



California Wild Sheep

Summer 2019

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Glenn Davis
167", Cady Mountains
Dry Creek Outfitters
2018/2019



ULTIMA THULE LODGE

CONTACT: DONALD C. MARTIN 310-766-3921



From the Editor's Desk

I hope you enjoy this issue. It features great pictures from our best ever annual fundraiser; if you missed it – YOU MISSED OUT! Please assure you make it in 2020. It also includes your ballot for the Director election, hunting stories, milestone news about GALAD, our major initiative that will more than DOUBLE the number of desert bighorn in California (pique your interest?!), fun humor, interesting desert insights from Carlos, AND MUCH MORE!

Your feedback, ideas, articles & requests are always welcome. Best way to reach me is email: mike.borel@contextnet.com. Due date for input to the 3Q19 issue is August 20.



Tammy Scott made the Duck Bacon recipe and added it to a tasty salad.

From Scott Leysath, DU (via Tammy Scott)

Duck Bacon

Duck bacon is simple to prepare in a smoker or oven. Once the short curing process is complete, it can be used much like any other bacon. Refrigerate for up to one week. For longer storage, wrap carefully and freeze for up to a year. Save this recipe for fattier puddle ducks, not divers or leaner ducks and geese. Mallards, pintails, gadwalls, and black ducks are all great for making bacon.

Ingredients:

- 6 duck breast fillets, skin intact
- 1 cup kosher salt
- 1 tablespoon pink curing salt (Prague Powder #1 or Insta Cure #1)
- 3/4 cup dark brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons crushed black peppercorns
- 2 tablespoons fresh or used coffee grounds

Directions:

[Step 1] In a bowl, combine kosher salt with pink curing salt, brown sugar, peppercorns, and coffee grounds. Mix thoroughly.

[Step 2] Using a fork, perforate only the skin (not the meat) of each fillet a few times.

[Step 3] Rub the mixture into all surfaces of the meat. Place in a zip-top bag and refrigerate for 12 hours, turning the bag over every couple of hours.

[Step 4] Remove fillets from the bag and rinse well with cold water. Pat dry. Arrange fillets on a rack with a pan underneath to catch any drippings and place in the refrigerator for two to three hours to air dry.

[Step 5] Smoke at low temperature (under 150 degrees) or bake in a 200-degree oven with the door open about 1/2 inch (use a ball of foil to keep the door ajar) for one hour. Cool completely.

[Step 6] Slice fillets into thin strips and fry as you would other bacon. To make slicing easier, place the fillets in the freezer for an hour or so before slicing. Use duck bacon as you would conventional pork bacon.

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California Wild Sheep is published quarterly.

Please email all articles and photos to

mike.borel@contextnet.com

Photos should be high resolution and in color.

It is recommended that digital photos be sent by email.

Please include photo credits and captions.

Humorous outtakes provided by Tammy Scott

Published by Beverly Valdez, Gaiatec Services

Events

2019

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| June 28 | Completed CA WSF Ballots due |
| August 20 | Due date for articles for 3Q2019 CAWSF Newsletter |
| September TBD | Wild Sheep Foundation Fly-In and Walk on Capitol Hill (Washington DC) |
| November 20 | Due date for articles for 4Q2019 CAWSF Newsletter |
| December 6 | Sheep Summit XXVI, Ontario, CA |

2020

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| January 16-18 | WSF International Sheep Show Reno, NV |
| January 29-1 | GSCO Convention, Las Vegas, NV (Westgate Resort) |
| February 20 | Due date for articles for 1Q2020 CAWSF Newsletter |
| April TBD | Desert Bighorn Council Meeting |
| May 1 | Sheep Summit XXVII, Sacramento, CA (DoubleTree) |
| May 2 | CA WSF 18th Annual Fundraiser Sacramento, CA (DoubleTree) |
| May TBD | WSF Chapter and Affiliates Meeting XIII |
| May 20 | Due date for articles for 2Q2020 CAWSF Newsletter |

President's Letter

I'm writing this President's Message after having just attended the 12th Annual Wild Sheep Foundation Chapters & Affiliates Summit, May 16-18th in Las Vegas, NV hosted by the Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn. For those of you unfamiliar with C&A Summits, they were started by WSF President and CEO Gray Thornton to create a stronger bond between the C&A network, to increase awareness of wild sheep conservation efforts throughout North America, to learn and share fundraising and membership recruitment ideas and to create his vision of "One tent, one campfire". These events started modestly and have grown in attendance to as many as 100 delegates. If you're interested in representing CA WSF at a future C&A Summit, please contact Mike Borel, Beverly Valdez or Don Martin for more details.



Like all of our newsletters, you'll find this one full of details on the latest in CA WSF activities including a recap of our highly successful 2019 fundraiser. I won't steal Don Martin's thunder, but suffice it to say, if you weren't there you missed a great evening. We continue to enjoy modest growth in attendance and I'm sure the Life Member Sheep Hunt drawing was the major contributor this year. As with all our fundraisers it is truly a 'team sport', but I'd like to thank Don Martin and his committee for putting together a fantastic event that raised critical dollars for the benefit of California's wild sheep. I'd also like to thank Beverly Valdez (and of course John Ware – Beverly's 'right hand man') for all the work to keep things on track including following up with donors, printing auction books and raffle tickets, and working with the hotel to make sure everything is 'just right'. We also enjoyed having Ryan Brock, WSF Youth Education Coordinator, attend (along with his family) and coordinate with Youth Committee Chair Glen Pyne to make sure we continue to offer something for our younger members.

This is my last President's Message as I will not seek reelection this year. It has been an honor to serve you for the last two years and I want to thank each member of your board for supporting me so well. I particularly want to thank Mike Borel and Beverly Valdez for their support without which I wouldn't have been able to accomplish very much. I will continue to serve on the Board of Directors and will do my part to "Put and Keep California's Wild Sheep on the Mountain"!

Yours in conservation,

Darryl Williams

Thank You to our special raffle sponsors in 2019!



LIGHTENING STRIKES TWICE

By Bryan Davis

Lightning does strike twice...in the Desert

It was early June 2012. For big game hunters in California, this is a special time of year. The big game tag drawing is just days away and my dad Glenn and I were busy buying licenses and scouring the California Big Game Digest for the best hunt zones for the coming seasons. Just like the previous 20+ years, we once again would be applying for the ultra-rare California Desert Big Horn tags. At this point it was just something we did, along with Deer and Elk applications. We always applied for the rarest tags and each year we were disappointed to not draw a single hunt. The California preference point system seemed like a great idea, but after so many years having maximum points and still not drawing tags, it didn't seem to be working great in practice.

In addition to Big Horn, we had always applied for the coveted G-3 deer tag. Every year I expected to draw this tag. We had actually drawn this tag back in 1985. At the time it was an X zone hunt. My dad, his friend Roger and I had all harvested bucks on that opening day. I hunted alone at 16 years old and I successfully stalked and harvested a great big, perfectly symmetrical 3X3. It was my first deer and a great accomplishment for me at the time.

I can remember the day in 2012 when I walked into my office after lunch and my office manager is holding up something in her hand. "Something came for you" she said. I can see from across the room that it's from the DFG. We finally drew that G-3....I couldn't be more excited as I took it from her hand. I was wrong. I could be more excited. This wasn't a deer tag. This thing said sheep!! Later my office manger would say that when I looked at it with a puzzled expression on my face "all you did is stand there and kind of grunt." I had to double check to make sure it was my name on the front and then triple check that it said sheep. Little did I know at the time, what a life changing event, drawing that tag would be.

I would be hunting in Zone 9, the Cady Mountains. I wasn't even exactly sure where that was. I spent the next six months, spending hours looking at the satellite maps, talking to guides and trying to get any information I could. I remember talking to Cliff St. Martin from Dry Creek Outfitters several times. Although I would have loved to hire him to guide me on my hunt, it just wasn't in the cards for me at the time. Fortunately, I have many friends that love to hunt and fish. It wasn't long after word got out that I had drawn the golden ticket, that I got a call from my friend Alex. I knew Alex from my friendship with Eric Huff, owner of Eric's Tackle in Ventura. Alex



Bryan Davis, 2012 Cady's Self Guided Ram

is a serious big game hunter and he instantly offered to go along with me to the Cady's. Not only that but he would also be bringing his hunting partner Scott as our number three. Eric Huff not only sells fishing tackle but is also a Swarovski Optics dealer. Eric volunteered to outfit us with all of the high-end spotting scopes, tripods and binos that we would need to spot the elusive Big Horn at times from up to three miles away. Things were coming together.

It was finally time to make a trip out to the Cady's. The first trip would just be Alex and myself. A one-day trip just to get a lay of the land. What looked like a small unit on the satellite map, turned into a massive mountain range complex when you actually looked at it from the ground. I really didn't know what to expect. I didn't even know if we would see a sheep, let alone a shooter ram.

We setup out on the flat desert with Cave mountain as the backdrop that first morning. I had barely got settled into the spotting scope when Alex says, "There's one." Wait, what? You see one? Actually, there were 11! There appeared to be three legal rams with one that was clearly the biggest. They were on the move and it wasn't long before they disappeared over the top of a steep ravine. This is looking promising.

For trip two, the three of us decided to make a trip into the center of the unit and explore Hidden Valley. We spent three days scouting and glassing. We saw



legal rams each day, but not the ones we were looking for. Finally, on day three we spotted what looked like a shooter. We made a plan and set off on what would be an 8-hour stalk. Ultimately, we found ourselves within 200 yards of a nice ram. I was in the scope and ready to take the shot. Alex kept whispering, just breath and squeeze, just breath and squeeze. But it just didn't feel right to me. It just wasn't what I had dreamed about so many times. It wasn't the right ram. I passed the shot. As we hiked out that evening, I could feel some serious tension in the group. Although it had been a tough decision to pass the shot, it really seemed like the right thing to do....for me.

On the third day of the next trip we walked out of camp in the pitch black and started the hike up the first mountain range of the day. Although we had an idea of where to find that ram, after setting up and all three of us glassing till after the sun was up, it was nowhere to be found. We did spot a ram, but it was not "the" ram. So we hiked up the second and much taller mountain range of the day. This time we split up and each glassed a different part of the mountain. It was late morning and my hopes of finding the ram were rapidly fading.

We all met back up and decided to take one more look at the spot where we thought the ram should be. All of a sudden I hear Alex, "I've got him." He was a bit father back in the canyon and a bit higher on the mountain. We left Scott on the ridge we were on and Alex and I hiked back half way down the back side, until we found a canyon that took us down the front side and after about 1.5 hours we were standing at the bottom of hill number 2 and looking across the wash at the base of range number 3. Eventually we had to step out in full view of the ram as we crossed the wash. "Just walk slow and steady and don't look at the ram" said Alex. The ram was bedded at this point and probably close to two miles away. The moment

we stepped out into view, the ram stood up and stared at us, eventually moving a bit higher on the hill and a bit father back into the canyon. That third range was the steepest and tallest yet. I literally was mountain climbing at some points. Steep, loose and every step was potentially a tumble off the mountain. After a brutal climb, I'm almost at the top. As I crest the hill, I realize that there are still two more ridges above us. We made contact with Scott. "It's moved a bit higher on the hill and a bit father back in the canyon." Just what I wanted to hear. Finally, on the spine of the mountain and trying to hurry, but at the same time trying to stay as quiet as possible, while crunching over lose rock. We moved from craggy outcrop to craggy outcrop, each time crawling to the edge and glassing. Nothing. We had to be close now.

