



# California Wild Sheep

Spring 2016



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**Richard Retterath**  
California Desert Bighorn  
Marble/Clipper Mtns  
171 6/8" B&C Green  
Hunted with G&J Outdoors



# ULTIMA THULE LODGE

**CONTACT: DONALD C. MARTIN 310-766-3921**

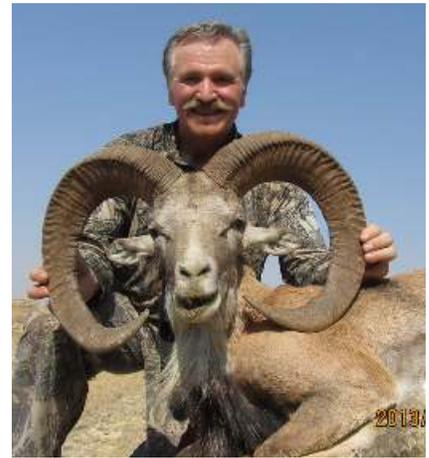


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# From the Editor's Desk

I hope you enjoy this issue. It includes some great hunting stories, more on our 2016 Fundraiser, fun humor, interesting desert insights from Carlos, science and CDFW articles, lot's of pictures, AND MORE!

Your feedback, ideas, articles & requests are always welcome. Best way to reach me is email: [mike.borel@contextnet.com](mailto:mike.borel@contextnet.com). Due date for input to the 2Q16 issue is May 20.



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## COOK'S CORNER

If you love to eat what you kill, you are not alone! Not only is game meat leaner and more nutritious, it is also free from the antibiotics and hormones sometimes found in commercial livestock. Here is the first of many recipes that will help you take advantage of your wild game for the tastiest meals.

Do you have a favorite wild game recipe? If so, share it! Send the recipe to [editor@cawsf.org](mailto:editor@cawsf.org).

### 'BAD KARMA'S' CHILI

*from Kevin Massaro*

#### INGREDIENTS:

½ lb. bacon  
½ lb. hot Italian elk sausage  
1 ½ - 2 lb elk sirloin, cubed  
(Any wild game will work)  
1 large onion, chopped  
1 small green pepper, chopped  
1 cup tomato, diced  
1 jalapeno pepper, diced  
1 Serrano pepper, diced  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
½ tsp. crushed red pepper  
1 ½ Tbsp. chipotle chili powder  
½ tsp. salt  
1 cup tomatillos, diced  
1 Tbsp. brown sugar  
1 4 oz. can tomato paste  
½ tsp. oregano  
3 cups water

#### DIRECTIONS

Cook bacon until crisp, set aside until cool, then crumble into small pieces

Cut up/crumble sausage, then brown in bacon drippings & set aside

Brown cubed meat in drippings

Place all ingredients in a large pot, stir well, bring to a boil, then simmer 1 ½ - 2 hours, stirring occasionally.

### BOARD ELECTIONS COMING

Are you ready to get more involved? The annual elections for Board members will be held this summer. If you are interested, please send a note to [editor@cawsf.org](mailto:editor@cawsf.org).

# Board of Directors

## Officers

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George Kerr (2017)

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Ben Gordon (2016)                  Donald C. Martin (2016)

Robert Keagy (2017)                Roger McCosker (2016)

Victor Mancuso, Jr. (2016)         Don Priest (2016)

Craig Van Arsdale (2017)

**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.

# Events

## 2016

- March 18            Midwest Chapter WSF  
Fundraiser, Minneapolis, MN
- April 29            Sheep Summit XIX in  
Rancho Cordova
- April 30            CA WSF Fundraiser/Banquet  
in Rancho Cordova at Marriott
- May 18-22         NRA Convention,  
Louisville, KY
- June 23-26        WSF Chapter & Affiliates  
Meeting in Nebraska
- August 22         Due date for articles for  
3Q2016 CAWSF Newsletter
- October TBD      DBH Hunter Orientation in  
Sacramento (8-12:00)
- November TBD    Sheep Summit XX in Ontario
- November 20     Due date for articles for  
4Q2016 CAWSF Newsletter

## 2017

- January 18-21    WSF Convention Reno,  
Peppermill
- January 19-22    ISE Show - Sacramento
- January 25-28    GSCO Convention,  
Las Vegas, Riviera
- February 1-4     SCI Convention, Las Vegas
- February 16-19   WHCE - Salt Lake City
- February 24      Due date for articles for  
1Q2017 CAWSF Newsletter
- April 28           Sheep Summit XXI in  
Rancho Cordova
- April 29           CA WSF Fundraiser/Banquet  
in Rancho Cordova at Marriott
- May 28-30        NRA Convention,  
Atlanta

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# President's Letter

Dear CA Wild Sheep Members and Friends,

As the hunting seasons wind down, the major conservation conventions conclude, the state lotteries for tags for many potential future hunts gear up, and the CA Wild Sheep annual banquet fast approaches, I am once again awed by the generosity, support and dedication of the conservationists that make up the hunting community.



For those of you who have attended our banquet in the past, we look forward to welcoming you back at the Rancho Cordova Marriott on April 30, 2016 and once more sharing a great evening for the benefit of California's wild sheep and their habitat. For those of you who have not yet attended a CA Wild Sheep annual event, mark your calendars and plan on enjoying an evening of fun and be a part of supporting the sheep.

We have a dedicated Board of Directors and other volunteers who are working hard to ensure that this will be the best CA Wild Sheep event ever. And we have dedicated members and friends like you who turn out to make the evening a success.

We also enjoy the generous support of many businesses in the conservation community who support not only CA Wild Sheep, but numerous other hunting and conservation related organizations.

Don Martin and Ultima Thule have once again joined to offer a Dall sheep hunt. The Alaska hunt for 2017 is a special raffle that we have been fortunate to offer for several years. The lucky winners of prior years' raffles have taken some tremendous rams on this hunt.

Recently I made a blind contact to Front Sight, a popular quality firearm training resort and program in Nevada, hoping to convince them to donate a certificate good for one of their courses. They stepped up with the donation of a Lifetime Diamond Membership, allowing the luck winner to attend as many of their numerous courses, as many times as desired, for life. The cost for this membership, if purchased, is \$15,000!!

Nosler has provided one of its popular new Nosler 26 rifles at a greatly reduced price and Kimber has also offered CA Wild Sheep its Mountain Ascent in .280 improved Ack. with a Zeiss scope at a good discount. This rifle attracted a lot of attention at last year's event and for those of us who were not lucky enough to win it in 2015, we will have another chance this year. Quality optics will be there also, thanks to special accommodations by Leupold and Zeiss. Outfitters have once again come through with some great hunts that will go up on the auction block.

Our friends at the Rancho Cordova Sportsman's Warehouse are again providing us with special deals and support with the required firearms paperwork. The list goes on. Although we could not put on an event without this support of numerous people and businesses, **it is your attendance at the annual dinner that makes it all worthwhile.** See you there!

Paul Brisso,  
President

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# QUEST FOR THE TULE ELK

## HUNT DONATION AT CAWSF FUNDRAISER

*by Bwana Bob DuHadaway*

About a year ago I was contacted by Tammy Scott who told me of a Tule Elk tag being auctioned off by the California Wild Sheep Foundation. I put in my bid and, guess what, I was the successful bidder at \$18,000.00. The hunt took place on Jim Bardin's Ranch, owned by Bob Swanson. The accommodations are at the historic Deer Camp in the heart of the ranch. The deer camp was started back in the early 1940s by a group of local farmers and friends for the purpose of getting together for a good time and for the possibility of taking local blacktail deer.

The ranch receives only two bull tags and four cow tags per year through the California Fish and Wildlife's "Private Land Management " or PLM program. This ensures hunting pressure is very light and the bulls are allowed to mature to their true trophy potential. The ranch is private and covers 8,000 acres. It is only a short drive from the town of Salinas, the lettuce capital of the world. The whole valley running up and down the coast is a major supplier of fruit, vegetables and nuts. The ranch is located in the heart of this busy industry. What is more, it is free ranging with only low fences to keep the cattle in. This allows the elk to move about at will, looking for the best possible culinary delights.

I was met at the main gate by Donald C. Martin, my guide for the hunt. Don hunts all over, guiding hunters with the hopes of taking the animal they are hunting. We drove up the lane to the main house where I left my vehicle. After changing my gear to Don's truck we continued up in the mountains to the deer camp. This is where I met Bob Swanson the owner of the ranch and a relative of Jim Bardin who started his venture before the turn of the 20th century. The camp has a quaint rustic setting in a stand of very old oaks and poplar trees with small cabins that can sleep three hunters per cabin. The real rustic part was the lack of heating. No wonder the blankets were stacked high on the beds. There was propane in camp, but that was for the stove and the refrigerators. There was an outside wood-fired gathering place at night. It would have been great when it was time to retire for the night to have been able to transport some of that heat to the cabin.

The property in the mountains had dirt roads passable with the four-wheel drive jeep. The trails followed the ridge line or the valley down below. The jeep had no heat, no top and no doors. The first couple of days were brutal. At night the temperature dropped into the low twenties. There was no protection from the wind or cold except the clothing we wore.

The first day was spent driving, stopping and glassing. Most of the elk that were seen were on the



adjoining ranches and, when seen, there were groups of bachelor bulls and females in another area. I was told that some of the bulls never mate in their lifetime because of the separation of the cows and bulls. We saw a lot of good looking bulls that had broken tines or main beams from fighting. I didn't have a problem taking a bull with a broken tine or main beam. I think that adds character. After lunch and the rifle range it was back to driving, stopping and glassing until it started to get dark. You have to remember there was a fire to be built and a dinner to be prepared.

The second day of the hunt took us on the back side of the mountains where we had glassed the day before. There was one bull in particular that we saw on the first day and we were going to take a good closer look. As the morning progressed, the animals were not to be seen. Don wasn't quite sure why. A little later, while glassing, we watched a mountain lion for the longest time lying in the sun licking its paws. This could be the reason for not seeing any Tule Elk bulls on the open mountain sides. So we continued to drive to the back side of the other mountain searching for the bull that we wanted to take a better look at. The jeep was left on the first steep road we were travelling on. We had coasted to a stop so as not to disturb the animals with the sound of the motor. I knew as we started to ascend the mountain that this was not going to be an easy stalk. There was a lot of loose rock and a lot of thick scrub brush that we had to work our way through. At times, we had a few game trails that made the hike easier.

After climbing up the back side we made our way around the rocks and started to descend in hopes of seeing the bull. After making our way around and down we realized that the angle was all wrong for a good shot. So it was a climb back up to the first terrace

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to make our way further around hoping to get a better side shot.

The bull was bedded down in the open and had a commanding view of its surroundings. It was bedded down about 350 yards below us and it now became a painstaking stalk to reduce the distance in order for us to get closer. By that time, Don had had a good look at the bull and guessed it to be over 250 score. I didn't have a problem with that. Besides, it started to drizzle and that made the animal more appealing. We eventually made our way down the mountain over the rock beds and through the brush and got to a distance of 275 yards. I had a big rock for a rest and the distance didn't bother me. The bull was still bedded down and broadside, giving me a good shoulder shot. I removed my hat to protect the forearm of my rifle from being scraped on the rock surface. I eased off the safety, put the cross hairs on its shoulder and squeezed the trigger.

