Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep

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The York Fire: Un-doing the Damage

By Debbie Miller Marschke

Left: The old style tank that was destroyed by fire is removed. This tank melted in the 2023 York fire. Right: The crew is resourceful by sliding the tank into the excavated hole using two rails and gravity. Note the burn scarred Joshua trees in the photos. Photos by Debbie Miller Marschke

On July 28, 2023 the York Fire began in the Mojave National Preserve, destroying the celebrated scenic beauty of Carruthers Canyon, located in the New York Mountains range. The fire raged 23 days, consuming habitat resources in a generally north eastern direction passing through the California Nevada border and licking the property lines of Equinox Gold Inc in the Castle Mountains Range. Fortunately, the SCBS SB66 Oro Belle and SB44 Kidney Springs big game guzzlers were spared. The fire claimed 93,078 acres, leaving a path of destruction in it's wake which included a small guzzler system on a private inholding owned by a group of SCBS members. This guzzler, SB 43, had become important as the wildlife depended upon it's placement to offset the increasingly seasonal nature of the above ground water flow in Carruthers Canyon. Thirty years ago, folks camped and frolicked in the waters in the New York Mountains canyon; today, visitors consider themselves lucky to be at the right place and time to see the water flowing. The wildlife needs this water system to thrive.

Property owner and SCBS Board Member Gary Thomas reported that the upright cylindrical tank on his Carruthers Canyon property had melted in the fire. The rain mat and basic plumbing still remained intact, owing somewhat to the fickle nature of the wildfire and it's patchwork damage pattern. The SCBS Board began to receive appeals from the Membership to restore the wildlife water system before the expected "La Nina" weather pattern delivered an especially hot summer. Coupled by the fact that the York fire damages could have

permanently altered the many natural springs in it's path with erosion damage, the resultant aftermath has yet to be realized for years to come. Equinox Gold Inc was presented with a sponsorship request to purchase a Raincatcher tank to repair and upgrade SB 43 the wildlife system, and the request was graciously granted.

The new Raincatcher tank is buried and the area surrounding it restored, completing the installation of a system with minimal visual blight.

On June 1, 2024 SCBS volunteers arrived upon the project site after spending the night at the Goffs Schoolhouse and Museum property and tackled the arduous task of manually excavating the hole for the single Raincatcher with shovels and picks. Despite the wicked heat at Goffs, our project site was much higher in elevation and thus the temperature was much cooler – hallelujah! Thankfully, the soil was relatively soft and free from rocks; it had not yet dried out from the wet winter months and the pace of the digging was steady. A seemingly daunting task promised victory with each shovel full of dirt. It appeared that about 8 people at a time could stand in the hole and dig without crowding each other, so our modest team took turns until the custom fit hole was declared "ready" to receive the Raincatcher tank. We did not have the benefit of heavy equipment, so the tank was slid upon two rails directly from the trailer into the hole with an unceremonious "thud". After that, the work sped up as the crew buried the tank and married it to the existing plumbing. Steve Marschke had brought a tote of water which was immediately added, essentially bringing this water system back on line. Later in the same afternoon, several participants who had been hauling water to the Kerr guzzler arrived to add additional gallons bringing the water level to approximately 1700 gallons. All volunteers enjoyed the satisfaction of a job well done and relaxed with food prepared by Gary Thomas, and fellowship. Congratulations to the crew: Marcel Abie, Marty Ambrose, Tony Cimarusti, Jim Fitzgerald, Steve Marschke, Debbie Miller Marschke, David M'Greene, Mike Morgan, Erich Stiener, Gary Thomas, Russ Woodruff. Kerr water squad: Scott Gibson, Darrin Buesking, Neal Darby, Monty Hammer. Special thanks to Equinox Gold Inc for granting funding the cost of the Raincatcher tank.

Sheep Survey 2024: Deer Canyon

By David M'Greene

Science is a hard thing. Bigger brains (Mostly Arioch's) than mine and all that. Even though we did not find any sheep, I am told that our survey for our area was a success. We established a "confirmed absence." Apparently that has value in the science community. I listened to a conversation between my son Arioch, our proctor Jessica, and a volunteer named Brandon. They were three Environmental Scientists types. So

I have been assured that what I say about the scientific value of our survey is accurate. Now I know most Sheep Survey reports are short and to the point, ie: 12 Rams, 4 Ewes, 2 Lambs. Weather Poor. But that is just not my style, so here we go.

On March 3rd of 2024 I endeavored to lead a group up Deer Canyon. Over the weeks leading up to the Sheep Survey Date, I made a couple of scouting excursions which also included clearing the section of unused former truck trail called the West Cucamonga Truck Trail. Don't worry, the sections that we maintain are well below the wilderness line, but also well above what both Nestle Water and Cucamonga Valley Water District take care of. I had eleven volunteers and a Cal Fish and Wildlife corporate stooge/proctor joining me for the epic hike and climb to Deer Canyon. Everyone arrived at the gate on time, we rushed in and began the introduction process. Our proctor was Jessica West, and honestly, she was a delight. Unlike the proctors we had in 2020, she was unafraid to get out of her truck and into the cold, drizzling morning air. She gave us our CDFW safety brief, and then let me add the Water District brief on requirements to enter this area. Norm Lopez had brought extra spotting scopes for anyone that needed one. David Hawxhurst was part of this group and his pictures capture something that mine do not. Has to be the camera. This was a mostly solid group this year. Capable hikers. Rugged Outdoors types. Mostly. A huge improvement over the bunch that sent text messages in 2020 on the morning of the count about not wanting to get their Jeeps wet in the rainy conditions from that year. What can I say? Jeep guys, right?

So the Toyota drivers in my group offered to allow the volunteers in not so high ground clearance vehicles to pile into their rigs and drive up from our staging area to a further up the canyon point where we would begin the actual hike. It was slow going as for one of our second time volunteers Marcus, it was the first time putting his rig into 4x4 mode. By the time we got to the parking location, Marcus was all smiles and excitement. He did not know what his Toyota could do. I knew it would be fine because I have been out with David Hess and seen that the units are capable. Of course, Arioch, driving our lead vehicle, his old Jeep Cherokee "Baby Tank," was hopelessly bored with the pace. After a short, but time consuming drive, I think everyone was ready to get on the hike.

The first distance covered leading to where we get on the Cucamonga Truck Trail is very smooth and actually a road that if not for the recent storm, we would have driven further up. What it lacks in obstacles, it makes up for in elevation gain. It is always funny to me how everyone starts off fast and then quickly fizzles out. Everyone except Arioch and another SCBS volunteer named Julian. With Arioch, I always know when I will be passing him. Julian was a surprise. He can move with a purposeful pace, is sure footed, and recognizes stuff around him. Reminds me of myself, thirty years ago. We also had Brandon. an Environmental Scientist, who looked like he could be cast as a firefighter on any number of television shows. I loved listening to him and Arioch talk about science. The group was solid and the conversation was easy. Before I knew it, we were at the first Nestle Vault built over a natural spring that they have the water rights to. It was also where the going started to get rough.

