stream flow below falls tremendous, result of fire. Jerry David found one ewe carcass, dead plus or minus two weeks. Lutz found one dead, some months. Both below the falls.

Prognosis for sheep survival, bad to none. Jerry David also hiked out Hurricane.

The Lee Lutz investigation with hiking in Blaisdale produced nothing but one track.
report received from Dr. Loren L. Lutz, DDS last of July

Sacramento Mountains

Lew and Marguerite Carpenter went into the Sacramento Mountains July 24. Got a glimpse of a sheep leaving the Red Rock Caves installation about 6:00 p.m. They watched the drinker the next three days. Observed only one ewe about 7:00 p.m. the 26th. Tracks around the drinker showed that there was some sheep use during the nights. Numbers could not be determined. One sheep on leaving the drinker travelled down the cayon to within 50 yards of their camp----semingly curious.

Apparantly there has been no 'run-off' of rainwater during the past two years in that area of the Sacramento Mountains.

Bird life of the area was very scarce. Only four mourning doves were observed at the drinker--one day. The greatest number of Gamble Quail was the 28th and then only a total of 18 quail. A prarie falcon nesting area nearby was not used this year. No cotton tail rabbits were seen. Only two jack rabbits were seen---one in Eagle Pass the other near Needles. This is most unusual. Other years we have counted as high as 1,000 doves during a morning and over 300 quail was the usual tally; rabbits are usually very common . Coyotes are usually seen at some time during the three day period but not this year.

OLD WOMAN MOUNTAINS

Marvin Wood sent in a report (received by the Editor from Dick Weaver). Marvin and his crew made their count again this year at Dripping Springs on the western slope of the Old Woman Mountain. Their survey shoed seven rams, all young; five ewes and five lambs. No yearling ewes or old rams were seen. No reports as to whether or not the Statue Spring drinker or Genco Mine 2 or other water sources were observed.

Weaver notes that a sample size of 17 animals for this water source is close to that of other years, and that this tends to show that things are all right for the bighorns of this range.

ANZA - BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK

Waterhole counts made in the southern sector of the park June 26, 27, & 28 showed a total of four rams, 36 ewes, nine lambs; four yearling and two unidentified . Counts being made on nine water sources.

Waterhole counts in the northern sector on sixteen water sources during the period of July 3, 4, & 5, 1981 showed a total of 25 rams, 78 ewes, eight lambs, 12 yearlings and three that were not identified.

There is another article in this issue concerning water sources at Anz Borrego.

Note that the lamb to ewe ratio of the Southern Sector at 25 lambs to 100 ewes is far better than the ratio of 10 lambs to 100 ewes of the northern sector

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WATER AT ANZA BORREGO IN GOOD SHAPE

A news article in the Los Angeles Times about the first of August stated:"Last Desert Water Hole Dries Up,.....Heat Blamed for Occurrence in Anza-Borrego Park" The article goes on to report that Palm Wash has dried up under a broiling sun--perhaps, say naturalists for the first time in 2,000 years. Later on it reports...."It was the last water hole in a half-million acres of rocky terrain making up the Anza-Borrego State Park, Rangers said."

Had this report been correct - then certainly the Peninsular bighorn sheep of the Park would have been in dire distress.

The Editor of T.S. then contacted Mark C. Jorgensen, the Park Naturalist for confirmation or rebuttal.

A letter from Jorgensen says: " It is true that tenaja went dry for the first time in memory, but this sort of thing has probably occurred scores of times in the past. The bighorn and other wildlfie have sufficient water in the Santa Rosa Mountains, a few miles westward.

Water for sheep is above normal actually, Many springs which were bee seeps in the early 1970's are now quite healthy water sources used by sheep. The horizontal system at Rattlesnake Spring is doing well, but needs work a couple of times each summer to clear silt deposited by a nearby cliff. The only other horizontals here are those left over by cowboys of the '20's and '30's.

The status of sheep in the park is presently in a state of flux. Poor lamb survival in the northern area has been offset by the best success in a decade for the south section. I personally am not worried about the ability of the sheep to take care of reproduction while we take care of eliminating human encroachment---vehicles, cattle and indiscriminant shooting. Ratios are as follows: North - Lamb: ewe is 10 : 100; South - 25: 100.

