SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP

The Sheepherder

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

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1983

ISSUES AND CONCERNS OF THE ANGLES NATIONAL FOREST

The September - October issue of The Sheepherder carried the news that the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals had ruled in favor of the bighorn sheep of the San GAbriel Mts. as the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep and the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep had sought relief from the opening of road 2N06 by the Angeles National Forest through important lambing grounds of the bighorn sheep occupying that area. The Forest Service did hold a scoping session open to the public on September 15th 1982.

Under date of October 15, 1982 the Forest Service has mailed out a description of alternatives to be considered in the environmental statement which was scheduled for release in late November. Notice was given that the Editor of T.S. would receive a copy. None has yet been received. However a list of items due for consideration was included in the notice of October 15th. These items include: (Quote)

"IMPACTS ON BIGHORN SHEEP:

Curtis Tungsten vehicles may disturb bighorn sheep, causing them to move away from (road) 2N06 to areas of less favorable habitat.

Vehicle disturbance would be extremely probable near the mineral lick and lambing area that adjoin 2N06. This lambing area is one of only five for the sheep in the Cattle Canyon area. Disturbance close to the lambing area could seriously effect the number of lambs surviving to adulthood

A decrease in bighorn sheep near 2N06 would decrease existing recreational and educational opportunities to view and to study the sheep." end quote.

Other considerations are:

1. Increased erosian and slides as well as a decrease in water quality because of either the heavy maintenance of 2N06 or the reconstruction of 2N09

2. Relative cost efficiency of constructing and using either 2N06 or 2N09 to transport tungsten ore produced by Curtis Tungsten

Permittees with summer cabins would likely use either 2N06 or 2N09 (whichever is maintained by Curtis Tungsten). Permittees are entitled to this access, although they would have to make individual arrangements with Curtis Tungsten. Such use might also increase the impacts on the bighorn sheep

3. Increased public use and even vandalism from opening either 2N06 or 2N09. Increased public use and access would increase harassment of the bighorn sheep, including even incidents of poaching.

4. Noise, safety, and air quality problems resulting from the use of either 2N06 or 2N09 by Curtis Tungsten vehicles.

5. Other considerations include the possibility of the area being declared a Wilderness area by an act of Congress. The area lies within the proposed Sheep Mountain Wilderness area, and was a wilderness study area under the RARE II process of the Forest SErvice. Senator Cranston had introduced a bill to declare the area a Wilderness. A hearing on the bill was never held, to the best knowledge of the Editor. Much of or all of road 2N06 lies outside the Proposed Wilderness boundaries.

The Forest Service does not consider the use of 2N06 as a fire access road for fire fighting. Fighting of fire in the area would be by use of aircraft.

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NOTE : The address of the Angeles National Forest is: 150 South Los Robles Ave.,Suite 300, Pasadena, California 91101. Persons interested in responding to the Environmental Statement should be able to get a copy of that document from that address. Or, copies may be available in local libraries.

This Editor can see no justification for the possible granting of a permit to use the roadway 2N06 so long as the roadway 2N09 can be used. He can see no justification for giving Curtis Tungsten precedence over the probable wellbeing of any portion of the bighorn sheep herd of the San Gabriel Mts. This herd of bighorn is the strongest herd of bighorn in California. And, ontheother hand Curtis Tungsten Mining Co., is simply an exploiter of a national resource on the public lands in which each citizen of the United States is suppoed to have an interest. Furthermore, under the Multiple Use Act the wildlife resources of this nation are supposed to receive equal consideration as is given to each of the other uses of the resources.

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DESERT BIGHORN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The DBRI's Research Biologist James DeForge states in their newsletter of September 1982 that; "D-Day, the sick lamb we brought out of the range on June 6, 1982, is doing wonderfully! He seems to have totally recovered from his pneumonia. It is good to see him well, knowing how sick he was only three months ago! Recently we brought him back to the desert for further recovery and monitoring and more growing up. He is temporarily housed at the Living Desert Reserve, since they have the best facilitiies right now for allowing D-Day to acclimate and practice climbing mountains again. Hopefully we will be able to release him back into the range when he gets a little older.

