



California Wild Sheep

Summer 2016



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Shanon Cabebe
California Desert Bighorn
176 0/8"
San Geronios
Dry Creek Outfitters



ULTIMA THULE LODGE

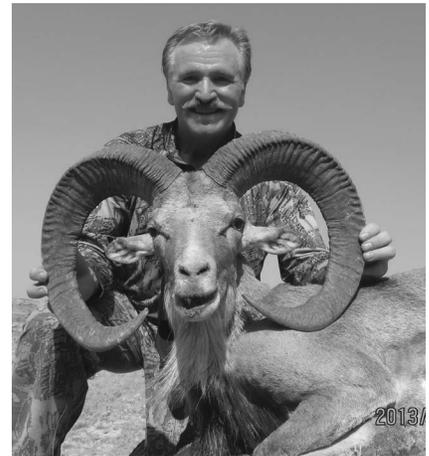
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From the Editor's Desk

I hope you enjoy this issue. It has a LOT of great pictures from our Annual Fundraiser (if you missed it, enjoy, and assure you make it in 2017). It also includes your ballot for the Director election, some great hunting stories, news from DFW, fun humor, more interesting desert insights from Carlos, AND MORE!

Your feedback, ideas, articles & requests are always welcome. Best way to reach me is email: mike.borel@contextnet.com. Due date for input to the 3Q16 issue is August 20.



The Fire truck

A firefighter was working on the engine outside the station, when he noticed a little girl nearby in a little red wagon with little ladders hung off the sides, and a garden hose tightly coiled in the middle.

The girl was wearing a firefighters helmet. The wagon was being pulled by her dog and her cat. The firefighter walked over to take a closer look.

'That sure is a nice fire truck,' the firefighter said with admiration...
'Thanks,' the girl replied. The firefighter looked a little closer. The girl had tied the wagon to her dog's collar and to the cat's testicles..

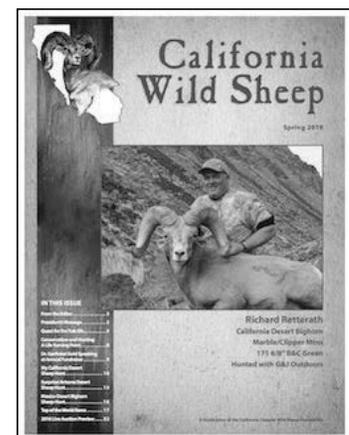
'Little partner,' the firefighter said, 'I don't want to tell you how to run your rig, but if you were to tie that rope around the cat's collar, I think you could go faster.'

The little girl replied thoughtfully, 'You're probably right, but then I wouldn't have a siren.'

CORRECTIONS AND APOLOGIES

In the last issue printed version we neglected to note on the cover photo of Richard Retterath that he was guided in his successful desert sheep hunt by Cary Jellison of G&J Outdoors.

Additional photos on page 19 also failed to note that Cary Jellison of G&J Outdoors was the guide for John Dickerson, Tom Gordon, Bob Shults, Jerry Stefanitsis, and Scott Brown. Our sincere apologies to Cary and the G&J Outdoors team!



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California Wild Sheep is published quarterly.

Please email all articles and photos to
mike.borel@contextnet.com

Photos should be high resolution and in color.
It is recommended that digital photos be sent by email.
Please include photo credits and captions.

Events

2016

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 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, Westgate Resort |
| February 1-4 | SCI Convention, Las Vegas, Mandalay Bay |
| February 16-19 | WHCE - Salt Lake City |
| February 20 | Due date for articles for 1Q2017 CAWSF Newsletter |
| May 5 | Sheep Summit XXI in Sacramento (Double Tree by Hilton) |
| May 6 | CA WFS Fundraiser/Banquet in Sacramento (Double Tree by Hilton) |

President's Letter

Dear CA Wild Sheep Members and Friends,

Thanks to all who contributed to the success of our 2016 fundraiser. Of course, the fundraiser committee, donors and Board played a major part. But the most important key to success was the participation of all of you who came to participate in an evening of fun and fellowship while making a huge contribution to the conservation of California's wild sheep and their habitat.



We are already excited about plans for our 2017 event. Response to our recent post-banquet survey was surprisingly high. We were particularly pleased by the size and input of those who were unable to make this year's fundraiser but who are interested in future events. We realize that as a statewide organization for many of you the dinner is not just an evening out, but a major weekend travel endeavor. It is impossible to find a date and location that is convenient and available for all. We appreciate those who make the CA Wild Sheep banquet a priority in their schedule and apologize to those who would have liked to share the evening but just could not make it this year.

It is encouraging to hear we are doing a lot of things right. The survey results, while including many good suggestions and constructive comments, were overall very positive. I had some friends who attended another conservation dinner shortly after our event that had a larger attendance, but all they could talk about was how much better and more fun the sheep dinner was. We had guests this year from the national Wild Sheep Foundation, who have attended numerous chapter events, who were very complimentary about the organization and quality of our fundraiser. The quality of our auction, silent raffle and general raffle and the completeness of our planning and logistics got very high marks.

However, we are looking forward to an even better event in 2017. We are already planning a new and bigger venue, a better seminar lineup for the afternoon preceding the dinner (based in large part on very helpful and constructive comments in your survey responses), and other improvements. Stay tuned to future newsletters and our website as we do our best to take the 2017 version of the CA Wild Sheep gala to even greater heights. If you didn't participate in our survey or want to provide additional suggestions and constructive comments, please e-mail us.

The summer season is upon us. Enjoy the long days. Good luck as various states release their draw results. Get into—or stay—in sheep shape and make sure your gear is complete for fall. Spend time at the range. Daydream of sheep country or your favorite hunting grounds. Remember that California's wild sheep population and habitat depend on your support.

Good hunting,

Paul Brisso,
President

"Hunting is one of the last genuine, personal adventures of modern man. Just as game animals are the truest indicators of quality natural environment, so hunting is the truest indicator of quality natural freedom."

—John Madson, Out Home, 1979

MY DESERT SHEEP HUNT

by Shanon Cabebe

The Number One Ram

We were only 90 yds. away when Matt whispered, "He's clear, whenever your ready". The report from my 300 Weatherby Magnum scattered rams everywhere.

My hunt started out like a lot of the stories I read about. I was wondering why I wasn't been able to draw a premium tag in any of the states, when I was sitting on so many points? I knew that sooner or later it had to happen. By this time it was the end of June and I was trying to figure out where, and what kind of hunting I was going to do this year... then my luck changed! I was out of town working in Alaska when I received a phone call from my friend Dan Grove, who said, "you did it, you finally drew a sheep tag!" I was trying to make sense of it all, because it was only 5:00 o'clock in the morning Alaska Time, so I was half asleep. It finally hit home when again he said, "you drew a desert sheep tag in California!" I could not believe it. Out of all the states, I was lucky enough to draw a desert sheep tag in my home state! I couldn't think of a better State to draw in. Later that day I had to call the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to hear the news for myself.

I knew right away with a tag like that, I was going to want the help of a good outfitter. I had heard of Dry Creek Outfitters through a friend of mine, Travis Scott of Arizona. He did some guiding for them a few years back and had nothing but good things to say about them. So I got in touch with Cliff St.Martin, one of the owners of Dry Creek Outfitters, and knew immediately they were the guys I wanted to hunt with. Cliff told me that the San Gorgonio unit that I drew, was one of the better units in California and with a little luck, we should be able to shoot a book ram. California requires you to go to a sheep orientation program before they will give you your tag, and if you use an outfitter, they are also required to attend. Matt St.Martin and Shawn Lindy, from Dry Creek Outfitters went to the orientation with me. It was very valuable information. They informed us on the different sheep units, how to judge sheep, and where to check them in to get them validated and plugged. I could tell the California Department of Fish and Wildlife take their sheep population very serious. That was the first time I had met Matt or Shawn, who would later end up being two of my guides that I hunted with. You could tell right away that they were extremely passionate about sheep hunting.

My unit opened up on December 19th and ran through February 21st. I began talking to Cliff back and forth; trying to figure out when would be the best time to go down. He decided I should go down



the first part of February, he said by that time, the weather should push the bigger rams down out of the high timbered country, where they are sometimes hard to find. I felt like the day would never come, that I would finally get to go on my sheep hunt. This particular year, we were getting a lot of weather early and by the end of November the boys were already starting to see sheep down below the tree lines. There were a group of sheep that they hunted last year that survived the season, and they had a good idea of where they were. The boys had a few different names for each of the rams. Scar Face and Chip were two of them. Then there were three rams which they named Number 1 Ram, Number 2 Ram and Number 3 Ram for obvious reasons.

I got a call from Cliff the beginning of December, they were on a sheep hunt in Arizona and he said things changed a bit and he wanted me to come down and hunt the opener instead of waiting until February. Cliff said that the crew had found several big rams and that we shouldn't wait. I got in touch with my two good friends, Dan Grove and Tim Robbins who were planning on going with me on the hunt, and told them we would be hunting earlier than originally thought. Finally the day came! We loaded up the truck and drove down to Palm Springs to meet up with Cliff and his partner Tim Mercier, Matt, Shawn, Clay Gibert, and Tom Humphreville. With all of them, and my two friends, I had quite the crew to help me find a trophy ram! We decided we would all split up and cover as much country as we could, so Matt, Shawn, Cliff and I took off on foot to try and locate the rams they had seen earlier, while the rest of the guys went to glass other canyons. We hiked up a creek bottom for a few miles, then split up and started climbing to the top of the mountain. It felt like forever to get to the top and by the time I got up there, Matt was

already behind the glasses looking at sheep. It was amazed to see so many sheep! Everywhere we looked, you could see rams and ewes, and it didn't take long for Matt to find what we were looking for. There were three big rams with a group of about 40 sheep ewes and other rams mixed together. We got the spotting scope out and he recognized the three rams. One had a big chip missing on his left horn, which is where the name "Chip" came from. The other two were Number 1 Ram, and Number 2 Ram. The only problem now was that they were at the top of another ridge, about 1,500 yds. away and we didn't know if they would still be there by the time we climbed off this mountain and made it to the top of the other mountain where they were. We decided to go for it! It just so happened, that when we split up earlier, Shawn was on the top of the mountain we were heading for, and he could see the sheep from where he was at. It took, what seemed like forever, but we finally made it up the other mountain where Shawn was. We knew the rams were on the back side of a ridge a couple canyons over so Matt and I took off after them. Cliff and Shawn had a bird's eye view of everything and they decided to contact the rest of the crew and let them know what was going on. They were able to move their location and set up there spotting scopes from a few miles off to watch the show. As we got closer, it was starting to sink in that there was a good chance that I was going to get a shot at one of the big rams! We got a few hundred yards from the sheep when all of a sudden about 40 ewes came over the top of the ridge, about 60 yards from us. They must have winded us, because they took off running, and that's when things got really exciting. Matt said "here come the rams"; there was a group of about 10 rams all together. They must have been following the ewes. They got about 90 yards from us, when they realized something was up. They all stopped and were staring in our direction. At that moment, it was obvious which ram was "Number One Ram." Before I could get a chance to shoot, they

all grouped up in a ball about 8 feet in diameter (a defensive move) and of course the big one was directly in the middle. This went on for about 10 minutes, which felt like hours. Then, all of a sudden, Number One Ram moved out of the middle of the group and to the outside, which gave me the opportunity I was waiting for. Matt whispered, "Whenever you feel ready"... by that time, I was already pulling the trigger! After I shot, all the rams took off over the ridge and I couldn't tell if I hit him or not. As my adrenaline was pumping, I could hear the guys yelling, "He fell off a 20 foot ledge, he's down!" I was so pumped! As we walked up to him, the rest of the group of rams wouldn't leave his side. It was pretty cool, because we were able to get some good pictures before they finally took off. When we finally put our hands on the ram it was amazing! The mass and size of the ram... he was even bigger than I thought! We got him, I got Number One Ram! The best part of the hunt was that everyone in the group got to watch the whole thing unfold. We set the ram up and waited for the rest of the crew to arrive and take pictures. After getting my ram capped out for a full body mount, we all gathered around to have Tim lead us in a prayer and to thank the Lord for this great opportunity and for harvesting such a ram. I can't believe how lucky I was. The way everything played out, it was an amazing experience, one that I will never forget.

