



California Wild Sheep

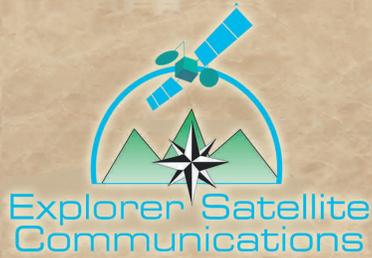
Fall 2016



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Chad Davis
California Desert Bighorn
White Mountains
11 ½ years old
San Gorgonio Wilderness Outfitters



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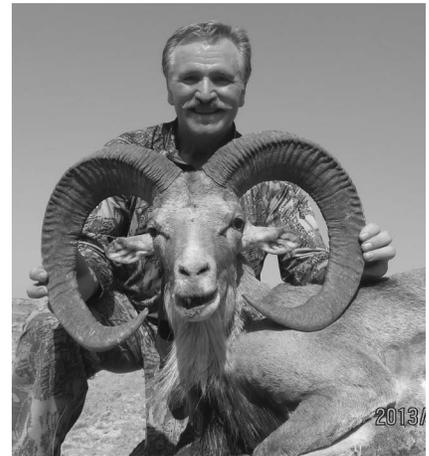


**Stay in touch
wherever your
adventures
take you!**

From the Editor's Desk

Glorious Fall has arrived, the main hunting season. I always feel extra alive with the cooling air and the anticipation for my, and my friends', hunting plans. This issue includes some great hunting stories – including the first CA ram taken this season (from the Whites), fun humor, a teaser about our 2017 Banquet and Fundraiser, interesting desert insights from Carlos, CDFW update 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 4Q16 issue is November 20.



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE JULY 31!

If you join or renew anytime between July and June, including at the Fundraiser, you will be covered until July 31 of the following year. Membership Options are –

Annual – \$40
3 year – \$100
LIFE – \$500

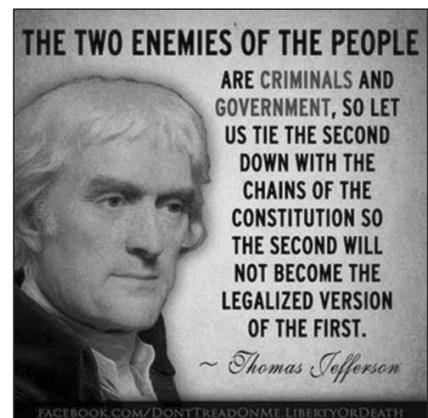
Renewal Method options include: email, phone, mail, or on the website at www.cawsf.org!

Please keep your membership current, invite others to join – and please consider upgrading to Life Membership.

A man was helping his cows give birth, when he noticed his 4 year old son standing wide-eyed at the fence, soaking in the whole event. The man thought, "Great...he's just 4 and I'm gonna have to start explaining the birds and bees. No need to jump the gun - I'll just let him ask, and I'll answer."

After everything was over, the man walked over to his son and said, "Well son, do you have any questions?"

"Just one." gasped the still wide-eyed lad. "How fast was that calf going when he hit that cow?"



**I'm not a
vegetarian but
I eat animals
who are.**

*"Sheep are for young men,
I once wrote, so naturally
I had to go hunting for a
ram at 69."*

*–"The Last Sheep Hunt,"
August 1972*

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California Wild Sheep is published quarterly.

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

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

Humorous outtakes provided by Tammy Scott
Published by Beverly Valdez, Gaiatec Services

Events

2016

- September 25 DBH Hunter Orientation in Ontario, CA (8-12:00)
- November 20 Due date for articles for 4Q2016 CAWSF Newsletter
- December 2 Sheep Summit XX in Ontario

2017

- January 17-20 The Shot Show
Las Vegas Convention Center
- January 18-21 WSF Convention Reno,
Peppermill
- January 20 CA Pre-Banquet Reception
Peppermill, Reno
- 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
- April 28-30 NRA Convention,
Atlanta, GA
- May 5 Sheep Summit XXI
in Sacramento
(DoubleTree by Hilton)
- May 6 CA WSF Fundraiser/Banquet
in Sacramento
(DoubleTree by Hilton)

President's Letter

Dear CA Wild Sheep Members and Friends,

For many of us, Fall is our favorite time of the year—something we look forward to for months and which seems to slip by all too fast. As I write this, I sit in antelope camp after an exciting day looking over speed goats in central Nevada. Okay, it's not really a camp—it's a small motel far from anywhere, but I'm hunting.



This hunt started out with some excitement and temporary disappointment. When Nevada's draw results came out a couple months ago, I went to the website I found my name listed in the "successful" category. I have one less than maximum preference points for desert bighorn in Nevada—23 or 24, I think. I had drawn an antelope tag seven years ago. I took a fine goat, sat out my mandatory five years before reapplying, and had only one preference point for antelope. The only hunts I had applied for were sheep and antelope (having purchased preference points only for elk and deer) so I hoped this was the year for my long-awaited sheep tag.

It was an antelope tag. But I am back sharing great times with a guide with whom I have previously hunted antelope and deer. He has been a great friend of CA Wild Sheep, previously donating a hunt and guiding numerous other CA Wild Sheep members. We share memories of prior hunts, are making new memories with this year's adventures, and dream about the coveted desert sheep tag that may be just a year away. My guide is a Nevada resident and has near max points too, and for several years he has been assuring me that we will draw.

Even though I am hunting antelope, the experience captures the essence of the hunting experience—memories of past hunts, enjoyment of the present, and dreams for the future.

The past hunts and the present hunt are, in large part, due to the time, effort and financial contributions that we have made as hunters, and which have been made by prior generations of hunters. Whether future hunting experiences await us and our children, and the quality of those experiences, depends on how we meet our challenges today and in the years to come.

Enjoy the Fall, your hunts and the people and places you meet and see along the way. Then, please make plans to be with us at our annual event on May 6, 2017 in Sacramento to help preserve the future.

Good hunting!

Paul Brisso,
President

MY FIRST DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP, SUCCESS ON OPENING DAY!

WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM THE EAGLES

by *Chad Davis*

This was MY year, finally. I've been reading about others' amazing adventures for my whole life, and it was finally my turn. I was drawn for a California X-zone deer, a California antelope, and a California desert bighorn sheep in the White Mountains. I had hit the trifecta of California hunting — what a dream come true!

But before I could live that dream, I had work to do. I got the notice about the hunts as soon as they hit the DFG website – June 15. I had just two short months to get ready for my first sheep hunt. I posted on a few forums and talked to my dad, who's taken two desert sheep in Nevada, and by the following day I had made up mind to hire an outfitter for this special hunt. Within a day of drawing, I had spoken to two outfitters as well as the area biologist, Mike Morrison. I had pretty much decided on Terry Anderson and San Gorgonio Wilderness Outfitters, but on recommendation of several folks, I waited on a final decision until I could speak with local Bishop sheep guru, Steve Yeager. After speaking with Steve the following week, and several more conversations with Terry, I learned that Steve's son, Ryan Yeager would be my guide if I went with San Gorgonio. I spoke with Ryan about the mountain and the hunt, and the sheep quality, and it didn't take long to know that Ryan was the one that I wanted to take me on the mountain. That sealed the deal. Also joining me on the hunt would be my buddy Steve Weddle (also from San Diego), and one of Ryan's hunting buddies, James McMurry, from Bishop.

The Whites are not for the faint of heart. I was thrilled to learn that this was one of, if not the, most difficult desert sheep hunts in the country. One of the first things Terry said to me was "have you started working out yet Sheep shape is not just a quote — it's a necessity, especially in high altitude where I was headed. I did not want the mountain to beat me.

In the meantime, Ryan had been doing a lot of work in the field, heading out five weekends in a row prior to the hunt looking for 'my ram.' I went up two weeks before opener to get the lay of the land and see how my body would do. I had my 13-year old son with me, and we both faired very well, going from San Diego at 5:30 am to an evening hike the same day to 11,000 ft with no issues. Ryan was on the mountain with us, and took us on a decent hike the following day up to 13,200 ft elevation, and we were able to spot a group of four rams that we would ultimately pass on,

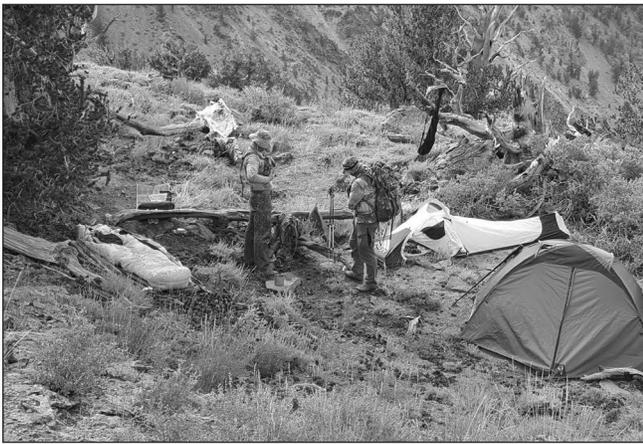


Chad Davis with Ryan Yeager.

but that was my first glimpse of what lay ahead and I was hooked. It was awesome for my son to be able to see his first wild sheep and the country I would be hunting. Based on my constant communication with Ryan I was confident that he knew just about every ram on the mountain. He was feeding me photos in the weeks leading up to the hunt to keep my juices flowing.

Steve and I saddled up early the Wednesday before the hunt and headed out to live the dream. We met up with Ryan in Bishop that afternoon and were on the mountain that evening at the spot he had taken my son and me, to get a closer look at the four rams from two weeks before. The largest was a mid-150s ram. I had seen pics from Ryan of larger animals in other areas so I passed on these. This is when Ryan surprised me with a few pics of an old ram that they spotted the week before. The pics were grainy due to distance and heat waves, but the mass was obvious and the behavior of this ram told Ryan he was an old monarch of the mountain. He was a loner, and had been observed trying desperately to rid himself of two young rams the week before. We named him "Grumpy." He had potential and needed a closer look if we could find him again.

We headed to a base camp where we would backpack into a new area that held several rams and, hopefully, Grumpy. We packed in on the Friday before



Opening Morning – Chad right, Steve left.

opener and were able to make it to a nice promontory for an evening spotting session. We looked at several rams, mostly younger with a few potentials, but we didn't locate Grumpy that evening.

Opening day we were out early to the same promontory where we all settled in for a long morning of spotting and judging. We spotted several rams in a group right at first light, but none were interesting. Another group of three rams were spotted a bit later, and two of these guys were worth studying. We watched them for a while and decided which was the largest, and field judged him in the 160~162 range. I would have been happy with that, but we still wanted to get a close look at Grumpy. Well, he obliged by showing himself way at the top of a draw, 2 miles away, feeding into his bed at about 13,200 elevation. We were at 11,600. Not too bad. We could tell it was him, but we were too far away to get a good look. There was a long discussion about what to do next. We had put the three rams to bed and had a relatively easy stalk to get to them, but Grumpy intrigued us so Ryan and I agreed that we had to at least try to get a better look at him. After all, it was opening day.

The old ram eventually disappeared behind a large boulder on a steep slope just below the saddle of our canyon. The three rams we were watching earlier had bedded on one side of the hillside above us, and the larger herd of younger rams had headed around the edge of the other side of the mountain. That left us with a nice pathway to get closer to the old ram and get a better view without blowing out the other groups. We wanted to be able to come back to our "Plan B" ram if Grumpy turned out to be a bust. We carefully climbed the mountain between the two groups without disturbing any ram's sleep.

