

California Wild Sheep

Spring 2020

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Walt Limon

Marble/Clipper Mtns 2019

Aged at over 17 years

Oldest ram ever taken in California

Dry Creek Outfitters



ULTIMA THULE LODGE

CONTACT: DONALD C. MARTIN 310-766-3921



From the Editor's Desk

This is the first issue following the 2019-2020 DBH season and the last one before our Annual Banquet and Fundraiser. It includes great hunting stories from California and elsewhere, more on our 2020 Fundraiser, fun humor, lots of pictures, AND MORE! Good luck in the various state tag draws and raffles for 2020. I hope you have a base plan for the year that doesn't rely on those draws (took me awhile to learn that, but I have!). Please reserve a table for the Fundraiser May 2 and bring your friends! We promise a fun time.

Your feedback, ideas, articles and requests are always welcome. Best way to reach me is email: mike.borel@contextnet.com. Due date for input to the 2Q20 issue is May 20.



STUFFED VENISON BACKSTRAP

From Tiffany Rae at [Camp Chef](#)

This backstrap recipe will hit the spot after a long day of hunting. Cook it at your basecamp or on the back patio; either way, it will taste incredible.

Ingredients

- Backstrap (elk, deer or Sheep)
- Salt
- Pepper
- Olive oil
- 1 pound bacon
- 2 cups mushrooms
- 1 clove garlic
- 8 ounces cream cheese
- 1 cup bread crumbs

Instructions

Trim all silver skin from the backstrap and butterfly lengthwise. Do not cut into medallions. Season with salt and pepper.

Chop bacon into ½ inch pieces and brown in a 12-inch cast iron skillet. Add mushrooms and garlic. Once the mushrooms are cooked, remove from heat.

In a medium-size bowl, mix bacon, mushrooms, cream cheese and breadcrumbs. Evenly add stuffing mixture to the butterfly-cut backstrap. Close butterfly cut and tie off with butcher's twine. Brush with olive oil.

Grill over medium/high heat until the meat reaches medium rare. For the best taste and texture, be sure not to overcook.

Slice and enjoy!

OLD AFRICAN LORE

A big-game hunter went on safari with his wife and mother-in-law. One evening, while still deep in the jungle, the Mrs. awoke to find her mother gone. Rushing to her husband, she insisted on them both trying to find her mother.

The hunter picked up his rifle, took a swig of whiskey, and started to look for her. In a clearing not far from the camp, they came upon a chilling sight: the mother-in-law was backed up against a thick, impenetrable bush, and a large male lion stood facing her.

The wife cried, "What are we going to do?"

"Nothing," said the hunter husband.

"That lion got himself into this mess, let him get himself out of it."

Little Johnny returns from a day of fishing with his father. He is crying uncontrollably.

"What's the matter?" asks his mother, hugging him.

"We didn't have a bite all day then suddenly there was a massive tug on Dad's line. He fought this bass for nearly half an hour. It came to the surface a few times and it was big -- really BIG. The biggest EVER. Then just as Dad was pulling it in, the line snapped and the fish got away."

"Oh Johnny, these things happen! You just need to laugh about it."

"Mom, that's just what I did..."

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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

2020

April 20-23	Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council, Canmore, Alberta CA
May 1	Sheep Summit XXVII, Sacramento, CA (DoubleTree)
May 2	CA WSF 18th Annual Fundraiser Sacramento, CA (DoubleTree)
May TBD	WSF Chapter and Affiliates Meeting XIII
May 20	Due date for articles for 2Q2020 CAWSF Newsletter
June 1	Ballots sent out for Board of Directors Election
June 28	Completed CA WSF Ballots due
August 20	Due date for articles for 3Q2020 CAWSF Newsletter
September TBD	Wild Sheep Foundation Fly-In and Walk on Capitol Hill (Washington DC)
December TBD	Sheep Summit XXVIII in Ontario

2021

January 14-16	WSF Sheep Show, Reno
January 20-23	GSCO Convention, Las Vegas
February 3-6	SCI Convention, Las Vegas
April 17-19	Desert Bighorn Council, Alpine Tx

President's Letter

As hunters, we, more than most, understand life is a series of cycles. As we return to Spring, we are all filled with the anxious enthusiasm of two things, application season and show/dinner season. For those of you that started early and applied to Alaska, draw results are out and I congratulate the select few that were able to draw some of Alaska's most coveted permits. Application for many states are fast approaching and I wish all of our members the best of luck during this upcoming application season.

Trade show and WSF dinner events are well underway and some have already won hunts at recent events and I pass along my congratulations to those winners, especially that handful of first time sheep hunters that made the investment in wildlife conservation and gambled and won on a recent sheep hunt raffle. I had the great pleasure to host the Eastern Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation's recent hunt expo in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and had the pleasure of announcing the winner of a \$160,000 prize package that included all four North American sheep hunts and a custom rifle and shooting school package. What an incredible prize! The rumor is that Eastern chapter may try to do it again next year so watch your email for updates. I will also be attending WSF state chapter dinners in Iowa, Washington, and Idaho. I hope to see some of you there. Attending other state dinners is not only a great way to improve your odds of winning the hunt of a lifetime, but it gives you the opportunity to act as an ambassador for our own chapter and recruit attendees to the California state chapter dinner.



With that said, we are fast approaching our own event on May 2nd at the Doubletree Hotel in Sacramento. Nothing is more important than attending our only fundraiser of the year and making every effort to bring at least one new person in tow. We're often regarded as one of the best dinners in the state and one of the best dinners in the country. This is largely due to the hard work of your Board of Directors and the fundraiser committee. I want to thank each and every member of our Board for their hard work and dedication to wildlife management and conservation.

For those of you that were able to see me speak at the Wild Sheep Foundation's national convention, you know that I challenged members from the stage to maintain their involvement and participation in the organization. Nothing in our effort to "Put and Keep Sheep on the Mountain" is easy, especially in the political labyrinth that is California. But each and every one of us must be vigilant and participate in the process of wildlife conservation here in the great state of California.

We have some of the best desert bighorn sheep hunts on Earth right here in California and these opportunities don't come without hard work, effort and dedication. So once again, I will confront our generous members with the challenge to commit to attending our banquet this year on May 2 at the Doubletree Hotel in Sacramento and dedicate themselves to bringing at least one new person. Introduce someone new to our "family" and inspire the next generation to carry the flag forward for us in the future by including a youth 17 or younger in your party. Make plans to attend and buy your table or tickets now at www.cafnaws.org/store or use the form on page 41.

If you are unable to attend, please support our conservation efforts by purchasing a raffle ticket for the Stone sheep hunt with Yukon Stone Outfitters, or the custom rifle in .300 PRC that comes to us courtesy of Bob and Chris Beck of MOA Rifles. Tickets may be purchased at: www.cafnaws.org/store Also consider an outright donation of \$300 to our "Give a Lamb a Drink" project which will help us with our efforts to double the number of desert bighorns here in California. Donations may be made at: www.cawsf.org/store . Funds will directly pay for water projects conducted through our sister organization, the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep.

I look forward to seeing all of you in May.

Donald C. Martin
President, CAWSF

FRIENDS AND FAMILY MADE THIS HUNT SPECIAL

by Joe Dantona

Spring 2018 my friends and I began planning which tags to put in for. We put in for our tags and waited for the deadline to pass. As days went by, we frequently checked for the results to be posted. Late on June 12, I checked one more time before heading to bed. I scrolled down the list of results showing that I didn't draw any premium tags. I continued scrolling down to review fundraiser tag results, all showing that little "N" we all hate to see ... until I got to the Bighorn Sheep Fundraising drawing. A "Y" was next to it. I couldn't believe it. I began texting, then calling, all my hunting buddies and my brother Mike. We immediately began planning my hunt.

I called a friend, George Kerr. George served as a Fish & Game Commissioner and dedicated years of his life to the study and conservation of Desert Bighorn Sheep. George immediately started my education on Desert Bighorns. George also got me in touch with Terry Anderson and Andrew Pontious of San Geronio Outfitters. George, Terry and Andrew shared the ins and outs of what I would need to know to have an opportunity to have a successful sheep hunt, as I would be hunting unguided. I began hiking and walking each day, studying maps of the hunt zone and images of rams to ensure I knew a legal ram when I saw it. Each weekend until the hunt I was either at the range or out scouting.

I headed out into the field a few days prior to season opener and was joined by my family friend Richard and good friend Karl. We began scouting, spotting only a few sheep. We continued scouting as more of my family and friends arrived to help, including Lt. Norris of CFW, who was working in the area. I had been in the same area two weeks prior and saw several legal rams that now seemed to have disappeared. My brother Mike and more friends rolled in the night prior to opener. We got behind our binoculars and spotting scopes and looked over the mountainsides. Now we started seeing sheep. We looked over several rams to find the right one.

Just before sunset on November 4th we found a nice ram in an area we could make a move on him. As the sun continued to set, my friend Steve and I moved in. I inched closer and ranged him at 292 yards. I took a solid rest on a bolder and slowed my breathing. As the ram turned broadside, I pressed the trigger. The ram was down and we made our way to him. The rest of the group joined us to help take him off the mountainside in the dark. We spent the rest of the night reflecting on everything leading to that night.



Before the Shot



After the Shot

I'm grateful for this opportunity and all the help from family and friends. It wouldn't have happened without you.

THE GRAND ADVENTURE

Hunting, Fly Fishing, and Touring (Former) Yugoslavia with Joe Jakab of Point Blank Hunts
By Susan Fitzgerald

Jim and I arrived in Budapest, Hungary, ready for our Yugoslavian combination; hunting, fly-fishing, and grand touring adventure!

Jim had met Joe Jakab at the Sheep Show. Joe threw out the idea that he wanted to take someone on a trial run for a new kind of trip he had been thinking about. A family style trip, travelling to the best fly-fishing and hunting spots while touring historical and beautiful cities, sites, and wild lands along the way. Jim and I agreed we would love to be candidates for the excursion and began planning our "Grand Adventure" with Joe.

Joe is a thoughtful, friendly, and considerate person deeply knowledgeable about his home country Hungary, and, the countries of Southern Europe. History is something Joe loves and we learned so much from him about the past and present day climate of the countries we travelled through during this adventure.

Joe had made arrangements with Slovenian local, Gregor Stepec, to be our driver and assist on the trip, as well as our guide for fly-fishing. Gregor is such a nice helpful person and knows the languages, the countries, and the best spots for trout fishing. Gregor is quite the fisherman and what a great person to travel with.

Jim and I arrived in Budapest in the evening and enjoyed the many lighted bridges and the Grand Parliament building. We had quite the start to our journey with our hotel being the ship "Odyssey" anchored on the Danube River. Our daughter Brittany, always up for new adventures, joined us there and so began the first leg of our travels, five hunters and



Jim Fitzgerald, Balkan Chamois, Macedonia

explorers ready to have a great time!

The next morning we all jumped in the van eager to begin our first day out, a tour of Budapest. We strolled downtown and had some delicious food, shopped a bit, (did you know Budapest is famous for their paprika?), then headed to Buda Castle the World Heritage Site of The Royal Palace of the Hungarian Kings. What a fabulous and enormous place covering the entire Castle Mountain top. Our proud Hungarian guide Joe was on a mission to find The King Matthias Fountain to share with us. We walked several miles and as we were getting ready to leave he went down one more street and found it! It was well worth the walk and is a magnificent and enormous tribute created to honor King Matthias on his royal hunt.

We left after watching the changing of the guard and continued our journey from Hungary to Austria. Breath-taking mountain vistas and sweeping views kept us in awe as we drove. In Vienna, Austria, we toured the downtown area, alive and vibrant with styles, people, food, and shops of all kinds. Joe surprised us with a family carriage ride round the downtown area. We then viewed the Parliament building and the "larger than life" statues in the courtyard. We enjoyed the upscale stores, a nice drink, and lunch on the plaza.

We travelled on through endless majestic mountains and forests and arrived at a rustic mountain restaurant, a favorite spot of Joe's, where his good friend is the chef. The meal was fantastic, the hospitality even better.

We continued our drive through the



Budapest Parliament Building on the Danube River



Jim's roe buck from Slovenia

Southern Alps and into Gregor's home country, Slovenia. Slovenia is beautiful and pristine. Gregor was a great host and very proud of his beautiful country.

The mountains are so difficult and steep the Slovenians have built train tunnels through them. To save time we took a train, and not just any train! We waited in a local pub and had a cold beer as we lined up our van for boarding. Yes! That's right we actually drove our van onto the train car and away we went enjoying the view from the vehicle while being hauled through the mountains on a train! The views were wonderful as we wove our way through mountain tunnels and out into bright sunlight, viewing hillside villages and mountain cottages, rugged mountains and green valleys, and children waving with excitement as we went by.