The next day we checked our ram in with the biologist and he scored the ram at 176 0/8", and aged him at 11+ years old. He would end up being the largest ram taken in the State of California for the 2015/2016 season!

I would like to thank the whole crew at Dry Creek Outfitters. They are an amazing group of guys and unbelievable hunters. I would highly recommend them to anyone looking for a guide. I would also like to thank my wife for always supporting my hunting, taking care of things at home and keeping my family safe while I'm gone.

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DALL SHEEP HUNT

CHUGACH MOUNTAINS, ALASKA (AUG. - SEP. 2014)

by Bob Highfill

About 4 or 5 years ago, I was at the sheep show in Reno, and I stopped by Dan Montgomery's booth. I had noticed over the years, that Dan has taken some really nice dall sheep rams out of the Chugach Mountain Range. I decided to talk to Dan about what it takes to go dall sheep hunting with him. He told me that the areas he hunts for dall sheep are on a draw basis, and the odds of drawing a tag are so-so. He also told me that if I wanted to, he would put me in the draw every year. So I thought why not. I might as well try!

Alaska's application process for sheep has to be in, I think, about Dec. 15th. The drawing results come out on Feb. 15th. I actually forgot about it. A few years later, Dan called me on Feb. 16th telling me that I had drawn the 13-D tag in the Chugach Mountain Range. I told him that I'm 70 years old now, and I realize this is a backpack hunt. Dan said he would get me a packer to pack my gear. We tentatively put a start date of Aug. 8th, 2014. I told him that I knew what it takes to get in sheep shape. Since I have already been on numerous sheep hunts, and have already taken four other dall sheep, I knew I had to prepare myself for my upcoming hunt.

I sent Dan a deposit, and off I went into the gym and worked out at least 4 days a week, all the way to Aug. 6th. I lost about 15 pounds and felt good about the condition I got myself into. However, at the age of 70, I wasn't sure that the condition I was in, would be enough. The Chugach Mountains, are one of the roughest mountain ranges in Alaska, and weather can be very unforgiving. I got to Anchorage Airport on Aug. 7th. Loren Karro, Dan's expeditor, picked me up at the airport and took me to Dan's house in Wasilla, Alaska. There I met my guide, Doug Garner from Wyoming; my packer, Rick Parker from Crescent City, California; and Drake Taylor from Washington state. Drake is a young guy, 16 years old, who comes to help Dan pack during the summer. The next day, we drove north from Wasilla, about 300 miles north east, where there was a small gravel air strip, where Dan had his super cub located. From there, Dan flew each of us, one at a time plus our gear, out to a spike camp about 150 miles northeast of the airstrip. By the time we all got out to the temporary spike camp, it was 9 pm. Dan returned to Wasilla to deal with other sheep hunters he was expecting.

The next day, we packed up all of our gear and hiked up over another mountain range into another valley, and set up another spike camp. The following day, we hiked up to get to a higher vantage point



and started glassing for sheep. The sheep we saw that day were too far off for us to evaluate them. We were already long ways from the spike camp to pursue the sheep any longer. So we headed back to the camp. The next day, after having some oatmeal and coffee, we packed a nice lunch, and went to pursue the sheep we had seen the day before. Unfortunately, we could not find them. So we headed back to the camp. The following day, a storm came in and we did not leave the tent for two days because of very high winds and rain. After spending two long days in a tent with three other guys, which was quite an experience, we went back up the mountain to where Doug thought the sheep might have gone. We located the rams, very late in the day. There were nine rams in the group. Through the spotting scopes, there was one ram which Doug said could be in the 39 to 40 inch class. There was another ram in the same group which was not quite as long, but very heavy. In fact, Doug said it might even score better. It did not matter to me, either one of the sheep would be fine. So we planned a stalk. Doug told Rick and Drake to stay back, so that two people in wide open is better than four people on the mountain side. Doug and I took off. We got within 850 yards from the rams and got a very good look at the two best ones. I told Doug that if it worked out, I would rather take the heavy-horned ram, since I had already taken a 40 inch plus ram with Jeff Burwell out of Tok, Alaska, a few years before. Doug and I started heading towards the nine rams. We had just barely started, when a military Chinook helicopter came right down the valley, probably 500 to 600 feet off the ground, and spooked the rams out of the valley. We didn't think that they did that purposely, however,

the horrendous noise that the helicopter made, almost shook the ground. Doug and I looked at each other and we couldn't believe what had just happened. Now we motioned for Rick and Drake to come on down and join us. So all four of us hiked up to a higher elevation, where we last saw the rams go. We kept going and now it started to rain very heavily. It was getting late and we were several miles from the camp. Doug said it's going to be dark soon, and possibly dangerous to go back to the camp. So we decided to spend the night on the mountain. We located a big rock on the side of the mountain which was about half the size of a pickup truck. There was no wood to build a fire, no sleeping bags, and no tents. The four of us sat side by side, out of the wind, by that rock. It rained, and the wind blew almost all night. Thanks for the good quality of the rain gear. We all stayed dry, however, it was a long night on the mountain. Next morning, Doug told Drake and I to stay by the rock, and he and Rick would go to see if they could locate the rams again. They came back many hours later and never could find the rams.

We headed back to the spike camp many hours later. We warmed up some Knorr noodles for dinner and crashed. Next day we did not hunt at all, we were all too tired. The following days, we started hunting again. We climbed up the mountain, went all the way around, in hopes that maybe the rams might have come back to where we first saw them days before. We did find three rams, one was barely legal, the other two were small. I wanted to try to get a bigger ram. We moved camp to another location, and found couple other rams. They were not what I was looking for. Doug had to get back to Wyoming, and Rick had to go on a stone sheep hunt in British Columbia. Doug called Dan via satellite phone, and told him to come and get us at the original camp where he dropped us off. At that point, I had been sheep hunting for 14 days, and gone away from home for 18 days. When we got back to Wasilla, the next day, Dan told me that he would like me to come back this year after he completed his goat hunts. He said the sheep tag I drew, is a very difficult tag to draw. I told him that he didn't have to do that because I had a very good hunt, I had no complaints, met a lot of nice people, and that I am completely satisfied. I have been on a few sheep hunts before, where I was unsuccessful, and still had a good time. Even on some of those hunts, I turned down legal rams, hoping to get a big one and didn't. He told me to go home, and he would call me in a about three weeks when his goat hunts were over. I went home satisfied with the hunt and with all the effort all of us put into it. The helicopter situation was very unfortunate, however, life is good.

About three weeks later, on a Sunday, Dan Montgomery called me and asked me if I was ready to go sheep hunting again. I said you bet! So the next day, on a Monday morning, I was headed back to Wasilla.

All the other guides and packers had gone home except for Jared Wilmot from Montana. Dan and Jared were going to take me sheep hunting. Next day, Loren drove us back to the same airstrip, northeast of Wasilla where Dan's plane was located. That afternoon, Dan flew Jared and some of the supplies to a different area from where we had hunted in August. Then he came back to fly me and our gear. It was already getting late when he came to pick me up. We encountered very strong head winds, and therefore, we did not make very good time. When we got near Jared's camp, Dan felt very uncomfortable trying to land the plane on the gravel bar next to the river. So we circled the spike camp couple of times, to give Jared the impression that with the fading light, and the severe wind, it could be too dangerous to attempt the landing. That's what you call a good pilot! So we headed back to the air strip where Dan had a 6 by 15 foot enclosed trailer where he kept gas, and other supplies. That's where we spent the night. Next day, Dan and I got up early and headed back to Jared's camp. Dan landed and secured the plane. Then we had Jared take down his tent and move the camp across the river which entailed pumping up about a 7 to 8 foot small inflatable raft. It took several trips to get all of us, and the gear across the river to where we set up a better camp. Next day, we went sheep hunting and saw some ewes and lambs. Couple of days later, we went a different direction and found two legal rams. They both had nice long winter hides. I chose the nicest one of the two and got my full-curl 10-year-old Chugach ram! We took a few pictures, skinned the sheep for shoulder mount, boned out the meat, and got back to spike camp. We broke the spike camp down, pumped up the raft, got all the supplies and us across the river. Dan called Loren in Wasilla and told her to get the truck and head back up to the gravel air strip. We packed some of the supplies, my sheep horns, and myself. We headed back to the air strip. Then Dan went back two more times to get Jared and the rest of the supplies. When she arrived, Loren, Jared, and I hooked up to the trailer and we headed back to Wasilla. Dan got in his plane and also headed back to Wasilla.

I was very happy with my ram and I can't say enough about Dan Montgomery's operation, "Alaska Trophy Adventures". I was very proud of the physical conditioning I went through to prepare myself for this hunt. Without that, the outcome might have been different. The guides and the packers still had to wait for me many times. Between the two hunts, I was gone from home a total of 23 days and got my sheep with only one day left of the end of the sheep season.

I would like to thank Dan, Doug, Rick, Drake, Jared, and Loren who were involved in making my sheep hunting experience such a memorable adventure. Dan Montgomery runs a first-class operation and I would highly recommend "Alaska Trophy Adventures" to anyone.

SOMETIMES YOU WIN AND SOMETIMES...

by Joel Franzoia

Jorge Camou is a fine outfitter and tried his best to get us good quality animals. The hunting took place in the mountains 4 to 5 hours from Hermosillo. Myself and Scott did not see the size of coues deer that we were after, so we did not take an animal. (There was a mix-up at the Mexico City Intl. airport concerning my rifle and the cities listed on my hunting permit, and therefore I was forced to use another rifle. That is another story). So, Jorge

offered for us to come back in January to try again, as the weather would be colder, helping the rut. Well, it was tough hunting as it was warmer than normal and the big boys were scarce. There were opportunities to kill a buck, just not the one myself or Scott was looking for. But that is hunting.

Joel was the winning bidder for this hunt at the 2014 CA WSF Fundraiser.

THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF THE ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Thanks to the Fundraiser Committee of 2016 for their great work!

Ken Crother - Chair
Aaron Armstrong
Mike Borel
Paul Brisso
Bob Keagy
George Kerr
Don Priest
Don Martin
Roger McCosker
Craig Van Arsdale
(Join the team for 2017
by contacting DON MARTIN)

Thanks to these organizations and exhibitors for their support!

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
www.backcountryhunters.org
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Thanks to our great members and individuals who support the fundraiser!