We got to a small plateau where we were about 1,000 yards from where the old ram had disappeared behind the boulder, so we set up our glass and went to work trying to locate him. We were unable to locate him for quite a while, but we knew he must still be there. We had been idly watching a pair of golden



Eagles on Grumpy – note the shadows.

eagles in the area circle where the ram was last seen, and we joked to each other that maybe he was so old he'd already keeled over and the eagles were looking for a nice ram lunch. About that time, one of the eagles swooped down to the ram's boulder and out bursts the ram with the eagle practically on his back! They were harassing him and he was fighting back! We watched with enjoyment for several minutes, took a few pictures, and thanked the eagles for locating our ram for us. After the eagles moved on, he relaxed and bedded in the open. Then it was game on!

We stared at Grumpy for over an hour and knew his mass was good, but we could never get a decent look at his right. Ryan's previous photos of him, and what we were seeing now, looked like his right may be missing several inches. Twice we almost walked away and passed him up — it just seemed like there might be something wrong on him. After lunch, Ryan said he had a feeling about this ram and we needed to get a better look, so we decided to get even closer. While James and Steve stayed behind to spot, Ryan and I made our way to within about 400 yards and got a very good look. But we were in the open and, of course, he saw us too. He seemed very unconcerned. Ryan took some photos through the spotting scope and that gave us the opportunity to zoom in and really look at this old ram. We were finally able to see how old he was — Ryan was able to count six+ growth rings stacked up at the bases! We knew we were looking at a 10-year old ram at least. The other rams we had been looking at were nowhere near that old. We could also confirm that his mass was very good and finally saw that both sides looked even and decent.

So I made my choice. I wanted Grumpy. Ryan was on board.

We knew we would need to get in better position to make a good shot. When we had been farther down the mountain watching him, we had noticed hikers on the trail who walked within about 40 yards of the ram. He heard them, stood up and watched them, but



Grumpy thru spotting scope 500 yds.

they never saw him. He relaxed and laid back down. Great! We thought it might be an easy stalk because he was used to hikers. But alas, wild animals apparently can sense the difference between a harmless hiker and a predator. Probably because we kept staring at him with those great big shiny eyes, sneaking around and stopping every now and then to look. Yep. Not very hiker like.

He was bedded at 13,200 ft with no cover, across a canyon. We had nowhere else to go where we wouldn't be seen so we started walking the trail, still hoping to be mistaken for hikers. He got a little nervous and got up, walked about 100 yards further away from us, still on the opposite side of the canyon, and bedded down again. We saw about where he went but he was much more difficult to see at this point. We hiked up to the saddle of the hill and marked where he was but we still couldn't see him. No matter. Ryan was confident he had him pegged and the stalk was on.

We made it to a small, grassy, level bench where either this ram or other sheep had bedded. It was a great place to catch our breath, relax, and begin the 150 yard stalk through scree, boulders and shale. We didn't know exactly where we'd have our first glimpse of him, but we know we'd be under 100 yards and whatever happened may happen quick. After a very slow stalk through the scree and boulders, leading up to a boulder on a little rise, Ryan pulled up and looked back at me with a big smile on his face. "Did you see him?" I said no...where? "He was visible from the gap we just snuck through, bedded, facing away." Oh boy...here we go. We were behind a large boulder, and I settled on my haunch to catch my breath and calm down. Ryan ranged him at 60 yards, got his video ready, and just kept smiling. His job was done. Now it was all me.

After a few minutes of calming down and figuring out how and where to take the shot, I crept up



Right after shooting – standing from shot location.

alongside the boulder we were crouched behind, settled into a sitting position with my elbows on my knees, and found the ram in my scope. Dang! Too low...rocks in the way. I had to get a few inches higher. I adjusted my seat slightly and moved my forward leg back to raise my knee, and that movement made a faint grinding sound on the shale. He jumped up at the sound and looked at me. But I was set and ready. Before he had time to figure out he was in deep trouble and clear out, my 264 Win Mag barked.

He had NO reaction to the bullet. What?? It was so close I thought "I must have hit him" but there was no response. So I quickly worked the bolt, got off a second shot as he bounded away, this second shot at about 80 yards. He went another 20 yards and rolled and that's when we knew it was a successful opening day! I had my first ram, and he was a monarch.

By now it was about 3pm and we had to hurry to get out before dark — going across that rocky mountain was not something I wanted to do after dark! So we got about a thousand photos, did a hurried field measurement, and the real work began. Grumpy green scored 165, and is the biggest ram seen by Ryan this year. He is estimated to be 11+ years old.

It sounds uneventful to say "I got my bighorn on opening day!" but the truth of it is, the day was filled with great experiences, and the lead-up was certainly a big part of the hunt. I want to thank Ryan, Terry, James McMurry and Steve Weddle for making this one of the best hunting adventures of my life!

(Oh yeah, four days later I got my antelope in Big Valley and soon I'll be working on that deer tag!)

California requires the use of non-lead bullets for all sheep hunting in 2016. I was shooting Nosler E-tips, a non-lead bullet similar to Barnes. When we retrieved the ram we noticed the first shot clipped the top of the heart and some lung. It was good shot



Packing out.

placement but it did not expand. The entrance and exit were the same size, and there was very little internal damage. It was a kill shot, but not what you want for quick expiration. The second shot hit bone and showed violent expansion, and brought the ram down quickly. The antelope I shot a few days later was hit in a rib on entry, showed massive damage to the heart and lungs, and left a 2-inch exit wound.

Interestingly, while testing custom ammo for my hunts, I spoke with the owner of Custom Cartridge, Inc., who had an interesting story about Barnes bullets and bighorn sheep. He told me that a few years back he had provided non-lead ammo for a culling operation in California, and that the ammo/bullet had performed poorly, sometimes requiring two to three shots to put a sheep down. He said that when they hit bone they work well, but you need to try to hit bone on the way in. I have no knowledge of this event and can only pass along what I was told.

As hunters, I believe we need to educate ourselves on the way these bullets perform and be aware of the limitations. I will no longer aim behind the front shoulder/elbow. I'll be going for a shoulder to break down even smaller animals like deer and antelope. That's just me...I'm interested to hear others' experiences with non-lead bullets.

NEWS OF INTEREST

FISH AND GAME – HUNTING NEWS

REGINA ABELLA REPORTS that in a move welcomed by wildlife enthusiasts (especially those of us who love California Bighorn Sheep) the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors denied the certification of the EIR for the solar project near the Soda Mountains, therefore denial of the well permit and statement of overriding consideration was automatically denied. [San Bernadino Sun](#)

CALIFORNIA LANDS THREE OF TOP 10 FAMILY-FRIENDLY FISHING SPOTS IN THE U.S.

#5 – Clear Lake State Park; #6 – Brannan Island State Recreation Area; and #7 – Dockweiler State Beach
[Ca Parks and Rec News](#)

GET THE 2016-2017 MAMMAL HUNTING REGULATIONS BOOK ONLINE – remember to follow the rules and stay safe!

[2016-17 Mammal Hunting Regulations](#)

HUNTER DOLLARS AT WORK —

As a hunter, you know very well what it means to be a conservationist but you might not know is exactly how the dollars you spend on hunting licenses and tags help to manage and conserve California's wildlife and the habitats upon which they depend. Here are three examples

[Upland Game Bird Account](#)

[State Duck Stamp Account](#)

[Big Game Management Account](#)

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

by Bill Gaines, Gaines & Associates Government Relations

Here is the latest on the State Legislative Session that will come to a close upon adjournment on August 31st. This is not a comprehensive list but is those of most interest to CA WSF members.

AB 665 (Frazier) – **LOCAL REGULATION OF HUNTING AND FISHING** This bill is dead since it failed to meet legislative deadlines.

AB 1664 (Levine/Ting) – **ASSAULT WEAPONS**
Placed in the inactive file; this bill is dead.

AB 1792 (Wood) – **ELK TAGS: FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES**
Held in Senate Appropriations Committee; this bill is dead.

AB 2148 (Holden) – **DRONE REGULATION**
As noted by Kyle Meintzer, this bill passed off of the Senate Floor by a 26-13 vote; is it on the governor's desk.

DFW UPDATE

by Kyle Meintzer

There are three interesting items that impact hunting and wild sheep for this update:

1. In my last update, I wrote about a truly astonishing lawsuit that had been filed against the CA DFW by a 'K Mayer' from Roseville who'd drawn a sheep tag in the Kelso/Old Dad Peak unit but did not harvest a ram. So he sued the Department in small claims court for \$45,000 because he did not fill his tag! (Yeah, I know small claims court has a \$10,000 limit, but that's where the case was heard anyway.)

As I understand it, this 'hunter,' and I use the term loosely, basically thought he could drive the roads and play 'whack-a-ram.' After failing that, he then hired someone help him for a couple of days, with no change in his success.

My sources told me the judge was incredulous with this guy's story and when he later issued his ruling, it was on the order of, "Do not pass Go, do not collect \$200, (let alone \$45,000), and get out of my court! Oh, and by the way, you had a once-in-a-lifetime tag, so you can't ever apply for a sheep tag in CA again!"

2. The fall aerial sheep surveys will get underway in a few weeks and it's all good news. In addition to surveying the existing hunt units, five additional mountain ranges will also be surveyed. These include the Rodmans, Newberry's, Ords, Chuckwallas and Iron ranges. We believe there are enough sheep in the first three ranges to create a new hunt unit and are hopeful we'll also see good numbers from the latter two ranges. Even better news is that the DFW's Sheep Coordinator, Regina Abella, plans to survey another five units every year in the future until all of the ranges which are known to have sheep are surveyed!



That has been the goal of your chapter since we were founded and now it looks like it will finally get done!

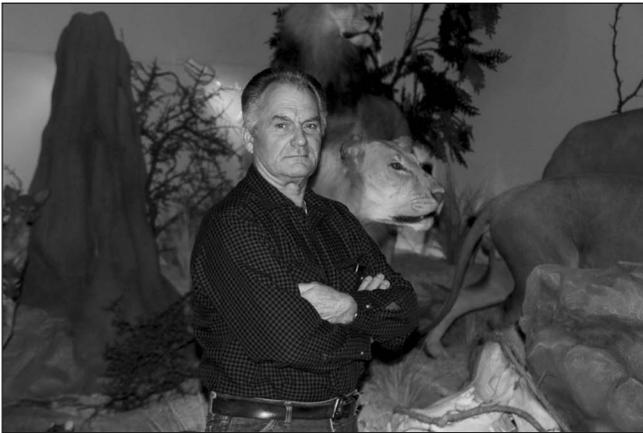
[Editor's note: the North Bristols will also be included this year.]

3. More good news is that there is a bill in the CA legislature (AB 2148 by Assemblyman Chris Holden, D-Pasadena) that would allow DFW to use unmanned aerial vehicles, aka 'drones,' for 'conservation and scientific research purposes.'

This is a very big deal, as previously the Department felt hamstrung by existing drone language and was not willing to use UAV's for things such as surveys. Drones are far less expensive to use for surveys and unlike helicopters, offer no risk of loss of life, so there's a big opportunity if this passes!

As I write this, AB 2148 has passed the Assembly and passed off of the Senate Floor by a 26-13 vote, is expected to be signed by Governor Brown.

CALIFORNIA MEMBERS ARE WINNERS!