The lakeside town of Most na Soci was our destination for Jim's first hunt of the trip, a steep and grueling climb into the high Alps for an Alpine Chamois. He headed out the next morning with Gregor and a local guide.

While Jim was on his hunt, Joe arranged for us to tour the area with Dolores, a local Fish and Game warden. She was the best! She took us over the peaks and into the valleys for a fabulous tour of the Slovenian countryside and the people living there. We visited the Tobarid War Museum where I snapped a great photo of Joe with his favorite author of all time, Ernest Hemingway. We ended our tour in a small village with lunch and special Slovenian drinks. Later, we went to Dolores's home and experienced warm family hospitality and the flavor of local appetizers. We then went out to a great dinner where we waited for the hunters to return from the mountain.

They returned very late and with great news. Jim had gotten an Alpine Chamois! It was a long, tough day for the hunters but they were in high spirits to have harvested a very nice animal for Jim's first Chamois. An interesting historical side-note for Jim



Lake Bled, Slovenia

during his hunt was the past evidence of World War I military bunkers and the roads they carved in the sheer granite cliffs to transport tanks and supplies, a seemingly impossible feat.

The next morning Jim went out again with a friendly local guide and harvested a very nice roe buck. Jim was very happy with the local guides Joe had secured for him and the animals he harvested.

We decided to then get some fly-fishing in on the pristine Soci River. The water is incredibly blue, clear and very cold! Brittany and I hiked up the river, took a quick dip, and caught some sun while the fellas took off for several hours of trout fishing. They returned with some great photos of their catches.

Once we were back on the road, our next destination was Selce, Croatia where we swam in the Adriatic Sea, and ate some great food in the busy seaside town.

Trogir was our next stop, an amazing fortress and castle city. It was a delight to roam the ancient walled city and peek into the nooks and crannies of bustling and busy shops and eateries. The food was yummy; Joe's friends warm and wonderful, and I found my favorite coffee drink here.

Brittany flew home from here and the four of us continued on to Mostar, Bosnia. What a fantastic cultural experience. The famous bridge, the market at night, and music at The Black Dog Pub all were incredible. We had a blast the next day with Joe's good friend. He took us to a local riverside area for a picnic and barbecue. The place was so cool with comfy chairs and hammocks situated near the river and a local bar. It was a great place to rest, have some laughs, and relax after quite a bit of travel.

We left Bosnia and after the border crossing, (thank goodness for Gregor and his ability to get us through the many border crossings quickly and easily) we were in Montenegro. We drove the Tara Canyon, the deepest canyon in Europe that definitely lived up to its fame,

incredible gorges, steep canyons, it was an outstanding scenic drive and I'm sure glad Gregor was driving the steep roads!

I slept in the next day while the guys went fishing on the Limm River.

We headed on to Kosovo and learned so much about the history of the country. Joe is extremely knowledgeable on the history, politics and geography of each area we went, we had our own personal tour guide, as well as hunting guide, throughout our journey. It was quite a perk to the adventure.



Fly Fishing the Soca River

We dropped into Macedonia and one of Joe's favorite restaurants that he wanted us to see — The Hunter's Restaurant in Skopje. It was fabulous and like a museum filled with hunting memorabilia and beautiful mounts to view. So awesome!

We met our host Oliver there for the next part of our grand adventure — hunting the Balkan Chamois on the Jasen Reserve in the majestic Kardichka Mountains of Macedonia. We drove several hours into the mountains and arrived deep in the forest at the Jasen Hunting Lodge. Chef and host "Drogy" had a wonderful dinner and plenty of spirits ready for us to

enjoy. He made us feel very welcome.

The next morning we were up early and ready to get on the mountain. Our guide, Ace, loaded us into his jeep and we drove into the steep countryside to the trailhead, where we began our ascent into Chamois country. It was a breath-taking view as dawn broke and the sun rose over the steep rocky crags. We moved up the trail as we watched our steps carefully. The down side was so steep if you lost your footing you could end up at the bottom. We came out onto a ridge overlooking a rocky side hill and spotted a group of animals with a nice chamois buck.

Jim set up and shot. He shot over the top of the animal and they disappeared into the rocks and outcroppings. We regrouped and continued our hike higher and higher to the upper meadows. It felt like we were on top of the world! We spotted a large group of Chamois further up the mountain. Jim, Gregor, and Ace moved on up the ridgeline while Joe and I stayed back. We had a great view with our binoculars and watched as they slowly and quietly made their way toward the Chamois.

It was exciting to watch as they climbed up onto a large boulder and Jim readied for the shot. From our vantage point we could see both the hunted and the hunter. Jim shot and the Chamois buck fell and rolled down the rocks landing in an upper meadow area. Woo-Hoo! Great shot! After giving thanks for the harvest and snapping a few photos, we headed down to the lodge and enjoyed a delicious meal of Chamois filets.

We left the next morning for Skopje and Joe had reserved rooms for us at the Stonebridge Hotel. It is considered the best hotel in Skopje, and it was beautiful. Joe knows the city so well. He took us to the traditional Turkish old town area and we ate Turkish food in an outdoor café and browsed the many shops full of wonderful trinkets as well as dress shops with beautiful hand sewn gowns, stores filled with gold jewelry including ornate and intricate necklaces, rings and crowns. It was a shopper's dream! The prices here were very affordable.

In contrast, Joe then led us just across the famous Stari Most bridge to the more modern, Serbian side of town, very chic and cosmopolitan with large Greek monuments, fountains, and statues which have actually caused a rift between the government and the Serbian and Albanian people due to the money that was spent to make these larger than life Greek creations.

We had drinks and dined on an historic, first class wooden ship that is docked on the Neretva River, the river that runs through the center of town. We met up with some friends of Joe's and they planned a fly-fishing trip up the river for the next day.

When we left Skopje, we headed for Belgrad. I was excited to visit this Serbian city to see first hand the

historical remnants of the war. There are still buildings blasted with holes where artillery and small arms fire hit, and also many bombed out buildings. It was eerie and surreal to walk through these areas. It was gratifying to see how the people have overcome this dark past and enjoy all their city has to offer. In the evening we walked to the castle on the hill, which overlooks the confluence of the Danube and the Sava rivers. We then had drinks on the promenade and watched the people enjoying their evening stroll on the promenade.

A most poignant and warming part of our trip was how the people throughout Southern Europe enjoy evenings on the promenade in their cities or towns. Entire families gather, from babies to grandparents, to come out and stroll up and down the promenade exchanging pleasantries, eating local foods, and enjoying time with family and friends. We saw young lovers exchanging glances and older couples holding hands as they walked and visited. The promenade is the hub of communication and enjoyment for the people.

The next day we drove to the border and on to Zagreb, Croatia, where we said our goodbyes to Joe and Gregor and boarded for our flight home.

This journey was made so special through Joe's efforts to combine a family style tour alongside a



**Jim, Susan, and Brittney in Croatia
on their "Grand Adventure"**

hunting and fishing trip. The hunting was great, the fishing was wonderful, and the sight seeing was outstanding. We couldn't have asked for a nicer team to have given us this opportunity. A Grand Adventure indeed!

Editor's Note: Jim Fitzgerald is a Life Member. Joe Jakab's Point Blank Hunt has often donated to our annual Fundraiser with good results for the hunters. Be on the lookout for one of Joe's famous European hunts in this year's fundraiser! Maybe your Grand Adventure will be next!

CA WSF MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE

Are you enjoying your newsletter? Having fun seeing all the photos and maybe dreaming of the time when you will draw a tag. Or maybe you hope you'll be the next member to get drawn for one of our special hunts. YOUR membership is what makes it happen and if you are an Annual (one year) member your membership may be about to expire. Check your mailing address on this magazine to see when your membership expires. If the year by your name says 2020 on it you are looking at your next-to-last magazine!

All annual memberships expire July 31. Renew TODAY in any one of the following ways:

- 1--Log onto the CAWSF web site at <http://www.cawsf.org/> and complete using a charge card or PayPal renewal. At this location you can also renew or join the Wild Sheep Foundation. By joining or renewing both you will have a small discount.
- 2--Return the membership form on page 42 with a check for \$40 by mail to the address on the form. Or use the form that is downloadable from the website.
- 3--Return the completed membership form with your charge card info by email or mail.

Note: If you renewed or joined after January 1, 2020, your membership is active until July 31, 2021.

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 - upgrade 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 by visiting the web site at: <http://www.cawsf.org/action.htm>.

CA WSF has an enviable record of major, 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!

POQUITO MACHO GRANDE (AKA “LITTLE BIG BUCK”)

*Purchased at the 2019 Annual Fundraiser
by Mike Torres*

In April 2019 I was at the California Chapter Wild Sheep Foundation annual Fundraiser Banquet where I was the winning bidder in the Silent Auction for a Coues deer hunt in Sonora Mexico. My friend and fellow CAWSF Board Member, Ben Gordon, also won this hunt and we were looking forward to our hunt with Outfitter Jorge Camou of Sonoradventus. Unfortunately when the January 2020 hunt came about Ben was not able to make our hunt.

On January 3 Jorge picked me up at the Hermosillo airport and we drove two hours NE on Hwy 14 to the mountain village of Banamichi. In Banamichi Jorge turned me over to my guide, Juan, and we drove an additional three hours, on a rough dirt road, to the very remote Rancho Marcos in the Sonora mountains. I had hunted this rancho with Juan three years before and knew this was a good ranch and that I was in very capable hands. Juan works on this remote cattle ranch and is very familiar with the terrain and the deer that live there.

We faced pretty challenging conditions as there had been tremendous rain prior to the hunt, the grass was over three feet tall and all the canyons had creeks that were flowing with water. The Coues bucks were in a state of very heavy rut and they were running through the tall grass, in steep rocky mountains at full speed, chasing each other or hot does. The bucks certainly lived up to their nick name “Grey Ghosts” as they never stopped running for more than about five seconds. They would chase each other up a steep ridge, turn around and run back down at full speed. Just when I thought I had a buck figured out, he would simply vanish seemingly into thin air.

On the evening of the third day we were returning to camp when we spotted three bucks chasing a doe up a ridge about 250 yards away. I jumped out of the truck and was trying to follow the bucks in my rifle scope and asked Juan, “Poquito (small)?” As I was tracking what I thought was the bigger buck, Juan called out “No, es Macho Grande.”

In my limited Spanish I knew this was a shooter, and just then the buck paused for about 3 seconds in my Swarovski scope and my .270 spoke. The buck dropped immediately and we found him to be a mature 8 point. This turned out to be the second largest buck out of the 25 bucks I saw in three days. We cleaned and caped the buck out and returned to camp.

The following day I was joined in camp with Canadian Outfitter Rick Quinn, WSF Field Editor



Mike Torres 2019 Coues Deer

Ken Nowicki, and Hunter Larry Ploge from Northern California. They were hunting Coues deer for a few days before they had a hunt for Mule deer on Tiburon Island.

They hunted pretty hard by both horseback and vehicle for a couple of days, looking for something special in a Coues buck. When I left camp to return home they had not yet found that special buck.

This hunt I purchased at the CAWSF Banquet was well organized by Outfitter Jorge Camou. The accommodations, food, and guiding were very good on a remote ranch with lots of Coues deer. This was my second hunt on this ranch and I hope to return someday. It was very enjoyable to hunt deer in January wearing a tee shirt and seeing lots of bucks everyday.

Will you be a lucky winning bidder this year? You won't know until you get there!

SETTING GOALS

by Ben Gordon
CA WSF Distinguished Life Member

This story began quite a while back, 1983 to be exact, when I harvested my first American Pronghorn, or Antelope as they are commonly called. I had already taken Columbia Blacktail and Mule Deer which prompted a friend to ask if I was going to go after all of the North American 29 (N/A 29). My laughing very loudly was my response to the question, and I never thought about the possibility again for many years.

In fact, I considered the feat unachievable for a farm boy from northern California. Through the 1980's and 90's I harvested many more Blacktail, Mule deer and added Whitetail to the species list. In 1999 I joined the ranks of the "lucky ones" by drawing a Nevada Desert Sheep tag, and guided by John Zenz harvested a 14 year old ram to add to the list. This changed everything! Of course, after harvesting my ram the first goal that came to mind was completing the coveted Grand Slam of North American Wild Sheep. Before the Desert Sheep hunt, I thought that taking a Grand Slam of sheep was unachievable also. At this point The N/A 29 still wasn't even considered, as my only focus was on my next sheep hunt!