The Barns X bullet shot from the .270 found its mark just a little high on the shoulder and it broke the elk's back. After waiting a few minutes, we descended to within 100 yards. I placed the second shot between the front legs into the heart, and then the work began. After taking pictures, we climbed up and made our way to the dirt road and the jeep. I will rephrase that: Don continued on the road to the jeep while I stayed back with the spotting scope and gear. We had to return to camp for all of the butchering gear and backpack. While we were there, it was a good time to have a sandwich and a bowl of soup. Boy, did that taste good!

Don told me to stay in camp while Bob returned to tell him where we had taken the animal and to bring the four-wheel ATV. Just before Bob left, another man called Harvey showed up to fix the propane-refrigerator and they both got into the ATV and went to help Don. It was almost dark when they returned to camp. I had taken it upon myself to start the fire. I knew that was going to be great to return to. I even managed to gas up the generator and to get it started. What could be better than returning to camp to a warm fire, light to see by and a tea kettle full of hot water. With all of the effort put forth to carry the meat to the truck nobody was very hungry. So they pulled up a chair to the fire and fixed a drink and we sat and enjoyed the fire and the success of the hunt.

The next day was a day of working on butchering the elk and sawing off the horns. I trimmed and zip-locked some of the meat to take home with me. After leaving camp to get my car, we continued to the local fire station so the paperwork and my identification were verified. The captain at the fire station signed the paperwork. This was required by the state fish and wildlife department. We didn't have any problems. This was where Don and I separated. He was going home and I was going to find lodging close to the airport in Monterey. My flight was leaving very early the next morning.

To all who might read this, travel safe and shoot straight.

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## GIRLS WITH GUNS JOINS SUPPORT FOR CA WILD SHEEP



Northern California's own **Girls with Guns**, a cottage industry gone national, is supporting California Wild Sheep's annual fundraising event on April 30, 2016 at the Rancho Cordova Marriott.

Although founders and owners Jen O'Hara and Norissa Harman will not be able to attend personally due to commitments out of the country, they will be sending a company representative and have sent their regrets and a generous donation of GWG clothing and gear for the event. They are already hoping to get the 2017 CA Wild Sheep banquet on their calendar.

Founded in 2008 in a garage by the two best friends, Jen and Norissa have evolved GWG into one of the best known manufacturers of hunting apparel especially for women, made by women. They now work out of a 5,000 square foot warehouse and office in Red Bluff and their clothing and accessories are handled by numerous large national sporting goods retailers.

Jen and Norissa also parlayed their successful clothing business into their own television show as hunting personalities.

GWG is planning a rollout of a new lineup of offerings this fall, including boots and "high end," high quality raingear. Look for GWG offerings in the general raffle and silent auction in Rancho Cordova event.

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# CONSERVATION AND HUNTING - A LIFE TURNING POINT

*by Jake Franklin, Kika Guide and Outfitting*

A few years back I met a gentleman on a bear hunt, he was willing to work and wanting to learn. Though his hunt was unsuccessful I remember him telling me "Don't give me your number or I will blow your phone up with questions." I took that risk and got a lifelong friend and business partner. The man on the bear hunt was a man by the name of Geoff Rowley. He is a professional skateboarder with an extreme passion for hunting. As our friendship grew he became more interested in sheep hunting, even to the point of buying all the proper optics, tripods, and other gear necessary for pursuing sheep. We would meet at 3am and go out and watch sheep in the blistering 120 degree heat. He was obsessed and officially a sheep hunter.

I pulled him up to the Wild Sheep Foundation's Sheep Show Reno, Nv where Geoff was so moved by what the Foundation was accomplishing that he donated \$15,000 to the Take One / Put One Back program. The following year consisted of us following where that money went and making a video to hopefully reach a larger demographic of future conservationists.

With the video made one thing became very clear to both Geoff and I, we have to have conservation and hunting on the same level. Geoff decided to help us with our upcoming sheep season and be there for the blistering work to really dive into the true and full meaning of conservation through hunting.

We were blessed with the opportunity to guide three hunters in California to their true hunt of a lifetime in the first season Geoff was helping guide for Kika. Each of the three hunts held their own level of difficulty, testing all involved. We all scouted tirelessly for a month seeing countless old rams.

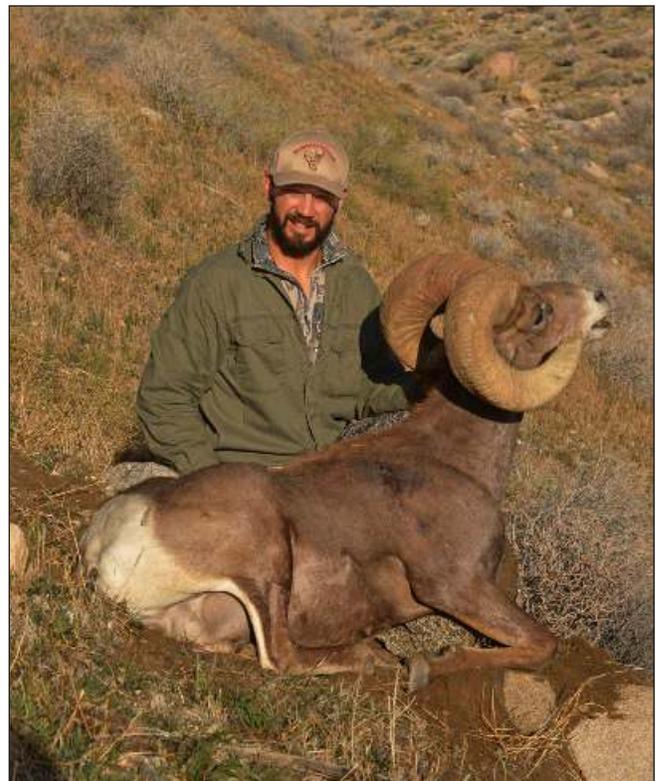
Jim Lines was the first to hunt, his hunt was extremely anticipated for an amazing ram we were pursuing. It didn't take long for mother nature to

refuse to cooperate and for us to make the decision for Jim to come back at a later date when the weather was different.

We then moved camp and welcomed Larry Borrelli. He came a day early to get acclimated and do a little scouting before hitting the mountain. The next morning was early and we dug deep to get to the top of the mountain. Waiting at the top was a band of ten rams, one of which was a ram we had known for years that we had named "Flat Top" for his chipped right horn. We all agreed this was the old ram that we were going to pursue. A lot of crawling and a well placed shot and we were all happy men.

After an evening of celebration with Larry, we had Jim fly in to continue hunting further south. On his third day back he was blessed with an incredible old ram we had named "Sampson". He was an unchallenged ram that took ownership of the whole herd.

Soon after Jim's hunt we had a father and son come in, Ron & Daren Carlson. It's always awesome seeing a father and son spend time together in the mountains. They worked hard and pushed themselves past their limits, which resulted in a very special ram that Daren will remember forever. He passed on a lot of rams before settling on the ram that we harvested.

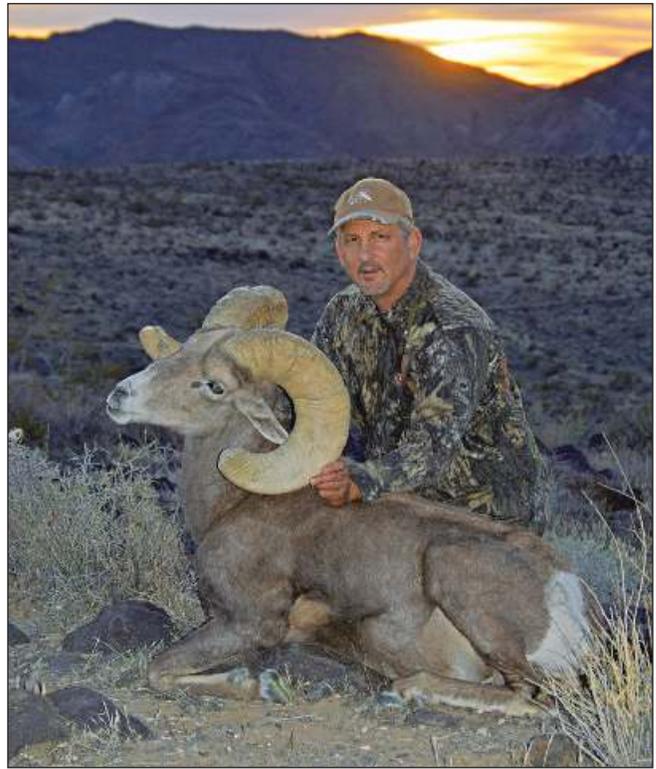


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It was 65 days total in the desert for us. Geoff had told me he wanted to jump in with both feet, so we definitely threw him in the deep end!

Following up the hunts we made the trek back to Sheep Show this year to showcase the video and recap our year. Speaking with our past clients and meeting with other passionate hunters and conservationists made us look back at some of what we took out of the year. It is far too easy to talk loosely about conservation and our hunting rights without practicing them on an on going basis. For us to keep our hunting freedoms alive we all have to put our conservation and hunting actions at the same level.

*Editor's Note: Jake recently became a first-time father to new baby girl Lucille Ray Franklin. Soon he'll be having his own 'father-daughter' moments. Kristen and Jake are so excited and already have a pack to take her to the mountains, oh, and a saddle!*



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## **DR. ALAN P. GARFINKEL GOLD TO SPEAK AT ANNUAL FUNDRAISER APRIL 30, 2016**

STONE AGE METAPHORS: SACRED STORIES AND SYMBOLIC SONGS  
OF THE IMMORTAL BIGHORN

Dr. Alan Garfinkel Gold is a California and Great Basin anthropologist and archaeologist. Dr. Garfinkel Gold is currently a freelance consultant for AGG Associates.

Alan has authored five books including Prehistory of Kern County, Archaeology and Rock Art, and the Handbook of the Kawaiisu. He is the recipient of both the 2008 and 2011 California State Governor's Award for Historic Preservation. He has conducted over 356 anthropological studies from the 1970's to the present. The studies have been conducted throughout the southwest, extensively in California. Dr. Gold has discovered that here, in California, on the edge of the Mojave desert, is the largest concentration of rock art in North America.

In his studies he has noticed a great number of bighorn rock drawings and paintings and he has investigated a unique prehistoric archaeological feature, a stacked rock cairn with a bighorn ram partial skull having intact horn cores at its apex. This was discovered at a Rose Spring archaeological site in the early 1990's on the western edge of the Coso Range in Rose Valley, east of the Sierra Nevada at the extreme

southwestern corner of the Great Basin.