WEATHERBY AWARD WINNER – KENNETH BARR

*Another CA WSF member wins
the “oscar of hunting”*

Congratulations to Ken Barr, who has been named the 2016 Weatherby Hunting and Conservation Award winner!

Ken is a man who has a love for the land, raises pears and wine grapes in Northern California, and has an incurable passion for hunting. Growing up hunting smaller game in California, Ken’s ‘sheep fever’ took hold in 1991 with his first hunt to B.C. and thus began his hunting odyssey. Between 1997 and 1998, Ken took twelve different species of wild sheep in a single twelve-month period, something that possibly no one else has ever done. It was on one of these sheep hunts that Ken encountered an international hunter who convinced him he should broaden his hunting horizon and hunt not only sheep but other species worldwide. Ken took on this challenge and to date has hunted in 52 countries; extensively in North America, Asia, Africa, and Europe, including trips to South America and the South Pacific.

Ken has always set very high standards and goals for himself, and these apply to his passion for hunting. Some of the goals he has achieved include receiving awards such as the Grand Slam of North American Sheep (3x), the Ovis World Slam (3x), the Capra World Slam (2x), the Triple Slam (2x), the Capra Super Slam 30, the Ovis Super Slam 30, and the Super Slam of North American Big Game.

Last year’s winner was Renee Snider — also a CA WSF member and accomplished hunter and conservationist!

Both Renee and Ken are life members and strong supporters of Ca Wild Sheep Foundation.

LESS THAN ONE MEMBERS, CA

Not all members have gotten their first sheep yet, but they are still winners to us! If you WANT to get a California bighorn sheep, now is the time to join CA WSF and help us to get more permits allotted each year. That can only happen when CADFW can do survey work (which we help to fund) which will prove there are enough individuals (rams) to support hunting.

Jacob Cesena	Mike Harney	Scott Roland
Cliff Davis	Todd Harney	Geoff Rowley
Chris Johnson	Tim Holmes	Craig Rozar
Bryan LeBlanc	Danielle Jackson	Mike Ruffoni
Joshua Schulgen	Robbie Johnson	Dan Scheschuk
Nick Albonico	Jon Kruger	Jared Schmidt
Jimmy Andreas	Gary Kuhn	Paul Schultheis
Ral Ayers	Derek Lashmet	Miranda Smith
Sergio Azzolino	Rob Lee	Victor Smith, Jr
Scott Baker	Nathan Lopez	Douglas Stanley
Tad Bowers	Peter Martin	Ron Stogdell
Derek Brazil	Wyatt Martin	Tom Teifel
Jacob Bridges	Patrick Mayer	Jacob Tos
Mike Bridges	Dru McDonald	Beverly Valdez
Ben Britton	Terry Mehlhaff	Craig Van Arsdale
Jason Childs	Marcus Meinhold	Greg Van Dyke
Julie Childs	Terry Meister	Pete Van Dyke
Kevin Debono	Jim Olivarez	Scott Van Winkle
Dan DiSanto	David Ollivier	Christopher Wallin
Chris Durrer	Dwight Ortmann	Zachary Walton
Braulio Felix	John Pestorich	John Ware
Kit Foster	Kandi Quick	David Welch
Tommy Gordon	Spencer Quinn	Simon Whetzel
Garrett Gundersen	Dan Rogers	

‘Some people ask the secret of our long marriage. We take time to go to a restaurant two times a week.

A little candlelight, dinner, soft music and dancing.

She goes Tuesdays, I go Fridays..’

– Red Skelton

CALIFORNIA GRAND SLAMS*

- California (164)
11. Jack Greer (D)
21. Henry Bondeson (D)
23. James Johnson
37. Tom Bowles (D)
40. Stan Radom
59. Walt Schubert (D)
64. Earl Harris (D)
65. Steve Rose
66. Basil Bradbury (D)
47. Jim Egger
78. Pete Belcastro (D)
79. W.A.K. Seale (D)
83. C.D. Sharp
87. Lamar Empey
93. F.M. Sullivan
97. Vin Somavia
123. Sam Sanjabi (D)
130. Arne Digerud (D)
134. George Carnahan
136. Ken Buffalo
142. Audie Crabtree
151. Ozzie Davis
153. William Wilson (D)
156. Chic Kawahara (D)
162. Verne Crowell
176. Lew Carpenter (D)
180. Roger Piers (D)
192. Joe Carvalho
198. Bill Sinclair
200. Ernest Righetti
216. Ernie Sanders
224. Al Pellizzari (D)
226. Chuck Hawkins
232. Hugh Chatham Jr.
250. Jerry Teixeira
251. Jimmy Low (D)
258. Gary Jorgensen
261. Kern Chew
267. Phil Nare
270. Bruce Shaw (D)
272. Ted Maino (D)
284. Kenneth Reuter (D)
291. Jim Caraccioli
293. W.E. (Bill) Poole (D)
311. Ray Folloso (D)
313. Guldbrand Kramer (D)
322. Gail Sanders
–(Lady Slam* #12)
332. William H. Taylor
335. Al Marsh
347. Gerald Malovos
356. Curt Carter
378. Don Turner
388. Dan Alegre
403. Ron Gabriel
406. E.J. Huxen (D)
419. Frank Binando
451. Curt Carter, Jr.
453. Jack Wilkinson
454. Michael D. Rowe
458. Steve F. Reiter
494. Tom Clements (D)
495. S. Carl Miller
501. Alfred E. Baldwin
–(Archery Slam* #17)
505. Butch Kufiak
–(Eleventh Slam*, 2007)
509. Wesley Hansen
516. John Whitcombe
525. Nicholas Coussoulis
540. David Colclough Jr.
–(Second Slam*, 2004)
541. Carl Jacobson
–(Second Slam*, 1996)
542. Robert Manger
558. Ira Lee Armstrong
576. Earl R. Cummins (D)
582. Sam Pattillo
594. Michael Heathman
597. H. James Tonkin, Jr.
623. Van Probst
641. Rick Garzoli Jr.
655. Don K. Callahan
662. Robert E. Petersen (D)
675. Dean A. Sonnenberg
681. Steve Bacon
684. David E. Combs
698. John B. Brelsford
700. Kenneth Barr
–(Third Slam*, 2009)
701. J. Curtis Newman (D)
709. Peter P. Bollinger
746. Lou Misterly Jr.
757. J. Craig Holworthy
758. David W. Hanna
762. Daymon Orr
764. J. G. "Jerry" Wilson
791. Ron Schauer
793. Bruno Scherrer
812. Stephen Walker
813. David Prickett
825. Stanford H. Atwood
826. Pamela S. Atwood
–(Lady Slam* #28)
830. Norman Etchison
832. William R. Pritchard
842. Roger L. Gregg
845. Dennis Sites
–(Third Slam*, 2011)
861. John Gebbia
867. Debi Ramsey–Casey
–(Lady Slam* #30)
868. George L. Wilson
869. Ann Palmer
–(Lady Slam* #31)
874. Fritz Nachant
875. Howard Barnett
896. Stanley A. Weinrich
927. Renee Snider
–(Lady Slam* #35)
943. Robert Highfill
947. Arnold Jarstrom
952. Frank Cox
980. Ralph E. Adams
–(Seventh Slam*, 2014)
993. James Sanderson
998. Chip Mooneyham
1007. Dennis Anderson
1020. Mike J. Borel
1028. Kevin Small
1035. Randy E. Thomas
1036. Don Giottonini, Jr.
1047. Victor Mancuso Jr.
1064. Leonard Butler
1073. Lester (Jack) Graf (D)
1086. Robert J. Stallone
1101. Craig Boddington
–(Second Slam*, 2008)
1124. Armen Avedissian
1126. Margaret (Peggy)
Barnett–(Lady Slam* #40)
1143. Lonnie Ritchey
1155. Ted Peters
1164. Gregory L. Pope
1203. Steve Yeager
1213. David Fitzpatrick
1260. Graham G. Weiss
1300. William A. Paulin
1399. Ben Gordon
1402. Walter O. Kirby
1433. Tom Griffiths
1434. John Cavin
1435. Jim Clark
1504. Vint Varner
1510. R. P. Musselman
1516. Mike Passaglia
1525. Mark Buchanan
1540. Frank Stathos
1566. Tony Aivazian
1569. Jim Mcisaac
1570. Gary P. Brown
1577. Larry Day
1591. Christopher Marx (D)
1615. Don Perrien
1624. Ron Wade
1647. Jim Coffrini
1650. Jason Bruce
1666. Danny Danell
1701. John R. Drummond
1713. Mark Megazzi
1721. Gregory Fowler
1772. John Whipple (D)
1797. Mike Torres
1807. George Davis
1854. Gary Bordessa
1865. Kirk Warner
1887. David Harrison
FNAWS. Kyle Meintzer

CAPRA WORLD SLAMS*

- Dennis Anderson (CA)
Armen Avedissian (CA)
Margaret (Peggy)
Barnett (CA)
Kenneth Barr (CA)
Craig Boddington (CA)
Mike J. Borel (CA)
Danny Danell (CA)
Larry Day (CA)
Ben Gordon (CA)
Roger L. Gregg (CA)
Arnold Jarstrom (CA)
Bob Keagy (CA)
Butch Kufiak (CA)
Vic Mancuso Jr. (CA)
Mark Megazzi (CA)
William A. Paulin (CA)
Renee Snider (CA)

OVIS WORLD SLAMS*

- Dennis Anderson (CA)
Armen Avedissian (CA)
Kenneth Barr (CA)
Craig Boddington (CA)
Mike J. Borel (CA)
Jason Bruce (CA)
David E. Combs (CA)
Danny Danell (CA)
Ben Gordon (CA)
Roger L. Gregg (CA)
Arnold Jarstrom (CA)
Butch Kufiak (CA)
Peggy Barnett Lee (CA)
Mark Megazzi (CA)
Chip Mooneyham (CA)
William A. Paulin (CA)
Bob Puette (CA)
Renee Snider (CA)

*Grand Slam, Capra World Slam, and Ovis World Slam are trademarks of Grand Slam Club/OVIS (wildsheep.org)

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Mike Borel
Fannin Ram, Yukon
Midnight Sun Outfitting, August 2016
11 ½ years old with rotten teeth!



Bob Keagy
Musk Ox, Greenland
Point Blank Hunts, August 2016
Musk Ox is one of the two largest extant members of Caprinae called the “sheep-ox” by many



Rick Garzoli
Stone Sheep
B.C., Folding Mountain Outfitters, August 2016
Completed 2nd Grand Slam!



Left to right: Guide Chad Miller, Rick Garzoli, wranglers “August” & “Goose” August is from Norway & Goose is from France

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



**Chad Davis
Desert Bighorn**

**California, White Mountains 13,300 ft elevation,
San Geronio Wilderness Outfitters, August 2016.
11 ½ year old ram and lead guide Ryan Yeager.**

This is the first ram taken in 2 seasons from this location due to the difficulty of hunting this range.