July of 2001 found me in the Yukon Territory stalking Dall Sheep with Mervyns Yukon Outfitting. First day luck rewarded me by harvesting a beautiful eight year old, 39 inch flaring ram, and the sheep fire began to rage in me! Next was a trip in August of 2002 to Northern British Columbia for Stone Sheep. I was hunting with Misty Mountain outfitters, and on day three, a sideways slip on a glacier stretched my right hamstring and abruptly ended the hunt. Realization set in that this Grand Slam thing wasn't going to be easy! In 2004 I was back in the Yukon for Stone Sheep, this time with Randy Babala hunting in the Pelly Mountains. Nine days into a 14 day hunt, I harvested a gorgeous 40 inch ram. My dream of a Grand Slam was getting closer! The next three years left me doubting if I ever could achieve my goal with the cost of a Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep hunt getting out of reach for most budgets. Then the sheep draw gods smiled on me again in 2007 with an area 11, Hells Canyon Idaho tag showing up in my mailbox! I immediately got in touch with John Barker, of Barker Trophy Hunts, and was scheduled for October of '04. A large forest fire tore through the canyon on the Idaho side a month before my hunt, which resulted in a massive displacement of animals to other areas of the canyon. After hard hunting for multiple days we connected on a very nice nine year old, 177



Ben Gordon — Nevada Desert Sheep
The beginning of "sheep fever"

B&C ram and my Grand Slam was finished! But my sheep fever remained, which led to pursuing wild sheep in faraway parts of the world and eventually creating another goal of the Ovis World Slam. Most International sheep hunters who travel to all corners of the globe also include Ibex and Chamois as a target to achieve a Capra Slam along with the Ovis Slam. After extensively traveling the world in pursuit of these two new goals I was able to reach both Slams in 2015. Combined with my Grand Slam, the Ovis World Slam and Capra World Slam qualified me for the Triple Slam. This was an unimaginable achievement for me, as I never dreamed I could ever join the ranks of the individuals whom reached this level before me.

The 2008 California Big Game draw was very kind to me with a Tule Elk Bull tag for the East Park area of Colusa County, the county in which I live! Guided by Pat Callahan I was able to harvest a B.C. bull with a .50 caliber muzzle loader which when taken was the 8th largest in the B&C book. This bull got me to thinking about the North American 29, and I counted up the species I had taken and realized my species taken was now at nine. A new goal was set!

For the 2009 season, I started in January for Coues Deer in Mexico. Hunting with Jorge Camou I was lucky enough to take a very good Coues buck just missing B&C Book status. Next, I headed to the Yukon once again to pursue Mountain Caribou, hunting again with Mervyns Outfitting. A very good bull was found in a large herd of animals and I anchored him to the tundra with a single shot. Next in 2009 was a trip to Kodiak Island for Sitka Blacktail Deer.



My son, Tom, and I had a great hunt with Larsen Bay Lodge on Kodiak Island and took a couple of good representative bucks on the hunt, along with shooting ducks and catching Ling Cod, Halibut and other fish from the bay. The 2010 season started off with an Alaskan Moose hunt out of Kotzebue Alaska with Mike Vanning. The result of the short hunt was a B&C Bull on the ground in two days! October 2010 also seen success with a B&C American Bison taken on Pink Mountain, British Columbia with Mountain Valley Paradise. This animal was harvested at very high altitude with elk below us and Stone Sheep above. At this point, the reality sat in that taking a N/A 29 was going to be every bit as difficult as taking any of the other slams out there. I researched the remaining animals needed for the N/A 29 slam and started making arrangements to hunt them between the International hunts I had booked.

During the 2011 Sheep Show, plans were made for Grizzly Bear, Black Bear and Cougar. I headed north to the Yukon once again to hunt with Trophy Stone Outfitters for what turned out to be a very bizarre hunt. Trophy Stone owner Dean Sandulak informed me we would probably see lots of Black Bear, but few



Grizzly bear. The opposite was true with all hunters in camp taking Grizzly, but no Black Bear! Next up was a Nevada Cougar hunt in November. Nevada was in the grips of the drought during the 2011 winter which resulted in very little snow. Anyone who has hunted Cougar with hound dogs knows the importance of snow for a successful hunt, and to say tracking lions was difficult during this hunt would be an understatement! Hunting with Marshall McCrosky of Triple M Outfitters proved to be a good move as Marshall had many hard core lion hunters in the field scouting for us. Soon a tip of fresh tracks was offered and off we went. After a lung burning climb towards baying hounds, the cougar fell from the tree with a single shot from a .44 magnum pistol. A cougar hunt is one of the most challenging, and rewarding hunts on the N/A 29 list in my opinion.

My 2012 hunting calendar had many International hunts as I was pursuing my goal of finishing my Ovis and Capra slams, but I did manage a Rocky Mountain



Elk and Canada Moose hunt in far northern British Columbia with Stone Mountain Safaris. Hunting in the beautiful back country of Stone Mountains area I anchored a very nice 320 B&C bull elk on the first hunting day. My guide, Shale, called the bull to 35 yards, and a quick decision was made to take him. Two days later, we harvested a very good 50 inch Canada Bull Moose to end the trip. 2013 resulted in a successful Mountain Goat hunt with Scoop Lake Outfitters which was very special. Special because my wife, Tina, who has always been very supportive of my passion for hunting, was able to accompany me and take a Mountain Goat of her own! This was her first mountain hunt in the back country, and I was able to show her some of the beauty and hardship we mountain hunters experience on a back country hunt. She came away with the same appreciation and understanding for the hunt that I have always had.

To close out 2013, my son and I headed back to Larsen Bay Lodge for Alaskan Brown Bear and more

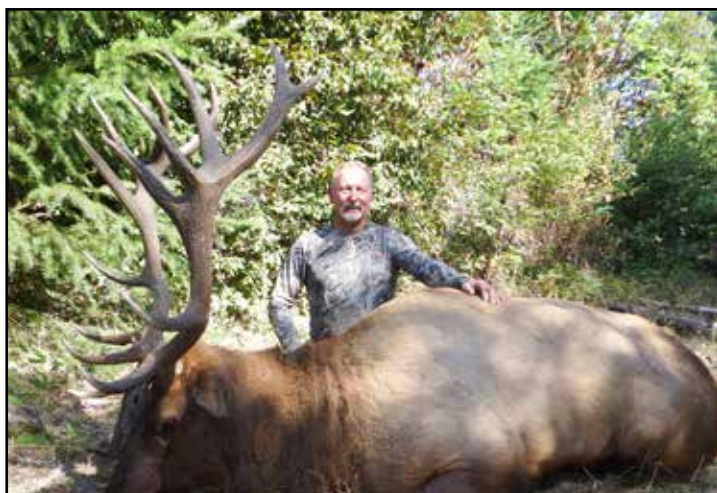
Sitka Blacktail Deer hunting. This hunt was filmed by the History Channel for their prime time show called "The Hunt", and was the last episode aired that season. The hunt for Brown Bear proved difficult as most bears were already denned up due to cold weather and lots of early snow. On day five we received a report of a mature bear roaming around cabins on the far side of the bay. While approaching the bay inlet by boat, I observed a bear on the hillside dragging a deer carcass up the hill. Beaching the boat, a successful stalk was made up the hill to find the bear, and while shooting off my guides back at 300 yards, the bear was down. While not the nine foot giant I was hoping for, the bear possessed a very beautiful dark brown hide, fading to blonde on the arms, legs and head. I learned then not every trophy you take can be B&C book quality!

For the next couple of years my focus was on finishing the Ovis and Capra slams, and the N/A 29 quest was put to the back burner. My next North American hunt came in 2016 on the Northern California Coast along the boundary of Redwood National Park. I was pursuing Roosevelt Elk, guided by Cary Jellison of G&J outdoors. Cary and I hunted for three days, and finally found a good bull that warranted a better look. After finding the bull the following day, we noticed that when viewing the bull straight on he was very unimpressive, but his sideways profile showed him to be a very good, if not great bull. The following morning we were in position when the bull entered private land after leaving the park, and was able to take what proved to be a solid B&C Book bull! This bull finished all the N/A Elk for the 29 and I turned my focus to Caribou. September of 2017 found me in Northern Quebec, Canada, hunting



to Vancouver Island to hunt Black Bear with Darren DeLuca of Vancouver Island Guide Outfitters. While the trip started off poorly with my luggage being lost by Alaska Air, it ended great with a large boar taken along the outer coast line. I now needed to refocus on Caribou, as there are five species on the N/A 29 to hunt. So, off to Alaska I went in September of 2019. I was hunting with Curly Warren of Stoney River Lodge in a remote area with a permanent herd of Alaska Barren Ground Caribou. The hunt lasted for three days till a suitable bull was found, and stalked for five miles before finally taking him at 300 yards. The stalk had taken us full circle to within 400 yards from our tents after walking five miles on the day! Once again I was reminded that all trophies taken cannot be of B&C quality, but I'm content with the bull as he was the best we had seen during the hunt. Next was Newfoundland in October for Woodland Caribou with Dean Wheeler of Sou'wester Outfitting. We would be hunting at Caribou Lake camp, and what could be a better location for a caribou hunt? A short one day hunt resulted in a very good bull about three miles from our comfortable cabin camp along the lake. Many bulls were seen, and assessed, before taking the one I harvested. This is encouraging, as the Woodland Caribou herd was in the same dire situation as the Quebec Labrador Caribou are now just a few short years ago, and there was talk of closing the season for them. The Woodland species appears to have recovered nicely to a very sustainable population.

My N/A 29 count now stands at 25 animals taken which qualifies me for the "Super 25" award. I have high hopes of reaching my goal of the N/A 29 by the end of 2020. Hunts for Central Canadian Barren Ground Caribou, Musk Ox, Shiras Moose and Polar Bear have already been booked for 2020, now it's up to me to complete the task. My next hunting goal? To reach the Capra 20 and the Ovis 20, and enter into the 20/20 club. Another goal I always thought was unachievable for a farm boy from Northern California!



for Quebec Labrador Caribou before the Canadian Government closed the hunting for this species for the foreseeable future. I was blessed with harvesting another B&C animal that was an absolute giant! But, the shocking reality is I only seen two Caribou on my trip and killed them both. April of 2018 I headed off

2020 ANNUAL CAWSF BANQUET

PLAN TO ATTEND — AND BRING A FRIEND!

*by Donald C. Martin
Fundraiser Co-Chair*

Once again, our annual banquet and fundraiser is fast approaching and I know many of us are once again looking forward to what many have described as, “The best wildlife conservation party in California.” I’ve also been told by some of our non-resident attendees that, “...California is my favorite chapter dinner because you guys are so down to Earth and it’s unpredictable and rowdy.” It’s true. We have a lot of fun and given our return to our May event date, there is no telling what may happen or be seen at our May 2nd event at the Doubletree by Hilton in Sacramento. Make every effort to attend and make every effort to bring someone new to our event. Introduce someone to our family and our universal goal of wildlife conservation here in California.

If you haven’t purchased your table or tickets yet, it’s imperative that you go to www.cawsf.org/store and buy your tickets today. More importantly, don’t wait to purchase your Stone sheep tickets for the once in a lifetime opportunity to hunt with our friend, Aaron Florian and Yukon Stone Outfitters. This is one of the top Stone sheep hunts on Earth and I expect we will sell out before our event. Given that we did not announce a clause in our random drawing to reserve 100 tickets for sale the night of the event, we may sell out well before May 2nd. Do not wait. If you want an opportunity to win one of the best Stone sheep hunts in North America, go to www.cawsf.org/store and buy your tickets today.

Also, I’m proud to announce that once again Bob and Chris Beck of MOA Rifles, Inc of Oregon have donated a rifle for our special rifle random drawing. This year we are pleased to offer a MOA Rifles’ Ascent series rifle chambered for .300 PRC in the Dark Carbon finish. This rifle is a real beauty offering sub ½ MOA accuracy to 1000 yards at under 6 lbs. What a great opportunity to win the rifle of a lifetime for only \$50. And odds couldn’t be better, this year we are limiting ticket sales to only 250 tickets. I want to personally thank Bob and Chris Beck for helping us out with our special rifle random drawing. Rumor is, famous hunting personality Adam Bronson of Epic outdoors will be attending our event to answer any questions



Families were plentiful at the 2019 Banquet

about the rifle. Again, best not to wait, purchase your rifle tickets today at www.cawsf.org/store.

