

California Wild Sheep

Winter 2017



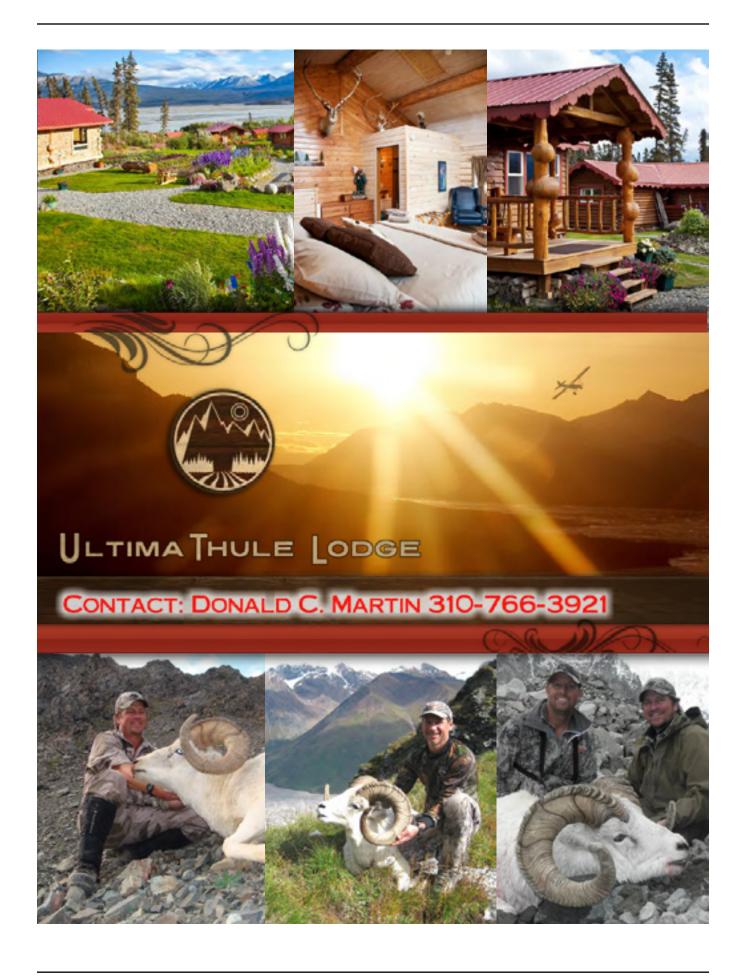
IN THIS ISSUE

From the Editor3
President's Message5
Two Women and a Desert Sheep In Mexico 8
White Mountains Desert Bighorn 9
Role of Harvest: Part II 11
Desert Bighorns Capture and Release13
WSF Affairs Committee Goes to Washington14
Photos from the Field17
Bison Hunt Story 24
Armenian Mouflon26

Jason Hairston

California Desert Ram, Orocopias 12 Years Old 190 6/8" "Goliath" A Possible NEW California Record Hunting with Jake Franklin,

Kika Worldwide Outfitters



From the Editor's Desk

I hope you enjoy this issue. It includes an exciting likely state record desert bighorn, some great hunting stories, more on our 2018 Fundraiser, fun humor, interesting desert insights from Carlos, science and CDFW articles, pictures, AND MORE! I hope you still have some hunting to do before the conventions and planning for the next season begins.

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 1Q18 issue is February 20.







"I've crunched the numbers in your retirement account. It's time to figure out: who will be wearing the mask and who will be driving the getaway car."

How to wash a cat

- 1. Put both lids of the toilet up and add 1/8 cup of pet shampoo to the water bowl...
- 2. Pick up the cat and soothe him while you carry him towards the bathroom.
- 3. In one smooth movement put the cat in the toilet and close the lid. You may need to stand on the lid.
- 4. At this point the cat will self-agitate and make ample suds. Never mind the noises that come from the toilet, the cat is actually enjoying this!
- 5. Flush the toilet three or four times. This provides a 'Power-Wash' and 'Rinse'.
- 6. Have someone open the front door of your home. Be sure that there are no people between the bathroom and the front door.
- 7. Stand well back, behind the toilet as far as you can, and quickly lift the lid.
- 8. The cat will rocket out of the toilet, streak through the bathroom, and run outside where he will dry himself off.
- 9. Both the toilet and the cat will be sparkling clean.