Finally, we crawled out to the edge and looked, again nothing. We were just about to move again when I see Alex pickup his range finder. "You ready to shoot this thing?" he asked. Heck yeah, do you see it? We quickly got into position and setup on a bino pack. The ram had us locked and was standing looking straight at us. He was out 384 yards and facing us. This wasn't going to be an easy broadside shot. I got my scope dialed in and was on the sheep. My mind was screaming shoot, shoot, but I wanted to make sure that I didn't come all this way only to blow the shot. "BOOM" goes my 270 Win. I lost the ram in the scope and I just hear Alex go "Oh Yeah!" "I got it?" I asked. Ram down!!!

Fast forward to early June 2018. By now, I was aware that you can check your big game draw results online, so as soon as the drawing takes place, I'm checking the results. Nothing, once again. Since I had applied as a party with my dad for deer, Elk and Pronghorn, I know that he didn't draw those either. Every year that we didn't draw, my dad would say, "I hope I draw a tag before I'm too old to use it." I remember going to lunch with him that day and giving him the bad news. I guess I can check yours to see if you drew a sheep tag, but what are the chances of that? I sat looking at my phone in stunned disbelief. "YOU drew a sheep tag!!!" I think he thought I was joking. No seriously, you drew a Cady's Bighorn tag!! I'm not sure who was more excited. We were headed to the desert.

This time would be different. This time we would hiring a guide, given that my dad had the means and at 79 years old, we would need the help and expertise of a professional guide. We met up with Cliff St. Martin from Dry Creek Outfitters at the mandatory orientation meeting with the DFG. We had a chance to talk with him and he had a slot available for us. My dad booked a 10-day hunt and we spent the next six months going to the range and trying to get my dad dialed on for what potentially would be a long shot. He was solid at 200 yards, but I knew that anything



Left to Right: Tim Mercier, Cliff St. Martin, Carlos Gallinger, Kirk Stiltz, and Glenn Davis

out 300 or more was going to be a challenge for him.

Finally hunt day arrived and we were on our way to the Cady's. We arrived to find an awesome, fully assembled camp, with nice heated tents, cots and a fully stocked mess tent. Not only would we be hunting with Cliff, but we had a full team of expert scouts including Cliff's partner Tim Mercier, Sullivan, 14 and Big C. All of these guys had spent years scouting, guiding and hunting Bighorn sheep. In fact, they already had one ram spotted, that we would keep in "the bank" just in case we didn't find anything better.

Each morning, we were up in the dark and over breakfast we would discuss the days game plan. Then it was into the trucks and off everyone would go, with the scouts each heading off to a different area to scout. We would stay in contact as available during the day and then meet up at night to compare notes on what everyone had seen during the day over a delicious dinner. The first day was just kind of shaking the rust off and getting into the pace of desert life and long stretches in the glass. We mostly worked the Northern part of the range and although we saw some good sign and a few sheep, we didn't find any shooter rams. Day two, we got up extra early and made our way down to the middle of the range and into Hidden Valley. My dad and I were scouting with Big C and word came over the radio that Cliff was watching three good rams across the valley. We made a plan and set off on our first real hike of the trip. We spent about an hour hiking into the area and were actually tracking Cliff's previous path. Eventually we made our way up the hill and found Cliff watching a very nice ram. The ram was bedded, and we spent the next hour or so watching and waiting and waiting and waiting. Finally, I see the ram pick his head up.

Get ready, he's about the get up. Sure enough, up goes the sheep. My dad is in the scope and has a quartering view of the ram at about 300 yards. "Boom" goes the 30-06. Dam, just a little high and right over it's back. Now the sheep is on the move and my dad is having a hard time getting back on it. "Boom" he takes another shot, in desperation, but it's another miss and soon the Ram is over the skyline. Then depression sets in, for everyone. But hey we still have eight days left. The next three days are spent, again, driving and hiking and glassing. We're not finding anything, and the rest of the scouting crew is reporting a few sheep sightings but no shooter rams. The weight of the miss is starting to weigh heavily on my dad. He is half convinced that he blew his chance and would not get another.

On the afternoon of day five, after looking up and down the range over the previous days, we are back in the Hidden Valley area. Just before sunset, Cliff finds a few rams way, way off in the distance. Too far to judge size, but it's the best sighting we have had in days. Day six comes and goes with no further sightings. At dinner that night everyone is tired. It seemed to me like the best bet would be to get back down to that Hidden Valley zone as it had been the best area so far.

The next morning it's back to Hidden Valley. Mid-morning, Cliff finds that one of the three big rams that we had seen on day two had crossed the valley floor that night and was on the other side. He eventually located it and another plan was made. After a long hike in, my dad and Cliff setup at about 290 yards. "Boom" goes the 30-06 and this time it's "Ram Down!"

My dad, Glenn Davis, turned 79 on December 9th 2018. This hunt was the culmination of over 60 years of big game hunting and 20+ years of applying to hunt California Desert Bighorn Sheep. I couldn't be prouder. A huge thanks to Cliff, Tim, Partner, Cowboy, 14, Sullivan and Big C from Dry Creek Outfitters.... These guys are dedicated, amazing outdoors men and I highly recommend them.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2019 HUNTS / TRIPS DONORS!

*You have donated generously! Our thanks and sincere appreciation for helping us in our goal of
PUTTING AND KEEPING WILD SHEEP ON THE MOUNTAINS.*

Alaska Dept of Fish and Game	California Dept of Fish and Wildlife	Wild Sheep Foundation Gray Thornton
Algar Safaris Mariano Fernandez www.algar-safaris.com	G and J Outdoors Cary Jellison www.gandjoutdoors.com	Kika Worldwide Jake Franklin www.kikaworldwide.com
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Six Point Ranch Joe Bullock www.sixpointranch.com	Sonoradventus Jorge Camou	Ultima Thule Outfitters Don Martin www.ultimathulelodge.com/

THANKS FOR A GREAT YEAR!

See you at next year's Fundraiser

Congratulations to:

LIFE MEMBER RAFFLE WINNER: JEFF PERACCHI
DESERT SHEEP RAFFLE WINNER: ERIC GOULD
M.O.A. CUSTOM RIFLE RAFFLE WINNER: ADAM CASAGRANDE

All winners were Life or Distinguished Life members and were in the room!

2019 FUNDRAISER RECAP — GAINS IN YOUTH ATTENDANCE AND MORE MONEY FOR THE SHEEP!

*by Donald C. Martin
Fundraiser Co-Chair*

First off, let me thank all of you that were able to attend our April 6th event. We had a great turnout that was shy of our record setting attendance of 2018 but we set a new record for youth attendance and life memberships sold or upgraded.

The numbers are still coming in but we are looking to net over \$100,000 for our cumulative efforts this year. OUTSTANDING! Our GALAD program alone should net approximately \$26,000 and with a recent donation from Grand Slam Club/Ovis our “Give A Lamb A Drink” program has surpassed \$500,000 in total revenue since its inception. Thank you to all for being a part of this game-changing conservation program.

I want to personally thank all of the Directors in attendance. As always, there was a tremendous amount of work to prepare for this event and everyone did their part. This annual event would not be possible without the dedication of the entire Board of Directors(BOD) and most of all, YOU, the members.

Glen Pyne our youth coordinator, in association with Dr. Ryan Brock from Wild Sheep Foundation, was able to expand on last year’s youth program and we set a new record for youth in attendance. Don’t be afraid to bring your kids next year if you didn’t bring them this year. They are the future of our hunting culture and it’s important to instill a passion for wildlife conservation at an early age. We have a new Youth Life Membership category to celebrate our young hunters. Imagine being a life member of CA WSF starting at age 5 or even 5 months! Any age up to 16 can join as a Youth Life Member and reap the rewards forever.

I would like to congratulate our big winners for the evening. Longtime life member and sponsor Eric Gould, formerly of Cottonwood, CA, won the random drawing for the grand prize, the 10 day desert bighorn hunt with **SAN JOSE OUTFITTERS** in Sonora, Mexico. Long time Board Member Adam Casagrande of Eagle, Idaho won the MOA Custom Rifle provided by Bob and Chris Beck of **MOA RIFLES, INC.** And finally, Jeff Peracchi of Fresno, CA was the lucky member of the Life Member drawing for a 10 day dall sheep hunt in Alaska with **ULTIMA THULE OUTFITTERS**. We thank all of our donors and sponsors for their support in offering these great random drawing prizes.

We had a very successful general raffle with an



increased number of quality firearms. Our new firearms provider **TURNER’S OUTDOORSMAN** has been an absolute pleasure to work with and we were able to provide more and higher quality firearms than ever before. I encourage all of our members to swing into your nearest Turner’s Outdoorsman and support their business. We look forward to working with Turner’s again on next year’s event.

Special thanks to outgoing BOD member, Craig Van Arsdale. Craig has been our Silent Auction Chairman for several years now and unfortunately will be leaving us as he is relocating to Arizona. We thank Craig for his hard work and dedication and for making our silent auction a huge success.

There are a couple of moments worth noting in this year’s live auction. First off was a new record set for the Alaska Nunivak Island Musk-ox state permit. This year it sold for \$9,500, by far the most ever for our event. Secondly, The Alaska Chitina River Bison state permit sold for an all-time record of \$25,500. CA WSF is thrilled to be able to set these precedents and we thank the State of Alaska for continuing to provide us State Permit opportunities for our members. In addition, this year’s event marks the return of a second auction tag for California Desert Bighorn from CA DFW. We were awarded the Marble/Clipper/South Bristol Desert Bighorn Permit and it sold for a whopping \$87,000. Thanks to everyone in the room that bid on these permits and to our phone bidders.

It’s never too early to start planning for next year and we are already on it! We are proud to announce that next year’s grand prize to be awarded by random

drawing will be a 15 day 1x1 Stone Sheep Hunt with Aaron Florian's **YUKON STONE OUTFITTERS**. Hunt dates are August 12-26, 2021. This is one of the Yukon's premiere stone sheep hunts and we are thrilled to offer this exceptional hunting opportunity to our members. See page 30 and order your tickets today! You do not have to attend the dinner to win this hunt. We thank Aaron Florian for making this rare opportunity available to our members.

In addition, we will also be offering a 10 day Dall sheep hunt in Alaska with **ULTIMA THULE OUTFITTERS** to one lucky Life Member who must be in the room to win it. If you are not a life member, now is the time to upgrade for one chance to win this hunt. If you are already a life member you may upgrade to Distinguished Life Member to earn three chances to win and also receive a custom embroidered Distinguished Life Member vest from KUIU. Youth Life Members are also eligible to win so be sure to get that special young one a membership!

As always, we will also be offering a one of kind custom rifle. I would really appreciate your feedback on this subject. Reach out to me at: donmartin@earthlink.net and let me know what you thought of the MOA 6.5 PRC. If you have any other suggestions, please let me know.

So once again, thanks to everyone that attended, those that purchased tickets, and those that bid by phone for all helping to make our event a success. One need only look at the huge increase in desert bighorn tags this license year to see the fruition of all of your hard work and dedication to California's wild sheep program. The future of our state's wild sheep resource is bright. Our Board is proud to represent you and work to encourage our State's land and wildlife agencies to continue to pursue science-based sustainable use management of this precious resource.

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO DONATED IN SO MANY WAYS IT'S HARD TO KEEP TRACK!