When I initially scouted, the route was covered in snow to as low as three thousand five hundred feet. As I got higher, the snow got deeper. I had a concern that if the snow all melted, it would reveal buried brush obstacles that I was walking over. Sure enough, on the third, that is exactly what happened. The big storm the night before was nowhere near as cold as had been predicted, and the rainfall had washed away the lower elevation snow. For my volunteers, it meant pushing through some very thorn endowed brush. Being a thoughtful leader, I had the volunteers in REI super lightweight, very expensive, super cool outerwear lead the way. Fun fact, the REI wearer was the reason I said "mostly" up above. But don't let me get ahead of myself.

The section of the historic truck trail that we use is just a tad longer than three quarters of a mile. It took me over four hours to clear a way through that short section when I did the initial scouting and trail

maintenance. Remarkably, that section only has a ninety seven foot elevation gain. With the exception of only a couple of tough spots, the pathway I had created was intact. Along this section, multiple stops were made for the analysis of bear and mountain lion scat. I see it all the time, so no big deal for me. But the group was for the most part very excited about what they were finding. When we got to the point on the route where we left the truck trail for the Deer Canyon entrance into the wilderness, Julian spotted a lone loose Bighorn Sheep horn. Everyone got excited, cameras came out, and there were a lot of smiles. I thought to myself, "I'll be damned, maybe we will see some sheep today." Arioch spent a few minutes answering questions about age, diet, and why sheep die. Then we were on the move again and getting into the rough stuff.

Now the volunteers got to see first hand what all the warnings the night before had been about. Water was rushing down the canyon, a result of last night's deluge and the melting snow. It was both gorgeous and exhilarating! The rock climbing began and the questions of "How much further?" started. We were mostly having a good time. Everyone got excited again when we came upon a Ram's skull. More pictures and high fives! We kind of lucked out in terms of where our observation points were when they were a few hundred feet below the snow line, so we would not be sitting in snow. But..... It was obvious that there were no footprints of any sort in the snow on the mountains around us. Below us, the clouds were violently moving under the power of the wind. I knew the Bighorn would be hunkered down. I still explained where to look and what to look for. We broke off into smaller groups to take cover, set up scopes and start the watch. Because of conditions, I opted to move our exit time forward by an hour. The group took the news in stride.

So far, in my humble opinion, I have been pretty "glass is half full" in my story telling. Now, let me be me for a moment. I had an expert mountaineer in my group. She made sure I knew her qualifications while she informed me that my backpack was too big and too heavy. She went so far as to inform me my pack was dangerous for the conditions we were climbing over. Then, at another point, she told me "I am usually bored when I do volunteer events, but this is really a hike!" So I thought she was not so bad. But then she starts refusing to go up treacherous climbs on the same route as everyone else. She, being an expert mountaineer can come up with a better route. We all go around catclaw. She goes through it. We all skip the water crossings at the narrowest point. She splashes through the deepest sections. Along the way, she manages to get on the same track as everyone else long enough to announce that her "guide sense" would have had us turning around a long time ago. At the first viewing location, when I suggest she and a young girl she brought climb up the shale, settle in and start watching, she tells me that climbing up to where I am pointing could take her an hour. I tell her to just be safe and pace herself. She goes off on me about how she is not even winded. She announces "We need to be off of this hill by one o'clock before the rain comes in!" She doesn't want to get wet! Norm would have been proud of me if he had seen my victory against the internal conflict within my very soul as I struggled to not let her know that maybe she should be winded and that the whole group was an hour and forty eight minutes off the

timetable from waiting for her to finish her trailblazing. She opted to not climb and settled in at a lower location. The group had agreed to hunker down for an hour and fifteen before coming down from their various points of view to recongregate. My expert could only make it about forty minutes before she got too cold. So she opted to just head down on her own! Lucky for me, Hawxhurst was able to tell me where she had gone. How does John Nelson handle these types? You just know John does not put up with crap like this. I wonder if this is why we now have proctors. Too many volunteers went up, not enough came down?

I will admit it was cold as we hunkered down. I started feeling badly about having brought these volunteers to a place with no Bighorn. Bob Jewell loves to tell me that I am too hard on myself, and he would have had a lot to say if he was there. I did enjoy watching my son set his scope up and I did enjoy listening to him bitch about the MRE I had given him for lunch while we watched. His suffering in the cold kept me warm. That is how our family functions. Again, I had to marvel at how beautiful it was in this untouched wilderness. Watching the clouds swirl around us was breathtaking!

Arioch M'Greene, above

Finally, the trip down. I won't say names, but someone's boots came apart on the rocks. Luckily my too heavy backpack had a roll of duct tape in it. Crisis averted, we continued our descent. I enjoyed a long conversation with Tyler and Kelsey, a couple from west of Los Angeles that heard about this survey online. They will be back at future events because they NEED to see the Bighorn. I watched Arioch help others down the steepest parts and I felt pride. He let me know that he had hurt his knee on one of the slippery chutes, but he covered it well and made sure no one else knew. One of our family rules amongst the men of the House of M is that no one ever sees us showing pain. Good job son. Good job. We collected mylar balloons from the Long Beach Grand Prix and any other out of place litter we found. If nothing else, we improved the conditions of where only the wild tread.

At the end of the survey, with everyone back at the parking area signing out with our corporate stooge, I got to make my farewell speech. I don't remember much about what I said because I was all worked up about some dumb ass on a dirt bike illegally riding up the canyon and being all shocked and surprised that we were coming down and that I stopped him and sent him home. What I do remember telling my volunteer group is that while many people find it rewarding to give time to the wilderness and to the wildlife and to know that they did their part for conservation and preservation, this group's true reward was getting out of Deer Canyon with their lives. What better reward is there? And make no mistake, defying death really is a great reward. Liberating. Everyone should experience it.

When I got home, my wife Lori (also a bigger brain than mine. Where do you think Arioch got it from?) did not ask if we saw any Bighorn. She asked if I had a good day on the mountain with my son. Yeah, I did. It was a great day.