I am sorry to report that the story in the field is not as good as D-Day's. On our last helicopter survey on August 1, 1982, we calculated a lamb to ewe ratio of 19/100, which would indicate there may be as many as nine lambs till alive in the study area from the 45 to 50 ewes in the range. We know there are still at least four female lambs(plus D-Day!) and those four are four to five months old and seen healthy. This certainly is better than we were doing last year at this time (4/100 for August 1981). However, research has shown that survival of 26 lambs per 100 ewes is needed to amintain a stable herd population, so this herd is still in trouble. This makes six years now that high lamb mortality has occurred here. Right now we are working on an annual report on the work done to date and on plans for even more aggresive action to help the lambs here next year. As soon as we get plans finalized we will let you know about them."

Former President Gerald R. Ford, a resident of Rancho Mirage, has agreed to become the honorary chairman of fund-raising for the Desert Bighorn Research Institute. "I only hope these biologists and researchers can be successful in unraveling the mystery of what is killing these magnificent and unique animals", said Ford "I know they must have financial help from the public in order to have a fighting chance." "The Institute is deeply honored to have a man of President Ford's tature joining in this effort."

MZURI SAFARI LENDS A HAND

The MZuri Drumbeat-- issue for Spring - Summer 1982 reports that Mzuri has given a grant of $13,245 to SAVE THE SHEEP. The check for this amount was tendered by President Ford to James DeForge.

Mzuri had given a grant to the California Departmnet of Fish and Game previously in 1981.

EDITORIAL NOTES:

At the time that the D.B.R.I. withdrew from the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn sheep it was in possession of a large inventory of supplies and equipment that was and is the property of the Society. Also, at that time the permit granted to the Society for conducting the research into the cause(s) of loss of members of the Santa Rosas' bighorn sheep became ineffective. However, Dr. Loren L. Lutz, President of the Society recommended to the California Department of Fish and Game and to the Fish and Game Commission that this permit be transferred to the Desert Bighorn Research Institute in order that there might be continuity in the continuing research efforts of James DeForge and other members of the DBRI. This was done. Several members of the California Department of Fish and Game are activily serving on the Advisory Board. Among these are Dick Weaver and David A Jessup.

This Editor beleives that finding causes of the problems in the Santa Rosas and finding solution to those problems is of far great importance than is who may or may not get any credits for doing this work and in obtaining the needed results.

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NOTE:

The California Fish and Game Commission did on December 3, 1982 pass a resolution by unanimous vote to extend the permit of DeForge and the DBRI. The minutes also noted that the Sportsmen's Council of Central California had supported the extension of this permit. The motion stated: "Moved by Dr. Burke and seconded by Mr. Kahn, that the Fish and Game Commission pursuant to the provisions of section 4700 of the Fish and Game Code, hereby approves the request of james R. DeForge, D.B.R.I. Palm Desert, for a permit authorizing it to continue research on desert bighorn sheep in the Santa Rosa Mountains, Riverside County. The Commission further stipulatesd that Mr. DeForge and the Department must develop specific aspects of the proposal for inclusion in a Memorandum of Understanding and that a copy of the memorandum will be provided to the Commission, prior to final approval, for Commission concurence.

NOVEMBER REPORT OF D.B.R.I.

The November 1982 bulletin of the DBRI has a report by James DeForge states that: "The high lamb mortality that has occurred since 1977 has caused the population in the north end of the Santa Rosas to decline from about 150 to some 60 to 70 animals. Pathologic evidence from lambs found sick and dead indicates pneumonia has been killing the lambs, and serologic evidence from blood collected during the study indicates a combination of parainfluenza - 3 and blue tongue viruses, and possibly epizootic hemorrhagic disease and contagious ecthyma viruses, are probable initiative factors to this pneumonic process. Predation, changes in seasonal weather patterns, interaction with other hoofed animals and human impact are other possible stresses on this population that could also be important initiating factors to the pneumonia. If high lamb mortality continues over the next few years, this population will show an even sharper decline, as most ewes in this range are at the upper end of their life expectancy. Although a great deal has been accomplished in this study to date, more work needs to be done now toward the goal of reversing this population decline.