PHOTOS "ON THE HOOF IN CALIFORNIA" From Cliff St. Martin

2016 WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION CHAPTER AND AFFILIATE MEETING REPORT

*by Donald C. Martin
Photos by Ken Crother*

On June 23 nearly 70 delegates from over a dozen WSF state chapters and affiliates met near Crawford, Nebraska for the annual Wild Sheep Foundation Chapter and Affiliate meeting. The event was organized by Wild Sheep Foundation-National (WSF) and hosted by the Iowa chapter of WSF and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

This year's meeting was held at Nebraska's historic Fort Robinson State Park in the Pine Ridge region of Northwest Nebraska. Fort Robinson was a post-civil war US cavalry post charged with managing Indian conflicts in the region including the Sioux uprising in the wake of the massacre at Little Bighorn. US cavalry efforts from Fort Robinson resulted in the surrender of the famous Chief Crazy Horse in 1877 and later his death when he attempted to escape. The Fort later served as the supply point for the Battle at Wounded Knee that concluded the Sioux conflict. By 1919, the Fort had developed into the largest training, care and breeding center for horses and mules for the US Army. In 1942, the Fort had become the largest training center for US Army Guard Dogs and a POW camp for German prisoners. Shortly after the end of World War II, the Fort was decommissioned and turned over to the US Department of Agriculture. The Fort was restored as a museum in 1956 and after a large land acquisition in 1972 became a State park.

The park is one of Nebraska's most popular tourist destinations with large tracts of pine covered mountains including the Soldier Creek Wilderness Area, 3 wildlife management areas, a tract of Nebraska National Forest and over 6 miles of the White River. The park is home to mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, bison, and, YES, bighorn sheep. The park has a lot to offer visitors including: hunting, fishing, horse and hiking trails, jeep tours, kayaking, rodeo, theatre, and accommodations ranging from cabins, officer's quarters, the main lodge, and RV or tent campsites. If you are in NW Nebraska or Eastern Wyoming/Northern Colorado, Fort Robinson is definitely worth a visit.

The meeting was formally opened the morning of June 24. Gray Thornton, welcomed the delegates and gave an update on the success of the 2016 National Convention which will be covered in the next issue of Wild Sheep Magazine. He also updated the group on the successful relocation of WSF headquarters to Bozeman, Montana.

The meeting was turned over to Kevin Hurley who hosted a discussion of risk of contact analysis between



domestic and wild sheep on US Forest Service Lands. Discussion included a presentation by USFS National Wildlife Program lead, Brian Logan, who traveled from Washington DC to attend.

After a short break, Kevin Hurley continued the discussion of bighorn sheep/domestic sheep separation strategy and disease. Discussion included input from the WSF Professional Resource Advisory Board (PRAB) of which Vern Bleich is a member.

The first day's meeting concluded with a discussion of the WSF North American Conservation Vision 2020, a comprehensive sheep management strategy for all of North America. Conservation Session Chair, Brett Jefferson outlined the progress that has been made since the 2015 C&A meeting and laid out the road plan for the future of the plan. Individual chapter and affiliate delegates gave updates on management plans in their respective states.

With that, the first day's formal meeting adjourned and delegates were offered a jeep tour of the park before attending dinner at a very rustic and very remote ghost town known as the Drifter Cookshack. The informal dinner was an excellent opportunity for delegates to mingle and discuss sheep issues in their respective states and provinces.

Before the start of the meeting on Saturday, June 25th, California delegates were on the mountain glassing for bighorn sheep. With the help of the Nebraska Sheep Biologist Laura McHale, Donald C. Martin and Ken Crother were able to locate and photograph five bighorn rams that had been recently transplanted into the Fort Robinson State Park.

Saturday's meeting started promptly at 8:00 am and Dr. Ryan Brock, WSF Youth Coordinator, opened the meeting with an update on the continued success of WSF's highly successful youth outreach program.

WSF Directors Wayne Henderson and Jim Wilson then led a discussion on membership, fundraising, and the pros and cons of paid administrative personnel. Alaska Chapter President led a discussion regarding the benefits of being a "fully aligned" state chapter and many state chapters are considering the changes in membership tracking, accounting, and a "one fee" system to maintain membership in National as well as member's respective state chapters. Regarding fundraising and the National convention in 2017, the Wyoming chapter delegation challenged each state chapter or affiliate to donate at least one item to the silent auction for the 2017 National Convention.

With the overwhelming success of the <1 Club reception at the 2016 National convention, Gray Thornton announced the concept of the <1 iClub. A group dedicated to sheep/capra hunters that have never taken an international sheep or capra specie. The project is still in the works and development and eventual rollout of the new program will be featured in upcoming issues of Wild Sheep Magazine.

After the morning break, Greg Schildwachter gave a presentation regarding legislative challenges facing wild sheep at the national level. He offered to help all the state chapters with legislative affairs regarding wild sheep at the national level and discussed some of the current legislative progress and challenges we yet face.

With that discussion concluded, Dr. Tom Besser of Washington State University updated the delegates on current research regarding Genetic Analysis on M. Ovi, disease transmission, and the challenges facing ranchers attempting to maintain M. ovi free domestic sheep. It was a very detailed and "science heavy" discussion that followed during the Q&A session with Dr. Besser.

Closing out the presentations for the day was Kevin Hurley and Clay Brewer updating the delegates

on the 2017 Thinhorn Summit which will be held in Anchorage, Alaska and the 2018 Bighorn Summit. Both summit meetings are designed to address conservation challenges and management strategies for thinhorn and bighorn sheep respectively.

Gray Thornton adjourned the meeting with the announcement that the 2017 WSF Chapter and Affiliate meeting would be held at Flathead Lake, Montana. Dates to be announced. Flathead Lake is famous for its bighorn sheep that reside on Wild Horse Island in the South Eastern portion of the lake.

During lunch, Kevin Hurley gave a very entertaining presentation on Montana's unlimited bighorn sheep hunting units and their management strategies and the potential application for such unlimited units in other states.

During the afternoon activity session, California delegates Ken Crother and Donald C Martin led the Idaho delegation into the mountains of the Fort Robinson State Park to relocate the bighorn rams they had found that morning. After a couple hours of patient glassing, everyone was able to see and photograph the bighorn rams.

That evening, there was a bison barbecue for the delegates and a small dinner auction to raise money for Nebraska Game and Parks' bighorn sheep projects. The small event was able to raise over \$24,00 for bighorn sheep in Nebraska. Thanks to the hard work of the Iowa Chapter and Nebraska Game Parks, the event came in nearly \$12,000 under budget. As a result, the combined donation to Nebraska Game and Parks' wild sheep program was \$36,131.28.

The California delegation would like to express its deepest appreciation to Wild Sheep-National and all of its Directors that were in attendance. Also, a special thanks to Craig Nakamoto and the Iowa Chapter of Wild Sheep Foundation for all of their hard work in arranging and hosting the event. And lastly, Nebraska Game and Parks showed all of the delegates an unprecedented level of hospitality and went above and beyond to host a spectacular meeting. Thank you to all involved.



THE MOJAVE DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE, REGION 6

by Paige Prentice

Sunny and hot, with a high near 106.

Occasionally it's been windy and very rarely there's been a 20% chance of thunderstorms but sunny and hot is, not surprisingly, the regular fieldwork weather that the Desert Bighorn Sheep Crew has been facing this summer. From May 1st through August 31st we spent a total of 12 weeks in the field and during that time we have: conducted three ground counts; recovered two collared bighorn mortalities; scouted seven mountain ranges for helicopter surveys this fall; helped SCBS haul water into two drinkers and checked the status of ten other water sources; set-up and maintained five trail-cameras; and thanks to a grant from CA WSF we were able to resume telemetry flights to check survival on the 76 VHF-only (no GPS collar to send us mortality updates) collared bighorn sheep. Needless to say, it has been a busy and gratifying summer.

Two of the three ground counts this summer were the Department's annual May and June Marble Mountains surveys. We conduct these surveys in May and June because the weather is usually hot enough for the sheep to concentrate around water and yet the lambs are still young enough that the ewes are in larger groups—making it easier for us to get a minimum population estimate. The two surveys are conducted a month apart in order to monitor lamb to ewe ratios (i.e. how many lambs there are per number of ewes). In a healthy population we would expect there to be little change in lamb to ewe ratios between the two surveys; however in the presence of disease we would tend to expect the June ratio to be less than the May ratio. We've been too busy in the field to analyze this year's data but we're looking forward to doing it this winter.

The third ground count was our annual White Mountain Survey the week of July 18th. It was wonderful to take a break from the desert heat and escape into the chilly and windy 13,000'+ plateaus of lush grasslands and endless wildflowers. We surveyed from just south of White Mountain Peak, north to Boundary Peak and, not including Silver Canyon, we counted: 3 yearling ewes, 40 adult ewes, 26 lambs, 2 yearling rams, 13 adult rams and 22 unclassified—for a total of 106 sheep. Although these would be considered great numbers for many of our ranges we are speculating that given sightings on other trips and compared to last year's count that we likely missed a few groups ranging from 20-50 animals. Last year the Department had a minimum population count of



238 sheep for the same area. The difference between these two surveys is a great example of how different conditions can give very different numbers and how sometimes a good count requires a bit of good luck. Overall, this is why we call these counts minimum population estimates and why it is important for us to conduct surveys on a regular basis.

Speaking of surveys, we are currently getting ready for a busy season of helicopter surveys and captures. Keep an eye out for an update in the next issue.

With all this "gun control" talk I haven't heard one politician say how they plan to take guns from criminals, just law abiding citizens

2017 CA WSF ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER

MAY 6, 2017

by Donald C. Martin



I would like to thank everyone that turned out for our 2016 annual fundraising dinner held April 30, 2016 at the Rancho Cordova Marriot. It was a great event and we were able to raise a lot of money for our continued hard work "Putting and Keeping Sheep on the Mountains."

As I take over as fundraiser chair for 2017, I want to thank Director and former fundraising chair, Ken Crother, and all the other Directors for their hard work in planning this year's event. Ken has agreed to stay on as co-chair to help me assume this role for the first time (and for that I am very thankful).

Our event next year will be held on May 6, 2017. Please plan ahead to attend as we are already laying the groundwork for this special event. We will be changing locations and moving our event to the Doubletree by Hilton in Sacramento located at 2001 Point W. Way. It is conveniently located just off I-80 at the Arden Way Exit, just South of the Arden Fair Mall. The new space will allow the Chapter fundraiser to grow, and the facility will suit our needs for years to come.

Our grand prize random drawing will once again be a 10 day 1x1 fully guided Dall sheep hunt with Ultima Thule Outfitters, for opening week 2018, and I will personally guide the winner. One small change to this year's raffle is that you must be present to win! No one can deny the excitement in the room when this year's winner Paul Schultheis' name was selected, and we want to maintain that high level of enthusiasm at our event. So plan accordingly and make our 2017 fundraiser a priority to attend!

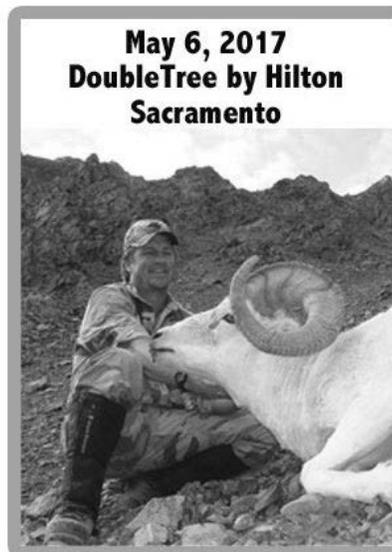
In addition, we have been awarded three 2017 hunting permits from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm very excited to announce that we will have a random drawing for a rare Chitina River Bison Permit! This is the premiere free-ranging wild trophy

bison permit in North America. There are only two permits awarded for this unit per year and the trophy quality is unparalleled. If you want the bison hunt of a lifetime, in the heart of Alaska's Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, do not miss this Random Drawing opportunity (and for this one - you do not need to be present to win).