We have two spotlight items in our live auction that I want to remind you of. First is the Alaska Governor’s tag for Bison in the Chitina River Valley. Luckily, that’s right where my employer Ultima Thule Outfitters is located. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for a true wilderness hunt for some of North America’s biggest bison. This is a 100% opportunity hunt with a historical success rate of nearly 100%. If it weren’t for those dang bowhunters (sorry bowhunters, lol) this would be a 100% harvest hunt. This hunt is one of the top American bison hunts in the world and I can’t stress enough what a great opportunity this is. This auction item is for the permit only and air charters and guide service would be extra, nevertheless, this is not a guide-required specie and if desired, an individual may do this as a DIY hunt. If you need a bison, don’t overlook this spectacular opportunity. Reach out to Beverly Valdez at forthesheep@gmail.com to register as a phone bidder if you are not able to make the event or are a nonresident of California.

Secondly, our premiere spotlight live auction item is the California state permit for desert bighorn for the Cady Mountains unit. This is one of California’s premiere units and has not only a high success rate but has produced many Boone & Crockett trophies. Do not miss out on your opportunity to bid on this great hunt. Make plans to attend our event today.

As if you needed another reason to attend our event May 2 at the Doubletree Hotel in Sacramento,

there will be a life member only random drawing for a Dall sheep hunt with Ultima Thule Outfitters (UTO) in Alaska. Currently, Ultima Thule guides hunters in the best concession on Earth for trophy Dall sheep in the heart of Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve. Currently, UTO is sold out until 2022 and has over 40 people on our waiting list. Only taking 10 hunters a year, it doesn't take long to realize that this random drawing hunt is your best chance to hunt with UTO in the foreseeable future. To be eligible, you must be a life member or distinguished life member of California Wild Sheep and you must be in the room in attendance to win. Life members are eligible for one chance to win and distinguished life members will be eligible for three chances to win. If you are looking for a reason to join CAWSF as a life member or upgrade to distinguished life member, don't hesitate. Make plans to attend and join or upgrade the night of the event. Last year's winner, Jeff P. of Fresno, upgraded the night of the event to distinguished life member and was the lucky winner. He'll be joining me on a hunt this fall for North America's biggest Dall sheep. Don't miss out on this rare opportunity, make plans to attend on May 2 today.

All of your Board of Directors are working hard once again to put on the best event possible. Our live auction, silent auction, general raffle, and special raffle teams are putting together the best lineup of items possible. As usual, there is a lot to live up to as we have cultivated a reputation for quality at our event. That's what sets us apart from every other wildlife conservation dinner in our great state. I can't thank the Board enough for their dedication and efforts to make our annual event the best ever. If you haven't been to our event in a while, it's time to come back. Make plans now and prioritize attendance to our event. Make time in your busy schedule to give back to wildlife and spend time with your "mountain hunting family" and be sure to bring a friend. Our event is wholly inclusive and there's lot to do and see for the ladies and young people alike. I look forward to hosting our event again this year and I look forward to seeing all of you on May 2 at the Doubletree Hotel in Sacramento.

Any questions or concerns or if you wish to volunteer, donate or help underwrite our event, please reach out to me at: don-martin@earthlink.net.

CA WSF BOARD ELECTIONS COMING UP

CA WSF has 16 Board positions and the term is 2 years. Half of the positions expire each year, which enables continuity from year to year. We have 9 terms expiring at the end June this year. We'll send out a ballot in the next newsletter with candidate information and several followup emails.

Board members meet every other month via conference call and several times a year in person (at the Sheep Show in Reno and after the annual fundraiser in May). Board members can choose from committees to serve on that matches their interest — youth outreach, membership, legislative affairs, communications and publicity, or special projects such as water installations or other habitat enhancement, research, and wild sheep education. Each committee is an important part of our efforts to PUTTING AND KEEPING SHEEP ON THE MOUNTAINS and need your help! All members are also part of the annual fundraiser committee.

If you have interest in running for a board position please let Don M (don-martin@earthlink.com), Mike (mike.borel@contextnet.com) or Beverly (forthesheep@gmail.com) know!

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

Board Members whose terms expire in June 2021 are: Adam Casagrande, Ken Crother, Bob Keagy, George Kerr, Glen Pyne, Renee Snider, Mike Torres.

If you would be interested in committing more of your time and talent to CA WSF, [we look forward to hearing from you.](#)

IN APPRECIATION OF LEON LESICKA (1932–2019)

by Vernon C. Bleich, Ph.D.

Hunters, conservationists, and, most importantly, desert wildlife lost a great friend with the passing of Leon Lesicka on 21 December 2019. Leon, 87, was the founder and long-time president of Desert Wildlife Unlimited (DWU), a conservation organization based in Brawley, California.

Desert Wildlife Unlimited was established shortly following the lining of the Coachella Canal, which began in 1978. Previously, water in the canal had been accessible to desert mule deer, bighorn sheep, and many other species of wildlife that accessed it by traversing the dirt banks of the canal. Following the public outrage over massive losses of wildlife that drowned after the canal was lined with concrete, DWU was established in 1980. Leon's intent, and the primary purpose of the new organization, was to provide dependable water sources that would be easily accessible to all forms of wildlife, and that would eliminate reliance on water in the canal and upon which agricultural interests in the Coachella Valley were dependent.

Leon and DWU played prominent roles in the construction and maintenance of more than 100 developments to provide perennial sources of water for all species of wildlife, but especially for desert mule deer and bighorn sheep. The bulk of those developments are located in Imperial County and in eastern Riverside County, but Leon and DWU helped construct water sources in Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, Mexico, and Mongolia, a far-away country to which he made two trips to assist with conservation efforts and to construct



water sources that would benefit several species of wild ungulates.

Leon was a charismatic individual, and over nearly 40 years he gained the confidence and respect of virtually every employee or upper-level administrator that he had contact with in the California Department of Fish and Game. A similar relationship existed with employees and administrators within the Bureau of Land Management. His very positive relationships with representatives of the Bureau of Reclamation, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Department of Defense also resulted in numerous opportunities to enhance habitat for wildlife and, ultimately, paid huge benefits for hunters and fishers, as well as for wildlife.

Leon and LaVelle, his wonderful wife of 66 years, were exceptionally generous with the students that came to Imperial County to work on, or to study, wildlife issues. Nancy Andrew, who studied habitat selection and demography of desert bighorn sheep in the East Chocolate Mountains, and Jason Marshal, who validated the benefits of developed water sources to desert mule deer, went on to exemplary careers in the fields of wildlife conservation and academia, respectively. Other investigators or agency personnel with whom Leon and LaVelle worked were the beneficiaries not only from the personal support offered, but also from the close personal relationships that developed.

Few people today are aware of the prominent role that Leon played in the opening of the East Chocolate Mountains to the harvest of desert bighorn sheep, as well as in the opening of the Orocopia Mountains, a range that has produced several state-record desert bighorn sheep. His personal and administrative support,



LEON LESICKA

combined with his direct participation in the research that resulted in a population estimate of close to 200 bighorn sheep, compelled the California Fish and Game Commission to approve the limited harvest of mature rams in both of those mountain ranges. Several members of the California Wild Sheep Foundation have drawn desert bighorn tags for those hunt zones and they, along with numerous others, have been the direct beneficiaries of a grass-roots campaign initiated by a man that loved the desert, bighorn sheep, and mule deer, and who knew how to get things done.

Leon also contributed his interests and expertise to several professional papers, beginning in 1995 with a paper describing the maintenance-free "Lesicka-style" water development and co-authored with John Hervert of the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Additional contributions included the design of a low-cost and efficient fence to prevent feral donkeys from drinking at water sources developed for native wildlife in 1997, a 2001 paper in which the "Lesicka-style" water development was demonstrated to be without risk to desert tortoise, and a 2006 publication that was among the first to apply results obtained from 'camera traps' to derive demographic parameters of a large mammal, the desert mule deer. Additionally, Leon and LaVelle were acknowledged for facilitating or supporting numerous additional investigations, the results of which resulted in at least 13 papers that appeared in professional journals.

Leon participated in dozens of aerial surveys conducted in the East Chocolate, Orocopa, Chuckwalla, and Sheephole mountains. He also participated in nearly 150 aerial telemetry flights while assisting with efforts to better understand responses of large mammals to the development of wildlife water sources in one of the most arid regions of the United States, or to document habitat selection by feral donkeys and their ongoing expansion into habitat occupied by bighorn sheep and desert mule deer. Leon, who was a long-standing advocate for the proper management of feral donkeys, voiced constant concern about their impacts to the habitat of native species. He also was a vocal critic of many mindless proposals by some pandering politicians that had never visited southeastern California but, nonetheless wanted to limit access to public lands throughout that area.

Over the years, Leon received many accolades for his contributions to wildlife conservation. Among these were recognition by the Secretary of the Interior for leading an effort to enhance water quality in the New River, the Bronze Buffalo Award from the Bureau of Land Management, the Branding Iron Award from the Brawley Chamber of Commerce, Californian of the Year from the Outdoor Writers Association of California, a proclamation from the California Fish and Game Commission for his contributions toward wildlife conservation and increasing hunter

opportunity, and the Honor Plaque from the Desert Bighorn Council for efforts conducted specifically on behalf of desert bighorn sheep. Most recently, Leon was honored posthumously when the Medal of Merit was bestowed by the Imperial County Board of Supervisors. Doubtless, there were numerous other awards that are not mentioned above.

Leon is survived by his children, Kathy, Mark, and Marty; six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Survivors also include the many sportsmen from southeastern California that knew him personally, and even more that knew of his many accomplishments on behalf of desert wildlife. The wildlife in southeastern California is far better off for those efforts, and the lives of those that knew him have been forever enriched by having been Leon's friend. Most of us felt like family when we got together with him, whether it was while grilling carne asada over an ironwood fire after a Sonoran Desert deer hunt, or visiting around his huge dinner table while finalizing preparations for an aerial survey, a bighorn sheep capture, or to place radio collars on mule deer.

For those interested in learning more about the many accomplishments and successful ventures of an amazing individual, Congressman Duncan Hunter honored the legacy of Leon and LaVelle Lesicka in a recently published book, *Leon's Desert: The Saga of America's Greatest Conservationist*. Duncan wrote, "Leon Lesicka was simply a citizen. His power was a magnetic personality, a steady sense of purpose, and an indomitable will. These characteristics pulled volunteers together to dig water holes in 110-degree heat. They persuaded bureaucrats to move the complaining wheels of regulatory policy to accommodate Leon's projects. They commanded respect and action from politicians, including myself." To that, I add only that each of us should be grateful for Leon's contributions to the conservation of desert wildlife. I am very grateful for, and very proud of, the words Leon included when he signed my copy of *Leon's Desert*, wherein he wrote, "Doc, it's been a long haul... Thanks a lot. Your Friend, Leon."

Editor's Note: Dr. Vern Bleich was employed by the California Department of Fish and Game for 34 years and began working with Leon Lesicka on mule deer and bighorn sheep issues in 1978. Vern's friendship with Leon lasted more than four decades, and included numerous Sonoran Desert deer hunts, dozens of ironwood campfires, miles and miles of effort tracking deer or visiting desert water sources, many aerial surveys or capture events, dozens of home-cooked meals at his home in Brawley, and hundreds of hours of memorable conservation. Following the Ontario Sheep Summit in December of 2020, Vern was privileged to join Leon for lunch just a few days before he passed. The two of them, along with retired Department of Fish and Game wildlife biologist Nancy Andrew, had a great visit while discussing the proverbial "good old days" and mule deer and bighorn sheep. As summed up by Vern, "It was a good day".

HE QUIT ON THE MOUNTAIN

by Dustin Diefenderfer
Reprinted from [MTNTOUGH](#)

Only about 10% of Western Elk Hunters are successful each year.

And when you look specifically at those that kill mature bulls on public land with OTC tags... the number drops to around 3%.

If you ask people about the data, some will say it's about "finding the right spots."

Others will say it's about how many days they hunt in the field.

Still others will point to skills like calling or shooting longer distances...

Of course these are all important factors and certainly some luck plays a role...

But I believe it's something else all together.

Something I don't see many people talking about.

What is it that separates the 10% of successful hunters from the other 90%?

THE "QUIT MOMENT"

We've all been there, on the side of a mountain, mentally exhausted.

Tired. Cold. Hurting. Hungry. Thirsty. Beat down. I call it the Quit Moment.

Most guys don't talk much about it.

It's that moment when thoughts start creeping in. Thoughts of home. The kids. Work. A warm bed. Good food. Reasons to leave.

Do I push deeper until I find elk? Can I really put in another day of this? Is this safe?

Before they know it, the decision's already been made...

And they find themselves back home.

The hunt is over.

At first it felt good.

Then a few days later, the regret sets in and starts to eat at them.