A LAND USE VICTORY

A proposed development of a $90 million hotel complex in the hills above Rancho Mirage within a bighorn sheep lambing area was voted down by Rancho Mirage residents on November 2nd. The people of Rancho Mirage voted no on measure B by a margin of 55% opposed to the measure which would have permitted the building of the hotel complex. Whether or not the City Council will adhere to the wishes of the people as expressed by their ballot had not yet been decided by the Council.

BIGHORNS VERSUS DOMESTIC SHEEP

Evidence continues to pileup concerning the apparant adverse effects of the nearby association of domestic sheep and the wildbighorn sheep.

A copy of the July-August issue of The Sheepherder had been transmitted to Dr. T.P. Kistner, D.V. M. a Research Professor of the Oregon State University by Bob Fischer of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Portland.

Dr. Kistner has written a long article for the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians concerning this adverse relationship and has sent the Editor a copy of that presentation. This is being summarized and excerpted as follows:

Dr. Kistner states that domestic sheep should not be permitted to graze near present or planned bighorn ranges. He also advocates that cattle should not be permitted to graze near the summit of Steens Mountain. Steens Mountain is the area in which the Oregon Department of Fish and Game has introduced California bighorn sheep and this herd has had a very remarkable growth rate. To such an extent that the herd has been reduced several times by transplants to other areas that were historic habitat by not presently occupied by bighorn. Kistner believes that the combination of overexploitation, competition for forage , possibly water, and diseases led to the disappearance of the native California bighorns from Oregon as well as similaroccurence for this and the other species of bighrons from many other of their historic ranges. "It has been calculated recently that the replacement cost of each bighorn is $3500. This value will be affixed in the Oregon Code of Wildlife Laws as a guideline for judges as a penalty that may be sought by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for an illegally killed bighorn."

"Harassment by humans or other animals is another form of exploitation that is severly detrimental. When stressed chronically, animals produce increased levels of cortisol that suppress the immune system, thereby lowering levels of resistance of the affected animals to all infectious agents. Harassment by humans can be controlled to some extent with public education."....."Mention need be made of the necessity of herding a flock of domestic sheep to insure proper use of the range, prevent trespass and minimize predator loss."

NOTE: It was this lack of herding and supervision of the domestic sheep utilizing the area nearby the Lava Beds National Monument that led to the trespass of the domestic sheep up to and along the perimeter fencing of the Lava Beds enclosure and which then led to the loss of all 32 or 33 members of the captive California bighorns at the Lava Beds. L.E.C.

"Considering the diseases that could jeopardize California bighorns, one can make a list of the diseases of domestic sheep, and state or imply that all pose a threat, based on the close taxonomic relationship between domestic sheepa dn bighorns."

Dr. Kistner writes about the various diseases that the domestic and wild sheep are both subjected to and of the types of treatment available to the domestic sheep raiser. He also writes of the relationship of the Culicoides gnat which is the vector for Blue tongue which one year caused the loss of many members of the Lava Beds herd. Earthen stock watering tanks are breeding places for this gnat....."One wildlife diseases expert recommends that domestic sheep should be kept at least one mile away from bighorns. I personally feel one mile may be too close; I would prefer to see several miles separation. Greater distances minim minimizes the potential of devastating errors. It also reduces the potential of deliberate trespass."

NOTE: The last paragraph above does trouble this editor in relationship to the cattle now being grazed on the Old WomaN Mountains. I feel a personal relationship to this area as I spent some 30 days per year for three or four years with Marvin Wood looking for water sources and places where water impoundments might be made or spring improvements achieved. Since cattle grazing has come to the Old Woman Mountain the chances of loss of these herds of bighorn have been greatly enhanced, in my humble opinion. I hope that I am in error.

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BLM PUBLICIZES EFFORTS OF VOLUNTEERS FOR BIGHORNS

John Scull, BLM Public Affairs Officer for the BLM writes in the July 1982 issue of NEWS BEAT that :"The biggest single problem facing wildlife in the California Desert is water. Without water, existence in the desert is not possible for many species.
One of the driest portions of the California Desert is the Coxcomb Mountains in northeastern Riverside County. Historically, bighorn sheep have been present in the southern Coxcomb Mts. in numbers larger than the present day population of probably less than 40 animals."