The remaining two Alaskan permits will be auctioned in our live auction. They include: a Dall sheep permit for the Delta Junction Controlled Use Area in units 13 and 20, South of Fairbanks, and a non-resident bull moose permit for unit 13D, on the Glenn Highway, East of Anchorage.

Also, I am pleased to announce the return of one of our most popular live auction items. Bob Swanson, owner of the Jim Bardin Ranch, has once again agreed to donate a 7 day 1x1 fully guided tule elk bull hunt, and I will personally guide the winner. The hunt will take place on the Jim Bardin Ranch in Monterey County near Salinas, CA. Success rates have been 100% for many years running. With the demand for tule elk hunts at an all-time high, this is your chance to hunt in 2017 and not have to wait 2-3 years.

Already, our event is shaping up to be one of the best ever - with additional drawings, a wide array of raffle items, and a diverse silent auction that will appeal to all of our members (gentleman and ladies alike). California Wild Sheep Foundation's 2017 annual fundraising dinner will be THE dinner to attend. So don't miss it! Plan ahead and we look forward to seeing you on May 6 next year!





ANNUAL FUNDRAISER FEATURING TWO ALASKA SPECIAL DRAWINGS

Alaska's Best! 2018 Wrangell-St Elias National Preserve 10 day hunt with Ultima Thule Outfitters and guide Don Martin

Includes
Meals, lodging
Transportation (from Anchorage to Lodge)
Field Dressing

Not included
Non-resident License
Sheep Tag Processing
Shipping
Taxidermy
Personal items
Gratuities



MUST be present May 6, 2017 to win



Alaska Chitina River Bison Permit

Unit D1450

Also in the Wrangell Mountains, this special state permit will be issued a minimum of 30 days prior to the start of the 2017 hunting season.

This area is lightly hunted for bison — in 2016 only 2 permits were issued! 2016 Hunt dates were Sept 6 to Nov 30; 2017 expected to be similar.

Do not need to be present to win

\$20: One (1) ticket

\$100: Six (6) tickets

Place your order via mail, phone, fax, email, website

Or at our annual fundraiser on May 6, 2017 at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Sacramento

CA WSF is a 501©3 nonprofit organization.

Funds from this random drawing will be used for the benefit and enhancement of bighorn sheep in California.

CA Wild Sheep Foundation 2017 ORDER FORM

Dall Sheep 1 ticket (\$20) x no. _____ = \$ _____
 Dall Sheep 6 tickets (\$100) x no. _____ = \$ _____
 Bison Permit 1 ticket (\$20) x no. _____ = \$ _____
 Bison Permit 6 tickets (\$100) x no. _____ = \$ _____
 Annual Membership (\$40) = \$ _____
 Life Membership (\$500) = \$ _____
 Total Amount: _____ = \$ _____

Check Visa MasterCard Discover AmEx CCV _____
 # _____ Exp. Date _____
 Signature: _____
 Name (Please Print): _____
 Address: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____

Send or Fax form to:
 CA WSF
 423 Broadway #617, Millbrae, CA 94030-1905
 Fax: (650) 472-3889
 Email: cawsf@cawsf.org

No tickets sent to purchaser; we make out and submit tickets for you.
 A receipt and ticket numbers will be sent to the provided email address or via mail when a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope is enclosed with your order.

Ticket orders must be received by APRIL 21, 2017
 See more details at www.cawsf.org

HANGAY ARGALI – MONGOLIA 2016

by Larry Day

It was midnight. July 3, 2016. My Korean air jet was on final approach to Chinggis Khaan International Airport. Briefly I recalled my last time in Mongolia--1988. I was hunting Gobi Argali and Gobi Ibex in the far southeastern deserts.

At that time, Mongolia was a Soviet-occupied country. The capital, Ulaanbaatar, was a drab town of 300,000 residents living with dirt streets, gers, and Soviet-style gray concrete low-rise apartments. People dressed in a monotone of gray and black and school children worked on road projects. The KGB "monitored" international sportsmen and guides were required to "document" any interesting comments or behaviors that might hint of espionage.

I wondered how much had changed in the intervening 28 years since Mongolia became independent in the 1990's.

Back to 2016. My trip was complicated by two factors. First was the first ever "European-Asian Economic Conference" to be held in Mongolia. That meant lots of high-ranking international dignitaries and ultra-tight security. Secondly, this was the week of *Nadiim*—the country-wide celebration of independence. Ultimately, these two events made firearm entry a problem.

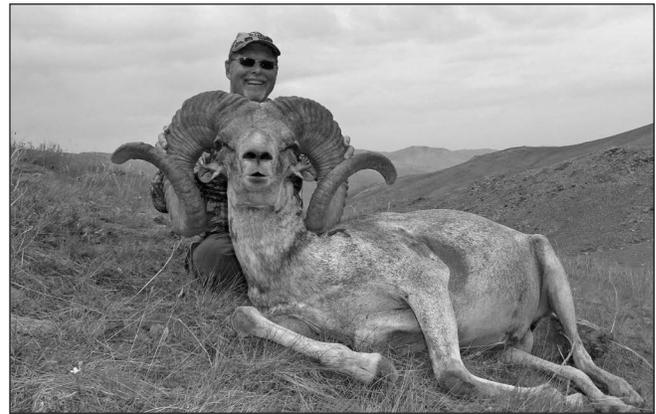
Mongolia requires a permit for firearms and ammo to enter the country. Normally not a problem. You provide your firearm's information and serial number, etc. and a permit is issued. Because of the conference, the authorities were not going to issue permits and firearms would not be permitted to enter until all dignitaries departed—well after my hunt was scheduled.

Fortunately, two days before my departure, the local outfitters got the government to agree to permit firearm entry under the condition that they would be held by the airport police/customs to be released to the outfitters upon departure to the hunting camps.

So my long-anticipated trip for Hangay Argali was on! I had booked it two years ago with Bob Kern of the hunting consortium and was anxious to finally get it on. Previously I had booked a successful Marco Polo hunt in Tajikistan with Bob and I was looking forward to another great adventure.

My arrival in Mongolia was on the first day of the new firearm procedures and naturally the local police and customs officers were unfamiliar with them. Fortunately, my outfitter Agvaan (Atonammon Co. Ltd.) came into customs and after an hour my gun was safely with the police and we could depart.

The dramatic changes to Ulaanbaatar were immediately evident during my brief stays in the capital. Almost 1.3 million people now lived in this crowded city filled with newly constructed high-rise apartments, malls, beautiful glass hotels, and



numerous government towers. Wide paved streets were literally jammed with vehicles like Lexus, Land Cruisers, Mercedes, and thousands of small Asian-branded vehicles. Rules of the road here were clearly more like "suggestions" as drivers constantly jockeyed for positions and lanes. Surprisingly, the constant sound of obnoxiously loud honking substituted for what would turn into road rage anywhere else. People were dressed fashionably and the overall feeling was one of celebration during my visit.

Our drive out to camp was about 7 hours... Four hours were on paved roads and three hours were on what could best be termed harsh four-wheel drive roads. Many times the "road" would disappear and we would head cross-country. Ultimately, we arrived at our nomadic camp in the Oshgog Mountains in western Mongolia. We settled in a 20 km long emerald green valley surrounded by steep hills transitioning to mountainous terrain at 5-6000 ft. Roads were "limited" and much of our exploration was true off-road.

Camp consisted of two gers. Mine was very elaborate with beautiful rugs on the floor and walls. Two comfortable beds, a chair and table, and a battery-powered lamp completed the inside. The second ger was for the guides and cook.

My main guides were Basaanu Jantzen (co-owner with Agvaan of the outfitting company) and Luya (the capable local expert guide). Both men are highly experienced and successful Argali guides and are well known and sought out in the hunting community. Both guides had been in camp a week before my arrival and had done some preliminary scouting. A second set of guides was also in camp to provide scouting in other areas while we hunted.

Our hunting days followed a predictable routine. We arose before dawn, had a good breakfast, and headed off to one part or another of the extensive mountain range. Although roads were almost nonexistent, the Land Cruiser could navigate steep and

rough terrain to get us far up in the mountains where we could then walk up higher to excellent glassing spots. From there we typically could see many miles in multiple directions. We used binoculars and spotting scopes to search for the argalis. While we were out, the second set of guides would go out to another area to also try and locate a good ram. Although we always saw rams, we had the normal challenge of finding a good ram. We would spend full days in the mountains searching different areas. We would arrive back at camp well after dark to have our dinner and then off to bed for the next early morning.

One of the challenges we encountered was an unusual number of wolves had moved into the area. During the course of just three days we saw eleven different wolves. Basaanu commented that although the wolves played havoc with both the wild and domestic sheep, it was always a thrill to see a wolf. It is also considered to be a sign of impending good luck since if you see wolf the local's believe your skill matches that of the wolf. Well since we saw eleven wolves, i thought we better start to see some of that good luck soon before all the rams disappeared from the area.

Another challenge we faced was the unexpected influx of nomads and their flocks of sheep, goats, and horses into the lush green mountains --our prime hunting area. One day we made a long journey to the far side of the mountain range only to find a new nomad camp with their flock had moved in and disturbed the area. We didn't find any rams there.

Finally after a few days, our "good luck of the wolf" materialized. We had left a glassing area without spotting any game and headed to another glassing spot several miles away. Part way there we all spotted a lone argali ram high up on a cliff slowly feeding away from us. We quickly glassed him and decided we should stalk him to get a better look.

As we stalked across a mountain ridge to get in position to view him , one of the other guides in a different area radioed and said they had three rams we needed to see. Reluctantly we decided to go take a look thinking we should be able to relocate this ram.

After an hour we arrived in the new area and started off on foot to try and locate the three new rams. Finally we saw them just as they crossed over a mountain saddle. We then worked our way up to where they disappeared. We crept over the ridge top and had a good chance to view the rams with our spotting scopes from 600 yards away. Reluctantly we all agreed that while they were excellent rams our original ram was better. So we walked back and made a plan to relocate the original ram. Well we couldn't find him!

Here is where the knowledge of the expert local head guide luya came in. He surmized the ram had crossed over a nearby ridge and was most likely in another valley. Sure enough after an hour of relocating and glassing , we spotted him far away heading over yet another ridgetop.

Fortunately, the guides thought they knew where

he was heading to bed down. They knew an alternate way around that could get us in front of him. We got to the top of a rocky ridge overlooking a long valley with several drainages that the ram could possibly choose to bed in.

We dropped off the ridge for a long steep rocky walk to a cliff overlook above the drainages. Now it was windy with a slight drizzle. The cloud cover was heavy and it was difficult to judge trophy quality through the spotting scopes.

At first we could not locate our ram. But amazingly we spotted other rams. One group of nine rams was working their way up a drainage to bed down. At least two of the rams were good. Then maybe a mile away we spotted another three rams far up the mountain in a head butting challenge for dominance. These rams were not quite as good. Then to our surprise our original target ram appeared far below but walking quickly away to yet another drainage. We scurried further down the mountain to get into a better position to evaluate trophy quality. Finally both luya and basaanu agreed that the group of nine rams held the better trophy.

The wind was in our favor blowing briskly into our faces. We dropped off the steep side of the ridge toward the valley. This is where a good walking stick is worth it's weight in gold. The uneven steep rocky terrain was difficult to navigate.