Life Member Stan Atwood
Life Member Pamela Atwood
Life Member Vernon Bleich
Distinguished Life Member Mike Borel
Life Member Matt Burke
Life Member Don Callahan
Distinguished Life Member Adam Casagrande
Friend Josh Chrisman
Life Member David Comb
Life Member Ken Crother
Life Member Dyrk Eddie
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Life Member Dan Smith Jr
Life Member Dan Smith III
Life Member Renee Snider
Life Member Gray Thornton
Life Member Steve Torres
Life Member Craig Van Arsdale
Distinguished Life Member Zack Walton
Distinguished Life Member John Ware
Distinguished Life Member Darryl Williams
Distinguished Life Member Shawn Wood

WINNERS, MORE WINNERS, AND DISTINGUISHED GUESTS!



All photos courtesy of Pam Keagy. 2019

YOUNG AND YOUNG-AT-HEART — EVERYONE HAD A GOOD TIME!



ABOVE: LATEST YOUTH LIFE MEMBER SPONSORED BY IDAHO WILD SHEEP



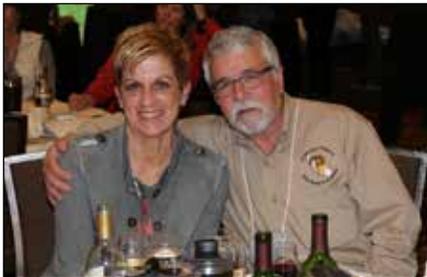
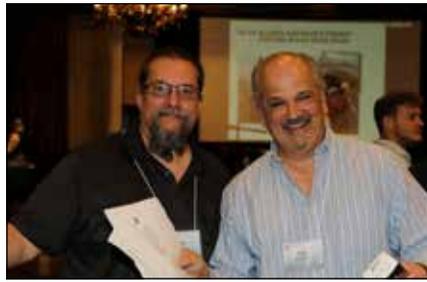
All photos courtesy of Pam Keagy. 2019

CAN YOU SAY 'PHOTO BOMB'? — MIKE BOREL HAD FUN, ESPECIALLY AFTER RAISING MORE THAN \$25,000 FOR GALAD!



All photos courtesy of Pam Keagy. 2019

PUTTING THE FUN IN FUNDRAISER — DON'T MISS 2020!



All photos courtesy of Pam Keagy. 2019

CALIFORNIA WILD SHEEP SUMMIT XXV

APRIL 5, 2019, CA

By Mike J. Borel



CA WSF hosted Sheep Summit XXV (yes 25!) the day before our Banquet and Fundraiser on April 4 in Sacramento. This has proven to be a valuable interactive seminar and Summit XXVI is scheduled for December 6, 2019 in Ontario. The purpose of these summits is “to accomplish more collectively for the Desert Bighorn in CA through sharing and collaboration, than the sum of what each organization can accomplish individually.” Following is a summary of Session XXV.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: CDFW, USFS, USBLM, CAWSF, SCBS. 25 persons in all. CA WSF was represented by Mike Borel, Don Martin, Darryl Williams, Ken Crother, Don Priest and George Kerr.

Information reviewed:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Comprehensive Overarching Bighorn Sheep Plan - Status and Overview of Key Recommendations; Herd Unit Management Plans - Status and Overview of Key Recommendations; Discussion on “implementation” | Regina Vu |
| 2. Region 6 Desert Bighorn Sheep Program: A 5-year Review | Paige Prentice |
| 3. New approaches to Modeling Big Game Mammals and Migration | Julie Garcia |
| 4. DFW Update - the Big Picture | Stafford Lehr & Kari Lewis |
| 5. San Gorgonios – what have we learned, what still needs to be learned? | Jeff Villepique |
| 6. SCBS Update, including Recent Conversation with Joshua Tree NP | Scott Gibson |
| 7. GALAD (Give a Lamb a Drink) State Lands status, progress | Scott Gibson (leases) & Mike Borel (funding) |
| 8. Review of Tests done on Sheep at Captures | Paige Prentice |
| 9. Update/Short talk on minerals research, and plans | Vern Bleich |
| 10. Review Plans for Ph.D. work | Dayan Anderson |
| 11. Report on recent activities in WAFWA, Wild Sheep & Goat Council, Desert Bighorn Council, Boone & Crockett Club, etc. that are of value and interest for CA wild sheep | Vern Bleich |
| 12. Issues CA WSF is currently working on, including: Federal legislation, Cadiz Water Project, Crescent Peak Wind Project, the Burro population issue in CA’s deserts, etc. | Don Priest |

Our previously committed **COLLECTIVE VISION FOR WILD SHEEP IN CALIFORNIA:**

1. Ensure the persistence and restoration of healthy and sustainable metapopulations of bighorn sheep throughout their historical distribution in California.
2. Develop and use science as the basis for conservation and management.
3. Provide for recreational uses of bighorn sheep wherever appropriate.



Are YOU a CA Wild Sheep Foundation Life Member? NOW is the time to join or upgrade!

Join as a Life Member (\$500)

Make a commitment now to continue PUTTING AND KEEPING WILD SHEEP ON THE MOUNTAINS of California! Join CA WSF as a Life Member and receive ONE chance to WIN the special Life Members hunt in 2020.

Upgrade your CA WSF Life Membership (\$1,000)

Upgrade your CA WSF Life Membership to DISTINGUISHED Life Membership (\$1,000) to receive THREE chance to WIN the special Life Members hunt in 2020.

You may also join at the Distinguished Life Member level for \$1,500.

All Distinguished Life Members receive a PELOTON 240 VEST from Kuiu emblazoned with the CA WSF logo and your membership level.

ANNUAL CA WSF MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE

It's time to renew your commitment to wild sheep and to the CA Wild Sheep Foundation. CA WSF has an enviable record of making a positive impact on California wild sheep; you can continue to help us build momentum and to multiply the difference we make by renewing and encouraging friends to join!

All annual memberships expire July 31.

You may renew in any of the following ways:

- 1) Return the membership form with a check for \$40 by mail to the address on the form.
- 2) Return the completed membership form with your charge card info by mail, email, or fax. All information is on the form.
- 3) Log onto the CAWSF web site at <http://www.cawsf.org/> and complete using a charge card or PayPal account.

Note: If you renewed or joined after January 1, 2019, your membership is active until July 31, 2020.

SHEEP ON THE CHEAP

By Craig Van Arsdale

After a 13 hour drive from my home in Northern Arizona, my brother Nick and I were pulling into a large private ranch in West Texas where we would be hunting the next seven days for Aoudad sheep. Aoudad had been high on my list for quite some time and after finding a DIY option I opted to book the hunt and go on my own first sheep hunt!

Aoudad sheep in Texas are an interesting story in which they were introduced in the early 1950's and have thrived in the state to populations now estimated at 25,000+ animals. Their native range is in Northern Africa in Algeria, Tunisia, Northern Chad, Egypt, Libya and Sudan.

Being that the hunt was a DIY hunt I did my best to educate myself on the characteristics of an old mature ram as I would have to make the decision to take a specific ram on my own most likely. In my search for knowledge I learned that the first and best indication of a mature ram was a full set of chaps and beard. A mature ram will have a beard and chaps that blend together and should be 12"-14" in length. A 30"+ ram will also carry his mass well through the first two thirds of his horn length and the smaller the gap or tuft of hair between his horns is also a good indication of a heavy ram. 30"+ rams will also have a wider sweep to them rather than a tight curl and when they turn sideways should meet or exceed the shoulder and can even have wear marks in the hide where the horn rubs when the ram turns his head. Another great indicator of a 30"+ ram is the tips of his horns will start to curl in towards his body for the last few inches. While these are all good indications of an old mature ram. No single one of them should be used solely to make a decision on taking a ram and rather multiple measures should align on a mature 30"+ ram.

Day one had Nick and I up early stuffing our packs with camera gear, food and essentials for a day hunt then loading them into my Polaris General I brought down from Arizona to allow us to access the ranch and navigate the roads needed to get us into sheep country. The rancher was up early to show us the ranch and get us into sheep country before turning us loose. A couple weeks prior to our arrival he had seen a big ram way back in the corner of the ranch and would take us there to start the hunt. At first light we picked up sheep right away sky lined on the cliffs above us. The sheep were at 650 yards and after getting the spotting scope on them I could see a couple young rams, ewes and a couple lambs. After a few minutes of watching the sheep feed we spotted what appeared to be a mature ram! He had a wide and deep curl to his horns, carried his mass well and had



a great set of chaps/beard. After letting the sheep feed into the draw out of sight we made our move to get a closer look. I threw my rifle on my pack and grabbed my bow to close the distance. The wind was good and we had all the cover we needed to get a closer look but when we crested the cliffs to get a better look at the ram the sheep were gone! We carefully glassed and maneuvered through each draw trying to pick the sheep up again but could not relocate them. Before heading back to the Polaris we bumped two desert bighorn sheep rams out of a draw while trying to locate the Aoudad. At that moment I knew this was going to be a great hunt! I had heard other hunters refer to an Aoudad hunt as a poor mans desert sheep hunt but seeing a couple desert rams in the same exact country we were hunting Aoudad rams really made that a reality.

For the evening hunt we decided to explore a different area of the ranch known to hold sheep. The country was impressive to say the least, giant cliffy draws a mile long and rising upwards of 1500' from the valley floor in some places. There were giant boulders, folds in the terrain and caves covering the landscape all of which gave the sheep plenty of places to hide as did the Comanche Indians while inhabiting this same country in the 1600's and 1700's.

While hiking we found several fossilized sea shells and stones from the Permian period some 265 MILLION years ago when this very landscape was beneath the sea and a thriving reef!! We know that dinosaurs went extinct 65 MILLION years ago and that in Permian times mammals had not yet even come into evolutionary existence so this was very neat to me to be hunting in such an area rich with history and for

evidence of those times to be lying around for us to experience today.

The evening produced a young ram that Nick spotted from a couple miles away but no other sheep appeared to be with him. We'd take note to come back and check on him later to see if we could locate some other sheep with him.

Day two had us back in the same canyon we spotted the mature ram the first morning, hoping we would be able to pick them back up again. We looked, looked and looked some more but never did locate that band of sheep again so off we headed for the other end of the ranch again to check up on the young ram we spotted the night before. On the drive into the area Nick picked up a group of seven rams just 200 yards off the side of the road making their way up a small mountain in the lower hill country. I got a quick look at the rams with my binos before they crested the mountain and could tell one of the rams definitely looked like he was worth a closer look. We quickly grabbed the packs and made a move on them but to our surprise once again the sheep were nowhere to be found! The evening produced the same young ram again along with three ewes and two lambs but no big rams.

Day three we decided to switch it up and explore the west end of the ranch. Overnight a small storm had been moving through and we woke to rain, fog, wind and colder temps in the morning. When daylight broke the fog and rain had us socked in for the most part and glassing was difficult at best. After the fog broke and the weather cleared a bit the rancher gave us a few pointers and we were off to go hike some country for glassing spots to locate sheep. The morning yielded a ewe, a lamb and several mule deer but no other sheep. Nick and I decided to hike back to the Polaris and head up another canyon and continue glassing for rams. On our way into the the next canyon Nick suddenly said "Sheep!" A lone Ram was bedded up on the hill near the wash we were driving up and he had spooked at the sight of the Polaris. Once again I got a quick look at him as he



crested the mountain with my binos but couldn't tell if he was what we were after with such a short look. Again we quickly grabbed the packs and high tailed it to the top of the mountain he was on to try and get a better look at him, and again to our dismay he was gone, nowhere to be found. After glassing for 20 minutes Nick wanted to go look on the front side of the mountain in the direction we originally seen the ram, I thought it was a Hail Mary so said I'd be there in a min. Sure enough 5 minutes go by and I look in Nicks direction to see him frantically waiving me to him and signaling that the ram is right there!! When I get to Nick he tells me he walked right up on the ram bedded at 15 yards! Still not knowing if the ram was a shooter I didn't like that he was going to be so close and would likely blow out at the sight of us. As I cycled a round into my gun and started to make my way to the cliffs edge I heard the sound of hooves on shale rock below us and knew the ram was making another exit on us. We quickly got the the edge just to see the ram running over the hill not to be seen again.

