



California Wild Sheep

Spring 2019

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Ralph Ward
Clark / Kingston
Dry Creek Outfitters
16+ Years Old



ULTIMA THULE LODGE

CONTACT: DONALD C. MARTIN 310-766-3921



From the Editor's Desk

I hope you enjoy this issue. It includes some great hunting stories from California and elsewhere, more on our 2019 Fundraiser, fun humor, science articles, pictures, AND MORE! Good luck in the various state tag draws and raffles for 2019. Please reserve a table for the Fundraiser April 6 (note this is a month earlier than usual) and bring your friends!

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 2Q19 issue is May 20.



Hey guys, I need your help.
I'm in the middle of an
argument with my wife —
and she just told me that
I was right.

What the hell do I do next?!

From the latest issue of *Bugle* magazine

Elk Cornbread Casserole Serves 6-8

Ingredients:

- 1 lb ground elk
- 2 T canola or vegetable oil
- 1 Yellow onion, chopped
- 1 Yellow pepper, chopped
- 1-2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 15.25 oz can whole kernel corn
- 1 14.75 oz can cream-style corn
- 2 C Colby Jack cheese
- 2 T cumin powder
- 1 t chili powder
- ½ t Kosher salt
- 2 C cornbread batter

Directions:

- Preheat oven to 450
- Heat oil in skillet over medium heat, then add onion, yellow pepper, and garlic. Simmer and stir until onions soften and turn translucent.
- Add ground elk and brown
- Season the mixture with the cumin, chili powder and salt
- Pour in both cans of corn and stir.
- Remove from heat
- Pour about ¼ C of the cornbread batter into a 9" x 13" casserole dish and spread evenly over the bottom.
- Add the meat mixture and smooth.
- Sprinkle 1 C cheese evenly over the meat then pour the remainder of the cornbread mixture over it all, spreading it evenly.
- Bake for :20, then add the rest of the cheese and bake for an additional :10 until cheese turns golden
- Remove from oven and let cool a little before serving.
- Top with a great salsa and ENJOY!

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California Wild Sheep is published quarterly.

Please email all articles and photos to

mike.borel@contextnet.com

Photos should be high resolution and in color.

It is recommended that digital photos be sent by email.

Please include photo credits and captions.

Humorous outtakes provided by Tammy Scott

Published by Beverly Valdez, Gaiatec Services

Events

2019

April 5	Sheep Summit XXV in Sacramento (Doubletree)
April 6	CA WSF Annual Banquet and Fundraiser, Double Tree by Hilton, Sacramento
April 16-19	55th Desert Bighorn Council, Mesquite, NV
May 16-18	WSF Chapter & Affiliates Meeting XII, Las Vegas, NV
May 20	Due date for articles for 2Q2019 CAWSF Newsletter
June 1	Ballots out for Board of Directors Election
June 28	Completed CA WSF Ballots due
August 20	Due date for articles for 3Q2019 CAWSF Newsletter
September TBD	Wild Sheep Foundation Fly-In and Walk on Capitol Hill (Washington DC)
November 20	Due date for articles for 4Q2019 CAWSF Newsletter

2020

January 23-25	WSF International Sheep Show Reno, NV
January 29-1	GSCO Convention, Las Vegas, NV (Westgate Resort)

President's Letter

I'm writing this President's Message after recently attending the 2019 Wild Sheep Foundation Convention in Reno. If you haven't had the opportunity to attend Sheep Week, you literally don't know what you're missing! This is unquestionably the best and fastest growing event of its type and continues to break records year after year.

CA WSF had a booth in the exhibit hall again this year and I'd like to thank Beverly Valdez, and a number of other volunteers, for the great work manning our booth and being such great ambassadors for CA WSF. Through their efforts we gained 9 Life members (3 upgrades, 6 new), 6 Distinguished Life members (3 upgrades, 3 new), and 9 new Annual members. They also sold a pretty good number of Desert Sheep hunt tickets and a few MOA rifle tickets.

Your Fundraiser Committee is busy wrapping up the final details for what is sure to be another record breaking event that you don't want to miss. Banquet tickets, discounted rooms at the Double Tree hotel, and raffle tickets for the Desert Bighorn Sheep hunt and MOA Rifle are still available. Please consider bringing a friend to introduce them to our Wild Sheep Family and don't forget we'll have events for your children to enjoy as well. It is also not too late to solicit donations for the live or silent auctions, so please consider speaking with local businesses and outfitters you've hunted with for a donation.

I'd also like to thank the entire board and all of our fine volunteers for making 2018 another banner year for California's wild sheep and am excited to see what 2019 will bring. Please join us on April 6th for our Annual Banquet and Fundraiser and help "Put and Keep California's wild sheep on the mountain"!

Yours in conservation,

Darryl Williams.



CAWSF BOARD ELECTIONS COMING UP

CAWSF has 15 Board positions and the term is 2 years. Half of the positions expire each year, which enables continuity from year to year. We have 7 terms expiring at the end June this year. We will be sending out a ballot in the next newsletter with candidate information. If you have interest in running for a board position please let Darryl, Mike or Beverly know!

Here is the status of term expiries for the current members of the Board:

Board Members whose terms expire June 2019: Adam Casagrande, Ken Crother, Bob Keagy, George Kerr, Andrew Ohanesian, Glen Pyne, Craig Van Arsdale.

Board Members whose terms expire June 2020: Mike Borel, Jim Fitzgerald, Ben Gordon, Don Martin, Dwight Ortmann, Don Priest, Paul Schultheis, Shawn Wood.

If you would be interested in committing more of your time and talent to CAWSF, we look forward to hearing from you. You will be making a difference for wild sheep in California, making some great friends, and having a bit of fun too!

CADY MOUNTAINS SHEEP HUNT

By Darren Filkins

On June 13, 2018, at precisely 8:41 am, I was both surprised and thrilled to see that my father had drawn a once-in-a-lifetime, coveted Desert Bighorn tag in the Cady Mountains in Southern California near the Mojave Desert. We've had some successes in our family of drawing tags starting with my dad's La Panza Tule Elk Bull Tag, my daughter Annie's La Panza Junior Cow Elk Tag, and most recently in 2017, my Goodale Late Season Buck Tag.

The 2,191 applicants for the 4 tags in the Cady Mountains in 2017 is just one more testament to just how much interest the unit commands. My dad and I have been applying since the inception of the California preference point system back in 2002. Drawing one of these tags is a long shot, with the odds stacked against you- but that sure doesn't stop hunters from putting in for it!

I can clearly recall the brief phone call with my father congratulating him on his successful draw and joking that his recent knee replacement would be put to the test in the rough terrain of the desert. In July, my dad turned 77, which is not exactly the ideal age for chasing one of North America's most rugged big game animals; however, he has spent most of his life doing extraordinary things.

My father grew up on a farm in northeast Nebraska. He hunted mostly small game while growing up in a rural community with a passion for working with and helping livestock. Upon an early graduation from high school, he moved to Lincoln and attended the University of Nebraska. He continued his passion for working with livestock by judging livestock in shows and other exhibitions, while pursuing his bachelor's degree in Pre-Veterinary Medicine. He was then accepted to Veterinary School at Iowa State University in Ames, and it was there that he obtained a Master's of Science Degree in Veterinary Physiology and also his Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine. His passion for working with large animals led him to a successful 53 year career in Bakersfield where he focused on reproductive and lameness prevention in Equine, as well as breeding and raising sheep, cattle, and horses.

Upon his arrival in Bakersfield in 1965, he was soon introduced to Walter Charles (Chuck) Graves: California Fish and Game Biologist. Chuck was one of the wildlife managers instrumental in establishing a wild turkey population in California. Chuck and my father soon became best friends and began training Labrador Retrievers together for both waterfowl and upland game hunting. During the fall, they spent many early mornings chasing deer and elk throughout the western states. My father and Chuck had discussed their mutual hopes of chasing a bighorn ram together



Left to right: Jake Franklin, Darren Filkins, Chad Bedell, Dr. Mylon Filkins, Andrew Bolyski, Geoff Rowley, Jake Berry, Austin Young, Josh Schulgen, Not pictured: Jake Wilson, Bree Wilson

in California someday, and it was the epitome of their hunting dreams. Unfortunately, Chuck and my dad weren't able to fulfill that dream, as Chuck died at the young age of 49 during the prime hunting years of his life. This hunt is dedicated to the memory and legacy of Chuck and we are thankful for the many hunts we were able to enjoy with this outdoorsman.

Now that we secured the first step to going on this hunt, which was the tag itself, it was time to build the dream team of both guides and experienced hunters. While on my 2017 Goodale Buck hunt with hunting partner Dennis Utt, I was introduced to Jake Berry, an outdoor enthusiast and big game guide, whom also resides in Bakersfield. After helping harvest my buck, I quickly realized what a talent Jake was to have along. It was Jake Berry's recommendation to call Jake Franklin with Kika Worldwide Outfitters, upon learning of my father's successful draw.

A quick call, introduction, description of our abilities, and preference to hunt with horses quickly formed a budding relationship with Jake. Both my dad and I knew that the key to his success would be a great guide with access to horses so we could get close to the rams, but also make it as easy as possible on my dad. With those two boxes checked, it was time to set the date. Jake recommended the first week of January for the hunt.

I then called my friend and Professional Guide Chad Bedell of Steamboat, Colorado to join the team. Chad's big game hunting and guiding experience

spans the globe and there is no one else that I enjoy hunting with more than him. He's successfully guided me on several elk and mule deer hunts, as well as hunting sheep in Colorado and Mexico. A great horseman, packer, spotter and jokingly, Sherpa, describe his many talents.