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Susan Martin-Costales
Life Member Roger McCosker
Life Member Kyle Meintzer
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Dick and Diane Priest
Life Member Rene Snider
Beverly Valdez
Member Craig Van Arsdale
Member John Ware
Members Dick and Doris Weaver
Life Member Darryl Williams

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



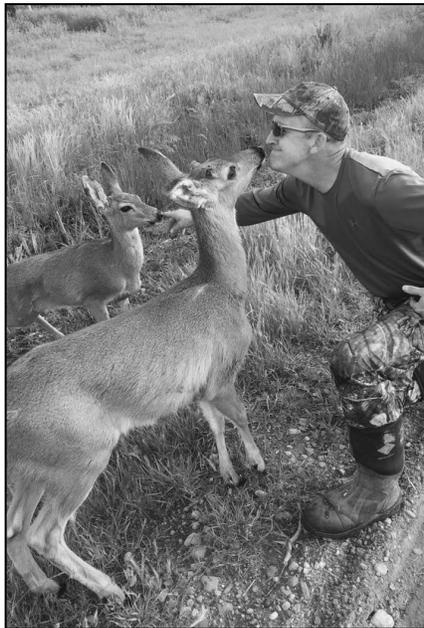
Richard Papapietro
Blandford Urial, Pakistan
April 2016



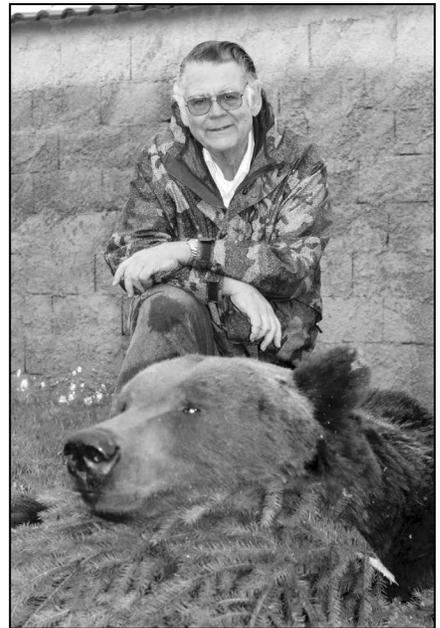
Mike Davis
“The Sheep of the Spiral Horn Antelope, Mountain Nyala”
Ethiopia – March 2016



Caleb Crother
Turkey
April 2016



Ken Crother
“Once You Kiss a Deer
You Can’t Kill ‘Em Anymore”
April 2016



Robert Keagy
Romanian Bear – 2016
Hunt in Europe from 2015 Fundraiser

THE MOMENT

by Carlos Gallinger, *thewayofthings.org*



Image 1



Image 2



Image 3



Image 4



Image 5

Perhaps a 1000 summers have come and gone since this glyph was etched into the stone, and yet its story is as clear and precise as the day it was made. This story is a moment in time that was treasured by an individual. To truly understand this moment we must understand this ancient archer. This glyph was no doubt made by one person who had a name, a family and was an important part of his tribe. There were reasons that he chose this moment, this incident, to transmit to the ages. It's all about what it meant to be an archer in this ancient bighorn sheep hunting cult. If we have some understanding of this lost art, this lost way of life we can better understand the depth of this moment, which is the thrill of the kill. While this concept might be repulsive to many people in our present machine age culture, this moment has depth in philosophy and spirituality in their ancient hunter gatherer worldview. I think there is much that our culture "cult" can learn from this glyph, this moment in time. In this way this moment that has transcended time will have also transcended the human culture that etched it into the stone.

The small line representing the bow in this glyph doesn't transmit the technology and craftsmanship that went into this instrument to somebody that isn't familiar with traditional archery. Archery is complex and in many ways it is the cradle of technology. To understand this petroglyph and the moment it preserves, we have to have some understanding of ancient archery. To do this we will explore two possible bows that this archer might've

used to get some understanding of the technology and craftsmanship that went into the instruments. From there we might gain a deeper more meaningful understanding of the philosophical and even spiritual implications that these bows would've had on these ancient archers and their culture as a whole.

The first bow that we want to explore is a horn bow or sometimes referred to as a laminated horn bow. This technology was developed independently in other places in the world. The Native American technology like the others was both beautiful and a technological marvel. The knowledge and craftsmanship that went into one of these bows was such that people nowadays rarely attempt to make one. While people have written entire books on this subject, here we just need to understand that to construct one of these horn bows requires a knowledge of different materials and their physical properties such as compression and rebound and so on. Then one must fit various components together with surfaces that are very precisely shaped and fitted with stone tools. After that one has to put them together with organic adhesives that require a very exacting formula, all of this under hunter-gatherer conditions. Bows such as this were not just an everyday object they were extremely useful and valuable, such that they were often the measure of the man that possessed it. The person that made this glyph was part of this ancient bighorn sheep hunting cult that possessed this knowledge and craftsmanship. How we should try to imagine

the symbolism that was experienced when one of these hunters set out to hunt the sheep with such a bow as this. A bow that was crafted from the horns of a bighorn ram and perhaps had a string from the tendon that ran along its backbone. To have personally taken the elements of the desert bighorn sheep and turned into this instrument of death that would give life as well, by feeding himself, his family, and his tribe. In this way the men of this ancient bighorn sheep hunting cult worked the way through a maze of symbolism and metaphor that had a physical reality, as well as a metaphysical. This has no parallels in our modern world. It is through acquiring some of this knowledge we can glimpse the psychological and spiritual makeup of this individual archer and the cult that taught them these things.

Now let us examine a more common bow that was made out of wood. While more common than the laminated horn bow this does not mean they were simple or cheap to make. There were many different designs and a wide range of wood that was used for these bows. And no doubt these ancient archers sometimes debated the various materials an attributes endlessly around the campfire. Through this they perfected this technology and the language and symbolism that went with it, to a high degree. Some of these bows were decorated or covered with the skin of a rattlesnake in such a way that when one held one of these bows it seemed like they were holding a rattlesnake. Often this was more than just an artistic expression. It may have been a symbolic component to this bow that signified a powerful and venomous reality, as the technology and craftsmanship of the ancient hunting cult included the use of a poisoned arrow.

The shape and style of the head on this snake in this petroglyph image 2 indicate that it is a viper. Rattlesnakes are classified as pit vipers. There are petroglyphs that show signs that they were painted once, and I believe this glyph was once painted with the classic diamondback markings. In this case the colors were washed away a long time ago. Today the distinctive and symbolic diamondback pattern is used to identify the rattlesnake and no doubt it was in the ancient past. A rattlesnake is a relatively small animal that can human, and was used by these ancient humans to kill other animals making it a very powerful animal physically and no doubt spiritually.

The rattlesnake is one of the more common animals in the glyph record. Many common glyphs exist as a recognizable picture and sometimes take on a more symbolic form.

Using snake venom to kill other animals is relatively straightforward. All you have to do is get the poison into the bloodstream. There is a great advantage to using a poisoned arrow. It makes what would otherwise be an insignificant wound into one that is deadly. Or another way of putting it, turning an unsuccessful hunt into one that is successful. The Native American technology was such that they did not simply put rattlesnake venom onto their arrowheads. First they would entice the rattlesnake to bite a piece of meat preferably a piece of liver, after being struck many times they put in to some sort of bag or container and bury it for a few days. Sealed up and underground in this way it would not lose its moisture and was in a thermally stable environment. This would

amplify the lethality of this poison many times. Nowadays we understand this in a scientific way, the rattlesnake venom is a complex chemical formula. That affects the nervous system and breaks down the cellular structure, and the liver is the chemical factory for the body. The ancient people would've understood this but in a very different manner. Regardless of one's culture from a philosophical standpoint one has to have both knowledge and lack of knowledge to have a mystery. Here we can begin to understand what they knew and did not know was different from our present day culture. These differences were such that it led them to a mystical worldview. With this insight we can begin to understand the powerful symbolism and the psychological components these poison arrows added to the process of the hunt and the moment of the kill.

There was another poison technology developed by the Native Americans and that was the poisons derived from plants.

The concept of plants as medicine and poisons and not just food is one of the things that defines us as human beings. So this technology, these ideas exist deep within the human psyche and were there long before people entered the New World. There are many plants that the Native Americans understood and used for a variety of reasons, such as poisoning fish, hunting large game and medicines. Many of the plants they used were very powerful such as Death Camas, Sacred Datura and Water Hemlock. In this petroglyph image 4, I believe we can identify it as Water Hemlock. It has a multiple branching umbrella flower heads and seems to show the bulb or tuber with the characteristic vertical air chambers that are full of a thick molasses like poison. Water hemlock is often considered the most poisonous plant in North America, so poisonous that it must be handled carefully and preferably with gloves. This petroglyph is at a site where this plant may have grown at one time, as it used to have water. There are numbers of other petroglyphs here, and it is a place where the desert bighorn sheep still inhabit.

In image 1 we have an ancient archer in the process of killing a bighorn sheep and due to the other glyphs in the area it is safe to assume he is part of this ancient bighorn sheep hunting cult. Yet when we look at these other glyphs many of them have to do with the atlatl technology. So what can we learn from this change in technology? How does it fit

to this defining moment so dramatically portrayed in this petroglyph. First we need to understand some of the basics of the atlatl. The atlatl itself extends the length of the arrow another foot or more and this increased length from the pivot point, in this case the shoulder, thereby increasing the velocity at the end of the atlatl, which increases the speed of its arrow or dart that is thrown by this apparatus. During acceleration the shaft of the projectile flexes and thereby stores up energy which is then released at the precise moment of release, increasing its speed even more. The length of one of these darts can be as much as 5 or 6 feet and perhaps weighs 5 or 10 times more than an arrow shot from a bow. While the atlatl projectile is a little slower than one shot with a bow it has a lot more weight and thereby a lot more momentum. For this reason the atlatl dart carries a relatively large stone tip. Due to its relatively

large mass and momentum it creates a large deep wound channel that is in itself is lethal. It is reasonable to conclude that the atlatl was superior for hunting big game, though it had its drawbacks for small game at close ranges. To start with you have to be standing and make an obvious and energetic movement to cast atlatl dart. A bow and arrow can be shot from cover and a crouching position and is far more accurate if one wants to hunt small game such as quail or rabbits. The problem with the bow is its lack of power, though the Native Americans did make some very strong bows. Usually the strength of the bowstring was the limiting factor. While the bow and the atlatl are two very different instruments they had about the same effective range. So when a hunter entered the field with the atlatl he was somewhat committed to large game. Using a bow the archer would've been more effective with small game and less effective on large game. Of course, if the archer had poison arrow technology this would allow to hunt small game such as quail or large animals like the Bighorn sheep on the same day with the same piece of equipment. When we look at many of the later arrowheads in this region we find that their very small and are often referred to as bird points. I think this is only half correct. In fact they were designed to be effective on small game such as a quail and the cottontail rabbit, but when used for bigger game when they were poisoned. In this case a small arrowhead would be more aerodynamic and give greater range than the projectile, that is the arrow. With this set up they were not relying on a wide deep wound channel to affect the kill on large game but rather the poison. Such an arrow would be designed to carry the poison as deeply as possible and not fall out easily. This is probably why these arrowheads were triangular in design, that is to say very wide at the back opposed to the long more linear older designs. It seems that these bird point arrowheads were designed accordingly to this dual use big-game—small-game specification. This concept was taken even further by the natives of South America that dispensed completely with the idea of a deadly wound channel and started using blow guns that had effectively a small needle that was dipped in poison to make their kill.