The "what ifs" run through in their minds.

What if I had just stayed one more day? What if that bull was just over the next ridge? What if I would have worked harder?

It's never about the fact that they came home empty handed. Any day spent hunting in the wild is better than most.

The regret is more about knowing they could have given it more. That the mountain won. That they gave up. That their family knows how much this hunt meant to them only to see them come home unsuccessful.

The truth is: during that Quit Moment, most people give up.

Regardless of where they're hunting. Or how far they can shoot.

It's about something else entirely.

So - what's the difference?

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A CONSISTENTLY SUCCESSFUL HUNTER AND THE OTHER 90%

After a lifetime of backcountry hunting and training other hunters, I believe the thing that separates the 10% from the rest is not what most people focus on during the year.

Don't get me wrong, the right gear is vital.

Scouting and knowing the right locations is a game changer.

Being a good shot is critical.

But at the end of the day, every incredible hunting story I've heard of or been a part of, has a Quit Moment right in the middle.

Whether it was some wicked storm that blew in. Or we ran out of water. Or we got cliffed out or stuck in some blow down.

Most great hunting stories have a moment when things get really bad on the mountain.

It's the moment we all get tested, both mentally and physically.

The difference is this: the guys that are successful, they push through that Quit Moment, keep going... and usually end up with success at the end of the story.

The other 90% stop. They go home. They can't get through that moment. And their story ends right there.

And I believe it comes down to one thing: Mental toughness.

Ever since I was young, I noticed certain people had it... and others didn't.

The ability to persevere.

To never quit.

To push themselves mentally and physically beyond what most humans are capable of.

And most of the consistently successful backcountry hunters that I've met and learned from, they have it too.

That's why they can make it 7-10 days on the mountain barely seeing an animal. Hike 10 miles a day with a heavy pack on. Climb 1,000s of feet of elevation day after day.

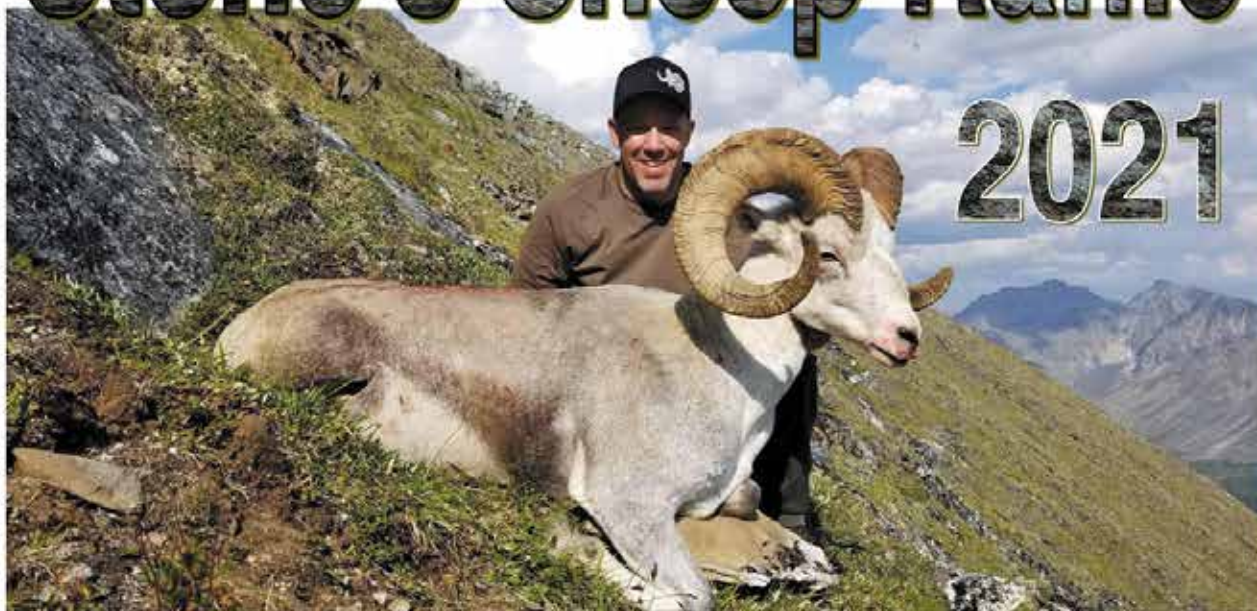
Survive whatever nature throws at them. The harshest temperatures. Wicked snow. Frigid cold.

And most importantly, that's why they can push through the Quit Moment.

I believe Mental Toughness is what separates the successful backcountry hunters from the ones that get crushed by the mountain.

Consistently successful public land backcountry hunters are just plain mentally tough.

Stone's Sheep Raffle



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

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

Additional costs to be paid by winner:

Bush flights: \$1,400

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

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

Government Harvest Fee (Sheep only): \$250

Transportation to and from Whitehorse, Yukon Territory Canada

NOT INCLUDED IN YOUR HUNT

Hotel before and after the hunt

Tips/Gratuities

Crate and Freight charges for shipping trophies

Additional hunters or non hunters if arranged with outfitter

Additional trophy fees if arranged with outfitter

Additional flights required to take out extra meat

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



Species you may add to your hunt include:

Trophy grizzly - \$10,500

Management grizzly - \$5,500

Caribou - \$7,500

Black bear - \$2,500

Wolf/wolverine - \$500

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

**YUKON
STONE**

OUTFITTERS

2021 STONE SHEEP HUNT Special Drawing



ONLY 500 TICKETS AVAILABLE

\$100 PER TICKET



Yukon Stone Outfitters

Hunt Information

15 day 1x1 hunt with Yukon Stone Outfitters

Dates: August 12 - August 26, 2021

Location: Pelly Mountains of Yukon
Territory, Canada

Get Tickets by Mail, Fax, or ON LINE

Mail order form to:

CA WSF

1314 B Center Drive #267
Medford, OR 97501

FAX order form to:

650-472-3889

ONLINE ORDERS:

www.cawsf.org/store

Name

Address

City State Post Code

Day Phone

Email

Payment Methods

☐ Check

Make check payable to:
CA Wild Sheep Foundation

☐ MasterCard

☐ Visa

Credit Card Number

Expire Date

CCV Code

Billing Postal Code

Signature

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



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

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

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

MIKE BOREL

ADAM CASAGRANDE

SCOTT FINLEY

BEN GORDON

TINA GORDON

GARY HILL

ERNEST HOLLOWAY

PATTY HOLLOWAY

BRETT JEFFERSON

BOB KEAGY

DON MARTIN

ROGER MCCOSKER

KYLE MEINTZER

JEREMY PECHTEL

JEFF PERACCHI

JOHN PESTORICH

DON PRIEST

CAROLINE PYNE

GLEN PYNE

TOM REA

PAUL SCHULTHEIS

RENEE SNIDER

BILL TITTLE

ZACK WALTON

JOHN WARE

JIM WARNER

SHAINA WARNER

DARRYL WILLIAMS

SHAWN WOOD

Join as a Life Member (\$500)

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

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

Upgrade your CA WSF Life Membership to DISTINGUISHED Life Membership (\$1,000) to receive THREE chances to WIN the special Life Members hunt in 2021.

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

All Distinguished Life Members receive a PELOTON 240 VEST from Kuui emblazoned with the CA WSF logo.

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Craig Martin
Altai Argali
Mongolia
December 2019



Mike Parbst
Clark Kingston Range
Kika Worldwide Team
176 3/8" Green Score
December 2019



Ben Gordon
Alpine Ibex
November 2019



Ben Gordon
Kri Kri Ibex
November 2019

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



**Eric Gould, 2019 Desert Sheep Winner at the CA WSF Annual Fundraiser
Hunting Desert Sheep and Mule Deer with San Jose Trophy Outfitters**
"Thank you to CA WSF and Oscar Molinos of San Jose trophy hunts for making my dream come true.
Putting sheep back on the mountain is why I am a Life member."



**Peggy Lee
Bukharan Markhor
New SCI #1
Congrats Peggy!
2019**



**Mike (L) and Shawn Wood
Tule Elk
2019**

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Rob Register
Dall Sheep
Ultima Thule Outfitters
2019



Doug Sims
Newberry Mountains
Kika Worldwide
December 2019



Ernest Lindo
Newberry/Rodman/Ords
Dry Creek Outfitters
2019



Chris Francis
Cady Mountains
Winner of the CA DFW lottery tag!
Dry Creek Outfitters
2019

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



**James Doering
Clark/Kingston
180" Gross
Dry Creek Outfitters
2019**



**Owen Brown
Marble/Clipper
Dry Creek Outfitters
2019**



**Sam Rich
Newberry Mountains
Largest ram to be harvested from the new California hunt unit.
175 4/8"
Dry Creek Outfitters
2019**



**Bob Keagy (R) with wife Pam
Central European Mouflon
Croatia
2019**



Shawn Wood (L) with Don Martin
Marco Polo
Tajikistan
2019



Shawn Wood (R) with Don Martin
Mid Asian Ibex
Tajikistan
November 2019



Steve Wiley
Rocky Mountain Bighorn
Wyoming, 2019

M-M-O-A
RIFLES

\$50/ticket
Limited to 250 Tickets
Value \$7,500

A photograph of a 300 PRC Extreme Ascent Rifle lying on a grassy field. The rifle is a bolt-action rifle with a long barrel and a scope.

**300 PRC Extreme
Ascent Rifle**

**THANK YOU TO OUR SPECIAL
FIREARM DONOR!**

M-O-A RIFLES

***PUTTING AND KEEPING
WILD SHEEP ON THE MOUNTAINS
IN CALIFORNIA!***

CALIFORNIA WILD SHEEP SUMMIT XXVI

by Mike Borel
CA WSF Distinguished Life Member

December 6, 2019 Ontario, CA

CA WSF hosted Sheep Summit XXVI in the CDFW Offices in Ontario. This has proven to be a valuable interactive seminar and Summit XXVII is scheduled for May 1, 2020 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 XXVI.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: CDFW, USFS, USBLM, USNPS, CAWSF, SCBS, Twentynine Palms Marine Base, Oregon State University and key independents (including Vern Bleich, Will Glad and Overwatch Aero). 40 persons in all (our largest group ever). CA WSF was represented by Mike Borel, Don Martin, Don Priest, Glen Pyne, George Kerr and Beverly Valdez.

Information reviewed and discussed with

1. Comprehensive Overarching Bighorn Sheep Plan - Status and Overview of Key Recommendations; Herd Unit Management Plans - Status and Overview of Key Recommendations; Discussion on “implementation” — Regina Vu
2. Region 6 Desert Bighorn Sheep Update, including survey results — Dave German (for Paige Prentice)
3. Review of final phase of analysis and dissertation on characterization of disease and spread — Daniella Dekelaita
4. NPS Funded Project on Connectivity in the Mojave — Christina Aiello
5. AI for sorting and interpreting waterhole pictures — Will Glad
6. MNP Bighorn Management Activities 2020 — Neal Darby
7. UAV Update & Proposal for 2020 — Jordan Hahn, Overwatch Aero
8. Peninsular Bighorn Sheep Update — Janene Colby
9. San Geronio Update — Jeff Villipique
10. Update on Sespe Sheep Herd — Dustin Pearce
11. Kinked tails and what they might mean for bighorn sheep genetic diversity (DBH Genome is being Mapped) — Mike Buchalski
12. GALAD (Give a Lamb a Drink) State Lands status, progress — Steve Marschke (leases) & Mike Borel (funding)
13. SCBS Update — Scott Gibson
14. Report on Recent Activities in WAFWA, Wild Sheep & Goat Council, Desert Bighorn Council, Boone & Crockett Club, WHBAB, etc. that are of value and interest for CA wild sheep — Vern Bleich
15. Issues CA WSF is currently working on - Cadiz, Railway along I-15, Burro Removal, Potential Riparian Repairs, Transportation Bill — Don Priest

Our previously committed COLLECTIVE VISION FOR WILD SHEEP IN CALIFORNIA:

- Ensure the persistence and restoration of healthy and sustainable meta-populations 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.

Give a lamb a drink

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

Installations for new water systems and repairs of older systems are constantly in the works. As a member you will have received notifications of work teams that you and your friends can join — it is one of the great ways that you can do your part in helping California wild sheep thrive! Bring friends and family to help and make it a great experience for you all. The next opportunity is being planned for April 2020. If you aren't receiving emails about this get in touch with Beverly (forthesheep@gmail.com) to make sure we have your current correct email!

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.

Give a Lamb a Drink Today!

Your donation, no matter how big or how small, will help CA WSF build 90 new wildlife water sources in the next five years.