The call to get into sheep hunting shape was unfortunately delayed due to a sudden illness for Dad in the fall leading up to his hunt. We'd also experienced some tough luck previously on an elk hunt several years ago in the Holy Cross Wilderness of Colorado. He had a heart attack while up on the mountain scouting that resulted in an emergency evacuation, helicopter flight, and subsequent quadruple bypass surgery in Grand Junction. My mom has since frowned on my plans to drag him along on adventures, but when there's a will, there's a way, and my father definitely has will. Several successful hunts since then have happened for us. For example, a sheep hunt in 2016 in Canada. Dad did well riding horseback for several hours each day, while also glassing the Rocky Mountains for rams.

After several attempts to get my dad comfortable with my rifle, including changing scopes with no success, Jake Berry saved the day. Jake offered up the use of his .270, along with taking my dad to the range. He was much more confident and quickly found the elusive eye relief my gun had not provided. My friends and long range shooting specialists Mike Perry, Stephen Gardner, and George Gardner had provided me with precision optics, solid mounting, and bore sighting, as well as significant range time for me to dial in my rifle. It was so custom that my dad had trouble adjusting!

Now that our crew was set and my dad had a great firearm he was confident with, it was time to finally go down south for our adventure! On January 1, we loaded up enough gear to scale Mount Whitney. Trekking poles, a new spotting scope, the loaned rifle with custom loaded ammo, cold and rain gear, and bed rolls and air mattresses were among other critical supplies we stuffed into the truck bed.

We pulled into Ludlow to rendezvous at hunt camp, and soon after we quickly realized we were in sheep country by the terrain and environment. The camp had all the necessities, and was very comfortable, with a private sleeping tent for Chad, my father, and me. A custom cot with a foam mattress was sure to provide a great night's sleep, but restlessness would prevail due to the excitement and adrenaline that came with the absolute that we would, in fact, finally be getting to see some desert sheep tomorrow.

Jake and his team had spent endless hours scouting the unit for rams. He had set up trail cameras, hiked, and ridden hundreds of miles trying to locate potential takers. This would not be an easy hunt for the seasoned guide, as some physical limitations posed a challenge to get us into an ideal spot.

With the horses saddled, we mounted and headed out on opening morning with a solid plan to hunt a specific area that was accessible via horseback. With the team spread out glassing and spotting for



sheep, the day quickly passed by. As a side note, my father has a special interest in fluorescent rocks and minerals. The Cady Mountains hold fluorite crystals and agates, so while the rest of the team scoured the mountainside, we located a few agates that he could scrutinize.

Day Two was filled with even more hours of glassing with Geoff and Chad. As we approached our final destination, we quickly realized the tag was left at base camp. A good ribbing was had by all as my father lamented where the tag was in the tent. Geoff doubled-timed it back to camp and retrieved the elusive tag. With the tag back in my father's possession, we continued to search for rams.

In the early morning of Day Three, upon meeting up with Jake and the horses at a predetermined location, he stated with absolute conviction, "Today is the day we're going to get that ram to your father." Jake had spent the night with the horses in a secluded valley close to where we would start our hunt. With the temperature in the low 20's, the water trough was solid ice, and it seemed our own breath froze in the air. As we mounted the horses, a friendly reminder as to know the location of the tag rang out. Indeed, it was in the hunter's possession. A few hours into the ride, a pair of rams were located. A dismount, followed by a slippery hike over rocky terrain, led to the perfect position for setting up. After 30 minutes, the rams didn't seem to be moving anytime soon, so my dad and I sat tight while Jake and Chad retrieved the horses. We then mounted up and moved to another drainage to try our luck again.

A second group of three rams was then located not far from our location. We dismounted, with Jake and Chad in the lead. It was around this critical time that Jake called me Captain Obvious. I had placed my Maui Jim sunglasses on and stuck out like a beacon due to the bright morning sunshine reflecting off the lenses.

After a quick chuckle, I removed the glasses and proceeded to the back of the line as we started our way towards the rams.

Quickly, we all hunkered down and Jake asked my dad to belly crawl to a point that would provide a shooting lane. Chad had the borrowed rifle, shooting sticks and a backpack. He took those to my dad, which the other Jake followed to help set up. All three sat in front of me and quickly located the three rams, two bedded and one standing. I had shared with my dad the importance of getting set up quickly and finding the ram in the scope, which were both things his good friend Chuck used to tell him on past hunts.

I didn't have a great view of the rams as I was focused on my dad and the two experts talking him through the process. As my dad put the gun on the shooting sticks and located the rams, Chad started to ask how the setup felt. He didn't finish his sentence, as my dad sent the custom- loaded bullet rifling towards the largest ram in the group. A perfect shot placement then led to an ethical harvest of the beautiful trophy ram.

The team quickly swarmed from all directions, stopping first to congratulate my father and then

to assist in the retrieval of the ram. A team of five of us soon made our way up the 300 yards of rocky terrain to the ram. I was the last one to arrive. I sat in amazement for a few minutes as I caught my breath and smiled before Chad shook my hand and reminded me about the importance of getting some photos.

After that, Jake impressively packed the ram down the mountain on his shoulders easily. I could barely make it down myself, as I slipped and fell on two occasions. Once down the mountain, my dad was overwhelmed with emotion and felt truly grateful for the team, the special day, and the opportunity to be called a successful sheep hunter.

Knowing this may have very well been the last hunt my dad will participate in as a hunter, we packed up and headed out with a quiet appreciation of all that had happened during those few days. Thankfully, there was no better hunt to end on that this one. On our way back to reality, I relayed to him my congratulations, and my hopes that next year he would scout for me when I draw my tag- if only in my dreams!

CA WSF MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE

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

All annual memberships expire July 31.

You may renew in any 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. Learn what your membership dollars helped to do in 2017 by visiting the web site at: www.cawsf.org/action.

LOPSIDE AND THE WHITE EWE

By Reuben Sarian

It all started when I turned my computer on to check my 2018 California draw results. I was fortunate enough to draw a California desert bighorn sheep tag in the Clark/Kingston unit. I could not believe how lucky I was because last year I drew an antelope tag in California and now I drew a desert bighorn sheep tag.

I immediately started doing research on the Clark/Kingston unit, trying to find information on the hunt. I was not very successful on finding any useful information on the hunt, so I decided to call various outfitters that have hunted that unit before. After talking with different outfitters, I decided to go with San Geronio Wilderness Outfitters. They have historically and recently killed the biggest and oldest rams out of the Clark/Kingston unit.

I spent the summertime preparing for my hunt. I worked nights so it made it difficult for me to get into sheep shape. I started hiking hills in the morning after work in order to get ready for my hunt. After speaking with Terry Anderson and Andrew Pontious of San Geronio Wilderness Outfitters, they informed me that the unit I was hunting was a very large area and I had to be ready to hike long distances in order to fill my tag.

I also made two scouting trips to get a feel for the area that I would be hunting in. During that time, I did not see any sheep. That made me worry about how hard this hunt would be. I also practiced shooting on a regular basis to make sure my one shot would count on that big day. After talking to Terry the plan was to start scouting 4 days before opening morning.

Soon enough that day was here. I met Terry Anderson, Andrew Pontious, Tim Carpenter and Colin Jewett at camp. The next two days of scouting we spent our time looking at areas where my guides have historically seen rams. We were never able to locate any rams during the first two days of scouting. I was starting to get worried due to the lack of sheep sightings. On the third day of scouting, we decided to drive into new areas to look for rams. We were able to spot some sheep deep in the mountains. Everyone agreed that on opening morning we would need to hike into the remote areas to try to find my ram.

The plan on opening morning was that I would hike in with Colin and Andrew, while Terry and Tim would glass from various locations. There was a ton of area for us to glass while hiking in so we took our time while going up the ridge. At this point we started seeing sheep sign on the trail we were hiking up. This was the first fresh sign I had seen during the entire time scouting. My guides Andrew and Colin were starting to get excited because of this. A little later we



were able to spot 3 rams and ewes across the canyon from where we were. Unfortunately, none of the rams were shooters. We took a little break to eat some food and decided we would continue up the ridge and look into a spot that Andrew and Colin called the "Honey Hole" where they have seen rams before. We continued up the ridge to the top, once we got to the top we belly crawled over the ridge to look down into a huge valley. We glassed it for about 5 minutes, when Colin said, "Look at that white ewe!" Sure enough it was one of the famous white ewes in the Clark Mountains that I have heard about. Everybody was in awe. The white ewe was as white as a Dall sheep. That's when we spotted 5 other rams with the white ewe. One of the rams was a lot bigger than the rest. The big ram was breaking open a barrel cactus with his horns and the other rams fed on it once he was done.

At this point we decided to name the ram Lopside because his right horn was bigger than his left. Everyone agreed that Lopside was our shooter ram and we needed to move quick because the wind was starting to blow hard. Andrew stayed back to spot to keep track of Lopside, while Colin and I would move



Left to Right, Guides Andrew Pontious, Tim Carpenter, Colin Jewett, and hunter Reuben Sarian



Above: 98inch right horn; Below: Reuben with "Lopside"

in for the stalk. Terry and Tim were glassing from a distance watching everything. Thirty minutes later we were 50 yards from the ridge about where Lopside was busting open a barrel cactus. At this point Andrew signaled us to hurry because Lopside had started moving down the canyon after the white ewe.

Once we got to the top and looked down, we could see Lopside 200 yards below us with the white ewe. There was a 50 mph crosswind blowing down the canyon. I carefully place the crosshairs on Lopside and pulled the trigger. Lopside went down. After some high fives and handshakes, we walked down to Lopside to see how big he really was. Upon reaching Lopside, we stood there and was amazed at how massive his right horn was. We were all very excited to get back to camp to see how big his right horn really was.

Seven miles later, we made it back to camp. We green scored Lopside at 184 2/8 B&C. The base of his right horn was 17 4/8 inches which makes it the largest ever horn base recorded in California.

A special thanks to my guides Terry Anderson, Andrew Pontious, Tim Carpenter and Colin Jewett of San Geronio Wilderness Outfitters. All of them together have over 80 years of experience hunting Desert Bighorn Sheep here in California. That is hard to beat. It would be hard to imagine a more knowledgeable, hardworking group of guys. Thank you so much for the great experience!