It was now the heat of the day so we made it back down into the wash where the Polaris was parked to get a bite to eat and drink. While taking a break in the wash I spotted a Javelina and decided we would make a play on it as the season there is year round with a 2 pig bag limit! After getting Nick behind me with the camera we closed in to 21 yards and I put a perfect shot on him with the bow. It was getting close to prime time now so we rushed to get him cut up and back on our way sheep hunting for the night! On our way out of the canyon we were in we were stopping to glass the cliffs when I spotted a lone ram walking the ridgeline. He looked good in the binos but he was over a mile away. We quickly got the spotter on him and could tell he was a great ram! We looked at the clock and noticed we only had an hour and a half of shooting light left in the day. Again we quickly threw on the packs and I grabbed the rifle expecting the shot to be around 300+ yards by the looks of where he was feeding and the route we would have to take to get into range. After 28 minutes of non-stop climbing Nick and I crested the ridge where I figured I'd have a shot on him across the canyon. As we slowly moved

forward while glassing below to pick up a visual on the ram Nick whispered “he’s right there!” I turned to Nick and looked down to see the ram standing there looking right at us at just 50 yards!! I raised the gun to get the ram in my crosshairs and asked Nick if he had the camera rolling? “yes” he said and my bullet was on its way. The ram spun at the shot and started to move downhill towards the next set of cliffs where I put a second shot on him and anchored him before he ran off the edge!

As Nick and I approached my ram we could tell we had made good judgement and had taken the perfect

mature ram. He was long with his mass carrying well throughout his horn length, smoothed off from years of rubbing and a great cape with an awesome beard and chaps. The view was incredible and we spent the last 30 min of light to take photos. I sent a quick Garmin message to the rancher that we had killed a ram and we would be back late, then we got working on breaking down the ram under headlamps. It was 2am before we came rolling back into the bunkhouse at the ranch but we were all smiles. I couldn’t have asked for a better hunt and to share it with my brother made it that much better.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES TO HEROES

by Greg Tooley, The OATH Foundation

Editor’s Note: This special trip was underwritten by the generosity of our membership. A Treager Grill was won in a drawing and donated back to be put up for auction as a special item to benefit our great active duty veteran’s through the OATH Foundation. Life Member Mark Matheson won the bid, outbidding several other potential OATH donors. Learn more about the OATH Foundation at www.theoathfoundation.net.

April 21, 2019 As the sun was rising, The OATH Foundation was on the road from Bonsall, CA. to Silver City, NM. in hopes of finding some turkeys in the Gila National Forest. From Camp Pendleton, we had active duty Marine, Master Sgt. Carlos Morales, and along the way, we had to stop in 29 Palms, CA. to pick up active duty Marine, Staff Sergeant Matt Short. Carlos had been on other unsuccessful turkey hunts and this would be Matt’s first ever turkey hunt, they both decided to go after them with archery equipment. Just under 12 hours, and a check engine light later, we made it to Silver City. We met with our guide, Don Fell, New Mexico NWTf President, for dinner and pre-hunt strategy. Then it was off to catch a few hours of sleep before the 0330 reveille.

April 22, 2019 Right on time, Don was at our door and we loaded up for the 45-minute ride to our hunting location. With plenty of time before daylight, it was refreshing to sit in the Gila darkness in anticipation of those sunrise gobblers. The New Mexico clear night sky did not disappoint with shooting stars and a black and blue ocean above. Daybreak left us with only a few distant replies to our calls so we split up and hit the trails. SSGt. Short and I headed up the mountain while Don and Master Sgt. Morales followed the mountain down.

It did not take long before Matt and I had a

gobbler willing to play. We set off in his direction dropping down and then back up multiple times which reminded me more of chasing elk not turkeys. With hopes of closing the gap and luring that turkey within range we continued our push. Unfortunately, our efforts came up short that morning so we made our way back to the truck to tie in with the others. Just before reaching the truck we saw Carlos gesturing us to get down. Apparently, they had a silent gobbler trying to sneak in to their setup. Again, our efforts were cut short and an opportunity did not present itself.

After a snack and nap in the warm sun we hit the trail again. At the top, the guys stayed back and I went just over the top to solicit some locator yelps. Immediately, I was answered and they were close. The wind had picked up significantly which prevented the others from hearing the echo of gobbling. So when I came running back to the guys they knew by my expression and urgency that we had to get into position quickly. Up the hill I took Matt and Carlos to put them in position and Don and I fell back to begin calling. A group of three long beards came in quickly and began their search for the hen they believed was near. Luckily for those birds there was some thick cover between us that they were just unwilling to cross. We tried to move around and get those turkeys to commit for the rest of the day but they just weren’t buying what we were selling. Also, one of those well known Gila mountain storms rolled in and shut us down with a torrential down pour of rain and hail. On to day two.

April 23, 2019 Day 2 and we are up again and greeting Don with our gear and eagerness to get back out to the forest. We set off, splitting up once again, into the darkness to get in position to cut off the gobbler from the prior morning. Another beautiful

sunrise piercing through the pine forest. It didn't take long before we had a tom responding to our soft yelps. Again, he just would not commit into our set up. We played cat and mouse for a couple hours until he began his uphill wandering. Matt and I hit the mountain again and slowly climbed and called in hopes of luring one of the many other gobblers we had heard that morning. After several hours, miles, gobblers, and yelps, we staggered back to the truck to rest up and prepare for the afternoon. Rested and fed, the four of us, made our way back to the area of the three gobblers from the previous day. We hadn't made it 200 yards from the truck and we had a tom fired up and charging our way. Quickly we split into two positions to take advantage of the terrain. This gobbler came tearing out of the timber toward Carlos and myself. Don had placed Matt in a position about 100 yards behind us and to our right. Quickly I set our decoy and began calling but this tom only had Don's sweet talking on his mind. His bright red head sprinted past Carlos and I and presented a fast shot opportunity for Matt. Unfortunately, the shot did not hit the mark and the tom retreated over the hill, but not before darting across Don's path at no more than 10 yards, and not fully understanding what exactly had happened. Again, we quickly collected ourselves and followed the long beards path. Terrain and some eagerness on our part pushed this tom over the hill and left us high and dry for day two.

April 24, 2019 Our final morning, Matt, Carlos, and myself had Don drop us off to once again make a push up the mountain in hopes of setting up and ambushing the same gobblers that had been giving us the slip each of the previous mornings. With hopes set high, we began our march up. Just as days prior we had those toms gobbling but they just weren't worked up enough to commit themselves to our turkey love language. Also, as luck would have it for the Gila turkeys, a lone coyote began to give us the business from under 100 yards. The coyote would yelp, bark, and growl while pacing through the forest trying to figure out what we were. This, as most would imagine, turned our regular gobblers off completely. Our morning went completely silent until out of nowhere, bang! The sound of a shotgun blast echoed along the ridge we were on. Each of us immediately thought the same thing, Don? I tried to reach Don by walkie talkie but the terrain prevented our transmission. Excited, we continued our still hunt along our designated route. Eventually, I was able to transmit to Don. "Did you get one?" Don, in his slow deep draw, "yessss srrrrr". The three of us were so happy for Don but also couldn't believe that after all the miles we had hiked that he was able to capitalize on his opportunity just a couple hundred yards away from his truck. We told Don we were still about an hour away from him and we would see him soon. We scrambled back towards the truck, calling along the way with no replies. Most of the time we were making fun of ourselves and how local knowledge had just trumped physical



exertion for this hunt. As we made our way to Don, he was proudly waiting for us in his truck with his trophy hung on one of those majestic Gila pine trees. Don shared with us his story and how things are just meant to be. We all helped get that bird field dressed and on ice before we made our final afternoon plans. Again, the three of us dove into another area where we had heard gobblers on prior days. With our passion to see some new country we pushed farther into the Gila countryside. A few long distance turkey sightings, a bull elk with just some mushroom tops of new antler growth, and a tom giving us a gobbling lesson right at final shoot time and our Gila adventure was over. We drove that windy road back into town for the final time this season but as I have said in my past Gila National Forest trips, "I will be back". We said our good byes to our now good friend, Don, and called it a night before our trek back to "reality" the next day.

April 25, 2019 We left that New Mexico oasis before the sun began to shed it's light across the desert. Each of us heading back with a new experience and story to share with our friends and family. Success was not measured by reaching our bag limits on this trip but instead by the relationships and memories that we will have forever. Myself, and The OATH Foundation is thankful to have been able to provide this opportunity to SSgt. Matthew Short and Master Sgt. Carlos Morales. I thank them for their honorable and dedicated service to our country.

CA WSF Director Candidate Biographies for the 2019 Election Ballot
Listing is Alphabetical by Last Name



ADAM CASAGRANDE — Eagle, ID

Born and raised in California, I was taught the importance of family and conservation through hunting and fishing with my father and grandfather. Whether I was sitting on a bucket along a fence line during dove season with my grandfather or in a drift boat casting to rainbows with my father I always felt I learned more about life spending time in the outdoors with those two. My passion for the outdoors took me to Colorado where I attended Colorado State University and earned my degree in Agricultural Business. With college out of the way I felt the time was right to go exploring, which took me to Alaska and Chile where I spent two years guiding fly fishing trips. With an urge to start a family of my own I landed in Texas where I met my wife and started a career with Morgan Stanley. After six years in TX we moved back to CA where I had the opportunity to work with my father in the family insurance business. My wife and I moved to Eagle, ID in 2015. We have three boys who are learning the importance of family and conservation in the outdoors just the way I did. With the desire to conserve wildlife so my boys continue to have the opportunities that I had, I joined CAWSF in 2010 and chaired the Live Auction for the 2011 fundraiser. I have been involved with the annual fundraiser each year since 2011. Current conservation group memberships include WSF, IDWSF and BHA. I have been a Director of CAWSF for 7 years and an Officer for the past 6 years.