Yours sincerely,

The Dog

CA Wild Sheep Foundation reaches a new milestone with over 1,000 Facebook followers. Join the herd — visit us on <u>Facebook</u> and press that "Like" button!

Board of Directors

Officers

President

Darryl Williams (2018)

Northern California Vice President

Ken Crother (2019)

Southern California Vice President

George Kerr (2019)

Vice President, Operations

Mike J. Borel (2018)

Secretary

Don Priest (2018)

Treasurer

Adam Casagrande (2019)

Board of Directors

Ben Gordon (2018)	Dwight Ortmann (2018)
Robert Keagy (2019)	Don Priest (2018)
Jon Kruger (2018)	Craig Van Arsdale (2019)
Donald C. Martin (2019)	Darryl Williams (2018)
Shawn Wood (2018)	Aaron Armstrong (2018)
Andrew Ohanesian (2019)	Glen Pyne (2019)

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

2017						
December 6	Fish & Game Commission Meeting, San Diego					
December 8	Sheep Summit XXII in Ontario					
	2018					
January 18-20	WSF Convention Reno, Peppermill					
January 24-27	GSCO Convention Las Vegas, Westgate Resort					
Jan 31 - Feb 3	SCI Hunters Convention Las Vegas Convention Center and MGM Grand Hotel					
February 8-11	WHCE – Salt Lake City					
February 20	Due date for articles for 1Q2018 CAWSF Newsletter					

April 18-21	Desert Bighorn Council Mtg

St. George UT

May 4 Sheep Summit XXIII Sacramento, Doubletree

May 5 CA WSF Fundraiser/Banquet Sacramento, Doubletree

May 20 Due date for articles for 2Q2018 CAWSF Newsletter

June 1 Ballots out for Board of

Directors Election

June 24 Completed ballots due

President's Letter

Dear CA Wild Sheep Members and Friends:

As I sit down to write this President's Message we're finally starting to see some cooler weather here in Southern California. Growing up in Texas I always loved this time of year because it meant the beginning of deer hunting season. Family hunting trips with my uncle and cousins, time spent enjoying the outdoors, and big family meals at Thanksgiving and Christmas were things I looked forward to all year. But here in California most big game hunting is over for the year, almost all sheep hunting is complete for the year, and elk and mule



deer hunters here in the west are running out of time to fill their tags. I hope all of you had an opportunity to 'get out there' and enjoy the great gift of the outdoors and the ability to hunt and fish that we are so blessed to have here in the United States.

As another year draws to a close CA WSF can be proud of what we've accomplished in 2017. We had a fantastic banquet with more than 225 attendees raising over \$130,000 for the benefit of California's wild sheep. Our Banquet Committee, led by Don Martin and Ken Crother, is planning another outstanding event for 2018. Its not too late to volunteer to help with the planning, donate something to the live or silent auctions, or ask your guide or outfitter for a donation. Don and his team have put together another great set of raffles including a Gunwerks rifle and an Alaska Dall's Sheep hunt courtesy of Don and Ultima Thule Outfitters. We've received a number of exciting donations, and have been selected to auction some great special permits, including both Oregon and Alaska mountain goat permits, that are sure to raise the excitement in the room and much needed funds for our sheep. I encourage you to attend and bring a few friends...you won't be disappointed.

In addition to the work on our banquet, this year we kicked off the Give a Lamb a Drink campaign, led by Mike Borel and Glenn Sudmeier, which will be a game changer for our wild sheep populations (read more about GALAD on page 26); the Government Affairs Committee, led by Don Priest and Kyle Meintzer participated in two legislative 'fly-ins' to Washington D.C. to advocate for wild sheep and coordinated three 'sign on' letters with other California wildlife conservation groups supporting national bighorn management policy (Sen. Feinstein), firearms rights (Governor Brown), and sound forest management (Senator Harris); and the Communications Committee, led by Beverly Valdez, is working to improve the ways CAWSF communicates to bring our message to a broader group.