**Make checks payable to
CA Wild Sheep Foundation
Mail to: 1314 B Center Drive 267
Medford, OR 97501
Fax this form to: 650-472-3889**

Donation amount \$ _____

Name on Card _____

eMail or Phone _____

Credit Card _____

Exp Date ____ / ____ **CVC#** _____ **Billing Zip Code** _____

Signature _____

Donate online at WWW.CAWSF.ORG or [GO FUND ME](#)

BIGHORN SHEEP STUDY UNDERWAY AT DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

by National Parks Service staff

National Park Service biologists have questions about desert bighorn sheep in Death Valley National Park: How many sheep are there? How healthy are they? How can they best be protected? Research and monitoring going on now should help provide answers.

Desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) range throughout the park, from salt flats to mountain ridges. Bighorn spend most of their time on steep slopes where they feel safe from their primary predator, mountain lions.

The National Park Service is working with California Department of Fish and Wildlife to monitor bighorn in Death Valley. Twenty-one sheep have been fitted with collars that transmit their location every hour via satellite.

In a separate effort, Oregon State University researchers, Dr. Christina Aiello and Dr. Clint Epps, are studying bighorn distribution in and around Death Valley National Park, Mojave National Preserve, and Joshua Tree National Park. Karen Swett Conway and Brian Conway donated grant funding for this landscape-level study via the Conway Science Fellowship.

“The location and health of bighorn herds as well as how they interact with each other across the Mojave Desert can change in response to environmental conditions and human activities that alter their habitat,” said Dr. Aiello. “This study will help us better understand where bighorn populations currently occur and how connected they are across this large landscape given the modern challenges of

habitat fragmentation and climate change.”

Disease, non-native burros, climate change, gene pool isolation, and vehicles are all risks to bighorn sheep.

A ram was killed by a vehicle on CA-178 near the junction with Greenwater Valley Road on October 27. Three other bighorn sheep have been killed by cars in the park in recent years. Park staff are also concerned about a young female bighorn that has been licking antifreeze from the Dantes View parking lot and approaching cars.

What can visitors do to help? Please report sightings of bighorn sheep in the park at the Visitor Center or online at [iNaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org).



A NEW BREED OF HUNTERS FOCUSES ON THE FOOD

Excerpted from The New York Times

As the ranks of American hunters dwindle, millennials like the chef Wade Truong are taking up the tradition, seeking a direct connection to what they eat.

It was cold crouching down in this homemade goose blind on the edge of a frozen cornfield near the Potomac River.

The early-morning January sun gave off considerably less heat than a light bulb. All we had to eat was a communal bag of venison jerky, a satsuma and, eventually, the hunk of dark chocolate I had kept hidden in my pocket until I felt too guilty.

I had a million questions, but you're not supposed to talk much when you're waiting for geese. I had a shotgun, but I had never killed an animal. It didn't matter because there were no geese, anyway.

After about five hours, a small flock started to land in front of us. Someone yelled. "Take them!" Everyone except me stood and fired. Two Canada geese fell.

A dog named Tug brought them to us, and we packed up and headed to the kitchen to cook what Wade Truong, the chef who invited me here to hunt, calls the rib-eye of the sky.

Mr. Truong, 33, grew up working in his parents' Vietnamese restaurant in Harrisonburg Va., He never thought about hunting until he dropped out of the University of Mary Washington and started cooking professionally.

Like many young chefs, Mr. Truong decided that he wanted to get as close to his food as possible. So nine years ago, he picked up his first hunting rifle. He took a hunter's safety class, studied an old Army sniper's manual and headed into the woods, he said, "overgeared and underprepared."

After several tries, he managed to shoot his first deer. He was determined to field dress it himself. He studied images he pulled from Google, and pried a few tips out of some hunters. None of it prepared him for what the process was really like, especially how shockingly hot the inside of a deer can be.

"It was a lot for a kid who grew up on meat that was on sale," he said.

He hunts with his girlfriend, they spend as much free time as they can fishing and hunting, with the express goal of trying to eat only protein that they kill. They haven't bought meat in over a year, except pork fat and chicken wings. Sausage needs pork fat, Mr. Truong said, and "there really isn't a substitute for chicken wings."



Wade Truong waiting for a flock of Canada geese in a blind made from cedar branches built along the edge of a cornfield. Amanda Andrade-Rhoades for The New York Times

They are the face — or at least two faces — of a new generation of hunters.

"If the hunting world wants to grow in America, it's going to be up to the millennials," Mr. Truong said. "It's not just the blue blood upland hunters or rednecks with mudders and dogs. It's us."

The number of hunters in the United States has been in a slow fall since 1982, when 16.7 million people had paid hunting licenses. By 2010, that had dropped to 14.4 million, according to United States Fish & Wildlife Service records.

In the past few years, the figure has begun to climb, to 15.6 million in 2018. Still, only about 5 percent of Americans 16 or older hunt, half of the number who did 50 years ago. Supporters of the sport worry about what might happen if their beloved culture fades away.

Hope, they say, might lie with a health-conscious, outdoors-loving slice of the millennial generation who were raised on grass-fed beef and nose-to-tail eating, but didn't grow up in hunting families, where taking game is about both tradition and filling the freezer.

"Hipsters want to hunt. But they don't want to hunt the way a rural farm boy from Illinois wants to hunt," said Matt Dunfee, director of special programs at the Wildlife Management Institute, in an article last year about hunting's decline in *Outdoor Life*.

“They don’t want to dress the same way, they don’t like focusing on antlers, they don’t like taking pictures of their animals,” he told the magazine. “But they want local, sustainable, ecologically conscious meat. And within our efforts, there are few places to realize those values.”

Steven Rinella, the outdoor writer and star of the Netflix series “MeatEater,” said interest in wild game is rising among people in their 20s and 30s.

The show, his popular podcast and his books, including his newest — “The MeatEater Fish and Game Cookbook” — are aimed in part at young hunters who want to field dress their own game and move beyond dishes like venison chili and duck-breast poppers stuffed with jalapeño and cream cheese.

“For a long time, there just hasn’t been an intermediate between what a chef knows and what a deer hunter in Wisconsin knows,” he said.

Mr. Rinella’s books, along with titles like “Duck, Duck Goose” and “Buck, Buck Moose” from Hank Shaw, the former restaurant cook and writer who champions wild food in modern cooking, are prominent on the bookshelves in the home that Mr. Truong and Ms. Owen rent.

“One of the big drives for me is trying to make everything we pursue exceptional,” Mr. Truong said. “It shouldn’t be, ‘I ground this up to make a burger with Cajun seasoning all over it.’”

PULLED CRISPY DUCK WITH PLUM SRIRACHA SAUCE

Recipe from: Nicky Corbishley

The easiest way to make, slow-cooked, fall apart duck with crispy skin any time of the year.

INGREDIENTS

Duck:

- 1 duck approx. 2.4kg in weight. Innards removed.
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp freshly ground black pepper

Plum Sriracha sauce:

- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 red onion peeled and chopped
- 1 tsp minced ginger
- 4 cloves garlic minced
- 600 g ripe plums de-stoned and cut into small (1 cm pieces) - no need to take the skin off
- 6 tbsp dark soy sauce
- 4 tbsp honey
- 1 tbsp Chinese rice vinegar if you don’t have any you can use white wine vinegar
- 4 tbsp sriracha

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 150C/300F. Take a large roasting tin and place a wire rack inside.
2. Pat the duck down with some kitchen paper to ensure the skin is dry.
3. Score the skin of the duck in a criss-cross pattern (breast side) with a sharp knife. Be sure not to pierce the flesh.
4. Place the duck - breast side up - on the rack in the roasting tin.
5. Season with salt and pepper, and place in the oven

for 3 hours 30 minutes. Turn the duck over every hour (I use a clean kitchen towel in each hand to turn the duck over).

6. Whilst the duck is in the oven, make the plum sriracha sauce.
7. Heat the oil in a medium sized sauce pan.
8. Add the onion and cook on low-medium for 5 mins - until the onion is soft. Give it a stir every minute or so.
9. Add in the ginger and garlic and cook for a further minute.
10. Add in the rest of the ingredients, turn up the heat and bring to a gentle bubble. Turn the heat back down to medium and allow everything to bubble gently for 20 minutes. Give it a stir every so often.
11. After 20 minutes, turn off the heat and blend the mixture in the pan using a hand blender. I like to give it just a few pulses so the sauce still has some texture. Leave to one side.
12. After the duck has cooked for 3 hours 50 minutes, take it out of the oven and turn the oven temperature up to 190C/375F.
13. Turn the duck so that it’s breast-side-up again and brush 2 tbsps of the plum sriracha sauce all over the top of the duck (including the legs).
14. Place back in the oven for 10 minutes until the glaze has gone dark brown and caramelised.
15. Take the duck out of the oven. Leave to rest for 10 minutes, then place on a large plate and shred all the meat using two forks.
16. Serve immediately with some of the plum sriracha sauce. I also like to serve it with some rice and greens.

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS UPDATE

by Don Priest

Much is happening with the California of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) during these first few months of 2020.

First, the CDFW's Wildlife Branch Chief Kari Lewis has recently stepped down from this position. She will be heading back to work with the Lands Program. Kevin Shaffer, the current Fisheries Branch Chief, will temporarily take over this position on an interim basis. We wish Kari the best of luck with her new position and thank her for all her assistance with the CDFW's Desert Bighorn Sheep program and her work with the California Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation.

Unfortunately, late last year CDFW was unsuccessful in completing a contract with a helicopter company for population survey work of California's wildlife, including for Desert Bighorn Sheep (DBS). That meant no DBS survey work was completed in 2019 by CDFW. However, we expect that CDFW will be contracting shortly with at least one helicopter company, which will be available for survey work in the fall of 2020. In addition, a separate contract with a helicopter company is required to complete animal captures. Sheep captures are vital for CDFW's biologists to collar animals for tracking location and movements, take measurements of the sheep and access current health, as well as taking blood for a number of studies. We anticipate that this contract will also be completed soon, sometime by the middle of 2020 at the latest.

CDFW will be presenting their final tag quota recommendations for all bighorn sheep hunt zones at the upcoming California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) meeting on April 16th in Sacramento. Though CDFW makes their recommendations for tag quotas, the Commission must review and approve those recommendations before annual tag quotas and other regulations become final. We are monitoring CDFW's work on this matter and will be provided their recommended tag quotas for the 2020 season for our review and comment in late March.

HAPPY 150TH ANNIVERSARY TO THE CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

The California Fish and Game Commission turns 150 years old this year, having been established by law in 1870! We've all heard of the California Department of Fish and Game, so what is the Commission? Established by the State Legislature in 1870 and recognized by the State Constitution, the Commission



is composed of five commissioners appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Originally established to recover and preserve California's fisheries, the Commission now has charge for the following:

- Formulation of general policies for the conduct of the Department of Fish and Wildlife;
- Establish and approve seasons, bag limits and method of take for game animals and sport fishing;
- Prescribing terms and conditions for issuance, suspension, revocation of licenses/permits issued by CDFW; and
- Many others.

To learn more about the Commission's responsibilities and charge to protect, manage and administer your states fish and wildlife please visit their website at <https://fgc.ca.gov/About>.

WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

In our fall 2019 issue we discussed that there are currently DBS expert biologists conducting studies in the desert monitoring DBS crossings of highways either over the highway or by use of underpasses. This has become a major topic of discussion amongst and between biologists working independently and at CDFW. With the number of highways crisscrossing the desert, along with all the many towns and railroads, what was once one DBS meta-population spanning across the entirety of the California desert, has been broken up into a number of meta-populations created by these man-made structures. This connectivity disruption between these now nearly isolated populations and herds

creates a number of issues including: gene flow between populations, gene diversity within herds/populations, resource migration for water and forage; and the potential of disease transmission.

Adding to this issue, we've learned that Virgin Rail has plans to put in a high-speed rail line running parallel to Interstate Highway 15 from Victorville, California to Las Vegas. Virgin Rail is fairly far along with planning, already attaining some Federal approvals/permits. This obviously creates another barrier, in addition to the Highway, that inhibits wildlife movements, including DBS, between mountains ranges.

Fortunately, there is some potential to help alleviate this issue. In our Fall 2019 issue we discussed a federal bill introduced by U.S. Senator John Barasso (R-WY) in July 2019 as Senate Bill 2302 (S 2302) America's Transportation Infrastructure Act of 2019. The bill still sits with the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, though a report on the bill has been completed including the Congressional Budget Office assessment of the bill's by year cost estimates.