Finally after a long knee busting descent, we made it to the dry creek bottom. Now we had to stay hidden from our bedded rams and slowly worked our way up into their drainage. After a considerable climb we got to a rocky out cropping about 320 yards from the bedded rams. We could not get any closer without being spotted.

At this point, i crawled the last few yards to peer over the remaining rocks. I could see the best ram bedded facing downhill towards me. Slowly i inched my 7mm mag "best of the west" rifle over the tops of the rocks being very careful to avoid detection. I settled into the solid steady shooting position that i learned so well at the ftws long range shooting school in texas. I ranged the ram at 310 yds uphill. No significant wind. I adjusted the yardage turret on my scope and settled the crosshairs on the ram's fully exposed chest. The trigger broke smoothly at 2 1/2 pounds and my mag 180 grain berger vld bullet struck right on target. The ram's heart was hit. He got up and fell over dead!

My guides and i looked at each other and smiles turned into shouts of joy and congratulations! We had done it! We made an incredible successful stalk on a fine ram. We slowly worked our way up the steep slope to the downed ram. The closer we got the better he looked. He had massive horns that curved tightly against his face. They then dropped below his jaw and curved back up to his eyes where they then curved out and down again. A classic argali. He taped out at 52 inches. Needless to say i was quite pleased. At 71 years old, i had just taken a magnificent hangay ram, my eleventh ovis mountain species. Not bad for an old man!

TRAVELLING WITHOUT A FIREARM ON A HUNT – LESSONS LEARNED

by Mike J. Borel

Given the ever increasing challenge of travelling with a firearm and obtaining permits to have them, the option of using the guide's rifle is looking more and more interesting. Last December, for a trip to Croatia that was to be half hunting and half sightseeing, I took the plunge. Actually it probably didn't make much difference as my luggage got stuck in Frankfurt and was 4 days catching up to us!

I asked the guide what I thought was the key question: Is a quality rifle with scope available for my use?

The answer was "yes" and since it was for mouflon, the easiest sheep hunt on the planet, I took the easy way and didn't bring my own. . .

Day 1 had us on a mountain road where I could shoot. The rifle was a break open single shot Baikal in 30-06 with a Zeiss scope. OK. The stock was very short (woman's rifle), the scope was loose, and there were 5 rounds of ammo. I shot it once at 100 yards and hit the trail 2/3 of the way to the target (ugh). On top of that I got a bad dose of Magnum eyebrow. I asked if there was another rifle; that started the calls. OK, our B&B host had an 8x57 bolt action Mauser with an unnamed old scope that was not clear and was so frozen it couldn't be adjusted. There were again 5 rounds of ammo, and they were obviously not matched, sigh. But the trigger was pretty good! I fired once at 50 yards and hit 4" high. My guide said we'd get close and that will work. Off we went with my 4 rounds of ammo.

We saw mouflon rams every day, but I wanted a good one. On day 3 we found a bomber. I had a solid shot at 325 yards, couldn't get closer. He was in bushes and we still don't know where my shot went, but it certainly didn't hit the ram. . . 3 rounds left. That evening on the way back to the truck, 2 golden jackals ran across our path, I shot quick and got one (35 yards)! 2 rounds left.

We climbed every day and my Fitbit recorded between 16500 steps to 22500 steps each day. This is an "easy" sheep hunt??? I'm starting to wonder. However, it is beautiful and I'm getting lots of good exercise.

Day 4 we did a big climb from a different area and found the biggest ram my guide or I had ever seen. They made us and 290 yards was my only option. I aimed 1" down on the back (so I was on hair and had 12-14" of leeway. Bullet hit at foot level underneath and off they went. 1 round left. That night we did more calling and found another round, so now I have 2.



Eating my tag.

Day 5 is the scheduled last hunting day. We do another big climb, from a different spot, but found the same ram from the prior day. Yay! Can't get closer than 300 yards. This time I aim 18" above his back. Still too low and off he goes. We get one other chance that evening at a different ram, but this time even farther away, I aimed higher yet, but still no joy. The ram hung around and my guide said shoot again, higher. I showed him my empty gun.

I might still travel without a rifle, and use the guide's rifle but I have a few more questions now:

1. Is there an accurate bolt action rifle with a quality scope available?
2. What is the rifle, the scope and the caliber?
3. Is it sighted in? for what range? When was it last used successfully on an animal or target?
4. Is there at least 20 matched rounds appropriate for the rifle?
5. Is more ammo available, if we need it to truly sight it in?

My one question, was not enough. Sigh. I hope the above five are. For sure they may help you be successful.

Nevertheless, I recommend Croatia for Mouflon. It's a true mountain sheep hunt.

HUNTING IN THE HUMAN WAY

THE SHAMAN AND HUNTING MAGIC

by Carlos Gallinger, *thewayofthings.org*

The ancient shamans have left their mark deep in the human psyche as well as the landscape itself.

Today most of us would think that a discussion on shamanism and hunting magic to be purely academic. However, I think that a proper understanding of ancient shamanism and hunting magic is necessary to understand our modern environmental movement and the philosophies that exist within it. For instance many people might think that the greatest difference between the ancient hunters and modern hunters are in the weapons they carry.

The real difference is in the philosophies of the ancient and modern hunter. The ancient hunter was able to recognize or believe that the animal he killed had a spirit. People would pray to these animal deities like the Great Deer or the Great Buffalo or have the shaman do rituals to please them, thus convincing the animal deity to give of itself, to let the hunter take one of his kind for nourishment.

Often it was in need or desperation that ancient hunters would call on the spirits for help.

The modern hunter usually comes from a very different philosophical point of view. Most often his monotheistic beliefs do not allow for the deer to have a spirit, collective or otherwise. They are often influenced by the scientific point of view. This strips them of any supernatural connection. We must also consider that a modern hunter seldom goes into the field hungry and desperate.

It is these differences that we must first consider in order to understand hunting in the human way in regards to shamanism and hunting magic. There is also another philosophy that must be considered to fully understand this issue - the philosophy of the modern environmentalist. This has its own curious similarities and differences to shamanism and hunting magic. Like the beliefs of ancient people, this modern philosophy generally allows for such things as mountains, trees and butterflies to have souls, or spirits of some kind. Yet they put little value on ancient knowledge, such as tracking and reading sign, presence and awareness, or primal experiences such as making a kill and partaking of it. Therefore, for a modern person to acquire a useful understanding of shamanistic practices and hunting magic, they should be well versed in these three distinct philosophies and have some degree of traditional knowledge and experiences

Now, having dealt with these philosophies and differences we must also consider that there are things that have not changed. There are seven separate



components of the hunt that have not changed. This leads to some similarity in the philosophy of both ancient and modern hunters. This then leads to distinct differences in the philosophy of somebody from the modern environmental philosophy that has never experienced the hunt. We must examine these seven different components of the hunt to understand their philosophical and shamanistic consequences in both the ancient and modern world.

The first major component of the hunt we can label preparation. In ancient times this might have meant making a few more arrowheads. The ancient hunter is more likely to have his arrowheads blessed by a shaman and involve himself in prayers and rituals in preparation for the hunt. There is one powerful psychological component of this phase that is the same for both ancient and modern hunter's - the kill is essentially premeditated.

The second major component of the hunt is the search/hunt that starts when the hunter enters the environment with his weapon in hand. Here, an ancient hunter would enter the environment believing that the mountains, trees, and butterflies have spirits and the necessity of having the shaman's hunting magic for protection and success. The modern hunter puts more confidence in his personal skill and equipment. They see the mountains, trees and butterflies as beautiful and inspiring. Through all this, both ancient and modern hunter's must conduct themselves in the same manner to achieve the same goal, and that is to bring about the next major component of the hunt.



A stark land and a stoic ram.

The third component of the hunt is the stalk. This occurs when the hunter has found a suitable animal and begins to close in to make the kill. This is often described as a time that is exciting and thrilling, a time when the hunter experiences a heightened psychological and environmental awareness. This component is one of the primary reasons that people go hunting. Having experienced this myself, I can tell you it will affect you, and how you understand yourself in the natural world. In the ancient world, this component of the hunt was the focus of much of the shamans hunting magic. To start with, to properly stalk an animal is a form of respect. If you do not properly respect the animal's intelligence and sensory perception you will fail. It is my experience that this form of respect only grows with experience. It is from this traditional form of respect, that a different emotional and intellectual response to the kill is derived. Here we find the philosophical difference between the ancient hunter and the modern hunter is reduced through the shared experience of the stalk. At the same time a greater difference between the modern hunter and a person with a modern environmental philosophy occurs, since the latter has not experienced the stalk, nor do they wish to. However it is interesting to note that they work to achieve a similar form of respect through philosophical and intellectual means, rather than through technical, emotional, and bloody means of the stalk and kill.

The fourth component of the hunt is the kill. Here we find the differences between the ancient and modern hunter interesting and complex. For instance, for the ancient hunter, killing was an important part of everyday life, and for the modern hunter it is also important, but a rarity. To explore shamanism and hunting magic as it pertains to killing, we can look at some of the behavior that surrounds killing. When a human being kills something, especially something large like a sheep, deer or bear, it can cause a flood of emotions such as fear, pride, joy, guilt, and remorse. In

ancient times the shaman was there with his wisdom and rituals to guide the hunters thoughts and soul through this. In today's world a hunter often does not have access to this type of wisdom, let alone rituals. There may be some older hunter or guide in camp that know some of these things, but due to the culture and custom of our times, such things are not always talked about in a manner that they should be.

The fifth component of the hunt is butchering. No doubt many ancient shamens presided over this in some ceremonial manner. Here it should also be noted that perhaps the oldest evidence of human existence are butcher sites where the stone tools and the bones were left to tell the story. Today's hunter takes on this process without ceremony or mysticism. It is a job that needs to be done. However it is important to understand the physical process has seen little change since the Stone Age, giving our ancient and modern hunter a similar experience. The first thing that happens is an examination of the animal. Was it healthy, etc. Then the hunter makes an examination on the wound or wounds that killed the animal to assess skill and effectiveness. Then the butchering starts in earnest. Removing the internal organs is a bloody, messy job. This is one of the major reasons people no longer hunt or raise animals for their own personal consumption. But once you've gotten used to it, it's just a job. After the carcass has been parted out properly, most people can view and handle the parts with little or no emotions.

The sixth component of the hunt is cooking. While no doubt some meat was eaten raw and other portions of it might be set aside to be dried, most of it was destined to be cooked. In ancient times a successful hunter would return to camp loaded with meat. This meat would have a lineage rooted in the physical and intellectual and spiritual capabilities of the hunter. This would be known to all that this meat passed through all the various steps of shamanism and hunting magic proper for that time and culture. This is very different from lineage of meat that is purchased at a supermarket. Today we tend to look at cooking as a technical skill rather than something mystical, but if we look closely from time to time, we will still see the faint ghost of the ancient shamans in our midst. We can usually see this at a typical backyard barbecue where one of the dominant males has taken to ritually cooking the meat. Wearing the proper regalia such as special ceremonial headdress, (a chef's hat) this tends to increase his stature and signify that he is "special" at this gathering. When it's time he makes the formal announcement that the meat is ready. Standing there in his ceremonial regalia and implements he presides over the distribution of the cooked meat. In today's world this is the time when this dominant male/shaman will greet everybody there from the elderly to the youngest child and he will ceremoniously provide for them. In ancient times this ceremony had greater

meaning. For instance, this dominant male or shaman might give a larger portion to a pregnant woman and a smaller one to an unsuccessful hunter, based on what he thought was physically advantageous and spiritually correct. In the act of cooking the meat we can appreciate the fact that when we get a chance we still act as hunter-gatherers.

