

California Wild Sheep

Winter 2020

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Doug Sims
California Desert Bighorn
Kika Worldwide Outfitters
2019/20 Season



ULTIMA THULE LODGE

CONTACT: DONALD C. MARTIN 310-766-3921



From the Editor's Desk

I hope you enjoy this issue. I'm departing from my normal summary of highlights of the issue; instead, I'm going to share some thoughts and feelings.

I love wild sheep and wild goats, and their mountain haunts! I want to do all I can for them to flourish in as much of their historic lands as possible. I also want the opportunity to hunt one or two species of them each year (for as long as my legs, lungs, mind and savings allow). I also love both the WSF and CA WSF for their passion, comradery and generosity. I am particularly proud of WSF's effort to create the best global virtual Sheep Week events for January 2021! Very smart move (Good on you Gray and WSF BOD)!!

My hunting was largely postponed in 2020 due to Covid-19. I did take a nice blacktail deer. I hope you still have some hunting to do before the conventions.

Feedback, ideas, articles & requests for the newsletter are always welcome. Best way to reach me is email: mike.borel@contextnet.com. Due date for input to the 1Q21 issue is February 20. Special thanks to Zack Walton and Beverly Valdez for their help and support on the Newsletter.



13 COMMANDMENTS FOR SENIORS

#1 – Talk to yourself. There are times you need expert advice.

#2 – “In Style” are the clothes that still fit.

#3 – You don’t need anger management. You need people to stop pissing you off.

#4 – Your people skills are just fine. It’s your tolerance for idiots that needs work.

#5 – The biggest lie you tell yourself is, “I don’t need to write that down. I’ll remember it.”

#6 – “On time” is when you get there.

#7 – Even duct tape can’t fix stupid – but it sure does muffle the sound.

#8 – It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free...and three sizes smaller.

#9 – Lately, you’ve noticed people your age are so much older than you.

#10 – Growing old should have taken longer.

#11 – Ageing has slowed you down, but it hasn’t shut you up.

#12 – You still haven’t learned to act your age and hope you never will.

And one more

#13 – “One for the road” means peeing before you leave the house.

THE POWER OF RELIGION

Each Friday night after work, sun, snow or rain, Jack, being a Protestant, would fire up his outdoor grill and cook a moose steak.

But, all of Jack’s neighbours were Catholic. And since it was Lent, they were forbidden from eating meat on Friday. The delicious aroma from the grilled moose steaks was causing such a problem for the Catholic faithful that they finally talked to their priest. The priest came to visit Jack, and suggested that he become a Catholic.

After several classes and much study, Jack attended Mass, and as the priest sprinkled holy water over him, he said: “You were born a Protestant and raised a Protestant, but now you are a Catholic.”

Jack’s neighbours were greatly relieved until Friday night arrived, and the wonderful aroma of grilled moose filled the neighbourhood. The priest was called immediately by the neighbours, and, as he rushed into Jack’s yard, clutching a rosary and prepared to scold him, he stopped and watched in amazement.

There stood Jack, clutching a small bottle of holy water which he carefully sprinkled over the grilling meat and chanted: “You wuz born a moose, you wuz raised a moose, but now you is a Cod Fish.

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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

December 11	Sheep Summit XXVIII in Ontario or Virtual Zoom Call
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2021

January 14-16	WSF Sheep Show Virtual Event
January 20-23	GSCO Convention, Las Vegas Virtual and Live
February 3-6	SCI Convention Virtual Event
February 20	Due date for articles for 1Q2021 CAWSF Newsletter
April 17-19	Desert Bighorn Council, Alpine Tx
April TBD	Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council meeting
April 23	Sheep Summit XXVIII in Ontario
April 24	CA WSF 19th Annual Fundraiser Sacramento, CA (DoubleTree)
May 20	Due date for articles for 2Q2021 CAWSF Newsletter
June 1	Ballots for CA WSF Director Elections presented
June 28	Director Elections ballots due
August 20	Due date for articles for 3Q2021 CAWSF Newsletter

President's Letter

For many of us, our hunting or guiding season is winding down. I want to personally congratulate all of you that were able to get out and hunt this year with the travel complications of "life in a Covid-19 world." I've received many texts and photos and have seen that many of our members have had a very good Fall and I congratulate you.

As I write this, we are on the verge of the American tradition of Thanksgiving. This National holiday celebrates the first shared Autumn harvest celebration between the Pilgrims at Plymouth with the Wampanoag Native Americans in 1621. It was declared a national holiday during a time of crisis during the American Civil War in 1863 by President Abraham Lincoln. This year we mark the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower, which holds special meaning for me as I am a Mayflower Society eligible member. I reflect on how my life would be different if my family did not endeavor to challenge the unknown and cross the Atlantic Ocean at great personal risk and peril.



So, with a renewed spirit and appreciation for Thanksgiving during these trying times, though I may not celebrate with my family, I will, never the less, celebrate. In the tradition of the "Giving" and the Native American tradition of sharing the Autumn harvest with the village, I have been sharing my Colorado bison meat with my neighbors. During these trying times, I have been so blessed and have so much, it was an easy decision to help those around me and share. As an ambassador for the hunting community, it has been rewarding to see the positive support I received from the community, many of whom had not had any previous contact with a hunter. For many, they would be trying Bison for the first time this Holiday season.

I often quote Alexander Pope (1734), "Hope springs eternal..." Those words ring truer now than ever before. And as sheep hunters, we have a keen understanding of maintaining PMA, positive mental attitude. Hope is at the center of maintaining PMA. Hope is at the center of maintaining control over your own happiness. Do not lose hope. There's hope for an end to Covid. There's hope for a return to normalcy. As we approach application season, there is hope of finally drawing the tag of a lifetime. And there's hope that all of us will be able to get together in person and celebrate 20 years of wildlife conservation on **April 24, 2021 at the Doubletree by Hilton**. Have hope! ...And make plans to attend today. I'll see you in Sacramento.

Donald C. Martin

President, CAWSF

Our grand prize random drawing this year will be for a 14-day 1x1 Stone sheep hunt with **Scoop Lake Outfitters** for opening week August 1-14, 2022.

Tickets are on sale now at the CAWSF.org store (see also page 19 in this issue). You do not need to be present to win. There is a 25 ticket maximum purchase. Of the 500 tickets available for advance purchase, there are 475 still tickets available. An additional 100 tickets will be available the night of the dinner. These tickets will sell out, so don't wait. Buy your tickets now.

ONE SPECIAL HUNT

by Cliff St. Martin

Taking in all the laughter, anticipation, and the excitement which transpired that hot August day on Canyon Lake, Arizona will be a memory to last a lifetime. During the past 25 years of sheep hunting, we have been blessed to have experienced so many great clients and epic hunts, but this was going to be "One Special Hunt." In less than 24 hours prior to this day, so much had to be accomplished just to make this hunt possible.

In the State of Arizona is an organization called "Outdoor Experience 4 All." The organization is for kids with life-threatening illnesses to experience the outdoors and offer them an opportunity to hunt. Each year there are hunt tags that are forfeited to this organization. After contacting Eddie Corona from OE4A, he began putting things into motion. He informed me that Gracie Bonham from Utah would be receiving the tag and hunting with us. He also told me that she has an incurable disease called cystic fibrosis which affects the lungs, digestive system, and other organs throughout the body. He explained to me that her father Craig had been notified on the tag and was waiting for my phone call to co-ordinate the hunt.

Accompanying Gracie on her hunt would be her father Craig, grandfather, Craig Sr., and her sister Lizzie. There were only a few days left in the season so they drove all night and arrived in Mesa, Az. around midnight. We made arrangements to meet early that morning to receive her tag and get on the lake. We all jumped in the pontoon boat and almost immediately we began picking up sheep. Part of the Dry Creek crew began working their way to the upper end of the lake where we had seen several good rams earlier. Gracie and sister Lizzie were having a great time taking photos of the rams and of the terrain. Hunting with Gracie was such a pleasure and seeing that huge smile on her face really warmed our hearts.



Gracie Bonham with Arizona desert bighorn on an *Outdoor Experience 4 All*

Within a few hours we located one of our target rams. He was a 12-year old ram that had a lot of character and would still score well. We were able to get the crew members into strategic location while working our way slowly up the mountain with Gracie. After about an hour the ram came into view and Gracie made a great shot to put the ram down.

We all made it up to the ram for hugs, pictures and a few tears. With the afternoon heat hovering around 115 degrees, we had everyone else begin heading off the mountain back to the boats while Chad and I butchered the ram and finished caping.

I would again like to thank Eddie Corona and Outdoor Experience 4 All; the entire Dry Creek Outfitter crew, and especially thank Craig, Craig Sr., Lizzie, and Gracie, for making this such a special hunt for all of us. God Bless You All!

Learn more about this great organization at www.outdoorexperienceforall.org.



INYO FIRE STOPS WHITE MOUNTAIN HUNTS POINT REINSTATEMENT AND TAG REFUND POSSIBILITY

*by Mike Morrison and Regina Vu
CA DFW update*

Two White Mountain desert bighorn sheep hunters, along with deer and elk hunters were not allowed to complete hunts in the White Mountain zone this year due to the Inyo Forest fire danger.

CDFW did not close the hunt zone or make any changes to the season. However, this catastrophic fire season resulted in public land closures. This USFS closure caused the end of the hunting season by preventing hunter access, directly impacting the ability to start or continue a hunt.

The White Mountains zone had six ram hunters scheduled for this year. The zone was open for the first couple of weeks and four ram hunters were successful within the first two days.

Successful harvests were:

Aug. 15, Age: 8, Score: 163 6/8

Aug. 15, Age: 7, Score: 151 0/8

Aug. 16, Age: 7, Score: 158 7/8

Aug. 16, Age: 9, Score: 171 7/8

Two additional ram hunters were not able to hunt the full season. One had to wait for pack stock in Nevada to become available and the forest closed after his first day of (unsuccessful) hunting.

The other hunter used archery equipment for the first week and was unsuccessful but then was unable to



Inyo Forest Fire, 2020

hunt again following the closure.

CDFW Game Program will be submitting a proposal that includes temporary regulations for a list of hunt zones that would be eligible for a tag refund and preference point reinstatement, plus one additional point for this year. The proposal will be brought before the Commission at the December 10, 2020 teleconference meeting. The day of the meeting the public will be able to observe via a link on the website at www.fgc.ca.gov. Final adoption and actions to be taken on this proposal will not come until February 10, 2021.

“DOME” FIRE DESTRUCTION IN MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE

Reprinted from Debbie Miller Marschke

On August 15, 2020, a lightning strike ignited a catastrophic fire on Cima Dome, near Teutonia Peak, which burned 43,773 acres as it spread outward from the strike zone and burned 68 square miles within the Mojave National Preserve.

The fire burned for more than a week and consumed one of the world's largest Joshua Tree forests, impacting 1.3 million Joshua Trees and destroying historic structures at the Kessler Springs Ranch and Valley View Ranch. Available resources to battle the fire were limited because of the other simultaneous fire events occurring within the state. Local fire crews were finally assisted by Hot Shots from Redding.

This spanned from the Ivanpah Mountains (east side) to

the Lava Beds (west side) to the townsite of Cima (south side).

The Joshua trees, which took thousands of years to populate, are ill adapted to fire. A huge die off of vegetation is anticipated, which will lead to environmental change as the area recovers. No big game guzzlers were affected within the burn zone, but there may be water sources that will be impacted. This area was prime habitat for deer and game birds, and possibly a transitional zone for wandering rams. This fall, budget some extra time to perform habitat work if you are spending some time in this area. Natural springs may benefit from clearing charred debris to promote water flow that had been choked out by unchecked vegetation. It's a great opportunity to make a positive impact from a negative event.

BEAR CLAW (TEMPORARY DRINKER) TANK REFILL

by SCBS Member and CA WSF Life Member Scott Gibson

The Bear Claw (temporary) wildlife drinker was installed several years ago in the Sheep Hole Mountains Wilderness (California Bighorn Sheep Hunt Zone 6) when mechanical failure occurred at the permanent Bear Claw (SB31) drinker installation. Although hasty repairs were able to be made to the permanent Bear Claw drinker deep in the mountain wilderness, it was not possible to haul water to refill the tanks. SCBS (Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep) volunteers were able place the temporary Bear Claw tank within a mile of the permanent installation to provide the sheep with the water they would need to make it through the hot summer months.

Since the temporary Bear Claw drinker does not have it's own rain water collection system, it must be filled by hauling water via 4x4 trucks. This year, SCBS was able to haul 1000-gallons to the temporary tank on March 29, 2020. There was evidence of recent sheep activity at the time of that water haul.

A trail camera was placed at the drinker, dozens of desert bighorn were recorded, before the camera went "off-line" on May 9th, 2020.

Another routine inspection and 275-gallon water haul to the Bear Claw (temporary) drinker was made on August 21, 2020. It should be noted the temporary tank does not have a satellite monitoring system. During inspection, it was found that the 2300 gallon water tank and mechanical drinker box were empty. Water was quickly gravity fed from the truck's tank and the drinker box quickly began to refill with precious water.

Unfortunately, a mechanical failure in the float controlled drinker box was found. The failure must have occurred at some point after the trail camera went off line on May 9th. The float valve had failed and a spare was not on hand.

A repair trip and water haul is scheduled. A new trail camera will be set on the drinker and SCBS will hopefully report a successful repair and very happy bighorn sheep!



SCBS volunteers and 4x4 trucks hauling water to Bear Claws (temporary) drinker, March 29, 2020.



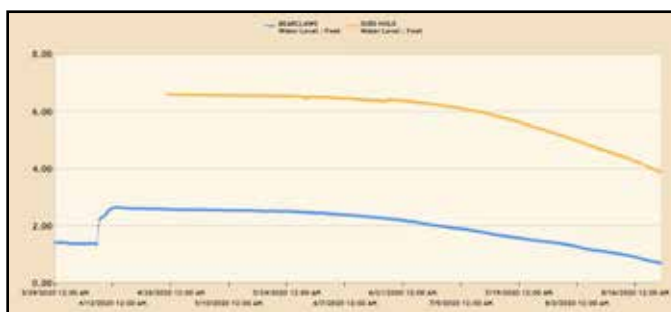
100' of hose stretched while 275-gallons of water is fed in to the 2300-gallon temporary tank.