Reminiscing - Tony Cimarusti

In the mid 90s Bob Campbell and I, Anthony Cimarusti, would go out many times to find and develop water sources for the diversification for sheep. Many of the locations were old mining sites. Bob and I both belonged to the Sheep Society in California and Nevada. Now Bob was as blind as a bat, but had a good sense of direction and we were always joking around with each other. On one particular outing in the Mohave Preserve there was an old mining site from the 1900s that was not being worked anymore. When we came up to this site, I was checking the old tailings and equipment. As I worked my way up to where Bob was, I asked him if he found anything. Bob said yes he did. He had noticed something in a dark hole. The hole was 2 feet wide, 1 foot high and 2 feet deep in the embankment. So I walked over to look and see if there was a water source. As I got down on my hands and knees, it took a little while for my eyes to adjust to the darkness in the hole. As my eyes focused in, I could see that there was a rattlesnake coiled up, looking straight at me about a foot from my face. I jumped back and walked over to Bob to express my gratitude. Bob just looked up at me and smiled. Now this was typical of the many experiences that Bob and I encountered while searching for water sources, gems, and mines that could possibly have gold in the Mohave Desert.

2024 SCBS Board of Directors

Marty Ambrose	**951-979-3548**	**Arioch M'Greene**	**626-422-1402**
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David M'Greene	**626-422-2174**	**John Voght**	**310-204-3827**

Monthly Meeting

The SCBS Board of Directors meets at about 6:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. In-Person meetings are held upstairs at Bass Pro Shops in Rancho Cucamonga as announced. Virtual meetings are conducted via Zoom platform by prearranged invitation with the link and passcode. Contact a Board member if you would like to be included as a guest for the next monthly meeting.

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Water Development Discussion

By Debbie Miller Marschke

Water Development in the Desert is not as easy as it used to be. When SCBS was founded in 1964, guzzler builds were about as simple as finding a suitable location, choosing a build date, and then getting the job done. The Department of Fish and Game had a very impactful dedicated field crew maximizing the available SCBS volunteers and together that team constructed over 70 wildlife water systems. However, the changing political climate has been about as challenging to navigate as the actual climate changes by Nature itself. In 1970, then-Governor Ronald Reagan endorsed the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) which was intended to protect the environment. As a recent Daily Breeze editorial stated, "CEQA, like any law, can have damaging, often unintended, consequences. It is an expensive and lengthy process that can add years to project timeframes. It can have little relationship to environmental protection. It's strong bias toward the status quo means that it can be used to block projects that would help improve the environment." Presently, SCBS is faced with a myriad of roadblocks like CEQA which frustrate plans for additional water systems. Meanwhile, the CDFW efforts are distracted by battling interagency "friendly fire" and conflicting agendas. Sadly, funding earmarked for conservation is actually spent on attorneys. California 's Little Hoover Commission studied the current language of CEQA and concluded in March 2023 that the law needed reform. Although the potential reformation of CEQA could be good news for groups like SCBS, it is likely to take many years of hearings with no guarantees of direct benefits to those working on drought mitigation; California's legislators finally woke up to the law's overreaching bureaucracy when it began to severely impact it's housing goals and push for "affordable" housing. The bad news being that the declared need for CEQA reform does not appear to focus on projects benefiting wildlife. We can only hope that the changes are positive.

Recently, California's Department of Fish and Wildlife staff is making the effort to engage CEQA and the Desert Protection Act head on by developing a "Programmatic Environmental Assessment" program. It's an effort to "work smarter, not harder" when it comes to repairing the existing guzzler systems. Instead of slogging through the bureaucracy for a permit on every single repair, it is sought to produce a documented policy which will serve as an umbrella covering the existing systems and to eliminate the interagency problems between the CDFW and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) every time there is a project This would open the door for SCBS to upgrade the much older guzzler systems, which are susceptible to freeze breaks and essentially reaching the end of their lifespan, to the more self-contained and low profile Raincatcher systems.

The State Lands parcel lease project is progressing through the final steps approaching the installation of our first State Lands guzzler, so SCBS is anticipating building our first guzzler this fall. This April, a team of biologists visited the chosen parcels to survey for sensitive plant species which is required according to the terms of the lease. On May 18, 2024 the selected parcels were surveyed by a trained professional archeologist to identify any cultural assets/artifacts that would impact the projects. So far, the initial surveys have not resulted in any data to suggest that the planned project locations would need alteration. SCBS has already ordered the Raincatcher tanks and supplies in anticipation for our first projects. A special shout out to SCBS volunteer and WSF supporter Jef Bugni; he has stepped up to make things easier by hauling the new Raincatcher tanks from Madera, CA to his property near Pumpkin Center. By moving these tanks and holding them temporarily, Jef has cut the travel time in half for the SCBS drivers delivering the tanks to Barstow. Formerly, that roundtrip delivery was an all day slog and really exhausting. It's really great to have folks step up like this!

Finally, SCBS would appreciate your consideration in your future estate planning. Funds that are gifted will continue to make a lasting impact for generations to come. Remember that SCBS life member Bob Campbell bequeathed a six figure sum to SCBS; this legacy resulted in the design and manufacture of the SCBS Raincatcher tanks. These Raincatcher tanks resolved many design flaws plaguing the old systems, and they are now sourced as the "go-to" specialized bighorn sheep water systems by many other states besides California. SCBS has chosen

not to mark up those sales to other states, forgoing profit because those fraternal organizations share the same mission: to keep sheep on the mountain.

In Memorium

Andrew Pontious

A real hero, 19 year veteran Firefighter Andrew Pontious, was killed in an explosion on June 14, 2024 at a Littlerock quarry while working to extinguish a burning articulated front end loader. He is survived by his wife Kim and a stepdaughter Sara. He was a valued SCBS volunteer who donated countless hours to wildlife, often alone, and a true first-responder when bighorn sheep needed help. “Andrew didn’t much like attention” commented SCBS Area Captain Coordinator Scott Gibson, “ but he was always willing to make the most difficult hikes in the hottest weather conditions to make sure our wild sheep had water. Andrew lovingly looked after all the water sources in the Sheephole Mountains, the Marble Mountains, Clippers and the Old Dads. I think he made more inspections and repairs than anyone I know” He was honored by L.A. County Firefighters with a 20 mile procession, and was laid to rest on June 19. Governor Gavin Newsom ordered flags to be flown at half-staff. “My heart aches for his loved ones, and fellow firefighters” said Regina Vu of the DFW “How I knew him, as a dedicated conservationist, was only one of the roles he played in his lifetime. We, and desert bighorn, have truly lost a wonderful man”. Andrew’s life long friend, Colin Jewett, comments “Andrew’s interest in ecology lead him to earn a BS in Wildlife Management from Humboldt State University, where he worked for a number of years on Northern Spotted Owl population study. His passion for wildlife continued after moving back to Southern California". Terry Anderson's connection with Andrew brought them together over sheep, deer, and bear conservation, and they spoke almost every day. "There aren't enough words to express how sad I am and how much this loss has affected all of us. I miss him." Vern Bleich writes “ I will be making a donation to SCBS in Andrew's honor for his service as (1) a first responder, and (2) his volunteer efforts on behalf of bighorn sheep and SCBS”

