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.

JULY --AUGUST 1983

SAN JACINTO SHEEP IN REAL TROUBLE

For the past six years The Sheepherder has reported that all was not well with the bighorn sheep that have been dwelling in the San Jacinto Mountains of Southern California.

During the waterhole count of 1974 Dr. Loren Lutz, President of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, obseved some 220 bighorn sheep utilize the water of the spring that he was watching over.

During the waterhole count of early July 1982 Dr. Lutz and his crew saw a total of one bighorn during their three-day watch period. And, that sheep seemed in the last stages of dying.

During the three day period this year----July 2, 3, & 4, 1983 Dr. Lutz and his crew of ten observers did see a total of 18 mature to old ewes, one ram lamb of the year and two older rams.

Doctor Lutz also reports that there is a squatter camped at the side of the most important waterhole of the area and that he has been there for a considerable period of time.

NOTE: It is a violation of the Fish and Game Code to camp within one-fourth mile of any spring. It is expected that the Department of Fish and Game will see to it that this trespasser will be removed from the vicinity of this spring.

Doctor Lutz reports that the Society is funding a research in the Bighorn Mountains adjacent to the Lucerne Valley and near the Big Bear Lake as possible site for a reintroduction of desert bighorn sheep. The area being studied was once occupied by bighorns. Other areas being studied include Ventura County and in the Las Padres National Forest. Source of animals for these reintroductions would be in the San Gabriel Mountains. Other areas of Los Angeles County are also being considered, as is the Naval Weapons Center at China Lake.

The joint Hall-of Fame dinner jointly sponsored by the Society and by the Southern Council of Conservation Clubs was well attended.

Doctor LUtz reports that the water storage facility project at the Lower Dad Spring in the southern end of the Granite mountains had a terrific turn-out of the volunteers who not only built the storage facility but also built a burro proof fence around it. Vernon Bleich of the California DFG, as usual, was in charge of the project. Interest in the project drew people from a number of the Agencies. Bob Reese, a retired Fish and Wildlife Officer of the Region 5, United States Forest Service in San Francisco came down for the project. Jim Bicket, Resource Officer for the Needles area of the Bureau of Land Management was also present.

This Lower Dad Spring water development was funded by the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, the Southern Council of Conservation Club and by the California Department of Fish and Game. Cooperation between the agencies was excellent.

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SHEEP MANAGEMENT BILL MOVES TO STATE SENATE

Assembly Bill 1548 introduced into the California Assembly by Hon. Frank Hill of Los Angeles cleared the floor of the Assembly recently and has been assigned to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife for its consideration. The hearing of AB-1548 has been set for July 12th by Committee Chairman Robert Presley of Riverside. Other members of the committee are: Vice Chairman Jim Nielsen, members John Garamendi, Gary Hart, Milton Marks, Dan McCorquondale, Henry Mello, H.L. "Bill" Richardson, John Seymour.

Letters to these committee members would be helpful if gaining approval of this bill which is so very important to the welfare of the bighorn sheep of California. The bill has the backing and approval of the California Wildlife Federation, the Desert Bighorn Council and the Foundation for North American Wild sheep. The Bill was introduced by Assemblyman Hill at the direct request of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep.

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SHEEP FOUNDATION GIVES $10,500 FOR IDAHO BIGHORN RELOCATIONS

The Foundation for North American Wild Sheep has contributed $10,500 to help pay Idaho's Department of Fish and Game costs in relocating Rocky Mountain and California bighorns in Idaho.

Wildlife bureau chief Jerry Thiessen said $7,000 of the total was allocated for the move of 12 California bighorns from Deep Creek to the Bruneau River drainage in Owyhee County last December.

The remaining $3,500 defrayed some of he costs involved in moving 19 Rocky Mountain sheep from the Whiskey Mountain population in Wyoming to Idaho's Little Lost River Range last January, Thiessen said. "these moves were particularly important because they secured a large block of prime habitat for the future," he said.

Long range department policy states that bighorns will be reintroduced on suitable range by trapping and transplanting existing Idaho stocks or stocks from other states.

