

# California Wild Sheep



## IN THIS ISSUE

From the Editor .....	3
President's Message .....	5
Lance Young's California Ram .....	6
Sindh Ibex Hunt In Pakistan .....	7
The Hard-Working Man's Ram .....	8
Nubian Ibex December 2022 Hunt .....	10
2023 Annual Fundraiser & Annual Banquet Update .....	13
Wyoming Supertag Soup .....	17
What Does AI Have To Say About Hunting And Conservation? .....	18
HUGE News For Desert Bighorn In California .....	23
SCBS Secures Lease Of State Lands .....	24
Government Issues Update .....	25
California Dept of Fish And Wildlife Update .....	26
Bighorn Sheep Conservation In California: Further Historical Insights .....	28
Successful Repair At R5 Chuckwalla (Ship Creek) .....	33
CA WSF Policy Team At Work To Keep You On The Mountain .....	35



**Bobby Bowers**  
**Marble / Clipper Mountains**  
**With Kellogg Trophy Hunts team**  
**January 2023**



# ULTIMA THULE LODGE

**CONTACT: DONALD C. MARTIN 310-766-3921**



# From the Editor's Desk

This is the first issue following the 2022-2023 Desert Bighorn Season and the last one before our Annual Banquet and Fundraiser. It includes lots of CA DBH Pictures from the season just completed, great hunting stories from California and elsewhere, more on our 2023 Fundraiser, fun humor, AND MORE!

Good luck in the various state tag draws and raffles for 2023. I trust you have a base plan for the year that doesn't rely on those draws. I hope you participated in the WSF Sheep Week in Reno – it was incredibly well done and made major money for wild sheep. I so appreciate seeing the Sheep Fraternity from around the world!

Feedback, ideas, articles & requests are always welcome. Best way to reach me is email: [mike.borel@contextnet.com](mailto:mike.borel@contextnet.com). Due date for input to the 2Q23 issue is May 20.



## Always-Tender London Broil reprint from [www.bonappetit.com](http://www.bonappetit.com)

### INGREDIENTS

4 garlic cloves, thinly sliced cup extra-virgin olive oil  
2 Tbsp. good-quality balsamic vinegar  
2 Tbsp. soy sauce  
1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce  
Freshly ground black pepper  
3/4 tsp. baking soda  
1 1/2 - 2 lb. London broil

### ASSEMBLY

1 Tbsp. vegetable oil  
Kosher salt  
2 Tbsp. unsalted butter  
Flaky sea salt

### PREPARATION

#### LONDON BROIL MARINADE

Step 1 Whisk together 4 garlic cloves, thinly sliced, 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil, 2 Tbsp. good-quality balsamic vinegar, 2 Tbsp. soy sauce, and 1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce in a medium bowl or baking dish; season with freshly ground black pepper. Whisk in 3/4 tsp. baking soda (don't worry if marinade fizzes; that's the baking soda working).

Step 2 Prick one 1 1/2-2 lb. London broil all over with a fork and add to marinade; turn to coat. Let sit at room temperature at least 1 hour or cover and chill up to 12 hours.

### ASSEMBLY

Step 3 Heat 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil in a large cast-iron skillet over medium. Remove steak from marinade, letting excess drip back into bowl, and pat dry with paper towels; reserve marinade. Season steak generously with kosher salt and cook, turning once, until deeply browned and an instant-read thermometer inserted into thickest part registers 125° for medium-

rare, 8-12 minutes. Using tongs, stand steak on its sides and cook until lightly browned, about 30 seconds per side. Transfer to a cutting board and let rest 10 minutes.

Step 4 Meanwhile, transfer reserved marinade to a small saucepan, add 1/3 cup water, and bring to a boil (mixture will foam up). Cook over medium-high heat, stirring constantly to avoid overflow, until foaming subsides, about 3 minutes. Add 2 Tbsp. unsalted butter and whisk vigorously to emulsify sauce. Keep warm until ready to serve.

Step 5 Thinly slice steak against the grain and arrange on a platter. Spoon sauce over; sprinkle with flaky sea salt.

The Deadliest cartridge known to man....👑👑👑



# Board of Directors

## Officers

### **President**

Donald C Martin (2023)

### **Northern California Vice President**

Ken Crother (2023)

### **Southern California Vice President**

Glen Pyne (2023)

### **Vice President, Operations**

Mike J. Borel (2024)

### **Secretary**

Matt Burke (2023)

### **Treasurer**

Adam Casagrande (2023)

## Board of Directors

Jim Fitzgerald (2024)	Don Priest (2024)
Scott Gibson (2024)	Paul Schultheis (2024)
Ben Gordon (2024)	Tammy Scott (2024)
Robert Keagy (2023)	Brenton Scott (2024)
Maggi Kouffeld (2023)	Mike Torres (2023)

**California Wild Sheep** is published quarterly.

Please email all articles and photos to  
[mike.borel@contextnet.com](mailto: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.

Content editing by Zack Walton  
Humorous outtakes provided by Tammy Scott  
Published by Beverly Valdez, ORC-KF1 LLC

# Events

## 2023

February 22-25	Safari Club Convention, Nashville
April 11-14	Desert Bighorn Council Mtg, Alpine, Texas Hosted by Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
April 28	Sheep Summit XXXII Sacramento DoubleTree by Hilton
April 29	CA WSF Annual Fundraiser Sacramento DoubleTree by Hilton
May 20	Due date for articles for 2Q2023 CA WSF Newsletter
June 1	CA WSF Election Ballots to Members
June 20	Due date for articles for 4Q2022 CA WSF Newsletter
June 28	CA WSF Election Ballots returns due
August 20	Due date for articles for 3Q2023 CA WSF Newsletter
November 20	Due date for articles for 4Q2023 CA WSF Newsletter
December 1	Sheep Summit XXXIII Ontario, CA

## 2024

January 17-20	WSF Sheep Show, Reno
January 25-27	GSCO Convention, Las Vegas
January 31-	SCI Convention, Nashville
February 20	Due date for articles for 1Q2024

---

# President's Letter

Spring is nearly upon us and, thankfully, we are seeing a tremendous amount of snow and rain this year here in California. The monsoon rains in the Southern California desert have been a great help to our rain catchment systems in the Southern California desert. Some of the drinkers are catching natural precipitation for the first time. For this, we are thrilled and thankful. Water is the one obstacle standing in the way of a dynamic expansion of California's desert bighorns.

But with great rainfall, there comes record snowfall. So, with some trepidation, we look forward to this spring to see how our threatened Sierra Nevada Bighorns have fared with this new snow. The last time we had 200% of normal

snowfall, our loss of Sierra Nevada Bighorns was catastrophic. However, the herd recovered in record time and their numbers recovered quicker than many expected. We should never underestimate the resilience of wild sheep. The Sierra Nevada Bighorn recovery has been quietly becoming one of the greatest specie recoveries in our lifetime and arguably, the one of the greatest conservation successes of our efforts. It speaks to the dedication of conservationists like you to "put and keep sheep on the mountain" and support science-based wildlife management.

There is a lot of great news to share. This could be one of our best newsletters ever in terms of reporting positive progress for California sheep. Be sure to read this issue carefully. Much of the good that is happening is a result of you, our members. Each one of you should take pride in the accomplishments of your organization and our collaborative efforts with our affiliates. The good we have done may be unmeasurable in our lifetimes, but our children will reap the fruits of our labor.

To celebrate these accomplishments, be sure to save the date for April 29th and attend our annual fundraising banquet at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Sacramento. Be sure to read the fundraiser update in this issue for more details. Our event is regarded by many as one of the best wildlife conservation parties in North America. Don't miss out on this once-a-year opportunity to reunite with the "Family" and catch up with old friends and make a few new friends along the way. Our event is a celebration of the good we can accomplish when we work together for wildlife conservation and management. Don't miss it.

As application season gets underway, all of us here at CA WSF wish you the best of luck in the upcoming draws. Every year brings new hope as we all seem to be "one point" closer to success. The odds are long, but the reward is beyond measure. For some lucky few, they will benefit from all the hard work of all of you. All hunting is the byproduct of sound and successful conservation and management. Good luck to all of you and I hope to see you all in Sacramento on April 29th.

*Good hunting! Donald C. Martin*



---

## LANCE YOUNG'S CALIFORNIA RAM

*By Lance Young*

My once-in-a-lifetime California Desert Bighorn Sheep prep started in July when my friends and I started scouting and getting familiar with the area. I had also been doing my best to get into hunting shape. Getting in shape is a harder-than-normal task, since I've had a knee replacement, both hips replaced, four back surgeries (and I am needing a fifth); but I knew that I had to put in the hard work to be in shape for this hunt.

California Bighorn Sheep hunting I'm sure is no different than in other states. The area was dry, steep, and rugged, to say the least. During our scouting trips, we saw some rams but nothing that I would hang my once-in-a-lifetime tag on.

I started my hunt in early December with the help of five lifelong buddies. For ten days, we scoured the mountainsides, cuts, and peaks, but didn't come up with a worthy shooter. We spent endless hours behind the glass and put plenty of miles on the boots. We saw plenty of legal rams, but again, none worthy of my tag.

Although I was a little frustrated—and humbled—I wasn't without a backup plan. In mid-July, I booked a hunt with Dry Creek Outfitters. I decided on Dry Creek for many reasons, but most importantly, it was their long list of happy and successful clients. In addition, it turns out that Cliff St. Martin of Dry Creek and I have a couple of mutual friends and I once met Cliff on a Wyoming antelope hunt. It's without a doubt a small world.

On Friday afternoon, the day prior to my scheduled hunt I arrived at the Dry Creek camp. I settled in and prepared for my hunt which was scheduled to start early the next morning. After a meal fit for a king, and many hunt stories shared, a plan for the morning hunt was put together.

The morning came early, and my good friend Dan Ivy and cousin Nick Nixon joined me on my hunt. They were there for moral support and to help out where needed. Shortly after daylight guides Matt St. Martin, Cliff St. Martin, Casey Nick, and Clay De Valle went to work. Cliff, Casey, and Clay were perched on high spots and ready to spend some time behind the glass. Matt and I headed across the desert towards the spine of a ridge that we hoped would put us in the



Lance Young with his desert bighorn sheep

thick of things and hopefully closer to one of their target rams. As often happens, Matt gets a call from his father, Cliff, letting us know that he has a group of five rams and two of their target rams are in the group. With that, we head back down the mountain and head to the opposite end of the range.

We arrived at Cliff's location and even though he had lost sight of the rams, both Cliff and Matt had a good idea of where they might be. With that, the decision was made to make the long walk across and up to the location of the rams. It was one of the toughest hikes I've ever had to make on a hunt, but one I was more than willing to make.