Young rams visiting the Bear Claw (temporary) drinker. SCBS Trail Camera photo taken April 30, 2020.



Long time SCBS volunteer board member, Mike Morgan, mans the hose while filling the tank. 3/29/20



Water level satellite monitoring of the permanent Bear Claw and Suds Hole drinkers in the Sheep Hole Mountain Wilderness shows heavy water use.



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

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

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

PEGGY BARNETT LEE	BEN GORDON	JEREMY PECHTEL	RENEE SNIDER
MIKE BOREL	TINA GORDON	JEFF PERACCHI	ADAM STARR
ADAM CASAGRANDE	GARY HILL	DON PERRIEN	BILL TITTLE
KEVIN CHENG	ERNEST HOLLOWAY	JOHN PESTORICH	ZACK WALTON
DAVID COMBS	PATTY HOLLOWAY	DON PRIEST	JOHN WARE
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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.

BONKING

That moment when your mind and body completely shut down — How to prevent it, and if necessary, correct it

Excerpted from MtnTough's Dustin Diefenderfer

A few years back, I took my buddy Joe on one of his first backcountry elk hunts in Montana. It was almost his last. He was a diehard passionate bowhunter from Mississippi who dreamed of hunting out West.

A mid 40s, hard-working, busy, family man. I tried to tell him to start training early. But he was convinced he could just crush the elliptical machine every day in August and be alright.

Our trip finally arrived and we went to this awesome high-country spot. We kept pushing deeper into the backcountry looking for elk. Joe was on an adrenaline high. He was feeling good and soaking up his first hunt in the high country.

It was a good hunt. We got into elk, but no shot opportunities. Eventually, it was time to start working our way out. Because we had pushed hard all day, we were deep into some remote basins and the hike out was going to be tough.

Mile 11... that's when it hit him.

Mentally and physically, Joe went to outer space. He was confused about where he was—mumbling things. He kept stopping and pulling out his phone, trying to text his wife.

I could see the fear on his face. That's when I finally got scared for my friend. He had hit the wall. His tank was empty. And I started to worry about how I was going to get this guy off the mountain and back home to his wife and kids.

We have a name for it... it's called "Bonking."

It's that moment when your mind and body completely shut down. It's hard to explain to someone if they've never experienced it. It comes out of nowhere. One minute, Joe's good and the next, he's convinced he can't make it out.

What scares me the most about bonking is that it's not a conventional medical condition that can be treated like heat exhaustion or dehydration. We've all had the training to handle stuff like that.

Bonking is different.

It's some kind of dangerous combination of muscle fatigue, exhaustion and calorie depletion. But the most unique aspect is the paralyzing mental failure that comes with it.

Confusion, fear, and a burned-out body all come together to bring a regular guy like Joe to his knees and convince him he won't make it out. This is the

kind of thing that can put a guy's life at risk—or send him home off the mountain early, ending his dream hunt.

It's not something many guys are prepared for and Joe had no idea what hit him.

I spent hours talking to him, trying to get his head right and calm him down. It was hard to get him to eat a snack or drink any water. But I finally convinced him to take down whatever he could to refuel.

After that, it was miles of baby steps. Five steps, then a break. Five steps, then a break. We got back to the truck in the middle of the night and Joe slept for the next 12 hours.

I don't mind sharing his story because Joe's a helluva guy and good friend. I still hunt with him to this day. The next year he started training way earlier and incorporate more types of training instead of just cardio. He hasn't bonked since. A few years later, he harvested an awesome bull in some of the nastiest country I can think of.

How to Avoid Bonking

When you're short on time, short on energy, and short on specific knowledge, you're just going to gravitate to what you've done before to prep for hunting season. But what's familiar isn't always the best.

Bonking can happen to anyone, but the guys who properly prepare their bodies for the backcountry have a much lower risk. Joe did something so many guys have done: waiting until August to start training for hunting season. It's a common mistake. And one that can put you at risk in the mountains.

Don't wait until August to start training for hunting season.

Sure, any training is better than no training at all. But the mountains are unforgiving. When we sat down to start developing our Backcountry Hunter Programming, we looked at how long to make the program. Six weeks? Nine weeks? Go to a full 12 weeks or more? We debated this topic for months during our team meetings.

Based on the 32 years of combined training experience and the science of what we were up against, we concluded that we needed at least 12 weeks to put together an effective and long-lasting program for a backcountry hunter.

But the truth is, that's just the beginning. And the primary reason we're so focused on being "Always Ready" and changing your mindset to instead be thinking: "Train All Year."

Here's why...

Neural Recruitment

It takes at least 2 to 4 weeks of a new exercise for your body to get past the neural recruitment phase when you start.

Neural recruitment is the waking up of dormant muscles and getting them activated. In the first few weeks, you are not necessarily getting stronger, but your body and neuromuscular pathways are becoming more coordinated.

You're using muscles better in groups and you're lifting more weight because you're coordinated better, not necessarily because you're a lot stronger. It takes about 2 to 4 weeks for those adaptations to develop fully. After that 2- to 4-week point, we can start putting on muscle mass and strength. That requires at least another 4 to 6 weeks to get the muscle gains repetitive enough to build the foundation that we want.

Muscle Endurance

Once you have the neuro recruitment down to where it needs to be, and your body has put on a good base of muscle, you can start another 4 to 6 weeks of building endurance with that muscle. In other words, we want you to lift all the weight you're going to lift with a lot less effort than you used to lift it, for a lot longer time than you used to lift it.

This is going to give you things like leg endurance for a multi-day hunt. To do that, we need to make you strong.

You're looking at about 4 more weeks training your body to carry weight over time. So those are the muscular reasons why we need 12 weeks.

Cardiovascular Training

Cardiovascular training is a similar process. It will take your body a week to start manufacturing more red blood cells and hemoglobin levels should rise within three weeks—that requires some adaptation time.

It takes at least 4 to 6 weeks for your heart rate to grow and adapt. This is what you need to recover fast. For example: feeling recovered in 30 seconds versus 2 minutes after a big climb or sprint, which is crucial for when you need to calm down and be steady for a shot.

That gets you into the phase where you're now ready to start expanding and building on your cardio training.

The Bottom Line: Change Your Mindset to "Always Ready."

Any backcountry hunters we train at MTNTOUGH, we now start training in the spring with our 4-month preseason prep program.

This is the ideal training program to prepare for hunting season. They see good gains in the first six weeks. They can make some incredible progress in six weeks, there's no doubt. But to get permanent, lasting gains, we need to push them over to 12 weeks for those things to start taking effect and staying in their system.

As you start doing this kind of work, your body composition is going to change. And that requires time for your body to now adapt to the new oxygen requirements it needs. In other words, you're going to have more muscle mass, lean mass, and less fat mass. It's going to change how your body utilizes energy. All those systems now have to learn to adapt, and your body has to deliver more oxygen.

That's why it takes a little longer for you to adapt on the cardiovascular side because you're pushing more muscle now than you used to. You also need to make sure that your cardiovascular system has time to adapt to your new body composition as your body composition changes. Additionally, you need to boost your mobility to prevent injury and increase durability. A period of preparation that makes the transition to hunting season feel seamless. That way, you're not getting in and out of shape each year. Instead, you're Always Ready for hunting season.

Don't Start Training Too Late.

We have people approach us all the time to prepare for hunting season, or BUDS, or a big race, and by the time they contact us, we're bearing down on the date with very little time to train.

Training to reach a goal requires time. You truly want to get stronger, faster, and better (and we want you to get there, too) but you want to do it in a way that doesn't hurt you or force you to sacrifice other things you value, like spending time with your kids.

The science is pretty solid that you need at least 12 weeks to prepare your body for hunting season, but that's just the basics. To be truly ready for whatever the mountains are going to throw at you, the time to start training is NOW. Not in August.

Many hunters wait until the last minute to get ready and don't prepare their energy production system, core, and legs sufficiently to handle the demands of the mountains. A "trip of a lifetime" can quickly turn into a nightmare or dangerous bonking situation without proper conditioning.



CALIFORNIANS WITH A GRAND SLAM™

11. JACK GREER (D)	270. BRUCE SHAW (D)	623. VAN PROBST
21. HENRY BONDESON (D)	272. TED MAINO (D)	641. RICK GARZOLI JR. (Second Slam, 2016)
23. JAMES JOHNSON	284. KENNETH REUTER (D)	655. DON K. CALLAHAN
37. TOM BOWLES (D)	291. JIM CARACCIOLI	662. ROBERT E. PETERSEN (D)
40. STAN RADOM	293. W.E. (BILL) POOLE (D)	675. DEAN A. SONNENBERG
59. WALT SCHUBERT (D)	311. RAY FOLLOSCO (D)	681. STEVE BACON
64. EARL HARRIS (D)	313. GULDBRAND KRAMER (D)	684. DAVID E. COMBS
65. STEVE ROSE (D)	322. GAIL SANDERS (Lady Slammer #12)	698. JOHN B. BRELSFORD
66. BASIL BRADBURY (D)	332. WILLIAM H. TAYLOR	700. KENNETH BARR (Third Slam, 2009)
47. JIM EGGER	335. AL MARSH	701. J. CURTIS NEWMAN (D)
78. PETE BELCASTRO (D)	347. GERALD MALOVOS	709. PETER P. BOLLINGER
79. W.A.K. SEALE (D)	356. CURT CARTER	746. LOU MISTERLY JR.
83. C.D. SHARP (D)	378. DON TURNER	757. J. CRAIG HOLWORTHY
87. LAMAR EMPEY (D)	388. DAN ALEGRE	758. DAVID W. HANNA
93. F.M. SULLIVAN	403. RON GABRIEL	762. DAYMON ORR
97. VIN SOMAVIA	406. E.J. HUXEN (D)	764. J. G. "JERRY" WILSON
123. SAM SANJABI (D)	419. FRANK BINANDO	791. RON SCHAUER
130. ARNE DIGERUD (D)	451. CURT CARTER, JR.	793. BRUNO SCHERRER
134. GEORGE CARNAHAN	453. JACK WILKINSON	812. STEPHEN WALKER
136. KEN BUFFALO	454. MICHAEL D. ROWE	813. DAVID PRICKETT
142. AUDIE CRABTREE (D)	458. STEVE F. REITER	825. STANFORD H. ATWOOD
151. OZZIE DAVIS	494. TOM CLEMENTS (D)	826. PAMELA S. ATWOOD (Lady Slammer #28)
153. WILLIAM WILSON (D)	495. S. CARL MILLER	830. NORMAN ETCHISON
156. CHIC KAWAHARA (D)	501. ALFRED E. BALDWIN (Archery Slam #17)	832. WILLIAM R. PRITCHARD
162. VERNE CROWELL	509. WESLEY HANSEN	842. ROGER L. GREGG
176. LEW CARPENTER (D)	516. JOHN WHITCOMBE	844. ROGER MCCOSKER
180. ROGER PIERS (D)	525. NICHOLAS COUSSOULIS	845. DENNIS SITES (Third Slam, 2011)
192. JOE CARVALHO	540. DAVID COLCLOUGH JR. (Second Slam, 2004)	861. JOHN GEBBIA
198. BILL SINCLAIR	541. CARL JACOBSON (Second Slam, 1996)	867. DEBI RAMSEY- CASEY (Lady Slammer #30)
200. ERNEST RIGHETTI	542. ROBERT MANGER	868. GEORGE L. WILSON
216. ERNIE SANDERS	558. IRA LEE ARMSTRONG	869. ANN PALMER (Lady Slammer #31)
224. AL PELLIZZARI (D)	576. EARL R. CUMMINS (D)	874. FRITZ NACHANT
226. CHUCK HAWKINS (D)	582. SAM PATTILLO	875. HOWARD BARNETT
232. HUGH CHATHAM JR.	594. MICHAEL HEATHMAN	
250. JERRY TEIXEIRA	597. H. JAMES TONKIN, JR.	
251. JIMMY LOW (D)		
258. GARY JORGENSEN		
261. KERN CHEW (D)		
267. PHIL NARE		

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896. STANLEY A. WEINRICH	1143. LONNIE RITCHEY	1666. DANNY DANELL
927. RENEE SNIDER	1155. TED PETERS	1701. JOHN R. DRUMMOND
(Lady Slammer #35)	1164. GREGORY L. POPE	1713. MARK MEGAZZI
943. ROBERT HIGHFILL	1203. STEVE YEAGER	1721. GREGORY FOWLER
947. ARNOLD JARDSTROM (D)	1213. DAVID FITZPATRICK	1772. JOHN WHIPPLE (D)
952. FRANK COX	1260. GRAHAM G. WEISS	1797. MIKE TORRES
980. RALPH E. ADAMS	1300. WILLIAM A. PAULIN	1807. GEORGE DAVIS
(Seventh Slam, 2014)	1399. BEN GORDON	1854. GARY BORDESSA
993. JAMES SANDERSON	1402. WALTER O. KIRBY	1865. KIRK WARNER
998. CHIP MOONEYHAM	1433. TOM GRIFFITHS	1887. DAVID HARRISON
1007. DENNIS ANDERSON	1434. JOHN CAVIN	1958. GREG PRASTER
1020. MIKE J. BOREL	1435. JIM CLARK	1964. CHARLENE WINKLER
1028. KEVIN SMALL	1504. VINT VARNER	(Lady Slammer #63)
(Third Slam, 2018)	1510. R. P. MUSSELMAN	1965. BOB KEAGY
1035. RANDY E. THOMAS	1516. MIKE PASSAGLIA	1966. BLAKE QUINN
1036. DON GIOTTONINI, JR.	1525. MARK BUCHANAN	2009. JASON HAIRSTON
1047. VICTOR MANCUSO JR.	1540. FRANK STATHOS	2077. NINO ROSINI
1064. LEONARD BUTLER (D)	1566. TONY AIVAZIAN	2088. SPENCER QUINN
1073. LESTER (JACK) GRAF (D)	1569. JIM McISAAC	(Archery Slam #73)
1086. ROBERT J. STALLONE	1570. GARY P. BROWN	2107. TIM LYONS
1101. CRAIG BODDINGTON	1577. LARRY DAY	2119. BILLY GRISSOM
(Second Slam, 2008)	1591. CHRISTOPHER MARX (D)	2124. WILLIAM TITTLE
1124. ARMEN AVEDISSIAN	1615. DON PERRIEN	(Archery Slam #77)
1126. MARGARET (PEGGY) BARNETT	1624. RON WADE	2148. ERIK A. ROSINI
(Lady Slammer #40)	1647. JIM COFFRINI	2153. WILLIAM FREED
	1650. JASON BRUCE	2156. STEPHEN G. HOBLOCK

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CALIFORNIANS WITH OVIS WORLD SLAMS™

Dennis Anderson	Larry Day	Peggy Barnett Lee	Ernie Righetti
Armen Avedissian	Ben Gordon	Roger McCosker	(Deceased)
Kenneth Barr	Roger L. Gregg	Mark Megazzi	Bruno Scherrer
Craig Boddington	Arnold Jardstrom	Chip Mooneyham	(Deceased)
Mike J. Borel	(Deceased)	Rich Papapietro	Kevin Small
Jason Bruce	Bob Keagy	William A. Paulin	Renee Snider
David E. Combs	Guldbrand Kramer	Bill Poole (Deceased)	
Danny Danell	(Deceased)	Bob Puette	

CALIFORNIANS WITH CAPRA WORLD SLAMS™

Dennis Anderson	Jason Bruce	Arnold Jardstrom	Mark Megazzi
Armen Avedissian	Danny Danell	(Deceased)	William A. Paulin
Kenneth Barr	Larry Day	Bob Keagy	Bill Poole (Deceased)
Craig Boddington	Norman L. Epley	Peggy Barnett Lee	Kevin Small
Mike J. Borel	Ben Gordon	Roger McCosker	Renee Snider
Rusty Brines	Roger L. Gregg	Vic Mancuso Jr.	