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

Join as a Life Member (\$500)

Make a commitment now to continue PUTTING AND KEEPING WILD SHEEP ON THE MOUNTAINS of California! Join CA WSF as a Life Member and receive ONE chance to WIN the Ultima Thule Outfitters Dall Sheep Hunt in 2019.

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

Upgrade your CA WSF Life Membership to DISTINGUISHED Life Membership (\$1,000) to receive THREE chance to WIN the Ultima Thule Outfitters Dall Sheep Hunt in 2019. You may also join at the Distinguished Life Member level for \$1,500.

Distinguished Life Members receive a PELOTON 240 VEST from Kuiu.

To win the Alaska Dall Sheep hunt you must also attend Annual Fundraiser April 6, 2019 to win.

AT THE APRIL 6TH FUNDRAISER

Live Auction including

Alaska Chitina Bison DI450
Asian Mountain Outfitters Tur
Hunt In Europe Spanish Beceite ibex
Dry Creek Outfitters BH Photo Safari
Ominca Canadian Moose

Alaska Nunivak Island Muskox
Ocean fishing on the New Huck Finn
Hawaiian Vacation
Kika Worldwide Mule Deer/Whitetail
Jim Bardin Ranch Youth Tule Elk

Special Drawings including

**MEXICO DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP HUNT
LIFE MEMBER ONLY ALASKA DALL SHEEP HUNT
MOA LONG DISTANCE RIFLE "EXTREME ASCENT"**

ONE FOR THE MONEY

By Adam Casagrande

It was Saturday afternoon at the Wild Sheep Foundation in Reno. I found myself in the Ultima Thule booth relaxing and chatting with my good friend Don Martin. Don and I have known each other for a number of years through CAWSF and had hunted deer together in the past. Don manages the hunting operation for Ultima Thule in Alaska's Wrangell Saint Elias National Preserve.

The sheep hunting bug had bitten me in 2013 when I entered the mountains of British Columbia in search of Stone sheep which I had been lucky enough to win in a raffle. Ever since the day I returned from that hunt I searched for a way to go sheep hunting again. I entered every state drawing and had at least one ticket in every sheep raffle I came across. Luck struck again in 2016 in my home state of Idaho as I drew a California bighorn tag. I now had taken two sheep in a span of three years and all it did was add fuel to the fire inside me. The email from TX Parks and Wildlife I received in January congratulating me on drawing a Desert bighorn tag came as more than just a surprise. Just four months later in April of 2017 I found myself wrapping my hands around the horns of what may be the pinnacle of any sheep hunters career a Desert Bighorn Sheep. I guess I had become a sheep hunter.

In four years I had three successful sheep hunts two of which I had drawn and one which I had won in a raffle. Two of the three, the Desert and Stone sheep, are - as any sheep hunter knows - probably the hardest to come by. Only a handful of people have a Dall sheep left to complete their FNAWS or their Grand Slam. There are a dozen or so Dall sheep raffles every year and the AK state draw. Could my luck continue, could I be lucky enough to win or draw a Dall sheep hunt?

As the conversation with Don naturally turned to sheep hunting he mentioned that he had a cancelation for the upcoming fall for the last hunt of the season. The wheels in my head started to turn and after a quick phone call to my wife and a handshake with Don, the journey to hunt Dall sheep and complete my FNAWS and Grand Slam was put into motion.

Every spare minute over the next eight months was dedicated to my Dall sheep hunt. Whether I was at the range, putting on mile after mile with a weighted pack or just going through my gear. The preparation for a sheep hunt to me is half the fun. Testing gear and researching what other sheep hunters have done to be successful makes it that much more interesting. I dropped 25 pounds and was probably in the best shape I have been since high school football. I knew the Wrangell Mountains were no joke and would



take no mercy on me. I was determined to be ready physically and mentally for this hunt.

With three boys in baseball the spring and summer flew by and before I knew it September was here and it was go time. One of the hardest parts for me on extended hunts is making sure all loose ends are wrapped up at home and at work. It is hard enough on my family when I am gone so I try to make sure there is nothing that will come up while I am away. It takes a lot of support from those around you to make these trips possible and my wonderful wife and family give me the freedom to make it happen.

Bags packed I am off to Alaska. Two other hunters would join us the next morning for the trip out to the lodge one sheep hunter and one mountain goat hunter. The deeper into the Alaskan back country we traveled the more the color change showed evidence that fall had arrived. The weather was perfect and looked to continue that way for the next ten days. Five hours of driving and a short super cub flight later we had arrived at the lodge.

I would beg to say that most sheep hunts don't involve a five star lodge, but Ultima Thule may be the exception. Thule town as it is known is the result of many years of hard work and dedication by the Claus family. What they have created can only be appreciated by those who have had the pleasure to visit. I knew the warm bed and first class food would be soon replaced by a one man tent on the cold ground and freeze dried meals. While the comforts of the lodge were wonderful, I was ready as ever for the harshness of the mountains Dall sheep call home.

Don and I were the first to fly out the next morning getting dropped off high in a saddle, I was told we were going to be hunting the "island". Don

said they called it the island because there was no real exit strategy if we killed one. It would be either packing him all the way to the top or making a few day death march out the bottom. Not being able to hunt on the same day you fly in AK we spent the evening glassing for rams. We were able to locate two sub legal rams and just seeing Dall sheep on the hoof for the first time in my life got the blood pumping. Knowing that morning would come quickly we crashed early.

Opening morning dawned clear and cold and after a quick cup of coffee and breakfast we headed down the mountain. Yes, down I know how hard could it be. Well with frozen scree and boulder filled chutes that ended in cliffs it deemed no easy task. A few hours later we had made our way to the south facing slopes of the "island" only to find one lone immature ram. After glassing the crags above us and a quick lunch we decided we best head back to the top as we had a few thousand feet to now ascend.

That evening we made the determination that there was just no way to approach the other side of the "island" it was just too steep and too dangerous with the frozen conditions. A call was made to get picked up in the morning and moved. Super cubs have an amazing ability to get you in and out of some not so friendly spots. We would be picked up midday and moved further east where Don had seen some good rams a few weeks ago on an earlier hunt. The next day



we only turned up ewes and lambs and a handful of mountain goats. It was a long brutal hike that ended alongside a massive glacier.

Even though it was only our second day of hunting and third day of a ten day hunt I could start to feel anxiety starting to build. Don has been guiding Dall sheep for over 20 years and I would be his first hunter trying to finish their FNAWS. I could sense the pressure he was putting on himself. I kept reminding myself of where I was and what I was doing, as it doesn't get any better.

Don made the call to again get moved to a new area so we packed up camp in the morning and awaited the planes. Late morning found us in the air gaining altitude to crest the peaks that separated two glacier filled canyons. The views are amazing and before I know it we are touching down at location number three. Again not being able to hunt the rest of the day we took a hike to see if we could locate any rams for the next morning. A few hours later we found ourselves pinned down under a hundred yards of a few rams. To observe them at this distance without their knowledge was a highlight of the trip. Unfortunately the largest ram in the group was just shy of legal. Finally they wandered off and we headed in the opposite direction to try to again locate a legal ram.

We made camp at the head of a drainage just short of where a band of cliffs dropped off the backside of the mountain. We spent the evening organizing some gear, refilling our water supply and making a plan for the following day. As the sun slipped below the horizon I crawled into my sleeping bag with high hopes for the morning.

As dark faded to light we shouldered our packs and made our way to the top of the ridge. I was in Don's back pocket as he eased over the edge of the cliffs and when he looked back at me I knew by the smile on his face that there were rams down below. Six rams lay bedded in the rocks a few hundred yards below. Our position allowed us the study them with the spotting scope and we decided they deserved a closer look.



We would work our way around the cliffs traversing a sheep trail with no room for error. We dropped our packs and made our way into position just above the rams. We sat and waited for what seemed like hours as the rams were bedded just below us out of view. As our body temps started to drop from sitting stationary I mentally tried to overcome the fits of shivering. Wishing I had another layer or three to throw on I wondered why we dropped our packs on top of the ridge.

Finally the three larger rams stood and started feeding into view. Don confirmed the first ram to be legal but wanted to look over the other two mature rams. I could hear Don whispering to himself as he counted rings on the two rams. Not being able to make them legal our attention turned back to the first ram in the group. I was already in position with the crosshairs steadied and clicking the safety off. Don whispered take him when you're ready. Well evidently 200 yards was just a little too close and I needed to haze him out a little further, as my first two shots were clean misses. My third shot found its mark as he turned down hill and disappeared into a ravine. As the other five rams made their way into the safety of the cliffs above my ram did not reappear.

As I made my way down to the ravine everything around me seemed to be in slow motion. As emotions filled my mind I crested the small ridge and there below me in a sea of alders laid my Dall sheep. This ram signified more than just an animal, it signified a journey, a goal and a dream all of which just years ago never seemed imaginable.



*Editor's note: This hunt could be yours!
The Life Member drawing at the April
6 fundraiser is for this hunt in 2020.
Become a Life Member and attend to win!*

FUNDRAISING BANQUET FINAL UPDATE

by Donald C Martin

PLAN TO ATTEND — APRIL 6!

By the time you read this our event will nearly be on top of us. Don't hesitate, go to www.CAWSF.org and register for the dinner today! Once again our event will be held at the Doubletree Hotel by Hilton in Sacramento, CA, located at 2001 Point West Way just off of Highway 80 at Arden Way. Our event is a whole month earlier this year and will be held on April 6. Don't wait! Buy your table or tickets today!

We are proud to announce that we have been awarded a California Governor's Permit for Desert Bighorn Sheep and it will be sold as the culminating item in our live auction! We have not had this permit in some time and its return speaks to the hard work that this chapter has dedicated to the conservation and increase in numbers of desert bighorns here in California. The permit we have been awarded this year is a unit specific permit. The winning bidder will be eligible to hunt the South Bristol, Marble, and Clipper units. All of these units have produced rams in excess of 170 B&C in the past. For one lucky bidder, this may be the opportunity of a lifetime. Don't miss out.