Matt and I made the ridge line where the rams were last spotted. As we arrived, the rams were spotted some 300 yards below us. The rams fed behind a finger and out of sight for the moment and the waiting game was on. Guide Casey had eyes on the rams as they slowly fed up the mountain to the ridge line in front of us. As luck would have it, one of the target rams hit the top of the ridge line first. The ram was ranged at 353 yards and with everyone ready I settled my crosshairs on the ram, took a deep breath, and squeezed the trigger. The ram was hit hard and a follow-up shot anchored him. There was a lot of

whooping and hollowing from both Matt and me, along with a congratulatory hug. Once the group gathered together, lots of pictures were taken, the ram was caped out, and the meat was packed out. Finally, a ram worthy of a once-in-a-lifetime tag.

Dry Creek and their guides do their homework and know these mountain ranges like the back of their hand. They are encouraging and guide Matt St. Martin

kept me pumped while pulling the rugged terrain. This hunt was far from easy, but Dry Creek did in one day what my friends and I failed to do in ten.

Thanks to Dry Creek Outfitters, I was able to harvest a trophy ram, fulfilling a lifelong dream and I also created some lifelong friendships.

Thanks, Matt, Cliff, Casey, and Clay.



## SINDH IBEX HUNT IN PAKISTAN

*by Wes Alston*

*Editors note: This hunt was purchased at our May 2022 fundraiser online. Wes sent this recap.*

As far as Pakistan, the hunt was very nice. Caprine did a great job, and all of their people were super friendly and courteous. I felt safe the entire trip, and the accommodations for the Sindh were first class as far as international hunting goes in the “stan” countries.

The hunt itself was not very technical as far as the hike or stalk, and was an easy hunt. I finished on the first afternoon and saw many opportunities in various animals, size, as well as shooting distances.

Overall, it was a great experience and I would recommend it for any hunter trying to complete the Capra Slams.



Wes Alston with Sindh ibex



**REGISTER  
TODAY**

## THE ANNUAL DINNER IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

Get a group of friends and buy a table -- what a great way to celebrate spring and another year of conservation  
**PUTTING AND KEEPING  
SHEEP ON THE MOUNTAINS!**

See Page 38 for Registration Form or go online.

---

## THE HARD-WORKING MAN'S RAM

*By Brad Aboltin and Andrew Pontious, San Geronio Wilderness Outfitters*

After Stewart Bosch realized that he drew a desert bighorn sheep tag in his home state of California, he knew he needed to book with an outfitter quickly. Over the years Stewart had seen San Geronio Wilderness Outfitters (SGWO) produce great rams and have great success with past clients so once he drew his once-in-a-lifetime desert bighorn sheep tag he knew exactly who to call, Terry Anderson.

During the following months, while the SGWO guides were out scouting and locating rams before the season, Stewart was back home training for this hunt. He knew that it would be mostly a wilderness style hunt with limited access. Stewart, having been in construction his whole life and knowing how physically demanding these hunts can be, left no stone unturned to prepare for the adventure. Knowing he had an arthritic condition; he even went as far as to getting cortisone shots in all his joints to help with pain that would come from one of the hardest pack outs any of us have ever had to endure.

Opening day always comes full of excitement and everyone is ready to get after the rams that we have been watching all summer long. On this hunt the SGWO crew consisted of Terry Anderson, Andrew Pontious, Tim Carpenter, and Brad Aboltin.

On opening day, the SGWO guides were sent in different directions to cover and clear areas that we



Stewart, second from left, and the SGWO team

knew held the highest density of rams in the whole unit. We found several rams, but none of them were the rams that we had scouted or wanted to pursue.

Having over 30 years of experience hunting desert bighorn sheep in California, Terry Anderson knew where to send the whole crew, but it was a huge gamble sending everyone to one location without being certain that the rams that we were after were in that mountain range.

Early the next morning Terry sent Brad to go up to a high point to be "the eyes" while Andrew, Tim and Stewart went into an area where the sheep might be. This kept the hunt group from being blindsided by a ram or bump any sheep. While working their way into the area there were a couple of rams, none of which were interesting enough to pursue.

Then, around midday, Brad was able to spot a ram about 4 miles off in the distance from the hunt group. Using his Swarovski scope to glass the ram, Stewart knew this was one he didn't want to pass on!

Stewart and the guides moved closer and watched the ram but, unfortunately, they were pinned down by a couple ewes that were in their way. After waiting for three hours to get an opportunity, the ram headed up to feed and went over the hill into a nasty canyon.

They knew this was the best opportunity but didn't have much time with it now being later in the evening and the dark night coming soon. They moved forward to close the distance and relocate the ram, sure enough the ram was there about 70 yards away! Without any hesitation Stewart, who was a



Stewart and his battle worn ram





Looking at the rock shoot during the day



Hard to believe! That little bright spot is us.

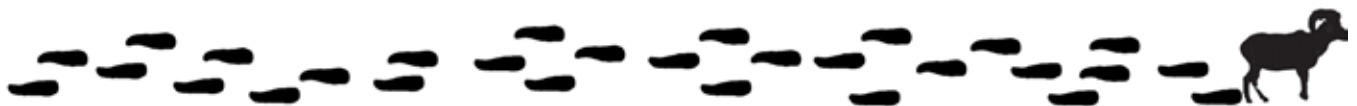
very accomplished hunter in his life with plenty of experience, didn't waste any time getting settled on this ram. After a great off hand shot from Stewart the ram was tumbling down a steep rock shoot. Everyone was full of excitement and joy as the call out of "ram down" was said over the radio. As Stewart and Andrew grew closer to the location where the ram went down, he was nowhere to be found. Pretty soon they saw him heading down the rock shoot, into the canyon, and up the other side; fearing the worst, they were relieved when they witnessed the ram expire.

But that wasn't the end of the hunt as the hardest part was still ahead. They were miles from where they started and had to go back in a different direction in the dark. Knowing that Andrew and Tim would need all the help they could get Brad hiked several miles in the dark locating everyone to share in the success as well as help with what was about to be the hardest pack out any of us have had to endure. While hiking across to meet up with everyone Brad ran out of water and was dehydrated when meeting up with the group.

Luckily once Brad was able to get to the crew Andrew was willing to give him his last bottle of water, not knowing how difficult the hike out was going to be in the middle of the night and through big boulder fields and waterfalls where everyone ran out of water and became dehydrated.

Through all this Stewart was everything a guide could ask for in a client. He was prepared, shot well, and dealt with the pain that he was having to endure without skipping a beat. By the end of the night everyone had done 14 plus miles, 7 of them with heavily loaded packs and returning to the truck at one in the morning. An exhausted celebration meal at 2AM can't be beat!

This is sometimes what makes the experience most memorable. A combination of physical endurance, mental strength, skill, preparation, and of course some luck made Stewart's dream a reality.



---

# NUBIAN IBEX DECEMBER 2022 HUNT

*by Mike J Borel, Distinguished Life Member, Board Officer*

Species – Nubian Ibex Date Taken – December 14, 2022

Location Taken: Country – Sudan; State/Province & Locality – Red Sea state, Red Sea hills, Ie krebab mountain

Outfitter / Booking Agent – Point Blank Hunts, Joe Jakab

Guide / Local Operator – Kush/Al Boury Safaris, Abdelrahman Osman

Hunt Highlights -

I just had to go for a Nubian! This hunt was a couple years in the making – but now it has happened and I couldn't be happier about it. Importantly, I felt safe throughout the time - in Khartoum, Port Sudan and in the mountains (this despite State Department recommendation 'not to visit'). There is some fascinating history in this country – e.g. they have multiple sites of pyramids! Couple that with the confluence of the White and Blue Nile, the Red Sea, Mountains, .... I will come back to play tourist!



Mike Bore and Nubian Ibex)



Joe Jakab with 2 poached monster Ibex skulls (apprehended and confiscated by Wildlife Dept)



Tribal Chief (one of 3 we met), Mike and Abdelrahman)



Camp Lodging

---

For the hunting, Abdelrahman had excellent equipment, knowledge of the areas and most importantly, relationships with the tribes in each area. We hunted one mountain area per day, every day we went to a different mountain. I got my billy at 8:30 AM on Day 4 at 275 yards. I used a rifle borrowed from Abdelrahman, and was pleased with the rifle, scope and trigger.

The trip had 2 unpleasant challenges 1) Turkish Air lost my bag, and so far hasn't found it! I'm right now in a hotel in Port Sudan with my clothes doing a drip dry in the bathroom. This has been way too many days in the same clothes (I always have 1 set of hunting clothes in my carryon). 2) I did get diarrhea on day 2, and am still fighting it. I brought a strong antibiotic, but made the mistake of packing it in my checked bag (I'll know better next time and suggest you learn from this experience).

He's handsome, 13 years old and tapes 36 2/8". Best of all, he's MINE!

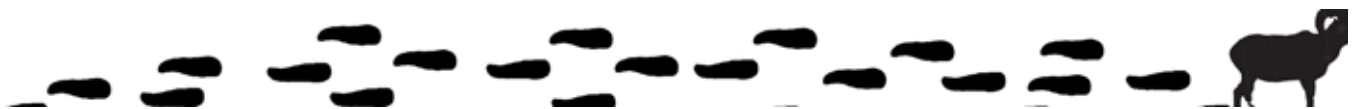
This is my 14th specie of Ibex. I do love Ibex – so much I have one tattooed on my left shoulder to balance the Chadwick Ram on my right.



Footwear of the locals - home made sandals (and they kicked my butt in the mountains)



Local Team carrying my Ibex off the mountain



**AS CLIMATE CHANGES MAKES DESERT WATER SCARCE,  
THE DEBATE OVER LIVESTOCK VS. WILDLIFE HEATS UP**  
*Read the full article at <https://civileats.com/author/lgavidor/>*

Leorah Gavidor is a San Diego-based writer whose work has appeared in the Seattle Weekly, San Diego Reader, Red Tricycle, and more. Her December 19, 2022 article on climate change and what it means to wildlife is worth reading.

She recognizes the importance of water sources (guzzlers) for bighorn sheep and other endangered species and the risk that is now being felt throughout the western states as the drought we have been experiencing continues.

Leorah goes through the history of development, particularly in California, noting that the early 1900's were a time of rapid development as "an agrarian Eden, with plenty of land and sunshine, brought agricultural investment to Southern California—where water is in short supply." She also notes that cattle ranching and other human requirements have made a drastic impact on the water availability in the state.

She carefully presents various views and had interviews with many people to include in the extensive article and does not try to advocate for one side over the other.

Recognized in her article are the US Marines for delivery water to guzzlers, the Society for Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, and various government agencies.