The foundation, based in Cody, Wyoming, was incorporated in 1977,"when those of us who have enjoyed hunting trophy rams decided we wanted to give something in return," said Executive Director Lloyd Zeman

California bighorns came to Owyhee County in 1963, when the department transported 19 sheep from British Columbia. Other transplants from the Canadian province followed in 1965-66 and the current population, limited to Owhyee County is estimated at about 400 animals.

Rocky Mountain bighorn relocation started in 1969 when seven sheep were moved from Morgan Creek to the Upper Pahsimeroi Valley. The following year, 24 Rocky Mountain sheep from Banff National Park, Alberta, Canada were also relocated in the Upper Pahsimeroi.

Idaho D.F.G. News release of June 2, 1983

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BIGHORN TRANSPLANTS IN THE HUMBOLT NATIONAL FOREST

During the 27th Annual Meeting of the Desert Bighorn Council held in Silver City, N.M., Warren Kelly of the Humbolt National Forest gave part II of his history of bighorn transplants on the Humbolt National Forest.

In his first part of that history, given in Kerrville, Texas the preceding year, Kelly had reported about the administrative procedures and problems encountered in the reintroduction of bighorn sheep in historic mountain ranges ofthat forest. In this report he discusses the capture, transportation and release of each transplant.

The first bighorn release in this program on the forest began in January 1975 with the release of sixteen Rocky Mountain bighorn being trapped from Whiskey Mountain in the Wind River Range near Dubois, Wyoming. They had been trapped under a drop-net baited with apple-pulp. All these anumals were inoculated for lungworm prior to shipment to Nevada. The sheep were transported from Wyoming in two, four-wheel drive pickup trucks. The two oldest rams were yearlings and didn't have sufficient horn growth to warrant segregation from the ewes during transportaion. The time in transit was 23.5 hours which included an overnight stop for the drivers. At the release site the trucks were positioned so that the sheep's first view was a rocky ridge. On release the sheep moved in a group to the rocky ridge. Regard-less of the long trip, none of the sheep appeared to be stressed.

The second bighorn release occurred in March of 1978 in the EightMile Canyon area of the Santa Rosa Mountains. These bighorns were purchassd from the Okanagan Game Farm in southern British Columbia. These bighorns had been wild caught and kept in a pasture until their sale to Nevada. George Tsukamoto on Nevada Department of Wildlife made the trip to Canada for the sheep. On release, one ewe about seven years of age was unable to follow the rest of the herd and exhibited characteristics of 'trapping myopathy'. She was recaptured and after treatment fitted with a radio collar. About May 10 she gave birth to a lamb. Howevershe later died as a result of a fall. Her lamb disappeared. The other eleven sheep were in good physical condition. These sheep established their home range between McConnel Peak and Eight Mile Canyon.

The third and fourth releases were in the Snake Range southwest of Wheeler Peak. In May 1979, Nevada Department of Wildlife received two rams and six ewes from the Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado. Thes sheep had been caught in a drop-net trap baited with apple pulp. They were inoculated for lungworm at the capture site and transported in a four-horse trailer to the release site. In July that year four of these sheep were observed on the ridge west of Stella Lake, just over thr-e miles from the release site.

In March 1980, the D.O.W. received twelve additional bighorn to augment the 1979 release. These came from the Tarryall Mountain southwest of Denver. They had also fallen victims to a drop-net baited with apple pulp. They had also been treated for lungworm.

In January 1981 the fifth bighorn release was in Hendrys Creek drainage on Mount Moriah. This site is six miles south of Smith Creek where the first bighorn sheep were released in 1975. These sheep on release did not run. They banded up and leisurely walked off toward the rocky ridge. Along the way they would stop to feed. They showed no stress or excitement at any time. These sheep also came from near Dubois, Wyoming.