MEMBERSHIP – Distinguished Life Member



KEN CROTHER — Sutter, CA

I am one of the few that have had the opportunity in California to reap the benefits of CA WSF's hard work and determination to keep these sheep on the mountain as well as fight for our rights to pursue them. In 2008 I was fortunate enough to draw a coveted tag in our state and began a turn in my hunting life. I am interested in continuing on the Board so that I can give back and help do the same for others, including my children. After attending college in San Luis Obispo at California Polytechnic I moved back to Sutter and to begin my family and work career. Waterfowl was my love growing up and upon returning from college I began hunting large game in the Western States. The sheep tag I drew was a bonus that was never planned on and then I drew a tag the following year in Idaho for a Rocky Mountain Bighorn. After drawing the tags, I began meeting people in many different ways that all seem to start to tie together with the sheep community. I have been on the Board for the last 7 years and currently hold the position of Northern California Vice President. I am involved with the legislative affairs committee where I attend various fish and wildlife meetings as get involved in the Hunting Conservation Coalition as well. Currently I have been involved in R3 efforts and helping get that off the ground in California. As always I am very involved in the production of our fundraiser in Sacramento. My current goals on this board is to increase involvement in our state through growing our membership, increasing attendance to a wonderful banquet and intend to pursue setting some longer term goals to insure our board stays consistent with our goals and prosper for the benefit of our wild sheep in California. There is a lot to work still to do in our state to preserve the species but also to protect our rights. MEMBERSHIP – Life Member

CA WSF Director Candidate Biographies for the 2019 Election Ballot

Listing is Alphabetical by Last Name



BOB KEAGY, Layfayette, CA

Bob, aged 74, is completing his fourth term as CA WSF Director. He is an avid hunter. Bob grew up in a non-hunting family, but he was read the works of Roy Chapman Andrews, James Corbett, Robert Ruark and Jack O'Connor from a very early age. His love of the writings of Jack O'Connor led him to pursue mountain game, including a Grand Slam, World Slam and a Triple Slam. Bob's love of mountain hunting extends to a wide variety of mountain game. In addition to sheep, he has also shot quite a fair number of ibex, several chamois, Tahr, Rocky Mountain Goat, and the rare Golden Takin. He has also been to Africa many times. Bob remains very grateful to the Wild Sheep Foundation, dedicated to our hunting cause, and would like to continue to support CA

WSF's many efforts. Bob is a Summit Life Member/Gold level Chadwick Ram Society Member.

He is also President of the Mzuri Safari Club of San Francisco. MEMBERSHIP – Distinguished Life Member



GEORGE KERR, Simi Valley, CA

I am a life member of CA WSF and recent honoree of the Eastman Grass Roots Award given by the Wild Sheep Foundation. Also a life member of Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep – where I've been a member for over 35 years; Past President and board member of SCBS. Active with both organizations as well as Safari Club. I was just reappointed as Ventura County F&G Commissioner for the 20th year, as well as hunter clinic chairman for F&G and SCBS and Southern California Vice President of CA WSF. By trade, I am a landscape contractor specializing in custom landscape design and architecture. I am dedicated to our new wild sheep management plan by the CA DFW and have high hopes of implementing this plan with both conservation organizations (CA WSF and SCBS). I am also dedicated to mentoring the youth in wildlife

conservation and proper management practices. I was raised in hunting family; my father was a premier sportsman/conservationist and one of the founders of the SCBS in the beginning. I have the joy of family hunting experiences and look forward to hunting together with family, three sons-in-law and with grandchildren, which renews my incentive to pass our legacy down. This will be my third term and I again hope to help better interface with other conservation organizations. Still have not pulled California sheep tag as of this date after 30 years of applying. Just saying, not complaining! MEMBERSHIP – Life Member



DONALD C. MARTIN, Elk Grove, CA

A native of Madera, CA, Don grew up hunting and fishing with his family. As a youth, Don became an accomplished bass-fisherman, having competed in over 40 bass tournaments by age 18. Donald C. Martin is a graduate of Humboldt State university where he majored in Theatre Arts/Film Production but also studied Wildlife and Fisheries Management. After graduation from HSU, Don apprenticed as a hunting/fishing guide in Alaska where he is now a pending Master Guide and is Director of Hunting Operations for Ultima Thule Outfitters. Don previously guided for over a decade in Sonora, Mexico for mule/coues deer and currently guides hunters in California for tule elk, wild hogs, and turkeys.

Having guided over 270 successful hunts for 12 different species of North American big game, Don recognizes the need for sound wildlife management and habitat conservation and is dedicated to "putting and keeping sheep on the mountain." In the off-season, Don works as a digital-film producer and fishing guide and resides in Elk Grove with his wife, Katie. Don is a Summit Life Member of WSF, a Chadwick Society Member, and a life member of Eastern WSF, ID WSF, SCBS, and WA WSF. He also maintains memberships in Full Curl Society, SCI, GSC/OVIS, P&Y Club, APHA and the NRA. Don has served on the CA WSF BOD for 8 years, 4 years as Vice-President and is currently the Fundraiser Co-Chair. Don has served as Master of Ceremonies for CA WSF since 2017 and has also hosted events for WA WSF and APHA. Don was awarded the CA WSF "Above and Beyond Award" in 2015 and the WSF Dalziel Outstanding Guide Award in 2017. Don is standing for reelection to its board of directors and would appreciate your support. MEMBERSHIP – Distinguished Life Member

CA WSF Director Candidate Biographies for the 2019 Election Ballot
Listing is Alphabetical by Last Name



GLEN PYNE – Yorba Linda, CA

Glen Pyne was born and raised in Southern California. He received his BS in Animal Science from Cal Poly, Pomona and his DVM degree from Ross University. Although primarily a small animal surgeon today, Glen began his career as a mixed animal practitioner in Ohio and currently donates his services to the Fullerton High School Districts FFA program.

Glen is active in Rotary Club International as a former Vocational Chairperson and Paul Farris Fellow. An avid hunter, Glen has hunted most of the western states as well as Canada, Europe, and Africa. Glen has been a supporter of CA WSF and the Wild Sheep Foundation for many years and hopes to continue his conservation efforts in his second term as a member of the CA WSF Board of Directors. MEMBERSHIP – Distinguished Life Member



RENEE SNIDER – Elk Grove, CA

Renee grew up in the mountains of Central Idaho, along the famous Salmon River, a sportsman's paradise. Her parents both enjoyed the outdoors, her father was an avid and skilled outdoorsman, and as a child she accompanied them on their outdoor excursions—fishing, hunting, sleighing or just enjoying a jeep ride in the mountains. Her outdoor skills were honed during these early years. At the same time, she gained a deep respect and solace from being in the outdoors. Despite her passion for the outdoors, Renee's true devotion is to her involvement with numerous organizations caring for disadvantaged and special needs children.

Renee has lived in California for 45 years with her husband, Paul, and they continue to support many national and international wildlife-based conservation organizations. Renee has hunted every continent, collected over 400 hunting species and has been recognized with virtually all of the world's most prestigious hunting awards. To date, she has collected 42 Ovis and 40 Capra species. Renee is a highly accomplished and respected hunter/conservationist, a generous philanthropist and beloved humanitarian. Renee was one of the earliest members of CA WSF (Life Member #4) and has continued her support throughout the years. She looks forward to bringing her perspective to the Board and asks for your support. MEMBERSHIP – Life Member



MIKE TORRES – Redding, CA

I am a retired Division Chief with Cal Fire and spent my 35 year career in Fire Control and Law Enforcement statewide. I have been with the California Deer Association (CDA) for about 20 years and have served on the Statewide Project Committee, additionally I am the Coordinator for hunts, firearms, and projects for the Redding CDA Chapter. The Redding CDA Chapter is the largest and most successful CDA Chapter in California and we focus on Youth Outdoor Opportunities as a local Chapter Project.

I have been fortunate to have hunted extensively in the Western United States, Africa, Mexico, Alaska, and the Canadian Provinces. To date I have taken 8 rams in North America and look forward to more adventures in search of big rams. As we all know, Mountain Sheep live in the most spectacular county on earth and I cherish every moment spent with them. I am committed to doing everything possible to help these fantastic animals and the mountains they call home.

In addition to belonging to the National Rifle Association, Safari Club International, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, I am a lifetime member of the California Deer Association, the Wild Sheep Foundation, and the California Chapter of the WSF. I would like to apply my career experience and background in conservation and hunting to benefit our wild sheep. MEMBERSHIP – Life Member

CA WSF Director Candidate Biographies for the 2019 Election Ballot
Listing is Alphabetical by Last Name

**2019 CALIFORNIA WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS BALLOT**

Vote no more than ONCE for each candidate (no cumulative voting). Vote for up to EIGHT.

Vote must be received no later than 5 p.m. on June 28, 2019.

CANDIDATES (Listed randomly)

_____ Donald C. Martin

_____ Adam Casagrande

_____ Bob Keagy

_____ Glen Pyne

_____ Mike Torres

_____ Ken Crother

_____ Renee Snider

_____ George Kerr

_____ Your Write-in Candidate

Your Name: _____ optional

Email or Phone: _____ required

Mail ballot to: Ca Wild Sheep Foundation, 1314 B Center Drive #267, Medford, OR 97501

Fax ballot to: 650-472-3889

Email ballot to: forthesheep@gmail.com

NEW DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP HUNT ZONE IN CALIFORNIA

*California Department of Fish & Wildlife, Region 6
Zone 10: Newberry, Rodman and Ord Mountains*

by Paige Prentice

On May 16, 2019, the California Fish & Game Commission approved the 10th desert bighorn hunt zone for California—the Newberry, Rodman and Ord Mountains Unit. I am incredibly excited about this new zone and the 6 new hunt tag opportunities it offers!

For those of you unfamiliar with this set of mountains, they are located 17 miles southeast of Barstow and due south of Interstate 40. In 1971, Dick Weaver reported that this area was uninhabited by desert bighorn and later work conducted by Clint Epps in the early 2000s, suggested that there were 25-50 bighorn. However, after reports of increased water usage from Carlos Gallinger and other SCBS members, CDFW flew helicopter surveys in 2016 and 2018 and counted 171 and 204 bighorn, respectively (Table 1).

This range is relatively isolated from other desert bighorn herds but GPS collar data from recent captures has shown that there is regular movement between the Newberry and Ord Mountains and the Bullion Mountains to the east. It’s possible that these movements have been encouraged, or will continue to increase, as a result of the new drinker installations SCBS has installed on the 29 Palms Marine Corps Base. Another exciting fact about this range is that disease results have thus far been negative for *Mycoplasma ovipneumonia* (M.ovi) which is a key bacteria in the poly-microbial respiratory disease documented elsewhere in the Mojave Desert. Furthermore, this range had the highest documented lamb to ewe ratio, 77 lambs per 100 ewes, I’ve seen anywhere in the Mojave Desert since I started working for CDFW in 2015. Overall, this population is doing



extremely well and I’m grateful for all the hard-work our DBS Team put forth in order to open this new hunt

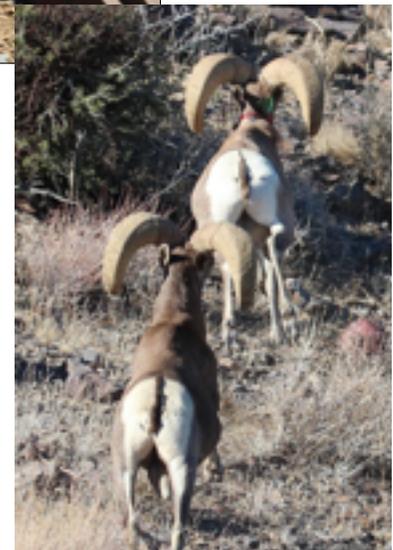
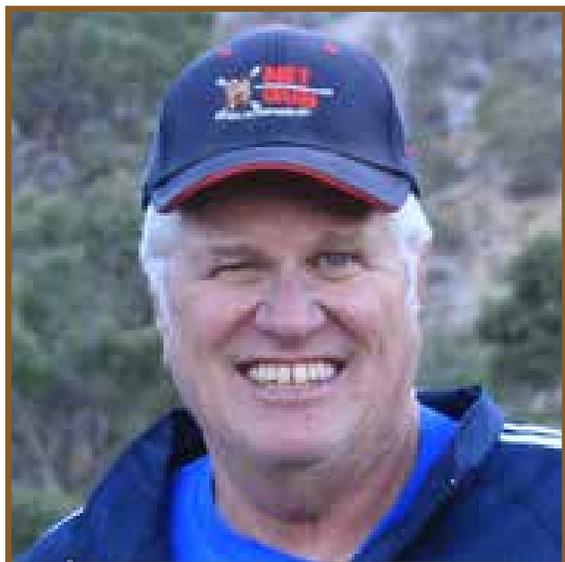


Table 1 : Sex and Age Classification of bighorn sheep observed during aerial surveys in the Newberry, Rodman and Ord Mountains Management Unit, 1994 – 2018

Date	Effort (Hours)	Lambs	Ewes	Yearling Ewes	Males				Unclassified	Total
					I	II	III	IV		
5/27/1994	4	1	12	3	0	2	1	2	0	21
10/6/2016	7	49	64	6	11	8	13	20	0	171
10/17/2018	5.7	35	79	16	10	14	20	28	2	204

MANY VARIATIONS OF ABNORMAL COLORATION IN BIGHORN SHEEP (*OVIS CANADENSIS*) EXISTS

Vernon C. Bleich, Ph.D.