Meet Dr. Gold and learn about "Stone Age Metaphors: Sacred Stories and Symbolic Songs of the Immortal Bighorn" in his discussion of Stone Age Metaphors. Join us April 30, 2016 at 2:30pm at the Rancho Cordova Marriott. Then stay for the fundraiser banquet!



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# MY CALIFORNIA DESERT SHEEP HUNT

*by Richard Retterath*



*Josh Schulgen, Cary Jellison, Richard Retterath, Jason Schillinger.*

It all started when my son Kevin called me with the results of California's big game drawing. When he told me I drew a Desert Sheep tag for the Marble/Clipper Mountains, I was like no way, I couldn't believe it. With over 3,300 people applying for 4 tags, I knew the first thing I had to do was hire a guide. I've never hunted sheep and I knew I just drew a once in a lifetime tag. Within 30 minutes of getting the news, I was in contact with Cary Jellison of G & J Outdoors. I knew the best guides were booked fast so I had my hunt with Cary booked within hours of learning that I had drawn the tag. I had met Cary long ago while on the Goodale hunt with a friend. He had just started his guide service and it really impressed me that he did not have a client for the hunt and was scouting the area for a week just to learn the area. Then I began seeing him in different magazines with his clients and big animals. He likes to harvest big animals.

Now was the time for me to get in Sheep Shape for my hunt. My daughter Rebekah Schifando is a Registered Dietician and she had me on the road to being ready and healthy for this hunt. I trained for seven months, weight lifting, eating healthy and a lot of steep hiking. I lost 65 lbs. when all was said and done. Sheep hunting is a whole different level of hunting physically. I am an avid hunter but have never hunted in such steep and rocky terrain.

The next hurdle was the fact that I had to use cooper bullets on this hunt. My son, Kevin Retterath does all our hand loads. He saved me by getting a great load by the start of my hunt. (Thanks son)

The hunt started Jan 6, 2016 just two days after I retired. Cary had been scouting the area a week before, so we hit the ground running. He had also arranged to have Josh Schulgen and Jason Schillinger (whom has the all-time number 2 Desert Sheep in California) as part of our hunting team. I had three great sheep hunters by my side for the hunt. This would also be the first time I was the rookie on the hunt. The first day started out by going to Jason's honey hole where he had harvested his 182 ram. We spotted a lot of good sheep that day, at least 25. Not ever hunting sheep before, they all looked like shooters to me. Desert Sheep are magnificent beautiful animals. After about day 4, I started to catch on. You have to look at a ram from all angles to determine whether he is a shooter. After looking at over 100 rams in six days, we found my shooter. Finding the ram you want and getting to the ram you want are two different stories. We had to side hill on very steep canyon walls to get to him. I took quit a few hard falls but kept my gun in the air and safe. We were able to finally close the distance to 288 yards when Cary told me to shoot the ram on the left. I spotted two rams and focused on the



one on the left. I was getting ready to take my shoot when Jason gently pushed my gun a little more to the left. I realized at this point he was letting me know there was a ram further to the left. I was on my ram. Jason ranged him at 288, so with a good rest I took my shot hitting him good. The ram went down the hill about 50 yards before actually going down. This was when I realized I had harvested a beautiful ram for my game room.

Jason and Josh are 32 years younger than I am, so they made it to my ram first. I heard them saying he is big, so I asked if there had been any ground shrinkage. NO. When I first wrapped my hands around my ram, I choked up a bit. He was huge and his golden horns were beautiful. After all the high fives and hugging, Cary started taking measurements. He scored in the field 171 6/8. Cary said "Richie, you just shot a Boone and Crockett Desert Sheep". I went into sheep fever at that point. I had to sit back, take a long deep breath and then thank the Lord for helping me get such a great ram.

I would like to thank Cary for all his hard work, both in and out of the field. He runs a first class Guide Service. And he is on hell of a cook to boot. Josh and Jason, thank you for all your help, you are great sheep hunters and great assets in the field. My wife Lovina and I hunt together and share a love of the great outdoors. Thank you for being there with me on this awesome hunt of a lifetime. I would also like to thank Regina Abela for all her help during this hunt. She is in charge of the Desert Sheep in California. She made sure everything was set up on the way home to have the ram plugged and scored by California Fish and Wildlife. It scored 172 2/8. She wanted to make sure our trip was enjoyable, even suggesting places to eat in Bishop. She does a great job and wants hunters to enjoy their hunt, by going the extra mile.

In closing I would like to let all other sheep hunter know, get a good guide (like Cary), get in Sheep Shape both physically and mentally. Most of all, enjoy every single moment of your hunt. It is something you are never going to forget.

God Bless Richie Retterath



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# 2016 CAFNAWS BANQUET AND FUNDRAISER

APRIL 30, 2016

by Ken Crother

By now you have set aside the date, maybe already registered for our annual fundraiser held in Rancho Cordova, California. 2016's banquet and fundraiser will prove to be even better and we hope that you have set aside the date and have committed to bringing a few new folks along to see what we do and enjoy a wonderful evening with us! In our last newsletter we had two dates to add to your calendar, one to register and March 1st as the date to reach out to your friends, fellow hunters and other conservationists to see if they would be willing to attend as well. We hope you have started that outreach!

This year our event will start with a very interesting speaker, Dr Alan Garfinkel Gold. Dr. Gold with over 30 years in the study of prehistoric and historic archaeology has published works regarding petroglyphs and the rock art of the prehistoric and historic hunters of eastern California. Alan received the California Governor's Historic Preservation Award for the Kawaiisu Project. His documentary film, [\*"Talking Stone – Rock Art of the Cosos"\*](#) has aired on PBS. Come early to meet this renowned archeologist and anthropologist, and learn about the Sacred Stories and Symbolic Songs of the Immortal Bighorn and Stone Age Metaphors.

The event will move on to an incredible silent auction full of some of the best of the best. Craig Van Arsdale has been bathing up hunting gear, jewelry, art and even more that will appeal to everyone. You will need to be sure to get your raffle tickets early this year as Paul Brisso has been diligently working on another great lineup of items. Unlike many fundraisers we attend, this event is just a step "above and beyond" and we like to put those kinds of items out for you as well. Here is just a taste of what you will see this year: WSF Sheep Hunter Package by Kimber, Nosler M48 Liberty rifle, Benelli shotgun, Sig Sauer pistol, AR 15 rifle, Zeiss optics, Leupold, and Yeti to name a few. Great job Paul, you have done it again.

While buying your event raffle tickets absolutely do not forget to get your **ULTIMA THULE DALL SHEEP RAFFLE TICKETS** as we are fortunate to offer this great opportunity to a lucky winner. Don Martin will guide this hunt and has proven to be a success for our group as well as the lucky hunters for the last two years. You can get tickets in advance (cawsf.org) purchase these tickets at the event. You do not need to be present for the Dall sheep hunt raffle.

Moving on in the evening, we will, of course, have a great dinner prepared by the Marriott and then into our live auction. Once again, Don Priest has been working very hard to provide some of the

best hunts, vacations and unique items available to make this a great auction. We have tried to find more North American hunts and trips so that there will be something for everyone in the room. Just a few of the great experiences you'll find in the auction include hunts for desert sheep in Mexico, muskox and bison in Alaska, ibex in Kyrgyzstan, turkey, ducks/geese, pig and more in California, whitetail deer in Idaho, doves in Argentina, photo safari in Africa, family vacations in Hawaii and even MORE! I think you will be pleasantly surprised at what we have to offer and have thought long and hard about trying to find something for everyone. After dinner, a great dessert auction to fill in the edges if you are not full enough ... and now the fun begins.



**The Put One Back Casino** is back and will be better than before. Try your luck at blackjack, craps and poker and to the top 3 chip holders in the room we have some great prizes sponsored by Leupold as well as a top women's prize as well this year. Last year it was a blast to see everyone compete and get a chance to enjoy the event on into the evening. So pace yourselves and plan to spend the last couple of hours trying to beat the odds in raising money for the sheep and doing your best to be one of the top winners for your choice of the great prizes.

We absolutely look forward to seeing you all and entertaining you for another great night **April 30, 2016, CAFNAWS Banquet and Fundraiser** at the Marriott in Rancho Cordova. Please reach out to any and all of those in your world to fill the room with folks that believe in conservation. This event is our one way of raising money to provide water, do surveys, fund studies and every thing necessary to help protect and provide to wild sheep in order to put and keep sheep on the mountain. I personally will reach out to as many people as I can to help build our attendance and I challenge each of you to do the same. Last year we had quite a few new people and to each that I have spoken to they are coming back and bringing someone new. See you all in a couple months and thanks a ton for your support.

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# SURPRISE! ARIZONA DESERT SHEEP HUNT

by Roger McCosker, Life Member

I was very surprised to receive in the mail in early August, 2015, an Arizona desert sheep tag, as an out-of-state resident.\* The odds are very difficult, but, as the saying goes, you can't draw, if you don't apply! (The same happened to me 20 years ago, when I drew a desert tag in California.)

Because of the distance (10 hours) to the unit from my home, and that I wanted to have the best opportunity for a good ram, I engaged Dry Creek Outfitters, an experienced outfitter from California, who specializes in trophy sheep hunting, primarily in CA and AZ.

I had met Cliff St. Martin previously, as we are both members of CAWSF board. I found Dry Creek Outfitters to be consummate professionals that know desert sheep hunting: experienced, did their homework, pre-scouted the unit extensively - early/late, met with AZ fish and game officials, including reviewing their recent sheep helicopter survey, photos, etc. The unit was known for having an above average population of sheep, but it was not known for having 'book' rams (which proved to be an incorrect assumption.).

I arrived and met with Cliff, Tim and crew (2), a couple days before the opening, to assist in pre-scouting. We spotted quite a number of rams, and scouted some new areas, but did not enter the prime hunt area of the unit (which they had pre-scouted, prior to my arrival), until the opener Dec. 1st. The hunt proved challenging, at times, with some major ups and downs, with multiple other hunters in the area (8 tags), as well as weather issues. We spotted some excellent rams in the first few days (including three 170's type rams in one band of 9, in the afternoon/evening of the first day, which got my attention!). As the evening approached, we had time to view them extensively in our spotting scopes, at

*\* I consistently put in for multiple western states, although sometimes, I miss a year or two, which was the case with Arizona. I believe that the maximum bonus points was 24, and I only had 12. Therefore, I needed to draw on quality hunt units that offer random 'out-of-state' opportunities, which was the 4th choice in the Huntin' Fool's recommended AZ units for 2015. In the Huntin' Fool write up for Arizona sheep hunts, they recommend a selective 'random draw' strategy.*

distance, and two of them, were incredible! We were going to go after them in the morning.

Fortunately, we were able to relocate the same 9 rams in the morning, and initiate our stalk. During the latter part of our stalk, as we were approaching the ram's location, we observed two 'yahoo' hunters (one with a rifle, one without, 50 yards apart) walking along a trail, above the sheep, directly toward our bedded rams. I appeared that the two hunters hadn't seen the sheep, nor knew much about sheep hunting, as they were walking in the open. Then, BAM!! They spooked the rams, and the rams were gone in an instant. We were so close, but yet so far! Nobody got a shot!