But that's not the only desert bighorn available. In addition, we will award by random drawing a desert bighorn hunt in Sonora, Mexico with San Jose Outfitters. We would like to thank Jack Atcheson & Sons, Inc. for helping us to acquire this opportunity. You do not need to be present to win and tickets are on sale now for \$100 at: www.cawsf.org/store We will sell out on this raffle as there are only 500 tickets to be sold and as of this writing less than 300 are left. You may want to purchase some immediately online to be sure that your name is in the hat for this.

In addition, for the first time, we will be giving away a Dall sheep hunt for 2020 as part of a life member drawing. This hunt is not transferable. Several alternates will be drawn in the event that the first drawn cannot go. To be eligible, you must be a life member, junior life member age 10 or older, or a distinguished life member. Life/junior life members will receive one ticket. Distinguished life members will receive three tickets. You must be in the room to win it. In addition, there will be a life membership, distinguished life membership #1, and junior life membership #2, all three with commemorative belt buckles, available during the live and silent auctions. If you are not the winning bidder on those, you may still upgrade your existing membership at the event and be eligible to win the Dall sheep hunt. But **YOU HAVE TO BE IN THE ROOM TO WIN IT!** So plan on attending today.

Our 2019 event is shaping up to the best ever for firearms. Our special raffle rifle is a first generation long range rifle chambered for 6.5 PRC courtesy of MOA Rifles of Oregon and Extreme Outer Limits TV host Bob Beck. Be the first to own this new rifle from MOA Rifles. The 6.5 PRC is a step up from the 6.5 Creedmore and provides 1000 yard terminal performance on deer/sheep sized game and 800 yard terminal performance on elk. The rifle will be topped with a Zeiss scope and tickets are available for \$50 and are on sale now and you do not need to be present to win. Come to the event and meet Bob Beck in person and attend his seminar on long range shooting.

There's lots of great items in our general raffle this year, but I'm most excited about our prospective lineup of firearms. As usual, we are maintaining a strict quality not quantity approach to our event and we currently have firearms slated for random drawing including but not limited to manufacturers such as Benelli, Browning, Christensen Arms, Glock, Kimber, Nosler, Ruger, Sako, Tikka, and Weatherby. In all, we will have more firearms available than ever before. In addition, we will have a well-rounded selection of optics from Leupold and Vortex as well as items that will appeal to our youth and the ladies.

Our live auction line up is almost complete and I can't emphasize enough how much I appreciate our long standing relationship with the State of Alaska. Once again we have been awarded the finest bison hunting opportunity in North America, the Chitina River Bison Permit. CA WSF's own Beverly Valdez went on this hunt in 2017 and took home a



Boone and Crockett monster of a bull. Also, Alaska has awarded us the Nunivak Musk-ox permit. This is a highly desirable permit that is nearly impossible to draw. If you need a musk-ox, this is your chance. And to reiterate, we will end our live auction with the California Governor's Permit for desert bighorn in the South Bristol, Marble, and Clipper units.

I want to emphasize how much our chapter is trying make our event more youth friendly. Our youth coordinator, Glen Pyne, has been working hard to provide activities for our younger members and make our event more youth oriented. Every year we try to improve on this, so don't be afraid to bring your kids. We want all of our kids to be a part of this event. We have two special youth hunt opportunities in our live auction including a rare rifle hunt on Northern California's Miller Ranch for Columbian blacktail and a tule elk cow/pig hunt near Salinas California on the Jim Bardin Ranch and additional youth opportunity to hunt wild hogs in Central California.

To round out our live auction, we have numerous international hunting opportunities for species such as: Dagestan Tur, Spanish Ibex, Mid-Asian Ibex, Roe Deer, and Red Stag. We also have additional domestic hunts for deer, geese, and hogs. There will be a few rare collector items that have been donated from private collections as well as a one of kind piece of wild sheep art. An additional highlight will be the opportunity to bid on a limited edition replica of the new world record Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep that was recently found dead on Wild Horse Island State Park in Montana. This epic ram scores an inconceivable 216 3/8 B&C. We will be auctioning off #8 of an edition of only 20 with a portion of the funds to benefit Wild Horse Island State Park. Don't miss out.

Once again, we'll be maintaining our high standards throughout our silent auction with an array of hunting equipment, gear, knives, optics, art, collectibles, and a bass fishing trip on the CA Delta. With 5 weeks left to go, there's no telling what surprises may await in our silent auction. We'll also have our cake auction in which one lucky dessert buyer will win a handgun and we will do two card raffles this year. The card raffles as many of you know involve the purchase of a playing card and once the deck is completely sold, we will randomly draw a winner. The first will immediately precede the live auction and the winner will receive \$5000 in auction credit. If we can sell 2 decks, we will award 2 \$5000 credit certificates. At some point, we will do our 2nd card raffle and this one is for the bowhunters in the room, the lucky winner will receive a top of the line hunting bow from a generous anonymous donor.

So as you can see, this is shaping up to be our biggest event yet. It would be a tragedy to miss the best wildlife conservation party in California so don't wait. Buy your table or tickets now, time is running out. Go to: www.cawsf.org/store and register today. If you cannot make our event on April 6, please go to the website and support wild sheep conservation in California. Please purchase ticket(s) for our Sonora, Mexico desert bighorn drawing and for the MOA Rifle — you do NOT need to be present to win either of those great items. But if you want to win the Dall sheep hunt, you must be a life member and you must be in the room. Plan on attending today, walk-in space is extremely limited, you must pre-register to attend. I look forward to seeing you on April 6.



CA WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET

April 6, 2019 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Sacramento

Be an "Early Bird" (complete registration by January 30, 2019) to get tickets for an Early Bird drawing for \$1000 in banquet credits.

_____ **Single Dinner/Event Ticket - \$100; After March 6, 2019 - \$110** \$ _____

- > One (1) Dinner/Event includes entry to the Displays, Speakers and Auctions
- > Get one (1) chance at the Early Bird drawing if registered by January 30, 2019

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

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

_____ **Reserved 1/2 Table (5) Dinner/Event Tickets - \$475; After March 6, 2019 - \$525** \$ _____

- > Five (5) Dinner/Event includes entry to the Displays, Speakers and Auctions
- > Get five (5) chances at the Early Bird drawing if registered by January 30, 2019

_____ **Reserved Full Table (10) Dinner/Event Tickets - \$900; After March 6, 2019 - \$1,000** \$ _____

- > Ten (10) Dinner/Event Ticket includes entry to the Displays, Speakers and Auctions
- > Get ten (10) chances at the Early Bird drawing if registered by January 30, 2019

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

_____ **\$100 Drawing Ticket Package** \$ _____

\$120 (6) General Drawing tickets

_____ **\$300 Drawing Ticket Package** \$ _____

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

_____ **\$500 Drawing Ticket Package** \$ _____

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

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

_____ **Desert Bighorn Sponsorship** \$ _____

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

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

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

_____ **2019 Sonoran Desert Bighorn Sheep Hunt - \$100 each (ONLY 500 AVAILABLE)** \$ _____

Total Payment: _____

Check

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NAME ON CARD _____

SIGNATURE _____

SELF _____ 6 _____

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Make checks payable to
CA Wild Sheep
Foundation

Mail to:
1314 Center Drive B267
Medford, OR 97501

Fax to:
650-472-3889

For your records, CA FNAWS (dba California Wild Sheep Foundation or CA WSF) is a nonprofit organization. FNAWS tax identification number is 69-0481140.

MACRO-ELEMENTS, MICRO-ELEMENTS, AND MOUNTAIN SHEEP

Vernon C. Bleich, Ph.D.



Some recently have postulated that mineral availability influences use of water sources by bighorn sheep, and there is no question that some minerals are essential to the well-being of most life forms, and certainly to vertebrate animals. Thus, the consideration of the availability of micronutrients or trace minerals and their role in the biology of bighorn sheep and other wild ungulates is of interest.

Forage quality is important in the dynamics of ungulate populations and, as such, is of great interest to managers. Minerals as a necessary component in the diets of wild ruminants, however, have not been thoroughly investigated, and much of our current knowledge has been derived from or inferred from studies of domestic livestock.

Minerals play a crucial role in animal health and function through disease resistance, antler growth or strength, recruitment, and vital rates. As a result, the availability of minerals is an important nutritional consideration. Although investigators primarily have emphasized protein, digestibility, and moisture content as primary indicators of forage quality, some have described mineral content of forages consumed by bighorn sheep. Others analyzed mineral licks used by bighorn sheep and, from patterns of grit in feces and moisture content of forage plants inferred seasonal requirements of various minerals from those data. Additional investigators have explored the chemical composition of natural mineral licks used by bighorn sheep and other ungulates. Based on the literature, it also is clear that certain chemical

elements or compounds, either inadequate or in excess in diets, play indirect roles in behavioral ecology, breeding success, or survival.

Essential minerals can be classified as macro elements and micro elements (often termed trace elements), each of which plays one or more roles in essential life processes. Major elements, so-called because the animal requires these minerals in larger amounts include phosphorus (chemical symbol P), which plays key functions in metabolic pathways and physiological functions, among which are development and maintenance of skeletal tissue, energy utilization and transfer, protein synthesis, transport of fatty acids, and amino acid exchange, growth and cell differentiation, and efficiency of feed utilization and fertility. Sodium (Na) plays an important role in osmoregulation (water balance) and works in concert to do so with other macro elements. Iron (Fe) is a main structural component of hemoglobin, which transports oxygen in the blood to the tissues and carbon dioxide from the tissues back to the lungs. Others are potassium (K; works in concert with sodium, chlorine, and other ions in osmotic regulation, and plays an important role in nervous system function, muscle function, and carbohydrate metabolism. Sulfur (S) assists in microbial digestion and protein synthesis and is an essential component in proteins that contain the amino acids Cystine, Cysteine, and Methionine. Magnesium (Mg), is another major element, and is linked closely to calcium and phosphorus. For example, about 70% of the body's magnesium is found in the skeleton and the remainder is utilized in soft tissues and fluids. Magnesium also plays vital roles in cellular respiration, cellular biochemistry and function, the active transport system, and the nervous system.