The seventh and final component of the hunt is eating. Here we find that you are literally what you eat, physically, scientifically, and spiritually. We find the physical and scientific reality is very obvious. If

one eats a lot of carbohydrates and sugar you will certainly gain weight and if your diet is deficient in some mineral or vitamin your health will suffer. Likewise if one considers themselves a spiritual being, what they eat and how they eat it also matters in the spiritual realm. One of the last remnants of this idea is in people that say grace/prayers before they eat a meal.

Let us understand and remember the customs and rituals of our ancestors and celebrate the spirituality hunt in our modern days. That's the way of things.

SPORTSMEN'S DOLLARS SUPPORT RESEARCH ON DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP

by Regina Abella – August 18, 2016 CDFG News

Thanks to California's big game hunters, wildlife biologists studying Desert Bighorn Sheep will have new technology and tools to help them study deadly diseases that affect these icons of the desert.

In 2013, Desert Bighorn sheep populations in the Mojave Desert near Old Dad Peak suffered a die-off. In an effort to learn more about the spread of disease and survival, scientists from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Mojave National Preserve and Oregon State University launched an ongoing joint study of adult sheep. They have captured and radio-collared about 150 adults to date, but important data about lamb mortality is still missing.

Now, in the third year of the study, a grant will enable researchers to collect the data that will unlock the mystery. Beginning this winter, scientists will capture and radio collar bighorn ewes. As they are captured, ultrasounds will be conducted, and ewes that are found to be pregnant will be implanted with special vaginal implant transmitters, the purchase of which will be funded by the \$190,000 grant. When the lamb is subsequently born, the transmitter will be pushed out and send an alert signal. Project researchers can then go to the birth site and put a miniature radio transmitter on the lamb.

If the lamb subsequently dies, a mortality signal will be transmitted and the body will be recovered by researchers quickly enough to pinpoint the cause of death. This real-time information gathering technique will hopefully provide answers to the mystery behind unexplained bighorn mortality — why the 2013 disease outbreak was so widespread, what factors contributed to the spread of the disease and what management efforts can be instituted to help prevent future outbreaks.

Spearheaded by the nonprofit California Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation and Oregon State

University, the study will greatly benefit from the addition of the new technology, made possible by the purchase of big game tags by California hunters. It is one of many project funded by the Big Game Grants Program, which allots about \$800,000 each year to support studies such as this one.

Joint projects are particularly critical to fund, because they help target wildlife management issues which are often beyond the normal scope of CDFW manpower, expertise or financing.

"Funds in the Big Game Grants Program support a wide range of wildlife studies and projects," said Craig Stowers, CDFW Big Game Program Manager. "We have a responsibility to see that the funding generated by hunters goes toward preserving wildlife populations. This sheep study is a great example of how hunters play a role in solving complicated and challenging research needs."

This new phase of study is hoped to produce critical information unavailable until now.

"The desert environment is harsh and expansive. Until now, it's been almost impossible to find and collect dead lambs in a timely manner, which is necessary in order to determine the cause of mortality," said Daniella Dekelaita, a doctoral student and researcher at Oregon State University. "We know there have been significant lamb losses in some herds and this will give us accurate and timely information on what was the cause."



WHAT DRIVES HABITAT SELECTION BY BIGHORN; RESOURCES OR PREDATION?

RESULTS FROM A STUDY OF SIERRA NEVADA BIGHORN SHEEP

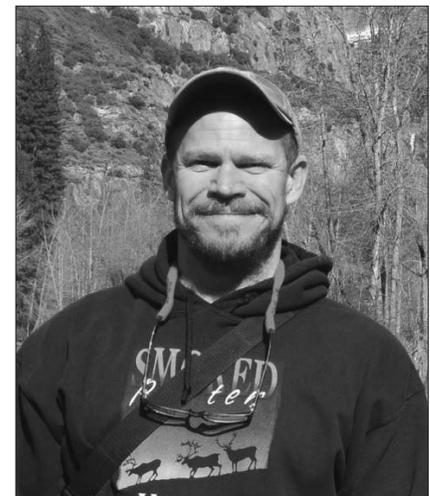
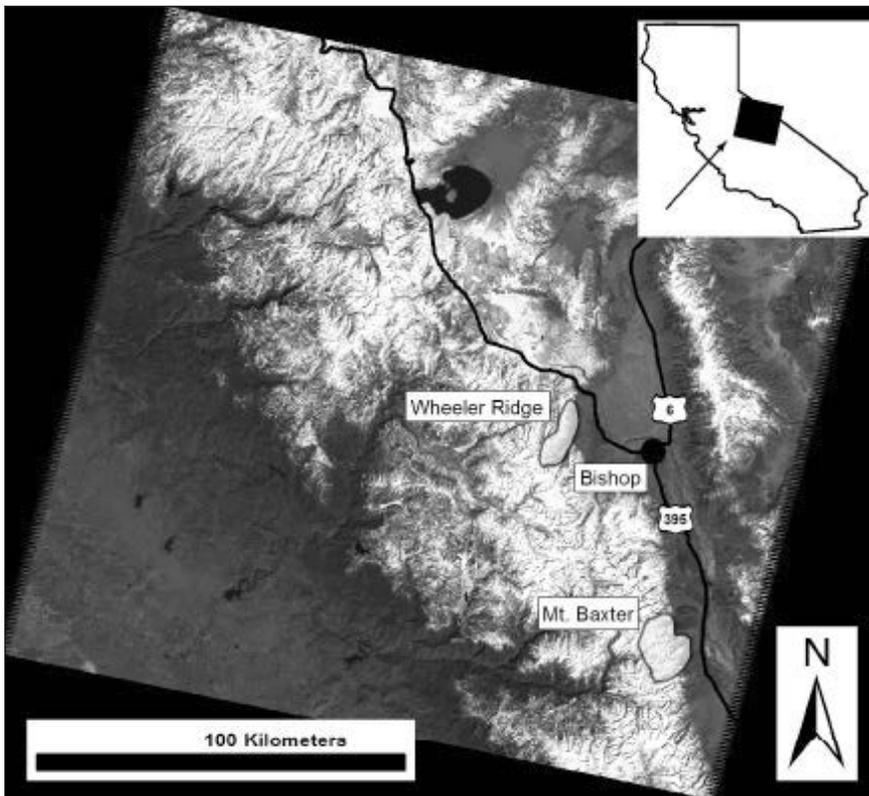
by Jeff Villepique, Ph.D., CDFW

A number of studies have investigated behavioral responses by herbivores to their predators, with conflicting results. While some studies attributed observations of individual animals and populations to behavioral changes in responses to the risk of predation, in many cases further examination has demonstrated that 'bottom-up' (habitat related) factors or direct 'top-down' (predation) effects are more likely drivers of observed behavior.

We investigated influences of risk of predation by mountain lions along with a number of measures of habitat, including topography, vegetation, and snow cover, on resource selection by Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep during winters 2002–2007, in California's Sierra Nevada*. We hypothesized that Sierra bighorn would trade off rewards accrued from using critical low-elevation habitat in winter for the safety of areas with reduced risk of predation. We also compared the tradeoff between forage and risk of predation in years of drought versus wet years, by measuring quality

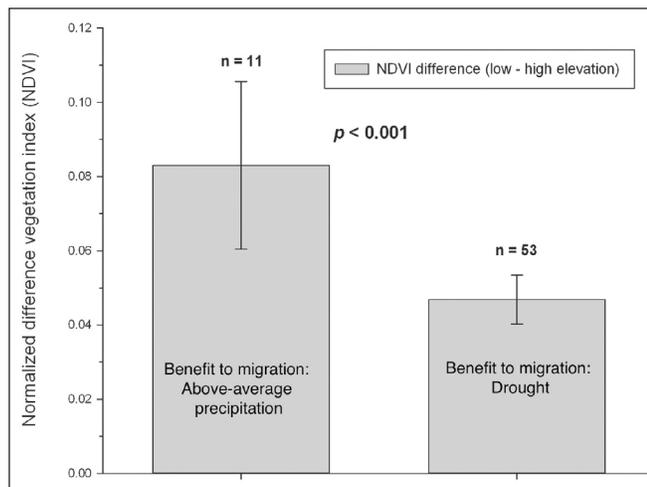
of forage at low-elevations versus high-elevations in drought and wet years to determine whether there was a reduced benefit of migration to low-elevations during drought years.

Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep did not trade off benefits of forage for reduced risk of predation, but selected areas where risk of predation by mountain lions was greatest, while mitigating risk of predation by selecting for steep, rugged terrain. Bighorn sheep selected more strongly for areas where mountain lions were active, than for low-elevation habitat in winter, likely because mountain lions were most active in those areas of bighorn winter ranges overlapping ranges of mule deer, where both ungulates accrued forage benefits. We demonstrated a reduced benefit of migration to low elevation during drought years, when the difference in quality of forage was significantly less than in years of above-average precipitation, providing an alternative explanation to the predator-induced abandonment hypothesis for

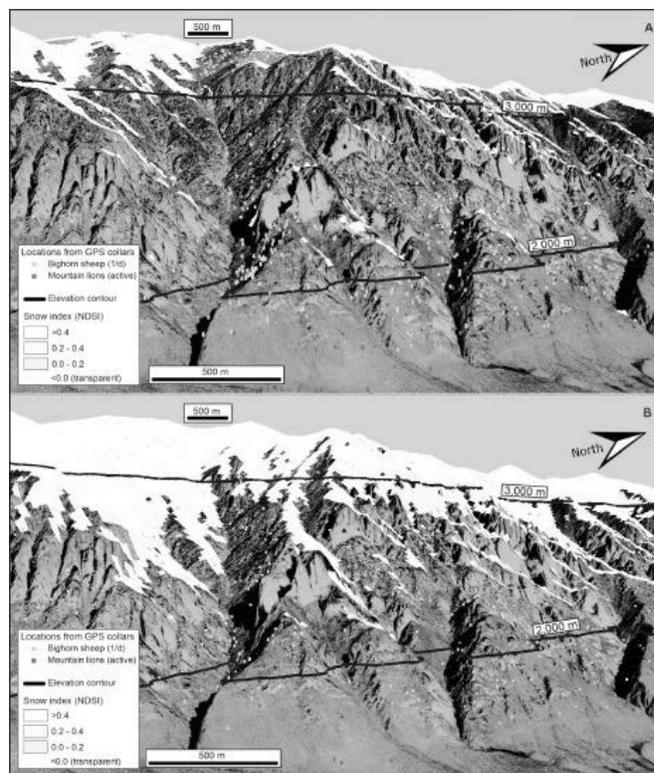


Landsat image showing Wheeler Ridge and Mt. Baxter bighorn winter ranges.

