



California Wild Sheep

Summer 2018

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2018 CAWSF Banquet and Fundraiser
A fantastic time was had by all!
Mark your calendar for April 6, 2019



ULTIMA THULE LODGE

CONTACT: DONALD C. MARTIN 310-766-3921



From the Editor's Desk

I hope you enjoy this issue. It has a LOT of great pictures from our Annual Fundraiser; if you missed it – YOU MISSED OUT! Please assure you make it in 2019 by adding April 6th to your calendar RIGHT NOW! It also includes your ballot for the Director election, hunting stories, news about a major initiative that will more than DOUBLE the number of desert bighorn in California (pique your interest?!), a sheep hunt raffle for Life Members only, a Distinguished Life Member option, fun humor, more interesting desert insights from Carlos, AND MUCH MORE!

Your feedback, ideas, articles & requests are always welcome. Best way to reach me is email: mike.borel@contextnet.com. Due date for input to the 3Q18 issue is August 20.



ALL ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE JULY 31.

You may renew in any one of the following ways:

1–Return the membership form with a check for \$40 by mail to the address on the form.

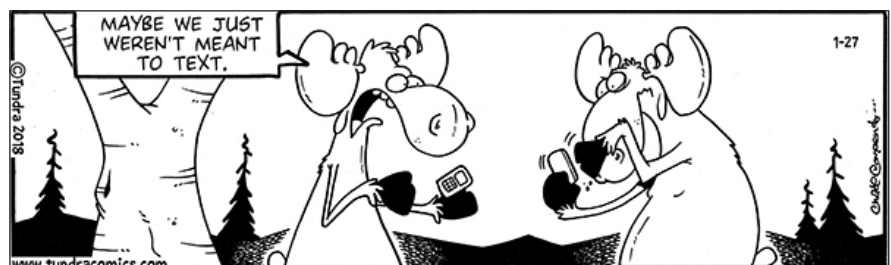
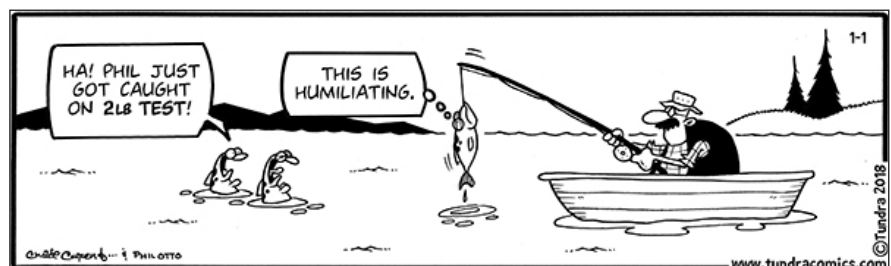
2–Return the completed membership form with your charge card info by mail, email, or fax. All information is on the form.

3–Log onto the CAWSF web site at <http://www.cawsf.org/> and complete using a charge card or PayPal account.

Note: If you renewed or joined after January 1, 2018, your membership is active until July 31, 2019.

If you can, please consider upgrading to a Life Membership for a one-time \$500 dues payment or if you are already a Life Member to Distinguished Life Membership for a one time \$1000 dues payment. With either of these special commitments to wild sheep you'll be adding to the CA WSF Life Member Endowment fund. Learn what your membership dollars helped to do in 2017 by visiting the web site at <http://www.cawsf.org/action.htm> or see page 19 in this newsletter.

CA WSF has an enviable record of positive impact on California wild sheep, you can continue to help us build momentum and to multiply the difference we make by renewing and encouraging friends to join!



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California Wild Sheep is published quarterly.

Please email all articles and photos to

mike.borel@contextnet.com

Photos should be high resolution and in color.

It is recommended that digital photos be sent by email.

Please include photo credits and captions.

Humorous outtakes provided by Tammy Scott

Published by Beverly Valdez, Gaiatec Services

Events

2018

June 22-23	WSF Chapter & Affiliates Meeting in Jackson, WY
June 24	Completed Election Ballots due
August TBD	DBH Hunter Orientation in Sacramento (8-12:00)
August 20	Due date for articles for 3Q2018 CAWSF Newsletter
September TBD	Wild Sheep Foundation Fly-In and Walk on Capitol Hill Washington D.C.
September TBD	DBH Hunter Orientation in Ontario
November 20	Due date for articles for 4Q2018 CAWSF Newsletter
December 7	Sheep Summit XXIV in Ontario

2019

January 9-12	SCI Convention, Reno
Jan 30-Feb 2	GSCO Convention, Las Vegas
February 7-9	WSF International Sheep Show Reno
April 5	Sheep Summit XXV in Sacramento (Doubletree)
April 6	CA WSF Annual Banquet and Fundraiser, Double Tree by Hilton, Sacramento

President's Letter

I'm trying to recover from Wild Sheep Banquet Season as I write this quarter's President's Message. If you were fortunate to attend the 2018 CA WSF Banquet May 5th, you know it was great! If you missed the event, this issue of our newsletter should get you excited for next year!!!

This year's banquet exceeded expectations in every area: more attendees, more dollars raised, our first youth events, over \$28,000 raised for our Give a Lamb a Drink campaign, and we even signed up 15 new Life Members. I'd like to personally thank the individuals responsible for this tremendous success:



- Fundraising Committee led by Don Martin and Ken Crother
- Our outstanding Emcee – Don Martin
- Live Auction – Don Priest
- Silent Auction – Craig Van Arsdale
- General Raffles and Tumbler Raffle – Paul Brisso
- Cake auction – Beverly Valdez and Roger McCosker
- Special Card Raffles – Shawn Wood
- Communications Committee led by Beverly Valdez and supported by Mike Borel, Andrew Ohanesian, Bob Keagy, and Don Martin
- Youth Outreach Committee led by Glen Pyne and Dr. Ryan Brock, Wild Sheep Foundation Education Coordinator, for making the Youth Wildlife Conservation Experience (YWCE) part of our banquet
- Give a Lamb a Drink Committee led by Mike Borel and Glen Sudmeier from the Society or the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep

I'd like to thank all our Directors for soliciting donations, volunteering their time to set up and tear down, and for their commitment to this tremendous resource – our California Wild Sheep!

Not to rest on our laurels, your Board of Directors met Sunday morning after the banquet to get started on plans for 2019. We will share more of our plans with you soon, but we voted to add some real excitement to our next banquet. Like many WSF Chapters, in 2019 CAWSF will hold a Life Member Sheep Hunt drawing at the banquet. To be entered in the drawing you must be a Life Member and, most importantly, you must be present at the banquet.

We will also hold a raffle for a Sonora Desert Bighorn Sheep Hunt with Oscar Molina of San Jose Outfitters. We will limit the number of tickets to 500, sell them for \$100 each, and you do not have to be present at the banquet to win. You can't beat those odds anywhere!

Lastly, we voted to add a new Life Membership Level – Distinguished Life Member – for those folks who'd like to step up their contributions to our mission of Putting and Keeping Wild Sheep on the Mountain. In addition to making a stronger commitment to our mission, all Distinguished Life Members will get two additional chances to win the Life Member Sheep Hunt!

In closing, I'd like to thank the Board of Directors for their commitment to CAWSF, all our volunteers, all the attendees at our 2018 Banquet, and especially Beverly Valdez for keeping us all moving in the right direction!

Yours in Conservation,

Darryl Williams

ONE AND ONLY CHANCE: CLYDE ULRICH BIGHORN SHEEP HUNT

by Andrew Pontious

In 2010 I was lucky enough to draw a California tule elk tag. During my hunt I met another group of hunters that also had a tule elk tag, the group happened to be Terry Anderson and his guide Andrew Pontious from San Gorgonio Wilderness Outfitters. Both of us ended up getting nice tule elk. During that hunt I asked them what unit they recommended for desert bighorn sheep in California. They recommended for me to put in for the San Gorgonio bighorn sheep unit. I could tell they knew what they were talking about. For the last 8 years I've been putting in for that San Gorgonio bighorn sheep unit in California. This past June I was eagerly waiting for the draw results for California, which I never get picked. I turned my computer on and looked at my draw results and saw that I got drawn for a bighorn sheep. I couldn't believe it but I actually drew a coveted desert bighorn sheep tag! I immediately called Terry Anderson with San Gorgonio Wilderness Outfitters to book a hunt for my sheep. I knew his outfit would get me the biggest oldest ram possible. Terry told me that he knew a few 180 plus rams that were in the unit. During the summer months I prepared myself for the hunt by hiking and going to the range to practice long distance shots. Two weeks prior to my scheduled hunt Terry called me and said he and his guide Andrew Pontious had located a very large ram and as soon as I could come out they wanted drive me out and hunt that ram. After taking care of work, I was able to drive down and start my hunt. I met Terry Anderson, Andrew Pontious, and



Don Anderson who had been watching my ram for 2 weeks. For the next 3 days the weather was very windy and hot, making it difficult to relocate the ram. This terrain I was hunting in was extremely steep and remote. All the hiking I did to train for this hunt helped me get through it. On the evening of day 4, Terry and Andrew finally located the ram. The plan was to get up early and hike in with Andrew and Don to get into position while Terry would spot the ram down low. The next morning we hiked up the mountain to get into position to do a stalk on the ram. Once we spotted the ram, we realized he was with about 20 other rams. We were about to get within 400 yards but were unable to see the big ram. We spent the next 3 hours waiting for the group of rams to get up. Finally the group of rams got up but then they went over the ridge where we couldn't see them. We immediately grabbed our gear and walked up the ridge to where we last saw the group. I could tell Andrew and Don knew the ram we were after was a trophy. After a steep hike we were finally in position to where we saw the group of rams disappear. I knew this was going to be my one and only chance and was hoping all my preparation was going to payoff for my final shot at the big ram. Don and Andrew told me the ram we were after had a longer horn on the left side. Andrew and Don belly crawled to the point where they could see down below. It only took a few seconds before I heard the words there they are. All the rams were there except for the big ram. It seemed like 2 hours but we watched them for 15 minutes when, all of a sudden, the ram appeared in front of us at 70 yards. I quickly put the crosshairs



*left to right, Clyde Ulrich, Don Anderson, Andrew Pontious
Tim Humphreville*

on the ram and pulled the trigger. The big ram was down. I knew after looking at the ram he was a true trophy. Don, Andrew and Terry congratulated me and told me I would be very happy. We walked up to the ram and were amazed at how big and beautiful he was. Don and Andrew both estimated him to be 12 years old and score over 180. His left horn was 40 inches long. Don and Andrew caped and processed the ram for our long hike out. I knew the ram I shot was a hunt of a lifetime and would like to thank Terry Anderson, Andrew Pontious and Don Anderson with San Gorgonio Wilderness Outfitters for help guiding me on my hunt. Once we returned to Terry's house, they scored the ram at 183 2/8 B & C. (I used a 7 mm Remington mag rifle)

Hunter and member of Epic Outdoors, Clyde Ulrich
Unit: San Gorgonio Wilderness
State: CA
Desert Bighorn Sheep



Clyde Ulrich asked Andrew Pontious from San Gorgonio Wilderness Outfitters to write this story for me.



THANKS FROM DESERT WILDLIFE UNLIMITED

Sharing a beautiful sight from the desert! DWU volunteers came out in force this weekend. Thank you for your partnership and helping us with the purchase of the new pump. We filled this drinker in the Orocopias to 100% capacity which should last well into the summer of 2019 even if it doesn't rain; which we all hope it does. Have a great day.

Best regards,
Rob Yates
President,
Desert Wildlife Unlimited, Inc

WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION
www.wildsheepfoundation.org

VORTEX OPTICS
www.vortexoptics.com

WESTERN WILDLIFE TAXIDERM
www.western-wildlife.com

DRY CREEK OUTFITTERS
www.drycreekoutfitters.com

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wes@hunteddiamond.com

NEW YEAR'S RAM

by Sean Browne

It's June 12th, I'm at work when my friend Dylan jokingly texts me he drew two B Zone deer tags again. The CA draw is out. I tell him I'll check it tonight after work. When I finally do I'm dumbfounded by the mysterious Y next to 'Desert Bighorn Sheep'. It takes me a long while to believe this could possibly be true. I started hunting late in life, one year after CA started preference points so I have one less than max. Somehow, I had drawn the one random tag for Zone 9, Cady Mountains! Having hunted for fifteen years I still feel like a newbie. I've been making up for lost time though taking deer, antelope, elk across the southwest, wild pigs, blacktail bucks in northern California, Pope & Young mule deer in Colorado. I owe my success to the expertise and patience of many wonderful guides and some very fortunate friendships I've fostered along the way.

When my disbelief on drawing the tag subsides I get in touch with Dry Creek Outfitters and secure their services for my hunt. I'll leave on the 27th right after Christmas. Between this time and my hunt, I will be laid off from my job, kill my first elk with a bow in Wyoming, and ultimately find a better job that starts right after my sheep hunt! It seems I already have so much to be grateful for.

Getting closer the excitement builds. The DF&W orientation in Sacramento is well done and gives me new appreciation for all the hard work these folks have done to allow this hunt to even take place. I didn't know about the history and their successful efforts to open the hunt in 1989 after 114 years. They do a super job and It gives me some hope that our unfortunate abalone closure won't be permanent as I also enjoy abalone diving and spearfishing.

News of Jason Hairston slaying a new state record ram 'Goliath' isn't the first biblical reference I'll find on this epic adventure. Other pics of rams in social media fuel my excitement. I was anxious to see how my own story would unfold.

I arrive at Camp at 3pm and I get the tour. I show Tim my rifles and gear. Tim offers me use of a walking stick made from a saguaro cactus rib. It's strong and extremely light. The stick was perfect for negotiating loose rock on steep hills or as a monopod in the field. Later in the hunt I notice a well-worn inscription 'Joshua 1:9' I don't know my bible verses but in this best of all worlds we live in it's no further than my phone. The passage includes:

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go

A great theme for any hunt and as I read it I can't help but hear Tim's voice. He leads us in a brief



blessing before dinner each night and in the morning before we all head out. I really appreciate Tim sharing his words of faith with us and he does so with grace and humility.