Now let's take a look at the artistic components of the glyph in image 1. We will start out with our archer. As we look at him we will find there are some curious markings to the right and the left of him, that judging from the patina, are of the same relative age thus they are likely part of the overall scene. I think they can be interpreted as lines trying to give intensity and importance to the archer. You see this sort of artistic mechanism in comic books today. I believe that even today's audience sees and interprets these markings in this way, though in a subconscious manner. Next we want to take notice of the ram closest to the archer. He is looking back over his shoulder at the archer, as if the arrow had flown past him and now in this moment he is looking to see where it came from. This is an extraordinary piece of detail and drama for a great basin style petroglyph. In this detail we can see the desire of the artist to transmit the drama of this event, this moment in time. This would lead one to suspect that this artist thought very highly of this archer shown in the glyph, or perhaps it shows they were one and the same.

The next element of this scene that we want to examine is the other ram. Like the first ram he seems to

be running at full speed, and has been hit by the archer's arrow. When we examine the arrow we find that it's coming straight down on the ram and hitting him in the back. This would indicate that the archer took a shot at the maximum range his bow could achieve and hit a moving target. This is an incredible shot. To hit a moving target at the maximum range of your bow under real-life conditions is perhaps a once-in-a-lifetime shot.

The final element of this picture, this moment in time, that we want to take notice of is the few chips taken out of the stone above the head of the ram. Here again they look as though they were done at the same time as the petroglyph due to the aging of the patina. There is another glyph on this panel that has a somewhat similar situation. This could be symbolically showing the spirit of the ram taking or going back to the spirit world.

So let's put together a story so that we can examine this petroglyph just a little further. Our story would start out with our archer leaving camp early in the morning with some of the other hunters in the tribe to hunt whatever they could, to bring back food for their family and tribe. Here we want to remember all the preparation and technology we've discussed. Then we should take into account that this is only a portion of what these hunters knew. They all knew how to track and read signs. Each one of them had a deep understanding of such things as the sun and the moon, and the ways of wind in a way that we no longer know or experience. While on the hunt for anything big or small this group of hunters found some bighorn sheep. Immediately our archer in the glyph began to stalk them. Then something went wrong and they began to run. In a sublime, Zen-like moment, he let loose an arrow at the ram, knowing this long shot was the only shot he would get. He gauged all things right, such as the weight of his arrow, the pull of his bow, the wind, and the speed and direction of the ram, and so on, and he did this in the blink of an eye. In this sublime moment success or failure would be found. Through his experience he knew that due to the arrows lack of velocity at this extended range the wound would be of little consequence. It was the poison that he himself prepared that would make the kill. The flight of his arrow was true to its mark and the kill was made. There would be joy and feasting around the campfire that night. But those of us in this machine age culture will find it hard to understand the depth of their joy. For this was not just the joy of having food in their bellies. For a hunter-gatherer people to fail to get food, was not considered just bad luck. It meant facing each other and their hungry children with the fact that they were spiritually unworthy or incapable of acquiring from the spirit world what they needed. So when the other hunter witnessed this amazing shot they could only interpret this as a spiritual and mystical event bestowed upon this particular hunter. This of course would add greatly to his power and prestige and perhaps change the course of his life. And so it was, that this moment was etched in stone as the story told around the campfire for generations, till this tribe and their memories were no more, and only the glyph remained to tell his story of this moment in time, to a people and a culture this ancient archer could not have dreamed of.

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

by Bill Gaines

Gaines & Associates Government Relations

On May 6th, Governor Brown filled the two vacant Fish and Game Commission seats. The new commissioner are:

Russell Burns, 55, of Napa, a business manager at Operating Engineers Local Union 3 since 2006, where he has held several positions since 1994, including treasurer, financial secretary, district representative, special representative to the business manager and business agent. This position requires Senate confirmation. [Click here for more information.](#)

Peter Silva, 63, of Chula Vista, president and chief executive officer at Silva-Silva International since 2011. He has held a variety of public service positions starting in 1977 and continuing throughout the years. The position requires Senate confirmation. [Click here for a more information.](#)

In addition, on May 9th, the Fish and Game Commission announced a new Executive Director, Valerie Termini. Ms. Termini fills the position previously held by Sonke Mastrup, who left the Commission position to serve in the Department of Fish and Wildlife's Marine Division in late December 2015. As Executive Director, Ms. Termini will serve as the top staff for the Commission. Although she may be called upon occasionally to provide guidance to the Commission on issues related to her area of expertise in marine policy, she will not have a vote. [See more on the announcement.](#)

This Legislative session sees a large number of bills related to firearms control following the San Bernardino shooting in early December 2015.

Easily the most aggressive single gun control package ever brought forward in California, or anywhere, Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom's "Safety for All Act of 2016" or "The Newsom Initiative" which reportedly will be on the ballot for all voters in November. Among other things, this initiative will

- Report missing / stolen firearms within 5 days or be penalized by fines and/or misdemeanor charges;
- Ban all on-line and mail order sales of ammunition;
- Require all who purchase ammo to apply for a "firearms purchaser certificate" which would cost up to \$50, take up to a month to obtain, and have to be renewed every 2 years;

- Require ammunition buyers to undergo a background check before they purchase any ammunition.
- Require the tracking of what type of ammunition you buy;
- Require all who sell more than 500 rounds in a year to register with the California Department of Justice;
- Ban possession of, and confiscate lawfully purchased magazines capable of holding more than 10 rounds - regardless of when you purchased them;
- Ban all private transfer of ammunition - including, for example, giving youth any ammunition in the field, during hunter education courses or at the range;
- Prohibit bringing ammunition purchased out of state back into California; and
- Prohibit any ammunition purchased at a range from leaving the range.

Although many of the above "gun control" tactics have been proposed in some form or another in the California State Legislature in the past, never have they all been rolled up into one omnibus proposal, nor put to a statewide vote. [See the entire text of the Act here.](#)

In addition to this all-encompassing Act, the Legislature has many bills, revised or rewritten, that would ensure that virtually every provision noted in The Newsom Act is on the voting block, piecemeal

AB 665 (Frazier) would curtail local regulation of hunting and fishing allowing that only CFGC and CDFW may adopt regulations regarding the taking or possession of fish and game on any land or water within the state. This bill is still technically viable and pending hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committed, but it is increasingly unlikely to be heard as the 2016 Session progresses.

AB 1792 (Wood) would require CFGC, if requested, to consult with individual federally recognized Indian tribes in California to allocate elk tags to tribes for purpose of subsistence, cultural/religious or tribal celebrations. This bill passed in Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee but did not pass in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 2229 as amended in March by Assembly Member Shannon Grove would eliminate the 10 day waiting period for a recipient who is not prohibited from possessing or purchasing a firearm (i.e., if you already own a registered firearm, possess a valid Certificate of Eligibility, etc.). Unfortunately, this reasonable bill has failed twice in Assembly Public Safety so now is dead.

Contact Your Legislator – Let Your Voice Be Heard! Gaines & Associates strongly urges you to contact your State Senate and Assembly representatives on any of the legislation listed above. Let your voice be heard. Gaines & Associates will keep you apprised of any notable further developments as we continue to move through the 2016 State Legislative Session. Don't know who your Senator Assembly Member is? Find out by clicking [Who's my Legislator?](#)

ROMANIAN BLACK BEAR HUNT

PURCHASED AT THE 2015 CA WSF BANQUET AND FUNDRAISER

by Bob Keagy

We are nearing the end of our Romanian adventure, having only tomorrow's trip to the Black Sea resort of Constantia before flying home.

The high point was taking a very nice Romanian Brown Bear, taping a bit over eight feet from nose to tail, weighing 500+ pounds and scoring in the Gold Medal class at total of 23.8 inches skull measurements. It was reliably estimated at 15+ years of age, and still sported a nearly perfect cape. (A photo is attached.)

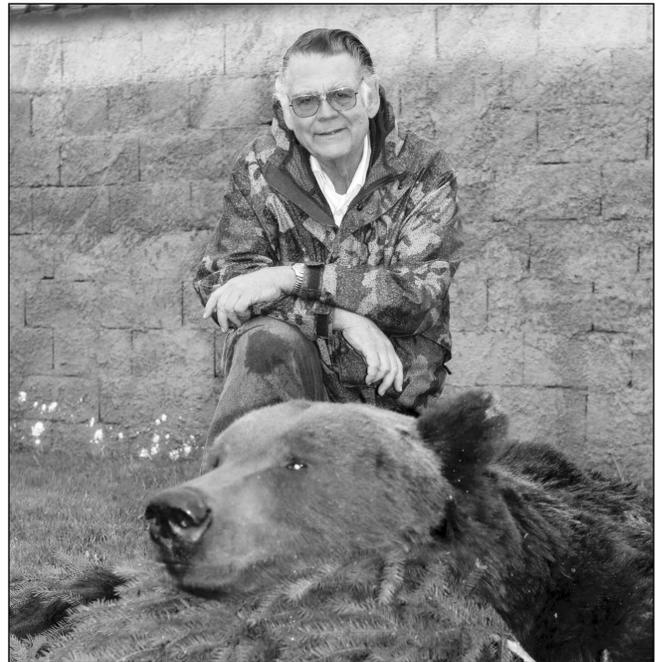
The guide and hotel arrangements have been excellent, and Romania has to be considered one of the off-the-beaten-path bargain bonanzas of all time. Food, alas, has been most rich and all-to-excellent, as has the beer, and although the hotels are internationally priced, everything else is at about one-quarter of San Francisco prices.

Romania has a bit of the 'fairy-tale' aura about it--emerald green fields, quaint monasteries and medieval towns set against the backdrop of the towering snow-capped and pristine Carpathian mountains.

Not to turn this into a travelogue, we saw the royal Peles castle, Bram's castle (having the most tenuous of relations to Bram Stoker's Dracula), several beautiful monasteries and Orthodox churches (with Byzantine-style images of Christ and Apostles), several medieval towns over-run by students, rode in a gondola to the top of the Carpathians, saw the Romanian Parliament and Atheneum buildings, and, finally, saw an absolutely jaw-dropping, and tremendously moving

ballet ("Manon" by Massenet) at the Royal Opera house. A full schedule!!!

Finally, I'd like to mention that this was a donated hunt, bought at the San Francisco Greater Bay Area Fundraiser, and graciously and generously donated by Sonja and Srdja Dimitrijevic, of Hunt In Europe.



DRY CREEK OUTFITTERS

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ELEVATE CRYOTHERAPY

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HULI CAT SPORTFISHING

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CA WSF DIRECTOR CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES FOR THE 2016 ELECTION SLATE

Listing is Alphabetical by Last Name



AARON ARMSTRONG, Roseville, CA

Aaron is 41 year old born and raised California and the owner of Western Wildlife Taxidermy in Roseville, CA. He is the father of a 14 year old daughter that has just wrapped up her first year of hunting. He has successfully run his business for 26 years in the Sacramento area, dealing with a nationwide clientele. Aaron has also held classes for school kids, from K – 12 grades, to teach them the importance of hunting, fishing, trapping and wildlife conservation.