The sixth and seventh releases were made in February and March of 1981. California bighorns were captured in the southwestern Idaho canyon country for release into the Jarbridge Mountains of northern Nevada. These sheep were captured by use of immobilizing drugs, by darting from a helicopter., placed in crates, slung under the helicopter and taken to the enclosed back of a pickup truck. As soon as seven sheep were captured they were transported in that truck to Nevada. The final leg of the transportation was by helicopter to the release site. Here they were released on arrival. All went into the same area on release. Three ewes were lost during the transplant effort. Following these two releases the only mature ram was killed by a mountain lion. One ewe traveled 30 - 40 miles northwesterly from the release site and died there. Four of the animals have been observed about six miles north of the release site and between that site and the Idaho boundary. These introductions into the Jarbridge Mountains are considered to be a failure. There are some 50,000 acres of prime bighorn habitat in the Jarbridge Mountains. Both the DOW and the Forest Service will explore the possibilities of intrducing Rocky Mountain bighorn here instead of the California bighorns.

Warren Kelly of the Humbolt National Forest in Nevada reports to Desert Bighorn Council

Richard Remington of the Arizona Game and Fish Department reports to Desert Bighorn Council----April 1983

ARIZONA BIGHORN SHEEP STATUS REPORT 1983

Richard Remington of the Arizona Game and Fish Department gave a report concerning Arizona's bighorns before the Desert Bighorn Council in April 1983. Remington stated that: "A total of 1716 bighorn sheep classified on ground and aerial surveys consisting of 456 rams, 883, ewes,,298 lambs and 79 yearlings. Forty-two hunters harvested 36 rams for an 86% hunter success ratio. Research is continuing in Arizona to determine bighorn sheep and livestock interactions in Aravaipa Canyon. Bighorn sheep studies have also begun on the U.S.Army, Yuma Proving Ground to document bighorn sheep use of the military installation. Research is continuing to compare successes of enclosure and wild releases of bighorns in Arizona. A research project funded by electrical utility companies to assess inpact of power line construction and existence on bighorn has entered its sixth year. Research on impacts of the Central Arizona Project on bighorn sheep is continuing. These studies are funded by the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation and is in its fourth year. Monitoring is continuing on the Virgin Mountains, Redfield Canyon-Muleshoe, and Goat Mountain-Painted Cliffs transplants. Ten bighorn ewes were captured in southwest Arizona and transplanted by New Mexico Department of Fish and Game personnel to the Peloncillo Mountains of southwest New Mexico to supplement the existing transplant. Some 33 bighorn transplant sites have been identified within Arizona. Planning is continuing for future bighorn sheep capture techniques and trasplants within Arizona.

During 1982-1983 bighorn sheep surveys were conducted within 19 Game Management units, some with several mountain ranges, within the state of Arizona. Surveys were conducted both on the ground and with the aid of helicopters. A total of 1716 bighorns were classified, consisting of 456 rams, 883 ewes, 298 lambs and 79 yearlings....A total of 2585 first choice applications were received by the department for the 42 permits(not including the Hualapai). During the 1982 hunt a total of 42 hunters harvested 36 rams for a 85.7% hunter success. The ten year hunter success ratio has been 76%. Age of harvested rams has been seven years. Average Boone and Crocket score for 1982 was 156 0/8 .

Aravaipa Canyon is the site of the Arizona G. & F's first sheep transplant. The sheep were transplanted into an enclosure from 1958 to 1972. In 1973 a portion of the fence was removed so that the sheep might move out and into nearby areas .....lamb survival in 1982 was 19 per 100 ewes. This has caused some consern since past years surveys have shown twice that figure in yearlings per 100 ewes.

Bighorns introduced into the Goat Mountain and Painted Cliffs areas have interacted on a regular basis and are doing well. Reproduction has been exceptionally good, lamb to ewe ratios were 70:100 ewes in 1981 and 41: 100 ewes in 1982.....The New Mexico Rocky Mountain bighorn herd released near Glenwood, New Mexico appear to be expanding their range into eastern Arizona. Approxiamtely 25 bighorn from the Glenwood herd were located in the Clifton area during June 1982. These were all young sheep and most probably moved back to New Mexico during the winter of 1982-83.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department initiated a livestock-bighorn sheep interaction study in the Aravaipa Canyon area of south central Arizona in 1980. To date field work has been mostly completed and data are currently being analyzed with results and recommendations to be documented. Data obtained from this research will aid the Department and land management agencies in proper livestock stocking rates and grazing practices that may have the least significant impact on bighorn sheep populations.