Our team are: Tim Mercier, Cliff St. Martin, Kirk 'Sawyer', Tom 'Tanto', his son Luke, and Ben 'Grizzly' from Arizona. As night falls they each return to from scouting and compare notes. Several rams are discussed with names like the 'Broken horn ram', 'Juicy', and the 'Short horn ram' None are quite the class of ram we're looking for.

Our first morning we leave at 6 am with an hour drive out to a point for glassing. We spend all day glassing the opposite mountain side. It is bitter cold in the mornings. I'm pretty sure I had every layer of Kuiu gear I own on at one time. If there is one thing I should have done differently it is to buy or borrow 15 power binoculars and a tripod. My early efforts free hand glassing with my ten power Leica's could best be described as morale support. Eventually I'm startled when what I think is a sheep actually stands up! I do get better at it and it starts to get fun.

The next day we leave camp in separate trucks driving for about an hour until we park and all pile into Tom's lighter rig to make it up a steep sand dune. This necessity makes for some entertaining discussion about the relative merits of Dodge vs Ford trucks. Having arrived in my Toyota FJ Cruiser I elect to stay out of it. We leave the truck near some hills they call the three sisters.

Not far in we spot 2 legal rams bedded in parallel one above the other both facing left. They look like two sentinels guarding the entrance to their world and we give them a wide berth so as not to spook what giants might lurk behind.



We trudge through sand dunes with our walking staff's like sojourning desert pilgrims. The dunes are periodically pocked with some sort of rodent holes and every now and then ground collapses and your foot sinks down giving you a stiff jolt to your back or knee. I try and follow Cliff through this mine field hoping he'll clear my way, but I seem to still hit just as many holes as he does. It's alternatively annoying and comical as we each hit one hole after another.

On our long hikes I appreciated having my light Cooper Backcountry rifle and frequently forget it's attached to my day pack until I try and sit down with it on. Soon Cliff informs me we are pinned down on a rocky hill between other sheep. We spend a long day on a hill covered with loose sharp jagged rocks trying not to blow a good ram out of the country. On our way out, we all join up and see several rams put on a great show for us on the distant skyline. In silhouette they work a cactus barrel with their horns, butting it open, pawing at it, fighting over it. It's a beautiful show.

Saturday we make the same drive in and this time we're seeing rams again but nothing big. Cliff decides to go scout it out solo and see what's behind the mountain and try not to spook anything. I stay glassing with Ben. This time I'm finally finding some sheep with my Geovids which makes it a little more exciting. I proudly announce to Ben as he returns from nature's call that a ram has stood up. Just doing my part. Later in the day a single bee finds a drop of water on my drinking tube and pretty soon I have all kinds of bees hovering around me. Luckily the only plague I must endure. I manage to ignore them and after tucking my drinking tube in my pack they eventually move on. Again, as the evening comes more rams are seen on the skyline. Cliff returns and never saw any better rams. We appear to be done with this part of the country.

Sunday we decide to head to another spot where another group of rams had been seen before. We drive to a plateau with a lonely old rod iron fenced grave. The crude wooden head board displays T-Bone

Albright – railroad man 1933. Another rock pile grave with cross beside him is perhaps his wife.

We're seeing rams right off. There is a group of ten only a mile away on Cave Mountain. Ben, Cliff and I all sit and look through our binoculars and spotting scopes. There are two good ones in the bunch. They are close enough I can see them pretty well with my Leica's and better yet with a spotting scope Cliff lent me. I start to get pretty interested in one. He's a little bit broomed on the right side but seems heavy and wide. There is another pretty good looking one. After much discussion Cliff advises that he might go mid 160's depending on his bases. Cliff also reminds me that he'll be the only California Desert Ram I take in my life. I still think he looks great, so we decide to take a closer look.

We drive down off from the plateau and get to the base of Cave Mountain. We hike in very slowly stopping often looking for sheep as not to get busted and blow out the rams. Ben leaves us for another vantage point and Cliff and I proceed to a ridge where we think we'll see the rams. At this point they have moved off leaving a lone ewe on the other side. We backtrack to come up another way and get the wind on our side. We have a long trek up a gradual rocky ridge and finally we are at a point we think we'll see them. Cliff slowly advances to see and sure enough they are there. I follow him slowly until we find a nice spot to set up for the shot. My Cooper Backcountry rifle is settled on my pack on top of a rock large enough for me to sit behind. My scope is a Leupold VX3i 4.5-14 with a turret made for my 165gr Barnes TTSX in .300wm. Cliff ranges them at 350 exactly on a rocky hill top in the distance. After looking at the rams Ben suggests the other ram is much better and cleaner and after getting a look up close I quickly agree.

I'm on him bedded at 350 yards trying to steady my gun when they all just bolt upright and start cavorting down the hill right to us like someone just rang a dinner bell. I had feared when we peaked over the ridge they would all alert and I would have an urgent distant shot. Now they are closing the distance towards us fast. Cliff says 260 and I'm out of the scope adjusting my turret. Now I'm trying to get on the right ram again. Cliff tells me he's rubbing a bush with his horns. I finally locate him. So glad to have Cliff by my side, calm and cool giving me all the necessary info. Soon they are all just walking and feeding together, I wait as a small ram stands behind. I'm on him and as soon as he's clear I'm squeezing and boom he's hit. My shot was good and took him in the right shoulder. He stands a little longer than I like so I put in another slightly higher and he's down.

I can't believe it. I've shot my Desert Bighorn. So happy to have taken a beautiful mature ram with an exciting stalk and clean shots. He's down in a sandy wash. I get up to him and there is no disappointment, he looks perfect, holding his heavy horns. I can't

believe my good fortune to have drawn this tag and been able to spend the past five days with such a great group of hunters. The rest of the crew eventually join up and Tim says some touching words of thanks. I echo his sentiments and thank the Lord and our team. So grateful to everyone that helped me make this happen. Night falls as we head back to camp and New

Year's Eve fireworks are bursting colors in the distant horizon. This hunt truly exceeded some very high expectations. I can only hope I'll draw Desert Sheep once more in another state and share this experience again with Tim, Cliff, and the great Dry Creek team.

CHAMOIS IN THE CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS

by Jon Kruger



Not a chamois!

Romania, a land of mountainous borders, snowcapped country towns, and gothic castles. Legends of Dracula in the Transylvania region have deep roots and history of medieval empires, dating back to the 15th century, and beyond. Far too much to absorb in

a short trip, but for a moment in time, I explored the Carpathian Mountains of Romania.

From Dallas->Chicago->Istanbul->Warsaw->Cluj-Napoca, Romania; I had finally made it. This would be a quick two-day hunt for the chance to find my first Chamois. I had a four day weekend, and my heart set on finding my sixth Capra species.

Arriving in Cluj I found that my luggage had not made it; fortunately, most the items I needed for the hunt were in my carry-on baggage, and I had already set up a backup plan to have a rifle available for me to use. I just lacked spare clothes, and some thicker coats for the most part.

Traveling light, I met up with my driver and headed out of town. We drove for about four hours, and made it to an old mountain lodge just past nightfall. The following morning I met my guides before light, and we headed out in a vintage diesel range rover.

I was 6,000 miles away in Arkansas the previous day, and now, as the sun lifted, I got my first glimpse of the high mountains, thick forests, and rock faces that made up the Carpathians. We were in chamois country and I was excited to see what the day had in store. Thick fog kept us confined from glassing the high country, and

we spent the first day hiking slowly and quietly through the forest; anticipating a Chamois to be behind each corner, or over each hill. With my guides only speaking Romanian, I kept near as we hiked, routinely receiving gestures, and signs of plans with hand signals.

All of a sudden, one of the guides dropped to his knees, and pointed about 150 yards away, as a group of Chamois fed along a rocky outcropping just through the trees. There were multiple Chamois, and through the thick trees, you could see them milling about as they passed through vantage points. Through my binos I could see only thin horns, shallow curves, and short length. We watched them hoping a more mature buck would emerge.

Hand signals, and creative pantomiming, revealed that they were standing on the backside of a 200meter cliff; and even if we had a shot on a mature chamois, we wouldn't be taking it since it would most likely be unrecoverable. About that time, the Chamois noticed us, and quickly trotted out of sight. We spent the rest of the day hiking the mountains for another chance.

The next day we woke up to snow on the ground, followed by black clouds and rain showers. We headed out, but it seemed that my guides knew that the Chamois would be tucked in tight to the underbrush, and it would be unlikely we would see any. As the rains continued, so did we, and as the sun set on the second day of my hunt my tag still remained in my pocket.

And just like that, it was time to head out of the mountains and board my plane to head back home. Thinking back now, I still remember the memories of a quick weekend where I was able to explore the Transylvania region of the Carpathian Mountains and enjoy the local cuisine with people I met all along the way.

Chamois 1/ Jon 0.

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PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



**Dave Noerr and his son DJ
Sambar Deer 2017
Guided by Don Anderson,
Anderson Taxidermy & Guide Service**



**Frank Strathos 2017, aoudad sheep,
Guided by Don Anderson, Anderson
Taxidermy & Guide Service**



**Gary Hitch 2017, aoudad sheep (over 30),
Guided by Don Anderson, Anderson
Taxidermy & Guide Service**



**Scott Swasey, Sambar Deer 2017,
Guided by Don Anderson, Anderson Taxidermy
& Guide Service**

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



**Deremer 2017, aoudad sheep
(over 30 taken with pistol), Guided by Don
Anderson, Anderson Taxidermy & Guide Service**



**Tim Orchard, aoudad sheep (over 30),
Guided by Don Anderson, Anderson
Taxidermy & Guide Service**



**Craig Van Arsdale,
muskox, Greenland May 2018**



**Jeremy Pechtel
muskox, Greenland May 2018**

2017 – A Year in Review

CA WSF is active on all fronts related to bighorn sheep in California. We collaborate with CDFW, the Mojave National Preserve, BLM, Military Bases, our sister organizations (Society for Conservation of Bighorn Sheep [SCBS] and Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn), Oregon State University, Washington State University, WSF and others. Our objective is to lead a collective, collaborative effort to achieve maximum sustainable populations of bighorn in as many areas of historical presence as possible.

2017 was another very impactful year for CA WSF. In addition to MANY hours of effort leading, supporting, influencing, and raising money; we invested another \$322,039, mostly for water developments and research projects. We launched GALAD – Give A Lamb a Drink. A \$3m initiative which will more than double the carrying capacity of DBH in CA! We also continued our contributions to Washington State University to help fund their ongoing effort to develop a vaccine or other method that will prevent domestic sheep from passing on a deadly form of pneumonia to wild sheep. We are happy to report that significant progress has been made in this effort. We are also ACTIVELY participating in CDFW's Big Game Management Account grant process. Our collaboration with Dr. Clint Epps, Daniella Dekelaita and Oregon State University "Characterizing the spread and consequences of respiratory disease for desert bighorn sheep in the eastern Mojave Desert" is another effort at understanding the fatal disease.

Since our founding, we have raised and invested over \$1.6 million for the benefit of wild sheep in CA. In addition, we, and our sister organization SCBS, have hosted a twice annual "Sheep Summit." The CA Sheep Summit was initiated by CA WSF to bring together all stakeholders in the stewardship of bighorns in California. All parties involved in the CA Wild Sheep Summit believe we are achieving some great things for wild sheep in California. The meeting to be held May 4, 2018 is the 23rd meeting of this group, which has become the guiding committee for bighorn sheep conservation in California. The major result of the Sheep Summit is the Bighorn Sheep Comprehensive Management Plan (BSCMP), and corresponding Herd Unit Plans. The BSCMP is expected to be finished shortly; land and locations for more water projects have been identified; we have more people working on wild sheep now than ever before; and CDFW funding is available to move forward!

Major contributions prior to 2017 include: We pushed for and funded surveys that resulted in the addition of the White Mountain hunt unit and the Cady/South Bristols Hunt unit which have enabled over 34 successful hunts for desert bighorn sheep! We pushed for and made happen the Harmon Bill, thereby providing financial oversight on the DFW's use of

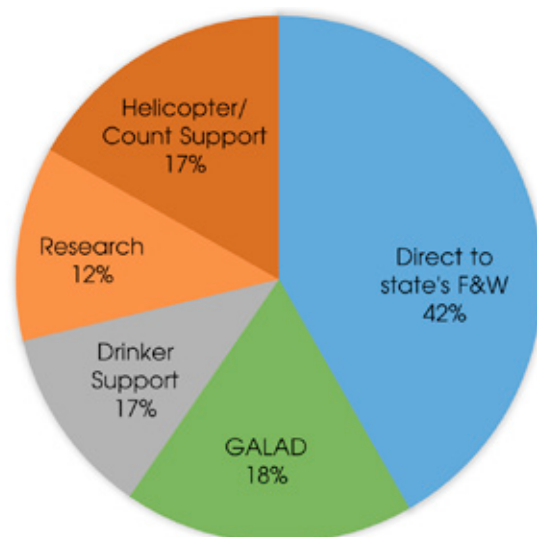
the money in the Big Game Account (which itself was created by the bill). It also called for the creation of the Big Game Advisory Committee, on which we sit and of which Kyle Meintzer (CAWSF Founding Member and first President) is the Chair. We pushed for and made happen the DBH, Deer, Elk and Antelope Random draw tags by CDFW. We were also responsible for getting the legislature to pass the bill that allows NGOs to receive 5% of the selling price of fundraising tags, as well as charge a Buyer's Premium for them.

None of this would have been possible without the support of our members. Members are 'how' we've accomplished so much and you will be the reason we will accomplish far more in the years ahead! Thanks to each of you for participating in this year's fundraiser. This is our one major event each year where we raise funds that are used in the ensuing year to benefit wild sheep in California. Our goal is to achieve maximum sustainable populations in as many areas of historical presence as possible. A natural, critical and important result of achieving healthy sustainable populations is greater opportunity for hunting!

Please help us increase the number of bighorns in California, and with that the hunting opportunity for big, gnarly, old warrior rams (like the new state record we are recognizing at our 2018 tonight)!