My interest in this subject dates to 1976—when I learned that more than two white-colored individuals had been seen in the Clark Mountain Range, San Bernardino County, California.

Reports of abnormal coloration in wild vertebrates are encountered frequently in the literature. Abnormal white coloration manifests itself as albinism or leucism, and those terms are often used interchangeably, albeit erroneously (Curatolo 1979; McCardle 2012). Albinistic individuals are characterized by a complete lack of pigmentation in the skin and hair and have pink eyes whereas leucistic individuals are deficient in pigmentation and are white in color, but exhibit pigmented skin and eyes that are normally colored or blue (Abreu et al. 2013). Leucism is a double-recessive trait (Cruickshank and Robinson 1997); hence, normally colored parents have the potential to produce leucistic offspring, but the genetics of albinism should not be confused with the genetics of leucism (Searle 1968).

Piebaldism involves a lack of pigmentation (Abreu et al. 2013) in some parts of the body, and piebald individuals are characterized by normally colored eyes (Fertl and Rosel 2002; Acevedo and Aguayo 2008). Miller (2005) noted that piebaldism has been referred to as partial albinism by some investigators, whereas others have not considered the differences between piebaldism and leucism; thus, the terminology associated with reports of abnormally pigmented animals is frequently confounded (Abreu et al. 2013). Melanistic individuals exhibit dark or even black

pelage or appendages resulting from the excessive deposition of melanin, and this condition occurs less frequently than does albinism (Sage 1963).

In western North America, bighorn sheep occupy suitable habitat in two Canadian provinces, 5 states in Mexico, and 15 of the contiguous United States. I carefully reviewed information from throughout the range of that species, including descriptions obtained from the literature or from electronic references, and the photographs, electronic images, or detailed descriptions provided by respondents to a survey. And I had my own personal observations and records of “white sheep” to draw on.

Contrary to information provided by Shackleton (1985) and McCardle (2012), observations of leucistic, melanistic, or piebald bighorn sheep have, for many years, been reported from throughout the range of the species. In addition to the reports published prior to the reviews of Shackleton (1985) and McCardle (2012), abnormally colored bighorn sheep have now been described from ≥ 30 geographic areas from British Columbia southward to Baja California Sur, and as far east as North Dakota. Further, white coloration has been reported among four of the five clades (*O. c. canadensis*, *O. c. cremnobates*, *O. c. nelsoni*, and *O. c. mexicana*) of bighorn sheep recognized by Buchalski et al. (2016). Reports of piebald or melanistic individuals were, however, much less common than reports of white-colored animals. Although there likely are additional records of abnormal coloration in bighorn sheep not reported, this paper corrects the omissions of Shackleton (1985) and McCardle (2012) and, hopefully, will stimulate others to record additional observations of anomalous coloration in that iconic species.

Vern can be contacted at vcbleich@gmail.com.



PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Doug Sayer
Tiburon Island
188 1/8"
"El Rey" (The King)



David Combs
Public land elk in Nevada
"Very lucky shot running shot at 300 yards.
Also lucky to drive right to him after the success."



Ed Hudson
Sambar Deer
2nd largest free ranging Sambar ever taken N.A.
Hunting with Anderson Taxidermy & Guide Service, Inc



Tom Thompson
30" Aoudad
Hunting with Don Anderson,
Anderson Taxidermy & Guide Service, Inc

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

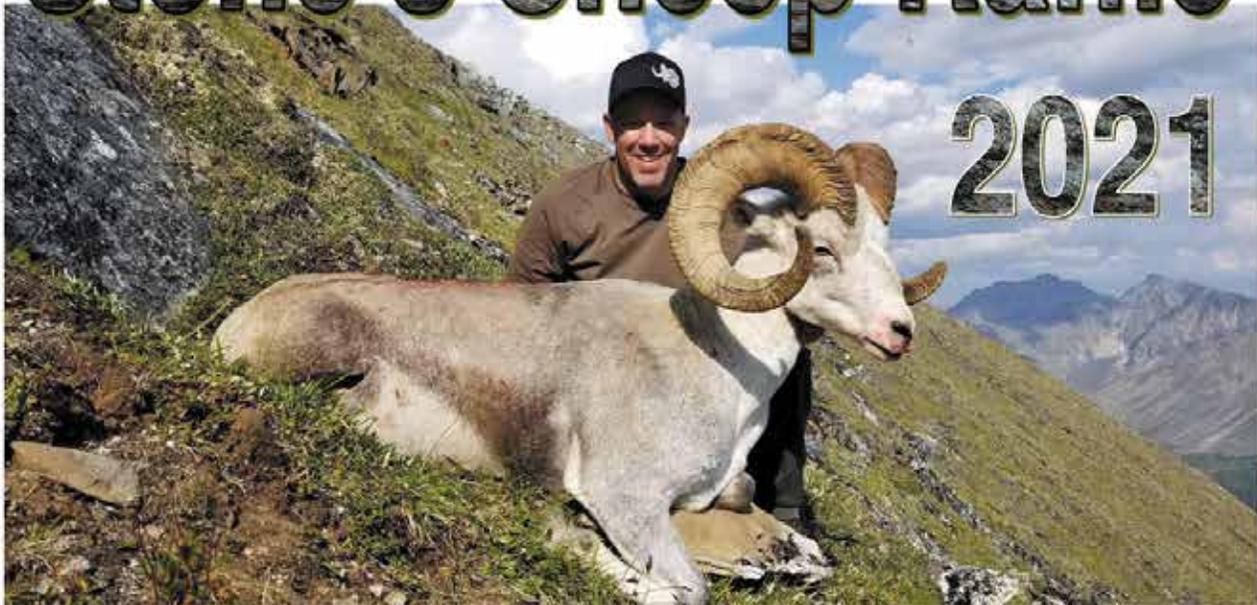


Roger McCosker missed the Annual Fundraiser this year — but made good use of his time in Spain!

- Above: Gredos Ibex**
- Right: Southeastern Ibex**
- Below: Rhonda Ibex (15 years old!)**
- Below Right: Mallorcan Goat/Balearean Boc**



Stone's Sheep Raffle



Enter to win a 15-day Stone Sheep Hunt with Yukon Stone Outfitters August 12-26, 2021 in the renown Pelly Mountains of Canada's Yukon Territory. Located in the heart of the Pelly Mountains, Yukon Stone Outfitters operates in one of the largest, most scenic and remote areas of Canada's Yukon Territory. Horseback or Backpack. Accommodations during the hunt are included. Value of the hunt is \$44,500.

Winner will be drawn at the California WSF Banquet May 2, 2020. Winner will be notified by email or phone.

Additional costs to be paid by winner:

Bush flights: \$1,400

Hunt Package 5% GST tax: \$2,107.50

Hunt Preservation Fund, License and tags (includes all species): \$500

Government Harvest Fee (Sheep only): \$250

Transportation to and from Whitehorse, Yukon Territory Canada

NOT INCLUDED IN YOUR HUNT

Hotel before and after the hunt

Tips/Gratuities

Crate and Freight charges for shipping trophies

Additional hunters or non hunters if arranged with outfitter

Additional trophy fees if arranged with outfitter

Additional flights required to take out extra meat

Unscheduled charter flights (leaving early or arriving late, etc.) are in addition to charter included in hunt price



Species you may add to your hunt include:

Trophy grizzly - \$10,500

Management grizzly - \$5,500

Caribou - \$7,500

Black bear - \$2,500

Wolf/wolverine - \$500

Prices may vary and will be at the current rate at time of your hunt.

**YUKON
STONE**



OUTFITTERS

2021 STONE SHEEP HUNT Special Drawing



ONLY 500 TICKETS AVAILABLE

\$100 PER TICKET



Yukon Stone Outfitters

Hunt Information

15 day 1x1 hunt with Yukon Stone Outfitters
Dates: August 12 - August 26, 2021
Location: Pelly Mountains of Yukon
Territory, Canada

Get Tickets by Mail, Fax, or ON LINE

Mail order form to:

CA WSF
1314 B Center Drive #267
Medford, OR 97501

FAX order form to:
650-472-3889

ONLINE ORDERS:
www.cawsf.org/store

Name

Address

City State Post Code

Day Phone

Email

Payment Methods

Check

Make check payable to:
CA Wild Sheep Foundation

MasterCard

Visa

Credit Card Number

Expire Date

CCV Code

Billing Postal Code

Signature

Orders must be received by April 25, 2020. Drawing held May 2, 2020.
Do not need to be present to win.

Give a lamb a drink

Project to Double the Carrying Capacity for DBH in CA
Expanding desert bighorn sheep habitat in California

THANKS A
HALF-
MILLION

Thanks to you, our members and supporters, we have passed \$500,000 in donations!

Special thanks go to

Wild Sheep Foundation
GSCO/OVIS

Water For Wildlife
SCBS

Mzuri Foundation
CA WSF Members

Only \$2.5 million to go, on this the most impactful Bighorn Sheep Project in North America!

We are planning two to three installations this fall. If you have not received an email with information, please contact Beverly (forthesheep@gmail.com) to update your email address. Announcements and requests for volunteers will continue coming to you via email. This is a great opportunity to get out in the desert, meet some of the great people involved with the project, and make a huge difference for the sheep.

WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION WASHINGTON DC “FLY-IN”

by Don Priest

A few weeks ago I was able to visit Washington DC for a “Fly-In” to continue our legislative work with members of Congress on Capitol Hill, along with other issue discussions with Federal agencies. Greg Schildwachter from Watershed Results arranged and assisted with our various meetings. The visits began with a meeting of staff for Representative Doug LaMalfa (CA-1) where we discussed the upcoming highway bill and the use of and funding for wildlife crossings.

Our next meeting was with Rep. Paul Cook (CA-8) staff. Rep. Cook’s congressional district includes much of the wild desert bighorn sheep (DBS) habitat in southern California. Many issues were included in our discussions, including: bill language to enhance the coordination between the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CA DFW) and Federal land managers within the California Desert Conservation Area, withdrawing the Castle Mountains from National Monument status to be made part of the Mojave National Preserve, current efforts for the humane removal of feral burros in our California deserts, and lastly wildlife crossings funding within the current highway bill. These same topics were discussed the following day with staff of Sen. Dianne Feinstein (CA). We would like to thank all offices for their time and efforts to consider those issues most important to CA WSF and it’s members.