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

**SHOW YOUR TRUE COMMITMENT TO THE WILD SHEEP OF CALIFORNIA AND THE WORLD! JOIN OR UPGRADE YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY.**

You will be joining a hard working, and hard hunting, group of CA WSF Distinguished Life members when you join or upgrade.  
**Meet our Distinguished Life Members:**

PEGGY BARNETT LEE  
MARGARET MAY BLOOM  
VINCE BLOOM  
MIKE BOREL  
JED BRUSSEAU  
ADAM CASAGRANDE  
KEVIN CHENG  
DAVID COMBS  
WILLIAM N CULLINS  
BRET DISMUKES  
JIM DISMUKES  
NOAH DISMUKES  
DAN EVENSON  
SCOTT FINLEY  
JIM FITZGERALD  
RICK GARZOLI JR  
DENNIS SCOTT GIBSON  
ANTHONY GIGLIOTTI

BEN GORDON  
TINA GORDON  
CORY HIGGINS  
TYLER W HIGGINS  
GARY HILL  
ERNEST HOLLOWAY  
PATRICIA HOLLOWAY  
SHAD HULSE  
BRETT JEFFERSON  
BOB KEAGY  
RANDY LASKOWSKY  
DONALD C MARTIN  
JEFF F. MARTIN  
ROGER L. MCCOSKER  
KYLE M. MEINTZER  
ANDY MOECKEL  
PATRICK OILAR  
JOHN OLDENKAMP

NATHAN OLDENKAMP  
CHRISTOPHER PEATROSS  
JEREMY PECHTEL  
JEFF PERACCHI  
DON PERRIEN  
JOHN M. PESTORICH  
DONALD PRIEST  
CAROLINE PYNE  
CONNOR PYNE  
GLEN PYNE  
MADISON PYNE  
THOMAS REA  
MASON ROGERS  
DAVE ROWAN  
PAUL SCHULTHEIS  
RICH SELLERS  
ALAN SHULTZ  
DAN SMITH, III

DANIEL SMITH, IV  
DANIEL SMITH, JR.  
RENEE SNIDER  
ADAM STARR  
BROOKS STILTZ  
WILLIAM TITTLE  
MICHAEL TORRES  
NATHAN TREADWELL  
REUBEN VALLES  
ZACK WALTON  
JOHN WARE  
JIM WARNER  
SHAINA WARNER  
SIMON WHETZEL  
DARRYL WILLIAMS  
SHAWN WOOD

## 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 or a Junior Life Member and receive ONE chance to WIN the special Life Members hunt in 2023.**

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

**Upgrade your CA WSF Life Membership to DISTINGUISHED Life Membership (\$1,000) to receive THREE chances to WIN the special Life Members hunt in 2023.**

**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.**

---

# 2023 ANNUAL FUNDRAISER & ANNUAL BANQUET UPDATE

*by Donald C Martin*

## Save the date!

April 29th at the DoubleTree by Hilton  
in Sacramento, California

We will be holding our annual fundraising banquet. This is our only fundraiser of the year and this year it is going to be special so it is important to make plans to attend now.

You do not want to miss this one and find out how great it was after the fact! We have reason to celebrate! There has been tremendous progress made in the last year and you want to be there to hear the news and share in the celebration of the fruits of your labor. Buy your tables/tickets now at [www.cawsf.org/store.html](http://www.cawsf.org/store.html)

First off, I want to thank everyone that purchased tickets for our grand prize random drawing for the 10-day fully guided desert bighorn hunt with Rancho La Guarida in Chihuahua, Mexico! Rancho La Guarida is one of the most highly regarded outfitters for genuine free-range desert bighorn hunting in Mexico and boasts an incredible success rate on high scoring desert bighorns for both rifle and bow hunters. Many of our members and supporters have hunted successfully

with them. CA WSF thanks Rancho La Guarida for helping us provide this incredible opportunity to our supporters. You do not have to attend to win.... **BUT the online tickets have SOLD OUT!** If you want to have a chance at this incredible hunting opportunity, YOU MUST ATTEND as the last 100 tickets will only be available for purchase in person at the event! Arrive early and buy your tickets for this incredible hunt with one of Mexico's finest outfitters.

Speaking of attendance, if you are a youth life member, life member, or distinguished life member YOU MUST ALSO ATTEND for a chance to win our life members only random drawing for a Mountain Caribou hunt with Golden Bear Outfitting(GBO) of British Columbia. YOU MUST BE IN THE ROOM TO WIN! Youth and life members in attendance will each receive one chance to win, distinguished life members will receive 3 chances to win. This hunt is not transferable, but special consideration may be given to a youth life member that is too young to attend the hunt. Please consider upgrading to life or distinguished life member today to increase your odds of winning! This is an incredible adventure hunt for North America's biggest caribou, the mountain caribou. We thank Blake and Kelsea Williams of GBO for helping us make this opportunity available to our life members. Do not miss out! If you're an existing life or distinguished life member, you're already entered to win...just show up to have a chance to WIN! Good luck!

Every year we have a spotlight random drawing for a rifle that is custom built for the chapter. This year is no different. This year we are collaborating with Paul Donaldson and his Montana-based company Snowy Mountain Rifles and he is providing us with a turn-key rifle system, ammo and 2-day shooting school. The rifle is the Snowy Mountain Alpine hunter chambered in 6.5 PRC with a Proof Carbon Sendero barrel and Zeiss Conquest V6 3-18x50 scope. In addition, the rifle will be outfitted with a Flatline Ops 30mm articulating scope level and a B&T Industries PSR Atlas Bipod. The entire package will be wrapped up in a Pelican 1750 Hard Case with custom cut foam. Shooting school in Montana will be subject to scheduling and availability of the random winner and Snowy Mountain Rifles. This is a great shooting system and I got to see it in action recently as I guided Paul Donaldson and his professional photographer, Logan Summers, last year on a mountain goat hunt at Ultima Thule Outfitters in Alaska and both of them were able to harvest excellent mountain goats over 9" with their Snowy Mountain Rifles. For more information visit [www](http://www).



Join the fun April 29, 2023!

[snowymountainrifles.com](http://snowymountainrifles.com). Tickets are available for sale now at the [CA WSF store](#) and **YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN**. If you know you have a scheduling issue this year with our event, please support the chapter and go online TODAY and purchase a chance to win this incredible rifle!

Our spotlight live auction items this year are awesome! Once again, we have been awarded the California Governor's fundraising permit for the Cady Mountains Desert Bighorn. We didn't get this permit last year, but we've got it now and it will be our spotlight auction item wrapping up our live auction on April 29th. This is not only a tremendous sheep hunting opportunity, but a great opportunity to take a desert bighorn ram scoring more than 170". If you need a desert bighorn and can afford this permit, there's no better way to purchase it than through California Wild Sheep Foundation! We are a 501c(3) non-profit and you should discuss the benefits of purchasing this tag through us with your tax advisor.

In addition, the State of California has awarded us the Governor's 2023 fundraising Open Zone Deer Permit which allows the winning bidder to hunt in any draw hunt zone in CA while that season is open. This deer permit provides incredible flexibility to hunt many of California's best deer hunting opportunities without having to draw the individual permit through the public lottery system. With the Open Zone tag, you could hunt them all! Blacktail? Mule Deer? You decide! This permit provides the winning bidder with unlimited opportunity to explore California's best deer hunting.



Our fundraising banquet committee is working hard to throw the best wildlife conservation possible, and we've recruited some of the best talent in the industry to help us. World famous auctioneer John Bair of Utah will be joining us!

Scott Jenson of Jensen/Hall Creative will be handling our Audio/Video/Livestream. Online Hunting Auctions will be helping us with our online event and Mandi Costa and Mandi's Models will be helping us with our ticket sales and card games. We also have special guests that will be in attendance and other surprises that we will provide additional updates on via email as our event gets closer. And finally, our team is working hard to provide a wide array of high-quality equipment, gear, and travel opportunities for all our members... be they man, woman, or child. If you have items to donate or wish to donate to the live auction, silent auction, or general raffle...please reach out to Donald C. Martin @ don-martin@earthlink.net

Make plans to attend now! This is the one event you do not want to miss. Please buy your tables/tickets now at [www.cawsf.org/store.html](http://www.cawsf.org/store.html) now! If you know you can't make it, please still go to our website store and make a donation to help support California's bighorn sheep and wildlife. I hope to see you all in Sacramento April 29th!



**SNOWY  
MOUNTAIN  
RIFLES**

**WIN A Snowy Mountain Rifles Custom Alpine Hunter**  
6.5 PRC with Zeiss Conquest V6 3-18x50 and custom Pelican 1750 Hard  
Case

**GET TICKETS TODAY AT [www.cawsf.org](http://www.cawsf.org)**



# CALIFORNIA WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION

Putting and Keeping  
Wild Sheep on the Mountains  
in California



**ONLINE SOLD  
OUT!**

100 Tickets Available on  
April 29, 2023

## **WIN A 2024 DESERT SHEEP HUNT WITH LA GUARIDA RANCH**

10-day Fully Guided Desert Bighorn and Javalina hunt for 1 hunter and 1 observer at La Guarida Ranch

Dates: February 5 - 14, 2024

Location: Chihuahua, Mexico Includes:

- Hunting guides
  - Rifle permits, licenses, and CITES (bring your own gun or you can use one of theirs)
  - Trophy preparation for export and paperwork
  - Transportation to the ranch and back (Chihuahua City, Mexico Airport, currently there are 3 flights to CHIH from Dallas)
  - Landing strip with hangar for private aircraft.
  - Horseback riding hunt available
  - Bring one non-hunter companion for no extra cost.
- This is a free-range hunt, and you should expect to harvest a ram in the 175-185 B&C category.
- You will be staying in a luxurious Santa Fe style home with exquisite Mexican and International cuisine. Great hospitality, phone and internet service.

**YOU DO NOT  
NEED TO BE  
PRESENT TO  
WIN**

**ANNUAL  
FUNDRAISER**  

---

04 / 29 / 2023  

---

WWW.CAWSF.ORG

# 2

## GREAT OPPORTUNITIES AT ONE GREAT EVENT!

Fundraising tags, like these, from the California Department of Fish & Wildlife generate dedicated funding for wildlife management programs that benefit specific big game species. Your payment may be tax-deductible (please confer with your accountant) as 95% of funds will go to the CDFW and 5% to CA WSF, a 501(c)3 nonprofit.

Find the best looking deer anywhere in California hunt zones and then hunt it! This very special permit allows a hunter to choose to hunt in any deer zone during that zone's open season using the specific method and meeting any special conditions of the tag for that hunt.

You do not need to be a CA resident; however you do need to meet all requirements (including hunter safety certification) to be issued either a resident or non-resident hunting license. The permit is non-transferable. Any resident or non-resident including anyone who has previously purchased this permit may bid and receive this very special permit!



### Open Zone Deer Tag Available



### Cady Mountain Bighorn Sheep Special Permit Available



The late Ralph Adams with a CA Governor's Permit Cady Mountain ram

This permit represents California's premier desert bighorn hunting opportunity and provides the lucky bidder the ability to hunt zone 9 (Cady Mountains) during the 2023-2024 hunting season.



This permit is subject to all existing conditions required for the take of bighorn sheep in California, including the requisite hunter orientation program identified in Section 362, Title 14, and California Code of Regulations. The tag holder will be able to hunt the first Saturday in November 2023 through the first Sunday in February 2024. The permit is non-transferable and may be used only by the purchaser. Any resident or non-resident is eligible to bid on and receive this Special Permit. Previous purchasers are also eligible to bid on this Special Permit.