Q&A WITH MEMBER ANDY MOECKEL

Mike Borel asks the important questions!

1. What does wild sheep hunting and conservation mean to you?

Wild sheep hunting means to me so much more than just a hunt. It is the definition of one of the greatest conservation stories of the modern day. The only reason why we ever have opportunities to go on sheep hunts and live through the experience is because of wildsheep conservation. So it means a lot. Hard work, energy, effort and money.

2. What is your story? Where are you from? What do you do? Who do you love?

My name is Andy Moeckel I am 5th generation Californian. I am originally from Marin county but live in Sonoma county now. I cook, take photographs, I run a small sauce business and go on as many hunts a year as I can. I've never married and have no kids and I love my family and good friends!



3. What ideas do you have for helping CA WSF to grow in membership and impact?

I've got some good ideas for making CA WSF more attractive for younger folks throughout California and helping these people understand what it means to join Wild Sheep Foundation.

4. Tell us about your group of friends that come to the CA WSF Fundraiser every year?

I've got a lot of friends that come to the WSF California dinner event every year. The best part that I have found within the California sheep community is how friendly everyone has been to me as a "FNG" and how everyone is really helpful in guiding me to a better understanding of sheep.

GRAND SLAM® RAM AT LAST – FOR ANDY WOOD



Andy Wood has returned from a successful Rocky Bighorn in WY. Andy had been on three previous Rocky hunts in Canada without success. And he needed a Rocky to achieve his Grand Slam®.

Andy purchased the WY tag last year at the WSF dinner. Our Distinguished Life Member Roger McCosker referred him to Josh Martoglio. He had to go twice this year: on the opener, and he returned later in season, to again hunt with Josh.....

FINALLY success -- for his Rocky and his Grand Slam®.

One of the great benefits of membership is having a cadre of people you can reach out to for guidance.

Congratulations Andy!

FAVORITE WINERIES – RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MEMBERS

Our members have great taste in hunting -- and in wine! These member recommendations are for wineries from Northern Napa and Sonoma down to Santa Barbara.

Ledson, Kenwood/Santa Rosa – Terrific wine across most varietals. Fun Parties and Tastings.

J Vineyards, Healdsburg – Fantastic Pinot Noir, also known for sparkling wine. Incredible wine and food pairing tasting.

Freeman, Sebastapol – Fantastic Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Boutique winery.

Byron, Santa Barbara – Superb single vineyard Pinot Noir. Great tasting with food pairing experience.

MJA Vineyards, Santa Cruz - Terrific wine across most varietals and appellations. Owner is quite the comedian and pours daily.

Gloria Ferrer Wines, Sonoma – known for sparkling wine and a very beautiful and romantic site for sipping. Their Pinot Noir is also very good.

Raymond Vineyards, St. Helena – known for superb red blend and Cabernet Sauvignon.

Castello de Amarosa, Calistoga – The greatest strength of this place is their authentic castle and great parties!! They have a superb reserve Tuscan Blend. Take the tour, it is amazing. Also you will have actual Italians pouring for you at a tasting.

Amador County—Dillian Wines, Andis, Jeff Renquist wines, Vino Noceto. All great locations with tasting rooms in California's Gold Country.



WHO IS THE LUCKIEST CA WSF MEMBER?

Introducing a member who may be even luckier than member Adam Casagrande! 3 Desert Sheep Tags!!!

But ...

Founding Life Member Brenton Scott just drew a Texas desert bighorn sheep tag and now has drawn **THREE** different state tags! Congrats Brenton!

ELK CORNBREAD CASSEROLE — RMEF AND KITCHEN CARNIVORES

This casserole is a quick and easy crowd-pleaser, combining elk, chopped onion, yellow bell pepper, sweet corn, a blend of spices and mild shredded cheese. But the pièce de resistance that makes this casserole so irresistible is the cornbread batter topping. You can make your favorite cornbread from scratch, or if you're pressed for time any store-bought cornbread mix will work fine. Just be sure to follow the directions on the package so you have at least 2 cups of prepared batter.

The batter covers the entire dish, locking in the medley of flavors. Before you know it, you'll end up with a golden-brown cornbread crust that adds a sweet, rich texture to every satisfying bite.

Serves 6-8

Prep Time 25 Minutes

Cook Time 30 Minutes



<https://youtu.be/XeU0qLHKTrU>

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound ground elk
- 2 tablespoons canola or vegetable oil
- 1 yellow onion, chopped
- 1 yellow bell pepper, chopped
- 1-2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 can (15.25 oz) whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 can (14.75 oz) cream-style corn
- 2 cups Colby jack cheese, shredded
- 2 tablespoons ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- 2 cups cornbread batter (follow directions on package)
- Garnish: salsa, pickled jalapeños and cilantro.

PREP

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Heat a skillet over medium heat and add oil. When the oil is warm, add the onions, yellow bell pepper and garlic. Cook for roughly five minutes or until onions become translucent and soft. Add ground elk meat and brown. Season the mixture with cumin powder, chili powder and salt. Pour in both cans of corn and stir to ensure all ingredients are well combined. Remove from heat.

Using a 9"x13" casserole dish, pour about ¼ cup of the prepared batter on the bottom. Add the ground elk mixture and top with 1 cup shredded cheese. Pour the rest of the cornbread batter over the top, then bake uncovered for 20 minutes.

Add the remainder of the cheese to the top of the cornbread crust and continue to bake for an additional 10 minutes or until the cheese is melted and the crust is golden-brown. Remove from oven and let cool before serving.

Garnish with salsa, pickled jalapeños (for those who like a little heat) and cilantro.

THE SENIOR LIFE

To me, "drink responsibly" means don't spill it.

Age 60 might be the new 40, but 9:00 pm is the new midnight.

The older I get, the earlier it gets late.

When I say, "The other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.

I remember being able to get up without making sound effects.

I had my patience tested. I'm negative.

I finally got eight hours of sleep. It took me three days, but whatever.

When I ask for directions, please don't use words like "east", "south", "west"...

20TH ANNIVERSARY CA WSF FUNDRAISING BANQUET

*by Co-Chairman Donald C Martin, CA WSF Board President, Distinguished Life Member
and Co-Chairman Ken Crother, CA WSF Board Member, Life Member*

Thirty-five years of the “modern era” of California sheep hunting, the 60th Anniversary of the California Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, and California Wild Sheep Foundation’s 20th anniversary will be celebrated at the next annual fundraiser on Saturday evening, April 24, 2021.

The event returns to the Doubletree by Hilton in Sacramento. The venue for the 2019 event drew positive reviews on the quality of the dinner, banquet hall and accommodations. Given current gathering restrictions, we are looking at alternatives at this time and may be forced to, once again, have a virtual event. But, right now, your fundraising committee is proceeding with the plan to return to normalcy.

Although not yet formally committed, we have applied to the State of California for the unit-specific desert bighorn auction permit. I want to take a moment to congratulate last year’s auction winner on his successful desert bighorn hunt this year in the Cady Mountains. We are very hopeful that we are awarded this fundraising permit and we will keep you informed as soon as the permits are awarded.

The State of Alaska has once again awarded our chapter the Governor’s Bison Permit for the Chitina River unit. This is the best bison permit in the State of Alaska and arguably one the best “adventures” in North America. This is a “once-in-a-lifetime” opportunity to hunt one of North America’s most iconic big game animals in America’s “Last Frontier.” Last year’s permit was sold for a record setting \$38,000. We want to thank one of our distinguished life members on the purchase and congratulate him on his successful hunt.

Next year’s CA WSF general sheep raffle is absolutely one of the best sheep hunts in North America. Darwin and Wendy Cary of Scoop Lake Outfitters have provided us with a 14-day, 1x1 Stone Sheep Hunt! The hunt is for the opener dates of August 1-14, 2022. Winner will be selected by random drawing on April 24, 2021. Tickets are \$100 each with a limit of 25 per person and they are available NOW at: www.cawsf.org/store.html Only 600 tickets will be sold for this event with 100 tickets reserved for in person sales the night of our event. Winner does NOT need to be present to win. Don’t wait, visit our website today and buy your tickets. Special thanks to Board member Shawn Wood for soliciting this hunt on the behalf of CA WSF.



Don Martin will emcee the 2021 Banquet Fundraiser

In addition to our Stone sheep hunt, we will have a Dall sheep hunt awarded by random drawing exclusively available to our life, junior life, and distinguished life members. Junior life and life members will automatically be entered to win 1 time and distinguished life members will automatically be entered 3 times. Paul and Donna Claus of Ultima Thule Outfitters have generously provided a 10-day, 1x1 Dall sheep hunt—dates to be determined for 2022. You MUST be in the room to win it. This hunt is not transferable. I would like to thank our 2019 winner for all of his hard work this past season and I am pleased to report that he was successful in harvesting a magnificent Dall sheep scoring 168 B&C unofficial green. Ultima Thule Outfitters currently has a 4-5 year wait and this may be your best chance to hunt the World’s #1 destination for trophy Dall sheep. Make plans to attend and be in the room to win this incredible hunt.

Save the date for our 20th anniversary gala event April 24, 2021 and plan to attend!

Watch the website and e-mails for future information and reservation details. We look forward to the opportunity to gather as a family once again and celebrate our continued dedication to “Putting and Keeping Sheep on the Mountain.”

America's Largest Army

The numbers shown are 10 years old, but the point made is still accurate.

The world's largest army is ... America 's hunters! I had never thought about this....

A blogger added up the deer license sales in just a handful of states and arrived at a striking conclusion:

1. There were over 600,000 hunters this season in the state of Wisconsin. Allow me to restate that number. Over the last several months, Wisconsin 's hunters became the eighth largest army in the world.

a. More men under arms than in Iran. More than in France and Germany combined.

b. These men deployed to the woods of a single American state to hunt with firearms, and no one was killed.

2. That number pales in comparison to the 750,000 who hunted the woods of Pennsylvania and Michigan 's 700,000 hunters. Toss in a quarter million hunters in West Virginia and it literally establishes the fact that the hunters of those four states alone would comprise the largest army in the world.

The point?

America will (or at least can) forever be safe from foreign invasion with that kind of home-grown firepower.

Hunting -- it's not just a way to fill the freezer. It's a matter of national security.



CA WSF WANTS YOU – As a Member!

Please share this info with your friends.

Are you a Californian? A Transplant to or from? Do you hunt Wild Sheep? Do you dream about hunting Wild Sheep? Do you want to help assure that Wild Sheep thrive for future generations? Do you want to be part of a growing organization that is making a positive difference?

If you answered yes to one or more of those questions – please join CA WSF! If you are able, join or upgrade to Life Membership or to Distinguished Life Membership. The Desert Bighorn in California are doing well and CA WSF is making a real difference by raising funds, getting

connected, working with CDFW, collaborating with SCBS to add rainwater catchments to preserve and enhance Desert Bighorn populations in California.



Joining is very easy – www.cawsf.org or email Beverly Valdez at forthesheep@gmail.com.

Want to get even more involved? Email Don Martin, President, at don-martin@earthlink.net.

CA WSF is a proud Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation – you'll want to be a member there too www.wildsheepfoundation.org.

2022 STONE SHEEP HUNT Special Drawing



ONLY 600 TICKETS AVAILABLE

\$100 PER TICKET

CA WSF Board Member
Shawn Wood with Stone
Sheep at Scoop Lake Outfitters



Scoop Lake Outfitters

Hunt Information

14 day 1x1 hunt with Scoop Lake Outfitters

Dates: August 1 - August 14, 2022

Location: central British Columbia, Canada

This is a full hunt including trophy fee, field prep, accommodations in tent or cabin, and air charter. Transportation during the hunt is mostly by horseback. Wolf may be added at no fee. Additional species including moose, goat, bear, and caribou may be added at regular fees. You will be responsible for license, tags, and Hunting Preservation Fund (approximately US\$1300) and gratuities.

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

YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN

Mail order form to: CA Wild Sheep Foundation
1630 Williams Hwy #151
Grants Pass, OR 97527

ONLINE ORDERS:

www.cawsf.org/store

Orders must be received by April 10, 2021. Drawing held April 24, 2021.

WYOMING GOAT HUNT

by John Ware
CA WSF Distinguished Life Member

It's difficult to say precisely when a hunt begins or when it ends. Arguably the essence a hunt could be a single stalk encapsulated in an hour or less terminated by a single shot. Equally valid it could be said that any hunt began with the first time the hunter decided to hunt, the first time they bought a hunting license, the first time they drew a limited entry tag, with their first successful hunt, or the first time they ate an animal they had harvested. Any of these might be "the moment" that drives them to a lifetime of adventures.