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ARIZONA BIGHORNS SCHEDULED FOR COLORADO

A Colorado request for desert bighorn sheep was on the agenda considered by the Arizona Game and ish Commission during its meeting of May 20, 1983.

The Commission approved the request from the Colorado Division of Wildlife for desert bighorn sheep that would be released in suitable habitat in the wstern portion of that state. Commission policy limits the number of sheep that may be transferred at one time to 20. Arizona has previously given Colorado desert bighorns in exchange for Rocky Mountain bighorns and will probably ask for pronghorn antelope this time.

Arizona G. & F. Department Newsletter ---May 27, 1983

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COMMISSION APPROVES BIGHORN PERMIT RAFFLE PROPOSAL

By a vote of three to one, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission has moved to support proposed legislation that, if passed, would allow the raffle of a desert bighorn sheep permit to raise funds for sheep management projects.

Moreover, if the wording of the bill as approved by the Commission, were to pass the Arizona Legislature, it would also permit the issue of no more than two special tags for other big game species to provide funding for their management as well.

The idea of raffling or auctioning two bighorn sheep permits to raise the money needed for expensive projects like sheep transplants was originally proposed to the Commission in April 1982 by the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society.

The Department then asked the state's sportsmen to comment on the idea and found the 86 percent of those responding favored either an auction or raffle to raise sheep management money. Sixty-one percent said they preferred a raffle to an auction.

Arizona Wildlife News---March 1983, Arizona Wildlife Federation

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BURROS - - - CALIFORNIA DESERT DISTRICT--B.L.M.

"The need to protect desert ecosystems made removal of burros a major goal of the Desert Plan. Public demad that this goal be achieved in a humane fashion resulted in the BLM burro adoption program. In the two years of Desert Plan implementation, 7,500 burros have been removed from the California Desert Conservation Area by roundup crews. An extra effort during the first months of 1983 contributed 1,700 of this number. The result is a drop in burro population from 12,385 in late 1980 to around 5,000 at the present. The BLM is proud of this record.

In 1980 - 1986, we plan to work with Death Valley National Monument and the Naval Weapons Center at China Lake to remove burros fromtheir lands and additional animals from the public lands in the northern desert.

Our ultimate goal for the end of 1986 is a desert-wide burro population of 1,242."

California Desert District---BLM---Planning Newsletter May 1983.--

Courtesy Dick Weaver

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Catain H. J. Lahr, Commander of the naval Weapons Center at China Lake has stated to the California D.F.G. that "The feral burro program at the Naval Weapons Center has progressed extremely well. To date (March 28, 1983), over 5,000 burros have been removed, leaving 300 to 500 burros on Center. The remaining animals should be captured before the end of August 1983. At the conclusion of the burro removal program, the Naval Weapons Center hopes to reintroduce bighorn sheep to selected portions of Center range.

The Naval Weapons Center would like the assistance of rhe Department of Fish and Game in designing a program for the reintroduction of bighorn sheep to Center ranges....."

NOTE: The last confirmed sighting of bighorn sheep on Naval Weapons lands occurred in 1975 during a field trip following a meeting held on the Center with the Wild Horse and Burro Commission.

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO ADOPTS THE BIGHORN

On the 9th of last November the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego adopted the Peninsular bighorn sheep as its honorary animal. Second District Supervisor Paul Forden Sponsored the proclamation which was unanimously adopted by the Board. The Peninsular bighorns that inhabit San Diego County and the other desert mountains to the south of Palm Springs are estimated to be presently numbered at approximately 390 animals in the county. Supervisor Forden recognizes that the loss of habitat needed by the bighorns is largely due to the encroachment of man and his roads, domestic livestock (cattle and sheep) and the diseases brought into the habitat by these animals, off-road vehicles have an adverse effect as does the construction of more and more homes of man.

Supervisor Forden lauded El Cajon Judge Michael Brennan, who last year slapped a $1,000. fine and three years probation on a Pine Valley man convicted of a misdeeanor charge of possessing bighorn trophies without permit.