It all began about the first of January 1981 when Terry Russi, Indio Resource Wildlife Biologist became concerned that there was only one water source in the southern end of the Coxcomb Mts. This was a leak in the Colorado River Aqueduct, too small to be of any immediate concern to Metropolitan Water District engineeers. Sheep were known to use this water source which was too near a roadway used by maintenance crews and weekend recreationists. The problem was compounded by the dryness of the area which has an annual average rainfall of less than three inches per annum.

After giving the area considerable study Russi decided that a big game guzzler was needed to stabalize and perhaps increase the sheep population. After several days of hiking in the Coxcomb Mts. he found a desirable site for a water catchment. He then contacted Glenn Sudmeier water coordinator for the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep. They set about making plans for the work project.

In the fall of 1981 Russi and Sudmeier met with Vern Bleich of the DFG and worked out the specifics needed to get the job done. The BLM would furnish the needed materials for the project; The Department of Fish and Game would furnish the needed equipment and the expertise for the building of such projects in remote areas and the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep would furnish the labor force. Transpotation of materials and equipment to the project site about one and one-half miles from the nearest vehicle approach would need to be done by helicopter. Russi met with the Riverside County Fish and Game Commission with a request for funding. The Commission gave him a grant of $2,788 with which to buy helicopter time.

On the day of the project there were well over 100 volunteers on hand as the labor force. Some 20 of these were from the Pierce College Crisis Ecological Group. This group of young people together with their instructor have been a great source of dedicated young men and women who have assisted on many projects the past several years. They are to be commended. Two staff members of the Joshua Tree National Monument were also on hand lending their assistance. As is now common with these big game guzzlers three 1,500 gallon storage tanks are utilized and connected to each other and to the float-valve controlled drinker.

We have no report at this time as to whether or not there has been rain in the Coxcomb Mountains that can be trapped for this g uzzler. There are also desert mule deer in the area and these commonly called burro deer are expected to also benefit from this guzzler.
BLM "NEWSBEAT" - - issue of July, 1982---courtesy- Dick Weaver, Calif. DFG.

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OLD DAD PROJECT - UPDATE

The Sheepherder has carried articles this past six months about the proposed capture and transfer of some 25 or more bighorn sheep from the Old Dad Mountain area to the historic range in the Whipple Mountains. The temporary holding facility in the Whipple Mts. has been ready to receive the sheep for several weeks.

Water trapping was first tried. A special watering area was built in an area where a drop nte might be used for the capture effort. However, early rains made water available in many places in this area and consequently the sheep did not use the special water provided for the capture effort.

Next, it was thought that perhaps the sheep would get addicted to the use of fermented apple pulp which has been so successf ully used in many other areas such as in the capture of bighorns for transplants from the Mt. Baxter herd in the Sierras. Apple pulp was obtained from cider mills near Yucaipa and was fermented. An area suitable for the use of a drop net was baited with the apple pulp. However, again the sheep would not cooperate. They would not come in and use the apple pulp. The early rains previously mentioned had caused an early 'green-up' of the grasses and other vegetation in the area and the sheep preferred the natural feed of the area to the apple pulp to which they had not become addicted. So, the apple pulp has been put in storage and will be tried at a later date in 1983.

Also, due to the very rough terrain of the Old Dad Mountain and its many narrow steep walled ravines and canyons and the many shallow caves and overhanging rocks the use of drive nets so successfully used to capture bighorns sheep in the Santa Rosa Mountains cannot be used.

Therfore, the transfer of sheep from the Old Dad Mountin to the Whipple Mountains has had to be moved to a 'back-burner until some time later in 1983.
Phone conversation with Dick Weaver--12/23/82.

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ARIZONA RAMS TRANSPLANTED

Four Arizona rams were transplanted to the Peloncillo Mountains of southwestern New Mexico in November 1981. However. the breeding season had ended when those rams were released there.

Biologists are hopeful the Arizona rams, like the Arizona ewes transplanted into the area in June, are immune to the viral pneumonia that may have killed 10 New Mexico rams released in the area. New Mexico bighorn research biologist Andy Sandoval said the Arizona ewes apparantly have developed a resistance to pneumonia after long-term exposure to the disease in their native range, but may be carrying a bug being transmitted to the New Mexico rams.