For me, my 2020 Wyoming mountain goat hunt began the first time I attended a California Wild Sheep Foundation fundraiser dinner in 2006. There I met many people who were friendly, dedicated and committed to conservation. They worked hard to do difficult things both personally and in efforts to support the sheep on the mountains. My admiration for this community grew quickly and in short order I aspired to be one of them. I began my hunting history that year by taking my first hunt on a trip to Africa when I was the winning bidder on a trip auctioned at the same fundraiser!

Affordable opportunities to pursue mountain game are very limited as we all well know. I was lucky enough to draw a mountain goat tag to hunt in Montana in 2014, and was successful on an old nanny that both of my guides assured me was a billy until it was far past the time to change my mind (as we retrieved the fallen animal). On that hunt I learned a lot, including that I could *do it* which was by no means certain before then. I also learned a lesson that I have had to relearn over the years: that even on a guided hunt I have to be responsible for knowing the animal I am shooting, even if it is difficult to tell the difference between a nanny and billy. I made a simple promise to myself that if I ever had another opportunity to hunt a mountain goat, I would return with a billy.

This year I was lucky enough to draw another mountain goat tag in wilderness unit 2 in Wyoming for the fall of 2020. A few weeks of internet searching and many phone calls to guide/outfitters references, led me to **Hale Outfitting**—owned and operated by Eli Hale. Eli had a refreshing attitude in that he charges the same for an elk hunt or a mountain goat hunt. From his perspective, the effort was about the same for him and he didn't need to jack up the prices



John Ware, Wyoming Mountain Goat

because one tag was much harder to come by than the other. His references were impeccable, and he seemed like a straight shooter in phone discussions. He had a hunter take the state-record goat a few years ago, but it was clear that luck, as always, played a part in that. I set my parameters simply: a legal billy or no goat were my only options. He said he'd had many goat hunters, and only one had taken a nanny, and it was his choice, not because of unclear identification.

The hunt sounded like it would be a true backcountry wilderness adventure, including a lengthy horseback ride to a high-mountain camp where there were no roads. This was always something I had wanted to experience and so I booked the hunt, and did everything I could to be in good shape for it. Eli asked if I'd ever ridden before, and I owned up to my lack of experience with a sum total of one afternoon of riding on gentle hills in Argentina years ago. He thought that would be enough.

The packing list provided by the outfitter was reasonable, and luckily weight wasn't a big concern because most gear would make it to camp on pack horses. We scheduled the hunt to start mid-season, as it worked with his elk hunters and the goats should be "haired up" by then.

The hunt season began almost exactly one year after I had fully ruptured my Achilles tendon, requiring surgery to reattach it along with a lengthy rehabilitation process. The season opened a little over three months after I had fallen off of a roof in an unfortunate construction accident, requiring a trip to



Jason (L), Eli (R) — Standing by the tree where I eventually took my shot from

the ER and a battery of tests that luckily discovered no permanent damage. But still required over a month of healing to get over extensive hematoma covering significant parts of my body. Needless to say, I wasn't in the best shape of my life. It makes me wonder how some people manage to accomplish dozens of successful mountain hunts in their lifetime.

Beverly and I made it to Wyoming on schedule, arriving in Afton, Wyoming, home of the famous antler arch, the evening before I was to meet up with Eli and head to camp. I'm very grateful she came along to help with most of the driving and to pass the time — it's always one of the fun parts of a trip for me. Gear was repacked and checked for the last time, and after a somewhat fretful nights' sleep with the usual jitters over whether everything would go well, I met Eli the next morning.

Eli is the typical tall, lanky guide who clearly spends more time outdoors on the mountains in a year than most do in a lifetime. We loaded all my gear onto the back of his truck hauling a big trailer full of hay, made the usual errands required mid-season when an outfitter gets a chance to come to town, and were headed up into the mountains. The plan was to spend the night at Eli's base camp at the end of the road, then ride to the upper spike camp the next morning. He seemed to think we might shoot a goat the same day and be headed back soon after. The base camp was very well outfitted: snug walled tents with camp stoves for heat and electric lights. Yes, it was a mountain tent camp, with a power pole right in the middle of it! He had about 20 horses in a few corals, and between him and the cook, camp staff, guides and other hunters there was a parking lot with 10 vehicles or so.

There was one other hunter in camp — Mark. He was looking for a bull elk. He was heading out the next morning to take care of things in town including delaying his flight home, so that he could hunt another couple of days in hopes of some better-late-than-never success on a bull elk. Mark shared an

interesting story. He had started hunting when he retired at 62 and a half. He was here on his second elk hunt with Eli, which was a good sign. No one comes back if they have a bad experience.

Over the evening and the next morning I got to know Jason, a wiry horseman who would be my guide. He brought his own horses to camp instead of using one of Eli's and wore leather chaps that looked like they had seen many miles of hard use. Turns out he spent a lot of time riding on a 300-acre farm in Nebraska. Jason showed me some blurry cell phone pictures which he assured me showed four billies that he had gotten within 20 yards of a few days before.

Luke was the camp cook, a friendly outgoing jack of many trades. Recently he'd managed pig farms for a major pork producer, and was making a career switching into selling feed to farmers after the hunting season ended for him. I also got to know Tomas, the youthful camp hand hoping to get into guiding and outfitting himself someday.

In many ways the horseback rides *were* the hunt. The morning and early afternoon were spent making our way slowly up several thousand feet of elevation change, and about 8 miles back into the wilderness. For the most part, riding my horse — who bore the moniker Fabio because he had a gorgeous long mane — made for an incredible way to see the scenery as it unfolded but no photos since I was holding on for dear life! Fall colors had set in and anything could be around the next bend. After a brutally dry summer they'd had a few good days of rain, so the horse trails were six inches to a foot of wet, hoof-swallowing mud.

I quickly learned not to watch the horse ahead of me on the trail too carefully. Seeing the horse ahead of you stumble, hooves sometimes sliding 1-2 feet as they tried to gain purchase in the slick muddy ground, on a foot-wide trail that side-hilled above a couple hundred-



Fabio (L) the 'star' and my ride (R)

yard steep drop was not a good idea. It quickly led to thoughts of how many times the horse would be on top if the two of us went rolling down to the bottom, and wondering whether I would be conscious at the end.

Fabio was a blessing and a curse. Over the next few

days he demonstrated a desire to trot whenever the opportunity arose, and a skill at slowly letting the horse ahead of him on the trail get a lead so he'd need to catch up. He exacerbated this by choosing steep downhill as the time to "make up the distance." Eli and Jason alternated advice to me, including "rein him in, don't let him do that," "let up on the reins, he can't keep up with you reining him back," and "he plows steers" (I need to look that one up someday). There were a few times I was honestly scared to death, but the common consensus was to trust the stock, so for the most part I did.

Fabio didn't like to wade down into small creek gullies, so there were several times he decided to jump a creek instead of stepping down and through. That was exhilarating for someone who had no idea what was happening.

Upper camp was pretty luxurious as well. Walled tents



High camp outside was snow and cold

with stoves, and a generator which ran long enough for lights in the tents during meals and bed time. There was even an outhouse. Not the kind of spike camp I'd heard about from sheep hunters.

After settling in briefly, we headed out to hunt the spot where Jason had been seeing goats. It was another couple miles of riding, and maybe half a mile of hiking to get to the top of an 8,800' point, where we could look down on the slope the goats had been frequenting. It was brutally cold and very windy, with a bit of sleet and rain. The Sitka gear I had accumulated from various fundraisers over the years definitely served me well. We found a lot of fresh sign, did some hiking partway down the slope to see if they were just sheltering in the tree line, and headed back in hopes to make it to camp by nightfall.

The next morning we woke up to several inches of snow blanketing camp and headed out to spend the day on the same point. I put my foot down and insisted on walking in a few of the sketchier places from then on out.

The plan was that Eli would circle around to another rise where he could glass back onto the slope we were on, and see if he could find the goats and radio back to Jason. Eli took a spotting scope. It wasn't clear until later that it was the only spotting scope we had, which would make it a bit difficult to judge any goat we might see.

We spent the morning glassing and trying to stay warm. Eventually we backed off a bit around midday and made a fire to warm up. We alternated walking around to various vantage points, looking for goats. Suddenly things went from 0 to 60, as Jason came running back from the overlook making the usual hand signals that say "get your gun and get over here"!

We could see three goats. Two were about to disappear back into the treeline below. Of the two, one of them was noticeably bigger of body than the other, so they "read" as a nanny and kid. Neither ever gave a good look at their horns as they were head down feeding in and around deadfall, and generally looking downhill (away from us). Jason was trying to make a call on whether one of them was a billy with his bins. The third goat was further from the treeline, and I could see through the scope on my borrowed gun (Beverly's 280AI Wild Sheep Foundation Gun of the year 2016) that he was clearly a billy. I've read many articles that high powered scopes are not necessary for hunting, but at that moment I was grateful for the magnification and clarity of the scope which made it clear to me that I was looking at a billy, with the tell-tale wide bases, wider than his eyes, and more uniformly curving horns.



High camp tent interior was snug — dry and warm

I was leaning out over the steep drop off, resting against a tree. I knew the approximate yardage from hours of glassing with my bins with built-in range finder over the proceeding hours and day. I mentally debated going prone, but I felt very steady and the goats were moving towards the treeline, and I'd be in an awkward position sliding off the edge in the mud



L to R — Eli, Luke, Tomas, and Jason at base camp

if I tried, so I decided against changing position. I never took the time to think, “Yes, he is a billy, but is he the right billy?” Funny how a hunt that takes years of applications, months of preparation, days of travel, many hours of patience, and those final minutes can suddenly be so rushed. Lesson learned for future hunts, I hope.

I told Jason it was a billy, it was my call, and I was taking the shot. I did control my breath as I squeezed the trigger. Jason confirmed a hit, then went running off. My goat fell downhill towards a tree, and a fourth goat appeared from behind the same tree. At 200 yards with the excitement it was easy to get confused about whether that was my goat running away, possibly wounded. I gathered my gear, and hustled after Jason, but had to pick a different route to side hill down. The first thing Jason said when I caught up to him was “he’s got nuts!”

The goat only went about 10-12 yards from where he was when I shot him to where he came to rest. He could have gone 500-1,000 yards down the drainage making him much harder to retrieve, since we had to go over the top to get back to camp. It also took only one shot at about 180 yards, bullet entered on the high shoulder, passed through the heart, and exited low on the opposite shoulder. Eli and Jason were very happy with that as they had numerous hunters in camp miss hard earned shots on elk (a much bigger target). This was much better than my 2015 mountain goat, which took five confirmed hits and chasing over a half mile of steep scree to terminate.

The pack horses really did pay off when the entire goat, cape, skull and meat could be loaded on a horse. In hindsight, I wish I would have realized that we might have put the whole goat on a horse, and moved to a better spot for pictures. Another lesson.

We made it back to camp that night, where we had a celebratory steak dinner, followed by a crazy nighttime rain storm that pounded down, keeping me awake with anxiety over the upcoming ride back to basecamp

over trails that would be even muddier and slipperier. In the morning all the snow was gone, and we spent some time breaking parts of camp as the season was coming to a close for Eli and his crew. Then we made the return to basecamp.

Eli was friends with one of the game wardens, who was in the area and graciously agreed to come to camp to check my goat in rather than requiring a 50-mile drive to the nearest WF&G office. The warden measured the goat at 9” with 6” bases, and declared it a “good billy”. Then he aged it at 3 years. I felt somewhat down at taking an animal that could have made it many more years and contributed more to the gene pool instead of the old warrior we all dream of. Not to mention what he might have become given more time.

I had the option to pick up a black bear tag in town, then return for a day or two of black bear hunting at no extra charge. But to be honest I just wasn’t prepared to face more days on horseback, and was definitely the worse for wear. So, we packed up and headed back to town that evening.

The cape and attached skull were left with Eli for delivery to a taxidermist for caping, fleshing, salting the hide, and then shipping on to my taxidermist for the next steps. We made the drive home in one day, exhausted but happy to be home. We processed all the meat ourselves over the next week.

Before the hunt Beverly and I talked about this being the last mountain goat hunt — getting a billy, any billy, would satisfy my need for goats. Now, I’m not sure — if I ever luck into another mountain goat hunt, my goal will be a 10-year-old billy.

It’s definitely hard to say when ‘the hunt’ ends!

In looking through my photos from the hunt for this story I came to some other “lessons learned”.

— If you want a spectacular picture of your goat after a hunt, don’t shoot it on a muddy, rainy day down in a drainage.

—If you want great pictures, after you think you are done taking pictures, no matter how cold or tired you are, look them over carefully and honestly. After all the effort put into a hunt, would another 10 minutes to get better photos really be out of the question?

—Finally, take the time to get a good “group photo” of your team. Ideally one when everyone is fresh before you head out, and another after success or at the conclusion of your hunt.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES GRAY WOLF DELISTING ACROSS LOWER 48

Reprint from: BigGame Forever Magazine and Dept of Interior Press Release

October 29, 2020. Today Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt, and Director Aurelia Skipwith of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that the gray wolf will be delisted across the entire lower-48 states.

"Today's action reflects the Trump Administration's continued commitment to species conservation based on sound science and facts," said Secretary Bernhardt. "After over 45 years as a listed species, the gray wolf has greatly exceeded all conservation goals for recovery. By delisting the gray wolf today, we can return management of wolf populations to the states."

The Department of the Interior and The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recognize the invaluable contributions and efforts that sportsmen make toward wildlife conservation efforts. A press release from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about today's action states:

"Fish and wildlife conservation depends on federal partnerships with states, landowners, and most importantly sportsmen who directly fund – to the tune of \$1 billion last year alone and more than \$23 billion since inception – conservation efforts by purchasing hunting and fishing licenses, fishing tackle, ammunition, boating fuel and other recreational items."

The press release goes on to say:

"The gray wolf final delisting determination is based on sound science, a thorough analysis of threats and how they have been alleviated, and the ongoing commitment and proven track record of states and tribes to continue managing for healthy wolf populations once delisted."

BigGame Forever strongly applauds today's decision to fully restore state management authority over Canadian gray wolves in the lower 48 states. This decision is a critical next step to protecting and restoring abundant moose, elk, and deer populations across America.

It is because of your efforts that the gray wolf has been delisted. Thank you for all you have done and your continued support.