New Wildlife Bill Introduced: Wildlife Movement Through Partnerships Act

The discussion draft of a new bill, the “Wildlife Movement Through Partnerships Act”, was introduced on June 10, 2024 in the 118th Congress, 2nd session of the US Senate by Senators Alex Padilla (CA-D) and Cynthia

Lummis (WY-R) who together lead the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife. This bill has been promoted by the Wild Sheep Foundation and other partners since 2020. The purpose of the program is to fund projects that improve or conserve habitat quality in movement areas, including projects that (1) secure habitat leases, fence modification, non-Federal land acquisition, conservation easements, improved hydrology, human-wildlife vehicle collision reduction, and road and infrastructure modification; (2) arrange voluntary collaboration with landowners; and (3) coordinate efforts among State and Tribal governments, including departments of transportation and other relevant agencies. The bill promotes data-driven, on-the-ground habitat improvement projects guided by state and tribal wildlife agencies. Previous proposals relied on special designations of areas that create conflicts with other land uses. In 2018, then Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke issued Secretary's Order 3362, "Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors". This order was a pilot program that collected existing funds to focus on habitat improvement. In 2021, the Biden Administration began the America the Beautiful campaign, which endorsed S.O. 3362. Also in 2021, Congress passed a pilot program at the Department of Transportation to fund construction of wildlife crossings for federal highways. The Wildlife Movement Through Partnerships Act generally transfers Interior funds from the Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. This is the first iteration of the proposed bill, which is now subject to discussion and probable alteration by proponents and opponents.

Vandalism and Theft at Hansen Quarry

The thieves have struck again, this time with gusto. Last year, the two shade rock covers were stolen from the guzzler at Hansen Quarry in Newberry Springs. The best guess was that someone needed a really nifty free doghouse. The SCBS Board of Directors did not want to keep supplying the thieves with designer doghouses, so SCBS volunteers crafted plywood replacements to remove the temptation. All was status-quo until Carlos Gallinger reported on May 18, 2024 that the thieves had returned, this time they wanted the rain mat.

May 18, 2024 – mat cut and rolled

May 23, 2024 – mat dragged with straps

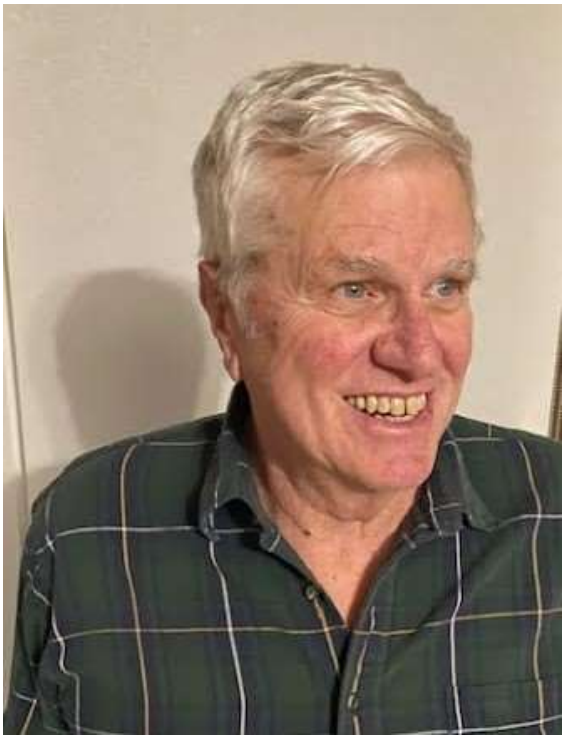
May 28, 2024 – mat gone, rock moved

The thieves had cut the bottom half of the rain mat around the sand bag lined edges, essentially surgically extracting it after removing the rocks that covered it. These mats are very heavy, and thus it is probably why the thieves were not able to take it on the first try. On May 19, SCBS Rick Halter checked the site and cut open the fastening straps, rolling the mat back open partially. Apparently the thieves returned around May 23, pulling the mat past the tanks and shade covers; they were thwarted by two large boulders that served as a barrier. It appears that the thieves slashed up the mat in anger at this point. Rick unattached all the chains and straps. Finally, after a six day delay, a Game Warden returned our calls only to inform that it was the jurisdiction of the Sheriff's Department. Danielle Glass of the CDFW contacted the Sheriff's Department, and Carlos returned to the scene to meet with the officer. Despite Carlos and Rick checking on the guzzler constantly, the thieves were able to drag one of the boulders out of place and the section of rain mat was stolen by May 28. The Hansen guzzler is currently full, but it will not be able to collect rain in this state of disrepair. What's that you suggest, a camera?

We've tried that in this location in the past – the thieves stole that too. The SCBS BOD has not yet decided how to remedy this sad situation. ~ *story extrapolated by Debbie Miller Marschke from emails and Facebook posts.*

KINGSTON RANGE AND CLARK MOUNTAIN: A BRIEF HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA'S THIRD BIGHORN SHEEP HUNT ZONE (PART II OF II)

by Vernon C. Bleich, Ph.D



This is the conclusion of a brief history of the Kingston-Clark bighorn sheep hunt zone, the third such area established in California, and that opened in 1992. Part I appeared in the Fall 2023 issue of California Wild Sheep last year. As described therein, the recommendations proffered more than 50 years ago by employees of the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) included the construction of water developments to enhance availability of summer habitat, continued maintenance of the few existing natural springs, modification of grazing permits, and the removal of feral donkeys [1, 2]. Collectively, these actions were intended to have a positive effect on bighorn sheep inhabiting the Kingston Range, Clark Mountain Range, and Mesquite Mountains by enhancing habitat quality and decreasing competition for resources. In part, these resulted in more bighorn sheep in what eventually became the Kingston-Clark Hunt Zone and nearby mountain ranges, as evidenced by the latest available size categories to which these populations have been assigned. Here, in Part II, I describe a brief demographic history of bighorn sheep in this area, and how that information influenced efforts to establish the third bighorn sheep hunt zone in California.