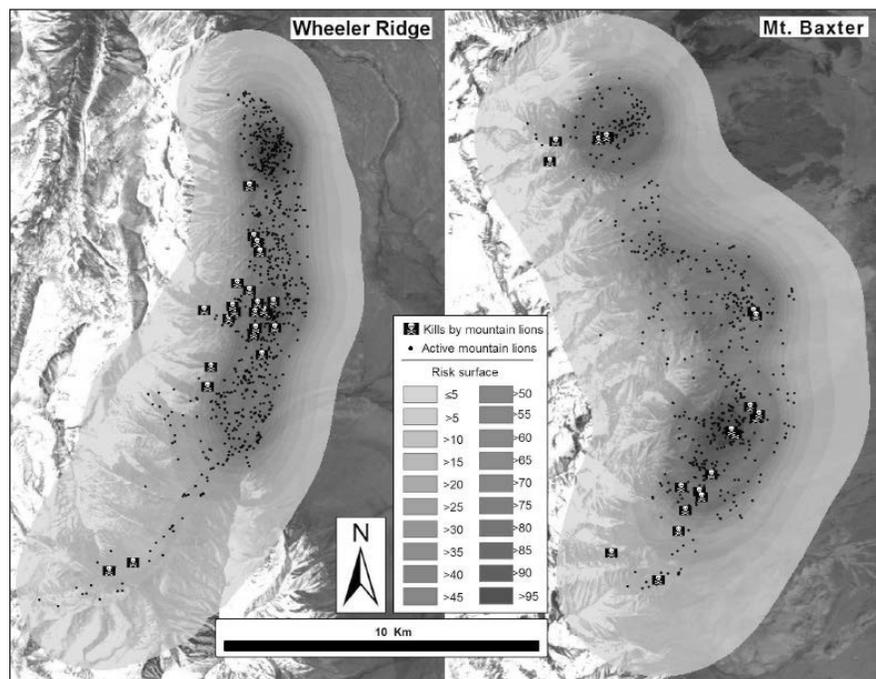
why Sierra bighorn sheep did not use low-elevation winter range during drought years. We found a bottom-up driver of resource selection by Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep far more plausible, owing to empirical and theoretical support, than the predator-induced range-abandonment hypothesis.



Tradeoff of vegetation condition on bighorn winter ranges in wet versus dry years, measured as difference between NDVI at low elevation (<2000 m) and NDVI at high elevation (>3000 m).



Composite locations showing Sierra Nevada bighorn habitat at Wheeler Ridge in A) drought years 2002–2004, 2007, and B) wet years 2005 and 2006.



Risk surface from active mountain lions, overlaid by locations where were active, and locations where bighorn sheep were killed or cached by mountain lions.

*The full study can be found through a web search for the open access journal: Villepique, J. T., B. M. Pierce, V. C. Bleich, A. Andic, and R. T. Bowyer. 2015. Resource selection by an endangered ungulate: A test of predator-induced range abandonment. *Advances in Ecology* 2015:Article ID 357080, doi:10.1155/2015 357080.

WILDLIFE WATER DEVELOPMENTS, PREDATORS, AND PREY: A BRIEF REVIEW

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

Several years ago Nova Simpson—at the time a graduate student at the University of Nevada Reno (UNR), Kelley Stewart—a professor at UNR—and I prepared a review of the literature related to wildlife water developments and the relationship of those developments to a number of ecological issues. In that review, we addressed several points, all of which are topics of interest to biologists, managers, and conservationists. A question that is often raised, and is especially prevalent among critics of wildlife water developments, revolves around the question of whether or not predators take advantage of prey species that use those developments. This notion has its origins in the heretofore unsubstantiated arguments that wildlife water developments serve as ecological traps because (1) potential prey are especially vulnerable while drinking, or (2) predators learn that prey concentrate around such developments. In this short piece, I have drawn extensively (and much of it is verbatim) on material published previously by Simpson et al. (2011) in their discussion of wildlife water developments and their influence on predator behavior. I have also included references to a number of more recent papers.

Water developments are used by a diverse array of species, including predators (Simpson et al. 2011), but do not appear to present a high risk of predation for animals that visit them (Krausman et al. 2006). Since most animals are attracted to surface water, water developments have been suggested to be “predation traps” or “predation sinks” where visiting animals are likely to be ambushed by predators due to an increase in localization in predators (Rosenstock et al. 1999, 2004; DeStefano et al. 2000). It has been argued (Broyles 1995) that interspecific relationships, such as predator-prey interactions, have gone largely unassessed at water catchments. Nevertheless, the literature does contain references to predation at water developments in the form of observations of individual predation events, inferences based upon predator use, or discoveries of prey remains (Ballard et al. 1998, Rosenstock et al. 1999). Predator observations and sign have been reported to be greater around water developments when compared to non-watered control sites (DeStefano et al. 2000, O’Brien et al. 2006), but Smith and Henry (1985) reported no difference in predator use at water developments and non-watered control plots. Regardless of predator visitations around water developments, little evidence exists to support the hypothesis that predator use of water developments leads to increased rates of

predation, and reports of increased predation around water developments appear to be largely unfounded (Rosenstock et al. 1999, 2004; DeStefano et al. 2000; O’Brien et al. 2006).

Instances of predators concentrating hunting activities around water sources in the United States have not been reported or are scarce in the literature. O’Brien et al. (2006) recorded more than 5,000 visits by mammalian predators to water sources they investigated, but reported little evidence (4 predation events by bobcats) to corroborate an increase in predation rates. Further, O’Brien et al. (2006) reported no avoidance of water sites by prey species because of predator visitations. DeStefano et al. (2000) documented predator sign at water sites with 7× greater occurrence than non-watered sites, but did not find evidence to support the claim that water developments increased predation rates. Thus, predators drink at surface sources when water is available, but they do not appear to use them as focal areas for hunting (DeStefano et al. 2000, O’Brien et al. 2006), and water developments do not represent a pivotal resource for coyotes (Kluever and Gese 2016). Moreover, visits by coyotes to water sources peak near midnight (Marsh and Barrett 2015), a period when visits by bighorn sheep or mule deer not expected. Although formal publication their results has not yet occurred, information provided by Longshore et al. (2014) indicates that water sources are not ecological traps and that bighorn sheep are not more vulnerable to mountain lions when visiting water sources. Although predation may occasionally occur at water sources, there is no evidence that predation at water developments influences population dynamics of either predator or prey species (DeStefano et al. 2000, O’Brien et al. 2006).

Although access to water may provide predictable locations for encountering prey, a successful predation event depends on a variety of factors including predator behavior, prey behavior (Bleich et al. 1997, Whiting et al. 2010), and the composition and cover of the vegetation community (Hopcraft et al. 2005, deBoer et al. 2010). Water developments can alter the surrounding landscape by increasing vegetation and hiding cover for predators if water seeps from



catchments or developments that modify natural springs (Cutler and Morrison 1998, Valeix et al. 2008). In fact, as vegetation increases near a water source large prey species modify their activity, herd size, and drinking frequency; behaviors that may be caused by a perceived risk of predation in dense vegetative cover around water sources (Valeix et al. 2008; deBoer et al. 2010). Small prey species are sensitive to distance to vegetative cover, which may be an indication of vulnerability to predation when in open areas (Valeix et al. 2008). Moreover, many species generally remain at water sources for only a few minutes (Lynn et al. 2006, Waddell et al. 2007); for example, bighorn sheep and mule deer generally remain at water sources less than 5 minutes (Rosenstock et al. 2004, Cain et al. 2007, Waddell et al. 2007).

Rosenstock et al. (2004) observed altered behaviors and time spent in the vicinity of wildlife water developments when they were dry. Bobcats were observed entering the tank connected to the empty trough and remained in the vicinity up to 15× longer than when water was present. Mule deer were observed licking the empty trough, foraging nearby, and bedding next to the trough for up to four hours at a time and remained in the vicinity up seven times longer than when water was present. An absence of dense vegetation near wildlife water developments and short visitation times when water is present suggests hunting efficiency of predators is not enhanced in the vicinity of those water sources, and that there may be few, if any, benefits associated with hunting near functional wildlife water developments (Hopcraft et al. 2005, Valeix et al. 2008). Although more research is needed to determine how vegetation

density around water sources affects the use of water sources by predator and potential prey (Simpson et al. 2011), all available evidence indicates that wildlife water developments in the Mojave or Sonoran deserts have no discernable effect on predator-prey dynamics.

—*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. He serves as an advisor to several nongovernmental organizations, and to the Bureau of Land Management as a member of the Montana-Dakotas Resource Advisory Council. In the interest of conserving space, the full citations of papers referred to in this article have not been included. Interested parties can, however, request the references by contacting Vern (vbleich@gmail.com) directly.*

“There is no half way. After his first exposure, a man is either a sheep hunter or he isn’t. He either falls under the spell of sheep hunting and sheep country or he won’t be caught dead on another sheep mountain.”

—*“The Bighorn,” March 1960*

CA WSF WANTS YOU – AS A MEMBER!

Are you a Californian? A transplant to or from? Do you hunt wild sheep? Or do you dream about hunting wild sheep? Do you want to help assure that wild sheep can thrive for future generations? Do you want to be part of a young, growing and making-a-difference organization?

If you answered yes to one or more of the above questions – please join CA WSF! If you are already a member and are able, upgrade to 3 year or better yet - Life Membership. The Desert Bighorn in CA are doing well and CA WSF is making a difference by raising funds, getting connected, working with CDFW, collaborating with SCBS, DBC, SCI, FDB and others to preserve and enhance Desert Bighorn populations in California. Something we are very proud of is the fact that when we started in 2002, California issued just 11 Desert Bighorn tags. We got to 24 before disease struck in 2014 when we dropped again to 11 – and we need to get back! Thanks to our support providing hours of flying time for surveys we are back to 14. The more surveys we can support, the higher the number of tags we can get!

Joining is easy – do it online at www.cawsf.org or call/fax Beverly Valdez at (650) 472-3889 or email forthesheep@gmail.com.

Already a member? Volunteer to help with the fundraiser, a water project or donate. It’s all important!

WATER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE DESERT

by Terry Anderson, SCBS Director

SCBS (Society of Conservation for Bighorn Sheep) discovered a total failure of the Kerr guzzler in the Old Dad/Kelso Mountains at the end of July. Over a four day period the repair along with water hauls was completed in 115-120 degree heat. Upon arrival the sheep were standing around the guzzler looking for water. They continued to watch the group complete the process over the four days and came to the water as soon as it started to flow.

The pictures show the importance of continuing to work with the CDFW and the National Parks Service to keep the water flowing on these aging systems. It is a priority to continue to watch over and upgrade the systems before they fail and the wildlife suffer from not having the resource available that they are accustomed to utilizing.

Currently we are working with federal agencies on

two environmental assessments (EA) to replace several systems. Several of the systems are over 30 years old and are failing, even with repairs.

Water hauling this summer has not been as intense as last summer. However, 16,000 gallons of water has been hauled throughout the summer. Additional water hauling will be needed if we do not receive the needed monsoon weather. We are thankful for all the volunteers that have stepped up to use their vehicles and share their time to keep the sheep watered.

Editor's note: SCBS and CA WSF work together to install new water systems. CA WSF provides funding for equipment and support while SCBS organizes the volunteers and oversees the work. CA WSF members are encouraged to join a work group when possible. Look for emails announcing a work time and plan to help when you can!



Kerr guzzler needs repair.



Old Dad-Kelso guzzler repair.



Sheep were waiting for water.



Guzzler repaired!



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Ultima Thule Outfitters is providing a fully guided 10 day Dall sheep hunt for one lucky winner! Alaska DFG is allowing us three special permits for the 2017 season! Will our home state of California offer us a special fundraising tag this year? Stay tuned! We won't know for another month. Watch your email and Facebook page for information.

Plus we will see the return of the Bob Swanson California bull tule elk hunt at auction! What a year we will have. Join us on May 6, 2017 in Sacramento! See page 18 for more details.