Sincerely,

Ryan Benson, President

BigGame Forever



The DOI press release continues.

By the early part of the 20th century, the gray wolf had become scarce across almost the entire landscape of the lower 48 states. But, the dedicated efforts of partners that included states, tribes, conservation organizations and private landowners working together under the auspices of the ESA, brought this great predator back to healthy, stable numbers. Gray wolves in the United States exist primarily as two large, genetically diverse, stable to growing populations broadly distributed across several contiguous U.S. States, with an additional large population in Alaska that was never listed.

Gray wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains, where a healthy and sustainable population roams across Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, and eastern portions of Oregon and Washington, were previously delisted. These states have since managed this delisted population effectively and responsibly. Wolves have even expanded into western Oregon, western Washington, northern California and most recently in northwest Colorado.

The Western Great Lakes wolf population in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, the largest outside Alaska, is also strong and stable. These states have been key partners in wolf recovery efforts and have made a commitment to continue their activities. The states of Washington, Oregon, California and Colorado are also committed to conserving wolves, as demonstrated by their development of management plans and laws protecting wolves.

This final rule excludes Mexican wolves as that species remains listed under the ESA. The final rule will be effective 60 days after publication in the Federal Register.

More information is online at <https://www.fws.gov/home/wolfrecovery>.

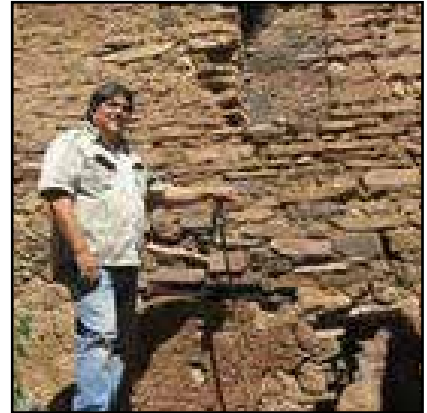
THE DESERT AT NIGHT

*by Carlos Gallinger
thewayofthings.org*

When walking the desert in the summer time heat one finds there is a stillness on the land. The stark blue sky without any clouds is motionless, and all the animals or deep in their burrows or hiding in what little shade they can find. In contrast to this, the night offers cooler temperatures and the moon and the stars give motion and beauty to the night sky, and the desert comes to life in the darkness of the night. It is here in the darkness that the drama of predator and prey is played out.

This series of pictures was taken in July using infrared technology, so these animals are unaware of the camera, there is no flash.

This camera has recorded this ram and bobcat going through a similar routine three or four times at this spring. I don't think that this bobcat was seriously hunting this ram. I think this bobcat was using this ram's presence as a distraction. That is to say the other animals would be aware of the ram and not the stealthy bobcat. For some animals this could be a deadly mistake. Only a few large rams were willing



to use this spring at night all the rest of the desert bighorn sheep came during the daylight hours.

These photos are part of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep photo survey which now has approximately a half-million photos in its archive.



1) To the right of the ram you can see the two glowing eyes of a bobcat



2) In this scene the ram, which is primarily a daylight creature, is not only willing to come to the spring to drink his fill of water at night. He is also willing to run the bobcat off that has been following him for days. This would've been a very different story with a mountain lion.



3) Now having run the bobcat off, the ram can drink his water in peace. And here we see this big ram has the confidence to turn his back on that pesky bobcat.



4) Having run the bobcat off and gotten a good drink of water, our ram walks back out into the vast darkness of the desert.

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Katie Martin
Birthday Turkey, 2020



Distinguished Life Member Don Martin
Colorado Bison, 2020



Distinguished Life Member Jim Fitzgerald
Archery Deer, 2020



Life Member Mike Torres
Stone Sheep, 2020



Distinguished Life Member Zack Walton
Whitetail in velvet, 2020



Distinguished Life Member Zack Walton
Blacktail, 2020

FIRE AND BIGHORN SHEEP IN THE SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS: FORTY YEARS OF LESSONS LEARNED

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

The year 2020 has been unlike most. Among issues constantly in the news, have been the prevalence and extent of devastating wildfires across the western United States and, in particular, in California. Fire plays an integral role in many ecosystems, but especially in the fire-adapted chaparral ecosystems of southern California.

Chaparral is widespread in the transverse ranges, which extend from Santa Barbara County eastward nearly 400 km to the Little San Bernardino Mountains in central San Bernardino County. Chaparral comprises the dominant vegetation type at elevations below about 1,800 m on the coastal slope of several of the transverse mountain ranges, including the San Rafael, San Gabriel and San Bernardino mountains, all of which support populations of bighorn sheep.

The critically important role of fire in chaparral ecosystems is well known, and its role in producing and maintaining abundant, high-quality forage for mule deer and other ruminants has long been recognized. Not only are bighorn sheep occupying the chaparral of Southern California the recipients of nutritional benefits associated with fires, but they also benefit from the openness of vegetation created by fires. Although the advantages of periodic fire are not restricted to bighorn sheep occupying chaparral-dominated systems, they likely benefit disproportionately more when compared to bighorn sheep occupying other ecosystems.

Fire is an important ecological process, but the USFS had emphasized a policy of fire suppression for many decades. In 1970, that policy was modified from one of fire suppression to that of fire management. Nevertheless, fire suppression has remained a dominant factor affecting the chaparral ecosystem and its wildlife. In the early 1970s, Dick Weaver—who for three decades was my mentor in the California Department of Fish and Game—recommended a let-burn policy for fires affecting bighorn sheep habitat in the San Gabriel and San Bernardino mountains. Since then, others have advocated strongly for such a policy. In 1981, about three years into our



intensive investigation of bighorn sheep occupying the San Gabriel Mountains, the late Steve Holl and I developed a number of univariate models depicting the hypothetical value of various habitat components to mule deer and bighorn sheep, and presented that information at an international symposium addressing the management and dynamics of vegetation in Mediterranean-type ecosystems—as represented by chaparral in Southern California—and also emphasized the constraints on habitat management options. One of our models (Figure 1, page 30) emphasized the inverse relationship between availability of cover and forage, and the relative benefit of the cover to forage ratio for those two species. Two years later, in 1983, after completing our in-depth work in the San Gabriel Mountains, Steve and I concluded that management actions should be directed specifically at vegetation manipulation in chaparral and oak vegetation types to enhance habitat quality for bighorn sheep, and the recommendation to use prescribed fire for that purpose has been a recurring theme in our work since then.

Editor's note: This article along with the figures are posted on the CA WSF website where the figures are more easily compared. See the NEWS section of the website.

Following a steep decline in the bighorn sheep population (Figure 2, page 30), we conducted an exhaustive review of fire histories and population dynamics of bighorn sheep in the San Gabriel Mountains. As a result, we concluded that bighorn sheep respond positively in numbers following fires of adequate scope, and that the combined benefits to forage and habitat openness lasted for about 12 years. As post-fire vegetation succession (i.e., increase in vegetation density) occurred, habitat quality for bighorn sheep declined, and their distribution became increasingly restricted as a result of increased canopy cover. Increased cover resulted in a decline in habitat availability, a concomitant decline in forage quality for both mule deer and bighorn sheep, and a decline in openness (i.e., visibility) that likely led to an increase in susceptibility of bighorn sheep to predation. Collectively, these contributed to the decreasing population. We also identified prescribed fire as the only practical method of enhancing habitat quality for bighorn sheep in the chaparral ecosystems occupied by bighorn sheep, and concluded that the Angeles and San Bernardino national forests, which share administrative responsibilities for that part of the San Gabriel Mountains currently occupied by bighorn sheep, must implement prescribed ignitions to enhance habitat quality. Any such action would also lead to an increase in mule deer numbers, and probably also in mountain lions, but we hypothesized that predation pressure on bighorn sheep would decline. Ecosystems are complex entities!

In 2008, we published a habitat-selection model based on the springtime distribution of bighorn sheep from 1979 to 2002, during which time we recorded locations of 1,171 social groups. The model included multiple variables that generally are associated with bighorn sheep, among which are elevation, slope, hillshade, terrain ruggedness, distance to roads, distance to trails, aspect of slope and others. That work was the first to consider fire history (i.e., time since the last fire at a specific location) as a potential explanatory variable. Although we identified highly significant relationships between the distribution of bighorn sheep and a number of variables, our results indicated that fire history had an overwhelming influence on distribution of bighorn sheep on springtime ranges relative to the other variables. In our final model, fire history was the factor most apt to influence openness, enhance forage quality, and increase forage availability, each of which is extremely important to bighorn sheep, and can be manipulated through management. Further, we determined that the benefits associated with

fire lasted only 15 years, a period after which burned areas were no longer selected by bighorn sheep. The initial step in exploring that question involved establishing a baseline of bighorn sheep distribution that resulted from our long-term investigation. To do that, we plotted the observations of bighorn sheep on winter-spring ranges that we recorded during aerial surveys from 1979–2002 (Figure 3, page 30).

We next used the results of our model to develop an estimate of how much bighorn sheep habitat existed during three specific years of disparate population levels, and that were relative indicators of the amount of bighorn sheep habitat existing each of those years. In 1980, at which time the population of bighorn sheep was near its maximum, we identified a total of 486 km² of likely suitable habitat across the mountain range (Figure 4, page 31). In 2002, following the dramatic decline in bighorn sheep numbers described previously and after 85% of the winter-spring ranges had not burned for 18 years and the population was near its low point, we identified a total of only 390 km² of suitable bighorn sheep habitat in areas occupied by bighorn sheep (Figure 5, page 31). In 2004, following a series of major wildfires that burned extensively in the San Gabriel Mountains, we identified 422 km² of bighorn sheep habitat in areas occupied by bighorn sheep (Figure 6, page 31). Finally, we modeled the amount of suitable bighorn sheep habitat that would be created if the entire San Gabriel Mountains were to burn simultaneously, and predicted 615 km² of bighorn sheep habitat, as defined by our model, would be created in areas currently occupied by bighorn sheep (Figure 7, page 32).

Over the next several years, Steve and I further explored relationships among habitat quality, fire histories or fire-return intervals, indices to the mule deer population, indices to the mountain lion population, estimates of the bighorn sheep population, and the amount of high suitability habitat resulting from fire (HSF) made available on a yearly basis. In 2010, we published our analyses describing the complex relationships among the variables considered in those analyses. All evidence pointed to the importance of fire in driving the bighorn sheep population, and the strong relationship between amount of habitat burned and the estimated number of bighorn sheep occupying the mountain range following those fires (Figure 8, page 32).

For the previous 50 years, management of bighorn sheep habitat in the San Gabriel Mountains had been limited to suppressing all wildfires in the fire-adapted ecosystem occupied by those specialized

ungulates, and population management had been limited to the removal of 66 bighorn sheep for translocation to the San Rafael Mountains on the Los Padres National Forest, Ventura County. The value of fire to bighorn sheep occupying the transverse ranges has been recognized since 1970, implementation of prescribed fire to benefit bighorn sheep has been encouraged consistently since 1983, and the bighorn sheep restoration plan identified prescribed ignitions as the most effective way to enhance habitat suitability and increase the number of bighorn sheep. With one exception that treated an area of 1 km² on the South Fork Lytle Creek Winter-Spring Range, however, I am aware of no such ignitions that have been implemented. Steve and I concluded that local perceptions and official policies or legislation—including how the Wilderness Act is interpreted—that constrain the use of prescribed fire, or even use of natural ignitions to improve habitat suitability for bighorn sheep, must be modified before population objectives for bighorn sheep in the San Gabriel Mountains, and elsewhere in the transverse range, can be achieved.

Following publication of the results described above in what we dubbed the “Fire and Rain” paper, we concentrated our efforts on exploring the effects of season and size of fires, and the anticipated responses of bighorn sheep to variation in those variables. We suggested in 2012, that the ‘natural’ fire regime likely had included smaller, variable-intensity fires that burned primarily during summer and, in many cases, probably were ignited by indigenous peoples prior to European settlement. These fires would have influenced availability and distribution of high suitability habitat created by fires (HSF). We hypothesized that smaller summer fires during contemporary times also would increase the amount of HSF while simultaneously reducing variability in available HSF on an annual basis; the outcomes of our modeling exercises were consistent with those predictions. We concluded that small fires implemented by prescription can help stabilize and maintain a self-sustaining population of bighorn sheep in the San Gabriel Mountains. Nevertheless, the size of even small fires continues to be constrained by policies that dictate exclusion and suppression, or by legislation in the form of the Wilderness Act, that precludes vegetation manipulation designed to benefit a single species.

We also concluded that the application of prescribed fire across small areas resulting from summer ignitions were preferable to the large fires that typically are associated with fall ignitions and strong Santa Ana winds and that result in massive conflagrations. We arrived at this conclusion

because a mosaic of areas that spanned a range of time since the most recent ignition yields a variety of habitat patches of differing quality as a result of post-fire succession when compared to a huge conflagration. After large fires, vegetation over vast areas simultaneously increases in density and becomes less nutritious, and continues to do so largely unabated until a climax stage is reached, or the next conflagration occurs.

Following the capture of bighorn sheep in the San Gabriel Mountains and their release in the San Rafael Mountains in 1985 and 1987, we monitored the distribution of those animals for nearly five years. Using those data, we examined habitat selection by the translocated animals and the results of that investigation were published in 2019. Working with several talented colleagues, we used sophisticated techniques that had become available since 2008 when our initial work in the San Gabriel Mountains was published. We developed several models explaining habitat selection by those translocated animals and, not surprisingly, we found a similar relationship between habitat selection by bighorn sheep and time elapsed since the most recent fire (Figure 9, page 32). In the San Rafael Mountains, bighorn sheep selected areas that had burned more recently than were available across the landscape, and there was a strong seasonal effect of time-since-fire during winter, spring and fall. These results were consistent with expectations about habitat use by large herbivores dependent on the best available forage and widely open terrain to detect predators.