Much has been done, AND much more is left to do! Please do what you can ... the sheep, sheep hunters, and sheep enthusiasts need you! Join the 178 Life Members / 251 Members who are doing that right now. We are always looking for active minds, willing hands and generous donations.

CA WSF Lifetime Projects Funding



A VIEW ON THE EFFECTS OF MINERALS ON THE POPULATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND HEALTH OF DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP, PART 2

The Way of Things by Carlos Gallinger

[Editor's note: see 2018 Q1 Newsletter for Part I of this article by Carlos Gallinger]

Not all mineral sources are a focused point mineral water source. Some, for lack of a better term, I refer to as a diffused mineral source. A good example of this is in the Old Dad Mountains where there is a mineral source that is relatively large: perhaps 15 or 20 miles long and a couple miles wide with numerous water sources. This qualifies as a mineral source because it's essentially all limestone. This particular type of limestone is not the best type of limestone as it does not decay naturally to a powder and therefore is not readily soluble in a bighorn sheep digestion system. When this rock does decay, it ends up in small pebbles and grains about the size of coarse sand which the sheep use but it is not an optimal mineral source. Nevertheless, because this mineral source is a large swath on a mountain range where the bighorn sheep are for days at a time, it is a necessary regardless of non-optimal use.

So, now we've talked about the focused point mineral water source as well as the larger diffused mineral sources. There is one more type of point mineral water source that is crucial to understanding the distribution and survival of the various meta-populations of desert bighorn sheep throughout the desert. That is the minerals that sheep get through the plants that they eat. Dr. Vern Bleich did a pioneering study on this subject comparing the Old Dad Mountains to a mountain range near Death Valley. The basics of this study was comparing a strata specific plant community, in this case the plants growing on the limestone of the Old Dad Mountains and its mineral value of these plants to the bighorn sheep in comparison to plant communities elsewhere.

When we look at these different types of mineral sources and try to gauge their relative importance, one of the first things we will notice is that there is a seasonal preference. The most notable is a preference in the summer for the point mineral water sources and then in the winter for the diffused mineral sources. Some of these winter resource areas are often referred to as ram pasture since they are predominantly used by rams during winter time. As for the females, they will spend time in areas often referred to as lambing grounds.

One of the possible ways that we can get an understanding of this is to take samples from various

places along the horns of a big ram and then run these samples through a gas chromatograph. This will tell us what elements are in the horns and where they are in relationship to the annual growth rings. We could also use the rams' horns as a control for a study in the same manner on the ewes. Of course, the ewe have to go through the various stages of pregnancy and lactation as well as their own seasonal variation of resource occupation and use. While this will certainly be a complicated issue, it will shed new light of the overall health of desert bighorn sheep and what it takes to grow a large set of horns. While the ability of the desert bighorn sheep to grow large horns encompasses many things such as DNA, overall health, the proper weather, and so forth, I'm quite sure that high levels of the proper minerals is critical to producing a large set of horns.

Another possibility that could be added to such a study is to take these kinds of samples from the various bones of these animals and subject them to the same kind of chemical investigation. Perhaps this may only be done in a hunt zone where you have the availability of fresh bone that has time and place information attached to their acquisition. Taking on this kind of investigation will give us another window into how minerals affect bighorn sheep populations. This kind of knowledge will eventually give us an inventory of what minerals are out there, where they are, and their effect on various meta-populations.

Yet another possible line of inquiry based on samples would be to investigate the relationship of minerals to the quality and mass of hair growth. No doubt there is some relationship between the mineral environment and the growth of winter hair. It goes without saying the growth of a good warm layer of hair would influence the survivability of an individual sheep. We may see a difference between the rams and ewes due to the seasonal difference of the habitat they use. Then if we compare one population of desert bighorn sheep to another in this respect we may find further insight as to the value of minerals and survivability.

A further avenue of inquiry that could be done once we understand the elements and minerals that are present in the horns, bones, and hair is how the direct mineral uptake affects which plants the desert bighorn sheep choose to eat.

As an example of this I offer these observations. For many years there were no bighorn sheep at what

was called Soda Springs, now Zzyzx. This area is truly mineral rich. There is the Soda Dry Lake that has crusted salts on it that the sheep use, as well as pulverized limestone and mineralized or brackish water. This place could be considered a very large point mineral water source. Also the surrounding mountains seem to be of a highly mineralized granite with very stunted vegetation growth.

When examining this environment it is evident that along the many game trails that access this area, the sheep eat a lot of creosote bush material, which is unusual. Few if any animals eat this plant at all let alone on a regular basis. Over the years I have observed in other mountain ranges a few sheep nibble on creosote once in a great while. Even a cursory examination of this bush will reveal that it has a high chemical content that makes its leaves often sticky with the sappy substance (hence creosote) and has a strong chemical odor.

It is important to understand that the sheep at Zzyzx were not there in an unbroken occupation going back to ancient times. Rather they have reoccupied this place less than 10 years ago. This means that this out-of-the-norm eating of creosote at this location is a recently acquired behavior. One can only wonder why they are doing this. Is this some sort of catalyst, perhaps an antidote to some detrimental chemical in one of these mineral sources? The answer may be written in their horns, bones, or hair.

Of course, the answer to this question would have ramifications to other meta-populations. I believe when we understand a place like Zzyzx we will understand that other meta-populations are 'tuned in' to their mineral environment and this affects the plants they select for eating. Even if it's not as obvious as it is at this location, one of the important concepts of this flexibility, this tuning in to their environment, is that this is essentially one or more feedback loops in play.

The feedback loop is one of the true forces of nature. This means that once a population is established it will learn what plants to eat in relation to their local mineral sources such that they will know which plants to use for minerals directly and which ones to uproot for their minerals that come with them. Also they will memorize the placement of the smallest, seemingly insignificant, pockets of pulverized mineral in their territory. Then, through the generations, their body will evolve to maximize the efficiency in utilizing the various resources in this particular bighorn habitat. Just how many generations are needed to acquire what level of integration is, at present, an open question. Perhaps further studies will reveal such things.

It is possible, by correlating years when there was more rain, we might also find the answer. More rain would also mean more plants, more springs, and therefore more point mineral water sources. There would be a condition where desert bighorn sheep populations may start in territories where they couldn't

before, and through multiple generations become attuned to the resources in that specific geographic area. These populations could persist when things dried out due to tuning in their behavior and genetics. The, later, perhaps when a disease wiped out this population and adjacent herds were also suffering from disease and habitat fragmentation, these herds on adjacent mountain ranges would not have the ability to recolonize the vacant area. The few strays that wander into this otherwise open and available habitat would not be tuned in to it. Their knowledge, behavior, and genetics were not acclimated to it in such a way that they could not stay and recolonize it. This means it might be possible to start a population with an artificial mineral water source and eventually their ability to tune into this new environment will carry the population with or without the artificial point mineral water source, or at least not be wholly dependent upon it.

I did an internet investigation I did on minerals and bighorn sheep. One of the first things I learned on the internet is that supplementary minerals for deer is a very competitive cottage industry and no such sources are available for wild sheep. However, there are mineral supplements available for domestic sheep that have all sorts of claims. We know that cattlemen who are economically motivated have been putting out blocks of salt for the cows for ages. It would be safe to assume that these mineral supplements have some value. One of these supplements formulated for domestic sheep claims to be specially formulated for sheep that have been raised on clover. This gets back to the very essence of Dr. Bleich's study and where it was going, as he was exploring the mineral content of rocks and how it is expressed in the plant that grows on them. Then comparing those results with the sheep droppings from the same area to see what was absorbed and what was not. Presently I do not think that this concept is used by people managing wild sheep anywhere, though I believe that someday this concept will be one of the cornerstones of modern wild sheep management.

Now let's try to understand and identify how a diffused mineral source works, and how it affects the plants that grow on them, and bighorn sheep behavior. For many years I watched numerous salt blocks that the rancher put out on Ord Mountain and I could never find a single track or droppings anywhere near them, indicating that the sheep did not use these salt blocks. This was a mystery to me because the cows were living on the same plant resources used by the sheep. Recently I realized that the commercially available mineral supplements designed for domestic sheep are not sold in block form, rather they are in a granulated form. This got me thinking about the domestic sheep in the Newberry Valley and my observations of them. Typically, when they put sheep on an alfalfa field, they let it go dry for a while then the shepherd comes in with portable water troughs and fences in the sheep and allows them to start

grazing. Once they get the alfalfa stems down to the ground they tend to eat the top roots, dirt and all. The roots have more water in them than the stems and the dirt has minerals. In essence, this is a point mineral water resource. Most certainly the roots have a different mineral profile than the stems and leaves and this may or may not be important to the sheep.

With this knowledge we can now look at a place like the Old Dad Mountains a little differently. Having spent days and even months observing sheep on this particular piece of limestone, I have observed the sheep often spent a lot of time cropping the smallest most insignificant looking annual plants. No doubt the reason for this is when they pull these small bunches of grass out of the ground with them comes a small amount of dirt on their root system. This of course, will be laden with small amounts of minerals they need. I believe that this is no accident or temporary or local behavior but rather an intense evolutionary adaptation at work. If you look at the front of the mouth of any desert bighorn sheep you'll find it only has a lower set of teeth, the front upper ones are absent. Having examined both living and dead sheep up close I can tell you that this is a semi-hard non-slippery material that's in the upper front mouth. And I suspect that either the lower teeth or the tongue is pressed into this gripping surface to distribute the force when gripping the small delicate plants allowing them to pull them out roots and all. Another way of putting this is that the absence of the front upper teeth means that they don't cut off these small delicate plants above the roots, which would rob them of the minerals attached to the roots.

Now let's take a look at the mineral sources derived from plants themselves. A lot of this will be theoretical or speculative and I am not going to take the time to note one from the other in fine detail as this is from my own observations and ideas that I believe in time will be tested in a more scientific manner.

I think we will find that most plant species throughout the world are genetically tuned to grow on granite as it is the most common rock found on the surface of the earth. Then if we observe plant growth from one granite mountain range to another will find that not all granite has the same fertility. If we look at the plants growing on the limestone of the Old Dad Mountains we will find that very few plant species grow there and the ones that do grow poorly. Any farmer or gardener can tell you if you're experiencing poor plant growth you have a lack of nutrients in the soil or too many. A good example of too many is the numerous dry lake beds that exist throughout the Mojave Desert. Most have such a high mineral content in them that absolutely no plants can grow on them. However, when a desert bighorn sheep population has reasonable escape terrain to the edge of a lake bed they will go there and eat this soil for its mineral content especially if water is also available. This occurs at Zzyzx.

So when we look at the Old Dad Mountains we can be reasonably sure that there are too many minerals in this limestone for most plants to grow to their full size, perhaps we could say their genetic potential is limited. While this soil may not be optimal for the plant themselves it seems like it allows the plant to provide the richest possible mineral source for the desert bighorn sheep, much richer than a plant grown in an optimal soil for plants.

As another example of how these phenomena can play out we might consider the Granite Mountains located in the East Mojave preserve next to the Marble Mountains. Even as a kid I noticed the remarkable plant community in this mountain range. It has gigantic yuccas, piñon and juniper at lower elevation than you find anywhere else as well as a wide range of other plants that seem to be larger than you would find elsewhere. No doubt this is because it has all the right minerals and in the right amount that most plants need to grow. While this is just an estimate it seems to me that the living biomass of the plants on the Granite Mountains is probably on the order of ten times that of the Old Dad Mountains. Also, perhaps the mineral value of the plants grown on the Granite Mountains has one tenth the mineral content of the Old Dad Mountains. If this is so it would mean the sheep need to eat ten times the amount of plant material to get the same amount of minerals, which of course would be impossible. This idea about mineral to plant biomass relationship may be linear or on some sort of exponential curve. Someday this will be revealed when somebody pursues a scientific measurement of this phenomena.

Now when you consider the fact that granite due to its incredible hardness is very unlikely to be a diffused mineral source like limestone with no direct ingestion and little minerals in the plant/root route as well, and of course there is little chance of finding granite in a naturally powdered form let alone near a water source. We can see that it would be incredibly hard for a sheep or population of sheep to make a living in this sort of environment regardless of the amount of plant material.

However we must consider that not all granite is the same. As an example of this we can look at the Sheep Hole Mountains. Here we find a granite where very few species of plants grow and the ones that do grow there grow very poorly. To the eye the granite of the Granite Mountains and the granite of the Sheep Hole Mountains looks pretty much the same yet the plant communities on these two mountain ranges tell a different story. While the plants differ greatly on these two mountain ranges there is another difference between the two. And that is that the Sheep Hole Mountains have a bighorn sheep population, and the Granites have few if any. Because of the hard, unyielding qualities of granite I believe it's reasonable to assume that there's a population of sheep on the Sheep Hole Mountains due to the fact that the sheep

are getting their minerals primarily from the stunted mineral-laden plants. This is only one of a possible three ways to get minerals and in the case of the Sheep Hole Mountains it seems this one source is just barely adequate. It is my understanding that the Sheep Hole population was transplanted there from the Old Dad Mountains. These two populations are hunted so we have many years of horn measurements from both. The horn measurements on the Sheep Hole Mountains show much smaller horns. There is some correlation of horn base circumference to skull size and from this we can deduce that the sheep in the Sheep Hole Mountains are smaller in body as well. No doubt this is because they are not getting sufficient minerals to grow to full size, in comparison to their ancestral population in the Old Dad Mountains. One might ask what else could it be.

Given these ideas one can understand or at least have a theory as to why there are few or no bighorn sheep in the Granite Mountains and it is due to a lack of minerals. For years most people considered the fact that there are mountain lions in this area and this was the reason this population of bighorn sheep was nonexistent or suppressed. While this should be considered I think it's only a minor consideration given the lack of minerals. If this situation was mitigated, that is, if some minerals were added to this range perhaps we would see an increase in occupation by desert bighorn sheep. It would be a worthy experiment with far-reaching ramifications.