The second group of essential minerals, micro-elements or trace elements, are necessary for life functions, but are required in lesser amounts. Among these are copper (Cu), which is a component of proteins, and is involved in blood health, and growth. It also plays an important role in skeletal health through its influence on calcium metabolism. Cobalt (Co) is essential in rumen function through its role in the synthesis of vitamin B-12 by rumen microbes, and serves as an activating ion in enzymatic reactions. Iodine (I) is necessary in small amounts and is an essential mineral in the synthesis of thyroid hormones, and in fertility, immune function, digestion, and muscle function. Manganese (Mn) is important as an activator of enzymes, and plays

a role in growth, skeletal development, fertility, and reproduction. Zinc (Zn), although needed in only small amounts, is involved in nucleic acid metabolism, immune system function, and electrolyte balance. Selenium (Se) has received a great deal of attention as a trace element, is involved in protecting the immune system against heavy metal toxicity, and also assists in the production of thyroid hormone and tissue health, particularly among young ruminants. Molybdenum (Mo) is required in some enzyme systems, is closely linked to the availability of copper in diets, and in excess can interfere indirectly with the metabolism of calcium and phosphorus.

Although some authors have investigated selected nutritional characteristics of vegetation, few have presented information on the availability of chemical elements or mineral concentrations in the forage of wild ruminants. Several variables influence forage abundance, forage quality, or mineral concentrations in forage plants. Among these are climate and substrate chemistry. Further, rainfall patterns can influence the concentrations of minerals in vegetation, resulting in seasonal variation in blood chemistry because of variation in mineral intake. Moreover, differences in habitat selection between male and female bighorn sheep occur as a result of sexual segregation during the majority of the year, and can result in the consumption of forages of differing quality and differing mineral content by the sexes, even when the same species of forage plants are consumed. These factors, when considered simultaneously and combined with the expense associated with chemical analyses, likely explain why our knowledge of biogeochemistry, food webs, and metals as stressors in bighorn sheep occupying arid environments is so limited.

In addition to forage, bighorn sheep in some locations supplement mineral intake by using mineral licks, or other areas of substrate where a specific element is especially available. Use of mineral licks by bighorn sheep is most common among North American wild sheep occurring at northern latitudes, and occurs primarily during periods of new plant growth. Use of mineral licks has been poorly documented in desert bighorn sheep, however, and few authors have confirmed use of such resources by bighorn sheep occupying arid environments. Nevertheless, the hypothesis that consumption of substrates containing certain elements plays a role in population performance or in the utilization of other resources that are of consequence to desert bighorn sheep has been posited.

Among ungulates inhabiting temperate North America, use of mineral licks generally occurs during spring, a period when availability of new vegetative growth and, hence, availability of fresh, green forage increase. Some cervids (members of the deer family) are known to excrete higher levels of sodium in

their feces, as do mountain goats, when vegetation is growing or sprouting. It has been hypothesized that elevated levels of potassium in newly emergent vegetation disrupt the water balance in the digestive tract, which results in decreased water and sodium absorption. Data from southern California indicate that bighorn sheep in the San Gabriel Mountains utilize mineral licks to supplement calcium and magnesium in their diets during the spring. Elsewhere, in the San Andres Mountains of New Mexico, data indicate that bighorn sheep supplemented sodium intake at mineral licks in that region of the Chihuahuan Desert, again primarily during periods of new plant growth. If bighorn sheep in the Mojave Desert do supplement their diets by ingesting minerals from geomorphic sources, I suspect we will find the concentration of sodium to be greater in areas used as licks than in areas not used.

Since last winter Carlos Gallinger have been collaborating with soil scientists from the University of California to determine the chemical composition of locations that bighorn sheep appear to use as sources of minerals and to compare the results to samples from control areas not used as licks. This is a first step in assessing the potential value of mineral licks or areas of mineralized soil that have been identified in the Mojave Desert. As noted by previous investigators, however, "Determination of the benefits that ungulates derive from mineral licks will only be answered through carefully controlled studies designed to answer that specific question".—Dr. Vern Bleich is an independent wildlife biologist who worked for the California Department of Fish and Game for 34 years. He currently resides in Bismarck, ND (where ambient temperature is -10 F, with a wind chill of -31 F, as he writes this article), but remains active in the conservation and management of bighorn sheep and other large mammals inhabiting arid landscapes throughout the western United States. He serves as the Science Advisor to the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, is a member of the Wild Sheep Foundation's Professional Resource Advisory Board, serves on the Advisory Board of the Texas Bighorn Society, and chairs the California Wild Sheep Foundation's Project Grants Committee. Vern can be contacted at vcbleich@gmail.com



I was visiting my DAUGHTER last night when I asked if I could borrow a newspaper.

"This is the 21st century" she said. "We don't waste money on newspapers.

Here, use my iPad."

I can tell you this... that fly never knew what hit him...

CALIFORNIA WILD SHEEP SUMMIT XXIV

DECEMBER 7, 2018 ONTARIO, CA

By Mike J. Borel



CA WSF once again hosted Sheep Summit XXIV on December 7, 2018 in CDFW offices Ontario. These summits have proven to be a valuable interactive seminar and Summit XXV is scheduled for April 5, 2019 in Sacramento. 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 XXIV.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: CDFW, USFS, USBLM, NPS-MNP, NPS-JT, Twentynine Palms Marine Base, Vernadero Group, Mine reclamations, CAWSF, SCBS. 27 persons in all. CA WSF was represented by Mike Borel, Darryl Williams, Glen Pyne, Kyle Meintzer and George Kerr.

INFORMATION REVIEWED:

1. DBH Survey Results 2018, Paige Prentice
2. Drone Survey Results, Experience, Learnings, Kyle Meintzer
3. DBH Capture Results 2018, Paige Prentice
4. 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
5. "Desert Bighorn Sheep Activities and plans in Region 6 for 2019, Paige Prentice
6. DFW Update - the Big Picture, Brad Burkholder
7. Protocol/Guidelines for cameras to get maximum

value for estimating population sizes, John Wehausen

8. Knowledge on importance of Selenium and other minerals to BH Sheep, Carlos Gallinger
9. GALAD (Give a Lamb a Drink) State Lands status, progress, Steve Marschke (leases) & Mike Borel (funding)
10. Possible Labor Sources for Drinker Installations, Gary Thomas
11. Report on Recent Activities in WAFWA, Wild Sheep & Goat Council, Desert Bighorn Council, Boone & Crockett Club, etc. that are of value and interest for CA wild sheep, Vern Bleich
12. Major issues CA WSF is currently working on, including: Federal legislation HR857/S21, Mojave National Preserve Water Management Plan, Cadiz Water Project, Crescent Peak Wind Project and the Burro population issue in CA's deserts., Don Priest

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.



WHY YOU SHOULD CONSIDER AN ILLUMINATED RETICULE SCOPE

by Bob Keagy

The Illuminated scope extends your hunting morning and evening, provides an unmistakable aiming point, and is the choice of many modern militaries. Now widely available commercially, here are some of my experiences with illuminated reticule scopes:

I well remember leaning over a boulder in the fading blue-black light of Northern South Africa, straining to see the Nyala bull in the thick, dense, black foliage. A cool wind foretold the eminent fall of night. I would completely lose shooting light in moments. The bull was a thirty-inches "plus" trophy, and the guide and the game scout were both emphatically whispering "shoot, shoot".

I can recall seeing the vague outlines of the Nyala but it was so dark now that the crosshairs were lost against the dark coat of the Nyala bull and the near-black brush in the background. I took the .458 from my shoulder, and turned on the turret on the left side of my Leopold 1 1/2 to 6 scope. Bingo! A small, glowing coal magically appeared, and I hefted the rifle back up, found the back of the Nyala, held mid-body height, on a line just about where the point of the shoulder should be, settled the red dot where I knew it was a good shot and squeezed the trigger. The nyala never moved, but simply dropped, stone dead.

A couple of years later, I was tracking Western Savannah Buffalo in Benin. We had crept within 80 yards of a herd of roughly 90 buffalo. The sun was beating down, and the only sound was the from the buffalos moving and grunting, and the cicadas. A combination of the Sahel breeze, carrying fine Saharan dust, and smoke from burning of the grasses muted colors and limited vision like an evil fog.

We had seen a good bull, but he was on the far side of the herd of slowly grazing buffalo. We silently set-up the Primos tripod, and I settled my .416 in the cleft, tucked the butt into my right shoulder, and waited. Minutes passed, sweat bees buzzed annoyingly, and my eyes watered from the smoky, gritty miasma.

The buffs grazed, and after a sweaty, interminable wait an opening developed, but then I could barely make out the bull in a yellow-grey haze. I flipped on the red-dot scope, and instantly I had better definition of my target. No longer was he a faint dark grey silhouette in a yellow-grey fog. The glowing red dot focused one wonderfully. I hit the bull with a 400-grain slug, the bull turned and ran a couple of hundred yards, collapsed, and that was that.

Another example: earlier this year, we were again in Africa, this time hunting hippo on the southern border of Kruger Park. We had waited this one night until 2 a.m. for the hippos to show up, as Kruger has gotten quite overpopulated. Hippos have therefore been marauding the surrounding sugar cane plantations. (The hippos have a very unfortunate sweet-tooth!) This night, though, no

hippos showed themselves, and we left about 2:30 a.m.

We had gotten to the highway and driven about 20 minutes when the guide's cellphone rang. It was the game department. They advised that they had darted two lions wandering out of Kruger, and, in the process, became aware of two hippos following the course of the Crocodile River. They indicated that if we were still looking, we could get one of the hippos.