Supervisor Forden also proposed Proclamations to the Boad of Supervisors that would honor Dr. Loren Lutz, President andthe Society for the Conservation of Bighorn sheep; Robert Cooper the Director of County Department of Parks and Rec-eation, Walt Foster, President of the County's Fish and Game Commission, Judge Michael Brennan , El Cajon Municipal Court, Safari Club International--San Diego Chapter and it's President Ingrid Poole, Mark Jorgensen, Biologist of the Anza Borrege Desert State Park, Robert Turner, Warden of the DFG.,Robert Fusco, President California Wildlife Federation, Bobert Clotfelter of the Society F.C.B.H.S., Vernon Bleich, Calif D.F.G., Mike O'Haver, Safari Club international- San Diego Chapter President, Terry Russi and Lillian Olech of the San Diego State University.

The Board of Supervisors also authorized the spending of $3,000. from the Propagation Fund to be used on the Limestone water storage project of November.

The Board also noted that regulated sport hunting has never caused the loss of a single species of wildlife; and that responsible hunters do acknowledge that animals have a right to live and support this through license fees, taxes and contributions and that hunting organizations and publications work to educate all hunters on the proper use of private and/or public lands for hunting and fight against those who abuse the hunting priviledges, and that an estimated annual $100 million originated from hunters goes to improve wildlife habitat and sanctuaries and that the hunters recognize America's wildlife is a national resource.

NOTE: The above furnished by Barbara Ann Concannon is late in being publicized. However, this editor believes that tardy, or not, the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego are to be commended for their actions taken in November 1982

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WARNER MOUNTAIN BIGHORN HERD GROWING

Three races of bighorn sheep with a combined population of nearly 4,000 animals make their home in California today, but a small band of 25 on the eastern slopes of Modoc County's Warner Mountains seems to be generating the most smiles from government biologists.

"They're doing remarkedly well," said Dick Weaver, big game specialist with the Department of Fish and Game, after learning the Modoc herd of California bighorn sheep has produced at least five lambs this spring.

DFG and Modoc National Forest personnel said the band has lost only two adult ewes while producing 13 lambs since the original 14 California bighorn were turned loose in the Warners three years ago under a mountain sheep reintroduction program.

Doug Thayer, DFG wildlife biologist in Alturas, and Ernie Camilleri, Modoc Forest biologist said the five lambs observed so far this year could increase to six or seven in the next few days if two addidtional ewes give late births. Chances of this, however, are slim that one ewe will become a mother this year. Known as "old number 3" because of the radio frequency collar, the ewe is estimated to be 13 to 15 yeass old and is the only remaining survivor of 10 California bighorns transplanted from British Columbia tot the Lava Beds National Monument in 1971.

Disease killed the last 33 bighorn inside a spedial Lava Beds enclosure in 1980 after state and federal officials managed to move four of the animals to the Warner Mountains. Ten others later were trapped and relocated to the Warners from Inyo County.

Except for the peculiar losses of two ewes that apparantly fell to their deaths from cliffs along the eastern Warners escarpments, the band has been unscathed over its three-year stay in Modoc County. The steep, rocky terrain and wxcellent forage have given the animals a high quality existence, the DFG said.

With the arrival of the 1983 crop of lambs, the Warner Mountains herd now is composed of five lambs, five yearlings, a two-year old ewe, seven adult ewes and seven adult rams. Biologists said four of the five yearlings are beleived to be ewes, bettering the opportunities for increased production of lambs.

Once occupants of habitat throughout the Sierra Nevada and much of northern California the California bighorn race of mountain sheep was limited to two herds in theeastern-central Sierra Nevada until the Lava Beds relocation. About 300 California bighorn are found in five locations in the state today.

An estimated 750 peninsular bighorn sheep reside primarily in mountainous habitat from Palm Springs to the Mexican border while the state's approximately 2,900 Nelson bighorn sheep often called desert bighorn--ocupy territory that includes mountain slopes in Mojave Desert and in ranges such as the San Gabriel, San Bernardino and White mountains.

Fish and Gme said it will attmpt to reduce excessive populations of desert bighorn beginning with a trapping and transplant effort set for this summer in the Mojave Desert. At least two desert bighorn herds have grown to sizes that are placing stress on available habitat, the DFG said.