The ewes and rams were taken from the Kofa Game Refuge in southwestern Arizona. The Arizona rams were inoculated against viral bluetongue, contagious ecthyma and scabies and radio collared prior to release.

Amy Elenowitz (photo at left) says that "The recovery is slow, but our Peloncillo sheep are thriving."

Elenowitz also says: "A year long vigil over the desert bighorns in the Peloncillo Mountains has convinced her that these majestic sheep were on their way to perpetuating a thriving herd in southwestern New Mexico."

Elenowitz made a report to the Desert Bighorn Souncil this past April during one of the sessions held at Borrego Springs in the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. She has published a report in the New Mexico Wildlife issue of November-December 1982.

Four lambs were born in the desert bighorn herd in the Pelencillo Mts. of southwestern New Mexico during May of 1982. The lambs were apparantly sired by one of the two young rams transplanted to the area in September 1981. One of the rams, named Meriweather by bighorn Research Biologist Andy Sandoval, left the herd after release and has been in the nearby Gillespie Mountains since. The second ram apparantly bred the four ewes about two weeks before he died in November, probably of bronchial pneumonia.

The ewes among the herd were transplanted from the Kofa Game Refuge in Arizona to a paddock in the Peloncillos in November 1980 for acclimatization to the area. They were released in June 1981, along with 10 rams from New Mexico's Red Rock Experimental Wildlife Station. The rams all died by August 1981 and had shown no interest in the ewes. Biologists suspect the ewes, which also became ill, may have developed a resistance to bronchial pneumonia after years of exposure in Arizona, but may have transmitted the disease to the more susceptible New Mexico rams.

Four adult rams from the Kofa Game Refuge were released in the area in November 1981, but the breeding season had ended when those rams were released there.

BIG HATCHET -- BIGHORNS, OIL MEN COMPETE FOR RIGHTS

The El Paso Times issus of November 8, 1981 carried the front page story with the above headline uner a dateline of Hachita, New Mexico. "Big Hatchet peak, from any direction looks like just what it is - a nearly barren mass of rock sprinkled lightly with pinion and juniper."

This was the opening paragraph of a report in the January-February 1982 issue of The Sheepherder

Now, November 13, 1982 under a dateline of Albuquerque, New Mexico comes a report headed "Wilderness Oil Drilling Denied." and the report is gratifying in its statement;" A federal judge on Friday (Nov. 12, 1982) refused to allow Yates Petroleum toresume drilling a natural gas well in the Salt Creek Wilderness because the company has no federal permits.

Two environmental groups have opposed the drilling, and members of a group called Earth First had blockaded the road to the well near Roswell on Wednesday.

Hours after the blockade, U.S. District Judge Juan Burciaga issued a restraining order at the government's request stopping the company from drilling."

The Fresno Bee - November 13, 1982.

The news stories of a year ago related the fact that the Bureau of Land Management and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish had strongly opposed any drilling in the area and that the BLM had in addition established a one mile wide buffer zone around the mountain range

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DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL MONUMENT PLANS REMOVAL OF EXOTICS

In early December the Death Valley National Monument distributed its Proposed Natural and Cultural Resources Management Plan dnd Final Environmental Impact Statement.

It is the avoud proposal of the Monument to remove all exotic, ie. non-native species of vegetation and animals from the monument. Several alternative were listed and given full consideration. There seemed to have been very little if any objections raised after

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the release of the Draft Proposals to the elimination of any of the vegetative exotics such as date palms, tamarix, russian thistle or acquatic plants. There were objections to the removal of so-called wild horses or burros. Considerations concerning these feral horses and burros ranged from doing nothing to partial retention on some ranges or some herds for public viewing purposes. Complete eradication of burros and horses was objected to by some respondents; others objected to any being removed by any means at all. Some advocated the terilization of all horses and burros. The proposed and chosed procedure is to remove all horses and burros by live capture; title to be transferred to animal protection groups such as Fund for Animals, Horse protection groups, etc., whick would then place the animals for 'adoption' by members of the public. The time frame for this capture process by the Park Service would be from the fall of 1983 until the end of 1986. There would be a possible extension granted to the animal protection groups until the end of June 1987 should there be horses or burros that could not be captured due to terrain or other reasons. After which time any remaining horses or burros would be reduced by riflemen of the Park Service.