Our final day one meeting of the two day visit was with staff of Rep. Chris Stewart (UT-2). Rep. Stewart is a leader on the issue surrounding the wild horse and burro over-population problem. We indicated that WSF and CA WSF are in support of a multi-organizational proposal called “The Path Forward for Management of BLM’s Wild Horses & Burros”. Though we feel that harder objectives in both management numbers and within a reasonable timeline is necessary to deal with this high priority problem. Wild horse and burro populations are currently at least three times the maximum population level acceptable by the 1971 Wild Horse and Burro Act.

Day two began with a the Department of the Interior’s (DOI) Fish and Wildlife and Parks staff,



including Andrea Travenick, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and Ryan Hambleton, Deputy Assistant Secretary. Our main topic of discussion was the final approval and implementation of the Mojave National Preserve Water Management Plan (WMP). WSF and CA WSF has provided the DOI Fish and Wildlife and Parks our input on the WMP, with our thoughts on additional language that would help enhance cooperation between the MNP and other DBS stakeholders, such as the CA DFW whom have jurisdiction over DBS within the MNP as provided within the 1994 California Desert Protection Act.

Our last meetings were with the staff of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. We separately met with both sets of staff for the Majority and Minority. Our discussions with both groups of staff included a request to establish wildlife crossings as an additional explicit purpose for any State Block Grant funds within the Highway bill. From our meetings we were happy to learn that the concept of a specific State Block Grant for wildlife crossings is under consideration. This would be a terrific opportunity to protect our wildlife during migrations or other movement activities, including for our DBS. Given that collisions with wildlife is a public safety issue, such wildlife crossing would provide protection for people and vehicles.

CA WSF will continue to work diligently with these offices and others on all these important issues; and look forward to keeping you, our members, up to date on these activities.

THE DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP OF THE NEWBERRY MOUNTAINS

by Carlos Gallinger, *thewayofthings.org*

Like many desert bighorn sheep populations in the distant past, the Newberry population was large and vibrant. It was hunted by the ancient people that inhabited this land as a valued food source. Then in a process that happened throughout the Southwest, the Newberry sheep were affected by disease, habitat reduction, and fragmentation as well as overhunting to the point where their population was reduced to about 25 animals. This situation persisted for perhaps fifty to a hundred years, so that by the time they were genetically tested in the year 2002, this small herd suffered from the effects of inbreeding. The outlook for this small remnant herd look pretty bleak and with their demise would also go a portion of the original genetic diversity of their species.

There were some people working on this problem, such as the people from the Society for Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, the California Department of Fish and Game now known as Fish and Wildlife, and the North American Wild Sheep Foundation (now CA WSF). Also other organization and individuals did what they could. All took an interest in conserving this population.

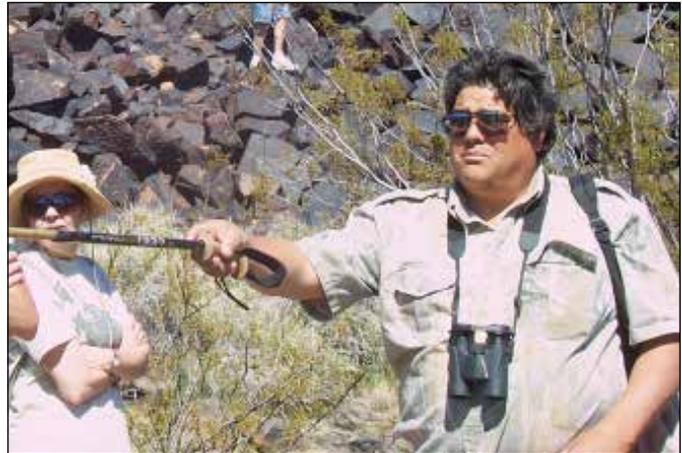
Presently, that is as of 2019, this population has risen to perhaps 300 and has started another population on the Twentynine Palms Marine Base of about 50 or more. As astounding as these numbers are there is another number to consider. Through helicopter survey it was established that there was a 40:100 lamb:ewe ratio. That is to say that for 100 females there were 40 surviving lambs, which indicates a healthy and fast growing population.

The Newberry herd has been studied for many years and in many ways, as was indicated above. There has been a DNA study done on it where we were able to compare the DNA of this herd and many others. The Society for Conservation of Bighorn Sheep ran a trail camera survey from 2009 to 2013 in which many things were learned. Department of Fish and Wildlife has also fitted some of these animals with transmitting collars that gave their whereabouts on a 24 hour basis via satellite.

Due to the large amount of information we have we have a pretty good idea what happened and why, though there will be a difference of opinion as to what had the largest benefit.

Currently I believe we will get a better picture of this as the various issues play out and we collect new data.

I believe one of the first things that happened that made a difference was a new water source in the old



quarry at Newberry that was not only a water source but also source of minerals, and this affected their health in a positive way. Then there were a number of water sources put on the Twentynine Palms Marine base, which I believe also had minerals associated with them and thus affected their health positively.

There is another component of these water sources in the Twentynine Palms base that should be taken into consideration and that is they connected the Newberry herd to another population of bighorn sheep in the Sheephole Mountains, thereby giving the Newberry herd greater genetic diversity. Another decisive factor was that the cattle in this area was reduced from somewhere around 300 to about 25 or 30. While there is no doubt this is beneficial as far as feed is concerned I think the greater impact was the fact that there were no more new cows and bulls being introduced into this area, and thereby lowering the possibility of introducing diseases.

It seems that, with regards to the population of desert bighorn sheep in the Newberry Mountains, we're poised to take on the problems brought about by success. And I believe that we do have to face these problems head on and with resources and imagination. We must decide whether we will maintain this situation and learn from it.

Most of the time when one talks about environmental situations it is just one piece of bad news after another. In this case it is something very different. Not only is it good news about the Newberry herd but there are valuable lessons that we can apply throughout the Southwest.

2018 – A Year in Review

On the Cusp of Great Things Happening for the Sheep in California

CA WSF stands firmly at the forefront of all activities related to desert bighorn sheep in California. Our objective is to lead a collective, collaborative effort to achieve maximum sustainable populations of bighorn in as many areas of historical presence as possible. And as quickly as possible!

Our collaborations, individually and as groups, with CDFW, the Mojave National Preserve, BLM, military bases in California, USFS, our sister organizations (Society for Conservation of Bighorn Sheep [SCBS] and Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn), Oregon State University, Washington State University, WSF and others has never been stronger.

In 2018 we continued expending many hours of effort on behalf of the sheep and our organization by leading, supporting, influencing, and raising money. The GALAD project – the Give A Lamb a Drink initiative to more than double the carrying capacity of DBH in California – has progressed the state land leases, completed 3 new installations. The latest, “Creosote”, included an SCBS test of hired helpers from the California Conservation Corps. SCBS will still need and use as many volunteers as they can get but by hiring the CCC team to support the installations we will be able to take on more installations each year. As of this writing we have four installations planned for 2019. We still have a long way to go but the first steps are often the most difficult and we have established forward momentum.

While CA WSF has focused on new water installations, SCBS and CA WSF have not forgotten there are 103 existing ‘guzzlers’ installed throughout the state. This year we helped SCBS to retrofit or repair several prior installations. This process will be ongoing as we continue to support the repair or replacement of older systems as needed/possible.

We have also continued to actively participate in CDFW’s Big Game Management Account (BGMA) grant process.

Our collaboration project with Dr. Clint Epps, Daniella Dekelaita, and Oregon State University, “Characterizing the spread and consequences of respiratory disease for desert bighorn sheep in the eastern Mojave Desert,” was finalized this year with a final report due soon.

Another of our BGMA projects is testing unmanned aerial systems (drones) for sheep counts. If successful, drone work could provide a method of counting sheep that will improve accuracy, provide additional data for CDFW requirements, and safely survey areas that have not been surveyed previously. The surveys are an important aspect of sheep management and of course enabling hunting opportunity as the number of sheep tags each year are determined by extrapolating survey results. We took a preliminary drone flight in late 2018 with good results (see CA WSF Winter 2018 newsletter).

We also continued our contributions to Washington

State University to help fund their ongoing effort to potentially develop a vaccine or other method that will prevent domestic sheep from passing on a deadly form of pneumonia to wild sheep. We are happy to report that significant progress has been made in this effort. However, an implementable solution is not yet in hand.

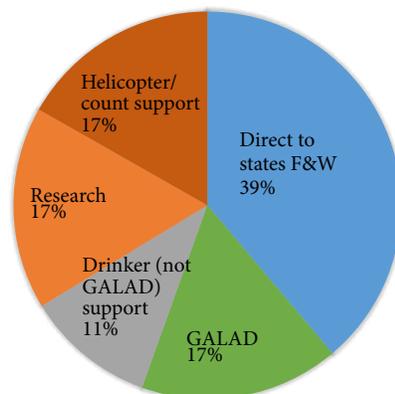
Since our founding, we have raised and invested over \$1.9 million for the benefit of wild sheep in California. In addition, we, and our sister organization SCBS, have hosted a twice annual “Sheep Summit” each year. The CA Sheep Summit was initiated by CA WSF to bring together all stakeholders in the stewardship of bighorns in California. All parties involved in the CA Wild Sheep Summit believe we are achieving some great things. The meeting on April 5, 2019 is the 25th meeting of this group, which has become the guiding committee for bighorn sheep conservation in California. One of the major results of the Sheep Summit is the CDFW Bighorn Sheep Comprehensive Management Plan (BSCMP), and corresponding Herd Unit Plans.

The BSCMP is expected to be finished shortly; land and locations for more water projects have been identified; we have more people working on wild sheep now than in recent years; and CDFW funding is available to move forward!

None of this would have been possible without the support of our members, SCBS, and WSF. Members are how we’ve accomplished so much and you will be the reason we will accomplish far more in the years ahead! Thanks to each of you for participating in this year’s fundraiser. This is our one major event each year where we raise funds that are used in the ensuing year to benefit wild sheep in California.

Please help us increase the number of bighorns in California, and with that the hunting opportunity for big, gnarly, old warrior rams!

CA WSF Lifetime Projects Funding



CA WSF — WORKING TO KEEP YOU IN THE FIELD

*by Bill Gaines
Gaines and Associates*

As Friday May 31 is the deadline for any legislation to be passed out of the House it was introduced in, activity at the State Capitol on bills of concern to members the California Chapter of the Wild Sheep (CA WSF) has been very heavy. Below is a summary and update on the status of just some of the many bills CA WSF is actively working in the State Legislature this year on behalf of our members. The status of the bills provided below is as of the end of May 2019. Bills appear in numerical order, not in order of priority to CA WSF.

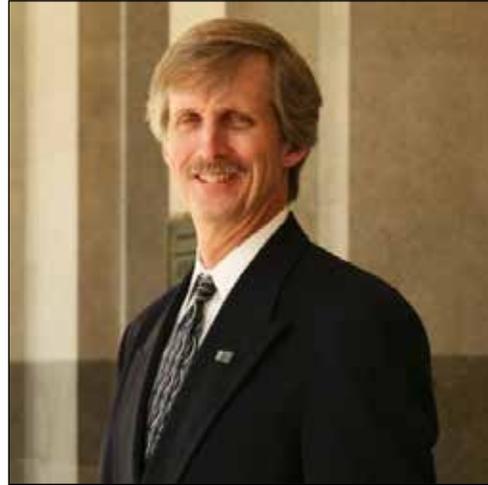
2019 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

AB 284 (FRAZIER) – JUNIOR HUNTING LICENSES: ELIGIBILITY: AGE REQUIREMENT

In 2014, AB 1709 – legislation authored by Assembly Member Jim Frazier (D/11-Fairfield), and universally supported by the hunting community – was signed into law which increased junior hunting license age eligibility from 15 to 17 years of age. However, that legislation included a “sunset” provision which requires the age eligibility to revert back to 15 years on July 1, 2020, unless the provision is extended by subsequent legislation. As revised March 26th, AB 284 – legislation also authored by Assembly Member Jim Frazier – would extend the junior hunting license age eligibility of 17 years indefinitely.