Later the same day, we were able to sneak on several of the same rams, which led to my having an excellent shot opportunity at the smallest of the three largest rams, but I chose not to shoot!! As you might imagine, I lived with this decision for the next six days of hunting, at, times, questioning my sanity?

As the hunt progressed and the days went by, the weather continued to be a major factor, handicapping





our hunting. Sheep do not like high winds, as they tend to hunker down (seemingly disappear?), which we experienced on hunt days 4 to 7, as well as some rain and overcast. We were regularly seeing lots of average rams, but not the big boys.

I finally got my opportunity in the morning of the 8th day, during a surprise break between weather systems, as the winds (curiously) stopped on Sunday morning. Within an hour, we had spotted two large rams, and we decided to make a stalk on the largest\closest, that was last seen, moving through the saddle on high ridge. During the stalk, the ram

caught my guide, Tim, and I, off guard, as the ram was bedded slightly over the ridge (out of sight), and exploded from his bed running a full speed, starting at 100 yards. As I still had my backpack on and rifle shouldered, I moved faster than you could imagine: it probably took me 15 seconds (or less) to get my rifle and pack off, chamber a round, get into position, estimate the distance and adjust my scope for 250 yards, in time to see the ram pause on a large boulder, before disappearing over the canyon rim. I tried to set up on my pack, but it was too low to see the ram, so I had to hold my elbows high on the pack, to have a clear shot! I did not have chances to think, just place the cross hairs on the ram's shoulder, focus, and squeeze the trigger. He dropped off the rock, like a sack of potatoes! What a thrill!

Thank you, Dry Creek Outfitters,\*\* for your perseverance and professionalism. The ram green scored 173 1/8 gross, and 172 4/8 net. I have done a fair amount of No. America sheep hunting (7), but this was my first book ram!

*\*\*Dry Creek Outfitters, worked tirelessly as a team, creating this opportunity: Cliff 'Partner' St. Martin, Tim 'Cowboy' Mercier, Sean 'Alabama' Lindy, and Kirk 'Sawyer' Stiltz.*



Once again we are delighted to offer the **PUT ONE BACK CASINO** at our annual **CAFNAWS BANQUET AND FUNDRAISER, APRIL 30, 2016**. Our event will again be held at the Marriott in Rancho Cordova, California.

Last year instead of turning out the lights and going home, many of us took advantage of the opportunity to stick around, trade a few more stories and take our chances at being high chip holder in some great casino games. Laughter was the norm, and a few sighs when the cards or dice didn't hit the way we wanted them to, but all the folks that stuck around had a great time. CA WSF, with the support of Leupold, has once again teamed up to offer some fantastic prizes for the top three chip holders and this year we've added a special top woman's prize. We are planning on blackjack and craps and we've had a request to have a poker table or two. So plan an afternoon nap in order to put in a couple of extra hours at the casino after the last call in the regular dinner function. The more people we have participate the more fun it should be and the more we can work on raising some extra money to **"PUT ONE BACK"** on the mountain while having a great time! We look forward to having you at our event and showing you a great time that you will remember having with your friends and fellow conservationists.

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# MOON SHEEP

by Carlos Gallinger, *thewayofthings.org*

In this day and age, of electric lights and telescopes, the cultural influence of the moon has changed. In our hunter gatherer past everybody would have lived by, and understood the ever-changing yet predictable cycles of the moon. Watching the night sky from their campfires our ancestors saw the moon make its way across the sky, on a path that kept it above the clouds and below the stars, making it unreachable yet not so far away.

There is no doubt that the moon influenced the behavior and spirituality of the ancient people of the great basin as well. Much of what they left us is encoded in their petroglyphs that represent their thoughts and dreams. Some of the more common petroglyphs in the great basin are images of desert bighorn sheep. Many are highly stylized in a form sometimes referred to as a boat sheep. This is because the shape of their body resembles that of a boat. However, I think it's possible to link this shape to something else, and that is a half or crescent moon. The bodies of many of these sheep look like a half-moon. Some of them have a back that is curved far beyond anything that would be possible. Also their tails are not anatomically correct for desert bighorn sheep. They are too large and pointing upward in a way that bighorn sheep really can't do. Artistically this helps shape the body into a crescent moon shape. So one can ask: Is this a deliberate association on their part, or an unintended similarity. It seems that these attributes are so unusually specific and universal that in all likelihood they carried some sort of symbolic meaning.

Hunting by moonlight is one of the major hunting strategies for desert bighorn sheep. It is a spot and stalk strategy that entails finding the desert bighorn sheep in daylight and then waiting for the sheep to get into a place where they feel safe and bed down for the night. Then under cover of darkness, or perhaps we should say by the light of the moon, these ancient hunters would sneak up on the sheep and make their kill. In order to do this effectively one needs to have an in depth knowledge of how moonlight is played out on the landscape. Attempting to do this on a moonless night or walking through a large moon shadow would make such an endeavor futile and dangerous.

We all have our own personal and cultural relationship with the moon and stars. For me the moon and the stars are an essential part of the desert experience. While guiding desert bighorn sheep hunts I have used this ancient strategy myself. Of course, in modern times we have to wait till sunrise to make the kill. I can tell you from personal first-



hand experience that working your way up a steep rocky slope full of cholla cactus by moonlight, to sneak up on a group of rams with the intent of making a kill is a powerful emotional event. The ancient hunters of this land would experience this numerous times in their life, thus this knowledge of how the moonlight plays out on the landscape and the drama of the hunt would have been a larger part of their lives. This leaves us to wonder, in what manner and to what degree did this knowledge, and these experiences, find expression in the art and symbolism they left behind.

## Top 5 Deadly Terms Used by a Woman

### #1 Fine

This is the word women use to end an argument when she knows she is right and you need to shut up.

### #2 Nothing

Means something... and you need to be worried.

### #3 Go Ahead

This is a dare, not permission. Do NOT do it.

### #4 Whatever

A woman's way of saying "screw you."

### #5 That's OK

She is thinking long and hard on how and when you will pay for your mistake.

### Bonus Word: WOW!

This is not a compliment. She's amazed that one person could be so stupid.

# SHAWN WOOD'S MEXICO DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP HUNT WITH NAYO BALDERRAMA

HUNT DONATION AT CAWSF FUNDRAISER

*by Don Martin*



I had the privilege to join Shawn Wood on his desert bighorn sheep hunt in Mexico with Nayo Balderrama's Amigos' guides and outfitters. The hunt was won at auction at the CA WSF 2015 Annual Fundraising dinner. The hunt was a spectacular experience and everything ran smoothly with Shawn taking an excellent 160 class ram on the first day of his hunt. Food and accommodations were excellent and Nayo's guide staff headed up by his son, Nayo Jr., did an exceptional job of pre-scouting the area and putting us on rams early in the hunt.

We spent an extra day in the sheep camp and toured the ranch, viewing additional rams and discussing Nayo's reintroduction efforts of desert sheep into this isolated mountain range near Rocky Point, Sonora. We observed some of their water project efforts and also observed ear tagged ewes from two different translocation projects.

After a successful sheep hunt, our party which included Shawn's father, Mike, moved to a different property and hunted mule deer for the next 3 days. Mike was successful in taking a great buck over 30" in width and on the fourth day of our hunt, Shawn was rewarded with a true "buck of lifetime", harvesting a large 5x4 that measured over 34" in outside width.

Nayo runs a top notch outfit with an unprecedented success rate on desert bighorn sheep. The 2016 CA WSF dinner on April 30th will be an excellent opportunity for someone to bid on this great desert bighorn hunt! We thank Nayo Balderrama for this generous donation to CA WSF and appreciate his efforts to "put and keep sheep on the mountain."



## WSF SHEEP SHOW 2016

What a great event. This has become THE sheep hunter (and sheep hunter hopefuls in the <1 Club) fraternity convention. It was a super time and from all appearances was a definite financial success which will enable major investments into the mission.

On a CA note, our **CA Open Zone tag sold for \$173,250!** This was an excellent price and second only to the last time we, CAWSF, sold it at our event in 2013 for \$178,500.

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## TOP OF THE WORLD RAMS

*by Tom Griffiths, Life Member*



It was December 2014 when my wife Lisa and I were in Sonora Mexico hunting a Desert Ram for her with Nayo Balderrama (Amigos Guides and Outfitters). I was proud to watch Lisa harvest a great ram and remember Nayo asking me what I was thinking about regarding future hunts. I remember thinking before answering him that I didn't have any plans. As I consider Nayo one of the leading experts in hunting around the world I returned his question with one of my own-"What would he do?". That night over dinner and a few bottles of wine we discussed many options but decided to talk further at the upcoming Wild Sheep Convention in Reno. It was at the 2015 WFS Convention that Connor Green (also a client of Nayo's) and good friend of mine led me (pushed me?) to the Hunting Consortium booth to discuss hunting Marco Polo sheep in Tajikistan. He had already committed to a November hunt and by coincidence they had one opening to join him-better talk to Lisa about heading over to Asia and hunt a ram that I had never considered in my planning. The next thing I knew I was booked in the Pamir Mountains in November to chase what I consider the Holy Grail of



sheep. We were to hunt early November as it would give us the best chance at harvesting a mature ram on advice from Nayo and the staff of The Hunting Consortium.

I was comforted knowing that Bob and his staff would take care of all travel arrangements, gun permits, CITIES permit, visas, hotels, etc. It was now up to me to get myself physically ready and all my hunting equipment together and ready for a cold high elevation hunt (Marco Polo sheep summer at elevations up to 20,000 ft!). As most of you, I have read all about the high elevations experienced in the eastern Pamir Mountains and the dangers of High Altitude Sickness (HAPE). I consulted with my physician and received a prescription for Diamox and received instructions to begin taking this medication prior to the hunt. I also contacted my rifle maker (Greybull Precision) and had them burn a turret for an elevation of 13,500 ft to match my ballistics as I knew most rams are harvested at yardages exceeding 400 yards due to the wide open terrain. That spring and summer I physically trained for this hunt-although simulating 14-16,000 ft elevation was impossible. I hiked and shot that summer and fall at elevations up to 10,000 ft. Connor and I met many times to discuss our equipment lists and exchanged any ideas about the upcoming adventure. By middle October I was ready to go chase the longest horned Argali! What I wasn't prepared for was the earthquake in Tajikistan the day of my departure and the travel-a trip that was 23 hours in the air from the U.S. to Dushanbe Tajikistan via Istanbul Turkey and a two day 20 hour drive in a Russian styled Land Cruiser across Tajikistan



to the Hot Springs base camp high up in the Pamirs (13-14,000 ft).

The Hot Springs Camp as noted by many other hunters is a true oasis in the eastern Pamirs. It is located in an area where the Marco Polo sheep migrate when snows drive them from the higher elevations of China and Afghanistan. Comfortable beds, showers, hot springs tub and spacious dining hall awaited us-all owned by 3 Tajik brothers who proved to be gracious hosts. The camp is well equipped with generator power, chefs, guides, game skinner, one physician and other camp staff. Hunter safety is a priority as pulse and blood pressure is monitored frequently.