To answer your question about burros, we presently have none in the park,

Aug., 11, 1981

CHOCOLATE MOUNTAIN SIDELIGHTS

Society member Leon M. Lesicka has phoned the editor to report his sightings of desert bighorn sheep in the Chocolate Mountains in the Southeastern corner of California. Lesicka reports that he has made photographs of 18 bighorns in that mountain area. Leon also reports that water facilities built by a sportsmen's organization of Brawley primarily for the benefits to the native Burro Deer---one of the several sub-specie of California's mule deer population. These facilities have been built back up in the mountains in an effort to draw the deer away from the dangerous conditions they face when going into the irrigation canals for water. Prior to the lining of the canals with concrete the deer had no trouble entering or leaving the canals for water. Lesicka also reports that a friend of his also saw seven sheep at a different area during the time that he saw the 18. The editor hopes to have a fuller report with some photos in annother issue of T.S.

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DESERT BIGHORNS TO GUADALUPE ISLAND? - - PERHAPS!

Bob McCarthy, U.S. Forest Service has phoned the editor to tell him that on a recent trip to Mexico he had visitied the Guadalupe Island off the coast of Baja California near Ensenada and had learned the the wildlife biologists of Mexico are considering the transplant of desert bighorn sheep to that island.

However, there is a large 'fly' in the ointment. At the present time there are in excess of 28,000 goats running at large on that island. And, these 28,000 goats are to be removed--and must all be removed prior to any transplant being implemented.

Guadalupe Island is roughly 25 miles long and six miles in width. Elevations range from sea level to a little in excess of 4,000 feet above sea level. These 28,000+ goats are comletely devastating the vegetation. During the years of poor forage production there is historically a heavy die-off of goats. All other endemic wildlife of the island has either disappeared or is about to do so.

Efforts have been made in the past to reduce the numbers of feral goats---left on the island by mariners about 100 years ago. One year, it is reported, about 10,000 goats were harvested for their meat. However, withing two or three years the goat population had again built up to the 28,000 number.

With bighorn ram permits in Mexico being snapped up for a $10,000 fee per permit there must be an economic incentive to the introduction of bighorn sheep to that island.

We will attempt to gather more information on this topic in the year ahead.

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KUDOS FROM BERMUDA

In a letter recently received from retired Major Kenneth M. Elk of Bermuda he says in part:...."although desert bighorns are of prime concern to you good shepherds out there in California(and contiguous states) rest assured what you are doing, to save them from endemic disease, poaching, and ultimate extinction from loss of habitat, is of timely concern to wildlife fans all over the world. And certainly this one out here in Bermuda! Must admit I swing from dejection to optimism, when reading the bad news and good. But in all the years I've been rooting for you guys, can only say that MOST of it has been interesting; much of that inspiring.....Might say that what really gets to me, in this regard, is the degree of devotion your volunteers exhibit, in watching out for those noble free roaming critters. And the countless days, and weekends, your people give up each year, in order to build---and maintain, those drinking water catchments in the hills. The lonely binocular surveys. The tedious nose counts & waterhole tallies. The roundups of scabies infected animals in order to trap and treat a few. The costly helicopter surveys; and tricky airlift operations to move new breeding groups into former bighorn areas....., Given the small percentage of rams culled each year, from healthy herds, under State superyised F & G conservation authority, it should be obvious to all but those unaware of workable conservation principles, that the primary motivation of your bighorn people is a deep rooted admiration, and affection, for the desert bighorn, and common determination to do whatever has to be done, to assure it's

 (see top page seven)

DINNER DATE CHANGED

It had been announced in these columns that the fall dinner for the Society was to be held at Michael's Restaurant on October 3rd. However, the Board of Directors decided during the recent Board meeting of August 19th to change the date and also the site of the dinner. Due to the implementation of the Society's research studies in the Santa Rosa Mountains there has been a lot of publicity concerning this effort and also a great deal of interest across the Southern California area in the vicinity of Palm Springs. Newspapers of the area have carried some 20 different articles about the plight of the bighorns and Society efforts to remedy the situation. Hence, the dinner is now scheduled for the evening of December 5th and is to be at Palm Springs. The November issue of T.S. will carry particulars and will request that reservation cards be sent in to Jim DeForge.