As previously reported, S 2302 will allow for state Departments of Transportations (for California that would be Cal-Trans) to apply for funds on a project by

project basis. We will look to assist with any project applications for wildlife crossings for DBS, assisting Cal-Trans, CDFW and other nongovernmental biologists and others. Should a project be funded, we will also look to be included with the implementation process.

Meanwhile, some assistance may also be on its way on the state front. In late February, State Senator Bill Monning (D/17-San Luis Obispo) introduced SB 1372 – the "Wildlife and Biodiversity Protection and Movement Act of 2020". SB 1372 would require the state to build off of existing programs and plans to proactively protect and enhance wildlife corridors and design infrastructure to maximize wildlife connectivity. Among many other things, the bill would require DFW and Cal-Trans to coordinate on future transportation and water infrastructure planning and design to allow for maximum wildlife passage features.

We will work continue to work with CDFW and other partners to find solutions that will help alleviate this new encumbrance to connectivity between sheep ranges.

2017-18 ANNUAL REPORT SIERRA NEVADA BIGHORN SHEEP RECOVERY PROGRAM REPORT AVAILABLE

Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis sierrae*, hereafter Sierra bighorn) survival rebounded quickly from the record lows during the heavy snow winter of 2016-17. Both milder winter conditions this year (2017-18, Figure 1) and last year's mountain lion (*Puma concolor*, hereafter lion) management likely influenced survival rates. Although survival has returned to more average values, the overall population of female bighorn is taking longer to recover. We found a slight decrease in the total number of females this year, possibly due to poor recruitment during the 2016-17 winter; the total population is now 552 animals, which includes 266 adult and yearling females. While some of the herds remain small (female $N < 5$), there was no loss of herd unit occupation.

Bighorn movements documented this year demonstrate connectivity between herds (Mt. Baxter and Mt. Williamson as well as Mt. Gibbs and Cathedral Range). Along with our robust capture and monitoring program for Sierra bighorn, we expanded our efforts to focus on their main predator, lions. We documented a minimum of 19 lions in eastern Sierra Nevada count zones, which is the greatest number of individuals ever counted for this area. Research published on Sierra bighorn this year included analyses of migration, female survival, and the effects of nutrition on ram horn size.

The highlight of our public outreach for the year was 'Project Bighorn,' developed by members of Girl Scout Troop 580 which included the development of an original game, internet quizzes, and a Sierra bighorn rap song.

Available at the CA WSF website: www.cawsf.org/news.

WHY DID THE RAM GO OFF THE END OF THE CLIFF?



HE DIDN'T SEE THE EWE TURN!

CA WSF — WORKING TO KEEP YOU IN THE FIELD

*by Bill Gaines
Gaines and Associates*

The 2020 State Legislative Session Is Off and Running

...and the challenges we face are many!

The 2020 Session of the California State Legislature – the second year of the two-year 2019/2020 Legislative Session – is nearing the end of its second month and activity at our State Capitol is hectic. With the fate of some “two-year” bills from the 2019 Session still being determined, and the dust from last Friday’s deadline for the introduction of new bills still settling, the challenges the California Chapter of Wild Sheep Foundation (CA WSF) will face this year is just now coming into focus.

Below is a summary of action recently taken on two bills of concern still lingering from the 2019 Session, followed by a briefing on just some of many new bills of interest recently introduced in the 2020 Session. The below listed bills are in bill order, not in order of priority.

2019 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION “2 YEAR” BILLS

Recent action taken on two bills of concern still pending from the 2019 Legislative Session is as follows:

• AB 18 (Levine) – Firearms and Ammunition: Excise Tax – DEAD

AB 18 would have imposed an excise tax in the amount of \$25 per firearm on the sale of a handgun or semiautomatic rifle or shotgun sold as new, and a “yet to be determined” percentage excise tax on the sale of all ammunition.

Although all of California’s public benefit from programs which address gun violence prevention and intervention, AB 18 would have placed the entire cost of implementing those programs on CA WSF members and other law-abiding citizens who legally purchase their firearms and ammunition.

AB 18 was held in Assembly Appropriations Committee in late January and failed passage. AB 18 is dead.

• AB 688 (Chu) – Firearms: Vehicle Storage – DEAD

AB 688 would have made vehicle storage requirements that currently only apply to handguns also applicable to long guns. Among other things, this bill would have required long guns to be secured to the vehicle’s frame using a steel cable lock or chain and padlock, or in a locked container that is secured using a steel cable lock or chain and padlock or that is permanently affixed to the vehicle.

CA WSF actively opposed AB 688 because it would have created significant problems for law-abiding hunters who



are on their way to the field or range with their shotguns or rifles. Compliance with the bill’s onerous provisions would have been nearly impossible for hunters “car-pooling” to the field with multiple long guns, or Hunter Education Instructors, shooting coaches and others who must transport numerous long guns for use by their students.

AB 688 was held in Assembly Appropriations Committee in late January and failed passage. AB 688 is dead.

2020 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION — NEW LEGISLATION

With the bill introduction deadline for the 2020 Session being Friday, February 21st, new legislation of concern is still surfacing. All the below bills must be heard and passed out of their first policy committee by April 24, 2020 to meet legislative deadline.

Due to the substantial number of new bills of interest to CA WSF, the below is only a partial list.

• AB 2299 (Gallagher) – Free Hunting Days

AB 2299 would require the Director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to designate two days per year as “Free Hunting Days” – with one free hunting day in the fall hunting season and the other day during the spring hunting season. The bill would require the individual taking advantage of the free hunting day to be accompanied by a licensed hunter who has held a valid hunting license for at least the last three consecutive years. AB 2299 would also require the individual who is accompanying the unlicensed hunter to be 21 years of age or older and allow them to only accompany one unlicensed hunter at a time. Among other things, the bill would require the unlicensed hunter to have successfully completed the Hunter Safety Course and to have their hunter safety course certificate in their possession while in the field, along with any required tags or report cards,

federal entitlements, or entry permits. AB 2299 would not allow unlicensed hunters participating in free hunting days to take bighorn sheep or any other game species that requires a draw or lottery to obtain a tag.

AB 2429 (Irwin) – Hunting and Fishing Guides

Current law requires a person who engages in the business of guiding or packing, or who acts as a guide for any consideration or compensation, to first obtain a guide license from DFW. Existing law requires an application for a guide license to contain specified information and requires the applicant to submit proof of having obtained a surety bond in the amount of not less than \$1,000.

AB 2429 would increase the amount of the surety bond to \$2,500 and would require applicants to, among many other things, submit proof of: a CPR certification that is valid for the term of the license; commercial liability insurance coverage that is valid for the term of the license in the amount of no less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000); and proof of a Department of Justice criminal background check taken within five years from the date of the application.

Further, in order to aid game wardens in enforcement, AB 2429 would require the Fish and Game Commission to adopt a visual system of guide identification stickers using colors and geometric patterns, and require guides to use the guide identification sticker when providing guiding or packing services to a client.

AB 2523 (Gray) – Fish and Game Commission: Youth Hunting Program: Special Hunting Permits

AB 2523 would authorize the Commission to establish a program to increase opportunities to hunt big game, upland game birds, and migratory game birds for youth with terminal illnesses or who lost a parent in service to the state or country. Among other things, the bill would authorize the Commission to establish a special hunting permit that authorizes the youth to hunt big game, upland game birds, or migratory birds, and to engage in hunting activities otherwise prohibited that are necessary to enable the youth hunter to hunt those animals. The bill would require the special hunting permits to be issued free of charge by DFW and would require the applicant for a special hunting permit to hold a valid hunting license.

AB 3022 (Obernolte) – Junior Hunting Licenses: Age Eligibility

Legislation passed in 2014 increased junior hunting license age eligibility from 15 to 17 years of age. However, that bill included a “sunset” provision which requires the age eligibility to revert to 15 years on July 1, 2020, unless the provision is extended by subsequent legislation.

Should the age eligibility revert back to 15 years at the beginning of the next hunting license year, it would create substantial problems for DFW in terms of how to handle applications and implementation of junior “apprentice” hunts this fall, as well as serious confusion and enforcement concerns in the field.

This predicament was supposed to be addressed in the 2020 Session as a provision in a sweeping R3 related bill sponsored by DFW. However, when that legislation failed to be introduced by the recent bill introduction deadline, Assembly Member Obernolte agreed to author AB 3022. If passed, this bill would extend the sunset for one year to July 1, 2021 – addressing this concern for the upcoming

hunting license year and buying us additional time to introduce and pass subsequent legislation which would extend the junior hunting license eligibility of 17 years of age indefinitely.

AB 3071 (Mullin) – Lead Ammunition: Shooting Ranges

AB 3071 would prohibit the use of lead ammunition at a sport shooting range or an indoor shooting range and prohibit those ranges from selling or giving away ammunition unless that ammunition is certified as nonlead ammunition.

SB 914 (Portantino) – Firearms: Hunting Exemptions

Existing law prohibits the sale or transfer of a firearm by a licensed firearm dealer to a person under 21 years of age, but exempts from those provisions the sale or transfer of a firearm – other than a handgun or semiautomatic centerfire rifle – to a person 18 years of age or older who possesses a valid, unexpired hunting license. SB 914 would require, for the sale or transfer of a firearm to a person under 21 years of age, the salesperson to visually inspect the hunting license to confirm that it is valid and unexpired and to record the license number, GO ID, and dates valid. The bill would also require the Department of Justice to verify the validity of the purchaser’s hunting license with DFW as part of the background check.

SB 1041 (Hueso) – Hunting: Use of Dogs to Hunt Deer

SB 1041 would prohibit the use of any dog for the purpose of hunting deer at any time. The bill would also authorize DFW to capture or dispatch any dog that is being used to hunt deer and that is inflicting injury or immediately threatening to inflict injury to any deer.

SB 1175 (Stern) – “Iconic African Species Protection Act”

SB 1175 would enact the “Iconic African Species Protection Act” and would prohibit the possession of any part, product, or the dead body of African elephant, African lion, leopard, black rhinoceros, white rhinoceros, giraffe, Jentink’s duiker, plains zebra, mountain zebra, hippopotamus, and striped hyena. Among other things, SB 1175 would exempt articles possessed for noncommercial purposes that the owner can demonstrate were in their possession within California before January 1, 2021.

SB 1372 (Monning) – Wildlife Corridors and Connectivity

SB 1372 would enact the “Wildlife and Biodiversity Protection and Movement Act of 2020”. SB 1372 would require the state to build off of existing programs and plans to proactively protect and enhance wildlife corridors and design infrastructure to maximize wildlife connectivity. Among many other things, the bill would require DFW and the Department of Transportation to coordinate on future transportation and water infrastructure planning and design to allow for maximum wildlife passage features.

CA WSF will have its hands full during the 2020 Session of the California State Legislature. Yet, regardless of the challenges to our heritage we will all face in the coming year, CA WSF is up to the task and committed to keeping sheep on the hill and you in the field.

THE DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP OF THE NEWBERRY MOUNTAINS

by Carlos Gallinger, thewayofthings.org

Like many desert bighorn sheep populations in the distant past, the Newberry population was large and vibrant. It was hunted by the ancient people that inhabited this land as a valued food source. Then in a process that happened throughout the southwest, the Newberry sheep were affected by disease, habitat reduction, and fragmentation as well as overhunting to the point where their population was reduced to about 25 animals.

This situation persisted for perhaps fifty to a hundred years, so that by the time they were genetically tested in the year 2002, this small herd suffered from the effects of inbreeding. The outlook for this small remnant heard look pretty bleak and with their demise would also go a portion of the original genetic diversity of their species.

There were some who recognized and worked on this problem. Great conservation groups like the people from the Society for Conservation of Bighorn Sheep (SCBS) and the North American Wild Sheep Foundation (FNAWS, now CA WSF). The California Department of Fish and Game, now known as Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), was also working on it. Other organizations and individuals did what they could. All took an interest in conserving this population. The effort paid off.

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



NEWBERRY BIGHORN SHEEP HERD



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

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

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

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

There is another component of these water sources in the Twentynine Palms base that we should take into consideration. These water sources became a common source for multiple populations and thus connected the Newberry herd to another population of bighorn sheep: those in the Sheephole Mountains. This gave the Newberry herd greater genetic diversity.

Another decisive factor was that the cattle in this area was reduced from somewhere around 300 to about 25 or 30. While there is no doubt this is beneficial as far as feed is concerned I think the greater impact was the fact that there were no more new cows and bulls being introduced into this area, thus lowering the possibility of introducing diseases.