Once rifles were checked (out to 400 yards!) on the first morning-the hunt began. As much as hunters complain about the many hours in the air or in a Jeep-I must say the hunting was a complete 180-it was the best I have ever encountered. Day one began glassing the many open valleys and hillsides for sheep-a day that did not disappoint. I glassed over 100-150 mature rams-passed on a 54-55 inch ram in the morning only to find a ram that appeared to be close to that magic 60 inch length in the evening. That evening and the entire next day I attempted to get within range of this ram. He was living with a group of 20 plus rams and always seemed a step ahead of our group as large sweeping valleys void of any vegetation made any stalk difficult. We made numerous stalks-each consisting of a 1,500 ft



elevation gain and each time could not get within range of this dominant ram. Each day we saw numerous groups of mature rams-most in the 52-54 inch range with most groups consisting of 30-40 rams!! Finally on the evening of Day 3 while stalking the big ram we glassed up another group of 37 rams being led by a ram that appeared to be 56-57 inches in length. He had good mass and tipped down-just what I was looking for on this hunt. My guide was getting excited as this group of rams had us pegged and were getting nervous. As they started to leave the big ram was surrounded by smaller rams-I was hoping he would separate from the other sheep. Finally the lead ram separated and gave me a clear shot at 518 yds. It was great hearing the bullet report and watching the ram go down. As we retrieved the ram (a climb to 16,300 ft) I was in awe of his size and beauty but relieved that it was all downhill from there. The Tajik guides jumped on me in excitement-I think they were glad it was done as well!

The next day Connor shot a great ram (heavy 58 inch beauty) at 750 yards-his guide captured all footage on video. There is no substitute for a custom Long Range rifle. He also took a great Mid-Asian Ibex-we both saw many Siberian wolves and even a Snow Leopard. We both never exhibited any high altitude sickness symptoms-although there never seemed to be enough oxygen-especially when we climbed. The guides and camp staff were professional and efficient although Tajik food leaves a lot to be desired. I estimate that I saw well over 400 mature rams in the 3 days I hunted with ewes and lambs doubling that number. I definitely feel that we harvested our rams on THE TOP OF THE WORLD!

# PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



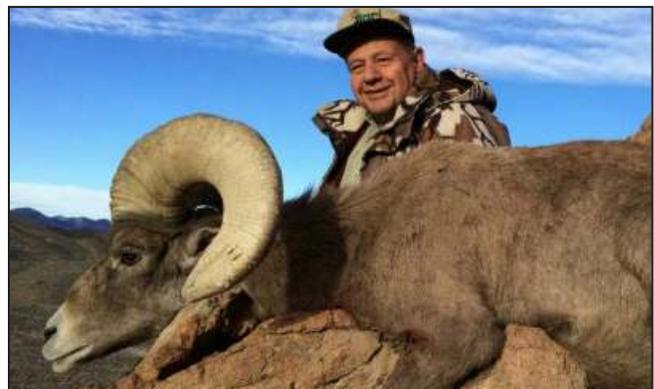
**John Dickerson**  
California Bighorn  
Nevada 167"



**Tom Gordon**  
Desert Sheep, Nevada Unit 182  
172 7/8" with a 39 7/8" horn  
Largest ram ever taken in Unit 182



**Bob Shults**  
Desert Sheep, Nevada  
First ram!



**Jerry Stefanitsis**  
Desert Sheep  
Nevada Unit 213



**Shanon Cabebe**  
11 yr old Ram  
San Gorgonios



**Ron Frey**  
Unit 15, Arizona

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# PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



**Daren Carlson**  
California Ram  
Kika Guide and Outfitters



**Bob DuHadaway**  
California Tule Elk  
Jim Bardin's Ranch



**Jim Lines**  
California Ram  
Kika Guide and Outfitters



**Larry Borreli**  
California Ram  
Kika Guide and Outfitters



**Roger McCosker**  
Arizona Desert Sheep, Dry Creek Outfitters  
172 4/8



**Shawn Wood**  
Mule Deer, Mexico  
Nayo Balderrama

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# PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



**Shawn Wood**  
Desert Sheep, Mexico  
Nayo Balderrama



**Tom Griffiths**  
Marco Polo Sheep  
Tajikistan



**Scott Brown**  
Desert Sheep, Nevada  
Completed his Grand Slam!



**Richie Retterath**  
California Desert Sheep, Marble/Clippers (Zone 1)  
172 1/8 Boone and Crocket



**Connor Green**  
Marco Polo Ram  
Tajikistan

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# REPORT FROM THE SPECIAL SESSION ON BIGHORN SHEEP CONSERVATION, 41ST DESERT TORTOISE COUNCIL MEETING AND SYMPOSIUM

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

Each year the Desert Tortoise Council, a professional organization comprised of researchers, managers, and members of the public working with or interested in the biology of desert tortoises, holds a symposium addressing the biology of those specialized reptiles. Coincident with each Symposium, a special session on a taxon that is sympatric with desert tortoises also is held, and this year that taxon was desert bighorn sheep. In August 2015 Dr. Kristin Berry, who organized this year's Symposium, invited me to assemble 10 speakers for that special session, which was held on February 20, 2016, at Henderson, Nevada during the Council's 41st Annual Meeting. The titles, authors, and a short abstract of each of these papers is presented below. I selected the topics and speakers based on (1) the limited amount of time available; (2) the general level of interest that I perceived among probable attendees; (3) the relevance of the subject matter to the conservation of bighorn sheep; and (4) the familiarity of each of the speakers with the subject matter. This year the Symposium was well attended, the special session was very well received, and numerous spirited discussions ensued following the presentations. Hopefully, attendees departed the Symposium with a better understanding of the conservation challenges facing desert bighorn sheep, many of which are similar, or even identical to, the challenges faced by desert tortoises. These topics are of major interest to CA Wild Sheep members.

## **BIGHORN SHEEP PNEUMONIA: DETERMINING THE CAUSE AND EXPLORING ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR POPULATION MANAGEMENT**

*Thomas E. Besser, Rocky Crate Endowed  
Chair of Wild Sheep Disease Research*

DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY MICROBIOLOGY AND PATHOLOGY,  
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Epizootic bronchopneumonia contributed to the population declines experienced by bighorn sheep since the European settlement of western North America, and is now widely recognized as an important factor limiting further population recovery. The precise cause of this disease has been the subject of controversy and debate for decades and that debate continues today; however, new data resulting from application of molecular microbiology and molecular

epidemiology has clarified the disease etiology and led to new ideas for disease management. This presentation explored some of the evidence supporting each of several hypothesized causes of the disease.

## **WILDERNESS LEGISLATION CONFOUNDS WILDLIFE CONSERVATION: DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP AS AN EXAMPLE**

*Vernon C. Bleich, Adjunct Professor*

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA

Wilderness management objectives and wildlife conservation objectives often conflict with each other, despite conservation being one of six basic reasons for which wilderness areas are established. Most wilderness areas appear to have been established as the result of political or societal desires, but in the absence of critical ecological thought. In an era of increasing anthropogenic impacts to wildlife populations and to wildlife habitat outside of wilderness, those ostensibly "pristine" areas in and of themselves will become less and less effective as conservation tools, particularly for large, vagile mammals. Impacts occurring both outside of and within wilderness areas have ramifications for wide-ranging animals that use those areas during portions of their annual cycles, thereby affecting wilderness character. There is a need to re-ignite the debate over the value of wilderness, both in the context of its societal role, as well as that of a conservation strategy. This session explores how essential it is that wildlife conservation be elevated to the same level of importance that is accorded solitude and other subjective attributes of wilderness.

## **HABITAT SELECTION BY DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

*James W. Cain III*

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, NEW MEXICO COOPERATIVE FISH AND  
WILDLIFE RESEARCH UNIT, DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND  
CONSERVATION ECOLOGY, NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

Studies of habitat selection by desert bighorn sheep are relatively common in the ecological literature. Motivations for desert bighorn habitat selection studies are varied, but have typically been related to

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development of specific management applications, to resolve particular conservation issues, or are prompted by a desire to develop a more a thorough understanding of desert bighorn sheep ecology and life history. More recently, desert bighorn habitat selection studies have been expanded to include a wider suite of environmental characteristics than in the past, including spatial-temporal changes in forage conditions, land surface temperature, and solar radiation. These expanded areas of ecological inquiry are now possible largely due to the wider availability of ecologically relevant remote sensing and geospatial data. This presentation reviewed some of the earlier habitat selection modeling efforts and how more recent efforts have built on the foundation of these earlier studies, and to provide suggestions for future habitat selection modeling efforts.

### **HABITAT FRAGMENTATION, CONNECTIVITY, AND METAPOPULATION CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP**

*Clinton W. Epps, Associate Professor of Wildlife*

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE,  
OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

Bighorn sheep have naturally-fragmented distributions in many portions of their range. Therefore, local extinction and recolonization dynamics likely have been an important aspect of their natural and evolutionary history. Much attention has been given to loss of local populations, particularly because of anthropogenic causes. However, due to early assessments that bighorn sheep were strongly philopatric, recognition of the importance of natural recolonization and inter-population movements was delayed. With the onset of the metapopulation paradigm, and new tools for characterizing interpopulation movements, that understanding has been revised. The importance of managing for connectivity and metapopulation function is now widely acknowledged, although such management is not always achieved. Yet large-scale energy developments as well as recent outbreaks of respiratory disease in bighorn sheep point to the critical need to better understand and manage links among populations, and make adopting regional management strategies ever more important. As his examples of recent successes and challenges in cooperation among many agencies, universities, and non-governmental organizations remains vital for efforts to manage bighorn sheep.

### **IMPLICATIONS OF HABITAT MANAGEMENT FOR CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP**

*Randy T. Larsen, Associate Professor*

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT AND WILDLIFE SCIENCES

Manipulation of habitats by humans to benefit wildlife dates back thousands of years. More recently, state and federal agencies with support from non-profit organizations have altered habitats across the southwestern United States to enhance suitability for bighorn. These efforts include widespread development of water resources (e.g., guzzlers, developed springs, etc.) and manipulation of vegetation. Additionally, state agencies have responded to naturally caused changes in habitat suitability for bighorns (primarily fire) by introducing them into historic habitat where they formerly were extirpated. These changes and enhancements to bighorn habitats have furthered conservation for this species, but remain controversial. This session discussed recent research providing a framework to understand some of these influences and noting that more work remains to be done.