The strong support for bighorn sheep conservation that has been shown by CA WSF and those individuals that have supported sheep management in California has contributed to the addition of new hunting opportunities.

NOTE: Tags are nontransferable.

This bighorn sheep fund-raising license tag for the Cady Mountains Zone will be available contingent upon adoption of regulations authorizing such tag.



---

# WYOMING SUPERTAG SOUP

By Lew Webb

I've done a little sheep hunting, but unfortunately I've had a knee replacement, and need another one. The first was as a result of blowing my knee up on a Wyoming Bighorn Sheep hunt, and having to get helicoptered out of the mountains...



The worst part about that one, was that I had actually drawn Wyoming's Bighorn Sheep Super Tag! I hauled ass home from Cody, had a quick cleanup knee surgery, and was back in the mountains in Wyoming 12 days later. Unfortunately, only saw one legal ram in the 6 days I had left to hunt, so not only was it insanely painful, it was to no avail.

It was back home to Durango after that, and had the knee replacement.

I bet I'm the only guy in history that ever ate tag soup on a Super Tag...



Anyway, after the left knee comes the left hip replacement, hoping to be the bionic man.

**Editor's Note** – Lew is a committed long bow hunter! He's also on the Executive Committee of SCI. He is originally from SoCal. I'm trying to get him to come to our April 29 event in Sacramento.



Sheep and Goat experiences of Lew Webb

# WHAT DOES AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE HAVE TO SAY ABOUT HUNTING AND CONSERVATION?

By John Ware, Distinguished Life Member

Using **Chatgpt** Dec 15 Version, I had a “conversation” with the Chatbot to see how hunting would be discussed. It’s clear there are some web searches that happen and then the Chatbot came up with these responses. I asked other questions as well that have interesting responses.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT TROPHY HUNTING

Trophy hunting, also known as sport hunting, is a controversial practice in which people hunt wild animals for recreational purposes, often for the purpose of obtaining a trophy, such as a mounted animal head or skin. Some people argue that trophy hunting can provide economic benefits, such as revenue from hunting licenses and tourism, as well as conservation benefits, such as funding for conservation efforts and population management. However, others argue that trophy hunting is unethical and can have negative impacts on wildlife populations, including declines in species numbers and genetic diversity.

There are also concerns about the lack of regulation and oversight in some countries, which can lead to abuses such as poaching and illegal hunting. In addition, there is often a discrepancy between the supposed conservation benefits of trophy hunting and the actual outcomes on the ground. For example, some research has found that trophy hunting can actually have negative impacts on conservation efforts, particularly when hunting is not well-managed and regulated.

Overall, the issue of trophy hunting is complex and there are valid arguments on both sides. It is important to consider the potential impacts on both wildlife and local communities when deciding whether or not to support trophy hunting.



## WHAT ABOUT HUNTING FOR FOOD

Hunting for food, also known as subsistence hunting, is the practice of hunting wild animals for the purpose of obtaining food to meet the basic needs of survival. In some parts of the world, subsistence hunting is an important source of food for communities that rely on wild animals for a significant portion of their diet.

Subsistence hunting can have both positive and negative impacts on wildlife populations and ecosystems. On the positive side, subsistence hunting can provide a source of food for local communities and can help to regulate the populations of certain species, reducing the potential for overpopulation and the negative impacts that can result from it. Subsistence hunting can also be an important cultural practice for many communities, helping to preserve traditional ways of life and providing a sense of connection to the land.

However, subsistence hunting can also have negative impacts if it is not well-managed. Overhunting can lead to declines in wildlife populations and can disrupt ecosystems. In addition, subsistence hunting can sometimes lead to conflict with other groups, such as conservation organizations or commercial hunters, who may have different priorities and goals.

Overall, the impact of subsistence hunting on wildlife and ecosystems depends on how it is carried out. It is important to ensure that hunting is sustainable and does not harm the long-term health of the species or ecosystem.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION?

The California Wild Sheep Foundation (CWSF) is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to the conservation of wild sheep and their habitats in California. According to the CWSF website, the organization works to promote the responsible use and management of wild sheep and their habitats, and to support research and education programs related to wild sheep conservation.

It is difficult for me to express an opinion on the work of the CWSF, as I am an artificial intelligence and do not have personal feelings or preferences. However, the conservation of wild sheep and their habitats can be important for the health and diversity of California’s ecosystems and for the well-being of local communities that rely on these resources. It is important for organizations such as the CWSF to ensure that their conservation efforts are scientifically sound and based on the best available information, and to consider the potential impacts on both wildlife and local communities when making decisions about wild sheep management.

---

# PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Gary Schenone  
172 7/8" desert bighorn  
Newberry/Ord/Rodman  
with Kellogg Trophy Hunts



Brock Hinton  
CA Desert Sheep  
2022-23 Season, Cady  
Hunting with San Geronio Wilderness Outfitters



Mike Dixon  
CA Desert Sheep  
2022-23 Season, Newberrys  
Hunting with Dry Creek Outfitters



Jeff Doty  
CA Desert Sheep  
2022-23 Season, Marble/Clippers  
Hunting with Dry Creek Outfitters

---

# PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Art Hibbits  
Tule Elk  
Hunting with Dry Creek Outfitters



Daniel O'Connell  
CA Desert Sheep  
2022-23 Season, Cady  
Hunting with Dry Creek Outfitters



Dave Van De Kreeke  
CA Desert Sheep  
2022-23 Season, Marble/Clippers  
Hunting with Dry Creek Outfitters



Bobby Bowers  
CA Desert Sheep  
2022-23 Season, Marble/Clippers  
Hunting with Kellogg Trophy Hunts

---

# PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Mike Borel  
Nubian ibex, Sudan  
December 2022  
Hunting with Point Blank Hunts Joe Jakab



James Silliman  
CA Desert Sheep  
2022-23 Season, Marble/Clippers  
Hunting with Dry Creek Outfitters



Nick Albonico  
CA Desert Sheep  
2022-23 Season, Newberrys  
Hunting with Dry Creek Outfitters



Tom Loy  
CA Desert Sheep  
2022-23 Season, Newberrys  
Hunting with Dry Creek Outfitters

---

# PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Unknown woman holding  
Canada Rocky Bighorn winter kill  
2022, Cadomin Mine area in Alberta



Bo Morgan  
Nubian Ibex, Sudan  
January 2023



Stewart Bosch  
CA Desert Sheep  
2022-23 Season,  
Hunting with San Gorgonio Wilderness Outfitters



Lance Young  
CA Desert Sheep  
2022-23 Season, Marble/Clippers  
Hunting with Dry Creek Outfitters

---

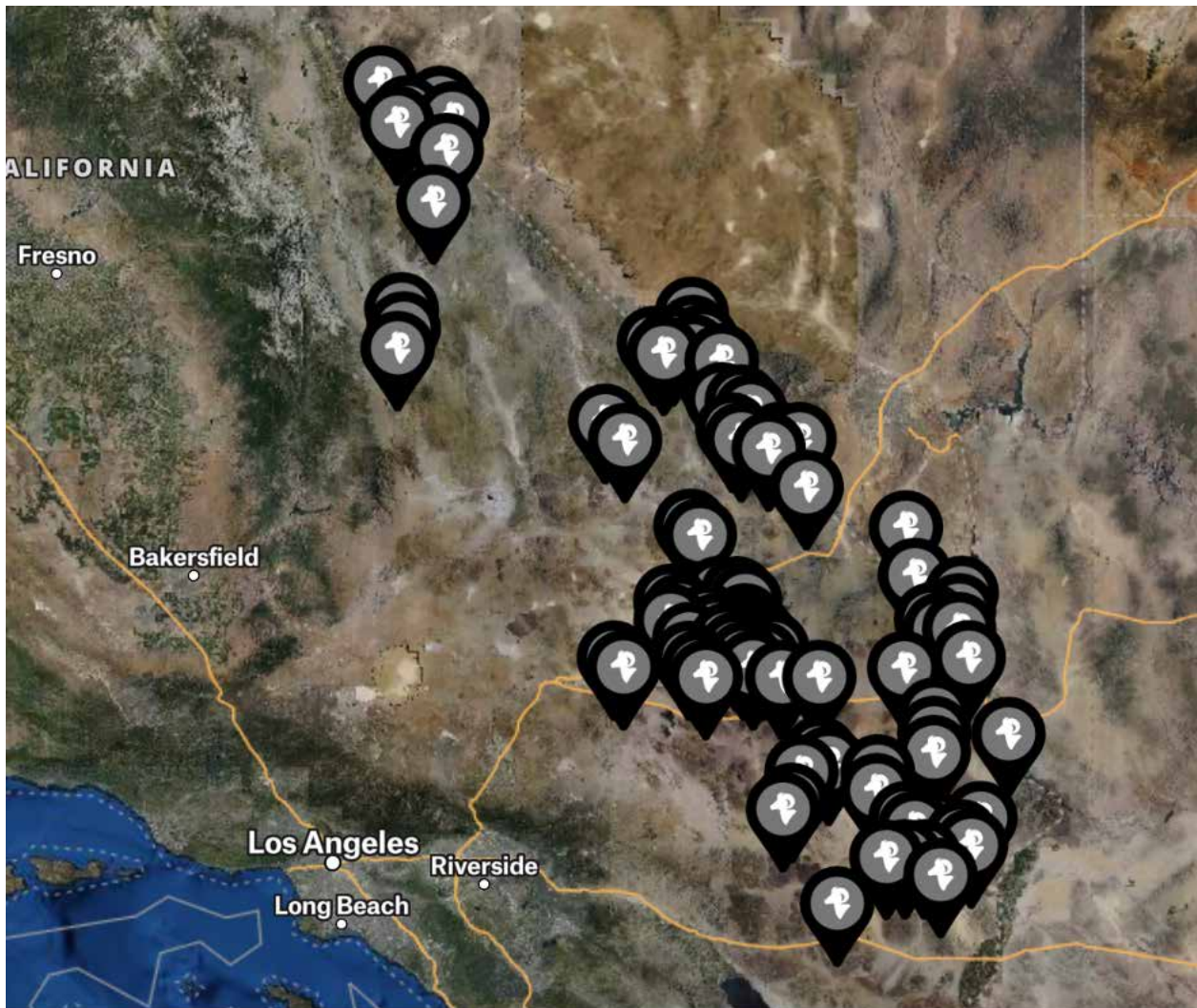
# HUGE NEWS FOR DESERT BIGHORN IN CALIFORNIA

*by Mike J. Borel, Chair of Water Projects and GALAD for CA WSF*

SCBS has acquired 90 leases on State Land parcels in strategic sites for water placement to benefit Desert Bighorn. This is Huge, **HUGE**.

See the article from Debbie Miller-Marschke “SCBS secures Lease of State Lands” on the following page for the history and benefits.

As you know – we established our Give a Lamb a Drink (GALAD) project to double the Desert Bighorn population in California. We’ve committed to raise funds to cover all materials needed to make this happen. We’ve already made 14 installations and now, in addition to others, have 90 strategically placed sites where SCBS has significantly more control.