Through relocation projects and reintroductions, the DFG said, it hopes to remove both the California bighorn and peninsular bighorn from their present official state classification as rare animals.

News Release---California Department of Fish and Game--Region 1.--Redding.6,11,83

SOCIETY LOSES A STRONG SUPPORTER

On June 16, 1983 the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep lost a hard working member of the Board of Directors when Charlton J. "Chuck" Kerr died following surgery in a local hospital.

Chuck Kerr of Granada Hills is survived by his widow, son George, two daughters and four grandchildren.

Chuck had been President of the Panorama Sportsmen's Club for two separate terms. He was a hard working member of the Volunteer Desert Water for Wildlife task force during the construction of numerous water storage projects of the Society. He could be counted upon to have a large number of volunteers with him from the Panorama club during those construction projects. Many of that group also were consistently with him in attendance during the Annual Dinner meetings of the Society held at Michael's each fall.

Interrment of Chuck Kerr was in the Forest Lawn Memorial Park in the Hollywood Hills.

Members of the family have told Bud Wiedeman that they would appreciate any memorials to Chuck be made to the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep.

Society Board of Directors attending the memorial services included John Larronde, Jerry David andA.W. "Bud" Wiedeman.

Charlton J. "Chuck" Kerr deceased June 16, 1983 at the age of 59.

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D.B.R.I. -- REPORTS ON SANTA ROSA MOUNTAINS

The Desert Bighorn Research Institute has made some progress in the search into the cause(s) of the high mortality among the Peninsular bighorn lambs born in the northern part of the Santa Rosa Mountains.

It has been known that nearly all lambs were dying from the effects of pneumonia. It has been beleived that the primary cause of the pneumonia has been the virus of bluetongue. Proof of this belief has been lacking.

On March 31 James DeForge using a net fired from an experimental 'net-gun' from a helicopter captured two lambs which were named Adam and Eve. Eve appeared to be ill at the time of capture and was found suffering from pneumonia. Adam was also found to be on the verge of pneumonia. Both were treated at the Palm Desert Pet Hospital by Veterinarians Dr. Charles Jenner and Rod Melchert. It was first hoped that the lambs immune systems might be able to prevail over the illness. When it became apparant that the immune system was not doing the job the doctors began intensive treatment to which the lambs have responded very well and are no longer endangered.

Further study of lungs and discharges from the lambs have proven that the infecting agent was bluetongue. For the first time, a bluetongue virus has been isolated in wild free-ranging bighorn sheep. Previous research had indicated exposure to the disease, isolating the virus means there is an active virus among the herd. The virus was isolated in both lambs.

During May a team of Institute personnel and Department of Fish and Game captured 20 bighorn in the Santa Rosa Mountains. The captured sheep were vaccinated against bluetongue and parainfluenza-3 viruses, both suspected of playing roles in the lamb die-off of the past six years. Four lambs captured were outfitted with radio collars so that they may be followed in the field during their critical survival age. All bighorn were captured with drive nets, except one that was caught with a net gun.

D-Day, the lamb rescued on June 6th, 1982, is gaining strength. Blood samples were taken from him on January 13 to recheck for any recurrence of his pneumonia or infection. While in hand , he was given a new radio collar made especially for lambs. It is lighter in weight (only 8 ounces) and expandable so that it will grow with him. D-Day was captured with the first experimental net gun used in California. He is gaining strength, temporarily housed in the pen at Living Desert Reserve, and will hopefully be released back to the wild soon. This is the first time in California that a bighorn lamb dying of pneumonia was ever treated and recovered.

Hopefully, the population in the north end of the Santa Rosas can be turned around. It is hoped that these efforts will help increase the numbers of the Peninsular bighorn in the future, and that in time this subspecies can be removed from the California State Rare species list.

The Desert Bighorn Research Institute acknowledges with appreciation the financial assistance that it has received from several hunter-conservation oriented organizations for their financial assistance. Among this group are the National Rifle Association, the Mzuri Safari Foundation, the Houston Safari Club and the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep.