In September and October of 2020, the Bobcat fire burned nearly 485 km², including much of the San Gabriel Wilderness, an area of dense, decadent brush that had not experienced fire in many years (Figure 10, page 33). Eleven years ago, the Station Fire burned about 650 km² in the central portion of the San Gabriel Mountains (Figure 11, page 33), but did not burn occupied bighorn sheep habitat. As a result of the Bobcat Fire, however, the area burned in the Station Fire is now contiguous with habitat occupied by bighorn sheep occupying the San Gabriel Wilderness Winter-Spring Range (SGW). Thus, the Bobcat Fire may provide an opportunity for bighorn sheep to establish themselves in additional areas northwest and southwest of the area occupied by bighorn sheep on the SGW (Figure 3, page 30). Moreover, an even larger amount of bighorn sheep habitat would be predicted to be HSF winter-spring range if the entire mountain range were to burn (Figure 7, page 32). While I am unaware of records of bighorn sheep occupying areas west of the current SGW on a permanent basis, there is the potential for bighorn sheep to

establish themselves in areas burned by the Bobcat Fire and possibly even further west in the area burned by the Station Fire in 2009 (Figures 10 and 11, page 33). Such an event would be positive for bighorn sheep, mule deer and mountain lions, and could create further interest in management options for chaparral habitat and bighorn sheep in the San Gabriel Mountains.

Dr. Vern Bleich worked for the California Department of Fish and Game for 34 years, during which time he worked extensively with large mammals occupying the

Great Basin, Mojave, and Sonoran deserts of California, and with bighorn sheep occupying the San Gabriel Mountains. He currently is Research Professor at the University of Nevada Reno, and remains actively involved in conservation and research activities. In 2019 he was appointed to the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board, on which he represents wildlife conservation interests. Persons interested in the papers referenced in this article can request copies by contacting Vern directly (vcbleich@gmail.com).

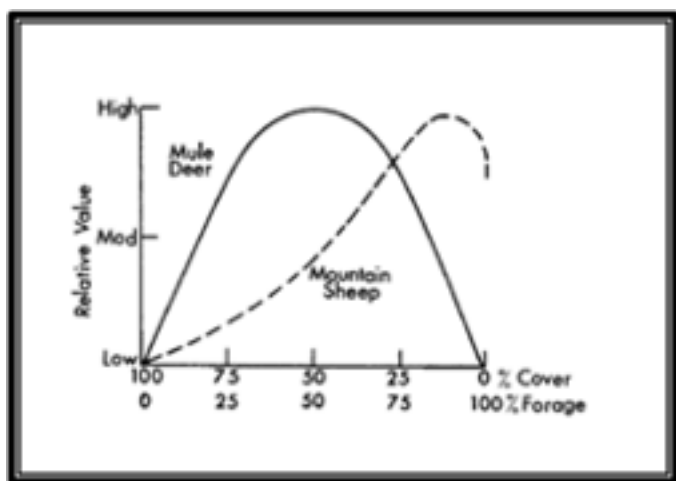


Figure 1. The cover to forage ratio and its hypothetical relative value to mule deer and bighorn sheep in chaparral ecosystems of southern California. Adapted from Bleich and Holl (1982).

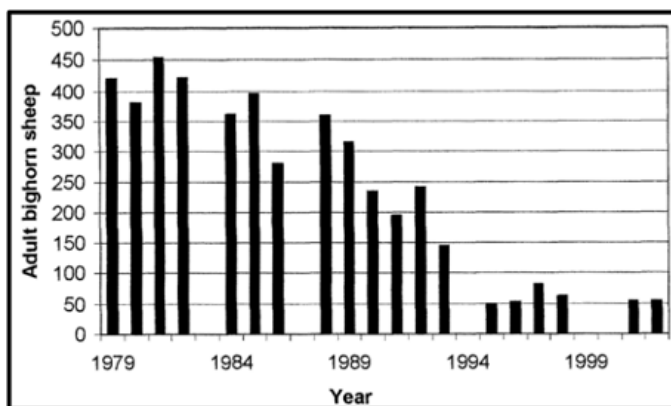


Figure 2. Total number of bighorn sheep counted during aerial surveys of the San Gabriel Mountains from 1979 to 2002. Adapted from Holl et al. (2004).

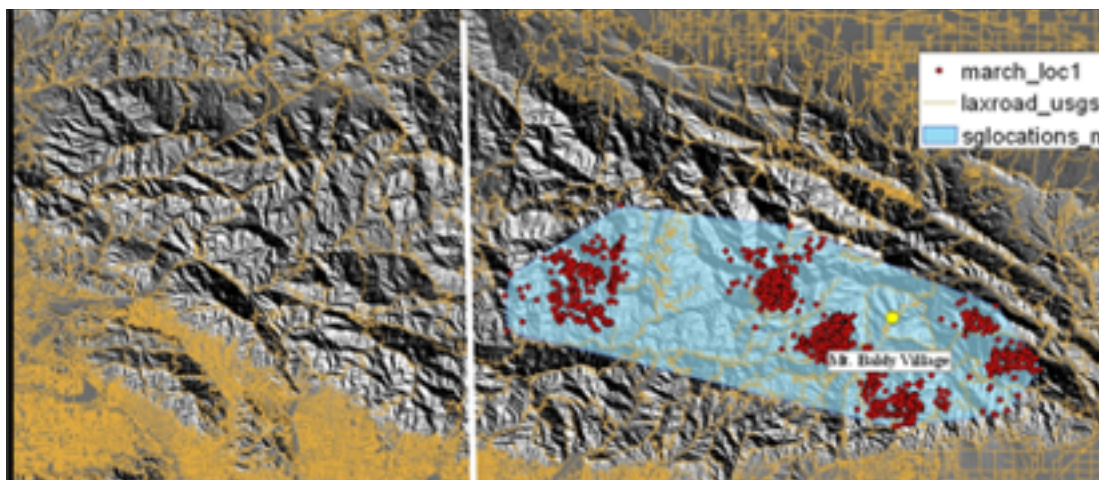


Figure 3. Locations at which bighorn sheep were observed during aerial surveys 1979 to 2002. The white vertical line approximates the westernmost distribution of bighorn sheep in the San Gabriel Mountains, and is included for reference. Also shown for reference is Mt. Baldy Village. The blue area is what is referred to as the minimum convex polygon, and includes all observations of bighorn sheep groups included in our analyses. Note that scales differ between this map and the following maps. Adapted from Bleich et al. (2008).

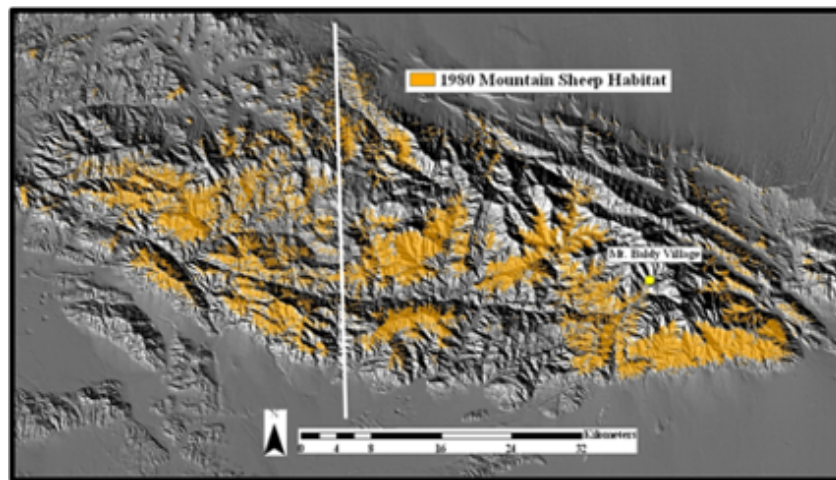


Figure 4. The amount of habitat that that would be selected by bighorn sheep in 1980, at which time the population of bighorn sheep was near its maximum. Bighorn sheep occur only east of the vertical line, and available habitat does not imply occupancy, in part because of the insular nature of suitable habitat, the distribution of burns no more than 15 years old, and the reticence of bighorn sheep to pioneer new areas. Adapted from Bleich et al. (2008).

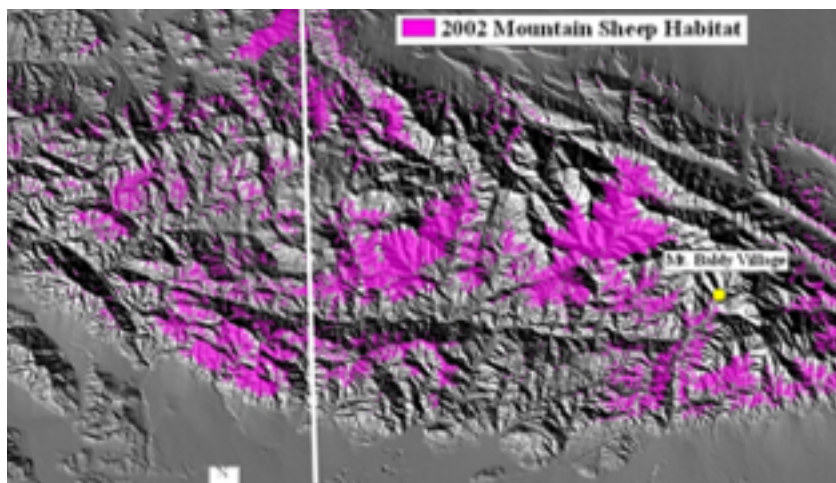


Figure 5. The amount of habitat that would be selected by bighorn sheep in 2002, at which time the population of bighorn sheep was near its minimum; the caveats listed in Figure 4 apply. Adapted from Bleich et al. (2008).

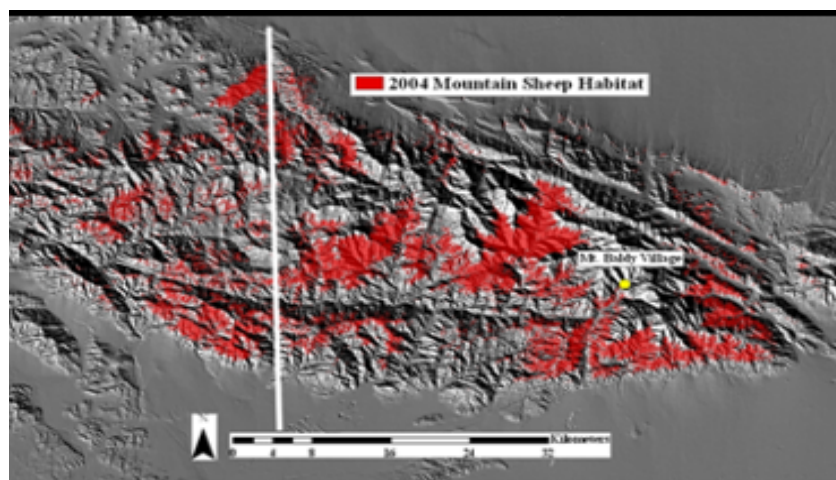


Figure 6. The amount of habitat that would be selected by bighorn sheep in 2004, after a series of wildfires that occurred during the previous several years, and at which time the bighorn sheep population began to increase; the caveats listed in Figure 4 apply. Adapted from Bleich et al. (2008).

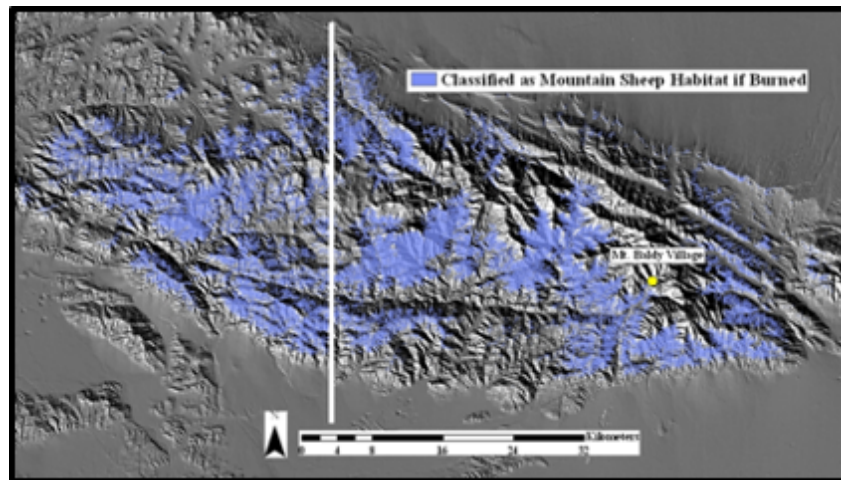


Figure 7. The amount of habitat that would be selected by bighorn sheep in the San Gabriel Mountains if the entire mountain range were to burn simultaneously. It can be inferred from this and the other figures, that translocations of bighorn sheep, if combined with appropriate management strategies, have the potential to yield a far wider distribution and many more bighorn sheep than currently exist in that mountain range. Recall that, at this time, bighorn sheep are not known to occupy areas west of the vertical white line on a permanent basis. Adapted from Bleich et al. (2008).

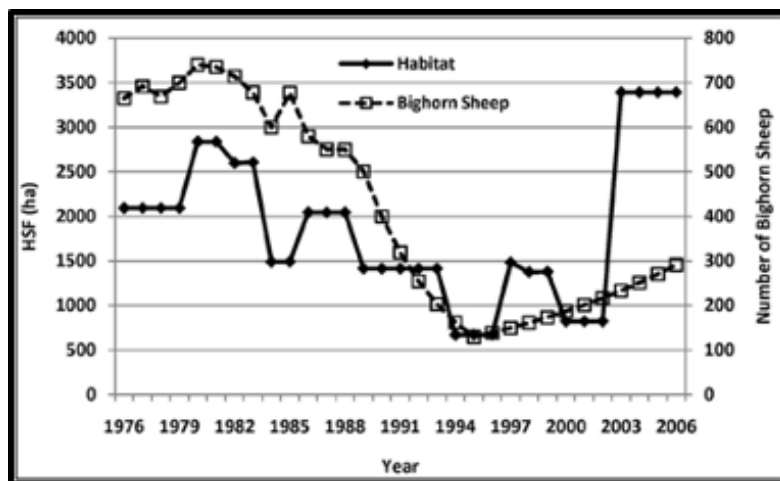


Figure 8. Relationship between the amount of high suitability habitat resulting from fire (HSF) and number of bighorn sheep estimated to occupy the San Gabriel Mountains from 1976 to 2006. Adapted from Holl and Bleich (2010).