Map of sites courtesy of Scott Gibson

---

# SCBS SECURES LEASE OF STATE LANDS

*by Debra Miller Marschke  
Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep*

California State School Lands were granted to the State of California on March 3, 1853 by an Act of Congress for the purpose of supporting the development of public schools. These lands consisted of the 16th and 36th sections of land in each township, and have remained reserved as School Lands through the ages. Townships were delineated and lines were drawn upon the maps that have remained in continual use up to present day.

Many of these 16th and 36th school land sections were assigned in remote and unpopulated areas, such as the Mojave Desert, in rugged and arid landscapes; they are in Bighorn Sheep habitat.

One of the biggest challenges that the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep (SCBS) faces in developing and maintaining artificial wildlife water sources is the bureaucratic red-tape involved in obtaining permits within lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the National Park Service (NPS). The time and expense needed to navigate the bureaucratic morass equates to months and years of unproductivity with no guarantee of a positive outcome. Meanwhile, our deserts have been enduring ongoing drought conditions with declining average rainfall. There has never been a more crucial time to construct man-made water sources in order that the desert wildlife can continue to thrive.

More than 10 years ago, Glenn Sudmeier of SCBS had a vision: these perceivably “useless” school lands held in reserve can be made productive. He posed the question, “What if SCBS leases parcels of California State School Lands parcels for the placement of new guzzlers?” A decade’s journey has become a reality. On June 18, 2015, SCBS made a formal application to the California State Lands Commission to lease 90 parcels of school lands for the development of Raincatcher-style Bighorn Sheep guzzlers. The SCBS organization, with funds from BGMA, funded the scientific studies and the necessary cataloging of each parcel to ensure it’s inclusion within the lease. Partnership and cooperation was needed with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to complete the application process. On December 9, 2022, the SCBS lease application was reviewed by the State Lands Commission and approved

with the comment that the leases “were in the best interests of the State of California”.

## **Ninety parcels!**

These potential wildlife guzzler sites will be exempt from the California Environment Quality Act (CEQA), which means that the environmental impact studies that normally plague projects have been eliminated. Instead, SCBS will comply with pre-selected guidelines as set forth in the Leases for each project. The current lease has been granted for ten years, with probable renewal at the end of the term. So what comes next? SCBS now has the endorsed Lease document, and work can commence. Potential sites will need to be prioritized, and SCBS expects to coordinate energy with the CDFW. As designated in the “Best Management Practices”, a volunteer training program needs to be developed which is a required element for each project. Training will concern awareness of sensitive flora and fauna, the protocol for handling archeological resources (should they be discovered), implementing “Best Management Practices” at each work site. . It is expected that the very first SLC project will take the longest to plan and carry out because that project will become a “template” for the subsequent ones. SCBS will strive for perfection of the process which, we hope, ensures a long successful program in new water developments.

SCBS has appreciated the ongoing support from the Wild Sheep Foundation and, more specifically, the California Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation with their GALAD program. Each Raincatcher Wildlife Water System comes at a substantial monetary cost for materials, and hundreds of manpower hours. Helicopter transport will be necessary at many sites, further increasing the cost per water system. SCBS volunteers are ready to supply the man hours, and appreciate the partnership with CA WSF in making the GALAD dream a true reality.





---

# GOVERNMENT ISSUES UPDATE

*by Don Priest, Distinguished Life Member, Board Member*

## CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE UPDATE

As indicated in our last newsletter, we anticipated the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) would recommend a reduction in sheep tags in Zone 1 – Marble/Clipper Mountains for the 2023-2024 hunting season. For years the number of tags for this Hunt Zone was six. The final decision for the number of tags will take place at the California Fish and Game Commission meeting in mid-April 2023. We currently estimate that one to three tags shall be issued for this Zone, with a best guess at two, with one of those a Fundraising tag. Turn to the CDFW Big Game Hunting Digest (Digest) for the final tag numbers for this Zone and all others when the Digest is released in late April, early May. For further details on this issue, please see the excellent and detailed article in this newsletter by Bill Gaines at Gaines and Associates on page 35.



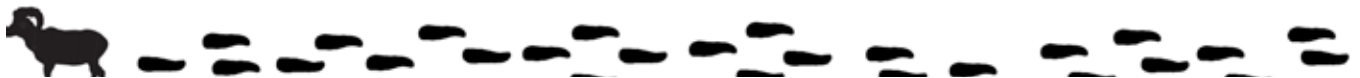
This Agreement is very big news. Articles in a number of newspapers, including the Los Angeles Times, as well as Foxnews website, carried the news. The articles captured comments from a number of California government officials at Caltrans and CDFW, along with Governor Gavin Newsom.

Even so, there are some concerns that we have with the Agreement. Along with our coalition partners, we will be working to shore up the issues that remain outstanding. This includes making the overcrossings mandatory as a part of the Federal Railroad Administration NEPA re-review.

Getting this Agreement in place is indeed an amazing development for wildlife safety, as well as maintaining and re-opening corridors via these wildlife crossings that are necessary for desert bighorn sheep and other wildlife.

## BRIGHTLINE WEST HIGH-SPEED RAIL LINE WILDLIFE OVERCROSSINGS

On January 11, 2023 the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), CDFW and Brightline West (Brightline) have entered into an 'Agreement to Implement Wildlife Overcrossings Over Interstate I-15' (Agreement). We had discussed in our last newsletter that these discussions between Brightline and the agencies had started, and were looking very promising. This Agreement will place the three wildlife overcrossings over I-15 and the High-Speed Rail Line Project (Project). These three overcrossings are at those locations that CA WSF, along with the wide coalition of Non-Profit Organizations and expert bighorn desert sheep biologists have been fighting for during the past two plus years.



### FRED BEAR'S TEN COMMANDMENTS OF HUNTING

1. Don't step on anything you can step over.
2. Don't look for the animal; look for movement (and remember, it's what they're looking for, too).
3. Always approach downwind. In the cool of the day, move uphill; in the heat of the day, move downhill.
4. The best camouflage pattern is called, "Sit down and be quiet!"
5. Take only the gear to the field that allows you to hunt longer, harder, and smarter.
6. A rainstorm isn't a reason to quit the hunt. It's a reason to stay.
7. Camouflage your appearance, your sound and your scent.
8. Be sure of your shot. Nothing is more expensive than regret.
9. Hunt where the animals actually are, not where you'd imagine them to be.
10. Next year's hunt begins the minute this season's hunt ends.

---

# CALIFORNIA FISH AND WILDLIFE UPDATE

*by Danielle Glass*

Co-Lead for CDFW Desert Sheep Program

The past few months have been a flurry of activity for CDFW's desert bighorn program. Attending the Sheep Show, hiring, fieldwork, and modeling population dynamics have taken up much of our time. Here are brief updates about each of these activities.

## **SHEEP SHOW:**

Members of the desert bighorn program attended the Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies' (WAFWA) Wild Sheep Initiative (WSI; formerly the Wild Sheep Working Group) meeting to discuss bighorn management with biologists from western states. The meeting focused on respiratory disease, with a focus on *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*. It included a day-long workshop discussing strategies for culling infected bighorn, eliminating disease from domestic sheep herds, and preventing disease transmission.

After WAFWA, we stayed in Reno to represent CDFW at the Sheep Show convention. Promoting California's bighorn sheep was quite fun, though we did field a few questions about Bigfoot. At the auction, we congratulated the winner of this year's tag. The \$160,000 will go into the State's Big Game Management Account to support managing California big game populations.

## **HIRING:**

After conducting interviews in December, the desert bighorn program hired 3 new Scientific Aides. One aide, Shelton Hatfield, came onboard right away and was able to experience the thrill and chaos of the Sheep Show. The other two aides have an anticipated start date of March 2nd. We are planning to survey the San Gorgonio bighorn population on March 4th and 5th, so they'll jump right into fieldwork! We are hopeful that the San Gorgonio population continues to recover following the 2018–2019 disease outbreak and are optimistic for positive results in the upcoming survey.



## **FIELDWORK:**

The desert bighorn program has been catching up on mortality investigations of desert bighorn that died in the past six months. These investigations are important to understand the different pressures affecting the various bighorn populations. They also allow us to collect the deceased animal's GPS collar, from which we can pull up to 20% more geolocation data than was uploaded to the satellite. One investigation documented an obvious mountain lion kill in the Cady Mountains.



A skull found while collecting cameras in the Kingston Mountains for a population estimate

We also assisted in a repair of the Bob Campbell guzzler in the Mesquite Mountains. The Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep led this project, and many CAWSF members also participated. The guzzler should now be able to provide water for wildlife for years.

### MODELING POPULATION DYNAMICS:

We have also spent a good amount of time in the office modeling population dynamics. This involves translating camera data collected at water sources last summer into bighorn population estimates. We are also collaborating with a State quantitative ecologist on a population viability analysis for a hunt zone. Lastly, we are working on a species distribution model to better understand where bighorn habitat is across Southern California. We are optimistic that these modeling efforts will allow us to better manage California's desert bighorn sheep.



An ewe with a lamb seen on a trail camera placed in the Kingston Mountains.



### Southwest BBQ Wild Hog and Squash Stew

from Susan Fitzgerald

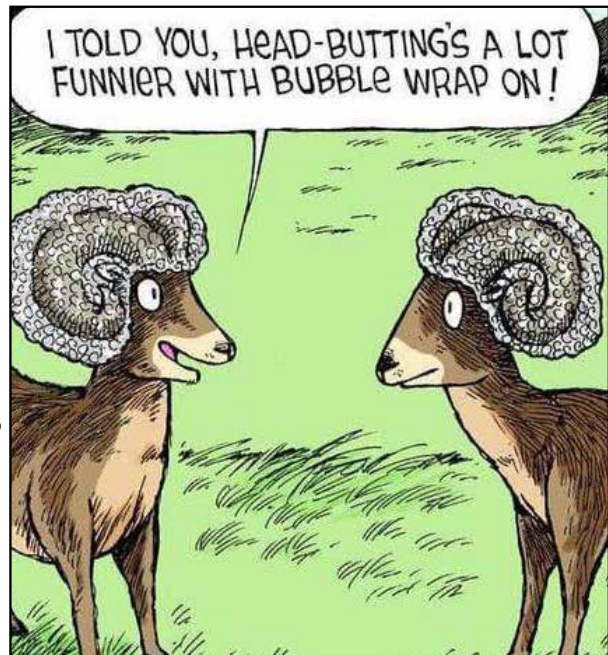
Prep 25 Minutes

Slow Cook: 8 hours (low) or 4 hours (high)

Instant Pot: 20 minutes

#### Ingredients:

- 1½ lb. wild hog tenderloin, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 2 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 1 medium onion, cut into ¼-inch-thick wedges
- 2-½ cups reduced-sodium chicken broth
- ½ cup bottled barbecue sauce
- 1 2-lb butternut squash, peeled and cut into 1-inch cubes (6 cups)
- 2 medium carrots, cut into ½-inch pieces
- 1 poblano (or pasilla) pepper, seeded and cut into 1 inch pieces (tip, opposite)
- 1 14.5-oz can diced tomatoes with mild green chilies, undrained
- 1 Tbsp. chili powder



#### Slow Cooker

1. In a large skillet cook meat, half at a time, in hot oil over medium heat until browned. Transfer meat to a 6 qt. slow cooker. Stir in the remaining ingredients.
2. Cover and cook on low 8-10 hours or on high 4 to 5 hours Makes 8 servings (1 and 1/3 cups each)

#### Instant Pot Pressure Cooker

- Prepare as directed through Step 1 using Instant Pot pressure cooker. Use the sauté setting to brown meat directly in the pot. Lock lid in place.
- Set on high pressure to cook 20 minutes.
- Let stand 15 min. or release pressure naturally. Open carefully.