Responses to this final E.I.S were due in the Monument headquarters by mid-January 1983.

WHEN SHEEP AND GOATS COMPETE

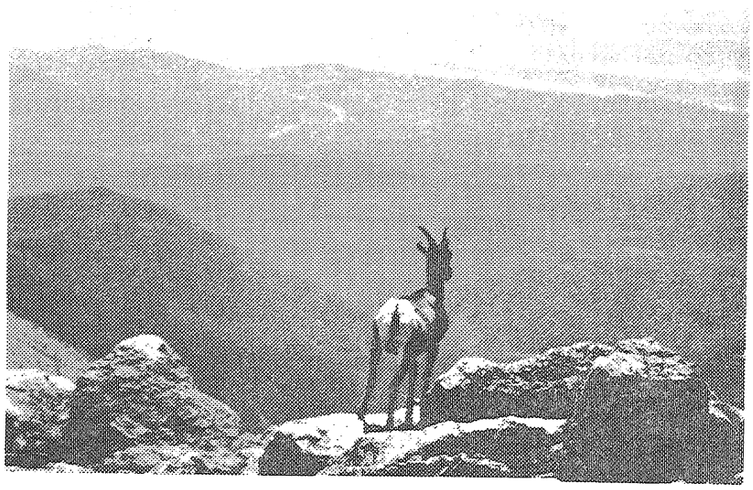

Photo above taken during the summer on Mt. Evans by the editor

The Colorado Divsion of Wildlife has undertaken a study in an effort to determine whether or not there is a conflict between the rocky mountain bighorn sheep and the rocky mountain goats that occupy some of the highest mountains of Colorado. The study is being conducted on Mt. Evans. Mt. Evans rises to an elevation of above 14,000 ft. The bighorns are native to Colorado. The Goats were introduced into Colorado in the Collegiate Range in 1948 and into the Mt. Evans area in 1961. It is possible that they are both selecting the same habitat. If the goats are using the same habitats as the bighorns then there is a likelihood that there may be competition for available food and space . The D.O.W. is sufficiently concerned with this possibility that its strategic plan for mountain goat managemnet says: "No new introductions are being planned, which would insure minimal competition for range with bighron sheep herds." Such a strategy may minimize mountain goat-bighorn sheep competition for now, but the Division's bighorn sheep transplanting program and the lack of knowledge concerning the nature of mountain goat dispersal from existing populations leaves open possibilities of future overlap and inter-specific competition.

The D.O.W. has captured a number of goats (20) and have put radio telemetry collars on 12 of them. The other goats were all fitted with color coated collars for identification. Winter conditions can be rather severe on Mt. Evans and other Colorado high ranges. At and aove the 12,000 ft. elevation there are strong winds which tend to blow the snow off the alpine areas. This does clear the habitat so that the sheep and probably the goats as well can get to the vegetation. These strong winds also send the chill factor sometimes to a low of 50 degrees below zero. This does create a stress factor for the animals.

Early results of the study tend to show that the goats do use more of the alpine areas than the sheep do during the fall, winter and spring seasons.

Some aggresive behaviors have occurred between the two species. Usually the mountain goats initiated the encounters and the bighorn sheep interactions resulted in the sheep yielding space or other resources to the goats.

The study is scheduled to continue into 1985. The Division of Wildlife does wish to ensure that Colorado has healthy and productive populations of both mountain goats and bighorn sheep.

COLORADO OUTDOORS, November-December 1982.

ARIZONA COMMISSION TABLES SHEEP RAFFLE

A proposal to auction a bighorn sheep permit was an agenda item when the Arizona Game and Fish Commission met in Phoenix on December 10, 1982. The public meeting was scheduled to be held at the Departmen's main office, at 2222 West Greenway Road.

After having studied a proposal from the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society for a raffle or auction of one or two bighorn sheep permits to raise funds for sheep management projects, the Department was to ask the commissioners to approve such a raffle or auction of one desert bighorn sheep permit annually and to introduce legislation to amend the Title 17 to allow this. Public comment to the Department had been overwhelmingly in favor of a raffle or auction of a permit to pay for sheep management.