He has sat on many boards relating to both hunting and non-hunting groups. During his rodeo career he was nominated as the Sierra Circuit Bull Riding Director. This is a position that he served in for 4 years of his 10 year career. Aaron is a member of WSF, NWTF, CDA, RMEF, CA.WSF, Sacto. SCI. He holds a life membership to SCI and the NRA. As an avid outdoorsman, he has taken over 70 species on 5 continents. [MEMBERSHIP – Annual](#)



MIKE J. BOREL, Alamo, CA

Founding Member, Current VP, Facilitator of the CA Wild Sheep Summits (just completed number XIX), Current Newsletter Editor, Past President & Secretary. Mike is a Principal of the Context Network, which assists agricultural businesses with strategy, management and insights. Mike has lived across the USA, in France and in Australia. A hunter his whole life, Mike is an active supporter of wildlife conservation, hunting rights and the Second Amendment.

He holds Life memberships in: WSF, Boone & Crockett, SCI, CA WSF, Grand Slam/Ovis, NRA, RMEF, NAHC, and The 2nd Amendment Foundation. He's been a Director of WSF, a Director and VP of SCI, and an officer and board member in three SCI Chapters. He believes youth recruitment and political action are necessary to preserve our hunting heritage and 2nd amendment rights, and is an active mentor, campaigner, phone caller and letter writer. He confesses to being severely afflicted with "Sheep Fever" and has taken 17 Ovis and 22 Capra species. Mike invites your call (925-937-4180) or email (mike.borel@contextnet.com) with any questions you might have. [MEMBERSHIP – Life member](#)



KEN FISH, Rolling Hills Estate, CA

Ken Fish is a director of the California Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation. A two-term former president, and a two-term former vice-president, Ken has worked to boost the the chapter's membership, attendance at the annual banquet, and on a variety of conservation projects. He has also been active in fundraising for the chapter. The best days for California's sheep herds lie ahead, but achieving expanding herds in the face of encroaching civilization, drought, and regulatory hurdles requires long term vision and commitment.

I am excited to continue as a director of the California Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation to continue the work that has already been done. We are still on a "drive to 35" tags in California, which would be a milestone of progress. [MEMBERSHIP – Life member](#)



BEN GORDON, Princeton, CA

Ben is a fifth generation Northern California rancher currently involved in commercial rice production and wildlife habitat management. His operation also includes a commercial duck hunting club managing hunting opportunities for 70 plus hunters each year and managing pasture land for cattle with upland habitat for pheasant, turkey and blacktail deer. He currently serves as director on two different mutual water company boards and has served on several committees involving farm cooperatives, banking, and county fish and game commissions.

Ben is a lifetime member of FNAWS, CA WSF, Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn, SCI, and also holds memberships in RMEF, NBU, Calif. Deer Assn., MDF, NWTF, and NRA. Married with two grown children, he and his family hunt many western states each year and just recently completed his collection of the four species of North American wild sheep. [MEMBERSHIP – Life member](#)



JON KRUGER, Antioch, CA

Jon grew up in Washington state hunting and fishing public lands and spends considerable time hunting not only the western states but also internationally. He is an active member of California Wild Sheep Foundation, SCI, Dallas Safari Club and Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA). Jon takes pride in not only supporting these organizations monetarily but also taking active roles in supporting these groups and causes. Jon is currently a board member of BHA California Chapter and have had a great time working to keep public lands open to the public. He would like to give back further by assisting with putting and keeping sheep on the mountain though CA WSF.

For there to be sheep on the mountains for future generations we need a strong voice and commitment to support improvement efforts. Jon's goal is to be part of this groups voice and commit to strong ideals of science and reason for wildlife and environmental management. [MEMBERSHIP – Annual](#)



DWIGHT ORTMANN, Fremont, CA

Dwight grew up in Northern Minnesota hunting and fishing. Dwight is a partner in a commercial construction/development/property management company in Redwood City. Dwight is married to Edie ,who is an accomplished international hunter herself. Dwight is a dedicated conservationist with membership in many non-profit organizations. He is a life member of SCI, NRA and the Wild Sheep Foundation in addition to many other hunting groups. Dwight has been involved with SCI as well as CA WSF for more than 10 years, serving as the San Francisco Bay Area SCI President for six years and is currently serving on its Board of Directors. In addition, he is a Regional Representative for SCI. Dwight is also the Chairman for the Central Coast Chapter of Mule Deer Foundation. He attends the CA WSF fundraiser and is a former Board member. He is still a member of the “less than one” club. He brings a wealth of experience and capability.. [MEMBERSHIP – Annual](#)



DON PRIEST, Reno, NV

Don's heritage in California began with his great, great grandfather as a homestead rancher in California's Central Coast in the 1850's. Don is an Actuary and a member of all three US actuarial societies, with degrees in Mathematic and Statistics. He has his own underwriting agency Pacific Reinsurance Managers, underwriting reinsurance into a number of Syndicates at Lloyds of London. Don is a member of and active conservation supporter through CA WSF, WSF, GSC/OVIS, Safari Club, NAAVDA, DU and Trout Unlimited.

Don has been hunting his whole life, in the past ten years having harvested four North America sheep, as well as a number of sheep and ibex species in Asia, and hunting other species in North America and Africa. He is also an active upland bird hunter, having competed with his Large Munsterlanders. With such an active hunting life and strong supporter of wildlife conservation he looks forward to continued participation as a Board member of CAWSF in order to keep our lands and waterways conserved, populated with wildlife for hunters and non-hunters heritage and enjoyment. [MEMBERSHIP – Annual](#)



DARRYL WILLIAMS, Chatsworth, CA

Darryl Williams is a Life Member of CA WSF and the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, where he currently serves as the Spring Captain Coordinator. I am very familiar with the effort required to build a strong WSF chapter having served on the Eastern Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation board from 2009 to 2013 as Chapter Secretary, Vice President and as a member of the donation, advertising, banquet and bylaws committees.

Darryl would like to do more to contribute to Putting and Keeping Sheep on the Mountain by serving the California Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation as a member of the Board of Directors. His organizational and business skills, coupled with great enthusiasm and work ethic, will make a positive impact on the organization. Darryl hopes that you will give him the opportunity to serve you. Should you have any questions about his commitment to Wild Sheep, feel free to contact him at (323) 333-2160 or email me at dtwilliams1959@aol.com. [MEMBERSHIP – Life member](#)



SHAWN WOOD, Clovis, CA

Shawn was born and raised in the small farming community of Dos Palos, CA. He attended California State University, Fresno, where he obtained a BS in Ag. Business and is currently employed by the Wilbur-Ellis Company as a Pest Control Advisor. He also takes responsibility of managing the family almond farming operation as a fourth generation farmer.

Big game hunting and wildlife conservation have always played a huge part in Shawn's life. Being able to give back is also very important. Shawn is a life member of the NRA, WSF and CAWSF as well as an annual member in several other conservation organizations. One of Shawn's life highlights was being able to work as an assistant guide in the state of Alaska, guiding for Dall sheep along with several other species of game. Shawn has been fortunate to be able to take three of the four species of North American Wild Sheep along with 14 species of North American Big Game. He would be honored to serve as a Director for the next term. ... [MEMBERSHIP – Annual](#)

CA WSF 2016 DIRECTOR BALLOT

The California Wild Sheep Foundation Nominating Committee is pleased to present nine candidates for Board of Director positions. These positions are for two-year terms beginning July 1, 2016. We believe the candidate biographies will provide you with the input needed to vote; however, should you have additional questions feel free to contact me. You may also contact Beverly at the office (forthesheep@gmail.com or 650-472-3889 phone/fax) and she will forward information.

Ken Crother
Nominating Committee Chair 2016
crother46@gmail.com

Putting and Keeping Sheep on the Mountains

VOTING FORM

This is the voting form (you may also receive this via email; please vote only by email or by using this form). You may vote for a total of eight candidates, including write-in votes.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR VOTE

Your ballot must be received no later than 5 p.m. on June 30, 2016.
You may mail your ballot to the CA WSF office at:

CA WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION
423 Broadway #617
Millbrae, CA 94030

You may also fax to 650-472-3889. Or reply to the email sent to you to place your vote.

2016 CA WSF BOARD OF DIRECTORS BALLOT

Vote no more than ONCE for each candidate (no cumulative voting). Vote for NO MORE THAN eight candidates. Vote by reply e-mail or by fax (650-472-3889) or USPS no later than 5 p.m. on June 30, 2016.

CANDIDATES (Listed randomly)

- _____ Mike Borel
- _____ Darryl Williams
- _____ Aaron Armstrong
- _____ Jon Kruger
- _____ Dwight Ortmann
- _____ Don Priest
- _____ Ben Gordon
- _____ Shawn Wood
- _____ Ken Fish

Write in candidate: _____

Write in candidate: _____

CA FNAWS dba Ca Wild Sheep Foundation is a not-for-profit organization with the goal of KEEPING SHEEP ON THE MOUNTAIN through conservation, education, and promotion of professional management to ensure generations to come are able to experience the phenomenal beauty of wild sheep. CAWSF tax identification number is 68-0481140.

DFW UPDATE

*by Kyle Meintzer, Chairman
DFW Big Game Advisory Committee*

The annual meeting of the Big Game Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, April 28 in Sacramento. The purpose of the meeting was to review the big game related grant requests various organizations had submitted for the current funding cycle.

The BGAC is an advisory committee only and even though the Department has the final say, the Department is very interested in our input and tends to be supportive of the recommendations the BGAC makes.

Over \$1.1 million dollars in grant requests were approved by the BGAC and those requests will now go to the DFW Executive team for final approval.

Overall, the grand requests related to California's bighorn sheep were very well received by both the DFW and the BGAC. These requests included funding for three separate disease related studies, a follow-up on previous translocation project, funding for water projects in the desert, as well as funding for emergency water-hauling to big game drinkers in the desert.

On another note, the DFW will be flying aerial surveys this fall in five new mountain ranges; the Rodmans, Newberries, Ords, Chuckwallas and Chemehuevies. We had expected these surveys to be flown last fall, but for various reasons, it did not get done. This year, however, the Department already has it on their survey schedule and has the helicopter time available to fly them.

Based on numerous observations in these mountain ranges by some very qualified people at SCBS, we expect to see enough sheep to create at least one new hunt zone.

Finally, in the "Are You Kidding Me?" department, the DFW is being sued for \$45,000 simply because a person who drew a tag in the 2013 draw was unsuccessful in tagging a ram. Yes, really! The case was heard in a Sacramento court recently and a decision is expected any day now. We'll keep you posted.

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DODGING DISEASE DURING THE RECOVERY OF SIERRA NEVADA BIGHORN SHEEP

by Alexandra Few, Ph.D.