---

# BIGHORN SHEEP CONSERVATION IN CALIFORNIA: FURTHER HISTORICAL INSIGHTS

*by Vernon C. Bleich, Ph.D.*

E. C. (Charlie) Fullerton served as Director of the California Department of Fish and Game from 1975 to 1983. During that period, interest in the management and conservation of bighorn sheep was increasing within the Department, in the Legislature, among sportsmen, and even the general public. On 12 February 1983, Director Fullerton addressed those attending the annual meeting of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (now the Wild Sheep Foundation), which was held at the MGM Grand Hotel, Reno, Nevada. I recall that event well, as it was the first meeting of that organization that I attended. Having just returned from the Wild Sheep Foundation's Annual Convention, which is now referred to as 'Sheep Week', I thought about Charlie's address and its significance to wildlife management in California. Whereas the most recent celebration of Sheep Week represented the 40th anniversary of Charlie's presentation, I dug through my files and retrieved a copy of his address, and it is reprinted below.

I believe it is necessary to memorialize events that have played important roles in the history of bighorn sheep conservation in California. I hope it will dissuade development of 'generational amnesia', which is becoming increasingly evident among professionals in the field of wildlife conservation. This is unfortunate from several perspectives, but is particularly so from the standpoint of the decline in 'corporate memory' and the increasingly frequent loss of those hunter-conservationists that have played substantial roles in advancing interest in the conservation and management of bighorn sheep in California.

It is noteworthy that Director Fullerton made this presentation following a visit to the Marble Mountains, that took place on 15 January 1983. During that trip, he interacted



with Department personnel and dozens of volunteers, and worked alongside them to construct Big Game Guzzler 18, which is located in the south end of that mountain range. He also joined Don Landells and me in a brief helicopter survey of the Marble Mountains, during which the three of us tallied no fewer than 100 individual bighorn sheep. Although I cannot be certain, I suspect R. A. Weaver prepared the majority of the text of Charlie's speech. Nevertheless, Director Fullerton deserves a great deal of credit for advancing bighorn sheep management in California, as well as his support for the consumptive use of that resource when it is appropriate. Where necessary for clarification, or to update readers regarding changes that have occurred since 1983, I have augmented the original text—which appears immediately below—with additional information that is enclosed in brackets.

---

## What Is the Future of Bighorn Sheep in California? E.C. Fullerton, Director California Department of Fish and Game

One hundred ten years ago [in 1873]—decades before the advent of modern wildlife management, and a half century before the massive deer dieoff on the Kaibab Peninsula [Plateau]—California outlawed the hunting of bighorn sheep.

Ignorance of the futility of attempting to stockpile wildlife hardened over the years into prejudice, which was buttressed a few generations later by the rise of the protectionist movement. This was an attack from a new quarter. Rather than arguing rationally, or on the basis of scientific evidence, the protectionists opposed hunting on philosophic grounds. Hunting was morally wrong; killing for any reason was evil; wild populations, left to themselves, would thrive through natural balance; man the predator was not part of the equation. These are the views that dominate what passes for bighorn sheep management in California today [in 1983]. We in

---

California—and I'm convinced you share these views—would like to throw off the shackles of the 19th century.

Before we get into an assessment of the future of bighorn sheep in California, let's take a moment to look into management history and the current status of this animal. Market hunting came to California with the Gold Rush. The heavy utilization of wildlife—elk and antelope in particular—resulted in the state's first game laws, which established seasons for elk, antelope, and deer. In 1876, the Legislature formally closed the season on bighorn sheep, and two years later imposed a moratorium on the taking of elk, antelope, female deer, and bighorn sheep. One hundred seven years later [in 1983], although we hunt antelope and does [i.e., female deer], and even elk occasionally, there is no hunting of bighorn sheep. This has got to be the longest moratorium of all time.

Somewhere along the line—perhaps because bighorn sheep were never as numerous as elk or antelope or at least were not as visible—they became sacred cows. Some of our field people still refer to them as "Holy Ovis." We gradually fell into the role of custodial management—zookeepers, if you will. We knew we had bighorn sheep and we knew generally where they were, if not how many. We assumed we could protect them. But we were wrong. Since World War II alone, we have lost 18 herds, three in the last decade [i.e., since ~1970]. Passive management (for lack of a better term) just has not worked.

Repeated attempts to change the status of the bighorn sheep to a game animal—in 1968, 1979 and 1982 most recently—all failed. Then in 1968, the Legislature called on the Department of Fish and Game to determine the status of the bighorn sheep. So we fielded a team to cover all the bighorn habitat in the state. And the study [which was carried out under the direction of R. A. Weaver], the first in our history for this species, took four years.

Three races [subspecies] of bighorn sheep occur in California [at the time of this presentation, but only two currently are recognized]. The Nelson bighorn sheep [*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*] is found in the desert mountain ranges; the peninsular bighorn [at the time *O. c. cremnobates*, now *O. c. nelsoni*] is distributed over the western edge of the southern deserts from Palm Springs area south into Mexico, and the California bighorn [at the time of this presentation *O. c. californiana*, now *O. c. sierrae*] is found in the Sierra Nevada; in addition, there is [at the time of this presentation] one re-introduced [from British Columbia, Canada] herd of the California bighorn in the Warner Mountains of Modoc County. The latter two subspecies [those occupying the peninsular ranges and those occupying the Sierra Nevada] are classified as rare by the state Fish and Game Commission [and currently are listed by the federal government as an endangered population segment, and an endangered taxon, respectively].

California's bighorn sheep population is estimated at 3,900 animals, located in some 50 mountain ranges [in 1983]. Recent information is lacking for most herds, but we know some populations have disappeared and others have increased substantially since the 1968–72 survey. However, the long-range trend has been a gradual decline and the extirpation of several herds. Our [1968–1972] studies lead us to believe that the principal problem[s] in preserving bighorn sheep populations is the competition for land from feral burros, livestock and recreation. Disease is a problem in some areas. We urgently need to update the inventory, to determine the present status and trends and to identify the diseases affecting the herds.

In response to a 1981 Assembly Concurrent Resolution, we [the Department of Fish and Game] prepared a report on the bighorn sheep, putting forth a plan to determine status and trends. The plan recommends that we: first, determine the status of populations and herd trends; second, determine the prevalence of diseases; third, identify how land uses affect the sheep; and fourth, develop, if necessary, depending on findings from the disease investigations, a captive animal research program.

What have we done for bighorn sheep? Well, we have identified water-deficient areas and have built 35 [as of 2023 more than 50] big-game guzzlers. We have begun a trapping and re-introduction effort — this in spite of the loss of sheep translocated from British Columbia to the Lava Beds National Monument in Siskiyou County. We are optimistic about the success of three releases into the wild [in the Sierra Nevada and in northeastern California], and we expect to make our first desert sheep trapping and reintroduction this year [and occurred in July 1983, when a total of 21 bighorn sheep were translocated to the Whipple Mountains from Old Dad Mountain and the Marble Mountains]. Furthermore, we have the stock and suitable locations for annual re-introductions. In addition, the Department has acquired more than 1,700 acres of bighorn sheep habitat to save it from development, and we have a shopping list of parcels of private land that would harm bighorn sheep if [those parcels are] lost to development. In 1972, we mapped the feral burro ranges and documented where burros compete with bighorn sheep. Now the Navy, the Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service have [some] burro-removal programs on line; so far [as of 1983], some 5,000 burros have been moved from these areas.

We are not out of the woods by any means. There is one area of continuing high lamb mortality [and] this is being investigated. We know that in some mountain ranges there are only a few bighorn sheep, and we want to know why. One [current in 1983] hypothesis is that these small, isolated populations have become so inbred that immune deficiency and other factors cause low reproduction. We have put together a proposal to investigate this matter and we feel that the project will have management application throughout the West.

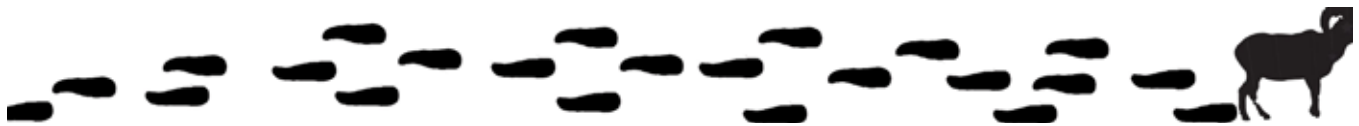
Now, where do we go from here? What is the future of bighorn sheep in California?

Obviously, regardless of political pressures and a protectionist history, we can no longer keep bighorn sheep in the showcase box—that is, we must exercise the full range of management techniques that we use with other populations of large animals. We look to the possibility—no, let's make that the desirability—of some use. Remember that we stopped hunting bighorn sheep when we stopped hunting antelope. But when we regained control of the pronghorn antelope we demonstrated the value of controlled hunting. Pronghorn antelope have more than doubled their numbers in the northeast corner of the state over the past

18 years. And this was while hunters were bagging in excess of 5,100 bucks [during that 18-year period]. A bill will be introduced in the Legislature this year [1983] to authorize the hunting of bighorn sheep, and if the safeguards are there, we will support the legislation. I should add that we would, obviously, never hunt the California [now Sierra Nevada] bighorn sheep or the peninsular [a distinct population segment of *O. c. nelsoni*] bighorn, but desert sheep are another story. Now is the time we must begin to look seriously at the ultimate management tool — hunting of the surplus population.

In conclusion, let me say that we have demonstrated that with aggressive management we can increase bighorn sheep numbers and expand their range through water development, land acquisition, trapping and reintroduction, and research [and the application of those results]. Let's take the next step. Let's reject 19th Century philosophy and, with the evidence of more than one hundred years to point to, move confidently into the 21st century. Let's put aside the quill and the inkwell; let's shed the frock coat then roll up our sleeves. Thank you.