And, as if all the disease problems were not enough it is sad to learn that the Mirada development has been given an okey by the City of Rancho Mirage Council. This in spite of the fact that the voters of the City of Mirage had voted in opposition to a zone change that would allow the Federated Development Company to build the Mirada Resort. The Mountain Protective League, a group of Rancho Mirage residents opposed to the hillside development, is still opposing the development. The MPL is seeking enough signers of a petition so that final decision may be through the ballot box. The use of initiative Petitions and processes seem the only route possible to combat the beauracrats of city, county and state governments.

It is too early at the time the Bulletin was published by the DBRI to know what the lamb survival for 1983 in the Santa Rosa Mountains will be.

From The Bighorn---bi-monthly bulletin of May-June 1983

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HAVE YOU CONDUCTED YOUR WATERHOLE COUNT FOR THIS YEAR--- 1983 ? IF SO, have you sent in your report to Glenn Sudmeier and/ or Vern Bleich? THE EDITOR OF THE SHEEPHERDER ----Yournewsletter would very much appreciate a copy- ---The Society membership is interested in your findings.

The Editor would also appreciate any photos that you might have taken. He will be very happy to return any that you may wish returned.

Death Valley National Monument-------
LABOR DAY WEEKEND. As usual this waterhole Count will begin at dawn on Saturday September 3rd and will continue for 3 full days ending at dusk on September 5th.

Spring assignments will be made the afternoon of September 2nd at Monument headquarters at Furnace Creek . For further information contact Peter G. Sanchez, Resource Management Speialist, D.V.N.M., Death Valley, California 92328. Or, phone him at (714) 786 - 2331

November 5, 1983 ---The Annual Dinner Meeting of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep will be held again this year t Michael's Restaurant on Los Feliz Blvd., Los Angeles, California. Bud Wiedeman a Director of the Society is again taking charge of the arrangments.

MONTHLY REPORT-- WILDLIFE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT

In his monthly report Vernon C. Bleich, Project Leader and Les Coombs his assistant have reported concerning their activities in the deserts during the month of March 1983. They continue to have extensive vehicular equipment failures as they have had during the past eight or nine months, and there is apparantly no prospect for the replacement of these failure prone vehicles.

During the month two big game guzzlers were inspected and major repairs were made on one of them, the pickup line at Celo Tank big game guzzler so that it will not fill tanks until after water has backed up behind the dam.

Project personnel participated in the San Gabriel Mt. sheep census. Results were poor due to heavy fog on the day of the ground count. (reported in T.S. last issue).

Members of the Volunteer Desert Water and Wildlife Survey performed major maintenance on seven small game guzzlers in San Bernardino County. Aprons were patched with fiberglass tape and roofing compound. During this effort, volunteers contributed eight man days of labor and1,050 vehicle miles to the project.

Project personnel selected future big game guzzler sites for the Whipple Mts. and the Nopah Mts.

A 5,100 gallon catchment was constructed in the Chuckwalla Mountains. During this effort 42 vol unteers contributed 92 man days of labor and 4,800 miles to the project.

The work project of May 7th at the Wheelbarrow Spring in the Inyo Mountains of Inyo County consisted of one hundred fifty feet of three-rail pipe fencing to exclude the feral burros from this important water source. Water from the Wheelbarrow Spring was piped some 100 feet to the edge of the wash, and a concrete drinking basin was constructed to catch the flow of the spring. The Wheelbarrow Spring is one of the successful horizontal wells that have been drilled in the desert using the well drilling equipment purchased and then given to the Department of Fish and Game by the Los Angeles Safari Club a few years ago.

Members of the Desert Water and Wildlife Survey developed Chuckwalla Well and Mesquite Spring in Riverside County. Two large, walk-in ramps were dug and boxed in with redwood. The Project personnel providing guidance and the Bureau of Land Management provided the needed materials for the job. Volunteers contributed 144 man-days of labor and drove some 2,700 vehicle miles in order to do the work.

DFG personnel are still being very seriously handicapped by wornout and undependable vehicles which are constantly in the garage for repairs.

In June Verne Bleich has reported that the Mopah Spring in the Turtle Mountains was inspected and future develpment possiblities were evaluated.....The Lone Spring in the OLd Woman Mountains was developed to make water permanently available to wildlife. The development included the installation of a spring box, pipeline and a metal drinker.