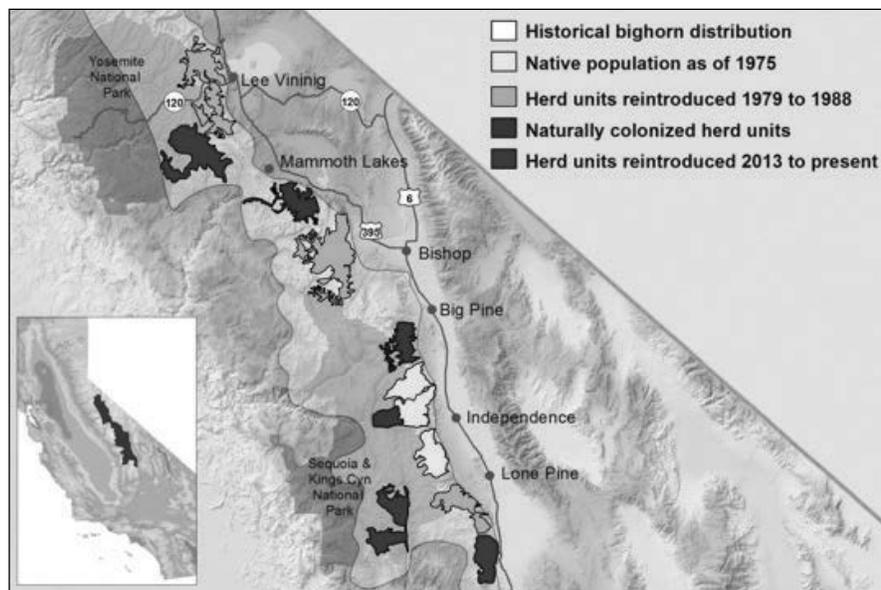


Figure 1. The current distribution of Sierra bighorn. Colors indicate whether a herd is native, reintroduced, or naturally colonized.

The rarest mountain sheep in North America, Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep (hereafter Sierra bighorn), are on the cusp of recovery. When they were listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act in 1999, approximately 100 Sierra bighorn were distributed between 7 herds covering 435 square miles, about one-ninth of their historic range. Today the population has grown to more than 600. With this increase in abundance, we have been able to start a major reintroduction program. From four source herds numbering over 100 bighorn each, we have moved 58 bighorn to start 4 additional herds in areas separated from existing populations by movement barriers like forests or large rivers. Bighorn have naturally dispersed and colonized 3 new herds in areas that are immediately adjacent to large source herds. Today fourteen herds of Sierra bighorn occupy 788 square miles in the Sierra Nevada (Fig. 1) covering 4 distinct geographic regions called Recovery Units. These fourteen herds include all herds considered essential for recovery. This distribution criterion is the first of three criteria in the Recovery Plan for downlisting to threatened.

The Recovery Plan also identifies numeric criteria for downlisting based on the number of adult and yearling females. The Northern Recovery Unit, which overlaps the eastern boundary of Yosemite National Park (Fig. 1), currently contains 45 female bighorn; just 5 individuals shy of the downlisting goal of 50. The Central Recovery Unit, which falls along the Sierra crest between Mammoth Lakes and Bishop (Fig. 1), now

contains 70 female bighorn, more than meeting the goal of 50. The Southern Recovery Unit occupies the largest geographic area along the Sierra crest between Big Pine and Olancha (Fig. 1) and has the largest population with 163 female bighorn surpassing the goal of 155. The Kern Recovery Unit west of the Kern River falls entirely within Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (Fig. 1) and was not occupied until the 2014 reintroduction of bighorn to the area just above the confluence of Big Arroyo Creek and the Kern River. With the addition of bighorn to the Laurel Creek area in 2015 there are now 17 female bighorn in this Recovery Unit. With multiple augmentations planned over the next 5 years, we expect this herd to rapidly meet the goal of 50 bighorn. Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep are rapidly approaching the numerical goals for downlisting to threatened.

The third requirement for downlisting is related to the threat of disease from domestic sheep and goats. The Recovery Plan states, "Potential for contact between bighorn sheep and domestic sheep or goats must be eliminated to avoid the possibility of a catastrophic epizootic." While the initial listing of Sierra bighorn in 1999 prompted landowners, mostly federal agencies and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), to end domestic sheep grazing on allotments closest to occupied bighorn habitat, there are still several areas grazed by domestic sheep that present considerable risk. The most notable are the Conway and Mattly ranches owned by Mono County in the Northern Recovery Unit, several parcels owned by LADWP in the Central Recovery



Figure 2. A tribe of domestic goats at the base of bighorn sheep winter range in the Central Recovery Unit.

Unit (Fig. 2), and one tiny privately owned parcel currently grazed by 7 domestic sheep in the Southern Recovery Unit (Fig. 3). Eliminating the risk of contact presented by these properties will be the final hurdle to downlist Sierra bighorn to threatened.

According to California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) big game veterinarian Ben Gonzales, “Despite extensive genetic and antibody testing for *M. ovipneumoniae*, to this date there is no evidence that Sierra bighorn are infected or have been exposed to this pathogen. The absence of respiratory disease in Sierra bighorn has been one factor allowing the successful population growth seen so far. However, because Sierra bighorn have no immunological resistance to respiratory disease, an introduction of pathogens, especially *M. ovipneumoniae*, could sweep through the populations and cause devastating all age die offs or lamb mortality for years. Once this happens, as it has in many desert and Rocky Mountain bighorn there is no calling it back. The most important step in preventing introduction of respiratory disease into Sierra bighorn is preventing contact with domestic livestock, especially domestic sheep and goats.” Enlisting the support of NGOs and showing local governing organizations that these majestic animals matter to people outside CDFW may be what tips the balance in Sierra bighorn recovery.

Attaining the status of threatened is an important milestone for delisting Sierra bighorn for two reasons. First, it starts the clock on the final recovery criteria for delisting which states, “the number of female bighorn required for downlisting will be maintained as an average for at least seven years without intervention.” Second, it creates an opportunity for additional management tools. As Sierra bighorn populations grow and expand their ranges, the risk of contact with domestic sheep and the likelihood of disease spreading between herds of Sierra bighorn increases. One area where this could be especially problematic is in the Northern Recovery Unit. Domestic sheep producers have a long history in the area north of Lee Vining (Fig. 1) around the town of Bridgeport. In order to prevent Sierra bighorn recovery efforts from interfering with this important sector of the economy, the Recovery Plan Implementation Team recommended against reoccupying historic habitat in the



mountains surrounding the Bridgeport area. The concern today is that as the most northern population of bighorn expands its range, individuals may foray into this densely domestic area. To reduce the risk posed by dispersal, the Recovery Plan states, “Bighorn wandering north [of a management boundary] should be discouraged or removed bighorn from these areas”. One question we are asking the US Fish and Wildlife Service in their role as administrators of the Endangered Species Act, is how can we ensure bighorn do not cross this boundary? What can we do if we find a bighorn sheep in a flock of domestic sheep? There more options to deal with these issues once the species is downlisted to threatened.

As we look beyond the successful return of these animals to the Sierra Nevada, we are beginning to think about more long-term questions. In writing the Recovery Plan, John Wehausen focused on the need for low elevation winter range on the east side of the Sierra in order for herds to thrive. John Muir shared this sentiment in his book *The Mountains of California* when he wrote, “they gather and go to lower climates, usually descending the eastern flank of the range.” With ever expanding populations, we are learning that bighorn sheep are extremely adaptable to a variety of winter conditions. Habitat models indicate that Sierra bighorn sheep currently occupy about one-half of their predicted summer range. How many Sierra bighorn can these mountains support? Without the requirement of low elevation winter range east of the Sierra crest, bighorn populations in the Sierra could grow and fill their historic range (Fig. 1). The opportunities that number of sheep would offer to visitors to these mountains are astounding. It is possible that one day these majestic icons of wilderness will be less elusive.

During the 6 years that I have worked as part of the Recovery Program, I have watched Sierra bighorn pass several important milestones. In 2012, we celebrated the population passing 400 individuals. In 2015, the population grew to 600, and we achieved one of the requirements for downlisting. Given that 1600 species have been listed as endangered or threatened in the U.S. and only 34 have been delisted, Sierra bighorn stand to be a major success story among endangered species recovery stories. It has truly been an honor to participate in this story and to be able to count myself as one of the protectors of this unique, majestic animal.

THE MOJAVE DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE, REGION 6

by Paige Prentice

The California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) is moving full steam ahead with our Mojave Desert Bighorn Sheep (DBS) Program. The DBS team continues to be led by our Desert Bighorn Sheep Coordinator, Regina Abella, who has been working hard to overcome obstacles and pave the way, while keeping a fantastically positive attitude these last five years. It's thanks to her that we were able to get our helicopter survey contract last fall and fly our first desert bighorn surveys in years. I am grateful to be working with her as I fill my position as the new desert bighorn field biologist for Region 6. In CDFW terms, I am a Permanent-Intermittent Environmental Scientist—which means that I am only allowed to work 1500 hours (about 9 months) per 12 month period. However, I guarantee that I'm making every one of those 1500 hours count, as we have work to do and a list of goals to accomplish. In addition to Regina and me, we will also have four desert-loving, enthusiastic scientific-aides (9-month positions) dedicated to the DBS Program this year. Needless to say, we've been enjoying our time in the desert thus far and we're getting ready for this summer's field work in the good ole desert heat.

Now that we've gotten the introductions out of the way let's get to the meat and potatoes—what exactly have we been doing and what do we plan to do this year?

Since January 1, 2016, we have flown five telemetry flights (due to contractual restraints our pilot is unable to fly from April 1st to July 1st), conducted three ground surveys, recovered a collared ram mortality, spent three additional weeks in the desert scouting different ranges and collecting fecal samples and helped with the February 29 Palms water project organized by the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep (SCBS). In addition, we also helped Jeff Villepique with the San Gabriel and San Gorgonio helicopter surveys during the first week of March.

Alex Few's article in the CA WSF Spring 2016 issue talked about our South Bristol survey in January but for those of you that missed it, over three long days of hiking DBS and Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep (SNBS) crew members counted 49 desert bighorn: 28 adult ewes, 3 yearling ewes, 12 adult rams, 1 yearling ram and 5 lambs. We were also able to confirm 5 additional ewes were alive via a telemetry flight, bringing the minimum count for the South Bristol Mountains to 54 sheep. Last week, May 12th, we conducted our annual May Marble Mountain survey. Despite the cool temperatures keeping the sheep



dispersed we had a minimum count of 90 sheep: 43 adult ewes, 2 yearling ewes, 19 adult rams and 26 lambs. We expect to get a much higher count in June with our follow-up survey, when daily temperatures are expected to stay in triple digits.

For those of you who may be wondering—does CDFW only survey hunt zones? The answer is no. It is true that with the 56 or so mountain ranges in the Mojave Desert the Department does have to prioritize where we put our resources. While the hunt zones need continual management, we are equally interested in what's happening in our non-hunted ranges. In April, we conducted a ground survey of the Old Woman Mountains. The survey team consisted of four CDFW staff: Amy Sturgill (SNBS), Ellen Brandell (SNBS & DBS), Jeff Villepique (Unit Biologist) and me; accompanied by long-time bighorn sheep biologist John Wehausen and six experienced volunteers: John Nelson (SCBS), Jim & Mike Alexander (hunted the Marble/Clipper unit in 2013) and Cliff St. Martin, Shawn Lindey and Kirk Stiltz (Dry Creek Outfitters). Each volunteer was put in a group with a biologist and we spent 3 full-days hiking the rugged, desert terrain that makes up the Old Woman Mountains. During those three days we saw a total of 17 sheep: 3 adult ewes, a yearling ewe, 1 adult ram, a yearling ram, 2 lambs and 9 unclassified sheep (they disappeared over a ridge before we could classify them). The yearling ewe was observed coughing and looked very thin, suggesting that disease is present in the range. This population has been documented to suffer from multiple episodes of disease, likely derived from local livestock, going back to the 1980s. The observation of a coughing yearling ewe suggests that the current low population is again the result of introduced respiratory disease. Given that this range is known to have some of the best forage in the region, we would expect to see a larger population size—but the population appears never to attain its potential due to repeated episodes of disease. We are currently working



on different methods to determine just how low the current population size is.