It is hoped, of course, that there will be a large turn-out by residents of the area and also that there will be a large increase in membership in the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep. Large enough, in fact, so that a branch chapter of the Society may be formed in the area.

During the meeting DeForge and Joan Scott will make presentations and reports of their findings to date. (See another article this issue for the June report of DeForge.)

Some time prior to the December 5th dinner DeForge is planning a social affair in the area and will send invitations to people of the area for this wine-cheese type of get-togther. There will also be a program presented during this afternoon-evening affair. Jime says that he has expectations of some 1800 people in attendance. This is to be at the Living Desert Reserve. Karen Sausman, Director of the L.D.M. will assist Jim in this effort.

FUNDS NEEDED As always in the Conservation Movement there is a need for money. And, this, of course, is one of the objectives of the dinner and the social affair.

There are a number of reason for these needed funds: (1) The research effort in the Santa Rosa Mountains is expensive. Some things have already been learned. To the best of DeForge's knowledge there are only two lambs of 1981 that still survive--as of August 30th. It is possible to treat two of the diseases after capture of the sick animals. Capture, however, is very difficult and is expensive. The penned sheep at the Deep Canyon facility have been treated. Jim has hopes of being able to, in some way, treat the free-roaming animals as well. Blue tongue that decimated the Lava Bed herd a few years ago is one of the maladies. The virus is carried by a gnat. Jim is using a vaccum to capture insects which may be carriers of the diseases. (2) The Suit presently in the U.S. District Court concerning the roadway up Cattle Canyon to serve the Curtis Tungsten Mine is still being pursued. (3) In Inyo County there is a proposed roadway through prime bighorn habitat now occupied by bighorns. The Environmental Assessment for this mine roadway is now being studied by the Board of Directors. Evidence tends to show that there may be no other feasible roadway to serve the mine property. (4) Funds are needed to build a water storage facility in the Sheep Hole Mountains. It had been thought, for many years, that the large tenaja in the area did not go dry. However, this year it has gone dry, and, there are no known other water sources in this area. This area was stocked with bighorns a way back in 1905 and 1906 by a Will Frakes of Newberry Springs, east of Barstow. It is not known whether or not there was any sheep population in the Sheep Hole Mountains prior to Frakes transplant. (reported in T.S. Nov.-Dec.1974)

OTHER FUND RAISING PROJECTS

It has been reported on previous occasions in THE SHEEPHERDER that Mr. Max Greiner of Kerrville, Texas has set aside one of his bronze sculptures of bighorns for Society benefits in it's endeavors to give helping hands to the bighorn sheep.

The price for this outstanding bronze is $2,500.00 Purchase can be arranged through either Dr. Loren L. Lutz, DDS, President of the Society or through Mr. Greiner whose address is P.O. Box 527, Kerrville, Texas 78028.

A photo of the sculpture by Greiner is at the left.

PAT HANSEN ALSO OFFERS A HAND

You will find an insert with this issue concerning stationery and greeting cards whose art work is by the very talented Pat Hansen. Mrs. Hansen's work is recognized throughout the western states for it's accuracy of detail depicting the desert bighorn sheep. Mrs. Hansen has had long experiences in observing bighorns in their habitat during the years that she and her husband Dr. Charles "Chuck" Hansen were stationed in the Death Valley National Monument, where he was the Wildife Biologist. Pat has graciously contributed to the Society with negatives of her drawings and is now granting a goodly share of the sale price of the cards and stationery to the Society. You will note that purchases may be made through the editor of THE SHEEPHERDER.

FINE LEVIED FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF BIGHORN SHEEP

On August 10, 1981 a News Release of the California Department of Fish and Game, Region 5--Long Beach announced that :"Glenn Napeirskie, 56, a National City plumbing contractor of San Diego County had been fined $1.000 and placed on three years' probation for the illegal possession of bighorn sheep trophies. He was sentenced by Judge Michael W, Brennan on Aug. 4th in the El Cajon Municipal Court after he pleaded nolo contendere to one count of possessing parts of a bighorn sheep ---a fully protected mammal in California--without a state permit. Judge Brennan also ordered the forfeiture of a variety of mounts and heads for which Napierskie did not have adequate documentation. Four counts were dismissed

Earlier, in a parallel action in Wyoming, Napierskie had been fined $1,100, given a 90-day suspended jail sentence and required to make restitution of one bighorn sheep mount to the state. That sentence had been handed down on July 23 in Teton Justice Court, Teton County. Hunting of bighorn sheep is permitted in Wyoming under a permit system.