This is especially true when you consider the Granite Mountains are right next to the Marble Mountains which has perhaps the largest, densest populations of desert bighorn sheep anywhere. The significance of the Granite Mountains being next to Marble Mountain population is that if conditions were right in the Granite Mountains it would easily be repopulated or at least have a significant occupation in spite of the freeway. Once you factor in the differences in minerals this lack of population in the Granite Mountains is not likely to be solely about mountain lions. No doubt one must consider the effects of barriers and distance especially when we consider how it compares with the Clipper Mountains. One of the things I think this shows is that a mature desert bighorn sheep, male or female, can only spend so much time in a low mineral environment before returning to useful mineral environment that it knows. In essence, they have a thirst for minerals.

I believe no understanding of desert bighorn sheep and minerals would be complete without some understanding of the extraordinary large and dense population of desert bighorn sheep in the Marble Mountains. One of the first things that we can observe about this mountain range is that from the freeway to route 66 there is no place where plants grow well, except in the two washes that flank its west and east side that has sand that has as its origin the Granite

Mountains. Therefore every plant throughout the mountain range contains the maximum amount of minerals it can hold and still survive. This is similar to what we see in the Old Dad Mountains. However, if we look at the strata that the Marble Mountains are made of, we find that it isn't just one large piece of limestone like the Old Dad Mountains, rather it is made up of a variety of stone such as lava rock, something I believe to be a volcanic ash sedimentary rock, and granite. Indeed it has the full cornucopia of geologic possibilities, and all in a highly mineralized state, so high in fact that all of them are detrimental to plants and advantageous to the desert bighorn sheep that eat them. The fact that there are so many different types of rock in this mountain range means a single plant species in its process of living in this mountain range not only delivers the maximum amount of minerals to its leaves and stems, it does so from different types of rock. Thus a single plant species can provide the sheep with a wide ranging mineral regiment. Also this collection of diffused mineral sources are all big enough that sheep will spend enough time on them eating the plants and take advantage of the plant/root mineral source as well the small amount of minerals that they can access directly from the different rock strata. So even if this direct route is not highly efficient due to these minerals not being a powdered form they are there on them long enough to make a difference.

Then there is Vernandyles and Teresa Springs. They are classic point water mineral sources, of which I believe to be of such extraordinary quality that someday, when the science is done, it will be understood that these minerals that are available to them in a natural powder form is literally the stuff that sheep are made of. So important are these two springs to this population that I believe that if you fence them off not only would the population in the Marble Mountain decrease so would the population in the Clipper Mountains. While this is all based on my field observations, I believe one could investigate this further by looking at the radio collar data that is available in this range. I believe it would show that sheep would leave the Clipper Mountains and take a very direct route to these two springs and then take their time going back to the Clippers.

Through scientific investigations such as discussed in this article, someday we will be able to understand what minerals influence good health and large horns.

In conclusion, I believe that there will soon be a paradigm shift in wild sheep management that will have at its core the understanding and the manipulation of the mineral resources that wild sheep need. With this understanding and manipulation, I believe there will be a large increase in the number of sheep and improvement in their overall health.

DFW UPDATE

by Kyle Meintzer



Finally, after a far too-long period of inertia at CA DFW, there is some good news to report.

Last fall, Kari Lewis was appointed to the position of DFW's Wildlife Branch Program Manager.

Although Kari does not come from the wildlife side of DFW, in my meeting with her last fall, she's clearly very bright and very interested in both learning and advancing big game issues for CA sportsmen and sportswomen.

Then, in early March, Brad Burkholder was appointed as the Game Program Manager for the DFW. Brad has more than twenty-five years of experience as a DFW scientist, most recently in the Lands Program and as the Wildlife Area Coordinator, where he has provided guidance and expertise for policy development, management, and operations.

After the May 4 Sheep Summit, I met with Brad to bring him up to speed on what CA WSF stands for and shared with him the many things we've done for California's wild mountain sheep and for the Department over the past fifteen years. I came away from the meeting very impressed and encouraged.

We look forward to working with both Kari and Brad in support of California's wild mountain sheep.

Then, on May 22nd, the Big Game Advisory Committee held our annual Grant Review meeting at the Yolo Wildlife facility in Davis. I am pleased to report that CA WSF had three grant requests that were reviewed and the committee granted us \$280,000 for our projects!

[Editor's note: The BGAC recommends grants to be requested; CA DFW (in this case Kari Lewis and Stafford Lehr) have the final decision. They consider the recommendations but are not bound by them.]

A \$47,000 grant for aerial surveys was approved for full funding, as was a \$57,000 grant for a survey and plan preparation in hopes of getting a Hunt Zone in the San Gabriel Mountains.

Our third request was for funding for our 'Give a Lamb a Drink' project and the committee was approved a \$176,000 grant, which get us well on the way to building the drinkers we want.

One of the many struggles the committee must deal with every year is that there are always far more dollars asked for in the grant requests than there is available funding. This year we had \$2,900,000 in total requests, but only \$1,200,000 available. Given that, CA WSF came out pretty well!

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NEW MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES WITH CAWSF

by Shawn Wood, Membership Committee Chair

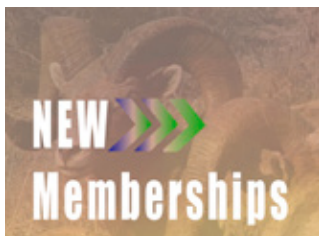
I'm happy to announce that CA WSF has some very exciting membership opportunities that are new for 2018. As an organization, we strongly believe that these new membership opportunities will allow us to grow as a chapter and they will increase involvement from existing chapter members. In the end, they will help raise more money which will help us in PUTTING AND KEEPING SHEEP ON THE MOUNTAINS in the future.

The first opportunity is that there is now an option for someone under the age of 18 to become a Junior Life Member with CA WSF. The cost of this membership will be at a discounted rate of \$400 and it will come with all the benefits of being an adult Life Member. That is a \$100 discount from the normal \$500 Life Membership fee. We all know how important it is to get youth involved in the outdoors for preserving our passion in the future. This year, at the Annual Fundraiser and Banquet, we auctioned the new Junior Life Member #1 along with a gorgeous custom Montana Silversmith belt buckle at our Banquet on May 5th and it brought in whooping \$2,500!

The second new membership opportunity is that the organization will be adding a second tier of Life Membership. As a Life Member of CAWSF, you now have an opportunity to upgrade your Life Membership to a Distinguished Life Member. The cost of this upgrade will be an additional \$1000 to your current Life

Membership. For someone who isn't already a Life Member, the cost will be \$1500. This new tier of Life Membership will allow greater opportunity for hunt raffles in the future at CAWSF events. I'm pleased to announce that we will be giving away a Free Dall Sheep Hunt to a life member who is in attendance at our Annual Fundraising Banquet in April of 2019. Every life member will get their name put in the hat one time. By becoming a Distinguished Life Member, your name will be put into the drawing three times.

Just as a reminder to everyone, we are still participating in a Joint Membership program with national Wild Sheep Foundation. When joining or renewing together, you will receive discounts from both organizations. Finally, all CAWSF annual memberships expire on June 30th. Make sure you renew before July 1 to remain a current member of CA WSF and I encourage everyone with an annual membership to upgrade to a life member when they renew. Come try to win a sheep hunt at the banquet next April!



Your Board of Directors has authorized several new memberships!

Junior Life Member \$400

Youth under 18 years of age will be granted Life membership in CA WSF with all benefits of adult Life membership now and in future. What a great way to get a youngster started in the sheep hunting community!

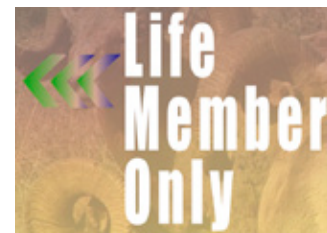
Distinguished Life Member \$1,000 / \$1,500

Distinguished Life Member will give you greater opportunities for special drawings and other Life Member Only activities. Already a Life Member? Upgrade to Distinguished Life Member for \$1,000. Upgrade annual membership or join as Distinguished Life Member for \$1,500.

Our joint membership program with national Wild Sheep Foundation provides you with discounts from both organizations when joining or renewing together. For membership information see the form in this newsletter or at the website, www.cawsf.org

Life Member Only Dall Sheep Hunt Drawing April 6, 2019

Don't miss your chance to win a Dall sheep hunt in Alaska at the 2019 Annual Banquet and Fundraiser! Life Members will have one ticket in the drawing; Distinguished Life Members will have three entries. ALL Life members will be entered but you MUST be attending to win!





California Chapter Wild Sheep Foundation

1314 B Center Dr #267 Medford, OR 97501

(650) 472-3889 (Phone and Fax)

cawsf@cawsf.org www.cawsf.org



JOINT MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL

Name: _____

Phone: Primary: _____ Alternate: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Preferred method of communication (check one): ☐ Phone ☐ eMail ☐ Fax

☐ Yes, I would like to volunteer to help with events and/or projects! Please contact me about volunteer opportunities!

☐ Yes, I am already a member of Wild Sheep Foundation! My member number is: _____

Do you have a FNAWS (Four North American Wild Sheep)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have GSCO Slam*: ☐ 1/2 Slam ☐ 3/4 Slam ☐ Grand Slam

Have you hunted Sheep? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you hunt with a: ☐ Rifle ☐ Bow ☐ Muzzleloader ☐ Handgun ☐ Don't Hunt

Which sheep have you harvested? (Please list and note year)

CA WSF Membership:

Annual ☐ (\$40) ☐ 3-Year (\$100) ☐ Life (\$500) ☐ 3/4 Curl Youth — Under 18 (\$25)

NEW! ☐ Distinguished Life (\$1,000 with Life Membership)

☐ Junior Life (\$400)

Wild Sheep Foundation Membership:

☐ Annual (\$45) ☐ 3-Year (\$120) ☐ Family (\$80) ☐ Life (Under age 59 - \$1,000; Age 59-64 - \$750; Age 65+ - \$500)

Payment Type (check one): ☐ Credit/Debit Card ☐ Check Enclosed (payable to: "CA Wild Sheep Foundation")

Credit Card Type: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX

Credit Card #: _____ CCV: _____ Billing Zip Code: _____

Cardholder Name: _____ Exp. Date: ____/____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please mail this form to CA WSF, 1314 B Center Dr #267, Medford, OR 97501 or fax to 650-472-3889.

Don't forget to share this form to your hunting friends and relatives!

2018 CA WSF ANNUAL BANQUET AND FUNDRAISER RECAP

*by Donald C. Martin
Fundraising Committee, Co-Chairman*

As usual, a good time was had by all. I want to personally thank all of you that were able to attend and I apologize to each of you that couldn't make it. You really missed out! It was good to see everyone at our annual banquet and fundraiser and once again we may have had a record-setting event.

Registrations were up this year, but due to circumstances beyond their control there were many that had to cancel at the last moment. It is regretful we couldn't surpass our record attendance of 2017's event, but we were only about 5 people short. We still have a lot of room to grow and I can guarantee that your Board of Directors is working to improve the event going forward starting right now.

Our speakers this year were Gray Thornton, President/CEO of WSF and WSF Youth Outreach Coordinator Dr. Ryan Brock. Gray gave a brief State of the Foundation address and Dr. Brock touched on WSF's efforts to reach more of our youth.

In fact, this year's event was our first effort to provide more opportunities for our youth in many years. We want to make our event more family friendly and we had youth activities that were well received by the kids in attendance. All the kids who chose to participate were able to walk away with some kind of prize. The youth raffle featured 2 firearms, a hog hunt, and an assortment of gift cards valued up to \$100. I'd like to thank members Paul Schultheis and Mr. and Mrs. Alan Hayes for donating the firearms for the youth raffle.

We only gave two awards at this year's event. The first was for biggest and oldest desert bighorn taken by a member and, to no one's surprise, the winner was Jason Hairston, Owner and CEO of KUIU, for his state record ram Goliath scoring 190 6/8. Jason was unable to attend the event as he was departing for an Alaskan brown bear hunt, but the award was accepted on **his behalf by Guide/Outfitter Jake Franklin of KIKA Worldwide**. The other honor awarded that evening was the California Wild Sheep Foundation's **Above and Beyond award and this year's honoree was Director Don Priest** for his continued dedication to the conservation of California's bighorn sheep. Thank you Don for all your hard work and congratulations on this honor.

Revenue generated at our event was excellent. The unofficial gross is in the vicinity of \$239,000. Thanks in large part to a couple high dollar sales. The most notable, of course, was the record setting sale of the Oregon State Mountain Goat Permit which sold for a whopping \$41,000. I want to personally thank



Top: Don Martin presents and Jake Franklin (left) accepts award for Biggest and Oldest DBH taken by a member, Jason Hairston, in 2017. Bottom: Don Martin presents the Above and Beyond award for 2017 to Board of Directors member Don Priest (right) for his continued dedication to the chapter and to conservation of desert bighorn sheep.

Director Jon Kruger on his hard work in securing that permit for us. It was by far the most exciting portion of our live auction.

I've gotten some good feedback from our members regarding our general raffle and I want to thank Paul Brisso for volunteering to coordinate the raffle and work on securing a high quality and diverse array of firearms and prizes for our members. Congratulations to everyone that was fortunate enough to win.

Once again our Silent raffle was a staggering line up of quality items and this year's Super Silent Auction was well received. We may employ this same format in the future. A big thank you to Director Craig Van Arsdale for heading up the Silent Auction team and

coordinating with the rest of your Directors to provide this great fundraising opportunity. If you have any feedback or donations for next year's silent auction, please let me know.

Our Cake Auction continues to be a huge success. This proves to be easy money for the sheep and we thank everyone that bid on the cakes. Congratulations to Patti Holloway for winning the Cake Auction grand prize, a Smith & Wesson MP-9. Thanks to Roger McCosker and Beverly Valdez for underwriting the delicious cakes.

For this year's card raffles we tried something new. In lieu of the 50/50 drawing that many of you are familiar with, this year our opening card raffle was for \$5,000 in event credit. For every deck of cards we sell at \$100/card we intended to give away \$5,000. This was a new card raffle, so it took a little doing, but we were able to sell a deck and Zack Walton was the lucky winner of the \$5,000. Congratulations Zack!

