

2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE SIERRA NEVADA BIGHORN SHEEP RECOVERY PROGRAM

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Editor's Note: Below is a summary of the recently released 2021-22 Annual Report for the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Recovery Program. This report shows a very positive view of the sheep from 21-22 but as we know last winter about 50% of the SNBH died.

We published a rigorous evaluation of disease risk to Sierra bighorn. This new method considers the likelihood of Sierra bighorn movements when identifying potential overlap between Sierra bighorn and domestic sheep.

Excerpts from the report:

For the second consecutive year, the range-wide Sierra bighorn population increased, reaching 277 females. Although still short of the highest count of 316 females in 2016, the growth of most herds this year indicates a rebound from the heavy winters of 2016-17 and 2018-19.

In addition to summer surveys, we were able to have both spring and fall bighorn captures. In the spring, we successfully translocated 7 bighorn from Baxter to Laurel including 4 females, 3 of which were pregnant.

In the eastern Sierra region, we accounted for 55 mountain lions which exceeds the highest count from last year of 54. This includes the highest counts ever for three of the four count areas: northern, central, and Olancha.



Sierra Nevada ram

Photo courtesy of Josh Schulgen, Sierra Crest Outfitters