### **USE OF PREDATION RISK THEORY TO PREDICT BEHAVIORAL RESPONSES OF BIGHORN SHEEP TO HUMAN ACTIVITY AT THE URBAN-WILDLAND INTERFACE**

*Kathleen Longshore, Research Wildlife Biologist*

USGS WESTERN ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH CENTER

As urbanization increases throughout the western U.S., a growing number of bighorn sheep are living at the wildland-urban interface. Bighorn sheep living at the interface are often exposed to non-lethal human activities that include development of housing, roads, and trails, hiking, and dogs. Habitat may be altered due to fire suppression. The effects of these activities can be cumulative. General behavioral responses of bighorn sheep can range from attraction to resources at the interface to permanent avoidance of habitat which may ultimately lead to a population decline. Studies examining sheep response to disturbance have lacked a theoretical framework for making predictions and understanding why particular responses occur. Recently, behavioral ecologists have begun applying economical models of antipredator behavior to the responses of animals to disturbance. This session explored the effectiveness of using predation risk theory to predict behavioral responses of bighorn sheep at the urban-wildland interface and discuss consequences of those behaviors so that better land use decisions may mitigate those impacts.

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## CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF CHANGES IN HORN SIZE OF NORTH AMERICAN WILD SHEEP

*Kevin L. Monteith, Assistant Professor*

HAUB SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES,  
WYOMING COOPERATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE RESEARCH UNIT,  
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY

Horn-like structures in male artiodactyls are among the most spectacular examples of male ornamentation among mammals. Their primary function is tied to display and male-male combat, and the positive association of size of horn-like structures with phenotypic quality, sperm production and quality, body size, and reproductive success of male ungulates indicates that large horns and antlers are favored by natural selection. As a consequence, selective removal of individuals with large horns by hunters has been purported to result in removal of the genes that favor development of large horns. Substantial controversy has arisen during the past decade over the potential effects of harvest (especially trophy hunting) on size of horns among hunted populations. Hunting remains the cornerstone of the North American model of wildlife conservation and management, and increased interest among hunters in harvesting males with large horns has fostered interest in identifying factors that affect their size. Evidence suggests that unrestricted and highly selective harvest of large, fast-growing males in bighorn sheep in localized areas can result in striking decreases in size through time. This session explored the effects of conservative harvest regimes that are more common in much of North America which are less well understood.

## TOP-DOWN DYNAMICS, SUBSIDIZED PREDATORS, AND DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP

*Eric M. Rominger, Bighorn Sheep Biologist*

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH

Despite eons of evolutionary separation, desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep have some remarkable similarities. In recent history, desert bighorn sheep were relatively rare but have made a considerable comeback in some places and have become or remain threatened and/or endangered in others. Although desert bighorn sheep are prey to numerous predators, only mountain lions have been documented to have population level consequences. This session explores what happens where mountain lion predation dominates cause-specific mortality rates and are “subsidized predators”. This subsidy is derived by preying on non-native ungulates including feral equids and domestic livestock which invokes the ‘apparent-competition’ hypothesis whereby prey-switching to a rarer prey item can result in population declines that mirror direct competition.

## DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP IN MEXICO

*Raul Valdez, Professor Emeritus and Research Affiliate*

DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND CONSERVATION ECOLOGY,  
NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

Mexico has one of the most successful wild sheep conservation programs in the world. Desert bighorn sheep numbers in Mexico have increased significantly during the past 30 years. They were extirpated in the states of Chihuahua, Coahuila, and Nuevo Leon but have since been reestablished and now total 10,600 in Mexico. This session discussed how private land owners rural communities, and others have benefited economically from the successful reintroduction and subsequent wild sheep sport hunting enterprises. Without hunter conservation programs, wild sheep populations would have continued to deteriorate..

## TRANSLOCATION STRATEGIES AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF TRANSLOCATION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP

*Jericho C. Whiting, Professor of Wildlife Ecology*

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY, 116 BENSON BUILDING, BRIGHAM  
YOUNG UNIVERSITY-IDAHO

Populations of bighorn sheep, and the habitat they occupy, have declined substantially since the latter part of the 19th century. Currently, many populations of these ungulates face a precarious future. Since the 1920s, considerable effort has been exerted and money spent to restore populations of bighorn sheep into historic ranges. Despite those efforts, from 1923 to 1997, only 41% of translocated populations of bighorns were deemed successful. Much has been learned recently to improve translocation and reintroduction success. This session explored how some of those improvements has advanced our understanding and success of bighorn translocations. Additional information is needed, however, regarding how released individuals interact that are from different source areas, as well as understanding ecotypic differences among source stocks and how that may have implications for predator avoidance, recruitment, and demographic performance of reintroduced populations. Answers to these questions will help wildlife biologists plan, conduct, and implement better reintroductions of bighorn sheep populations into historic habitat.

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## DISEASE UPDATES IN THE MOJAVE

by Daniella Dekelaita, Oregon State University

After the pneumonia outbreak and subsequent die-off in Old Dad Peak in May and June of 2013, symptoms of pneumonia were observed in lambs and adults in the nearby Marble Mountains located approximately 50 km southeast in the Mojave Desert. In July 2013, nasal swab, tissue, and blood samples were collected from 5 symptomatic adult bighorn in the Marbles for disease and pathogen testing; all animals tested positive for *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (*M. ovi*), suggesting active pneumonia infection, and 1 of 5 (20%) tested positive for Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus (BRSV). In November 2013, 8 of 14 ewes (57.1%) sampled during a collaring effort in the Marbles tested positive for *M. ovi*, 15 of 15 were seropositive (possessing high levels of pathogen antibodies), and 11 of 15

(73.3%) tested positive for BRSV. While BRSV has not been directly linked to pneumonia in bighorn sheep, it has been cited in some studies as a possible coagent of infection. No die-off was ever detected in the Marbles in or prior to 2013; in 2014, 5 mortalities (4 adults and 1 lamb) were detected, and only 1 animal, a lamb, tested positive for *M. ovi*. Incidentally, 2 of the adults were roadkill.

Many studies report that multiple pathogens and stressors can contribute to pneumonia epizootics in bighorn sheep, but *M. ovi* is often found to be a dominant agent in these outbreaks. Signs of pneumonia have been observed in adults and lambs in the Marble Mountains and Old Dad Peak, and some animals have also tested positive for *M. ovi*. An exact trigger for the outbreak in the Mojave Desert, however, has yet to be identified. Furthermore, whether the disease continues to contribute to higher rates of adult and lamb mortality is unclear.

Aside from the die-off detected in Old Dad in 2013, adult mortality appeared minimal across other ranges in 2013-2014, based on collar survival data and other known mortalities. In 2015, however, adult mortality appeared to increase in some ranges in late summer through winter compared to the previous year. Swab and tissue samples were collected from these mortalities and are currently being tested for pathogens associated with respiratory disease; as of yet, the causes of death are still unknown. Interestingly, 3 of 11 adults (27%) collared in November 2015 in the Marbles tested positive for active *M. ovi* infection, and 0 of 7 tested positive in Old Dad, which suggests that infection rates in these 2 ranges may be dropping.

Ground surveys performed by John Wehausen, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and Oregon State University (OSU) in the Marbles in



May of 2012, and June of 2013 and 2014 indicated that lamb mortality had increased substantially from previous years based on observed lamb to ewe ratios. In May and June of 2015, ground surveys reported that lamb to ewe ratios were higher than those for the same months in 2012-2014. In July and August of 2015, however, camera data from the Marbles suggested a marked drop in lamb survival, with observed lamb to ewe ratios falling approximately 35- 40% between June and August. We believe that the observed increase in lamb mortality is a result of respiratory disease.

Lambs in pneumonia-infected herds typically contract pneumonia 2-3 weeks after birth and die within the first 3 months of life. The increase in mortality observed in lambs in the Marbles is likely the result of respiratory infection, but lambs may not exhibit signs of respiratory disease when observed in the field. Given that lambs are likely to die within 3 months of contracting the disease, lambs presumably experience different stages as the disease gets progressively worse, with symptoms becoming more apparent in the final stages before death occurs. For this reason, it is difficult to assess the condition of lambs in the field unless they are observed at the right time.

As such, we have begun early monitoring of lambs and ewes this year and plan to continue regular surveillance throughout the summer in the Marble Mountains. All adult ewes observed so far appear to be healthy; seventeen active newborn (1-2 week-old) lambs were observed in mid-February, and no signs of pneumonia have been observed yet. With continued

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surveillance throughout the spring and summer months, we hope to observe symptoms of pneumonia in lambs and document when these symptoms begin to appear and how long before mortality occurs. In this way, we will hopefully be able to ascertain the apparent impact of pneumonia on lamb survival.

Additionally, we are analyzing collar data and results from pathogen testing, fecal nitrogen testing, and genetics work from more than 150 adult bighorn sheep collared between 2013 and 2016, to determine post-outbreak adult survival rates and evaluate potential triggers of disease (i.e., environmental

conditions, pathogen presence, herd nutrition, genetic structure, etc.) across the following 9 ranges: S. Sodas, Old Dad Peak (Kelso Mountains), Hackberries/Woods Mountains, N. Bristols, S. Bristols, Clippers, Marbles, Cadys. Camera data from water features are also being used to track lamb survival of collared ewes from May to September, and to estimate recruitment from the previous year and further assess impacts of pneumonia on bighorn sheep in the Mojave Desert.

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## SUPPORT YOUR FUNDRAISER/BANQUET COMMITTEE

Most of you have either served on a fundraiser/banquet committee or witnessed fundraisers/banquets so you know the time and effort required to do it well. We all also know that “many hands make lighter work”. Because of that, I want to introduce your 2016 CA WSF Fundraiser Committee and ask you to help and support them however you are able.

Ken Crother	Fundraiser Co-Chair
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**REQUEST TO MEMBERS:** Please help by March 30, 2016 in any way you can! If you can be on site to help set up and stay after to tear down, that helps tremendously. Don't know who to contact with your offer for help? You can always reach Beverly at the office email/phone (forthesheep@gmail.com / 650-472-3889).

Make the time to participate in the Fundraiser. This is a success KEY!  
Invite all your friends to register for the Fundraiser. This is success KEY!

When i was young  
i just  
wanted  
to be  
older.  
What the  
hell was  
i thinking.



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## FIELD SEASON FINDINGS FROM CDFW'S REGION 6

*by Alexandra Few, Ph.D.*

Summer field season has a different pace than winter field season whether counting sheep in the Mojave or the Sierra Nevada. In the Mojave, summer field work is limited by the distance a person can walk in extreme heat. Fortunately, bighorn concentrate near water during Mojave summers allowing field staff to focus their survey efforts in smaller geographic areas. In the Sierra Nevada, the summer often brings pleasant weather. Here the obstacles to field work are fitness and acclimatization; one scientific aid logged an elevation gain of over 150,000 feet over the course of a Sierra bighorn summer field season.

Winter field work in both ecosystems is fairly benign in comparison for the strong team of CDFW bighorn biologists and scientific aids. In the Mojave, bighorn disperse from water requiring more traditional ground survey methods. Large crews cover lots of ground in consecutive days. In the Sierra Nevada, similarly large crews typically spend a day walking through sage to count migrant populations congregating on the forage abundant at low elevations.