The case dated back to August 1979 when Warden William Powell of Pine Valley, California as inyited into the Napierskie home in that small town on a social occasion, Powell was amazed to see the large number of bighorn sheep mounts in the house and that he became curious about how they had been acquired. A check of state records disclosed no permits for their possession.

In January 1980, Powell, acting under authority of a search warrant discovered the parts of 24 bighorn sheep--full mounts, half mounts, shoulders and heads and horns. He asked for a formal complaint on 24 counts. Further investigation revealed that 14 of the animals had been taken or exported in violation of Wyoming statutes.

Judge Brennan ordered the permanent forfeiture of the trophies seized by the Department of Fish and Game and suggested that they be donated to a museum or educational institution for public display. Napierskie was ordered to obtain state possession permits on the 10 animals not forfeited, all of which apperad to have been taken legally.

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CALIFORNIANS TURN IN POACHERS

CAL - TIP

The July - August issue of THE SHEEPHERDER carried an article (page three) about the soon to be implemented WAR ON POACHERS.

As of September first 1981 this program is in operation.

It is time long overdue that the public give an assist to the sorely pressed people who are attempting to safeguard our fish and wildlife species from unlawful acts.

The time is long passed when we can turn our backs upon the criminal acts of those who take fish and wildlife species for manetary gain or for any other excuse. The time is long overdue that the various Judges of our Civil Courts recognized that poaching is a criminal act, and that such be punished severely punished.

The announcement by the Department of Fish and Game that CAL - TIP was to be implemented was followed almost immediately by peole who had called the TOLL-FREE number 1(800) 952-5400 to report violations.

All species of fish and wildlife---both the so-called game species but also the commonly-called non-game species are at the crossroads. The assistance of the private citizens can make the difference as to the future survival of species that are already at low levels.

From a personal and private reason you may also receive a REWARD for giving the needed infomation to the law enforcement division of the Department of Fish and Game. See the July-August issue of T.S. for the types of information to be gathered if possible.

Let's all band together and put the THIEFS OF WILDLIFE in 'durance vile.'

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THE RELOCATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP IN THE SIERRA NEVADA OF CALIFORNIA

The above is the title of the publication authored by Louis Andaloro and Rob Ramey II which documents the historic decline of the Sierra Nevadabighorn herds and explains in detail the recent efforts to re-establish bighorns on their previously occupied rnages.

Andaloro and Ramey carried out their studyas students of Biology and Environmental studies at the University fo California, Santa Cruz.

Andaloro and Ramey gave a report during the Desert Bighron Council meetings of 1980. This was reported in T.S. in a following issue.

The 70-page report includes the most up-to-date information on the capture, release and movements of Sierra Nevada bighorns and onthe chances for survival of the transplanted herds, states Ramey in a communication. The publication can be obtained for $4.00 including the postage and handling from 'Environmental Field Program, 231 Kerr Hall, University of California, Santa Cruz, Ca. 95064. Make checks payable to U.C. Regents.

survival. (Which is precisely why I've logged your society in, as a legatee of my Will.)....
Tell Glenn Sudmeier & his gallant trooops that they have been saluted from mid-Atlantic!
Heartfelt thanks and compliments to the DFG and Wardens Slaughter and Coelho for nailing the three poachers who killed a Nelson bighorn ram. (Only wish Judge Aaron had socked each of them away for a year of jailhouse reflection!)

NOTE: Your editor of T.S. met Major Elk during the Award Ceremonies of the National Wildlife Federation in Washington, D.C. in March of 1977. Major Elk has been a contributor (financial) to the Society since that time. He also enclosed checks in support of the court action related to the road up Cattle Canyon--2-N06. The Society certainly does appreciate his support.

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BARBARY SHEEP --POSITION STATEMENT --CALIFORNIA

Mr. E.C. Fullerton Director California Department of Fish and Game has issued the following position statement, as published in the Transactions of the Symposium held during November 1979. Quote: "Section 1801 of the Fish and Game Code gives the Department of Fish and Game the responsibility to conserve and maintain all species of wildlife and their habitat.