Moving forward, it's going to be a busy summer. The DBS crew will be spending our time helping Daniella Dekelaita collect data for her PhD project (Oregon State University), scouting ranges for fall/winter surveys, recovering mortalities, helping on water projects, monitoring for disease and getting ready for fall helicopter surveys and capture. This year we plan to fly a couple weeks' worth of helicopter surveys both in ranges that we want yearly data from as well as in ranges that we haven't surveyed for a while. Keep an eye out for updates in the next CA WSF Issue.

2016 CA WSF BANQUET AND FUNDRAISER

*by Ken Crother
Fundraiser Chair and Chapter Secretary*

Thank you is not enough to let all of you know how much we appreciate your attendance at our annual fundraiser and banquet in Rancho Cordova April 30th. After all the work in preparation for this event and to have it come together; then to look into the crowd and see a room full of great people willing to step up in order to help us keep sheep on the mountain is very rewarding. Once again your attendance and financial support has helped us make this event a success. We hope you enjoyed the evening as much as we enjoyed seeing you have a great time.

As always, many thanks are due to our dinner sponsors, to all of those who generously donated money and items for fundraising. We had a full plate of great desserts, guns, vacations, gear, art, hunts and financial support that many times goes unseen but that makes this event possible.

Our day began with a great speaker, Dr. Alan Garfinkel, that was enjoyed by many. Everyone left with a better understanding of our desert and some of the hidden treasures it holds. As the banquet doors opened we were treated with an outstanding silent auction put together by our board member Craig Van Arsdale, great job Craig, what an awesome display of items to choose from. We also walked into one of the finest displays of raffle items at any fundraiser. Paul Brisso worked very hard to put this together and once again was over the top with very nice items. Dinner was served and a great dessert auction where one lucky bidder won a beautiful pistol. Then we moved on into our live auction. This year's live auction focused more on North American hunts and we are going to attempt to build on that for next year as well. Don Priest was pivotal in putting this live auction together and did a

fantastic job getting a local / North American focus. Les Ohlhauser, auctioneer extraordinaire, kept us all involved and did a great job with the auction — we owe Les a huge thanks as he flies in from Denver to donate his services for this event in the name of conservation. For the second year in row we have hosted our "Put One Back" casino involving some great Leupold items as prizes and we all enjoyed having a laugh and testing ourselves against the house and each other.

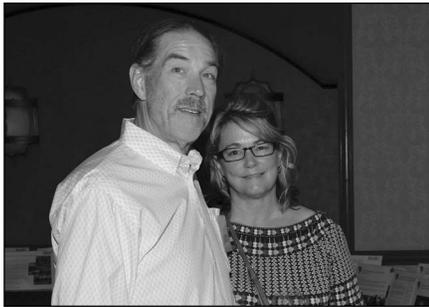
This event would not happen without the help of many on our board as well as many others involved. Bev, thank you, without you it would not be the same. To those on the board, thank you, this event is what it is due to your hard work in planning, asking for donations, and a ton of hard work to make this go off how it does. To our donors, once again, THANK YOU, without you this event could not stand alone as one of the best events of the year.

We are currently starting to plan next year's event and hope to bring you an even better event and lineup across the board for your enjoyment. The date is set for May 6, 2017 — put it on your calendar now! We will be in a new location, still in the Sacramento area but a venue that is certainly going to offer us a bit more.

Thanks to all of you that attended; please plan on coming back next year and spread the word. Bring a friend or two — or 10 — to help raise money to put and keep sheep on the mountain.

FUNDRAISER 2016

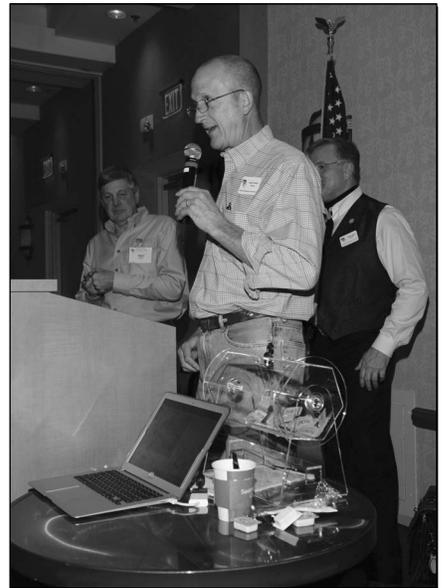
For Attendees – Enjoy the Memories, and For Others – See What You Missed!





Thanks to Chip Hollister, official photographer, for the photos this year and for the past 10+ years!





ANNUAL AWARDS PRESENTED APRIL 30, 2016



Award presented by Mike Borel (L) and Paul Brisso (r) to Dan Yparraguirre

Above and Beyond Award

Dan Yparraguirre

CDFW Deputy Director 2011-2015
CDFW Environmental Program
Manager 2010-2011

For Exemplary Contributions And
Making A Positive Difference For
California Bighorn Sheep And
Other Game Species

Bleich - Weaver Service Above Self Award

David A. Jessup, DVM, MPVM

Senior Wildlife Veterinarian,
California Department Of Fish And
Game - Retired

For Over 40 Years Of Contributions
To California Bighorn Sheep and
Other Game Species



Award presented by Paul Brisso (L) and Mike Borel (r) to David A. Jessup

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHIP HOLLISTER

ANNUAL AWARDS PRESENTED APRIL 30, 2016



Support team from Dry Creek Outfitters accepted the award for Shanon

LARGEST DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP CALIFORNIA

2015/16

by a CA WSF MEMBER

Shanon Cabebe

Score - 176 0/8"

Unit - San Gorgonios

Support team from Dry Creek Outfitters: Tim Mercier, Cliff St Martin, and team

OLDEST DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP CALIFORNIA

2015/16

by a CA WSF MEMBER

Michael Alba

Age - 13+

Unit - Clark / Kingston Mountains

Support team from San Gorgonio Wilderness Outfitters:
Terry Anderson and team



Steve Marsche accepted the award for Michael

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THOUGHTS ON BIGHORN SHEEP POPULATION VIABILITY AND CONSERVATION, CIRCA 1992

by Vernon C. Bleich, Ph.D.

During April 1992 at the 36th meeting of the Desert Bighorn Council in Bullhead City, Arizona, I participated in a panel discussion entitled, "What constitutes a viable population of bighorn sheep?" Other participants included Paul R. Krausman—who moderated the discussion, James A. Bailey, Rob R. Ramey, and Donald Armentrout, each of whom had long-term and extensive involvement in the conservation of bighorn sheep. Part of the stimulus for that panel was the suggestion in a then current publication that the value of bighorn sheep habitat on public lands be established on its probability of maintaining a "viable" population, defined as "one that is self-sustaining with minimal demographic or genetic intervention over the long term." In that publication, a viable population was defined as one consisting of "approximately 100 sheep, plus or minus 20%, with normal sex and age structure." There has been substantial progress made in the fields of genetics and ecology since 1992, but some basic principles remain inviolate. The stimulus for reviewing that discussion has been the recent emphasis on development of massive solar power facilities in the Mojave and Sonoran deserts, and the implications of those facilities for the conservation of bighorn sheep. Below is a summary of the points I emphasized nearly 25 years ago and are—I am proud to say—positions from which I have not wavered.

Beginning in about 1980, conservation strategies have been increasingly linked to an evolutionary approach. Consequently, much thought has focused on the relatively new field referred to as conservation genetics. Certainly, most of us are familiar with the northern elephant seal and the cheetah, both of which are species with extremely low levels of genetic variation that is thought to be the result of historical population "bottlenecks." There is some speculation that low genetic variation is contributing to the decline of mountain sheep in North America.

Conservation geneticists are concerned with the short- and long-term fitness of species. A central focus of the discipline has been inbreeding, and a subsequent loss of genetic variation. Some conservation genetics models are insular in their development, due either to (1) the biology of the species, which may exhibit low vagility, or (2) the limited preserve size that a species may inhabit. Certainly, the concept of insularity has been applied to the distribution of mountain sheep, but I would emphasize that this thinking has centered primarily on perceptions about the biology of desert-dwelling subspecies of mountain sheep.

In the past, mountain sheep managers have emphasized the perception that mountain sheep now number <2% of their historical population levels, the perception that sheep are restricted in distribution to the rugged habitats of desert mountain ranges, that only a small percentage of males breed during a particular mating season, and the perception that anthropogenic barriers now preclude any opportunity for gene migration among insular populations. Additionally, population genetics theory suggests that a minimum effective population size is necessary for the long-term viability of populations. If that is true and we are, in fact, dealing with truly isolated populations, I cannot be optimistic about the conservation of mountain sheep in an evolutionary sense.

When one examines the distribution of mountain sheep in California, it is quite apparent that the distribution of their primary habitat is insular. However, if one examines juxtaposition of these insular distributions, in combination with the absence of barriers to potential movement by sheep between inhabited ranges and the heretofore unrecognized vagility of this species, it becomes apparent that the potential for long-term persistence of these populations remains intact. Indeed, movements between mountain ranges are being documented with increasing frequency,

and conservation strategies are beginning to emphasize a metapopulation approach to the management of mountain sheep habitat.

In efforts to calculate persistence rates and viability of populations, two schools of thought predominate: one emphasizes genetic problems due, in part, to the deleterious effects of inbreeding, and the other emphasizes losses of populations due to stochastic events, such as drought or disease. I do not wish to dwell on population genetics theory here [remember, this is 1992], except to note that an "acceptable" equilibrium inbreeding coefficient of 0.2 is thought to occur when a population effectively is panmictic. Investigators recently used estimates of effective population sizes for mountain sheep demes in the eastern Mojave Desert of California to calculate that intermountain migration rates ranging from 0.005 to 0.19 migrants per generation were necessary to maintain equilibrium inbreeding coefficients of 0.1, depending on the size of the population comprising each deme. When these values were recalculated to maintain an equilibrium inbreeding coefficient of 0.2, the estimated rates of migration decreased, and ranged

from 0.003 to 0.08 migrants per generation. I have no reason to believe that such rates of genetic migration are not feasible, and I conclude that it is premature to dismiss any populations (demes) of mountain sheep as nonviable, if it is not known that they are completely isolated from other demes of this species.

A second concern over population viability revolves around stochastic extinction events, such as those resulting from drought or disease. Recently, an investigator analyzed a number of localized extirpations of mountain sheep, and concluded that populations of less than 50 become extinct in a short time when compared to larger populations. A point I'd like to make here is that many of the forces that were operating to limit mountain sheep populations 100—or even 50—years ago are no longer important decimating factors. As a result, I am optimistic that persistence rates for these smaller populations are far greater than they were for the periods included in the aforementioned analysis. Consistent with the current tenet that stochastic events probably are of greater immediate concern than are genetic problems (even in small populations) it is my opinion that such factors may well have been primary causes of the high rate of extinction noted previously. Such factors likely included disease epizootics, unregulated meat hunting, usurpation of water sources, habitat destruction, and drought, among others.