*Dr. Vern Bleich was employed by the California Department of Fish and Game for 34 years, during which time he worked extensively with large mammals occupying the Great Basin, Mojave, and Sonoran deserts of California. He currently is Research Professor at the University of Nevada Reno, and remains actively involved in conservation and research activities. He serves on the Advisory Board of the Texas Bighorn Society, as Science Advisor for the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, is a member of two California Wild Sheep Foundation committees, and serves on the Wild Sheep Foundation's Professional Resource Advisory Board. Vern realizes that much of the history of bighorn sheep conservation in California has been, or is being, forgotten, and this article is another in a series that, hopefully, will slow that process. Interested parties can contact Vern directly (vcbleich@gmail.com).*



**THESE PHOTOS ARE FROM THE OCTOBER 14-16TH TANK REPLACEMENT PROJECT AT ANZA-BORREGO.**

CA WSF provided Project Management, volunteers, expertise and funding for rigging.  
SCBS provided food and volunteers  
BHA provided beverages and volunteers  
Marines from HMLAT-303 provided aerial lift for tools and tanks.  
ABF (Anza-Borrego Foundation) facilitated donation of tanks from the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation.  
CDFW personnel were on hand.

Look for a full story in the next issue!



CA WSF, SCBS, BHA volunteers with State Parks and CDFW employees ready to go to work



New tanks at Pinyon Wash getting a coat of paint to protect from the sun's damaging ultraviolet rays and to camouflage.



US Marines hauling away 20+ year old tanks from the Pinyon Wash BGG at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

---

# GUZZLER REPAIR, SPRING INSPECTION AND RECOVERY OF EWE #1815'S GPS COLLAR RECOVERY

*By Scott Gibson, Life Member, Board Member*

On Friday night, January 20, 2023, I pulled into camp close to midnight. I was happy to see some of our volunteers from the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep (SCBS) still awake and enjoying a warm fire. Our work party, organized by David M'Greene of SCBS, would be making repairs to SB14 Bob Campbell Big Game Guzzler (BGG) in the morning. The Bob Campbell BGG is located in the Mesquite Wilderness, just north of Clark Mountain in Hunt Zone #3.

Saturday morning came quickly, after breakfast, the entire work party travelled the 3 miles by 4x4, followed by a ½ mile hike up a canyon to the Bob Campbell guzzler. Thanks to David M'Greene's planning we were able to finish all the planned repairs before dark that same day.

At Saturday night's camp dinner and fire, Jim Fitzgerald, also a CA WSF Board member, and I started talking about Sunday's plans. Instead of heading directly home, Jim and I decided to do a spring inspection and to try and find/recover a satellite collar from a sheep mortality.

Sunday morning, we woke up with pretty much everything frozen, Mojave Desert nights are definitely cold! After packing up camp and saying our goodbyes, Jim and I headed for the Rodman Mountains. Jim and I parked our trucks just outside the Rodman Wilderness boundary, at the entrance to a canyon that would get us closest to the mortality. As a bonus, our path would cross within a ¼-mile of Sheep Spring.

We wasted no time and began the 3-mile hike up the wash. The last ½-mile to the Ewe #1815 was straight up a canyon wall to an exposed ridgeline. Using a handheld GPS, I was able to direct Jim to within 15' of the carcass. The ewe's carcass was not easy to find, as she was tucked in some large boulders. We took pictures of the remains and documented all the information the biologists from CDFW wanted us to collect.

On the hike out, we detoured up a side canyon to Sheep Spring. Here we took additional pictures and documented the water quantity and quality for SCBS Spring Captain Coordinator, Arioch M'Greene. Arioch maintains a database of natural springs important for desert bighorn sheep. He will use the information we collect to better understand water sources where sheep live.



Recovered Satellite Collar.



Jim Fitzgerald found the carcass and satellite collar at the top of the canyon wall



Campfire going strong

Jim and I made it back to our trucks just before we needed headlamps. What a fun way to wrap up a weekend.

Interesting information about Ewe #1815:

Ewe #1815 was originally captured and collared by CDFW in the South Bristols during Fall of 2020. Her picture was taken by CDFW trail camera while getting a drink at SB42-2 drinker. CDFW estimated her at 3-years old at the time of her capture.



Ewe #1815's Journey from Fall 2020 to Fall 2022

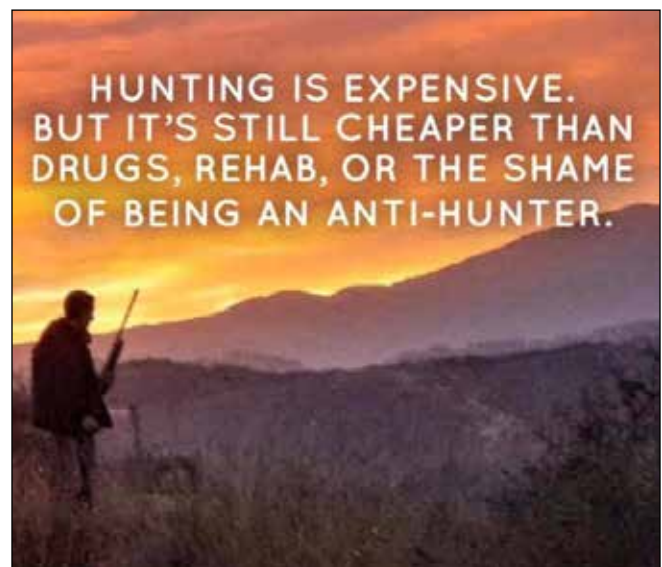
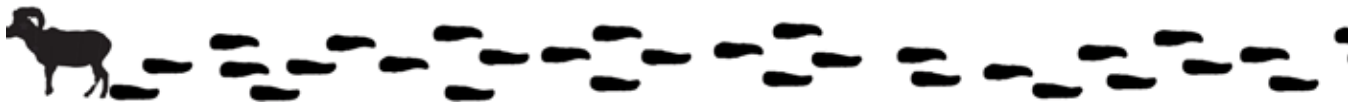


Ewe #1815 getting a drink at an SCBS BGG in the South Bristols

Bagdad went 767 consecutive days without rain. During the time period this ewe was collared, it was the second recorded driest time in California.

From the South Bristols (Hunt Zone #8), Ewe #1815 travelled west. She likely visited several of the Raincatcher drinker systems at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC). She then made it all the way into the Newberry Mountains (Hunt Zone #10). She then traveled back to the Rodmans where she unfortunately met her demise by a mountain lion. During the two years CDFW tracked Ewe #1815, she ventured over 86-miles. This may be one of the longest journeys ever recorded on Desert Bighorn in California. I'm sure we will learn more from the scientists at CDFW about this amazing bighorn sheep in the future.

The ghost town of Bagdad, located at the southern end of the Bristols, still holds the record for the driest spell in American History: between 1912 and 1914,





---

# SUCCESSFUL REPAIR AT R5 CHUCKWALLA (SHIP CREEK)

*By Debbie Miller Marschke  
Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep (SCBS)*

The Chuckwalla Big Game Guzzler was built on October 11, 1974 by the then California Department of Fish and Game (now Dept of Fish and Wildlife) and the SCBS in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the Chuckwalla Mountain Wilderness near Corn Springs Campground & Desert Center CA. The original site was constructed with three steel water tanks. New plastic water tanks were flown in to replace the metal tanks in 1979, and the system was rebuilt in November 1979. .

During routine spring 2020 guzzler inspections SCBS discovered that two of the existing 2,100-gallon plastic tanks were washed away by a catastrophic flash flood. Pieces of the plastic tanks were found downstream from the guzzler site for miles. This guzzler location has provided a reliable source of water for bighorn sheep for 48 years, and is critical to the wildlife in this range. SCBS, DFW and BLM all agreed this system needed to be rebuilt.

SCBS sent several solicitations for volunteers to step up, and we are grateful to those who could participate during the holiday season, when it is traditionally difficult to get away.

Weekend One – December 2-4. Great weather. We had some hard workers removing some huge boulders and rocks. A helicopter airlifted 1200 pounds of gear for us so that this crew could construct the footprint pad for the Raincatcher tanks. After obstructive boulders were removed, the pad was created by moving rock and sand. The collection dam was dug out.

Weekend Two – December 9-11. More great weather. Three 2300 gallon tanks were airlifted and set into place by the DFW contracted helicopter (Shasta Air). The tanks were enclosed by wire baskets filled with rocks (called gabions) and the tanks were covered by dirt and sand. There is one drinker box covered by a fabricated shade rock which will help decrease evaporation. The remaining tools were backpacked out. As we hiked out from the work site, black clouds chased us from behind and it was raining later that evening after everyone reached the pavement. Later in the season we will check to see if it collected any water from that drizzle.

CA WSF has once again fully funded the materials for the rebuilding of the project, and that generosity is fully appreciated.

*Editor's Note: Your contributions as members and friends are what allows us to make this happen!*



Tanks installed in 1979 as they appeared in 2004



Work begins with rock removal - some huge ones!



Next step: building the pad



One of the new tanks being airlifted in



Tank being positioned



Building rock gabions



Finished system - barely noticeable in the landscape



Fabricated shade rock

---

# CA WSF POLICY TEAM AT WORK TO KEEP YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN

A CASE STUDY IN THE SETTING OF SHEEP HUNTING REGULATIONS

By Bill Gaines, Gaines and Associates

*Why does it seem that politics never sleeps? Because it doesn't. When you think of politics, do you think it only involves our State Legislature and Congress? It doesn't. Certainly, what happens at our State Capitol and in Washington D.C. gathers most of the headlines. But our challenge to ensure science-based wildlife management and to protect and promote hunting opportunity must also be met in many other arenas. As just one case study, let's look at what the California Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation (CA WSF) has been doing to promote bighorn sheep and sheep hunting opportunity in the meeting rooms of our California Fish and Game Commission and our Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW).*

In most cases, the gears of the California Fish and Game Commission grind slowly when determining wildlife management policy. Annual bighorn sheep hunting regulations are certainly no exception. Determining annual sheep hunting regulations is nearly a full-year effort – stretching out over two Commission subcommittee meetings, followed by a mandatory three full Commission meetings. But long before the Commission can even begin to consider a regulation, DFW is at work grinding through the latest data to pull together their recommendation.

Most who care deeply about the health of wild sheep in California are aware of the exemplary partnership between CA WSF and DFW when it comes to bighorn research and habitat work on the mountain. But few are aware that CA WSF enjoys a similar partnership with DFW leadership in Sacramento. The importance of this close working relationship was again illustrated early last fall – months before most of the 2022 bighorn sheep hunting seasons were even underway – when CA WSF was already in discussions with DFW regarding sheep hunting regulations for the 2023/2024 season.

With the health of bighorn sheep always our top priority, CA WSF was well aware that populations in the Marble and Clipper Mountain were stressed due to extreme drought, low recruitment, and respiratory disease. Knowing there was a good



chance DFW would consider recommending a tag reduction in that hunt zone for the 2023/2024 season, CA WSF reached out to their leadership to schedule a meeting to discuss the latest data and their pending tag proposal. To allow for review of the latest data, and knowing DFW must submit their initial 2023/2024 tag recommendations to the Commission for approval of public notice at their December 15th meeting, CA WSF and DFW scheduled to meet in early December.