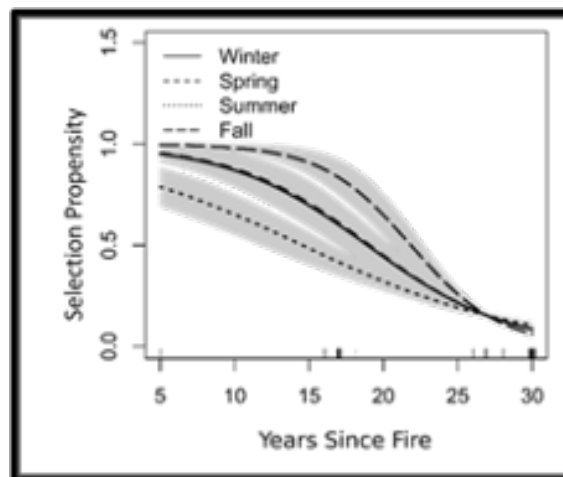


Figure 9. Propensity of bighorn sheep in the San Rafael Mountains, Ventura County, to select areas burned during Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall, with all other model covariates (e.g., slope, aspect, elevation, etc.) held at their mean values, as a function of years since fire. The gray shading represents the 95% confidence interval associated with each of the propensity curves. Adapted from Bleich et al. (2020).

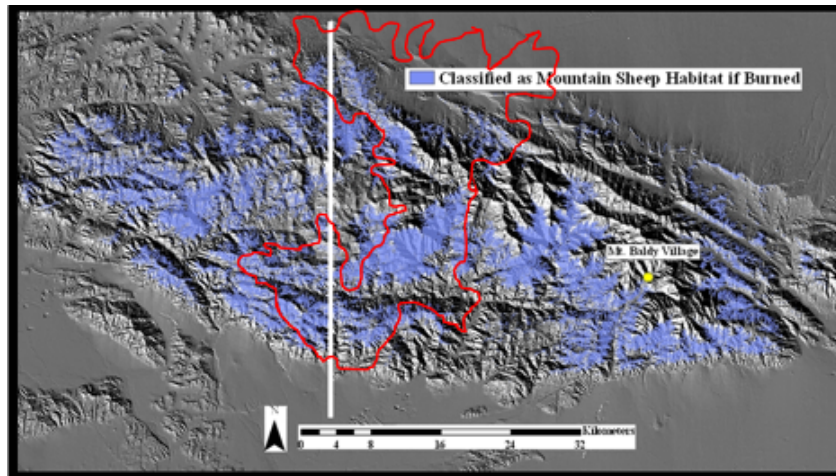


Figure 10. Approximate boundary (red polygon; 460 km²) of the Bobcat Fire in the central San Gabriel Mountains. Much of the area in the center of the polygon is wilderness, and had not burned for many years. Bighorn sheep inhabit this area, and the Bobcat fire will enhance habitat for those bighorn sheep, mule deer, and mountain lions for the next 15 or so years. The fire may provide an opportunity for bighorn sheep to expand their distribution to the northwest and southwest of the area in which they currently are concentrated, as shown in Figure 3, and potentially into the area burned by the Station Fire in 2009, as illustrated in Figure 11.

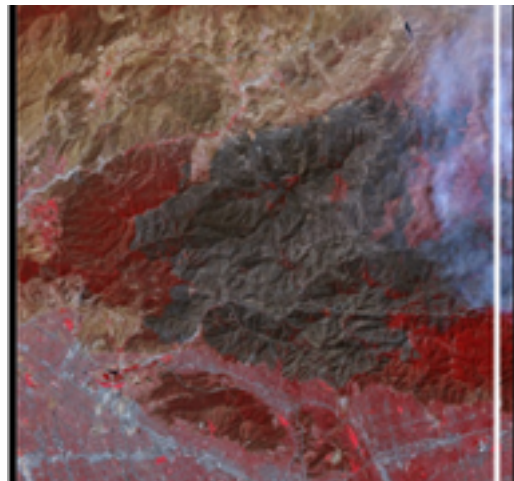


Figure 11. The Station Fire of 2009 burned approximately 650 km² in the central portion of the San Gabriel Mountains, but west of that part of the mountain range occupied by bighorn sheep utilizing the San Gabriel Wilderness Winter-Spring Range. This image illustrates the area burned in that conflagration, and is at about the same scale as other figures in this article. For reference, the vertical line approximating the western edge of the Bobcat Fire is shown, and proximity of the area burned in the Station Fire to the western edge of the current distribution of bighorn in the San Gabriel Mountains can be visualized by comparing figures 10 and 11.

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APRIL 24, 2021

EQUINE INFLUENZA IMPACTING BURROS IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Reprint from: Riverside County Dept. of Animal Services

An equine influenza outbreak is impacting the burro populations in Riverside County and some of the animals have already succumbed to the virus.

An estimated three dozen burros have died – and the death count is expected to rise – according to information reported to Riverside County Animal Services. The first known deaths occurred about two weeks ago.

Most of the deaths are occurring in the Reche Canyon area, but about six have occurred in Moreno Valley Animal Services' coverage area in the interface of the foothills along Pigeon Pass Road, Heacock Street (which become Reche Vista Drive) and Redlands Boulevard.

San Bernardino County officials said they have not had any reported cases.

County and state officials are monitoring the outbreak and urging horse owners to consult their veterinarians and get booster vaccines for previously vaccinated animals. Also, horse owners should ensure their animals are not exposed to sick burros by moving their animals away from fence lines in areas where the burros frequent.

Riverside County is receiving assistance from California Department of Food and Agriculture veterinarians. In addition, the following agencies are working to provide information and help for sick burros, if possible: DonkeyLand Rescue, Moreno Valley Animal Services, San Bernardino County Animal Care & Control.

The virus is specific to equids (horses, mules and donkeys) and does not affect other species of animals. Equine influenza is a highly contagious virus that spreads rapidly through groups of horses in aerosolized droplets dispersed by coughing or through fomite transmission. The majority of the clinical signs are respiratory and may also include fever, edema and enlarged lymph nodes. Clinical signs are more common, and more severe, in younger horses (ages 1 to 5) and may be more severe in donkeys and mules. Older horses usually have milder disease.

Although officials recognize that some people unlawfully feed the burros, all agencies are urging the public to avoid contact with the burros, especially anyone that own horses.

Humans do not contract the disease, but people can act as fomites and transmit the virus between horses, said Emily Nietrzeba, a Sacramento-based equine specialist veterinarian with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).



"It's important we emphasize to the public regarding the importance of preventing contact between sick burros and healthy horses and donkeys, and avoiding all shared waterers, feeders, and equipment, as well as limiting fenceline exposure to the greatest extent possible," Dr. Nietrzeba said. "Horse owners are encouraged to discuss best disease prevention practices, including vaccination, with their own vets."

Dr. Alisha Olmstead, a state veterinarian with in the CDFA's Ontario office, advised horse owners to avoid traveling with their animals if they believe their pets might have been exposed. Also, she said these owners should avoid having visitors with horses come to their properties because indirect transmission can occur and can be an important means of spread. This includes transmission of the virus on clothing, equipment, brushes, shared water buckets, hands, etc., she said.

Olmstead said equine influenza is one of the most common infectious diseases of the respiratory tract of horses, which is why there are several vaccines currently marketed.

Riverside County, Moreno Valley and San Bernardino County officers will assist with transporting sick burros, when it is possible, to the nonprofit organization DonkeyLand for isolation and care. DonkeyLand's staffers – and its veterinarian, Dr. Paul Wan – will vaccinate and monitor the burros before releasing them back to the wild.

Amber Levonne, founder of DonkeyLand, said she has assisted with sick burros. Her organization has paid for the removal of deceased burros. Levonne said at least 38 burros have died.

It is uncertain how many burros are in the hills between Riverside and San Bernardino counties, but some estimates put the number at approximately 500 burros.

GEAR REVIEW: REALLY RIGHT STUFF S.O.A.R CARBON FIBER TFCT-24L W/ANVIL 30 BALLHEAD

by Scott Gibson, CA WSF Member

For finding and observing wildlife in the field, a quality tripod can be as important as your optic. The tripod will not only hold your optic steady and allow you to systematically cover ground, a quality tripod will also protect your optic from drops and falls. In addition to steadying your optics, tripods are also used as stable shooting rests.

Really Right Stuff (RRS) has been a long-time manufacturer of quality photography tripods and other photo-related equipment. With the popularity of precision rifle shooting increasing, Really Right Stuff realized that there was a market for shooting and hunting specific equipment. Enter S.O.A.R (Sport Optics and Rifle) system.

This review covers the RRS TFCT-24L tripod with Anvil 30 Ballhead.

Specification: RRS TFCT-24L

- Leg Material: Carbon Fiber
- Number of Leg Sections: 4
- Load Capacity 1st Position Fully Extended: 70lbs
- 1st Position Maximum Height: 68.9"
- 3rd Position Minimum Height: 6.6"
- Folded Length: 25.9"
- Folded Diameter: 3.8"
- (Heights and Length include the Anvil-30 Ball head attached)
- Weight: 4.59lbs

Author's Note (see photo above right):

- 1st Position Maximum Height with (2) leg sections removed: 42"
- Weight with (2) leg sections removed and rubber caps protecting ends: 3.52lbs.

I have noticed with a "pan & tilt" tripod head, I could sometimes feel motion sickness while scanning an area. Last year, with the purchase of "alpha" class optics, I found my glassing style had changed. I now position my optic in an area and take advantage of the optics full field of view to search for game. I feel completely comfortable using a ball head vs. a "pan & tilt" or "fluid" style head for glassing. The RRS Anvil 30 ball head with a positive lock-up, is also superior for use with a precision rifle.

The Really Right Stuff carbon fiber tripod is made in the USA. This is the most stable and heavy duty



tripod I have ever handled. At full extended height, it is possible to stand, glass and shoot from the steepest terrain. This tripod will support 70 pounds and easily handles the recoil of a magnum rifle. I have found myself able to duplicate "bench rest" accuracy from the standing position out to 500 yds.

The RRS Anvil 30 Ball Head will clamp both the ARCA plate and Picatinny rail standard. This tripod will hold the heaviest sporting optics rock steady—even in wind. At 25.9" length when collapsed, this tripod easily straps to or fits in most packs. With the bottom two leg sections removed, this tripod weighs only 3.5 pounds, making it very packable for multiday hunts.

As with all top quality equipment, this tripod is not inexpensive. If you have invested top dollar in your optics and firearms, it is time to consider this top quality American made tripod.

Find RRS on Amazon at:

<https://tinyurl.com/rrs-amazon>



EMERGENCY WATER HAUL TO BIG GEE IN CADY MOUNTAINS

on September 6, 2020

Story and pictures by Andrew Pontious, Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep

Big Gee is one of Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep (SCBS) older wildlife drinker installations. It has been upgraded and expanded over the years as the sheep population in the Cady Mountains continues to grow. The Big Gee drinker and Cady Mountains are in Bighorn Sheep Hunt Zone 9.

The (SCBS) crew was made of Jeff Crouse, Jennifer Hinojosa, Andrew Pontious, Kim Pontious and Tom Batter from CDFW. They met and filled up with water in Newberry Springs at 08:00 AM. It's about a 30-mile drive on pavement from the water fill up location, then about a two-hour, miserable 4x4 experience through some of the nastiest terrain the Mojave can dish out.

The way in to the Big Gee wildlife drinker is through a long and narrow canyon with tight turns, big rocks and deep sand. The crew had two flat tires from the sharp rocks on the way in. Temperatures were over 110°F.

The crew delivered 975 gallons of water. The two vertical tanks at the wildlife drinker had just run out of water when the SCBS crew arrived. The 2300-gallon rain catcher tank only had 1-inch of available water remaining.

The holding tank now has about 1300 gallons of available water for the sheep. With heavy bighorn sheep usage, this water should last until the end of September. SCBS is working to organize another water haul before the tanks run dry again.

It should be noted that the Big Gee installation was one of the earlier installations to use a rain collection mat. The material for the mat was donated, but unfortunately is an inferior material from what we use today. Big Gee's mat has been severely damaged by the sun's UV rays over the last decade plus and is no longer capable of collecting rain water. SCBS is planning to replace the rain mat with our newer, and long-lasting, Hypalon-type material that will better withstand the Mojave Desert's sun.

Editor's note: Andrew Pontious is a lifetime member of SCBS. Andrew is also a firefighter and got off a shift fighting Southern California's wildfires just a couple hours before this water haul. Andrew and his wife Kim are quite a team. Kim loaded their truck with the water tank and met Andrew out in the desert so they could bring this valuable water to the sheep. Following this water haul, Andrew was called back to his job as firefighter on the "El Dorado Fire" near Yucaipa, California.



DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP PROGRAM UPDATE

*The California Department of Fish & Wildlife, Region 6
Paige Prentice*

Greetings! In the beginning of November, the Mojave Desert Bighorn team conducted 10 days of helicopter captures in and around the Mojave National Preserve. During this time, 65 ewes and 35 rams were collared across 8 mountain ranges (see table below for details). Of the 100 animals, 54 were flown into basecamp and 46 were processed in the field. All animals had blood, fecal, and disease samples collected, were fitted with GPS and VHF collars, and given a unique combination of ear tags. The benefit of bringing animals into basecamp is that we collect additional data such as body weight, body condition and fat, the pregnancy status of ewes, and a few other pieces of data for this specific capture. However, bringing animals into basecamp takes longer and due to limitations on helicopter time we field process some individuals to meet our capture goals.

This year's capture was conducted in partnership with a group of researchers from Oregon State University as part of a National Science Foundation funded grant. The goal of this project is to dive deeper into questions about how desert bighorn respond to disease and why there is variation in disease response across populations. Specifically, this project is interested in the roles the immune system, genetics, diet, parasite load, and level of connectivity to other ranges may play in how an individual responds to pathogens. As part of this project, additional blood samples were collected for genetics and immune system response assays, fecal pellets were collected for parasite and microbiome analyses, and in 49 animals we deployed a technology known as a ruminal implant transmitter (RIT). RITs are a bolus that the animal swallows (it stays in their rumen) and records internal temperature and heart rate—it is mildly comparable to



the exercise watches people wear. It is our goal to be able to build an energetics model, understand variation in individuals' temperature and heartrate, and potentially be able to identify when an individual is stressed or even sick. There is an impressive group of researchers dedicated to this project and I am very excited to see what we learn. We will be starting the fieldwork portion of this project in February—stay tuned for more updates!