In the late 1980s CDFG personnel captured, obtained serological samples from, and collared and then released 2 bighorn sheep in the Clark Mountain Range [3]. In 1990 and 1991 each of those animals was recaptured along with an additional 9 animals in the same range, and 8 total animals were radio-collared [4]. In 1991, 17 female and 12 male bighorn sheep were captured, sampled, collared, and released in the Kingston Range and Mesquite Mountains, both of which are located along the Nevada border north of the Clark Mountain Range; all but 1 male and 1 female were radio-collared during that effort [4]. Collectively, those animals formed a marked cohort that facilitated a detailed demographic analysis and, based on movements confirmed by aerial telemetry, indicated that bighorn sheep occupying these three areas were part of a more expansive metapopulation [4]. An estimated 58 females (95% CI=43–88) occupied the Clark Mountain Range during 1992, and an estimate of 78 females (95% CI=61–109) collectively occupied the Kingston and Mesquite ranges, and 130 males (95% CI = 85–269) were estimated to occupy the entire study area [4]. The estimated number of males was, however, of low precision and likely the result of sexual segregation between mature rams and females during much of the year, concentration of the investigation in those areas most apt to be occupied by female bighorn sheep, and the likelihood that younger males tend to remain with females. These factors probably resulted in a bias against the number of collared males seen by investigators [4, 5]. Nonetheless, the point estimate of the total male and female bighorn sheep inhabiting the study area was 266 animals, and paved the way for the preparation of bighorn sheep management plans for the Clark Mountain Range and the Kingston Range, both of which were necessary precursors to a third hunt zone in California. In 1990, personnel from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Needles Resource Area completed and released a management plan for the Kingston Range Area of Critical Environmental Concern, which is inhabited by desert bighorn sheep [3]. The same year, the California Legislature acted to delete the 'sunset clause' included in the initial legislation authorizing bighorn sheep hunting in the state. The new legislation also provided that bighorn sheep hunting will remain legal in California in the open areas unless special legislation were to be enacted to eliminate the authority of CDFG to authorize such hunts. For

the time being, it also meant that hunting would remain limited to the two zones (Old Dad and Kelso Mountains, and the Marble Mountains) that were at the time the only open areas. Subsequently, legislation sponsored by Assemblyman Bill Mountjoy (AB 977) was signed into law, and authorized additional harvest opportunities for bighorn sheep in units for which CDFG management plans had been prepared (pursuant to section 4901 of the California Fish and Game Code), thereby allowing the California Fish and Game Commission (FGC) to authorize sport hunting of male desert bighorn sheep (Ovis canadensis nelsoni) in additional areas [3]. As a result, CDFG personnel completed the management plans for the Clark Mountain Management Unit and the Kingston Mountains Management Unit [6, 7]. During the 1980s and early 1990s, personnel representing CDFG, the BLM, and the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep (SCBS) collectively pursued an aggressive program to enhance habitat and to reestablish desert bighorn sheep in suitable areas in the Mojave Desert [8]. These cooperative efforts garnered strong support from the public, and it was clear that the agencies and others were working diligently on behalf of conservation. These activities, combined with the updated and detailed information on the demographics and movements of bighorn sheep inhabiting the Kingston and Clark Mountain ranges, the passage of AB 977 that provided CDFG with additional management authority, and completion of plans for a total of 20 bighorn sheep management units [9] all boded well for conservation. The convergence of these accomplishments was not serendipitous but, instead, reflected the hard work, cooperative attitudes, and enthusiasm for conservation that was widespread among the agencies and the public. Sadly, that enthusiasm was, in part, motivated by the tragic loss of two men that had played major roles in conserving bighorn sheep. Don Landells and Jim Bicket both worked long and hard to ensure the conservation program would be successful, and also to restore bighorn sheep to several historical mountain ranges. As some of us vividly recall—but also is something that too many others are unaware of— Don and Jim died in a helicopter crash on 6 October 1986 while conducting an aerial survey in the Clark Mountain Range. Their contributions to bighorn sheep conservation were memorialized in 1987, when personnel representing CDFG, BLM, and SCBS, along with many other appreciative individuals gathered to construct the Bicket-Landells Wildlife Water Development. In combination, the aforementioned legislative, research, management, and bureaucratic accomplishments provided CDFG with the opportunity to propose a new hunt zone in California, and bighorn sheep inhabiting the Kingston Range and Clark Mountain Range were combined in a single management unit. The new hunt zone was approved by the FGC in 1992, and the first general season hunt therein began later that year, coincident with the opening dates for the Marble Mountains and the Old Dad-Kelso Mountains zones [9]. Hunts for bighorn sheep in that newly established unit have been approved by the FGC each year since then, and Zone 3 has produced some of the largest rams taken in California. Bighorn sheep occupying the Kingston Range, the Clark Mountain Range, and the Mesquite Mountains also figure prominently in the conservation of bighorn sheep in eastern California and southern Nevada, where they are part of a larger metapopulation that includes bighorn sheep inhabiting several additional mountain ranges [4, 10, 11, 12]. Because of the high elevations in those areas, habitat therein has the potential to play an important role in the event of climatological change [13, 14]. The Kingston Range, the Mesquite Mountains, and the Clark Mountain Range, in combination with the Nopah Range in California and several additional mountain ranges in Nevada, which are part of the metapopulation referred to above, also are locations in which “white” desert bighorn sheep occur at a very low rate, but that also are seen on a regular basis [12]. Despite the successes outlined above, challenges to the conservation of bighorn sheep in California’s third hunt zone persist. Chief among these is the potential for disease(s) to affect the population, either from pathogen spillover associated with domestic livestock, or by apparently healthy, but infected, bighorn sheep that may move among the subpopulations that comprise the metapopulation. Additionally, drought has the potential to affect the population in Hunt Zone 3, and habitat changes associated with a warming climate could occur. Further, the continued presence of feral donkeys remains a challenge in the form of competition for water and forage. It is necessary here to point out that donkeys occupying Hunt Zone 3 are outside of any herd management area designated by the federal government; it is essential that the agencies responsible for removing those feral equids do so [15, 16]. Moreover, development of solar generating facilities has the potential to further affect intermountain movements by bighorn sheep, and thereby disrupt metapopulation function. In addition, the persistent absence of any program within the California Department of wildlife (CDFw) dedicated to ensuring that existing water developments receive the maintenance needed and that natural sources continue to provide reliable surface water, remains a major shortcoming in the CDFw bighorn sheep management program and it is essential that this shortcoming be rectified. It is ironic that there now exists a nutria management program, a beaver reintroduction program, whole cadres—perhaps ‘teams’ is the most politically correct term—of ‘human-wildlife conflict ‘specialists’, drought mitigation ‘specialists’, and connectivity biologists, yet no program specifically to tend to habitat maintenance issues, issues upon which desert bighorn sheep are dependent. Finally, meddling, mischief, and political expediency will continue to remain primary challenges to the continued successful management and conservation of desert bighorn sheep throughout their distribution in southwestern North America, but especially in California (17, 18). I wish, though, that I could be more optimistic.