In addition, our other card raffles proved very successful and thanks to Directors Wood, Don Priest, and Glen Pyne, the prizes were outstanding. A fully outfitted Prime bow with arrows and case was our 2nd card raffle. Thank you to the anonymous sponsor of the archery package, we thank you for your support of CA Wild Sheep Foundation. Our final card raffle for the night was our Cinco de Mayo Party Package and included a Mariachi sombrero, custom bighorn sheep piñata, Canyon Cooler Ice Chest, 6 cases of Mexican Beer, an assortment of Premium tequilas and mixer, along with a donation of wild game meat and halibut to make plenty of tacos, tacos, tacos! Congratulations to the lucky winner!

Before our live auction got underway, Director Mike Borel gave an update on the status of the Give A Lamb A Drink (GALAD) project and subsequently called for donations to this major undertaking. We were able to raise \$15,500 in a matter of minutes and \$12,500 of those funds were matched by a generous CA WSF member bringing our GALAD donations to \$28,000 with some additional donations to come.

I want to thank Director Don Priest for all of his hard work as head of the live auction committee. Once again we had a very diverse line up of hunting and fishing trips, family vacations, wildlife art, and firearms. A big thanks to the entire Board of Directors who work hard to make this live auction possible. If you have any ideas regarding the live auction or can solicit a donation, please reach out to me or Don Priest regarding items for the 2019 auction.

This event would not be possible without the hard work of your entire Board of Directors. So I would like to take this time to thank: Aaron Armstrong, Mike Borel, Adam Casagrande, Ken Crother, Ben Gordon, Bob Keagy, George Kerr, Jon Kruger, Andrew Ohanesian, Dwight Ortmann, Don Priest, Glen Pyne, Craig Van Arsdale, Darryl Williams, and Wood. I would also like to thank Beverly Valdez and John Ware



Wood Creek High School shooting team member Lissa Howe was the lucky winner of the .270 rifle generously donated by Mr. and Mrs. Alan Hayes.

for all their hard work and thanks to our volunteers, the Wood Creek High School Shooting Team, Jeremy Pechtel, Katie Martin, and others.

Next year's event is slated for April 6. Make plans now to attend. This is the best wildlife conservation party in California, you don't want to miss it. If you have any ideas or feedback or would like to donate or volunteer, please reach out to me via email at: don-martin@earthlink.net or email Beverly Valdez at: forthesheep@gmail.com.

**I COULDN'T HEAR
YOU, SO I'LL JUST
LAUGH AND HOPE IT
WASN'T A QUESTION.**





CA WSF DIRECTOR CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES FOR THE 2018 ELECTION SLATE

Listing is Alphabetical by Last Name



AARON ARMSTRONG, Roseville, CA

Aaron is 45 year old born and raised California and the owner of Western Wildlife Taxidermy in Roseville, CA. He is the father of a 18 year old daughter that has just wrapped up her first year of hunting. He has successfully run his business for 30 years in the Sacramento area, dealing with a nationwide clientele. Aaron has also held classes for school kids, from K – 12 grades, to teach them the importance of hunting, fishing, trapping and wildlife conservation.

He has sat on many boards relating to both hunting and non-hunting groups. During his rodeo career he was nominated as the Sierra Circuit Bull Riding Director. This is a position that he served in for 4 years of his 10 year career. Aaron is a member of WSF, NWTF, CDA, RMEF, CA.WSF, Sacto. SCI. He holds a life membership to SCI and the NRA. As an avid outdoorsman, he has taken over 70 species on 5 continents. [MEMBERSHIP – Annual](#)

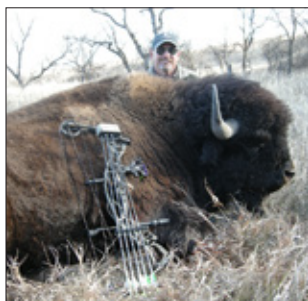


MIKE J. BOREL, Alamo, CA

Founding Member, Current VP, Newsletter Editor and Facilitator of the CA Sheep Summits (just completed number XXIII) for CA WSF. He is a Past President & Secretary. Mike is a Principal in the Context Network, which is a full service business consultancy assisting agricultural businesses with strategy, management and insights. Mike has lived across the USA, in France and Australia.

A hunter his whole life, Mike is an active supporter of wildlife conservation, hunting rights and the Second Amendment. He's been a Director of WSF, a Director and VP of SCI, and an officer and board member in three SCI Chapters - in addition to CAWSF. He believes political action is necessary to preserve our hunting heritage and 2nd amendment rights, and is an active campaigner, phone caller and letter writer.

He confesses to being severely afflicted with "Sheep Fever" and has taken 39 of the worlds Ovis and Capra species. Mike invites your call (925-937-4180) or email (mike.borel@contextnet.com) with any questions you might have.. [MEMBERSHIP – Founding Life member](#)



JIM FITZGERALD, Rolling Hills Estate, CA

Jim Fitzgerald is an avid hunter, outdoorsman, and strong conservationist.

Jim has organized, supported, and led various conservation organizations including; National Wild Turkey Federation, Ducks Unlimited, and California Foundation for North American Wild Sheep for a cumulative 30 plus years experience. He is a life member of the National Rifle Association and the California Wild Sheep Foundation (CA WSF) and has previously served as CAWSF board member and as a banquet committee member.

Jim is currently a Battalion Chief for the Ca. Department of Forestry and has served 32 years with CALFIRE. He has extensive knowledge in the use of prescribed fire for wildlife habitat improvement. This experience will provide a positive relationship in working with land management agencies for improving wild sheep habitat.

Jim has been married to his wife Susan for 29 years and they have two children in college. They have a small ranch in Central California at the base of the Sierras and raise horses and mules for packing into the high country.

Jim would like to again serve on the CA WSF board to help provide hunting and outdoor experiences that he has enjoyed for future generations. . [MEMBERSHIP – Life member](#)



BEN GORDON, Princeton, CA

Ben is a fifth generation Northern California rancher currently involved in commercial rice production and wildlife habitat management. His operation also includes a commercial duck hunting club managing hunting opportunities for 70 plus hunters each year and managing pasture land for cattle with upland habitat for pheasant, turkey and blacktail deer. He currently serves as director on two different mutual water company boards and has served on several committees involving farm cooperatives, banking, and county fish and game commissions.

Ben is a lifetime member of FNAWS, CA WSF, Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn, SCI, and also holds memberships in RMEF, NBU, Calif. Deer Assn., MDF, NWTF, and NRA. Married with two grown children, he and his family hunt many western states each year and just recently completed his collection of the four species of North American wild sheep. MEMBERSHIP — Life member



JON KRUGER, El Dorado AR

Jon grew up in Washington state hunting and fishing public lands and spends considerable time hunting not only the United States but also internationally. He is an active member of California Wild Sheep Foundation, SCI, Dallas Safari Club and Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA). Jon takes pride in not only supporting these organizations monetarily but also taking active roles in supporting these groups and causes. Jon is a recent transplant to Arkansas and continues to support conservation efforts in California as well as for Desert Bighorn Sheep. He would like to reapply for the board to continue efforts in keeping and putting sheep back on the mountains.

For there to be sheep on the mountains for future generations, Cal WSF needs a strong voice as well as commitment to support improvement efforts. Jon's goal is to be part of this groups voice with a commitment to science based reasoning for environmental and wildlife management. MEMBERSHIP — Three Year

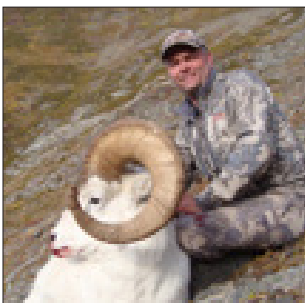


DWIGHT ORTMANN, Fremont, CA

Dwight grew up six miles from the Canadian border in Northern Minnesota hunting and fishing. Dwight is the President of a commercial construction/development/property management company in Redwood City. Dwight is married to Edie, who is an accomplished international hunter herself.

Dwight is a dedicated conservationist with membership in many non-profit organizations. He is a life member of SCI, NRA and the Wild Sheep Foundation in addition to many other hunting groups. Dwight has been involved with SCI as well as CA WSF for more than 10 years, serving as the San Francisco Bay Area SCI President for six years and is currently serving on its Board of Directors. In addition, he is a Regional Representative for SCI. Dwight is also the Chairman for the Central Coast Chapter of Mule Deer Foundation and serves on the Board of Directors for the Mzuri Safari Club.

He helps set up and attends the CA WSF fundraisers and is a current Board member. He is, unfortunately, still a member of the "less than one" club. He brings a wealth of experience and capability.. MEMBERSHIP — Three Year



DON PRIEST, Reno, NV

Don's heritage in California began with his great, great grandfather as a homestead rancher in California's Central Coast in the 1850's. Don is an Actuary and a member of all three US actuarial societies, with a degree in Applied Mathematics and advanced degree in Statistics. He has his own underwriting agency Pacific Reinsurance Managers, underwriting reinsurance into a number of Syndicates at Lloyds of London. In addition, he has begun wholesale brokering commercial insurance products into the Lloyds market and providing actuarial/analytics consulting with his company Optium. Don is a member of and active conservation supporter through CA WSF, WSF, Safari Club, North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association, Ducks Unlimited and Trout Unlimited. Don is currently CA WSF's Secretary, Co-Chair of the Governmental Affairs Committee and helping lead the Live Auction portion of our annual Fundraising Banquet.

Don has been hunting his whole life, in the past twelve years having harvested four North America sheep, as well as a number of sheep and ibex/goat species in Asia and Europe, and hunting other species in North America and Africa. He is also an active upland bird hunter, having competed with his Large Munsterlanders. With such an active hunting life and strong supporter of wildlife conservation he looks forward to continued participation as a Board member of CAWSF in order to keep our lands and waterways conserved, populated with wildlife for hunters and non-hunters heritage and enjoyment.. MEMBERSHIP — Life member



PAUL SCHULTHEIS, Clovis, CA

My name is Paul Schultheis, I live in the Fresno/Clovis area and have been a lifelong resident of Central California. Having completed both an undergraduate and graduate degree in business administration at California State University Fresno, I currently own and operate multiple businesses in the central valley. My family includes my wife Shannon, daughter Hanna and son Colton.

I was introduced to big game hunting shortly after high school over 25 years ago and have spent the last several decades hunting throughout the Western United States. Most recently in 2017 good fortune turned my way at the CAWSF dinner and I was able to harvest my first ram, a Dall sheep, in the Wrangle Mountains of Alaska. My most memorable and favored moments in life are being outdoors with friends and family either enjoying hunting or fishing but most of all just being outdoors with those I love.

I have a passion for conservation and would love to give back more to the sheep community. I plan to commit to working and fighting for our rights as hunters and to do all we can do to preserve our sheep in California. As well, I would like to ensure the generations that follow will have the same or better opportunity than I have had. I am a life member of the NRA and have served as treasurer for the local Friends of the NRA committee for the past ten years. I am also a life member of the California Wild Sheep Foundation, a Summit Life Member of the national Wild Sheep Foundation as well as a member of the Chadwick Ram Society.

I have worked in the background for CAWSF for a couple of years and am ready to give back. This is why I am asking for your vote to help me help the sheep in taking on the role of director in 2018. [MEMBERSHIP — Life member](#)



DARRYL WILLIAMS, Chatsworth, CA

My name is Darryl Williams and I live in Chatsworth, CA. I am your current Chapter President, a Life Member of CA WSF, a life member of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, a Wild Sheep Foundation Summit Life Member and Chadwick Ram Society Member, and am fortunate to serve as the Treasurer of the Wild Sheep Foundation. I am very proud to be a member of your Board of Directors and the work we have done over the last two years to grow our Chapter and to make our annual banquet "the can't miss conservation event" in California. There's plenty more to do and I'd like to help!

I would like to continue to serve the California Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation as a member of the Board of Directors. I believe that my organizational and business skills, coupled with my enthusiasm and work ethic, will make a positive impact on the organization and hope that you will give me the opportunity to continue to serve you. Should you have any questions about my commitment to Wild Sheep, feel free to call me at (323) 333-2160 or email me at dtwilliams1959@aol.com. [MEMBERSHIP — Life member](#)



SHAWN WOOD, Clovis, CA

I was born and raised in the small farming community of Dos Palos, CA. I attended California State University, Fresno where I obtained a BS in Ag. Business. I'm currently employed by the Wilbur-Ellis company as a pest control advisor. I also take responsibility of managing my family's almond farming operation as a fourth generation farmer.

Big game hunting and wildlife conservation have always played a huge part of my life. And being able to give back has always been very important to me. I'm a life member of the NRA, WSF and CAWSF as well as an annual member in several other conservation organizations. One of my life highlights was being able to work as an assistant guide in the state of Alaska guiding Dall sheep along with several other species of game. I've been fortunate enough to be able to take three of the four species of North American Wild Sheep along with 19 species of North American Big Game. I would be honored to serve as your next Board of Director for CAWSF... [MEMBERSHIP — Life member](#)

CA WSF 2018-2020 DIRECTORS BALLOT

The California Wild Sheep Foundation Nominating Committee is pleased to present eight candidates for Board of Director positions. These positions are for two-year terms beginning July 1, 2018. We believe the candidate biographies on the prior pages will provide you with the input needed to vote; however, should you have additional questions feel free to contact me. You may also contact Beverly at the office (forthesheep@gmail.com or 650-472-3889 phone/fax) and she will forward information.

Ken Crother
Nominating Committee Chair 2018
crother46@gmail.com

Putting and Keeping Sheep on the Mountains

VOTING FORM

This is the voting form (you may also receive this via email; please vote only by email or by using this form). You may vote for a total of eight candidates, including write-in votes.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR VOTE

Your ballot must be received no later than 5 p.m. on June 30, 2018.
You may mail your ballot to the CA WSF office at:

CA WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION
1314 B Center Drive #267
Medford, OR 97501

You may also fax to 650-472-3889. Or reply to the email sent to you to place your vote.

Vote no more than ONCE for each candidate (no cumulative voting). Vote for NO MORE THAN eight candidates.
Vote by reply e-mail or by fax (650-472-3889) or USPS no later than 5 p.m. on June 30, 2018.