We soon turned off the highway and drove past the parked Game Department truck (with two very groggy lions!), and were told to continue on a dirt road further along the river. We did, then parked and walked 3-400 yards further, being as quiet as possible. The guide soon spotted the two hippos, and using an infra-red monocular said the hippo closest to us was the biggest, and to get ready. I chambered the .416 and checked that my illuminated scope was set in the mid-range, to avoid any distracting glare, shouldered the rifle, and whispered "go".

Instantly, the spotlight came on, and illuminated the hippo, which raised its head in alarm. The glowing red coal of the illuminated reticule settled immediately behind the leg and one-third up the body. The report of the .416 Rigby shattered the 3:30 a.m. calm. The guide yelled, "You got him", and I planted another "insurance" 400 grain solid through the quartering rib cage. Down he went. All of this took maybe three seconds, and was greatly facilitated by the red glowing dot in the scope. The eye gravitates to it automatically.

What can we draw from these three examples?

Simple: the illuminated reticule scope is an extremely valuable tool, but only a tool, and must be used properly. In fading or diffuse light it can be an absolute god-send, and it may give you ten to fifteen minutes more of useful shooting light. At night, the eye automatically finds the glowing dot. In certain cases, though, it is possible to over-do it, potentially creating a distracting glare. On balance, though, it is extremely helpful, and more than warrants any additional cost for the illumination feature. Generally, I find using about one-half to two-thirds of available power settings to be a good, practical starting point, but your experience may differ.



THE CADIZ WATER PROJECT UPDATE

by Don Priest

In our last update we highlighted the study paper released in April 2018 within the Journal of Environmental Forensics titled “Understanding the source of water for selected springs within the Mojave Trails National Monument, California”. Since then another study has been published expanding the potential impact Cadiz’s project would have on natural water sources in surrounding mountain ranges.

This new study (“Use of Radiocarbon Ages to Narrow Groundwater Recharge Estimates in the Southeastern Mojave Desert, USA”, Adam Love and Andy Zdon) released September 13, 2018 in the journal Hydrology challenges Cadiz’s assessment of the recharge rate of water within the desert that would replenish the Fenner basin aquifer in which they will be extracting. A recharge rate is the hydrologist’s expression for the amount of water that will replenish an aquifer from the land surface. Cadiz is looking to withdraw annually 50,000 acre feet, with their estimate of recharge being 32,000 acre feet. The authors analysis suggests that Cadiz has severely overestimated that recharge rate, and the actual amount may range from 4,000 to 12,000 acre feet, well below Cadiz’s estimate.

The earlier study showed that Bonanza Spring would be directly impacted by this project via extraction of water from the Fenner basin, again the basin from which Cadiz will be pumping water. This new paper has suggested that four additional springs in the region are also likely dependent on regional aquifers, including Fenner. These four springs are Burnt, Hummingbird, Vernandyles, and Theresa, all of which lie within the Clipper or Marble Mountains. All are suggested to be likely multi-sourced, being both basin filled from aquifers (Bonanza Spring in likely solely basin filled) and upper elevation sourced within the Marble and Clipper Mountains.

We are aware that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CA DFW) are now directly in contact with Cadiz, Inc., raising their concerns. CA DFW have an oversight responsibility under the ‘lake and streambed alteration program’ via the Fish & Game Code. With this newly available information from these two studies within the last year we anticipate that this will require additional analysis and review of the project’s impact on these water sources, accordingly then on Desert Bighorn Sheep, by the CA DFW.

To further the CA DFW oversight and approval authority over such projects as Cadiz, we indicated in our Fall 2018 update article that the introduced California Senate Bill 120 (SB 120) would have required:



“...a transferor of water shall not use a water conveyance facility that has unused capacity to transfer water from a groundwater basin underlying desert lands that is in the vicinity of a national monument, a national preserve, a national park, a state or federal wilderness area, or state lands to outside of the groundwater basin unless the State Lands Commission, in consultation with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, finds that the transfer of the water will not adversely affect the natural or cultural resources, including groundwater resources or habitat, of those federal and state lands...”

As the Fall 2018 publication of “California Wild Sheep” was heading to print we were days away from the vote on this bill. Unfortunately time ran out as the legislative session ended. Though the bill passed through the Assembly, it failed to get a floor vote in the Senate by end of day on August 31st.

But not all is lost as Senator Richard D. Roth (D-Riverside) has re-introduced in the new legislative session this important bill within just the past few weeks as Senate Bill 307 (SB 307), which is essentially identical in language to SB 120. CA WSF is already working with Bill Gaines of Gaines and Associates on gathering support from our legislative partners to move this important bill toward passage. We believe this bill is critical for continuing conservation efforts of Desert Bighorn Sheep by maintaining the continual flow of natural water sources in the Clipper and surrounding mountain ranges. And will set precedent by giving the California Department of Fish and Wildlife approval or denial authority over any future projects whom may wish to draw water from California’s important and critical desert aquifers.

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Sandra Vince
Congratulations! Sandra finished her FNAWS in the Marble/Clipper Mountains with San Geronio Outfitters and her daughter Karrilyn beside her.



Graham Weiss
172 2/8 Desert Bighorn, San Geronios
Last ram taken in unit before closure due to dieoff
San Geronios Wilderness Outfitters

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Russ Hawkins
Finished his North American slam after becoming almost completely paralyzed. Hunting with Jake Franklin (Kika Worldwide) and his son, Hunter Hawkins.



Dan Smith Jr
14 Year Old Orocopias Ram
"El Grande"
Dry Creek Outfitters



Gerard Smith
13+ YO Cady Mountain Bighorn 2018
Dry Creek Outfitters



Glenn Davis
Cady Mountain 2018
Dry Creek Outfitters

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

Right: Roger Urricelqui
168" Orocopias Ram
2019 Hunt - Dry Creek Outfitters



Jim Fitzgerald
Left: Hawaii Mouflon
Right: Idaho Mountain Goat

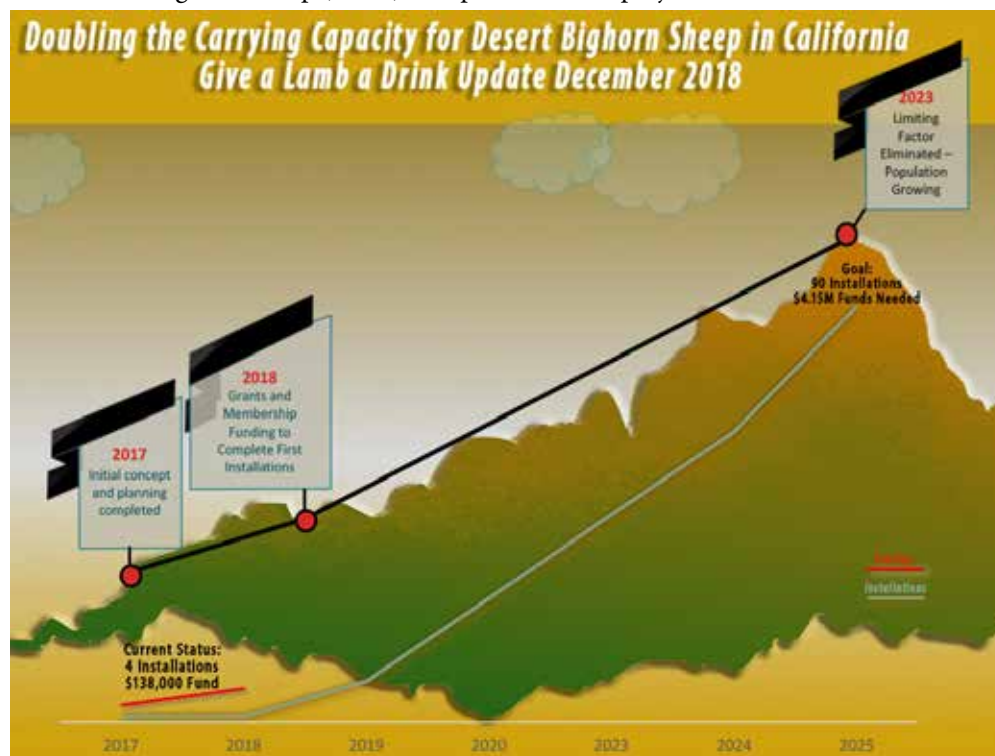


Jim Fitzgerald
Left: New Mexico Ibex
Right: South Dakota Buffalo

Give a lamb a drink

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

Funding for the CA WSF Give a Lamb a Drink project continues to increase and we are preparing to install three to five new systems over the next 6 to 12 months. We are submitting proposals to many organizations to increase our funding and plan to install as quickly as we can. To date we have raised \$348,050 including \$250,000 held in CA WSF reserved funds out of a total materials/parts budget of \$2.08M. We also anticipate a need for helicopter delivery of the materials to the sites adding \$450,000 to the need, and, depending on the rate at which installations are made, another \$1.5M for labor to extend the efforts of CA WSF members and volunteers along with members and volunteers from the Society for Conservation of Bighorn Sheep (SCBS), our partner in the project.



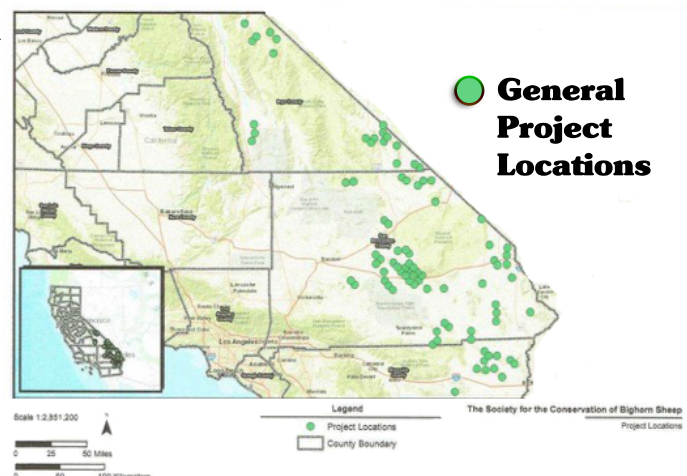
While volunteers do a great job, to get this project done quickly we must take on some hired labor.