This article is part of a series by Dr. Vern Bleich, who increasingly is concerned that many aspects of the history and management of bighorn sheep in California are being forgotten due to the loss of 'corporate memory', or what has been termed by others as 'generational amnesia'. That history is long and complex, and at times has been misinterpreted, or even wrongly conveyed to others, by those not having a direct connection to prior events. Vern was employed by the California Department of Fish and Game for 34 years and worked extensively with large mammals occupying the Great Basin, Mojave, and Sonoran deserts of California and, in particular, desert bighorn sheep. He was fortunate to have joined the Department shortly after the status of bighorn sheep in California had been determined, and has remained active in the conservation and management of that species since 1973. He currently is Research Professor at the University of Nevada Reno, serves on the Advisory Board of the Texas Bighorn Society, is Science Advisor for the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, and serves on two committees of the California Wild Sheep Foundation. He is a member of the Wild Sheep Foundation's Professional Resource Advisory Board, and represented wildlife conservation and management issues as a member of the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board from 2019 to 2022. To save space, the citations upon which information in this essay is based have not been included, but are numbered in the text. Complete citations are available from Vern, who can be contacted directly regarding this article (vcbleich@gmail.com).

North I-40 Guzzler Needed Some Creative Problem Solving

By Debbie Miller Marschke

On February 4, 2024, Steve and I hiked to the North I-40 guzzler in an attempt to diagnose and repair a problem with the water collection. This guzzler is one of SCBS's non-traditional designs; it was installed in cooperation with Cal Trans when the 40 Interstate was constructed. The water drains from the Highway, which is at a higher elevation, flows down into a vault, and feeds to a New Mexico style stainless steel drinker box. SCBS volunteers periodically remove debris that builds up in the vault. On this occasion, Steve Marschke discovered that there was a blockage within the supply pipe between the vault and the drinker box. The problem was not what he was expecting to deal with, so the two of us began brainstorming and scavenging as a team effort to come up with something that would work. I spent a lot of time combing the side of the highway for anything that came off the road that we could use: wood, bits of metal, trash. Steve examined everything we had brought with us. What we needed was a drain snake (we left that at home with the "kitchen sink"…). What we engineered in the field was a hacksaw blade attached by wire to an electrical fish tape reel. This rather hillbilly fix did work out and Steve was able to clear the clog: a small angular rock lodged inside the pipe, which backed up organic debris. All the while, the Mojave winds were increasing and some very pregnant low dark clouds were headed our way. We were very determined not to give up, we did not want to make a second trip to get the job completed. Once Steve broke through the clog, the expected gush of water came streaming out. Steve had also re-engineered the pipe by installing a shut off valve at the point he made the cut on the pipe, so he was able to shut off the flow and reconnect the pipe before turning the supply back on. "Stand back," Steve warned, " if the clog breaks lose, I'm not sure how this will go…" We did not lose very much water in the process, but it was entertaining. Maybe to some of you this sounds like a lot of work; we find it fun and challenging. A great day!

State Lands Scouting Effort

By Steve Marschke, SCBS President

It's been just about a year since I wrote about scouting some of the parcels of our state land lease. There has been slow but steady progress and we have now completed all of the necessary steps to move forward with construction for 4 of the parcels. Engineering plans have been drawn (thanks to Glenn Sudmeier), tanks, tread ramps and other supplies ordered and received in inventory (thanks to Glenn, Jef Bugni and Mike Morgan.) The Rainmats are currently being fabricated and will be picked up shortly. Jef Bugni has helped greatly by making the run from his place (near Pumpkin Center) up to Madera to pick up the tanks. That breaks the trip up into two manageable legs and splits the efforts across 2 volunteers so we don't burn anyone out with grueling 14 hour days.

We had Jeff Crouse and Jenny Hinojosa perform the biological resource survey per the "Best Management Practices" clause of the lease. There are a few minor issues to work around, primarily a few small cacti that we need to avoid damaging at each site, but no "sensitive" species that would cause us to relocate the entire project. CaDFW and USFW were contacted and no raptor nesting sites are known to be near (and we aren't planning to use the helicopter for these 4 anyway.)

I have made initial contact with the NAHC and the local Native American tribes and only one of them responded – and that was to say they didn't have any comments and weren't interested in participating in the one-the-ground resource survey but if we found anything "significant" to let them know.

David Nichols (Mojave Preserve biologist when he isn't volunteering) did the archeological resource survey for us as a volunteer a couple weeks ago when I escorted him to 3 of the sites. No cultural resources were found at 3 sites, one site is still outstanding due to David's schedule but he assures me that it will be completed before the fall.

Ca WSF has arranged to have the first project sponsored by Wounded Warriors Outdoors. We hope the next 3 will be funded by their GALAD (Give A Lamb A drink) program. Now all we have to do (and I expect that you all are with me on this) is to wait until the weather cools off a bit so we all don't get heatstroke. Well that's a bit overstated as there are still plenty of details to be arranged, but we have the lease obligations and commitments out of the way now and are purely working on our own schedule.

We have scheduled these dates for construction, 1 complete project for each weekend:

October 25-27, 2024

December 6-8, 2024

January 10-12, 2025

February 21-23, 2025

SAVE THE DATES!

WRITE THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR

These 4 are all located near Ludlow, CA.

I am really looking forward to having the Wounded Warriors help us with this first project (and hopefully many more, they are always welcome.) I know they are tough folks and can handle any task we set up for them. Their perspectives will add an interesting new dimension to our project and we have a lot of fabulous desert experience and camaraderie to share with them. Please save the dates and stay tuned for more information. If you haven't maintained your membership, please try to update so that we have your latest contact information.

p.s. Glenn and I have been out scouting again this spring and have locations and designs for 2 more State Land parcels. Now that we have some experience under our belts and an operating procedure we expect to have a rather continuous flow of parcels 'construction ready' for the next several years.

2024 San Gabriel Bighorn Sheep Census Results

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2024 San Gabriel Mountain Bighorn Sheep Survey! We had about 120 volunteers show up Saturday night at orientation and approximately 110-115 of those folks showed up Sunday morning to survey! Unfortunately, due to the weather, visibility was low throughout the day and only 8 bighorn sheep were seen – 7 at Middle Fork Lytle Creek and 1 at South Fork Lytle Creek. These numbers are not alarming to us and are to be expected in unfavorable weather conditions. The inclement weather also prevented us from conducting the helicopter survey this week. Because we could not complete a comprehensive survey this year, we are unable to generate a population estimate. Nonetheless, it sounds like everyone had a great time out there in the San Gabriel Mountains! I also wanted everyone to give a big thanks to the SCBS and US Forest Service for helping organize and lead this effort. Their many years of experience with this event, this area, and these sheep are indispensable. We want to express our gratitude to all the volunteers. We appreciate you all showing up Saturday night and then again Sunday morning in unfavorable conditions. We hope you enjoyed learning about these amazing animals and getting an opportunity to see them in their habitat. *~ Amelia Viera, Project Coordinator & Environmental Scientist, South Coast Region, California Department of Fish and Wildlife.*

Middle Fork Lytle Creek Group at trailhead

Deb Miller Marschke and the changing weather

Sheep at Middle Fork!