CANDIDATES (Listed randomly)

_____ Mike Borel
_____ Darryl Williams
_____ Paul Schultheis
_____ Dwight Ortmann
_____ Shawn Wood
_____ Jim Fitzgerald
_____ Don Priest
_____ Jon Kruger
_____ Ben Gordon
_____ Aaron Armstrong

Write in candidate: _____

Write in candidate: _____

CA FNAWS dba Ca Wild Sheep Foundation is a not-for-profit organization with the goal of KEEPING SHEEP ON THE MOUNTAIN through conservation, education, and promotion of professional management to ensure generations to come are able to experience the phenomenal beauty of wild sheep. CAWSF tax identification number is 68-0481140.

KINGSTON MOUNTAIN DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP MOUNT

In November 2017, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CA DFW) desert bighorn sheep (DBS) team were doing a capture and release program in the Kingston Mountain range. The capturing of DBS is a very important part of CA DFW management and conservation efforts. Needed data is taken from these captures, providing biologists with important information about the animal from blood sampling and body measurements and assessments, along with important future GPS/VHF collar data for those captured DBS that are fitted with these collars prior to release.

The unfortunate aspect of this capture/release process is the potential of injury to the animal. And so it happened that on this project a ram was injured so severely, breaking his back right leg's tibia and fibula, that the assessment of the CA DFW biologists and other personnel was for the humane euthanization of the ram.

However, this ram's story does not end here. CA DFW personnel were able to remove the skin and horns of the sheep for taxidermy mounting. Many other parts of the ram were used for further study by biologists.

A shoulder mount was produced from the ram, and your California Wild Sheep Foundation (CA WSF) was proud to make that happen through the selection of a well-known, respected and long-time practicing taxidermist Kevin Libby. CA WSF provided the financing to make this shoulder mount possible, and we, along with the CA DFW, were able to display the ram at the January 2018 Wild Sheep Foundation 'Sheep Show' in Reno, Nevada, where the ram was presented to the public standing tall between our two adjacent booths.



The ram has since been provided to the US Forest Service Ranger Station in Lone Pine, California at the corners of Highway 395 and Highway 136 for public display. This is one of the major intersections that leads to Death Valley National Park and the California desert, allowing many visitors to see this beautiful ram along with the opportunity to learn more about California desert's most majestic big game species, our Desert Bighorn Sheep.

We certainly hope that during your next journey along the Eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains you will take the time to see this magnificent ram at the Ranger Station in Lone Pine.

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www.landladventures.net

LAWSON WILDLIFE ADVENTURES
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www.lavacap.com

DESERT BIGHORN UPDATE

By: Paige Prentice



Winter has come and gone, summer will be here before we know it, and spring has kept us busy checking water sources, picking up mortalities, checking the lambing status of ewes, and exploring sections of the Nopah, Avawatz, and Turtle Mountains for both bighorn and fresh sign.

Since January, the DBS crew has recovered 10 mortalities, with the cause of death ranging from unknown, to fell off a cliff, to predation. It is impressive how quickly a dead animal is scavenged in the desert and it is not uncommon to be unable to deduce the cause of death. With that said, it is equally impressive the information one can gather from the surroundings—the tracks, or scat, or blood trail, or hair clumps—to help paint the picture and fill in the blanks.

In addition to tracking down mortalities, we continue to follow the lambing status of ewes in the Marble Mountains. I gave a brief update in the winter CA WSF issue, but as of mid-May we've recorded the lambing status of 24 out of 31 marked ewes. We are also exploring the possibility of tracking lambing events via the ewe's GPS data—see the image below as an example of a ewe cluster. Of the 24 ewes seen, 14 of them had lambs and 10 did not. Of the 10 without lambs, 50% of those were previously documented as having a lamb. Although the main birth pulse for the Marble Mountains is January-March, we do see some lambs born as late as June and very occasionally in July and August. We plan to continue monitoring the survival of the lambs already born as well as the ewes we have yet to see with a lamb.

In addition, this summer will be spent gathering population data via trail cameras and ground surveys and working with SCBS to haul water as needed to wildlife drinkers. Last but certainly not least, we will be planning for fall helicopter surveys and captures.

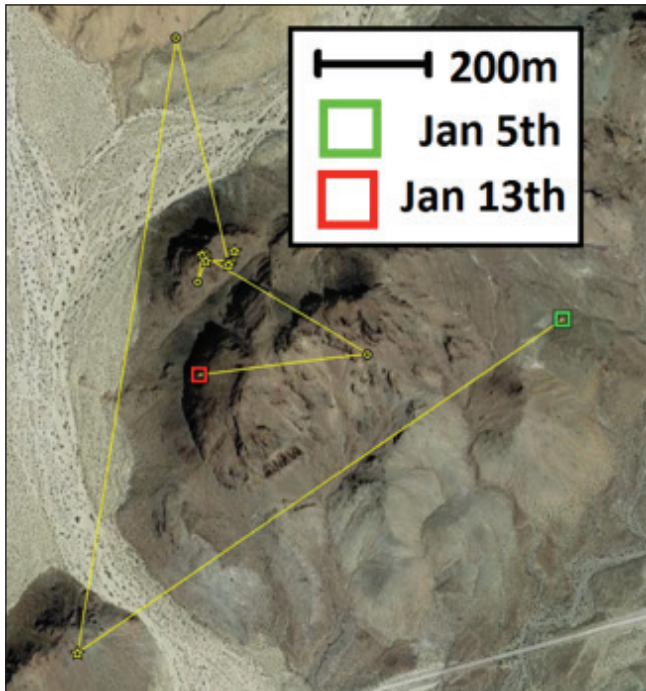


*Photo of collared Marble ewe with newborn lamb.
Photo by: Rick Ianiello*

SHOWING THE KAZAKHSTAN DELEGATION DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP

by Danielle Glass



At the end of January, a delegation from Kazakhstan visited Southern California to learn more about American wild sheep management practices, visit the GSCO SlamQuest Convention in Las Vegas, and gather ideas about establishing a sheep

conservation program in Kazakhstan. This delegation included wildlife biologists, the head of Kazakhstan's National Park system, and a filmmaker. On their way from Los Angeles to Las Vegas, CDFW personnel Ashley Evans and Danielle Glass had the opportunity to show the delegation desert bighorn sheep in the Marble Mountains.

A group of thirteen sheep only 500 feet away, consisting of seven adult ewes, two yearling ewes, and four lambs, made for an excellent viewing experience. The Kazakhs were very excited, and they took many photos and videos of the bighorn. The Kazakh filmmaker interviewed CDFW personnel about desert bighorn population status and management practices.

We attempted to locate a ram for the delegation to see, but unfortunately couldn't find one. However, this attempt allowed the Kazakhs to see the field skills and equipment (spotting scopes, radio telemetry, GPS) with which CDFW desert bighorn crew operates in the desert. They were very interested in our experiences as field biologists, and they were very appreciative of us taking time out of our day to show them sheep. I do not think that they realized that meeting with them did not feel like work to us. Neither of us had ever met anyone from Kazakhstan before, and it was fascinating listening to their stories of wildlife conservation in the country. We hope to maintain dialogue with them in the future.

Thank you to the Wild Sheep Foundation (especially Darryl Williams, Jack Atcheson Jr., and Brett Jefferson) for making this meeting possible.



The Kazakh delegation with CDFW scientific aides Ashley Evans and Danielle Glass

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R3

RECRUIT – RETAIN – REACTIVATE

by Ken Crother, Director



I was privileged to attend the initial R3 meeting at California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) in Sacramento on April 30, 2018. The meeting was coordinated and moderated by our new State R3 Coordinator Zoe Glas as well as

many others within the department. Zoe's team includes Vicky Monroe, Wildlife Conflict Programs Coordinator; Bridget Kennedy, Marketing Specialist/ CalNASP Coordinator; and Clark Blanchard, Asst. Deputy Director. The meeting was well attended and included CDFW management and personnel, numerous NGO's, ranch managers, gun clubs from the Bay and industry leaders such as Vista Outdoors.

After introductions, we quickly learned more from Zoe about significant declines in both hunting and fishing. To be exact, fishing has declined in California 27% since 1980 and 1.3% since 2010 and hunting has declined 65% since 1970 and 8% since 2010. Those numbers, more or less mirrored across the US, has given rise to the R3 program (Recruit, Retain, Reactivate). The R3 program began in other parts of the country and, with our sharp declines, is needed to address the issues in our own state. Numerous reasons are cited as the reasons for the decline but to sum up the effects: fewer people are experiencing the positive effects of the outdoors and an increased likelihood of losing hunting/fishing heritage which ultimately generates less funding for fish and wildlife habitat and/or conservation and management since these activities provide a disproportionate amount of overall CDFW funding. Only 13% of Californians hunt or fish, 1.6% hunt and both of these sports and licenses; yet these activities generate 25% of the funds that help operate CDFW.

The plan that is being developed for R3 is an actionable, living, strategic plan that will integrate stakeholder ideas to create a measurable success and identify expectations and needs for CDFW and the partner organizations (**see priorities**). 2018 is a planning year with implementation going into effect in 2019 (**see timeline**). Currently subcommittees have been identified to help gather information and to work on ideas to move forward. We (NGOs) are particularly involved as eyes on the ground as to what

Hello Hunting Stakeholders,

Thank you to those of you who have already stated interest in the R3 (Recruit, Retain, Reactivate) subcommittees. For those who have not yet signed up, or have more questions, more information is below. Please do not hesitate to reach out by email or cell with any additional questions.

At the last stakeholder meeting, we discussed the creation of subcommittees. Each subcommittee will focus on a part of the R3 plan and strategy. Based on feedback from the hunting and fishing stakeholder meetings, we have developed eight (8) subcommittees. We ask that all stakeholders consider sitting on at least one subcommittee.

Please email me, Zoe Glas (zoe.glas@wildlife.ca.gov) by next Friday, May 25th, with subcommittee interest. Include the name, phone number, email address, and name of the represented organization of the individual who will be participating on the subcommittee.

The eight subcommittees are:

- 1. Adult-Onset Hunting*
- 2. Mentoring*
- 3. Youth and Family Recruitment*
- 4. Hunting/Fishing Reactivation*
- 5. Fishing and Hunting License Structure*
- 6. Marketing and Communications (including public perception of hunting/fishing)*
- 7. Funding and Grants*
- 8. Access and Opportunity (private and public land, waterways, etc.)*

Subcommittees will meet bi-weekly via Skype or phone and will meet once in-person towards the end of the process. Each subcommittee will have at least two (2) participants from CDFW. Attached you will find a document which outlines subcommittee expectations and goals.

If you have any questions about the subcommittee process, please reach out via email or cell phone (916-212-3233).

I look forward to hearing from you by May 25th, and working with you on this project.

Zoe Glas

*Zoe Glas
Statewide R3 (Recruit, Retain, Reactivate) Coordinator
Cell: 916-212-3233
zoe.glas@wildlife.ca.gov*



PRIORITIES

- Planning
- Engagement & Outreach
- Evaluation & Assessment
- Strategy & Coordination
- Research
- Capacity Building



PATH TO SUCCESS

- Develop stakeholder partnerships
- Seek input from CDFW staff
- Develop R3 plan
- Put R3 plan into action
- Increase participation in hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation

2019+

would or may work, with honest feedback, as the public trust may be higher with our involvement as opposed to 'just another government program.'

I am very excited to be involved on the front end of this endeavor. I will sit on the mentoring subcommittee and have attached below an email from Zoe to the stakeholders involved with R3.

As this publication may make it to you after her required date, please feel free to contact me should you have an interest in getting involved in any of the subcommittees listed, your input would be welcome.

Truly
Ken Crother 530-701-5366
Director

THE CA WSF YOUTH PROGRAM REBOOT IS A SUCCESS!

By Glen Pyne



Hot off the heels of the Wild Sheep Foundations National Youth Wildlife Conservation Experience at the national convention in Reno, NV, your chapter's Board of Directors rebooted our

own youth program. The takeaway from observing the successes in Reno was harnessing the talents of Dr. Ryan Brock.

Dr. Brock leveraged the talents of his wife, Amanda, and their two children to provide our program with floating archery and laser rifle booths. Both booths provided hours of fun for over 25 kids ranging from 6 to 18. It did not take long before some of the dads to sneak in to test their skills, too!

Although requiring more luck than skill, the youth raffle prizes capped the grand finale. Up for grabs in the 12 to 18 year old category was a wild pig hunt in Paso Robles, CA fully donated by Chad Wiebe owner of Oak Stone Outfitters. The 11 and under attendees vied for a handsome Savage Arms .17HMR. All ages were in the drawing for a surprise rifle donated to our chapter by Diedre Hayes. Her husband, and Life Member, Alan Hayes had donated the rifle at our banquet for an adult raffle and she won it. So, she donated it back! The rifle was a beautiful Savage .270 with a Bushnell scope. Following our 3 Grand Prizes all remaining youth received gift cards ranging from \$25 to \$100 to Sportsman's Warehouse or REI.

Make plans now to bring your own youngsters (kids, grandkids, friends' kids) to the 2019 Annual Fundraiser and Banquet, April 6, at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Sacramento!

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CALIFORNIA WILD SHEEP SUMMIT XXIII

– MAY 4, 2018 SACRAMENTO, CA

by Mike J. Borel

CA WSF hosted Sheep Summit XXIII the day before our Annual Banquet and Fundraiser on May 4. This has proven to be a valuable interactive seminar and Summit XXIV is scheduled for December 7, 2018. The purpose of these summits is to accomplish more collectively for the Desert Bighorn in CA through sharing and collaboration, than the sum of what each organization can accomplish individually. Following is a summary of Session XXIII.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: CDFW, USFS, USBLM, MNP, Drones America, Twentynine Palms Marine Base, OSU, CAWSF, SCBS. 34 persons in all. CA WSF was represented by Mike Borel, Don Martin, Darryl Williams, Craig Van Arsdale, Jon Kruger, Kyle Meintzer and George Kerr.