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

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

KIDS HAVING FUN, GROWING INTO SHEEP HUNTERS

*by Glen Pyne
Youth Outreach Chair*

Did you miss the last fundraiser? If so you missed the on-going growth we are seeing in youth at the fundraiser! It's a beautiful thing to see all of the kids making arrow heads or jewelry, practicing their shot placement, exploring different animal pelts and scat. They are all excited and, more importantly, they are learning that hunting (or fishing) is not just about taking it's also about giving back. Something sheep hunters are especially good at doing!

Of course, being kids, they still want to know WIIFM! You know if you have ever worked in a large marketing department -- What's In It For ME?

This year the kids will have a great supply of prizes as well a fun. Everyone under 17 that attends gets a free raffle ticket. What can they win? A CA WSF Life Membership -- several firearms, and fishing and hunting trips are in the planning of course! And for some special youth (must be 9 or younger) — a LIFETIME California hunting or fishing license. That's right, we are going to help start them on a lifetime of enjoyment, frustration, anticipation, disappointment, hard work, and discipline! That's what you get for being a hunter!

Be sure to bring your kids, your kids' kids, or the kid down the block. They'll have fun and you'll be their hero!



BEST BIRTHDAY GIFT RIGHT HERE!

Youth Annual Membership is just \$25

Youth Life Membership is only \$400 -- and has all the benefits of Life Membership including being drawn for this year's Dall sheep hunt with Ultima Thule Outfitters!

WHAT A BIRTHDAY PRESENT THAT WOULD BE!

5 WAYS YOU'VE RUINED YOUR EXPENSIVE HUNTING GEAR AND HOW TO PREVENT IT

by Remi Warren, Reprinted from Western Hunter

Today, there is more amazing outdoor gear on the market than ever before, including advanced textiles and fabrics, mountaineering style boots, waterproof down, and equipment that is lighter, stronger and more efficient than ever before. But this gear comes with a price...a high price. The average cost of a hunter's setup has never been higher.

For this reason, we want what we buy to last. The initial investment should pay for itself in the long run, right? Yes, but only if it is maintained properly. You could be damaging the longevity of your hunting gear and not even know it. If you want your clothing, sleeping bags, boots, tents, and packs to last, these tips are a must.

THE ONE WASH THAT WILL RUIN YOUR GEAR

Most modern high-quality hunting clothing contains properties in the textiles that allow them to be water-resistant, breathable, quick drying, warm, light, and even anti-microbial. This is achieved through many different technologies. Some of it is woven into the fabric but specialized coatings are sometimes bonded to the material itself.

The number one enemy of all this advanced technology? Fabric softeners. I'll never forget the first expensive mountaineering pants I bought for hunting (keep in mind this was before performance hunting wear existed). It was a pair of European Scholler material pants made by Mammot. I guided in them daily from September through November in Montana, and wore them in Alaska on sheep hunts. Through rain, snow, and heat, it didn't matter; they were awesome.

Then one day, they just stopped working well. Water stopped repelling, they felt different...softer...and not right. The culprit was a dryer sheet that ruined a really good run with a pair of pants I got my money out of time and time again.

The fabric-softener dryer sheet reduces static and softens the fabric. This is great for cotton, but advanced textiles lose their ability to work right.

How to prevent: Prevention is the best course of action. I leave a note on the dryer to not use dryer sheets if anyone in the house switches my laundry. Instead of a dryer sheet, I suggest using a dryer ball. It cuts the static and has no harmful effects.

Also, remember to keep the heat on low or even air dry. A lower temperature is optimal for many breathable textiles. The correct type of washing and drying will help keep your gear working properly longer.

The Fix: If it's too late and your gear has come in contact with fabric softeners, then there are a few tech washes that can rejuvenate your clothes. They are wash

in and even spray on. This is good to use even if you've washed them correctly but they have a lot of usage. The only one I have firsthand experience with is a brand called Nikwax. They have a wash-in waterproofer (TX Direct) as well as a cleaning wash specifically designed for waterproof or water-resistant clothing (Tech Wash). They also carry sprays and products for soft shells and fleece. I've used them and they do work.

THE COLD BAG

I'll be the first to admit, I have more money invested in my sleeping bags than I do in the cost of my bed, mattress, and sheets at home. I spend a lot of nights in a sleeping bag and they can be in harsh elements. I want to make sure my bag works properly.

When you buy a sleeping bag for a temperature rating, you need it to perform. Constantly waking up shivering and getting little sleep or relief is a pain, especially if you paid top dollar for a warm lightweight bag that should be plenty comfortable.

I learned firsthand the importance of proper bag storage and care when a bag that used to be amazing no longer insulated like it used to, and I spent many cold nights wondering what went wrong. Being unable to just buy a new bag, I had to tough it out and improvise by combining it with a liner and reflective bivy until I could afford a new bag.

The insulation properties of a sleeping bag work by trapping air within the bag's fill. What went wrong? A combination of improper storage and care led to the bag no longer being able to work correctly. The fill was permanently compressed and lost its loft. The effect was caused by storing the bag stuffed into the compression sack as opposed to a loose storage bag. This, combined with dirt and grime over the years, didn't help matters any. Disgusting, I know, but I had no clue how to properly clean a sleeping bag.

How to prevent: The main way to store a good bag is loose. Most sleeping bags come with a large mesh bag for a reason. It's because it needs to keep its loft. This is best done by giving the down or synthetic fill ample room. Sure, it takes up more space, but it is absolutely necessary for the bag's longevity.

Oil from your skin, as well as sweat and dirt buildup, can affect a bag as well, especially down. Even new waterproof down bags can be affected. Washing a sleeping bag isn't something you want to do after every use, so the solution is to try and keep the bag as clean as possible.

A super light bag liner can help keep the sleeping bag clean and is easy to just throw in a washing machine. They don't add much weight and are an easy solution, especially because when backpack hunting, you don't have the luxury to crawl into your bag clean.

Also, try to wear a beanie in your bag. This is ground zero for dirt, oil, and grime.

Finally, if the bag gets wet or damp, air it out, especially

during the trip when possible. Aside from eliminating mildew, airing out the bag helps restore loft.

The Fix: If your bag is losing its loft and is dirty or has not been washed in a few years, you may want to consider giving it a cleanup. There are a few rules to follow when washing a sleeping bag. The first is NEVER dry clean it. The chemicals from a dry cleaning will permanently damage the bag. You'll have to either hand wash it or wash in a front-loading machine.

If you use a washing machine, make sure it does not have an agitator like many top-loading machines do. The agitator can damage the bag. You'll also need a washing machine large enough to let it tumble.

Wash it with cold or warm water on "delicate" with a non-detergent soap. There are some special sleeping bag soaps available for down and synthetic bags. Just like specialty clothing, stay away from fabric softeners. Use soap sparingly and make sure it all comes out before drying by running it through another rinse soap free.

Dry on low in a large dryer. This may take a couple of cycles. When the bag is near dry, add a few tennis balls or something similar to help break up the clumps. It's important to get the fill well separated and dry. Once it's dry, hang it for a few days to make sure all moisture can escape before storing. Also, check and make sure there are no lumps left in the bag.

Because the process of washing a bag is so involved, you don't really need to do it that often; every few years is usually enough. I only wash it when I have to. There are a few commercial services that clean sleeping bags, but they have to be shipped out and generally take a few weeks.

BOOTS FOR ALL WEATHER

A good pair of hunting boots is no small purchase. Some boots take about 50 miles to break in. With that kind of effort, you want whatever boots you have to last.

As a guide, I hear people complain all the time about their boots wearing out. Mainly, they are no longer keeping the water out like they used to.

Leather boots with Gore-Tex or some other form of waterproof breathable membrane are only waterproof to a certain extent. The liner may prevent water from getting in, but once the leather is soaked, it can still make for a bad day.

Leather is a lot like wood. Because it's a natural product, it dries out, cracks, and splits without proper care. Maintaining boot performance by using good care is severely underrated!

The first time I waxed my boots, it really opened my eyes. I was on a two-week trip into the Alaska Range and was disappointed because my boots were taking on water. I came across some Sno-Seal and gave it a try. It worked better than I could've hoped. My feet stayed dry on a really wet hunt. From that point on, I constantly wax my boots before a hunt.

How to prevent: To keep your boots from falling apart or even to just keep them dry longer, waxing and sealing your boots is a must. I wax both my leather and even non-leather boots before each hunt. This will condition the boot and help keep water off. Even with a waterproof membrane, a natural wax will keep the leather of the boot outside of that membrane from getting soaked.

The wax also keeps the leather conditioned and hydrated. Things like dirt, mud, and exposure will draw

moisture out of the leather, degrading it at a much faster rate. Conditioning and sealing the boot will help slow this process, giving you more time per pair.

Sno-Seal or Kenetrek Boot Wax are the two I use most often. I rub the boot down with the wax and then let it sit for a bit where it is warm. This allows the product to soak into the material.

The fix: Maintaining them is the best way to make boots last, but if it's already too late, don't fear; it's never too late to give them a once-over with the wax. If the toe guard or rubber rand is starting to go, consider repairing it with shoe goo.

My brother fixes the toes of his hunting boots by taking them to a spray-on bedliner place and having them spray the toes to keep them from tearing. Another option is coating them with a rubber-like polyurethane coating.

Also, consider wearing a pair of gaiters. If your boots aren't repelling water like they should, gaiters will deflect a lot of water from entering the lacing area.

THE LEAKY ROOF

Nothing is worse than when your three or four-season tent encounters rain. The last time you used it, it was fine, but now all your gear is wet. That's not a fun experience, especially when you paid over \$400 for a tent to keep you dry. The problem is that tents are stitched, and anywhere there is a stitch, that technically means there is a hole. These holes are not a problem the first few times you use the tent, because they're often coated to keep water out.

However, over time, wind, UV exposure, and weather affect the tent and the seams are no longer what they used to be. Water will start to seep through. When this starts, it may be nearly impossible to figure out exactly where it is coming from.

The fix: Seam sealing your tent is the best way to keep the tent from leaking. Even on a new tent, I recommend sealing all seams before initial use. Tents that have a seam tape can be sealed on the edge of the tape. On older tents, where the seam tape is coming off, the tape can be removed and a liquid seam sealer used in its place.

IT'S ON YOUR BACK

Even a great pack needs a little looking after. They haul your gear and you rely on them, not to mention that a well-built pack should last through years of abuse.

The saying "a chain is only as strong as its weakest link" holds true for packs, and for most packs, that weak link is probably the zipper. All packs have them, and when they go out, it's a pain to replace. I've had various zippers go out on packs and it wasn't until recently that I figured out why.

While driving to and from my camp to my hiking spot on an ATV in the Nevada desert, I noticed that my soft-sided bow case had lost the operation of the zipper by getting off track and my pack was starting to go as well.

I put two and two together and realized that the dust from the road was causing the zippers to get dirty and ultimately fail – something that had happened to me with an expensive pack a few years back where the zipper was the only way to close this particular pack.

The Fix: Zippers can be cleaned before they untrack, and lubricated with a form of wax or any type of zipper lubricant (I didn't know that existed until I bought a soft-sided Yeti and it came with it). Candle wax or even your boot wax can be used to protect the pack's zipper from dust and potentially popping loose. It seems weird that dust is the culprit, but I've seen it time and time again.

CA WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET

May 2, 2020 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Sacramento

Be an "Early Bird" (complete registration by March 27, 2020) to get tickets for an Early Bird drawing for \$1000 in banquet credits.

_____ **Single Dinner/Event Ticket - \$100; After April 11, 2020 - \$110** \$ _____

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

> Get one (1) chance at the Early Bird drawing if registered by March 27, 2020

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

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

> Get five (5) chances at the Early Bird drawing if registered by March 27, 2020

_____ **Reserved Full Table (10) Dinner/Event Tickets - \$900; After April 11, 2020 - \$1,000** \$ _____

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

> Get ten (10) chances at the Early Bird drawing if registered by March 27, 2020

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

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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

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

_____ **2021 Yukon Stone Sheep Hunt - \$100 each (ONLY 500 AVAILABLE)** \$ _____

_____ **2020 Special Custom MOA Rifle - \$50 each (ONLY 250 AVAILABLE)** \$ _____

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For your records, CA FNAWS (dba California Wild Sheep Foundation or CA WSF) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. FNAWS tax identification number is 69-0481140.



California Chapter
Wild Sheep Foundation
1630 Williams Hwy #151 Grants Pass, OR 97527
(650) 472-3889 (Phone and Fax)
cawsf@cawsf.org www.cawsf.org



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL

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

Yes, I would like to volunteer to help the California Chapter with its' events and/or projects! Please contact me about volunteer opportunities! (check here) ☐

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

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

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

Have you hunted Sheep? Yes No

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

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

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Life Membership (\$500) = \$ _____

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

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