Middle Fork Lytle Creek: This year the Middle Fork of Lytle Creek was well attended by a solid group of volunteers, lead by myself and husband Steve Marschke. We were looking forward to finally having a helicopter crew flying above us; it was budgeted and authorized but the weather was not cooperative. The day was an unpredictable patchwork of clouds, sun, wind, and rain. Nevertheless, the weather was quite beautiful to behold. I found the shifting wispy clouds magical despite the fact that they were ruining our visibility. The volunteers were undaunted and the lead group, captained by Steve, hiked to the assigned higher elevations. Our particular group of sheep that was spotted did not appear until the end of the day, about halfway between the base camp and Steve's group. Fortunately, most volunteers were able to see those seven sheep on their way down the mountain. I was very happy all those folks were rewarded with successful sightings to complete their day. A reporter from Spectrum News, Jeremy Lindenfeld, attended our hike and his news coverage video can still be viewed: Here's the link: https://spectrumnews1.com/ca/la-west/environment/2024/03/11/cdfw-volunteers-bighorn-sheep-survey . I would also like to mention that we sold a lot of SCBS T-Shirts at the orientation meeting the night before; at this particular gathering we had Venmo and Zelle capabilities. ~ *Debbie Miller Marschke, SCBS co-lead Middle Fork of Lytle Creek*

Deer Canyon: David and Arioch M'Greene lead a group to Deer Canyon. David has authored an article about his experiences which is included in this Sheep Sheet edition. He told me that this year, there was a presence of something called a "Poodle-Dog Bush" (*eriodictyon parryi*) which I had never heard of. Apparently it has a pretty purple flower but it's worse than poison oak. It will cause an allergic reaction you won't forget. It tends to flourish in areas after a fire, so maybe it's having a banner year in 2024. Don't touch! ~ *Editor note*

Highway 39: Several members of our group drove up to Crystal lake to camp out after the orientation meeting. We went to bed with a little snow falling and we woke up Sunday morning with a little snow falling. Our group met at the gate on Hwy.39 at 6:30am for a safety talk and check-out. The snow quit falling but we were in the clouds most of the day making it difficult to look for sheep. We had 34 volunteers spread out over 3.5 miles along the road with no success at finding sheep. We all checked in back at the gate by 12:30pm. Most of the volunteers were first timers and even with no sheep observed they are interested in coming back next year. One couple traveled from Fresno to participate in the census. Maybe next year the weather will cooperate. ~ *John Nelson, SCBS leader Highway 39 group*

Barrett Stoddard: We had a great group on the Census this year! 2024! I believe we all had a good hike, and some even bagged a Peak. Meaning Stoddard Peak. We did not see any Sheep this year. Not for lack of trying! The weather was marginal, the peaks were covered on and off throughout the day. The help from the DFW was good and everyone with the DFW was very nice and took a lot of the responsibility off of myself and Kathleen Daugherty (leaders) with sign in/out, shuttling everyone to the gate. I can't remember everyone's name but thank you DFW. Some of us even saw a rainbow! ~*George Sutton, SCBS Barrett Stoddard Trail Lead*

South Fork Lytle Creek: Scott Gibson and Jeff Villepique lead the group of volunteers to the South Fork of Lytle Creek. They had 15 strong hikers, and one bighorn sheep sighting. This trail was particularly challenging this year with the rain, fog, wind and brush. Scott powered on and took the farthest census point (there were 6 points in total), so kudos to Scott for leading by example.

The California Dept of Fish and Wildlife, partnered with the US Forest Service and SCBS, conducts this annual Bighorn Sheep Census in the San Gabriel Mountains annually. It is consistently on the first weekend in March, so save the date of March 1-2, 2025 for next year's census. If you can step up and be a trail leader or assistant leader next year, please contact DFW Amelia Viera 858-239-9505 or any SCBS trail leader in advance, we can assist in pre-hiking and preparation for 2025.

New SCBS Membership Coordinator ~ Debbie Miller Marschke

After many years of service, John Nelson is retiring as **SCBS Membership Coordinator** and I, Debbie Miller Marschke, have received the baton and started running with it (THANKS JOHN FOR YOUR SERVICE TO SCBS). Yes, I am also the Sheep Sheet Editor, but both jobs share some common duties. I am currently working on updating our SCBS contact list, so if you receive a phone call, email, or letter from me, your response is greatly appreciated. I would like to have everyone's correct mailing address, phone numbers, and email address. Your information will be used to receive SCBS communications and also to keep in touch with YOU, where ever

you may roam or relocate. I publish a Sheep Sheet Newsletter an average of 3 times a year, it's emailed to most subscribers and a paper copy mailed to a select few folks. The paper copy is expensive to produce, so if you do receive the printed newsletter by mail, a sustaining donation to SCBS is appreciated. Donations of any amount to SCBS earmarked for the Sheep Sheet publication is a way you can tell me I am doing a good job producing it. Better still, please consider becoming an annual SCBS member (the form is attached to this newsletter). Your annual membership dues are important to the financial health of SCBS as most of our funding grants don't cover all our operational costs: we need insurance to conduct business, our equipment like tools, truck, and trailers need constant maintenance, repairing or replacing flat tires, postage stamps, tool purchases or rentals (like an excavator!), etc. If you believe in the work SCBS is doing, please support the volunteers who are doing the heavy lifting out in the field making things happen. Memberships and donations can also be submitted on our website Sheepsociety.org.

The **Sheep Sheet newsletter** is a publication by it's members, for it's members. I'm always looking for stories to populate our newsletter, so please, you are encouraged to be a contributing author. Even a few sentences with an interesting photograph or map can be shared – you send it, I will do the rest. Handwritten items or letters will gladly be transcribed. Our next Sheep Sheet should be coming in the Fall. Thanks for listening! ~ *Debbie Miller Marschke, SCBS Board Member*, email at debmillermars@gmail.com.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES UPDATE - CHUCKWALLA NATIONAL MONUMENT

by Don Priest, Distinguished Life Member California Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation and Board Member

Both Senator Alex Padilla and Rep. Raul Ruiz have introduced an identical bill, the Chuckwalla National Monument Establishment and Joshua Tree National Park Expansion Act of 2024 on April 16th, S.4132 and H.R.8031. CA WSF, through our partners at Watersheds Results and other organizations, reviewed the language regards access and the development of guzzlers and continued sportsman activities. We are currently satisfied that the language does not appear to add any obvious additional impediments regards guzzlers.