INFORMATION REVIEWED:

1. Comprehensive Overarching Bighorn Sheep Plan - Status and Overview of Key Recommendations; Herd Unit Management Plans - Status and Overview of Key Recommendations; Discussion on implementation - *Regina Vu*
2. Desert Bighorn Sheep Activities and plans in Region 6 - *Paige Prentice*
3. DFW Update - the Big Picture - *Stafford Lehr*
4. DFW Regional Conservation Investment Strategies Program - CA's New Conservation & Advance Mitigation Program - *Ron Unger*
5. Review of the complete process involved in establishing a new hunt zone. - *Regina Vu*
6. Prioritizing new hunt units, and the expansion of permits. - *Regina Vu*
7. BLM Wild Horse and Burro advisory Committee - status of work and plans. - *Amy Dumas*
8. Feral Donkey Inventory and Plans. - *Amy Dumas*
9. Plans for the drone test project, including details of where and how it will be carried out, what conclusions might be drawn from the results, and how the results might be of value. - *Mike Richards & Tim Ball*
10. SNBS Update - *Tom Stephenson*
11. Cadiz update (by email) - *Don Priest*
12. Protocol/Guidelines for cameras to get maximum value - *Paige Prentice*
13. DBH Disease Monitoring Update and Actions - *Clint Epps*
14. NPS Funded Project on Connectivity in the Mojave - *Clint Epps*
15. Update on DBH in the Great Basin - findings that could have implications for CA and NV - *Mike Buchalski*
16. MNP Water Plan - Status of Comments Sent and To Be Sent; Opinions - *Vern Bleich, George Kerr, All*
17. GALAD (Give a Lamb a Drink) State Lands status, progress - *Steve Marschke (leases) & Mike Borel (funding)*
18. Report on Recent Activities in WAFWA, Wild Sheep & Goat Council, Desert Bighorn Council, Boone & Crockett Club, etc. that are of value and interest for CA wild sheep - *Vern Bleich*
19. Report on recent Good Samaritan Protection to Enhance Abandoned Mine Land Cleanup - Finding a Path Forward Summit in CO 4/26/18 - *Dayan Anderson*
20. Open Q & A Session - *Borel*

Our previously committed COLLECTIVE VISION FOR WILD SHEEP IN CALIFORNIA:

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

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DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP PROGRAM UPDATE

by Regina(Abella) Vu, CDFW



There's been a flurry of movement and change within the Department, and I'm happy to announce two of our vacancies have been filled. Kari Lewis has accepted the Branch Chief position, and Brad Burkholder has accepted the Game Program Manager position. Both Brad

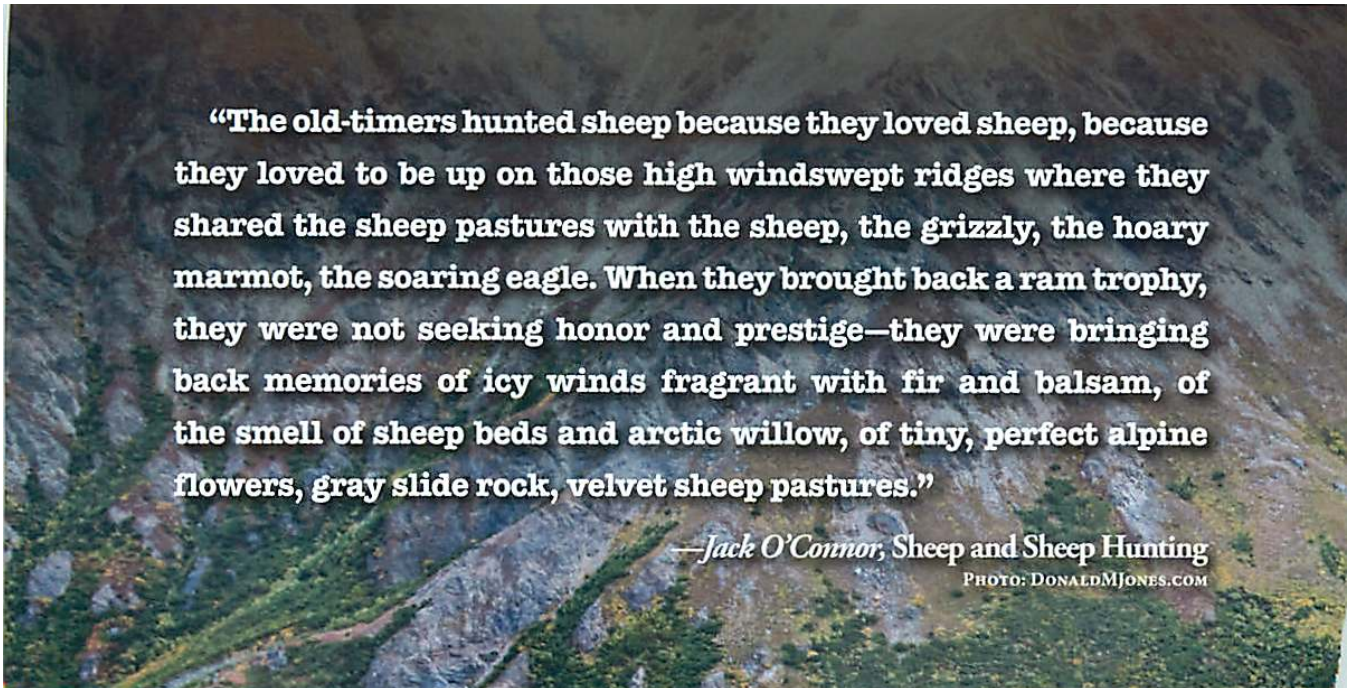
and Kari have come from the Lands Program. I am confident they will continue to keep the game program on a successful trajectory, and push forward our management plan for desert bighorn.

I anticipate the helicopter survey contract to be in place late this summer and in time for fall sheep surveys. We plan to survey some of our existing hunt units, as well as prospective hunt units, and other herd units to gather some baseline data.

Prior to the start of our surveys, we'll coordinate a drone survey of the Newberry, Rodman and Ord Mountains with CA WSF and Drone America. We'll follow with a helicopter survey to compare methods. This drone survey is funded by a Big Game Grant Program which is made possible by hunter dollars.

This year, the Big Game Grant Program has solicited proposals for up to \$1.2 million in funds to grant to big game management projects. CA WSF and the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep (SCBS) are among the many awardees helping us to achieve our management goals and, now, to test new technology in the field. So, thanks CA WSF and SCBS!

Lastly, given recently gathered data that supports higher tag quotas in some units, I plan to submit a mammal packet to the Fish and Game Commission regarding these changes. Keep an eye on the Commission process this year, and feel free to reach out to me (Regina.Vu@wildlife.ca.gov) with questions.



"The old-timers hunted sheep because they loved sheep, because they loved to be up on those high windswept ridges where they shared the sheep pastures with the sheep, the grizzly, the hoary marmot, the soaring eagle. When they brought back a ram trophy, they were not seeking honor and prestige—they were bringing back memories of icy winds fragrant with fir and balsam, of the smell of sheep beds and arctic willow, of tiny, perfect alpine flowers, gray slide rock, velvet sheep pastures."

—Jack O'Connor, *Sheep and Sheep Hunting*

PHOTO: DONALDMJONES.COM

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GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS UPDATE

MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

By Don Priest, Director

The Mojave National Preserve (MNP) finally released their Management Plan for Developed Water Sources & Environmental Assessment (Plan) this past February 2018. Needless to say the California Wild Sheep Foundation along with Wild Sheep Foundation (WSF) found many issues with the Plan.

The primary concern is that the MNP developed this plan in isolation without consideration of the landscape-wide needs for the conservation of desert bighorn sheep (DBS). This includes total availability and accessibility of water for DBS both inside and outside MNP (including DBS from Nevada that occasionally come into MNP). In addition, the review process was an Environmental Assessment (EA) and not an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which was found by WSF to be an inadequate review*. A number of other issues were also raised.

Unfortunately the time period for Public Comment was quite short, only 60 days. Nevertheless, WSF provided detailed comments to the MNP raising concerns on their behalf, CA WSF and twenty four other WSF Chapters and Affiliates. Many members of CA WSF and WSF also made and filed their own individual comments with the MNP on the inadequacies of the EA and the final Plan's Alternative options for water management implementation within the Preserve. After the initial 60-day comment period had expired, and WSF and others had provided the MNP with their comments, the comment period unexpectedly reopened for an additional 60 days, until July 19, 2018. We would encourage you, our members and others interested, to visit the MNP website on the Plan and provide your own comments and assessments of the MNP Plan by the above extended Comment Period closing date. Please visit the Plan website at: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document>.

**To learn more about Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements please refer to the following US Government pdf, A Citizen's Guide to the NEPA: https://ceq.doe.gov/docs/get-involved/Citizens_Guide_Dec07.pdf <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document?parkID=322&projectID=32532&documentID=86685>*

CA SENATOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN'S SENATE BILL 32 AND REP. PAUL COOK (CA-8) HOUSE BILL 857

Last year in this 115th Congress, California Senator Dianne Feinstein introduced Senate Bill 32 (California Desert Protection and Recreation Act of 2017) and Representative Paul Cook (CA-

8) introduced House Bill 857 (California Off-Road Recreation and Conservation Act). The bills are quite similar and will require reconciliation should they make it out of their chambers.

The bills will look to create five new Wilderness Areas and expand six existing Wilderness Areas in California's Deserts; and, expand Death Valley National Park, Joshua Tree National Park and Mojave National Preserve. The passage of a reconciled bill, signed by President Donald Trump, could certainly add to the complexity of wildlife management for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and conservation work by CA WSF, Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep (SCBS) and others in the California desert, including access issues and increased land manager permission requirements.

On a positive note, we anticipate that should these two bills gain enough traction for a vote, they shall be amended to include the movement of the Castle Peaks National Monument (Castle Peaks) into the Mojave National Preserve, removing them from National Monument status. With passage of the bill and signed into Law by President Trump the Castle Peaks would be reopen sportsman and woman hunting opportunities on nearly 21,000 acres that were closed when the Castle Peaks were given National Monument status by President Barack Obama in February 2016. To read the two bills please visit:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/32>

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/857>

CALIFORNIA WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION – LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The past quarter has seen much activity with the California Legislature regards hunting, wildlife, habitat, firearm and sport hunted trophy issues. To learn in detail about three of these bills, please see the article in this issue by Bill Gaines, Below is brief summary of those bills that were reviewed by CA WSF for our position, along with any updates.

AB 2670 – Legislation authored by Assembly Member Kevin Kiley (R/06-Granite Bay) – would require the Director of DFW to designate two days per year as Free Hunting Days with one free hunting day in the fall hunting season and the other free hunting day during the spring hunting season.

CA WSF – In support, additional hunter access and

opportunity is an important part of conservation. This bill we find dovetails with the CA DFW R3 program (Recruitment, Retention, Reactivate) in which CA WSF is participating.

The bill has moved out of Assembly Policy Committee on a 11-2 affirmative vote and will next be heard in Assembly Fiscal Committee in late May.

AB 2697 – Legislation by Assembly Member James Gallagher (R/03-Yuba City) – would require the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to establish a program which would encourage private landowners to cultivate or retain cover crops or other upland vegetation on idled lands to provide waterfowl, upland game bird, and other wildlife habitat. AB 2697 would also authorize DFW to provide incentives to landowners for the creation or enhancement of waterfowl brood habitat.

CA WSF – In support, CA WSF encourages the addition of lands that provides further opportunity to sportsman and women.

UPDATE: Bill has moved out of Assembly Policy Committee on a 14-1 affirmative vote and will next be heard in Assembly Fiscal Committee in late May.

AB 2805 – Assembly Member Frank Bigelow's (R/05-O'Neals) latest effort to craft a bill which facilitates the ability of landowners to control wild exotic pigs and the extensive damage they do to public and private lands. Assembly Member Bigelow jump-started this effort well over a year ago by reaching out to the Fish and Game Commission with the request that they work with DFW and interested stakeholders to draft some recommended bill language. After numerous months of effort, the suggested language was approved by the Commission and forwarded to Assembly Member Bigelow for his consideration late last year.

CA WSF – No position, uncertain as to whether this bill will provide further sportsman and woman hunting opportunities and access.

UPDATE: Bill has moved out of Assembly Policy Committee on a unanimous affirmative vote and will next be heard in Assembly Fiscal Committee in late May.

AB 3199 – Legislation by Assembly Member Chris R. Holden (D/41-Pasadena) – would have repealed antiquated exemptions in state law which address the use of firearms in charitable auctions and would have instead authorized a charitable organization to conduct no more than 3 auctions, raffles, or similar events per year in which firearms, other than handguns, may be auctioned, raffled, or otherwise sold. The bill, as amended, would have also reiterated

the requirement that those firearms to be transferred to the winner via a licensed dealer to process the transfer pursuant to all legal requirements, including a background check and waiting period.

CA WSF – Against, we find the bill would have been disruptive to our Fundraising activities. See Bill Gaines update for more information.

SB 1092 – Legislation by Senator Joel Anderson (R/38-Alpine) – would have legalized ownership of suppressors on long guns in California and allowed for their use for hunting. It is currently legal for a citizen to own a suppressor in 42 states, and they are legal for hunting in 40 states.

CA WSF – In support, CA WSF find that suppressors provide hearing protection, safety, noise reduction and accuracy to a hunters shot due to reduction in recoil.

UPDATE: Bill died in Senate Policy Committee.

SB 1311 – Legislation by Senator Tom Berryhill (R/08-Modesto) – would create an annual sportsman's license that provides the same privileges as annual hunting and fishing licenses, but that is valid for a term of one year from July 1st to June 30th. SB 1311 would limit the issuance of these licenses to California residents and require DFW to issue the licenses from January 1, 2020, to January 1, 2026 for a yet to be specified fee.

CA WSF – In support, provides access opportunity for sportsman and woman, along with the potential for additional funds to the CDFW and the Big Game Management Account that helps fund conservation projects for big game including DBS.

UPDATE: Bill has moved out of Senate Policy Committee on a unanimous affirmative vote and will next be heard in Senate Fiscal Committee in late May.