The second week of February our motley crew came out to count the Wheeler Ridge herd. CDFW personnel from the Bishop office included Sierra bighorn staff Amy Sturgill, Liz Siemion, Dave German, Dennis Jensen, Todd Calfee, myself, and new Sierra bighorn Environmental Scientist Lacey Greene, along with Brian Hatfield, who recently made the transition from the Sierra bighorn crew to Environmental Scientist for the mesocarnivore project, and desert bighorn staff Ellen Brandell and Jon Weissman. We were lucky to have two volunteers from two different bighorn sheep foundations join us: Steve Yeager and John Wehausen. We counted a total of 76 bighorn on February 9th. The next day, 4 independent groups of people organized themselves to follow-up on things that did not “feel” quite right. The initiative shown by staff in the Bishop office resulted in the addition of 10 animals to the count and the investigation of two mortalities both of which were identified as predator kills; a mountain lion killed a 13 year old ram and a bobcat killed a 9 month old lamb. We counted a total of 88 bighorn in 5 different ewe groups containing 50 adult and yearling ewes. This number of females meets the numeric recovery objectives for the Central Recovery Unit, and this is only one of two herds in that Recovery Unit.

During this survey effort two things struck me. First, when you get a group of motivated well-trained people together they will do great things with very little direction. Planting the seed for an idea -- a survey and regular mortality surveillance -- is all that



is needed. Second, the abundance of bighorn was impressive. In two hours I observed 55 bighorn. There were others on the survey that observed an order of magnitude fewer bighorn, but in the relatively small area we surveyed (14.4 square kilometers) we observed sheep at a density of 6.1 bighorn per square kilometer surveyed; the Wheeler Ridge herd is thriving!

The end of bighorn hunting season in California marks the beginning of winter field season in the Mojave. No time was wasted this year. After the South Bristol hunter filled his tag, we headed to the desert. On January 25th, CDFW staff from the Bishop office traveled to the South Bristol Mountains to count that herd. This team, led by new Environmental Scientist and desert bighorn field biologist Paige Prentice, consisted of 4 Sierra bighorn staff and 2 desert bighorn personnel. In three days scouring 107 square kilometers, we counted 49 bighorn: 28 adult ewes, 12 adult rams, 3 yearling ewes, 1 yearling rams, 3 lambs, and 2 newborn lambs. Five additional collared ewes were alive but not seen; thus, they can be added to the count bringing the total number of bighorn to 54. This is surprisingly consistent with the winter count from January 2014 where 50 bighorn were counted: 30 ewes, 15 rams, and 5 yearling ewes (no lambs or yearling rams were observed). The density of sheep observed in 2016 was 0.44 bighorn per square kilometer surveyed.

This was my second attempt to survey the South Bristol Mountains in winter. This year I observed 7 bighorn; last year I observed one. While the number of



bighorn a person sees on a ground survey depends on which survey route they walk, there were never more than 9 bighorn counted in any one of the 8 survey areas in the South Bristols. At this year's Sheep Show in Reno, a hunter stopped at the CDFW booth to share his thoughts on the South Bristol population. He had been fortunate enough to hunt with close friends that drew a tag in this year's hunt and in the first South Bristol hunt in 2011. He felt like he noticed a decline in abundance. Unfortunately, this impression is consistent with significant adult mortality in 2016 in the South Bristols.

The low number of sheep observed in the South Bristol survey is in stark contrast to that observed in summer surveys in the neighboring Marble Mountains. John Wehausen took Regina and I out for our first early summer Marble Mountains survey in May 2011. We counted 129 bighorn that year, a density of 3.2 bighorn per kilometer surveyed. In May 2015, we counted 126 bighorn: 64 adult ewes, 16 adult rams, 1 yearling ewe, and 45 lambs (no yearling rams were observed). The observation of only 1 yearling ewe indicates high juvenile mortality caused by pneumonia. While many of the 45 lambs observed in 2015 were seen coughing after exertion, similar survey efforts in June documented 41 lambs. Hopefully these lambs will survive to be observed as yearlings in 2016.

Whether in the Sierra Nevada or the mountains of the Mojave, well timed surveys often take advantage of large groups of animals. Migration to low elevation winter ranges in the Sierra Nevada and congregation around water in the hot summer months in the Mojave are only two biological mechanisms causing sheep to concentrate at higher densities. Summer alpine surveys of Sierra bighorn are typically successful observing large groups in the Mt. Langley and Sawmill Canyon herds in late and early summer, respectively. Why do these two herds concentrate in summer instead of winter? Why do they concentrate at different times during summer? Answers to these questions are only speculative, but one thing is certain. It has taken years of trial and error -- successful and failed survey attempts -- to identify

these patterns. The newly staffed desert bighorn field program will experience its own form of trial and error as it establishes a monitoring program for the more than 60 mountain ranges in the Mojave. By trying different methods in different seasons, the program is off to a good start.

Whether in the Sierra or the Mojave, the seasonality of bighorn field work provides stark contrasts which reflect the biology and harsh environments in which bighorn live. The grace and equanimity in which bighorn handle these extremes is something we can only hope to emulate.

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## UPGRADE YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Show your support of California Wild Sheep Foundation and upgrade your membership today. Join these Life Members who know how important it is to continue the work we do in sheep environment enhancement and sheep disease research. Your continued support is what makes it possible for us to continue **PUTTING AND KEEPING SHEEP ON THE MOUNTAINS.**

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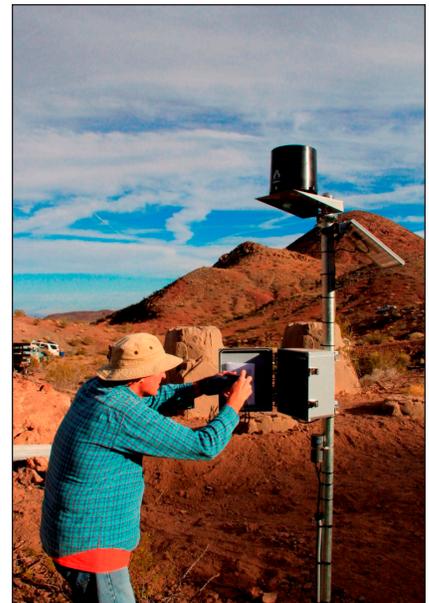
# DRINKER INSTALLATIONS IN COOPERATION WITH SCBS

*Report by Steve Marschke and Debi Miller-Marschke*

*[Editor's note: CA WSF provides funding for these projects, including purchasing the tanks, raincoats and other equipment. Members are encouraged to volunteer for the project work teams whenever possible.]*

## **RAINBOW 1 PROJECT COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY! NOV 19-22, 2015**

There were 4 days of hard work with 28 participants and over 500 man hours of effort to install. The digging was tough – lots of shale type bedrock but at least much of it was already fractured. The electric jackhammer was a lifesaver and I had the opportunity to let Zach, Alan and Adam show me how to use it. Turns out they are both way better at it than me. Experience has a lot to do with it – come on out next time and you can try too! The system was plumbed, the rainmat edges and field covered, the tread ramps installed the tanks buried, shade boulders positioned, along with a satellite monitoring system and trail cameras all in place. The complete system was finished by the time we left Sunday evening.





**BULLION GUZZLER REPAIRED  
- CLIMBING GEAR REQUIRED**

Repairing a 2" galvanized collection pipe on the USMC Base 29 Palms sounds easy enough but it's NOT! There was a cliff where the break occurred so we needed to be agile and get into one of the cracks of the cliff. Hanging from the rope we were able to R&R the pipe. Brent did cutting of pipe below me and Steve readied the materials to fix the break, repositioning it on the cliff by pulling slack through the crack. Sounds funny but it worked! Pipe repaired but we had to reach a cable that would support our expert repair job! I tore a piece of a Catclaw branch and tied it to the rope. We tried to snag the cable by throwing out the rope and branch. It was a nice day helping out for the conservation of Bighorn Sheep for Brent, Steve, and Norm.

**STATUS UPDATE ON THE GUZZLERS WITHIN THE 29 PALMS MARINE BASE**

SCBS has partnered with biologists from the 29 Palms Marine Base to build several brand-new guzzler systems within the desert combat training zones. The fact that there is constant live-fire training happening in this area has not deterred the bighorn sheep from populating the Marine Base. Historically, there were two SCBS big game guzzlers on the base, Cleghorn and Bullion. Cleghorn is located in the southeast area of the Marine base, nearing SheepHole Pass. Bullion is located on the north side of the Bullion Mountains many miles southeast of Ludlow. Steve Marschke is the Area Captain of both existing systems and participated in bi-annual inspections for many years. On December 14-15, 2012, SCBS installed a third system at Sunshine Peak (Bullion Mountain Range, near Lavic Lake). On March 22 – 24, 2013, the Argos guzzler system was installed in the same zone. The placement of these guzzlers is a monumental achievement towards connecting isolated herds into a larger, more genetically diverse populations of animals. It seems ironic that, within a live-fire combat training range, the sheep have found a safe haven to live and breed. Because of the circumstances, the sheep that live upon the Marine Base will never become the targets of a tag-holding hunter. However, as Brent Husung pointed out, the rams that are not able to out-compete the dominate males will seek mating opportunities elsewhere and thus, move into active hunting units. You can be a part of this exciting legacy by volunteering for the next SCBS project.



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## 2016 LIVE AUCTION PREVIEW

*The April 30, 2016 annual banquet and fundraiser at the Marriott Rancho Cordova includes a very exciting live auction. As always we will have a wonderful lineup of hunts, vacations and other items for auction. Here are just a few highlights to tantalize you!*



### Desert Bighorn Sheep

Famous and esteemed outfitter Nayo Balderrama of Amigo Guides and Outfitters has graciously donated a Desert Bighorn Sheep for auction again this year. This hunt takes place in the Sonora Province of Mexico, and is a fully guided and outfitted hunt. Nayo is one of Mexico's best outfitters and well known for beautiful sheep, and wonderful hospitality during your hunt and stay in Mexico.

is located in the Bering Sea about 135 miles west of Bethel. This remote island is home to approximately 200 people and 500-550 muskoxen. Large males can weigh upwards of 800 pounds, have a beautiful set of horns, and that famous long silky coat. In addition, most hunters consider muskoxen to be about the finest meat on the planet! Recent years' hunts have been almost 100% successful; hunts typically only last a few days depending on weather conditions.



### Plains Bison

The second special Alaska tag is for Plains Bison in the Copper River drainage. This is truly a rare hunt — about 15,000 hunters apply for about 100 permits each year for the Delta bison area! Your odds are much better getting this state fundraising tag! This is a fall hunt. Bison were first brought into Alaska nearly 100 years ago, with the herds now totaling nearly 1000 animals. Annually the success rate has been 90% or more. These impressive animals can weigh nearly one ton for a trophy bull. And you can expect over 500 pounds of excellent meat from these handsome beasts.

CA WSF will also be available to assist with contacting outfitters for these two special Alaska hunts.