You may be wondering, “where will all these water installations happen?” The map to the left shows general locations that have been identified as being available within the historic bighorn sheep ranges. These are primary locations for water development. As we progress with obtaining funding we are also moving forward on preparing applications for many of these sites.

Of the 90 sites identified, 23 have been visited by team members (boots on the ground) and will be high priority targets for completion.

The next RWWWS installation will be in early January. If you have not received an email with information, please contact Beverly (forthesh sheep@gmail.com) to update your email address. Announcements and requests for volunteers will continue coming to you via email so that you can help in one or more installations.

Do you know of a program or organization that may provide a grant to help us complete the project? If so, please get in touch with Mike Borel (mike.borel@contextnet.com) or Beverly.





Kern Chew

1922 - 2018

Kern was a decorated Veteran of WWII. In his platoon, he was one of six survivors of the Battle of Okinawa, earning the Purple Heart with Oak-Leaf Cluster and later, a Bronze Star for his heroism. He also received medals for the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign and Good Conduct, Combat Infantryman Badge, Philippine Liberation Ribbon and the Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII.

Kern was an avid outdoorsman. His greatest passions were fishing and hunting, and he traveled the world in search of prized game. His hunting achievements include 2 1/2 Grand Slams. He was also one of the founders of the Sacramento Chinese Sportsman Club and the Sacramento Safari Club.

Kern was a Life Member of the CA Wild Sheep Foundation since it's beginnings in 2002.

SETTING RECORDS IN ATTENDANCE AND HELPING WILD SHEEP!

42nd annual convention sets new attendance records and Reaches New Fundraising Records for Wildlife Conservation

Every year, WSF's Sheep Show® raises millions of dollars "To Put and Keep Wild Sheep on the Mountain." This year, the Sheep Show was the biggest ever. Growth has been steady during the past 11 years, according to WSF President and CEO Gray N. Thornton.

Thornton notes that most of the entire annual budget for supporting programs is made during an annual gala fundraiser.

"This forces every transaction to be extremely high-stakes. If WSF fails to meet their fundraising goals, the ramifications will echo throughout wild sheep herds across the globe. Without WSF funding, wild sheep restoration would falter and fail."

New activities and special events are key to keeping the attendees coming year after year and increasing attendee numbers. This year's events included a special live podcast hosted by Steven Rinella of the Meat Eater television series, with his panel podcast discussion taking place on stage before hundreds of fans at the convention center, and a new WSF Sheep Shoot archery course sponsored by MTN OPS and Total Archery Challenge, where individuals had a chance to shoot for a Stone's sheep hunt. Another main attraction was the first-ever WSF Rinke Ram, a custom Dodge 1500 pick-up truck completely underwritten by longtime WSF supporters Kevin and Janine Rinke. On Saturday night of the convention, the truck was raffled-off, boosting total raffle sales to over \$600,000.

The ever-popular WSF <1 Club, consisting of WSF participating members who have not yet harvested a wild sheep, also saw drastic increases, with membership jumping over 40 percent over the previous year. Six lucky attendees at the <1 Club drawing won a wild sheep or mountain goat hunt.

Meanwhile, WSF's Youth Wildlife Conservation Experience (YWCE) had unprecedented attendance. Thursday and Friday saw 557 young men and women bused in from local schools to participate in wildlife conservation learning experiences, while Saturday shattered expectations with a record 1,047 youth attending.

CA WSF was at the Sheep Show — and many of you stopped by for a visit. That's one of the benefits of the event. We had our own records broken when we enrolled 24 new and upgrading members along with sales of raffle tickets and registrations to the annual fundraiser on April 6th.

Just like WSF, when CA WSF fails to meet our fundraising goals, California wild sheep will suffer. Be sure to attend the annual fundraiser and let's set some more records!

ULTIMA THULE OUTFITTERS 2020 DALL'S SHEEP HUNT



Alaska's Best! Wrangell-St Elias National Preserve 10 day 1x1 Guided Hunt • Ultima Thule Outfitters with Guide and Board Member Donald C Martin

Don't miss your chance to win a 2020 Dall's Sheep Hunt with Ultima Thule Outfitters. Drawing will be held at the 2019 Annual Banquet and Fundraiser. Life Members and Youth 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 attend to win!



LATEST GALAD INSTALLATION “CREOSOTE”



The latest GALAD installation had another hardy group of volunteers working the weekend in the desert to install a Raincatcher Wildlife Water System on the Twentynine Palms Marine Corp Base.

These volunteers from the Society for Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, CA Wild Sheep Foundation, Boy Scouts, and a team from California Conservation Corps made the location not only a place for sheep but for any of the many desert denizens that come by for a drink.

After two hard days of work, the result was a very natural looking environment that, if you weren't paying attention, you may pass by without a second glance.

If you want to get involved, volunteer some time, and make a difference for California sheep, make sure you are on the email list by contacting Beverly (forthesheep@gmail.com). The timeline between notification and work days are always short and the work is hard but the reward is great.



FEDERAL GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS UPDATE

by Don Priest

MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

We are still awaiting the final Mojave National Preserve's (MNP) Water Management Plan (WMP). As you have read in previous publications of this magazine the California Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation and the Wild Sheep Foundation were both critical with the conclusions of the MNP WMP proposal. We had both provided the MNP letters raising our concerns with the various water development device management alternatives proposed by the MNP.

Though the comment period ended during the summer of 2018, we continue to be in communication with the Mojave National Preserve and Department of Interior. To that end CA WSF has been working with WSF leadership in Washington DC to help enhance the final WMP language that meets with our expectations that any decisions regards wildlife water developments within the MNP be coordinated with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and their agents. These decisions include water development management and maintenance as well as their locations, including placement of new, replacement and/or removal of existing devices.

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

Last year Rep. Paul Cook's House Bill 857 (HR 857) passed through the House, then making its way to the Senate. There the bill was reconciled with the similar Sen. Dianne Feinstein's Senate Bill 32 (S 32). Though the reconciled bill made its way out of Committee in the Senate, it failed to get a vote before the full Senate before the end of the Congressional 115th session.

Again, the reconciled bill looks to make major changes to our California deserts. This includes the expansion of both Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks, expansion of existing as well as the establishment of new Wilderness Areas, and the sale and movement of State School Lands owned by the State of California to the surrounding Federal land manager.

As the last Congress ended in December 2018, the reconciled bill HR 857/S 32 from the last legislative session has made its way into this 116th Congress as part of Sen. Lisa Murkowski's (AK) recently introduced omnibus lands bill, Senate Bill 47 (S 47). S 47 passed the Senate on February 12, 2019, and is in now in the House. We continue to work with the Rep. Cook and Sen. Feinstein offices to raise issues we have with this bill, including some recommended changes and additions to

the current language. We will continue to advocate for our concerns and recommendations until this bills final passage by both chambers and signature by the President.

CRESCENT PEAK WIND PROJECT

In our Fall 2018 magazine we raised a new issue regards the Crescent Peak Wind Project (Project) which would have installed up to 248 600-foot wind turbine generators on over 32,000 acres near Searchlight, Nevada. The Project would have been wholly in Nevada, but right on the California/Nevada border. Three mountain ranges would have been impacted; the Castle Mountains, though mainly in California, extend across the border into Nevada, similarly the northern portion of the New York Mountains, and lastly the McCullough Range exclusively within Nevada. All three ranges would have had wind turbines installed within their mountains during various stages of the Project.

We are excited to inform you that this Project was terminated by the Bureau of Land Management on November 30, 2018. Many Conservation groups, including CA WSF and our sister Nevada chapter the Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn, came out strongly against the Project and worked to stop its implementation. In addition, Native American groups also came out in opposition given its location being near sacred sites of the Mojave tribe. Other concerns raised about the Project were the potential negative human health effects; including the likely release of the naturally occurring asbestos actinolite, vibrations from infrasound on local residents and the discharge of underground coccidioides fungi (a source of valley fever).

This is a big win for desert wildlife including Desert Bighorn Sheep, golden eagles, Gila monsters, desert tortoise and the gilded flicker whose nesting grounds are in this area. And for people, the scenic value of the area would have been severely negatively impacted had the Project been implemented.

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK BURRO REMOVAL PROGRAM

Late last year Death Valley National Park (Park) began a new program to remove all feral Burros from the Park. This multi-year removal process is being conducted by the nonprofit Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue, whom are experts at the humane capture and treatment of Burros. Burros will then be placed in sanctuaries or, for those people friendly Burros, with new adoptive homes.

Other adjacent or nearby Federal land management agencies to the Park are also following their lead, including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Fort Irwin National Training Center, China Lake Naval Weapons Station and the Mojave National Preserve. All but the BLM will have programs to remove all Burros. The BLM is mandated by law, the '1971 Wild and Free-Roaming Horses and Burro Act' (Act), to manage set maximum populations of Burros within Herd Management Areas (HMAs) designated by the Act. These HMAs overlap very little with Desert Bighorn Sheep habitat, being almost exclusively within the valleys between mountain ranges. In addition, there are only a few of these HMAs in California's deserts, further restricting their competition and interference with Desert Bighorn Sheep and other desert wildlife.

Burros were introduced to the southwest nearly 500 years ago. Their going feral has disrupted the delicate balance to our desert ecosystem, where they have competed with Desert Bighorn Sheep and other wildlife. Burros are known for their ability to sit on watering holes driving away contending wildlife, as well as being competition for forage.

In addition, to aid the effort for wildlife exclusive accessibility to water sources and the recovery of riparian areas the Park is implementing a program to place around water sources wildlife friendly fencing. This will help to alleviate wildlife's competition with Burros for water, support the repair of riparian areas and to assist in moving Burros to areas where they may be more accessible for round up.