However, during the December 10th meeting of the Commission he motion to grant such a raffle or auction was tabled.

There was no indication of whether or not the motion might be re-activated at a later day.

WILDLIFE NEWSLETTER---Arizona Game and Fish Department---Dec., 17, 1982

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The evening of January 30 there is to be the Annual business meeting of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep. It is to be held at Dr. Lutz's office 401 North Garfield, Alhambra, California. The main purpose is the election of Officers and the Directors for the coming year

February 9 through 12, 1983 the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep holds its Annual meeting--this year at the MGM Grand Hotel in Reno, Nevada. By that date the FNAWS and the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society will have completed the water storage project for Arizona. FNAWS is underwriting the cost of that project and the one in the Nopah Mts. of California scheduled for April 23rd.

The work schedule for this coming five month period has an agenda of nine (9) water storage projects. Volunteers are sought for participation on these projects. Vernon Bleich is the Coordinator for the Department of Fish and Game and may be reached at:P.O. Box 1741, Hemet, Calif. 92343 or phone; (714) 925-5045. His counterpart for the Society is Glenn Sudmeier at Star Route, Box 4-C, Hesperia, Calif. 92345, Phone (619) 389-2498.(notice the change in area code from that of previous issues.) Contact either of these men as to directection of meeting place the Friday evening of the preceeding work day

January 15, 1983 IN the Marble Mountains

January 29 in the Cady Mountains east of Barstow a water project

February 12---Orocopia Mountains---a water project

February 26 -- Chuckwalla Mountains ------a water project

March 12 and 13 in the San Gabriel Mountains ---the annual sheep census of the San Gabriels

March 26 Whipple Mountains ---- a water project
April 6 -7-8, 1983----DESERT BIGHORN COUNCIL meets in Silver City, New Mexico
April 9 Whipple Mountains ---- another water storage project

Ap-il 23rd Nopah Range --- the long awaited joint venture with the FNAWS---a water storage
May 7th In the Inyo Mountains---to build a burro exclosure around a very important water source.

SHEEP POPULATION REPORT ---CALIFORNIA

WARNER MOUNTAINS

The California bighorn sheep(*Ovis canadensis californiana*) now occupying a potion of the Warner Mountains of Modoc County in northeastern California are there as a result of successful transplants from the Lava Beds National Monument and from the Herd occupying the Mt. Baxter area.

During the deer season of October a game warden working the area observed sixteen of the possible 20 bighorn sheep of the Warner Mt. area.

Then on December 8, 1982 another population survey found thirteeen of the possible 20 animals. Four of these were identified as four of the possible five lambs born in 1982. These have been previously reported. Also, five of the possible six adult ewes were observed on that date.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY ---TURTLE MOUNTAINS

On September 30, 1982 a helicopter survey-count was undertaken by the Bureau of Land Management and the Department of Fish and Gaem. In all, 40 bighorn sheep were observed, and these were in 18 different location as the sheep were scattered and in small groups. Due to the scattered groups of bighorns they were difficult to locate. Therefore a significaNt number of the bighorns of the Turtle mountains were not seen. The Department of Fish and Game estimate that there are now about 80 bighorn sheep in the Turtle Mountain Range. The sheep identified and classified as : eleven rams; one yearling female; 26 ewes; one lamb.

On the basis o ratios to 100 ewes these were: rams-42; yearlings:0.4 ewes:100; lambs:0.8 These ratios of lambs and yearlings is very low.

The waterhole counts of 1977 sowed ratios of: Rams 31; yearlings :28; ewes:100; lambs:28.

hewe findings in the Turtle Mountains indicates that it is very important that there be a thorough waterhole count of all the known waters of the Turtle Mountains during the coming waterhole season of count in the summer of 1983

Report courtesy of Dick Weaver, Calif. D.F.G.. Sacramento. 12/28/ 82

BIGHORN SHEEP OBSERVATIONS , WHEELER RIDGE

Tom Blankenship, Wildlife Biologist for the California Department of Fish and Game, Bishop, California reports under date of December 15, 1982. Blankenship reported that he with John Wehausen had on December 9th observed a group of six bighorn at the 8,000 foot elevation and about one mile northerly from Sheelite

This small group of bighorns was composed of two ewes. Each had a radio telemetry collar of which one was functioning and the other was non-funtioning; There were three adult rams One was an uncollared ram of two years of age. One ram of the 1982 release had a collar whose radio was funtioning as it should; the radio on the other ram had ceasedto operate. There was also a yearling ram that had no radio.
In addition another ram with a funtioning radio collar was observed about one mile southwest of Wells Meadow. He was b y himself.