This brings us back to the original question, “What is a minimum viable population?” I view all non-isolated populations of mountain sheep potentially as viable [and continue to do so] and argue, from the standpoint of one charged with the conservation of wildlife resources, that we cannot afford to assume otherwise. I believe there is a real danger that political and economic forces will attempt to misuse the scientific literature, and to argue that perceived population viability should be considered when land-use decisions that affect mountain sheep habitat are made. For example, if a deme numbers only 20 animals, some might question its viability, and suggest that the habitat used by those animals could be put to more “constructive” uses. However, if an argument is made that the deme is part of a larger metapopulation, its potential for long-term survival becomes more apparent, and the conservation of its habitat becomes more defensible. Moreover, the potential importance of that particular deme—or the habitat it occupies—to the viability of the metapopulation as a whole suddenly can be emphasized.

Thus, I advocate an extremely conservative approach to addressing the ‘value’ of mountain sheep populations, and to assessing their potential viability. My suggestions center on the following two thoughts. First, each mountain range that is inhabited by mountain sheep should be treated as one (or, in some cases >1) demographic unit, and its potential to be part of a larger metapopulation should be recognized.

Second, all mountain sheep habitat should be managed from the standpoint of a metapopulation; that is, all demes potentially comprising the metapopulation, and potential movement between those demes, must be considered critically important to the persistence and function of the particular metapopulation.

By keeping these points in mind, conservationists have the potential to (1) maintain the long-term genetic health of existing populations; (2) reestablish additional subpopulations (demes) via natural recolonization of vacant habitat; and (3) maintain the likelihood of continued divergence and long-term evolutionary change. These three points represent the highest level of protection that can be afforded to populations, and it is only through the maintenance of those subpopulations that we will ensure metapopulation function and be successful in conserving mountain sheep as a species. Let us not assume that individual populations are nonviable just because they are small in size; instead, let's assume that they are critically important to the long-term survival of the species, and afford them the protection warranted. Unless “protected areas” and surrounding areas are managed cooperatively to perpetuate the existence of functioning ecosystems across the landscape, the needs for most species of large mammals cannot be met. This situation dictates the need for cooperative, interagency efforts to insure that large tracts of intact ecosystems are maintained in perpetuity. Despite the confounding influences of interagency competition and bureaucratic inertia, no single agency can do this alone; it must be a well-planned, cooperative effort.

—Dr. Vern Bleich is an independent wildlife biologist who worked for the California Department of Fish and Game for 34 years. He currently resides in Bismarck, ND but remains active in the conservation and management of bighorn sheep and other large mammals inhabiting arid landscapes throughout the western United States. Those that are interested in reading the complete panel discussion can obtain a copy by contacting Vern (vcbleich@gmail.com), or from the Desert Bighorn Council's website (<http://www.desertbighornCouncil.com/transactions/>).

Men say that women should
come with instructions...

What's the point of that?
have you ever seen a man

Actually read the
instructions?



2015 – A YEAR IN REVIEW

by Mike Borel, VP of Operations

CA WSF continues to be active on all fronts related to bighorn sheep in California, as we have since our founding in 2001. We continue to collaborate with CDFW, the Mojave National Preserve, BLM, our sister organization SCBS, Oregon State University, Washington State University, WSF and others – To monitor, study and learn from the 2013 disease outbreak and resulting die off of sheep in the Old Dad and Marble mountains. To lead a collective effort to achieve maximum sustainable populations of bighorn in as many areas of historical presence as possible.

2015 was another strong year for CA WSF. In addition to MANY, MANY hours of effort leading, supporting, influencing, and raising money, we invested another \$97,706 mostly in water developments and research projects. We continued our contributions to Washington State University to help fund their ongoing effort to develop a vaccine or other method that will prevent domestic sheep from passing on a deadly form of pneumonia to wild sheep. Significant progress has been made in this effort. We are also ACTIVELY participating in CDFW's Big Game Management Account grant process. Our collaboration with Dr. Clint Epps, Daniella Dekelaita and Oregon State University "Characterizing the spread and consequences of respiratory disease for desert bighorn sheep in the eastern Mojave Desert" is another effort at understanding the fatal disease.

In the last 14 years we have raised and invested over \$1.25 million for the benefit of wild sheep in CA. In addition, we, and our sister organization SCBS, have hosted every "Sheep Summit." The CA Sheep Summit was initiated by CA WSF to bring together all stakeholders in the stewardship of bighorns in California.

All parties involved in the CA Wild Sheep Summit believe we are on the threshold of achieving some great things for wild sheep in California. The meeting just held April 29, 2016 is the 19th biannual meeting of this group, which has become the guiding committee for bighorn sheep conservation in California. The major result of the Sheep Summit is the Bighorn Sheep Comprehensive Management

Plan (BSCMP). The BSCMP is expected to be finished shortly; land and locations for more water projects have been identified; we have more people working on wild sheep now; and the CDFW funding is available to move forward!

Likewise, we are 100% responsible for getting the legislature to pass the bill that allows NGOs to receive 5% of the selling price of fundraising tags, as well as charge a Buyer's Premium for them.

Major contributions prior to 2015 include: We pushed for and funded surveys that resulted in the addition of the White Mountain hunt unit and the Cady/South Bristols Hunt unit which have enabled over 30 successful hunts for DBH! We pushed for and made happen the Harmon Bill, thereby providing financial oversight on the DFW's use of the money in the Big Game Account (which itself was created by the bill). It also called for the creation of the Big Game Advisory Committee, on which we sit and of which one of our members (Kyle Meintzer) is the Chair and it also set up the CDFW Grant process. We pushed for and made happen the DBH, Deer, Elk and Antelope Random draw tags by CDFW.

None of this would have been possible without the support of our members. You folks are the reason we've accomplished so much and you will be the reason we will accomplish far more in the years ahead! Thanks to each of you for participating in this year's fundraiser. This is our one major event each year where we raise funds that are used in the ensuing year to benefit wild sheep in California. Our goal is to achieve maximum sustainable populations in as many areas of historical presence as possible. A natural, critical and important result of achieving healthy sustainable populations is greater opportunity for hunting!

Please help us increase the number of bighorns in California, and with that the hunting opportunity for big, gnarly, old rams! Much has been done, AND more is left to do! Please do what you can ... the sheep, sheep hunters and sheep enthusiasts need you!

Join the 233 Members/154 Life Members who are doing that now.

**WESTERN WILDLIFE
ADVENTURES**

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NEWS OF INTEREST

FISH AND GAME – HUNTING NEWS

HIGH TIME FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION INDUSTRY & NON-HUNTING PUBLIC LAND USERS TO STEP UP

State based conservation is funded almost entirely by hunters and anglers and we are the only group paying excise tax on equipment. Those are facts. Pittman-Robertson is a self-imposed excise tax on firearms, ammunition and archery equipment. The funds are collected federally and redistributed to the states based on a hunter participation driven formula. Dingell-Johnson is the fishing equivalent. Hunters and anglers buy licenses and bird stamps as well and have traditionally funded roughly 90% of state fish and wildlife agency budgets through their spending. We all pay federal taxes and pennies on the dollar are used to fund federal agency efforts, but what I'm talking about here is incremental, use specific taxation and for-profit industry contribution.

The Hunter Conservationist, 3-1-16

CALIFORNIA REVERSES BAN ON USE OF GPS FOR HOUNDS

With a unanimous 3-0 vote, the California Fish and Game Commission voted to abolish the longstanding ban on the use of Global Positioning System (GPS) collars for hounds. As of July 1, houndsmen will be able to use GPS collars to train and hunt in California.

Sportsmen's Alliance Alert Network, 4-15-16

TULE ELK IN MENDOCINO COUNTY CAUSING PROBLEMS FOR RANCHERS

Tule Elk continue to test local ranchers' patience, and now Mendocino County is hoping to do something about it. These animals are popping up in large groups and have been seen in Round Valley, Long Valley, Laytonville, Willits, the coast and Potter Valley where one rancher said he estimates 300 are roaming between two groups.

Ukiah Daily Journal, 2-22-16

CALIFORNIA'S WILD TURKEY TROUBLES: SOME WILDLIFE OFFICIALS THINK THE TURKEYS COULD CAUSE SERIOUS DAMAGE TO THE STATE'S ECOSYSTEMS

Before the arrival of European settlers with their hunting, forest clearing and timber extraction, flocks of hundreds of wild turkeys could be found throughout North America. By the start of the twentieth century, they were on the brink of extinction. Through conservation and reintroduction efforts, however, they recovered and today, although not quite as many as the ten million estimated during the 1600s, they number about six million and are resident in every state except Alaska. While this proliferation has been deemed a great conservation story by many—maybe

even the greatest wildlife conservation success of the last century—there is considerable debate surrounding the introduction of wild turkeys into California and their place in its landscape.

Scientific American, 3-8-16

NEVADA RELUCTANTLY SLAUGHTERS BIGHORN SHEEP HERD NEAR OREGON – TO SAVE THEM

Nevada state wildlife veterinarian Peregrine Wolff worked at zoos in the Midwest, with farm animals in Florida and exotic species on movie sets in Hollywood. She never dreamed she'd have to help pull the trigger on a contentious strategy to slaughter a diseased herd of bighorn sheep in a Nevada mountain range near the Oregon border.

Oregon Live, 3-8-16

JUDGE PROTECTS IDAHO WILD BIGHORN SHEEP, RESTRICTS DOMESTIC GRAZING

A judge from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the U.S. Forest Service's decision to cut back on domestic sheep grazing by 70 percent in certain parts of the Payette National Forest because the domestic sheep carry a severe form of pneumonia that doesn't hurt them but is deadly to native bighorns.

Public News Service, 3-9-16

BILL TO THWART LEGAL CHALLENGE OF OREGON WOLF DELISTING HEADS TO GOVERNOR'S DESK

The Oregon Legislature has approved a contentious bill that would uphold last year's decision to remove the gray wolf from the state's endangered species list.

Oregonian, 3-3-16

OREGON WOLF POPULATION GROWS 36 PERCENT IN 2015

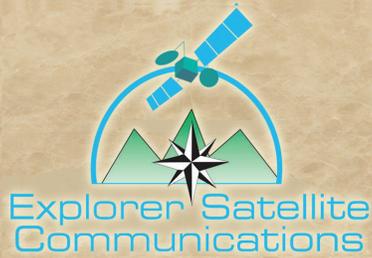
Oregon's confirmed wolf population jumped to 110 at the end of 2015, and wolves continue to disperse from the northeast corner of the state and move into new territory.

Capital Press, 3-1-16

WOLF RECOVERY AN AMERICAN CONSERVATION SUCCESS STORY

Oregon is a big state, containing vast areas of public land. Our diverse landscape is home to hundreds of thousands of elk and deer, thousands of bear and cougar — even a few moose. However, across all those forests, canyons, deserts and mountains, there are only a few dozen known wolves. Most are concentrated in the state's northeast corner.

Statesman Journal, 3-1-16



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SAVE THE DATE

LATE - BREAKING NEWS!

DATE AND LOCATION FOR 2017 ANNUAL FUNDRAISER IS SET

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1	2	3	4	5	6 
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

May 6, 2017
 Double Tree by Hilton
 Sacramento