Repairs were made to the catchment aprons of several big game guzzlers; the float valve rod was replaced at the Weavernoy big game guzzler; the drinker at Smith Spring needed repairs and the 2" inlet pipe at the Red Rock Caves project needed repairs. In general the Big Game Guzzlers were found to be in servicable conditions..

Project personnel completed the Old Dad Sheep Trap and tested it. The trap is now 100% operational. Baiting and monitoring is now underway by Bill McIntyre of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep. Hopefully the long delayed trapping of sheep of the Old Dad Mountain and their transfer to new habitat in the Whipple Mountains will be made.

Project personnel assisted the BLM (Needles District) personnel with a helicopter survey of the Old Woman Mountains. Only 12 mountain sheep were seen during three hours of rotor time.

NOTE: A considerable concern is growing about the bighorns of the Old Woman Mountain area. The volunteers of the Society together with the DFG and BLM have built four water storage facilities in the Old Woman Mts.----Surveyor #1, Surveyor #2, Sheep Camp Spring and at the Old Woman Statue. The latter had been the site of the use of the first use of the steel tanks given to the Society by the Pennzoil Company. The reason for the concern is the grazing of domestic cattle on this mountain by a permitee the past 18 months. It is reported to the Editor that these cattle have destroyed the guzzler developed at the Gemco Mine Tunnel by Society members in 1972.

BIGHORNS RESPOND TO POMACE AND PATIENCE

James V. MCKenzie, Supervisor, Big Game Management for North Dakota Game and Fish Department states that Since 1980, the North Dakota department has expended considerable effort toward capturing free-ranging bighorn sheep in the North Dakota Badlands. The focus of this effort was two fold.

First, the successful capture of the bighorns would activate a planned release program of these animals into acceptable new areas of the Badlands, and two, it would make possible a chemotherapeutic tratment for lungworm(Protostrongylus stilesi), a serious parasite of bighorns.

Fortunately, both objectives would be reached if the target animals could be consistently baited to select areas.

Using a baiting technique developed in Colorado, apple pulp (pomace) was obtained from the Aamodi Orchards at Stillwater, Minnesota, and from the Jacobsen Orchards at nearby White Bear Lake, Minnesota. This bait was hauled to the Dutchman's Barn area of the Tom Tescher Ranch in the North Dakota Badlands and stored in silage-type pits where it was allowed to ferment. When the fermentation process was complete, the bait was distributed, on a daily basis, to areas frequented by bighorns. Up until this past winter (1982-1983), only sporadic use of the pomace was observed and capture attempts could not be scheduled.

Speculation has been that the sporadic use may have been a "learning experience" and it wasn't until this past winter that the bighorns apparantly developed a taste for the "Apple Jack" and would actually seek it out. At any rate, patience and persistence by project personnel culminated with both a successful trapping attempt of nine bighorns and the chemotherapeutic treatment of about 25 other animals for the lungworm problem.

Immediately prior to the trapping attempt, Fenbendazole, the odorless, tasteless drug that has proven effective against developmental stages of lungworm, was mixed with the pomace and twice at each bait site, the bighorns actually treated themselves for their lungworm problem.

When this was accomplished, a dropnet was suspended over one of the bait sites and the capture of nine sheep (eight ewes and one ram) took place. These animals were aged, tagged, and again treated with Fenbendazole before being transported to and released in an area of the Badlands where bighorns have been absent for over 75 years-- a tribute to having a preferred bait, pomace, at the right place and the patience of having it there consistently at the right time.

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Bob Campbell reports that he and Fred Thomas had visited the Pyramid Peak, Clark and Clipper Mountains installations during the Memorial Day weekend and they had found both Pyramid Peak and Clipper Mountain installations both full and operating normally. There was a lot of sheep trailing into the Clipper through the dense growth of new grass. The Clark Mt. Big Game Guzzler was about two-thirds full and showed a small leak. Bob said that there appeared to be plenty of water to last through this summer and that Verne Bleich would be repairing the small leak.

Campbell is also working on a project to raise additional funds for the Society's many research and habitat projects. He is contacting many philanthropic charitable foundations for this purpose.