Blankenship also states: "We now know of 2 7 bighorn on Wheeler Ridge, including five lambs, 12 ewes abd 10 rams. Nine sheep are at the south-western end and the remainder are near Wells Meadow. Five telemetry collars are functioning. The procedure of releasing collared rams to aid in censusing the population has been successful. Two of these rams are now with groups of sheep. It is likely that the Wheeler Ridge population exceeds thirty animals. An attempt will be made to locate additional sheep within the next few months.
Report sent to The Sheepherder, courtesy of Dick Weaver.

FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT

The above named Act is also known as the Pitman-Robertson Act. As has been stated in previous issues of T.S. this act was enacted at the direct request of the sportsmen of the United States back in 1938. This act requires an 11% excise tax on sporting arms and ammunitions and an 10% excuse tax on pistols and revolvers and their ammunition. The funds thus derived are allocated to the states by a formula based upon population, numbers of license buyers, etc. These funds must be matched by a 25% allocation by the several states and are used for wildlife restoration administered by the Departments of Fish and Game of the states. The Act requires that the administering agency make monthly reports by the persons in charge of the projects. Such reports are sent out by Mr. Vernon C. Bleich the project leader for Region 5, DFG, in Long Beach for the desert area.

The August report of Bleich notes in part---concerning the planned transfer of bighorn sheep from Old Dad Peak to the Whipple Mountains: "Project personnel, working with unit personnel, BLM personnel and volunteers constructed 6,000 feet of seven-foot high mesh fence in the Whipple Mountains, San Bernardino County. This fence will be used for a temporary holding facility for a futu re mountain sheep transplant attempt." "D uring this effort, members of the volunte er Desert Water and Wildlife Survey contributed 45 man-days of labor and 2,680 vehicle miles to the project."
A third hrizontal well was drilled at Lindsey Spring, Sawmill Mountain, Los Angeles County. The total flow varies from three to five gallons of water per minute-.....95 feet of galvanized pipe was installed at the Wheel Barrow horizontal well, Inyo County in order to transfer water to a drinker in a protected area out of a wash.
For those who do not know of it-- The horizontal well drilling equipment was purchased by the Los Angles Safari Club and donated to the Department of Fish and Game for wildlife benefits. This equipment has been in almost constant use these past four or five years since it was purchased at a cost of nearly $10,000. Another proof that sportsmen put their money where their mouth is.
South I-40 big game guzzler was inspected in August and found dry. Apparantly the infrequent rains had bypassed that area. This frequently happens in our California deserts.

The report for October says in part: "During this report period, members of the volunteer Desert Water and Wildlife Survey contributed 22 man-days of labor and 1,490 vehicle miles to the project. Additionally, the San Bernardino County Fish and Game Commission donated $7,700 for the purchase of helicopter contract time, the San Diego County Fish and Wildlife Committee donated $3,000 for the purchase of helicopter time to be used at Limestone Spring, and the California Department of Parks and Recreation contributed $3,500 worth of materials for use at Limestone Spring."
Vernon Bleich and his crew are being severely handicapped by lack of dependable four-wheel drive vehicles. Each report during 1982 has spoken of the fact that the three vehicles have had to be in a shop for major repairs through much of each month

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP

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

NAME Robert S. Campbell

ADDRESS ~~814 La Porte,~~ La Canada, ~~California 91011~~

PHONE: Home _____ Business _____

The kinds of memberships available are:

__ Annual	$25.00	
__ Student (must be full time)	$10.00	
__ Life	$200.00	(may be paid in four equal payments)
__ Century	$500.00	(transferable)

All donations are tax deductible.

Also included is my contribution of $_____for Desert Waterhole Improvement (Lowery fund)

Enclosed you will find my check or money order for $ _____