SB 1487 – Legislation by Senator Henry I. Stern (D/27-Calabasas) – would enact the Iconic African Species Protection Act and would prohibit the possession of any part, product, offspring, or dead body of African elephant, African lion, leopard, black rhinoceros, white rhinoceros, giraffe, Jentink's duiker, plains zebra, mountain zebra, hippopotamus, and/or striped hyena.

CA WSF – In opposition, CA WSF finds that this bill would be in conflict with conservation efforts for the named species, tread upon a Federal Government issue and domain, and would likely be a first step toward other prohibitions of other legally harvested species, effecting the conservation efforts of these species, whether here in California, the US, North America or further abroad.

UPDATE: See Bill Gaines update for more information.

CA WSF – WORKING TO KEEP YOU IN THE FIELD

*By Bill Gaines
Gaines & Associates Government Relations*

CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE

• AB 3117 (MATHIS/DAHLE) – HUNTING: NONLEAD AMMUNITION: TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

The California Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation (CA WSF) was proud to be a co-sponsor of AB 3117 – legislation which would have ensured that hunters can stay in the field, and farmers and ranchers could have continued to protect their property and livestock, as California works to fully phase-in the requirement that nonlead ammunition be used for the taking of all wildlife, statewide, as of July 1, 2019.

Co-authored by Assembly Member Brian Dahle (R-1st/Bieber) and Assembly Member Devon Mathis (R-26th/Visalia), AB 3117 (as amended April 9, 2018) would have given the California Fish and Game Commission the authority to temporarily suspend the prohibition on the use of lead ammunition for a specific hunting season and/or caliber, if the Commission found that nonlead ammunition of a specific caliber was not available for any reason. The bill would have required the Commission's Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC) to provide recommendations to the Commission on the criteria used to determine when nonlead ammunition should be considered unavailable, and which calibers should be considered for temporary suspension. AB 3117 would have required that the WRC recommendations be submitted to the Commission by January 1, 2020, and that the Commission adopt the criteria for temporary suspension by July 1, 2020. AB 3117 would have prohibited any suspension from remaining in effect for longer than three years.

AB 3117 died in the Assembly in late April, failing passage in the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee by a vote of 9 noes and 6 ayes.

CA WSF knew this would be a very difficult bill to pass in California's State Legislature – especially when many of the Legislators that voted to support AB 711 in 2013 – the bill that put the lead ban in motion – are still seated in the Legislature today. Aware of the need for this bill, CA WSF hopes to work with Assembly Members Mathis and Dahle to reintroduce similar legislation next year.

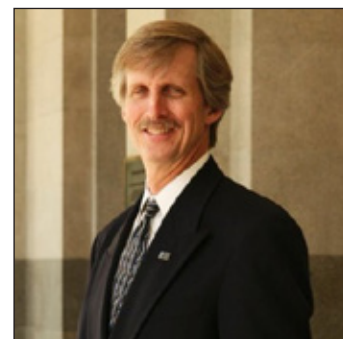
CA WSF was pleased to team with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, California Deer Association and the California Houndsmen for Conservation on co-sponsoring this very much-needed legislation.

• SB 1487 (STERN) – ICONIC AFRICAN SPECIES PROTECTION ACT

CA WSF is actively opposing SB 1487 – legislation which would enact the Iconic African Species Protection Act. As amended May 10, 2018, SB 1487, authored by Senator Henry I. Stern (D/27-Calabasas), would prohibit the possession of any part, product, offspring, or dead body of African elephant, African lion, leopard, black rhinoceros, white rhinoceros, giraffe, Jentink's duiker, plains zebra, mountain zebra, hippopotamus, and/or striped hyena.

Among other things, SB 1487 would grandfather in articles possessed for noncommercial purposes in California before January 1, 2019, as well as those distributed directly to a legal beneficiary of a trust or to a legal heir, provided that the article was possessed by the decedent before the enactment of SB 1487.

SB 1487 was double-referred to the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee and the Senate Public Safety Committee. In April, the bill was first heard in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee and then in the Senate Public Safety Committee – passing out of both committees on party-line votes and moving on to the Senate Appropriations Committee.



On May 25th, SB 1487 was heard in Senate Appropriations Committee. Regardless of California Department of Fish and Wildlife estimates of enforcing the ban placed at a substantial \$4.5 million in 2019-20 and \$2.8 million annually thereafter, the bill passed out on party-line 5 to 2 vote following taking on amendments which reduce the penalties for violation from criminal to civil. The bill must pass off the Senate Floor by June 1st to meet legislative deadline.

• AB 3199 (HOLDEN) – CHARITABLE RAFFLES: FIREARMS

As amended March 20, 2018, AB 3199 – legislation by Assembly Member Chris R. Holden (D/41-Pasadena) – would have prohibited the use of firearms as prizes in charitable raffles conducted by private nonprofit organizations.

AB 3199 was originally introduced in February 2018 to deal with CalWORKs sanctions. When AB 3199 was gutted and amended on March 20th, CA WSF's legislative advocate, Gaines & Associates, met the next day with Assembly Member Holden's office to discuss our serious concerns with the bill, the devastating impact it would have upon the fundraising efforts of CA WSF and nearly every other wildlife conservation organization, and to explain that those that win firearms at non-profit fundraising events are subject to all of the same legal requirements – including background check and 10 day waiting period – that they would be had they purchased the same firearm from a firearm dealer.

Over the following weeks, Gaines & Associates and CA WSF were pleased to partner with other organizations in numerous meetings and other efforts which helped lead to AB 3199 being amended to be less threatening, and then eventually defeated altogether.

AB 3199 was originally slated to first be heard in the Assembly Committee on Governmental Organization. With the help of the Chair of that committee – Assembly Member Adam C. Gray (D/21-Merced), a Legislator who is very supportive of our conservation community – the bill was held and never set for hearing. Failing to meet the legislative deadline for policy committees to hear and report to fiscal committee fiscal bills introduced in their house, AB 3199 died in late April.

COMPENSATING FOR SHOT ANGLE

by Mike J. Borel

Purpose of this article is to make accurate shooting, uphill or downhill, at angle possible, whether the weapon is bow or rifle. The key distance for a bullet or arrow is the horizontal distance. It matters not a bit whether the angle is uphill or downhill – that myth has been busted. If you know your arrow or bullets trajectory on the level, then all you have to figure is what is the horizontal distance to your target.

Here is the process/tools/rules of thumb that I use:

- Any angle less than 20 degrees (up or down) can be considered a level shot!
- @30 degrees the horizontal distance is 8/10 (80%) of the line of sight distance
- @45 degrees the horizontal distance is 2/3 (67%) of the line of sight distance
- @60 degrees the horizontal distance is 1/2 (50%) of the line of sight distance

Anything in between the above segments can be rounded to one of these.

So how is that? It's not much to remember!

If you need help figuring the angle, a \$10 or less angle finder from the local hardware store will do the job – but guessing these angles is pretty easy and plenty accurate in my experience.

Angle compensation rangefinders are available to do this for you automatically, and I've owned 2. It's a great idea, but to be useful they have to rangefind when you need them to. The two I've owned didn't like shadows or modestly reflective targets (including game animals!). I'm back to a regular rangefinder (Leica) that works 95 times out of 100, and leaves it to me to figure out the impact of angle. Whether you have an angle compensating rangefinder or not, knowing the basics will keep you effective, even when your rangefinder quits on you!

Hunt hard, Aim well, Shoot straight and Kill your game cleanly.

CADIZ WATER PROJECT UPDATE

From Sheep Summit XXIII - 4 May 2018

At the last Sheep Summit in December 2017 it was agreed that representatives from our CA desert bighorn sheep (DBS) community would discuss and determine an approach to raise our concerns and/or impede, if necessary, the Cadiz Water Project. The six people on the team were Dayan Anderson, Clint Epps, Debra Hughson, Kyle Meintzer, Don Priest and John Wehausen.

Our first task was planned to be writing and distributing an Op-Ed article that would raise the concerns about impacts the Project would have on DBS. However, after much research and discussion amongst the group it was decided that a direct, straightforward impact on DBS was likely a specious argument. Current science suggests the only major direct effect of the Project for DBS was on the lower natural springs in the Clipper Mountains and past field observations have suggested that this spring was not a major water resource for DBS.

As such was decided by the team that writing and publishing an article was not the best approach.

CA WSF is looking to work with other Conservationist organizations as a partner to assist in raising awareness and, if necessary, assisting in blocking the Project.

Subsequently Don Priest met with David Lamfrom, Director-California Desert and Wildlife Programs of the National Parks Conservation Association in late March 2018. David mentioned that additional science regards the impact of the Project would be available in May 2018, and he will make available.

For those interested please contact Don (donpriest@primanagers.com) to be part of the distribution list when this information becomes available.

Read more about the project here: www.cadizwaterproject.com

Give a lamb a drink

Game Changing Water Development Installations *Expanding desert bighorn sheep habitat in California*

Our funding for Give a Lamb a Drink is going full force and we hope we will soon be funded for this entire year of installations. That would be nine new installations and what a HUGE increase in water for bighorn sheep and other desert mammals it would be! This is all because of CA WSF members and supporters — it could not be done without you!



As you have read in other areas of this newsletter, our Annual Banquet and Fundraiser was able to raise \$28,000 making total CA WSF members' commitments of over \$66,000 in two years. In addition, we have also received two grants from Water for Wildlife totalling \$30,000. We have additional grant requests in process, including one to the CA DFW Big Game Management Account, where the Big Game Advisory Committee has recommended funding (must be approved by CA DFW).

We have plans to continue submitting grant proposals to other organizations so if you know of one we should contact, please get in touch with Mike Borel (mike.borel@contextnet.com) or Beverly (forthesheep@gmail.com).

Even with large dollar grants, we will still need the help of members and friends and any of the general public that has an interest in making sure that all animals within the desert environs have the water they need to be healthy. Of course, the primary species to benefit are bighorn sheep in California. However, any species within the range of the water systems will benefit from the installations. This includes golden eagles, desert tortoise, mule deer, squirrels, quail, desert hare (jackrabbit), coyote, and other denizens of the desert.

Funding is not the only area where help is needed — and where YOU can play a big part. We will need man-power and lots of it! Look for the work party notifications to come to you via email. Many of these will be with limited advance notice as we work cooperatively with SCBS and various government agencies. Any time that you can dedicate to helping will be appreciated and you are sure to have a great experience!

YOU are the missing ingredient —

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2019 Sonoran Desert Bighorn Sheep Hunt Special Drawing



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Hunt Information

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Orders must be received by March 23, 2019. Drawing held April 6, 2019. Do not need to be present to win.

HUNTING PHOTOGRAPHY PART 2

BASIC PHOTO EDITING & GENERAL PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS

By Craig Van Arsdale

In last quarters issue I attempted to convince you all that upgrading your camera was a must do if your interested in high quality photos of your adventures. If your still with me or already have a good camera and are just interested in some general tips then here is where I will go into those details and cover post processing software as well.

Now that you have a camera fit for the purpose its time to talk about getting all that you can out of each image you shoot. The great thing about digital photography is that photos are easy to develop these days or discard if they didn't turn out as planned. In the old days you started with a film negative and a darkroom to develop a photo. With todays technology a simple software program will do the trick! For post processing software I recommend downloading Adobe Lightroom. Lightroom will run you \$9.99 per month and includes cloud photo storage as well.

To get all of the available information or data possible out of a photo you will need to set the image format you want your camera to use to take a photo. The image format we want is RAW format. Think of RAW format as a film negative. All of the needed information is in a RAW image file but this is typically not the image we will end up with as it will need to be developed using the above mentioned Lightroom software. You will notice right away that a RAW file will take up a lot more memory than a compressed JPEG photo therefore you will need to get a larger SD card to shoot photos in RAW format. I like to use 64GB SD cards or larger personally as I can store about 1000 RAW images per SD card before I run out of memory.

Once you get your photos loaded into Lightroom you can now start playing around with the photo editing settings. My personal goal is to always bring out the true colors and lighting in a photo as much as possible without giving the look that it was edited or a filter was applied. To do this I will cover a few quick settings tips I use 90% of the time that will get you in the ballpark with only a few more tweaks for a finished product. Of course as you learn the software, your camera and your style these will change to an extent but by then you will have your own methods. YouTube is a great resource for learning Lightroom as well if interested.

I always start off with each image by taking the Highlights down to -100 and increasing the Shadows to +100. After doing this I usually find that I need to under expose the photo just a bit so I will adjust exposure next. The whites and the blacks can be

adjusted by holding down the ALT key on Windows and Option Key on Mac and using the mouse to adjust the slider until the background is all black on the Whites and all White on the Blacks. These few easy steps will take care of 90% of the editing and will get you familiar with the process. As you learn more you can play with the other settings as well and develop photos to your liking. The possibilities are endless in post processing software. From bringing back the incredible colors of a desert sunset to removing a piece of gear you left in the background of your trophy photo.

With all of the above being said you need a good image to start with! And this comes from a few basic rules of shooting photos that will help you get off on the right foot from the start. When taking photos try to keep the subject out of the center of the photo. In photography this is called the rule of thirds. Imagine your image as a grid with nine equal rectangles and place the subject on one of the four intersections for a more natural look.

Change the perspective from which the photo is taken. Get down on the ground and photograph the subject from all different angles to create a unique look.

Look at the direction of the subject. If your photographing your hunting partner and he's just harvested an amazing ram in a vast mountain range you want to capture where he's looking as well and give the photo some space in that direction. Use the rule of thirds to help here.

If at all possible capitalize on the golden hours of photography. Typically one hour after sunrise and one hour before sunset during with light is redder and softer than when the sun is higher in the sky.

I personally like to tell my friends to just soak in the moment with an animal they have just harvested and act like I'm not here These photos are often my favorite and allow me to capture moments and different perspectives of the hunt than can't be seen in a traditional trophy photo thats often one dimensional.

As with anything these are not hard and fast rules and there will always be exceptions but utilizing these steps will put you on the right path and hopefully help you shorten your learning curve.

THANK YOU to all our donors and supporters
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- Life Member Only **Dall Sheep Hunt**
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See inside for more information on all!