And the bill will not change the jurisdiction of wildlife management by CDFW, nor disrupt sportsman access within this new National Monument. Though changing and raising the status of lands can increase the complexity regards wildlife management activities, the setting aside of these lands will benefit our desert species. With the number of solar farm developments along I-10, this National Monument will set aside a large swath of the lands south of the highway, keeping it from these development activities (see map). And, though these lands will have this elevated status as a National Monument, the federal agency that will administer these lands will not change, continuing with the Bureau of Land Management. Though the bill has been introduced to both Congressional chambers, it is anticipated that the Chuckwalla National Monument will be established via Proclamation by President Biden. Of course, this raises concerns of another 'Castle Mountains' that may require a future 'fix'. Given our Washington partners contacts with the Executive Office's Council on Environmental Quality, and a united front by the various promoters and stakeholders in the National Monument, we expect that any such Proclamation will be identical to the current bills.

SB25 Newberry Drinker News

Satellite monitor data on water usage at Newberry. You can plainly observe the correlation between the increase in summer temperatures and the usage of the resource. Also note the result when water was added 06-24-2024.

On June 24, 2024, an SCBS crew conducted the first summer season water haul to SB 25 Newberry, located near Barstow, California. The crew trucked in 3800 gallons using water totes and pumped the water into the storage tanks. The Sheep did not even wait for the crew to leave, they were hitting the water immediately.

The Newberry guzzler is Priority One on the working list shared by SCBS and the CDFW for improvements needed for existing systems. We've successfully impacted the bighorn herds in the Newberry/Rodman Mountain ranges; data supports that the herd has flourished, and those bighorn have made connections with the animals in the 29 Palms Marine Base complex. Volunteers have consistently needed to water haul to Newberry year-round. The threat of continued climate change suggests that we can't wait for another year like 2021 when crews manually hauled a total of 19,500 gallons to SB25. Rick Ianneillo of the CDFW has been actively working on a plan to upgrade the aging guzzler system by preparing the necessary "EA" paperwork and plans with the local Barstow BLM office. Initially a 3 Raincatcher tank system was proposed, but Ianniello supports the building of a new, expanded site to eliminate the need for constant water hauls under "normal circumstances". We must also be realistic that it is not reasonable to assert that water hauling will be virtually eliminated; there will be malfunctions, droughts, and fluctuations in bighorn population. Based upon historical data, Ianneillo ultimately has a goal of installing 8 or 9 Raincatchers here with rainmats for collection: 3 tanks upstream and 6 tanks downstream. Currently, the nearest alternative guzzler is located at Hanson Quarry (presently full but damaged by vandals, it's repair and future status unclear).

Consideration has been given to the possibility of constructing other guzzlers as alternative resources. SCBS may be able to partner with the staff at Fort Irwin to utilize nearby Department of Defense properties, but even then it appears that an additional guzzler on DOD land would not be enough to take the pressure off the Newberry system and SCBS will still be needing to haul water.

Editor's note: Anyone who acquires a water hauling tote should make sure that the fittings are compatible with what SCBS is using. Don't wait until the day of the water haul to find out! It's a male 2"cam lock, quick disconnect on tanks.

06-24-2024: Most of the crew sitting under the shade canopy after having lunch. We're missing a few who choose to depart after unloading their water. This young ram came in looking for a drink as we were breaking down the pumping setup. – Monte Hammer photos.

News Briefs ~ Short Bleats

Have you checked out SCBS on Facebook? We have 3542 people who joined the FB page and 825 folks who posted but did not join yet. We constantly have photos and videos of bighorn in action. Additionally, there are reciprocal posts from other fraternal bighorn organizations in neighboring states.

On May 1, 2024 Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA) introduced a new bill to the 118th Congress for consideration – S.4222 Mojave National Preserve Boundary Adjustment Act. This is an effort to to adjust the boundary of the Mojave National Preserve in the State of California to include the land within the Castle Mountains National Monument. This affects approximately 20,920 acres. According to govtrack.us, this bill has a 7% chance of getting past committee and a 2% chance of being enacted as it is currently written…but keep watching for rewrites and resubmissions.

THANK YOU Beverly Valdez and John Ware for the generous $500 donation earmarked for volunteer support such as food and gas for our projects! Thank you SCBS Board Member John Voght for making many donations since January, totaling $865.00! Thank You for the donations made by Laine Saulnier, Lee Johnston, Gerald Van Zantan, Richard Weaver, Scott McClinton, David Hess, Marty Ambrose, & Christopher Chadwick!

Following up on the story about the Eagle Feather guzzler repair, written by David M'Greene in the last issue of the Sheep Sheet (Feb 2024). David writes "The area never got rain. The rain gauge was empty, the collection dam was still dug out with the shovel marks showing." It's located in the Dead Mountains Wilderness. Remember Norm had said "Don't go to Eagle Feather alone, you will die"; it's a horrible desolate place. The guzzler is there to catch the next rainfall, which may take years. The area needs this guzzler for animals to survive, even if it's just a transitional visit. Weather patterns change as time goes by, SCBS has this guzzler ready for the future.

The Quail Rock guzzler, installed by SCBS volunteers and funded by Cal Deer Association on January 20, 2024, is reporting a high usage from deer and golden eagles.

The Goffs Guzzler, installed by SCBS volunteers and funded by Cal Deer Association on January 19, 2024 has been visited by ravens, coyotes, foxes, rabbits, owls, and a flock of 9 vultures.

James Galbrath donated $500.00 in Memory of Peter Marston. Thank you.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP

A California Non-Profit Organization is looking for:

Sportsmen and Conservationists who are concerned about our California Desert Bighorn sheep and who are willing to get involved to make a difference. Be a part of history with our program to put bighorn sheep back in their historical ranges. The Society works with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Bureau of Land Management in programs such as: sheep transplanting and propagation; habitat improvement; wildlife census; research and development; and many more. If this sounds exciting and fulfilling to you, then fill out the following application and join the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep today! Check our website at:

www.desertbighorn.org or Sheepsociety.com

****

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP
Attn: SCBS Membership Chairman Debbie Miller Marschke
4904 Reynolds Road
Torrance, CA 90505

***** IMPORTANT ! Please print & send this form along with your check! *****

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: (H) _____ **(W)** _____

E-Mail Address : _____
Your email address will not be used for anything other than SCBS communications such as project announcements and email transmission of the Sheep Sheet newsletter.

Make checks payable to: SCBS

Annual ……$35.00/Year New _____ Renewal _____

Student (Full Time). $20.00/Year New _____ Renewal _____

Life …….$300.00 New _____ ___option:3 Qtrly Pmt of ($100.00)

Corporate ……$1000.00/Year

Enclosed is my Tax Deductible check for $_____ which includes my contribution of $_____ to help you support desert wildlife.

Please send me information on the Society's desert water projects. Yes ___ No ____

Where did you hear about SCBS? _____

Please list any SCBS members you know: _____

****

Application Received: _____ Funding Received: _____

Voted In: _____ Member Card Sent: _____

SCBS Newsletter
Debbie Miller Marschke, Editor
4904 Reynolds Rd
Torrance, CA 90505

Photo taken by TCSS, Baja Mexico