CA WSF actively supports AB 284 due to the many benefits increasing the age eligibility of a junior hunting license from 15 to 17 would do to get more youth involved in our hunting tradition. Junior hunting licenses offer young individuals the opportunity to participate in several high quality “youth” hunts made available by DFW and wildlife conservation groups. Junior hunting licenses are also available at a significantly lower cost as compared with the adult hunting license. With both cost and limited opportunity and access known to be barriers to hunting participation, AB 284 would help ensure that more of our youth get out in the field for years to come.

AB 284 was heard in the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee in March, passing out and to the Assembly Appropriations Committee on a unanimous vote. Once in the Assembly Appropriations Committee, AB 284 was placed in the suspense file due to the measure’s estimated revenue loss to DFW of \$400,000. Projected costs to DFW include a reduction of \$275,000 in hunting license revenue, a \$50,000



reduction in California Duck Stamp revenue, and an estimated \$50,000 reduction in California Upland Game Bird Validations.

AB 284 was held in Assembly Appropriations Committee and not heard. Failing to meet the legislative deadline, AB 284 is now a “two-year” bill and cannot be heard until the 2020 Legislative Session.

Recognizing the importance of extending the junior hunting license age eligibility to the R3 Program and the need to do so prior to the July 2020 sunset, CA WSF is currently working closely with the bill’s sponsor to find another viable vehicle to move this proposal forward during the 2019 Legislative Session.

AB 688 (CHU) – FIREARMS: VEHICLE STORAGE

Current law requires that a handgun in an unattended vehicle be either locked in the vehicle’s trunk, in a locked container out of plain view, locked in a container that is permanently affixed to the vehicle’s interior and not in plain view, or locked in a toolbox or utility box.

As introduced, AB 688 – legislation by Assembly Member Kansen Chu (D/25-Milpitas) – would make those requirements applicable to all firearms and would require the firearms to be secured to the vehicle’s frame using a steel cable lock or chain and padlock, or in a locked container that is secured using a steel cable lock or chain and padlock or that is permanently affixed to the vehicle.

CA WSF believes the overly strict requirements called out by AB 688 would create significant problems for many law-abiding hunters who are on their way to

the field or range with their shotguns or rifles. While it would be troublesome for an individual hunter transporting a single shotgun or rifle to fully address the rigorous provisions of AB 688, the bill would make it tremendously difficult for hunters “car-pooling” to the field with multiple long-guns in their vehicle to comply. Further, it would make it literally impossible for law-abiding Hunter Education Instructors, shooting coaches and others who must transport numerous shotguns and/or rifles for use by their students while on their way to/from the shooting range to meet to the bill’s stringent requirements.

AB 688 passed out of the Assembly Public Safety Committee and to the Assembly Appropriations Committee in late March on a party-line vote. Once in the Assembly Appropriations Committee, the bill was placed in the suspense file due to the measure’s cost of as much as \$200,000 for law enforcement to outfit their vehicles with steel cable locks.

AB 688 was held in Assembly Appropriations Committee and not heard. Failing to meet the legislative deadline, AB 688 is now a “two-year” bill and cannot be heard until the 2020 Legislative Session.

AB 1254 (KAMLAGER-DOVE) – BOBCATS: TAKE PROHIBITION

As amended April 11th, AB 1254 – legislation by Assembly Member Sydney Kamlager-Dove (D/54-Culver City) – would, until January 1, 2025, fully prohibit the hunting of bobcats. Commencing January 1, 2025, AB 1254 would re-authorize the Fish and Game Commission – through its normal mammal hunting rulemaking process – to reopen a bobcat hunting season in any area determined by the Commission to “require” a hunt. The language of the bill specifies that, in doing so, the Commission shall consider the potential impacts of a bobcat hunting season, including: 1) bobcat populations; 2) bobcat wild prey; 3) disease abatement; 4) the control of invasive species, especially nutria; 5) consideration of public values with regard to the hunting of bobcats; and 6) the administrative, implementation, and enforcement costs to DFW and the Commission associated with bobcat hunting.

As amended, AB 1254 would also require the Commission to set hunting license and bobcat hunting tag fees for any subsequent seasons in which bobcat hunting is allowed at the levels necessary to fully recover all the reasonable administrative and implementation costs to DFW and the Commission associated with the hunting of bobcats. New amendments taken into the bill also require DFW to develop a bobcat management plan to be submitted to the Commission and the Legislature by January 1, 2024 to inform and coordinate management decisions regarding bobcat populations.

AB 1254 would not preclude the taking of bobcats under a depredation permit.

CA WSF is actively opposing AB 1254 due to the

fact that the proposal is an unnecessary anti-hunting measure that is not based on science or sound wildlife management principles, but rather on purely emotional considerations.

AB 1254 is a “gut and amend” of a bill which, as introduced, was a “spot bill” dealing with the subject of “fine art”. As amended on March 28th, AB 1254 proposed to place a permanent ban on the hunting of bobcats.

Prior to being amended April 11th, AB 1254 was heard in the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee in early April passing out on a party-line vote, despite testimony provided by the President of the California Fish and Game Commission which pointed out that wildlife management policy decisions – including whether or not bobcats are legally hunted – should be addressed by the Fish and Game Commission rather than in the State Legislature.

Once in the Assembly Appropriations Committee, AB 1254 was placed in the suspense file due to the measure’s estimated cost of “up to \$2.5 million” for CDFW to develop and implement a bobcat management plan, \$30,000 to review and update regulations, and the annual loss of \$35,000 from the sales of bobcat tags.

Regardless of the bill’s excessive price-tag, AB 1254 was pulled off suspense and heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee in mid-May, passing out and to the Assembly Floor on a party-line vote.

AB 1254 passed off the Assembly Floor in late May and over to the Senate on a 48 to 18 vote.

Now in the Senate, AB 1254 will first be heard in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee, where it is scheduled to be heard on June 11th.

SB 307 (ROTH) – WATER CONVEYANCE: USE OF FACILITY WITH UNUSED CAPACITY.

Existing law prohibits the state or a regional or local public agency from denying a bona fide transferor of water from using a water conveyance facility that has unused capacity for the period of time for which that capacity is available, if fair compensation is paid for that use and other requirements are met.

As amended April 30th, SB 307 – legislation by Senator Richard D. Roth (D/31-Riverside) – would prohibit a transferor of water from using a water conveyance facility that has unused capacity to transfer water from a groundwater basin underlying desert lands that are in the vicinity of specified federal lands or state lands to outside of the groundwater basin unless the State Lands Commission (SLC), in consultation with DFW, finds that the transfer of the water will not adversely affect the natural or cultural resources of those federal and state lands. The bill would also require a transferor of water to submit an application to the SLC before using a water conveyance facility. Should the SLC find that the transfer of

the water would not adversely affect the natural or cultural resources of those lands, the transferor of water must annually report to the SLC on the condition of the groundwater basin.

CA WSF is actively supporting SB 307 due to our concerns over the impact that the transfer of groundwater from basins underlying desert or other lands would have on the availability of water for wild sheep and other wildlife in these areas.

SB 307 passed out of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee and to the Senate Appropriations Committee in early April. Once in Senate Appropriations Committee, SB 307 was placed

on suspense due to its projected costs which include: a) ongoing annual costs of roughly \$500,000 for DFW to review water transfers and conduct analyses; and b) costs likely in the “low hundreds of thousands” for the SLC to review applications. However, these costs to the SLC would be reimbursed by the project proponent.

SB 307 was pulled off suspense, heard and passed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee and to the Senate Floor in mid-May. SB 307 was then brought up for a vote on the Senate Floor on May 21st, passing out and over to the Assembly on a 21 – 11 vote.

Now in the Assembly, SB 307 has yet to be assigned to committee.

DESERT BIGHORN COUNCIL MEETING

by Don Priest

The Desert Bighorn Council (Council) had their bi-annual meeting this past April 2019. The Council is comprised of wildlife professionals from state and federal natural resource agencies, interested non-profit organizations, along with research and academic institutions from seven western states, Mexico and beyond. The Council has been meeting since the late 1950's.

This year's meeting was held in Mesquite, NV for three days. A number of presentations were delivered. The first morning of the program had a common theme on the issues revolving around connectivity and disease transmission. Clint Epps (Oregon State University) made a presentation that essentially summarized the theme of balancing connectivity, the upside of genetic flow between herds/meta-populations and the downside of disease transmission. Other topics for the day covered were Mountain Lion impacts on Desert Bighorn Sheep (DBS) and connectivity between DBS herds, specifically the collaboration between Arizona and Nevada for a bypass in Boulder City, NV.

Day two's presentations began with a discussion on habitat issues such as selection by and availability for DBS. Next were a number of talks on mark-resight, including methods for estimating DBS populations. Finally, each state then gave an up to date on issues within. This included such topics of current presences of disease with in DBS herds; population estimates within the state; hunting tag allocations; and expansion or re-introduction of DBS into new ranges.

The second day concluded that evening with an Awards Banquet. The Council meeting wrapped up the following morning with a field trip to observe DBS in the local area. This included a tour of the Valley of Fire State Park, the Muddy Mountains, and the mountain areas surrounding Lake Mead.

Given the presentations and discussions at the

Council meeting your California Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation is working on a number of issues/projects:

First includes working on the exposure issue between domestic sheep/goats and wild DBS and Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep. We look to work with the other non-profit sheep organizations within California along with the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CA WSF) on an educational brochure and other materials explaining the effects of disease transmission between domestics and wild sheep. We look to distribute this information to both the Commercial sheep growers, but more importantly to the hobbyist sheep and/or goat owner on the impacts exposing just one animal in their flock to wild sheep could devastate such an exposed wild herd and beyond.

Regards connectivity, a lot of work is currently being conducted by Clint Epps, Christina Aiello and their team, in coordination and support from the CA DFW. This includes finding those areas where DBS are currently utilizing under-crossings, directly crossing highways or coming up to but hesitate to cross highways. Their study, analysis and conclusions will help us understand those points on highways that DBS are currently crossing, wish to cross or where these experts would like to induce DBS to cross. Though some work is being conducted by CalTrans to assist with DBS crossings, your CA WSF is in communication with the US Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (Committee). We, along with other Chapters of the WSF, are assisting the Committee with the inclusion of wording into the upcoming Federal Highway bill that would allow for wildlife crossings as a purposeful ask for financing from any State Grant Fund contained within the bill. This bill has the potential for substantial funds to build or enhance wildlife crossings, including for DBS.



ULTRALIGHT HUNTING



Thank You





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CALIFORNIA CHAPTER WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION

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MAY 2, 2020
SACRAMENTO DOUBLETREE HOTEL**

**2021 DALL SHEEP HUNT
with Ultima Thule Outfitters
Special Drawing**

LIFE MEMBERS ONLY

**Any level of Life Member — Youth, Life, Distinguished
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YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN.

**2021 STONE SHEEP HUNT
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**ONLY 500 TICKETS AVAILABLE
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