Diving deep into the weeds at that meeting, the Department noted that their population estimates for the Marble/Clippers from the summer of 2022 was 25 to 83 adult male sheep, with mature (2-year-old+) rams available for hunting possibly even less than 25. *[Editor's note: the age of 2+ is directly from CDFW documentation; however, we believe the document is in error and it should be 4-year-old+.]*

DFW also stated that annual surveys conducted during 2015-2022 indicated low recruitment rates of between 0 and 0.18 lambs per ewe due to the impacts from severe drought and a respiratory disease-causing pathogen first detected in the Marble Mountains population in 2013. Based on that data, DFW confirmed that for the 2023/2024 season they were going to recommend a decrease from five general tags to one tag for the Marble/Clipper Mountains hunt zone and the elimination of the Marble, Clipper, and South Bristol Mountains fundraising tag.

Sensitive to the stress the Marble and Clipper Mountain populations were under, CA WSF

---

was very supportive of the reduction, but was a reduction of 6 total tags to a single tag too much? With the Commission December meeting now only days away – and aware that once the Commission approves DFW’s recommendation for public notice additional tags cannot be added – CA WSF went right back to work.

Step one was to quickly crunch some numbers. California Fish and Game Code subdivision 4902(b) (2) conservatively limits the annual harvest of sheep to no more than 15% of the mature rams in a single management unit. Applying that 15% to DFW’s most conservative estimate of 25 mature rams in the Marble/Clippers confirmed that a reduction in the current five tag quota in that zone was not only appropriate but required. But, even using DFW’s most cautious estimate of 25 mature rams, that same calculation also revealed that the Commission could approve as many as three tags for that unit, and nearly four. With these calculations in mind, CA WSF believed the reduction from six total tags to only one tag in the Marble/Clippers unit was overly conservative and would only encumber sheep recovery – given that the DFW proposal was also to eliminate the one fundraising tag and the substantial revenue it would generate to assist with needed research and habitat efforts. Step one was complete, but step two was a bit of a heavier lift.

With the Department’s recommendation of the reduction from six total tags to only one general tag for the Marble/Clippers region already submitted to the Commission and publicly posted, CA WSF knew a change in their recommendation would have to be made – live and in public forum – at the Commission meeting in San Diego. After giving DFW an appropriate heads-up, Gaines & Associates arrived at the meeting site extra early and waited for Commissioners, Commission staff and Department leadership to arrive. After carefully taking the time to meet with each of them individually to relate our concerns, we could only wait for the topic of 2023/2024 bighorn sheep hunting regulations to come up for discussion later that morning.

Two hours later, agenda item 18, “Bighorn Sheep Hunting”, opened with some brief comments by Commission staff who then introduced DFW’s Desert Bighorn Sheep Coordinator Regina Vu to provide a presentation on their 2023/2024 proposal for bighorn sheep hunting. Ms. Vu’s presentation opened with some background on their sheep hunting program – noting that hunting opportunity was very limited with highly conservative tag allocations over ten hunt zones and flagging the annual 15% limitation on the sport harvest of mature rams in any single management unit. Ms. Vu then stated that, for 2023/2024, DFW was not recommending any changes to the current tag

allocations – with the exception of in the Marble and Clipper Mountains. Focusing in on that region, Ms. Vu stated that these two management units comprise one hunt zone where populations have had exposure to drought, low recruitment and disease. She then noted that because DFW’s current population estimate for that unit was only 25 to 83 adult rams, the current tag quota of 5 general tags may exceed the 15% threshold. Ms. Vu then stated that due to the low population and reproduction estimates, the Department was recommending taking the precautionary approach by reducing the total public and fundraising tag quota in the Marble and Clippers Mountain hunt zone to a single tag for the 2023/2024 season. She then closed their presentation by asking if there were any questions and stating that DFW Wildlife Branch Chief Scott Gardner had some comments to add.

Quickly taking the floor, Mr. Gardner informed Commissioners that DFW would like to offer an amendment to their proposal. Noting that they have had considerable discussion about this right up to this meeting, Mr. Gardner said that although DFW does believe a reduction in Marble/Clipper tags is necessary, given the current wide range in their population estimates, DFW was not sure about recommending only a single tag at this point. Mr. Gardner then stated that DFW would like to amend their proposal to remove the recommendation of a single general tag and instead go to ranges of zero to five general tags and zero to one fundraising tag.

Commission President Samantha Murray quickly followed by thanking Ms. Vu for her presentation and Mr. Gardner for offering his amendment. President Murray stated that she too had conversations with “stakeholders” regarding the request to at least leave open the option to add the fundraising tag for that region and the meaningful revenue it could provide.

Following some discussion among those on the dais, Gaines & Associates was pleased to provide detailed public testimony on behalf of CA WSF. After thanking DFW for their willingness to meet with us on this issue, we highlighted the strong partnership between DFW and CA WSF when it comes to funding and actions taken to promote the health of wild sheep and stated that we rarely disagree on anything. Noting that the conservation of wild sheep is by far our top priority, we acknowledged that we were aware of the problems in the Marble/Clipper hunt zone and were in support of a reduction in tags – but we disagree on how much of a reduction is necessary. Continuing, we said that even when applying the highly conservative 15% harvest threshold to DFW’s minimum population estimate of 25 adult rams it still allows nearly 4 tags, but the Department is only offering one. Even more

---

concerning, we stated that their proposal would eliminate the single fundraising tag that would generate substantial funding that could go directly back into trying to solve the problems that unit is having. We then closed by stating that we were very pleased with Mr. Gardner's request moments ago to amend DFW's recommendation to go to ranges so we could continue to gather data and discuss this issue in an effort to reach agreement prior to the Commission's final adoption of 2023/2024 bighorn regulations at their April 2023 meeting.

Per Commission policy, the topic of 2023/2024 bighorn sheep hunting regulations was again placed on agenda for discussion at the Commission's February 2023 meeting in Sacramento. At that meeting DFW Desert Bighorn Sheep Coordinator Regina Vu made some brief comments, noting that the Department was continuing analysis of their summer 2022 camera and ground count data. Ms. Vu added that with the 2022/2023 season in the Marble/Clippers hunt zone having closed the prior Sunday, DFW had checked all rams within 48 hours of harvest to gather biological specimens and field observation data to get a more complete picture of what was going on in the field. She then noted that the Department would also like to do a Population Viability Analysis to put to bed any concerns over the long-term sustainability of the relatively small Marble/Clipper populations. Ms. Vu then closed her comments by stating that, although it was too early to provide the Commission with

a final recommendation on total tags for those management units, DFW did think offering two tags was within sustainable limits.

Immediately upon Ms. Vu completing her comments, Gaines & Associates was again pleased to provide testimony on behalf of CA WSF. We opened our testimony by reiterating that the health of wild sheep was CA WSF's top priority, noting we were well aware of the population concerns in the Marble/Clipper and that we were in support of a reduction in tags – but the question remained as to how much. We again thanked Department leadership for maintaining an on-going dialogue on this topic and for amending their proposal to ranges of tags to allow time for us to gather additional data and continue efforts to seek consensus prior to the final adoption.

As of this writing – with the final adoption of 2023/2024 sheep hunting regulations still nearly two months away – CA WSF remains fully at the table with DFW leadership in discussions on this topic. Our membership can rest assured that we will also be present and accounted for at the Commission's April 2023 meeting to assure the health of California's wild sheep, while securing maximum acceptable wild sheep hunting opportunity in 2023.



## **THE NEWBERRY RANGE HERD**

**[THEWAYOFTHINGS.ORG](http://THEWAYOFTHINGS.ORG)**

Carlos Gallinger

**CA WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET**

**April 29, 2023 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Sacramento**

**Be an "Early Bird" (complete registration by March 25, 2023) to get tickets for an Early Bird drawing for \$1000 in banquet credits.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Single Dinner/Event Ticket - \$100; After April 14, 2023 - \$110** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

> One (1) Dinner/Event includes entry to the Displays, Speakers and Auctions

> Get one (1) chance at the Early Bird drawing if registered by March 25, 2023

\_\_\_\_\_ **Youth Single Dinner/Event Ticket(s) - \$50 each (14 and under)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

> One (1) Youth Dinner, includes entry to the Displays, Speakers and Auctions plus special youth prize drawing. Must be under 18.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Reserved 1/2 Table (5) Dinner/Event Tickets - \$475; After April 14, 2023 - \$525** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

> Five (5) Dinner/Event includes entry to the Displays, Speakers and Auctions

> Get five (5) chances at the Early Bird drawing if registered by March 25, 2023

\_\_\_\_\_ **Reserved Full Table (10) Dinner/Event Tickets - \$900; After April 14, 2023 - \$1,000** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

> Ten (10) Dinner/Event Ticket includes entry to the Displays, Speakers and Auctions

> Get ten (10) chances at the Early Bird drawing if registered by March 25, 2023

*General Raffle Tickets are \$20 each or select one of these packages*

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$100 Drawing Ticket Package** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$120 (6) General Drawing tickets

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$300 Drawing Ticket Package** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$400 (24) General Drawing tickets and one (1) \$300 Bonus Drawing tickets.

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$500 Drawing Ticket Package** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$700 (42) General Drawing tickets, three (3) \$300 Bonus Drawing tickets and two (2) \$500 Bonus Drawing tickets.

*Thank you for your generosity in sponsoring and donating to CA Wild Sheep Foundation*

\_\_\_\_\_ **Desert Bighorn Sponsorship** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donate to underwrite firearms for the drawing; tax deductible. You will receive recognition in the event program and the quarterly newsletter.  1 firearm \$350  2 firearms \$700  3 firearms \$1050

\_\_\_\_\_ **Donation to Help Sponsor the Event and Support Wild Sheep in California** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please especially consider if you will not be able to be there! (Any amount)

**Total Payment:** \_\_\_\_\_

Check

Credit

VISA

MC

AMEX

CREDIT CARD \_\_\_\_\_

EXP DATE \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ CVC# \_\_\_\_\_ BILLING ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME ON CARD \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

SELF \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_ 9 \_\_\_\_\_

5 \_\_\_\_\_ 10 \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to  
CA Wild Sheep  
Foundation

Mail to:  
CA WSF  
1630 Williams Hwy #151  
Grants Pass, OR 97527

email form to:  
forthesheep@  
gmail.com

Fax form to:  
650-409-6005



Explore AND **HUNT**  
NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA



[www.goldenbearoutfitting.com](http://www.goldenbearoutfitting.com) + 250-794-8350



STONE SHEEP  
MOUNTAIN GOAT  
CANADIAN MOOSE  
MOUNTAIN CARIBOU  
WOLVES  
BLACK BEAR





CA Wild Sheep Foundation  
1630 Williams Hwy #151  
Grants Pass, OR 97527

[www.cawsf.org](http://www.cawsf.org)

## CALIFORNIA CHAPTER WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION



**REGISTER  
TODAY**

**DON'T MISS**

**the next**

**ANNUAL  
FUNDRAISER**

**APRIL 29, 2023**

**DOUBLETREE  
SACRAMENTO**