In the meantime, I wish everyone a Happy Holidays. Stay safe. Stay healthy.



Mojave Desert Bighorn Capture 2020

Range	Ewe	Ram	Total
Newberry	8	6	14
Marble	9	4	13
S. Bristol	7	3	10
Old Dad Peak	8	4	12
S. Soda	9	5	14
Cady	6	4	10
Wood/Hackberry	9	4	13
Castle/Hart	9	5	14
Total	65	35	100

Above: Marci Witzak, above right, an Oregon State University PhD candidate, with a ewe from the Hackberry range. The white collar is a GPS collar that will record locations every 2 hours and communicate with the ruminal implant transmitter. The orange collar is a VHF collar that will be used to track survival after the GPS collar drops off. The ear tags allow for individual identification. Blindfolds are used to keep animals calm during the capture process.

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS UPDATE

by Don Priest

We are happy to report that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) were able to conduct sheep captures throughout November 2020. And they did a lot! Approximately 40 Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep were captured in the Sierra Nevada Range, a unique bighorn sheep sub-species only found in California. In the Peninsular Ranges over 50 Desert Bighorn Sheep (DBS) were captured. These geographically isolated sheep herds are federally listed as Endangered. In the balance of California's desert mountain ranges over 90 DBS were captured. Again, these captures provide biologists the ability to collar these sheep, to monitor and collect movement and other data along with the taking of measurements and blood samples, prior to being re-released back to their point of capture.

XpressWest High Speed Rail Line

The XpressWest High Speed Rail Project (Project) continues to be a top priority for CA WSF. This rail line will run from Victorville to the Nevada State line within the median of US Highway Interstate 15's (I-15) north and south bound lanes. The rail line will be paralleled on both sides by at least a twenty foot tall safety wall. This wall will simply cut off any opportunity for DBS to migrate between mountain ranges that surround both sides of I-15, as well as inhibit the movement of protected Desert Tortoise, Desert Kit Fox, coyotes, and other wildlife.

In September a coalition of over thirty organizations, which included CA WSF and the other three wild sheep groups within California along with the Wild Sheep Foundation, sent a letter to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). This letter to Caltrans requested that any allowance or agreements between Caltrans and the Project for Right-of-Way use of state land include a requirement that the Project proponent incorporate wildlife crossings in their development plans. Caltrans did respond that we discuss this issue further with the federal agencies whom were conducting or involved with the review of the National Environmental Protection Act's Environmental Impact Study requirements. This included the Federal Railroad Administration and the Surface Transportation Board. Unfortunately, CA WSF and other coalition members had already discussed this issue with these two federal agencies without resolution, as they appear to see this as an internal California problem.

As a result we have sent a follow-up letter to the Director of Caltrans, with the letter recipients also including the Director of the CDFW and the Treasurer



of the State of California. Again, this coalition is continuing to put pressure on these government officials and agencies that wildlife crossing mitigation be made part of any permitting by the state for use of state lands or for any financial support to the Project. Financial support by the State could be either direct funding or the allowance for the Project proponent to issue the sale of tax-exempt bonds as allowed by state and federal law.

We do know that these Directors are indeed in direct communication with each other now. So the pressure that has been brought to bear by all the interested organizations is being responded to at this point. We will continue to work hard on this issue until all the interested parties, and most importantly the sheep and other desert wildlife, get the wildlife crossing mitigation they require.



Why we work hard to PUT AND KEEP SHEEP ON THE MOUNTAINS. Photo courtesy of Member Brook Stiltz.

WATER FLOWING AT SUNSHINE DRINKER

Elizabeth Barron, from 29-Palms, was kind enough to share some new photos with us from the base.

The photos are labeled Sunshine Peak 2, but Glenn believes they are actually from the Sunshine 1 drinker installed in December 2012.

If these are photos of Sunshine 1, the system was funded by the US Marine Corps. Sunshine 2 was installed in 2016, funded the CJ Berry Foundation.

Glenn last visited these sites in February of 2019 and noted very little sheep activity. As you can see from the photos, the sheep have now found the site. It's especially nice to see the little lambs.

The satellite monitor for Sunshine 1 is not working yet, but Sunshine 2 has a satellite system and it is showing heavy use by the sheep as they drink the water level down.



CA WSF — WORKING TO KEEP YOU IN THE FIELD

by Bill Gaines
Gaines and Associates

What Can We Expect in 2021?

Mercifully, the year 2020, the strangest year ever by any account – politically or otherwise, is finally nearing its close. We are all aware of the unprecedented political happenings taking place nationwide. But, here at home, the last few months have also been hectic in their own way. To begin, the 2019/2020 State Legislative Session, unprecedented in its own way, came to a formal close on September 30th – the final day Governor Gavin Newsom could act on bills that made it to his desk this year. Then, with a break of a mere few weeks to catch our breath, the November 2020 statewide election took place – setting the stage for the challenges we may face in the halls of our State Capitol in 2021.

Before we dive into California's 2020 statewide election results and what we may expect in the 2021/2022 Session, let's begin by taking a look at the final outcome of two bills of serious concern to the California Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation (CA WSF) that were still alive this past Session as of our last report in late August.

2020 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION – FINAL WRAP

SB 914 (PORTANTINO): FIREARMS – DEAD

Existing law prohibits the sale or transfer of a firearm by a 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.

Among other things, SB 914 would have required the Department of Justice (DOJ) to verify the validity of the purchaser's hunting license with the Department of Fish and Wildlife as part of the background check. SB 914 would also have eliminated the \$1.00 fee cap on what DOJ may charge for approval of an ammunition purchase, allowing that fee to be increased without restraint.

SB 914 passed out of the Legislature and to the Governor's desk on August 31st, the final day of the 2019/2020 Session. On September 29th, the Governor vetoed the measure. In his veto message, the Governor echoed a primary concern CA WSF called out in our opposition letter, noting that DOJ does not currently have the ability to verify the validity of hunting licenses and the effort required to gain that technology would impede the agency's ability to perform the work it has already been tasked.



SB 1175 (STERN) – “ICONIC AFRICAN SPECIES PROTECTION ACT”/LIVE ANIMAL MARKETS – DEAD

Among other things, SB 1175, “Iconic African Species Protection Act”, would have prohibited 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.

Moving rapidly, SB 1175 passed out of the Senate, through the Assembly and off the Assembly Floor early in the evening of August 31st – the final evening of Session. By all accounts, SB 1175 appeared to be on its way to the Governor's desk.

But, with amendments having been placed in the bill on the Assembly side, SB 1175 had to go back to the Senate for concurrence – normally nothing more than a simple formality. But nothing was “normal” this year, and certainly not on the final night of Session. With all but one Republican Senator required to vote remotely due to their exposure to a Republican colleague recently diagnosed with COVID, and a little-known subsection of the California Constitution on our side, we had one last long-shot at killing SB 1175.

Article IV, Section 10, subsection (c) of the California Constitution states that “... No bill may be passed by either house on or after September 1 of an even-numbered year except statutes calling elections, statutes providing for tax levies or appropriations for the usual current expenses of the State, and urgency statutes, and bills passed after being vetoed by the Governor.”

Aware of this constitutional deadline – and with SB 1175 and several other partisan bills still needing Senate approval – the small minority of conservative members

in the Senate seized on a rare opportunity to take control. As the clock ticked towards midnight, they drug out their remote commentary with lengthy statements on other bills up for vote while the liberal super-majority could only watch. As frustration from Democrats on the Senate Floor rapidly mounted, Republicans killed the clock and SB 1175.

The 2020 California State Legislative Session was certainly unique with multiple unscheduled recesses and unprecedented changes in procedure to address COVID concerns. But, throughout it all, our State Legislature stayed the course and continued to push many proposals that threatened science-based wildlife management and our hunting heritage. Yet CA WSF and our members stayed the course with them and can take deep satisfaction in the outcome. When the Governor's office finally shuttered the Capitol in late September, not a single bill had been signed into law that could impact appropriate management of our wildlife or your ability to pursue them in the field.

WHAT CAN WE EXPECT IN 2021?

When it comes to issues of importance to wild sheep and those who hunt them, does it really matter which political party is in control in Sacramento? It certainly does. First, let me make it perfectly clear that there many Democrats who are active hunters and shooters and who strongly support these outdoor traditions. But the Democratic Party has historically been the party least supportive of these traditions and our Second Amendment rights. Why? Because, in most cases, it is the Democratic Party that represents California's urban legislative districts – constituencies that largely do not hunt or shoot, and which have had little exposure to hunting, or knowledge of the critical role we play in wildlife conservation. Residents of these urban areas elect representatives that reflect their values and often share their misunderstandings of our outdoor activities. As such, as California's once rural landscape continues to change, so do the values of our public and those they elect to represent them at our State Capitol.

That being said, with the 2021/2022 edition of the California State Legislature scheduled to reconvene on Monday, January 4th, 2021, let's take a look at the results of the November 2020 California State Election, and what members of CA WSF may expect over the coming two years.

First, let's take a look at the State Assembly where all 80 seats were up for grabs. Heading into the November 2020 election, the Democratic Party already easily held supermajority with 61 Assembly seats, compared to the Republican Party's 17, with one seat held by an Independent and one seat vacant. With the dust nearly settled on the results of the November 3rd election, it appears that not much will change with

Democrats already securing 59 seats and Republicans 19, one seat remaining Independent and the results of an Orange County seat currently held by Democrat Cottie Petrie-Norris still too close to call.

In California's State Senate, 20 of the 40 seats were up for grabs. Leading up to the November 2020 election, the Democratic Party held a supermajority by holding 29 of the State Senate's 40 seats, with the Republican Party holding only 11. This November, Democrats had secured even greater control by seizing two additional seats – with Republican incumbent Ling Ling Chang losing her southern California seat, Republican John Moorlach losing his Orange County seat, and one additional southern California seat – currently held by Republican Scott Wilk – still a bit too close to call.

What does all this mean? All things considered; nothing has changed. The Democrats will continue to have maximum control of both chambers, and California will continue to have the most liberal Governor in history. As such, the next two years will be as challenging as ever for CA WSF in the halls of our State Capitol.

How do we meet this challenge? To be successful, we must continue to work endlessly to educate both new and experienced urban Legislators of the importance of science-based wildlife management and the critical lead role of hunting in wildlife conservation. We must continue to hold countless individual meetings with Legislators and their staff to discuss issues of concern. We must also continue to coordinate closely with our partners in conservation on holding events and forums which educate Legislators on California's wildlife and fishery resources and the outdoor-related activities their habitats and health depend upon.

Further, in the coming year, CA WSF must continue to canvas every corner of the State Capitol and all other political forums to unearth and vigorously fight every proposal which threatens the health of California's wildlife or your ability to hunt them, and work hard to provide you – our members – with the information you need to have your voice also heard to help make a difference.

Regardless of the challenges to our heritage we will all face in the coming year, CA WSF is up to the task and will do all possible to ensure policy decisions which promote healthy sheep on the hill and keep you on the mountain.

Last Campfire



Chip Hollister 1945 - 2020



Arthur (Chip) Clair Hollister III died Oct. 20, 2020 at home in Concord CA under the care of his wife (Susie), Hallway Health and Hospice of the East Bay. He was 75 years old. He had been battling pancreatic cancer for over two years.

Chip was born in New Orleans LA to Olivia E. and Arthur C. Hollister Jr MD. The family moved to California when Chip was 3. He spent his childhood and early adulthood in Lafayette CA. He roamed the hills riding his bike, hiking and being a young adventuresome lad in nature. An early passion of his was hunting. He passed his hunter safety courses and then enjoyed a lifetime of responsible hunting in the USA, Canada, Mexico, New Zealand and Africa. He was active in two conservation groups: Safari Club Int. and Wild Sheep Foundation. He was an avid photographer. He took pictures of wildlife, scenery, people and events. Chip was there with his camera volunteering pictures for friends, family and charities. If you've attended any of the CA WSF annual banquets over the last 20 years you will

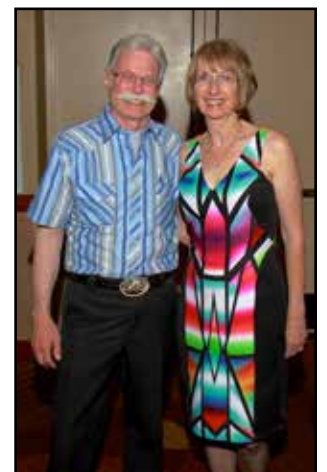
have been photographed by Chip. He not only loved taking the photos, he remembered to make sure they were used -- he never forgot to bring a copy (or send one via email) so that you had a copy for yourself. He shared a love of trains with his father. He rode trains and modeled them. During his youth, he was a member of the Intrepids Car Club because he loved to work on cars and race them.

He graduated from Acalanes H.S. in 1962. He was a leader on his class reunion committee from 1977 until 2020. He went on to achieve his AA degree from Diablo Valley College. As a detail person, he was well suited for his job (of 37 years) as a precision machinist at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. He retired from there in 2003.

He was a friend to everyone and never met a stranger. He loved to host parties at his home. His cooking was legendary. He loved a good wine and a great single malt scotch. He and his wife Susie had been sweethearts in their teens but they separated for over 37 years. After meeting again, they realized their love had never ended. They married in 2006 and enjoyed many wonderful years together.

He will be missed by his loving family and friends. Chip is survived by his wife of 14 years, Susie, his sister Corrie Binker (Monty), his niece Hilary Stankiewicz (Kevin) and their three daughters. He was preceded in death by his parents and his niece, Claire Binker.

And he will be missed by his CA Wild Sheep Foundation family.



*Chip and Susie, 2015
CA WSF Banquet*



California Chapter
Wild Sheep Foundation
1630 Williams Hwy #151 Grants Pass, OR 97527
(650-605-4009 PH / 650-649-1958 Fax)
cawsf@cawsf.org www.cawsf.org



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL

Name: _____

Phone: Primary: _____ Alternate: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

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

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

Yes, I would like to volunteer to help 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) _____

CA WSF Membership:

Annual Membership (\$40) = \$ _____

Life Membership (\$500) = \$ _____

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Please mail this form to CA WSF, 1630 Williams Hwy #151, Grants Pass, OR 97527 or fax to 650-649-1958.

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



CA Wild Sheep Foundation
1630 Williams Hwy #151
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www.cawsf.org

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