Barbary sheep (*Ammotragus lervia*) have the potential to survive in the wild in many areas of California and would, in most cases, cause conflicts with existing wildlife species.

The Department is therefore opposed to the establishmnet of any free ranging population of Barbary sheep in California. However, it would not oppose Barbary sheep being maintained in an appropriate enclosure where their escape would not seriously impact native wildlife species; especially bighorn sheep.

To hold such animals would require the approval of the Fish and Game Commission and the issuance of a Game Breeders License by the Department of Fish and Game. The permit would include the conditions for possession of Barbary sheep and specifications for the enclosure."

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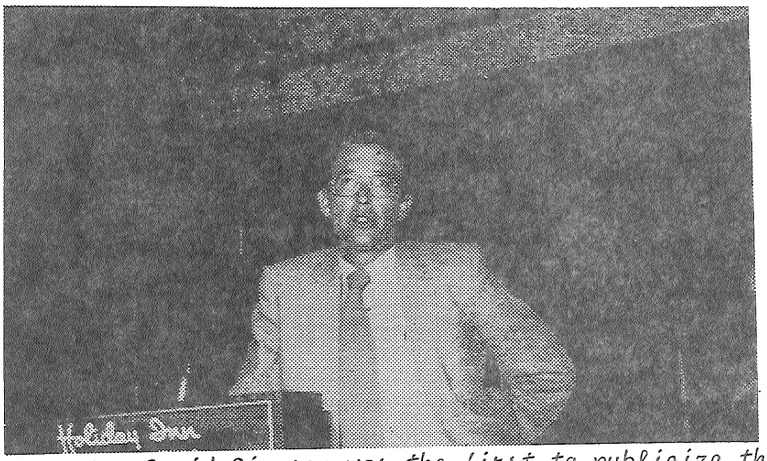
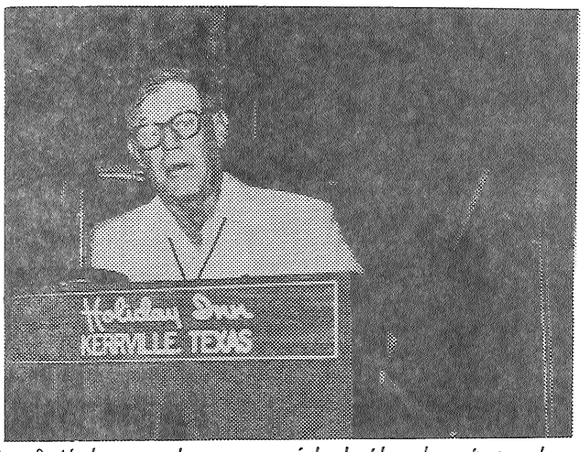


Dr. David Simpson was the first to publicize the probable conflict between Barbary sheep and the bighorns if they should occupy the same habitat. He is presently in Rhodesia on Sabbatical leave.



Carl Mahon, above, guided the hunter who made the high bid in 1980 for the Utah ram. He donated his services in 1980 and will again guide the winning hunter of 1981.

DO YOU WANT A DESERT BIGHORN PERMIT?

This year the Nevada Department of Wildlife will grant a desert bighorn sheep permit to he organization or individual who makes the highest bid for such a permit.

The State of Utah began this type of program during the year 1981. The minimum bid for that hunt was $20,000. Carl Mahon of Blanding, Utah guided the permit holder to a good ram. Utah is repeating the trophy-bid hunt again this year.

Nevada like Utah has set a minimum bid of $20,000 for the trophy permit. A minimum of $1,000. must accompany the application. Deadline for application-bids must be received prior to the 11:00 a.m. opening of bids on September 30, 1981 at the headquarters office of the D.O.W., 1100 Valley Road, P.O. Box 10678 Reno, Nevada 89520.

As in Utah the money received from these special permits is earmarked for wildlife projects. The season for this special permit hunt is December 19,1981 to January 17, 1982. The successful bidder must attend a prehunt indoctrination course at either Reno, Las Vegas or Indian Springs prior to getting possession of the permit.

Information of the above came from George Tsukamoto. George also stated that: "We have just completed a desert bighorn transplant to the Stillwater Range near Fallon on July 31. Twenty sheep from the Black Mountains were captured using a drop net. Animals are doing well at the release site, which is historic bighorn sheep habitat."