Our vacation packages for auction this year will include a week in Maui, a week in Cabo San Lucas, and a photo safari in the Natal region of South Africa. In addition to the many hunting opportunities here in California and throughout the world, we will have wildlife artwork, specialty gear and a satellite phone for auction.

We look forward to seeing you at the banquet in April. Phone bidders are also always welcome. If you need assistance with phone bidding please contact Don Priest at (775) 225-5644 prior to the banquet.



### Nunivak Island Muskox

This year we have two special Alaska state tags for auction. The first is for a muskox to be hunted on Nunivak Island. This hunt can take place either in the fall during the month of September or in the winter from the first of February to mid-March. Muskox are native to the Arctic and now stretch from western Alaska across Canada into Greenland. Nunivak Island

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# LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

*by Bill Gaines, Gaines & Associates*

By now you've all heard that both Jim Kellogg and Jack Baylis have resigned from their seats on the CA Fish and Game Commission. These two resignations plus the departure of Executive Director Snoke Mastrup presents both a problem and an opportunity. We have since been searching to find viable candidates to bring forward to the Governor's office to fill the two vacant Commission seats with individuals who support science-based wildlife management.

This is the second year of the two-year 2015/2016 Session which formally kicked-off on Monday, October 4th. When the bill introduction deadline of February 19th came around, there were plenty of new bills to wade through. Below are just some of the many bills that are most relevant to CA Wild Sheep Foundation members. We'll keep you updated throughout the session.

On another note, the Statewide Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) is one of the most important documents in development by CADFW as it is intended provide a roadmap for all wildlife conservation strategies and related efforts statewide for the next decade. The revised draft of the SWAP has now been released by DFW for public comment. In addition to eliminating much of the negative references to the way the draft addressed hunting and fishing, you can find the sidebar we wrote on the role of hunters and anglers in the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation on pages 2-42 and 2-43 of Volume 1 of the Plan Update (see <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=110399>).

Please note that, because of the substantial size of the document, DFW has broken the revised draft down into nine "companion plan" categories -- agriculture, consumptive and recreational users, energy development, forests and rangeland, land use planning, transportation planning, tribal lands, water management and marine resources.

**SB 1191 (Berryhill)** – Fish and Wildlife Management Plans. SB 1191 by Senator Berryhill (R/08-Oakdale) would require the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to submit to the Fish and Game Commission for approval, a wildlife resources master plan, and provide for the preparation and approval of science-based wildlife management plans that would form the primary foundation for managing California's wildlife resources. The bill recognizes that sustainable hunting and fishing programs are important to our wildlife resources and the habitats they depend upon, and also provide economic, recreational, ecological, cultural, and social benefits they provide to all of California's public.

The bill would require DFW to submit the master plan to the Commission on or before September 1, 2018. SB 1191 is sponsored by the California Waterfowl Association.

**SB 1191** will first be heard in Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee. The bill has yet to be scheduled for hearing.

**AB 499 (Cooley)** – Archery Hunting: Concealed Firearms. Current law prohibits an individual who is archery hunting for deer from carrying a firearm, with the exception of an active or retired peace officer. This bill by Assembly Member Ken Cooley (D/08-Rancho Cordova) would authorize a person with a conceal carry permit to carry a firearm while archery hunting deer, as long as they do not attempt to take deer with the firearm. The measure does not try to address restrictions on conceal carry while hunting other game species because those prohibitions are contained in regulation, not statute in the Fish and Game Code. AB 499 moved quickly through the Assembly, passing off of the Assembly Floor by May 2015. Once on the Senate side, AB 499 was referred to the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee where it was slated to be heard in June 2015. However, the hearing was cancelled at the author's request in order to provide time to build a stronger support net for the legislation.

**AB 499** must be heard in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee by July 1st to remain viable in 2016.

**AB 665 (Frazier)** – Local Regulation of Hunting and Fishing. AB 665 by Assembly Member Jim Frazier (D/11-Oakley) would provide that the California Fish and Game Commission and Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) are the only entities that may adopt regulations regarding the taking or possession of fish and game on any land or water within the state. This legislation would not preclude public or private landowners from prohibiting hunting or fishing on their land.

**AB 665** is still pending hearing in Assembly Appropriations Committee, although as the 2016 Session progresses, it is increasingly unlikely it will be brought up for hearing.

To view the Senate Floor analysis of AB 665, click [AB 665 - Senate Floor Analysis](#). To view the Assembly Floor analysis of AB 665, click [AB 665 - Assembly Floor Analysis](#). To view the Assembly Appropriations Committee analysis of AB 665, click [AB 665 - Assembly Appropriations Committee Analysis](#).

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[SB 345 \(Berryhill\)](#) – The Sport Fishing Stimulus Act of 2015 Coined the “Sport Fishing Stimulus Act of 2015”, the intent of SB 345 by Senator Tom Berryhill (R/08-Oakdale) is to encourage more individuals to get involved in sport fishing in California. As originally amended in April 2015, this measure includes four objectives beneficial to sport fishers.

*SB 345 was set to be heard in Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee in June 2015. However, with the meat of the bill having been stripped out, Senator Berryhill pulled the measure from the agenda. Out of its house of origin, the bill must pass out of Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee by July 1st to remain viable in 2016.*

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## NEWS OF INTEREST

### IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

#### [Wolf Depredation Investigation Report Released](#)

After a thorough investigation of an incident in Siskiyou County, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) released a wolf depredation incident report. The incident was observed on Nov. 10, 2015. Though wolves rarely pose a direct threat to human safety, CDFW recommends that people never approach, feed or otherwise disturb a wolf. For more information about staying safe in wolf-occupied areas, including what people should do if they encounter a wolf, please visit [www.wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/mammals/gray-wolf/faq](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/mammals/gray-wolf/faq).

[Is it Time to Rethink the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation?](#) The principles enshrined in the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation brought back our game animals and established the notions of fair chase and public ownership of wildlife. But the world has changed over the last century. Should we reevaluate hunting’s playbook? *Outdoor Life*, 2-3-16

[Opinion: Wolves get a grudging welcome from Northern California ranchers](#) We are going to have a viable population of wolves in the far northern reaches of California, and it will be with the grudging cooperation of our ranchers. That was the takeaway from a public hearing held last month in Yreka (Siskiyou County), where the state’s Department of Fish and Wildlife invited public comment on its draft plan for accommodating our new four-footed residents, and where there were as many Stetsons in the audience as you’d see at a cowboy poetry convention. *San Francisco Chronicle*, 2-11-16

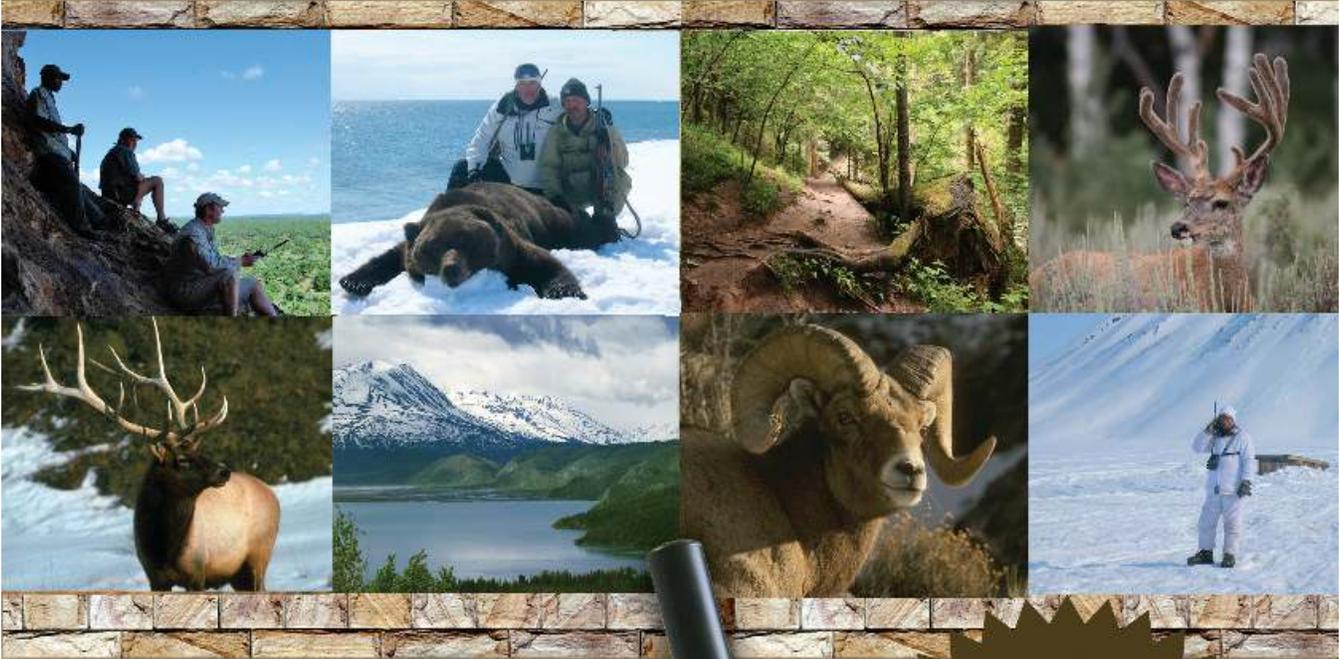
[Study finds mountain lions are feasting on house pets](#) A pet owner’s nightmare, their dog or cat being eaten by a mountain lion, appears to happen with some frequency, according to a new report from the Department of Fish and Wildlife. The report detailed that 107 mountain lions were killed last year legally under provisions of special depredation permits. Of those 107 lions, the stomach contents of 83 were

analyzed, and 52 percent were found to have eaten cats, dogs or other domestic animals, the report said. *San Francisco Chronicle*, 2-14-16

[Hunters fear fading voice at Fish and Game Commission](#) Lifelong hunter and fisherman Jim Kellogg is hooks and bullets to the core. He has been an outspoken advocate for anglers and hunters during his 14 years on the Fish and Game Commission, a powerful state board tasked with listing endangered species and setting the hunting and fishing regulations enforced by California’s armed game wardens. *Sacramento Bee*, 2-4-16

[Fish and Game upheaval reveals shift in state wildlife policy](#) The sudden resignation of the most adamant defender of hunting and fishing on the California Fish and Game Commission could put the finishing touches on a sweeping philosophical shift in the way the state views wildlife, sets rules for fishing and controls predators like mountain lions and wolves. *San Francisco Chronicle*, 1-23-16

[Refuges coaxing once-depleted tule elk herds back to life.](#) On a damp, chilly morning in the marshy Grizzly Island refuge, three bull tule elk stood at guard. Even 150 yards away, their antlers reached so high they seemed to poke holes in the sky. Patrick Graham, who manages the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area in Solano County for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, zeroed in with his binoculars on the herd these bulls protected, careful not to move. A light wind out of the south ruffled across the marsh. With a low tide, exposed wetlands produced the faint scent of algae. *San Francisco Chronicle*, 1-1-16



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Ultima Thule Ram, Don Martin (Right)  
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