The humane removal of Burros from these areas and the management of herd sizes exclusively on Herd Management Areas is a big win for our native Desert Bighorn Sheep and other wildlife. CA WSF is in support of this program and will be looking to provide backing to the Park's and other abovementioned Federal land managers efforts.

Paul A. Gardner 1953 - 2018

Paul A. Gardner, 64, of Danville, a passionate world traveler, began his final journey home on Friday, May 18, 2018, with his loving wife, Tina, by his side. Paul graduated from Gilderland Central High School in New York. He was the proud owner of Heller's Gas.

Paul was an avid supporter of the NRA. Hunting was his passion and he had a reputation for being a world renowned big game hunter, harvesting many animals, and was a dedicated member of Safari Club International and Wild Sheep Foundation.

Paul accomplished his GSCO/Ovis Triple Slam in 2009.



CA WSF — WORKING TO KEEP YOU IN THE FIELD

*by Bill Gaines
Gaines and Associates*

In early January, the California State Legislature convened for the 2019/2020 Session. With the deadline for introducing new legislation being Friday, February 22nd, numerous bills of interest and concern to members the California Chapter of the Wild Sheep (CA WSF) are now seeing the light of day. Below is a summary of just four of the many bills CA WSF will be working in the State Legislature this year on behalf of our members. The status of the bills provided below is as of early March.

2019 State Legislative Session

• AB 18 (Levine) – Firearms: Excise Tax

As introduced, AB 18 – legislation by Assembly Members Mark Levine (D/10-San Rafael), Bob Bonta (D/18-Alameda) and Adrin Nazarian (D/46-Van Nuys) – would impose a “yet to be determined” excise tax on the sales of handguns and semiautomatic rifles and require the revenue collected from that tax to be used to fund grants through the California Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program (CalVIP).

Implementing successful programs for addressing gun violence is something that all Californians support and would benefit from. As such, all of California should equally help to fund their implementation. However, under AB 18, CalVIP would only be funded by law-abiding citizens who legally purchase firearms.

AB 18 has not yet been referred to a committee or set for hearing.

• AB 284 (Frazier) – Junior Hunting Licenses: Eligibility: Age Requirement

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

The benefits of increasing the age eligibility of a junior hunting license from 15 to 17 are numerous. For example, junior hunting licenses offer young individuals the opportunity to participate in several high quality “youth” hunts made available by DFW



and wildlife conservation groups. Junior hunting license are also available at a significantly lower cost (\$12.70) as compared with the adult hunting license (\$48.34). With both cost and limited opportunity and access known to be barriers to hunting participation, AB 284 will help ensure that more of our youth get out in the field for years to come.

It is also worth noting that after AB 1709 was passed in 2014, annual hunting license revenue generated for DFW use did not decrease.

AB 284 has been referred to the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee and was scheduled to be heard on Tuesday, March 12.

• AB 688 (Chu) – Firearms: Vehicle Storage

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

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

The unreasonable requirements called out by AB 688 would create serious problems for most law-abiding hunters and/or shooters that are on their way to the field or range. AB 688 would create even more problems for the Hunter Education or shooting

instructor that is on their way to a class with multiple guns for his/her students. Although some new trucks come with lockable storage areas made for firearms, many new trucks and no older trucks have these built in units. Even those trucks that do, do not have the capacity for multiple long guns. Further, a quick check on-line indicated that acquiring the necessary items to comply with the requirements of the bill would not only be difficult, but also cost prohibitive for many

AB 688 has not yet been referred to a committee or set for hearing but will first be heard in the Assembly Public Safety Committee.

• **SB 395 (Archuleta) – “Wildlife Traffic Safety Act”**

As introduced, SB 395 – legislation by Senator Bob Archuleta (D/32-Cerritos) – would improve public safety and help protect our wildlife resources by reducing the frequency of vehicle-wildlife collisions on California’s roadways. Coined the “Wildlife Traffic Safety Act”, SB 395 would also help clean California’s roadways, while reducing the needless waste of a healthy, free-range wild food source. This legislation is sponsored by the California Deer Association with the assistance of Gaines & Associates, and in coordination with the Road Ecology Center at the University of California at Davis

Specifically, SB 395 would authorize motorists to recover, transport and salvage for human consumption edible portions of deer, elk, antelope and wild pig accidentally killed by their vehicle or another vehicle

– provided they obtain a wildlife salvage permit within 24 hours and report the location, animal type, date, time and characteristics of the incident to DFW via a no-cost web portal. Motorists who do not choose to salvage animals, although not required, can still report them to facilitate their removal and possible use.

SB 395 would require DFW to make wildlife salvage permits available for issuance no later than January 1, 2021. The bill would also require DFW, beginning March 1, 2023, and each March 1 thereafter, to make available on its website the number of permits issued, locations of impacts, species of wildlife, and estimated pounds of meat salvaged each year.

Although the “meat salvage” aspect of the bill is currently garnering all the headlines, the reporting aspect is a key component of the proposal. SB 395 would facilitate critically needed reporting of where vehicle/wildlife collisions occur so Caltrans, DFW, CHP and other state agencies can better assess where future wildlife highway crossings would provide the greatest benefits for both wildlife and motorists.

Should SB 395 pass, it would not be the first time such a program was in place in California. From 1988 to 2008, a wild meat salvage program was conducted along State Route 97 in Siskiyou County providing over 34,000 pounds of wild meat to hundreds of local families in need. Similar successful programs are also currently in place in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington.

The bill would take effect on January 1, 2021.



Arnold Jardstrom 1939 - 2018

I heard about Arnold and his lovely wife Jan years ago and when Roger McCosker and I were in Fort Bragg, we called him up and asked if we could visit him and see his log house and trophy room. He readily accepted and we had a wonderful time. We then saw Arnold at WSF and GSCO every year after that. A few years before his passing he was diagnosed with Alzheimers. Jan took great care of him until the end. He was a humble man, physically fit and friendly. To know him was to like him. May he rest in peace.

BIGHORN SHEEP ARE (AGAIN) DYING IN THE CALIFORNIA DESERT

At least 20 desert bighorn sheep have died in a San Geronio mountain population in Southern California, 100 miles east of Los Angeles. The cause of death is most likely pneumonia, and most likely from domestic sheep or goats. CA WSF continues to fund research into other possible causes for this fast spreading yet elusive disease affecting many herds in California and throughout the western regions of North America.

"Since the beginning of December, I have recovered 20 dead sheep, and I suspect that's just a portion of what's occurring," said Jeff Villepique, a wildlife biologist with the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife inland deserts region who is leading the CDFW probe into these specific deaths.

A known herd of about 200 of the sheep has long lived and grazed in the area, from Mission Creek and Whitewater Canyon up miles of rugged slope to the peak of Mt. San Geronio. Villepique and a fellow biologist have been hiking across the hills for the past several weeks, and have seen less than a third of the numbers of live sheep they would expect.

"It's really tragic," said Jack Thompson, regional director for The Wildlands Conservancy, a nonprofit that manages Whitewater Preserve, near where many of the dead sheep have been found. "The bighorn sheep are such an iconic species for the California desert."

"The significance of this outbreak to the San Geronio desert bighorn sheep population is being investigated," explained Heidi Calvert, an



environmental program manager with CDFW's Inland Deserts Region. "Our top priority right now is to determine the source and nature of the disease so that we can identify the right management actions to mitigate future risk."

The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Wild Sheep Working Group considers respiratory disease to be "the biggest impediment to restoring and sustaining bighorn sheep populations." Respiratory disease in bighorn sheep is most commonly attributed to contact and/or proximity with domestic sheep and, to a lesser extent, domestic goats. Diseases that originate with domestic animals can pose a significant risk to bighorn sheep populations.

The affected desert bighorn population is located within Desert Bighorn Sheep Hunt Zone 5. The recent die-off will likely result in reducing the two hunting tags to zero in this zone for 2019.

AT THE APRIL 6TH FUNDRAISER — DON'T MISS IT!



Three Special Drawings

2019 Sonoran Desert Bighorn Sheep Hunt

ARRANGED EXCLUSIVELY
FOR CA WSF BY



Value \$37,500

Includes

10 day 1x1 hunt with San José Outfitters
Dates: November 2019 to April 2020

Location: Private Ranch near Hermosillo, Mexico

Less than 200 remain!

\$100 per ticket - ONLY ~~500~~ TICKETS SOLD
Do not need to be present to win



**M-M-O-A
RIFLES**

Custom MOA Rifle Package

Value \$8,000

MOA Extreme Ascent Rifle
Chambered in 6.5 PRC
McMillan Hunter Stock
Benchmark Barrel
TriggerTech Trigger

All Stainless with Cerekote Finish
Billet 20 MOA Scope Rings/
Bubble
Ziess V6 3-18x50mm
1000 yard capability

\$50 per ticket - ONLY 400 TICKETS SOLD
Do not need to be present to win



**10 day 1x1
fully guided hunt
Hosted by Ultima Thule Outfitters
Guided by Donald C Martin**

Life Members —You MUST attend the fundraiser to win!
Win a 2020 Dall's Sheep Hunt with Ultima Thule Outfitters.

Life Members and Youth Life Members will have one ticket in the drawing.
Distinguished Life Members will have three entries.



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

www.cawsf.org

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION



Double Tree By Hilton, Sacramento, CA

Reservations available now at 916-929-8855 with group code CWS or [this link](#) REGISTER BY MARCH 15!

CALIFORNIA DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP TAG

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has selected CA Wild Sheep Foundation to auction a coveted sheep tag for the 2019-2020 season! Don't miss the opportunity to bid — this is one of only two California Bighorn Sheep tags offered by the California Dept of Fish and Wildlife this year for fundraising!

You will hunt the Marble/Clippers with this special tag. This special tag is subject to all existing conditions required for the take of the species, including any required hunting license and hunter orientation programs identified in Title 14, California Code of Regulations and is nontransferable.