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ADOPTION FEES TO INCREASE

The Bureau of Land Management has announced in it's B.L.M. NEWSBEAT- August issue that on October First there will be a fixed fee of $200. for a wild horse and $75. for a burro. This money is to be applied toward the actual cost of removing and placing of animals with adopters. Transportation costs, if any, will be additional. This year according to Robert Burford, Director of the Interior Department's BLM the BLM will spend $4.4 million subsidiz-

ing the Adopt-A-Horse Program. "In a time of fiscal austerity, we consider this and inappropriate use of federal funds." Present fees range up to $25 for a horse or burro picked up at a BLM corral in the West to $145 for a horse transported from Nevada to Tennessee at BLM's wild horse and burro adoption center in Cross Plains. The U.S. Government absorbs about $300 of the cost of capturing and placing each animal with an adopter.

SOCIETY DISPLAY WINS AWARD

During the Annual Joint meeting of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep and the California Wildlife Federation held in San Jose this past June 5, 6 & 7 the displaY SET UP AND ARRANGED FOR BY Society Director Rocklin Wooley was judged to be the best. Wooley who received the trophy for the Society reports that he wishes to give thankful appreciation ot several persons who contributed time, efforts and talent to make the display effective.Georgia Craig arranged a display of paintings; Gabriella Ossima for her painting of bighorn sheep, and a painting of a typical Big Game Guzzler installation; Verne Bleich and Dick Weaver (Cal. DFG) for the use of time-lapse waterhole films, and bighorn skulls; and Marvin Wood for the use of his mounted trophies.

Wooley also reports that there were a number of interesting papers presented during the meetings. Among these reports were those from Society Directors Dr. Charles Jenner DVM, and James DeForge; other speakers of note were Charles F ullerton, Director of the California Department of Fish and Game. These were in addition to the usual reports presented by the U.S.Forest SErvice, Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Rocklin Wooley reports that he had recently been on a trip into the Last Chance Mountains. Wooley reports that the Lida Ranch has still not reduced the numbers of cattle that they are grazing in the area and which are some fifty-percent above the numbers for which the allottent calls for. As a result the vegetation around the scarce water sources is very badly abused, and which in a dry year such as 1981 has proven to be that thsi overgrazing can be very critical as regards the survival of the bighorn sheep of the Last Chance Range.

While in Inyo County Wooley also learned that a mining operator has applied to the BLM for a permit to construct a road in the Inyo Mts. from New York Butte to Mt. Keynet for the purpose of operating the old Keynet Mine. In their application, they , the miners, have claimed that they will only be up-grading an existing road, not building a new one, and that, therefore, they would not need to prepare and EIS. however, "In the words of one DFG official they lied through their teeth on their application."

This is pristine area. It is slated for wilderness classification, and it was identiiffied during the lastDFG bighorn sheep survey as high quality sheep habitat.

Rocklin also states that the DFG and BLM people have flown the area in a helicopter and are quite certain that there never was any more than a pack mule trail to the old mine.

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SOCIETY AND FOUNDATION JOIN FORCES

The Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep has become the California affiliate of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep. FNAWS is the fastest growing sheep organization in North America and has become a powerful national organization, instrumental in raising money for bighorn research and bighorn management projects in North America. They have supplied grant money to our research programs and have been the major financial support behind our battle to keep the Tungsten Mining Road out of Cattle Canyon in the San Gabriel Mountains.

The Society's Board of Directors beleives that we can be a more effective organization by this affiliation with the FNAWS. We need your help, however, as we hope to get all our members to join FNAWS as well as all west coast FNAWS members to join the Society. Please fill out the enclosed FNAWS application and send directly to the Sheep Society. We will then forward your application to FNAWS.

Thank you for your support, as we can be even more effective at helping California's bighorn and all North American wild sheep through this affiliation.

Sincerely,

James DeForge

Corresponding Secretary.

Remit application and check to James R. DeForge,

Addresss: 218 East "J" St... Ontario. California 91764

HELP SUPPORT THE WILD SHEEP
JOIN TODAY!

Foundation for North American Wild Sheep
55 West Ivy Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55117
Phone: 612/489-7683

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