CAWSF continues to strengthen our relationship with the national Wild Sheep Foundation through our participation in the WSF Chapter and Affiliates network and the WSF Legislative Affairs Committee. Support to these two groups provides CAWSF access to a broad base of experience in banquet and fundraising strategies and we benefit directly from the support of WSF's lobbyist, Greg Schildwachter, to keep us informed about national policies that affect wild sheep populations and public access.

We've also been active in the field this year supporting water projects, aerial surveys, and capture/collaring activities. By the time you read this, CADFW will have completed capture work for the year and have had terrific results so far. Thanks to our members who were able to support this work. Along with our good friends at Society for Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, volunteers will have also completed the first of the next four water development installations at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center 29 Palms.

As you can see, it's been an exciting year for CAWSF and we're on track for an even more exciting 2018!

Yours in conservation,

Darryl Williams

CA WSF 2018 – PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!

by Donald C. Martin Fundraising Committee Co-Chair



I just returned from a drinker installation project in the Southern California desert. It was my first install of a drinker and I can't explain what an awesome sense of satisfaction it was to be a part of the "Lava" drinker project. It provided eye-opening insight into the amount of work it takes to complete one of those projects. I want to thank the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep (SCBS) and President, Steve Marschke, and Vice President, Glenn Sudmeier, for all their hard work and continued dedication to California's wildlife. It was great to see, in person, our CA WSF money being put to good use. For more information on upcoming drinker projects watch your email for updates from CA WSF or visit www. sheepsociety.com.

The future is bright for California desert bighorns and all we need to make it even brighter is the funding to complete the 89 additional drinker projects left to build in our "Give a Lamb a Drink" project.

Which brings us to our 2018 Banquet — it's never too early to start planning to attend! I had a first-time attendee just text me to inform me that he had already booked his hotel room! So start making plans now to attend. Save the date! May 5, 2018 is our next event. You do not want to miss it. Once again we will be having our fundraising dinner at the Doubletree by Hilton hotel at 2001 Point W. Way, Sacramento, CA 95815. That's the Arden exit off the 80 just across from Arden Fair Mall. I can already foresee some wives doing some Sunday morning shopping. Make your plans early. Our event is shaping up to be one of our best ones ever.

Big News! For the first time ever, the state of Oregon has awarded the 2018 Governor's fundraising tag for rocky mountain goat to a non-Oregon non-profit. Thanks to hard work of Jon Kruger, we, CA Wild Sheep Foundation, have been awarded this rare opportunity. This places a huge amount of responsibility on us. All of you need to inform your

2016 CA WSF random drawing winner Paul Schultheis with his 2017 Dall's sheep taken with Ultima Thule Outfitters and Donald C. Martin

friends that we have this permit to hunt in Oregon for mountain goat. Last year this permit sold at the Oregon FNAWS dinner for \$37,000. Rumor is the winning bidder took a Boone and Crockett goat over 50" but another rumor is that one of the draw tag hunters took a goat over 54" this year. Oregon is a sleeper state for big mountain goats and how often do you get an opportunity to hunt goats that you can drive to? Tell your friends with deep pockets about this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. What better way is there to support both OR mountain goats and CA desert bighorns at the same time!

With the inclusion of this incredible Oregon mountain goat permit, our fundraising board is considering a random drawing for the Alaska Unit 14C Bird Creek Mountain Goat permit. If I can put together a guide/outfitter for this hunt, it would be a turn-key mountain goat opportunity for a nonresident, and a resident would have the option to hunt unguided. This would be a tremendous opportunity to hunt mountain goat in Alaska in a unit that awards only 5 permits through the public draw. I'm still in the midst of herding those cats and if I can get them wrangled into position, raffle tickets would potentially go on sale at the 2018 Sheep Show in Reno Nevada, January 18-20, so plan to attend. If I fail to secure the services of a guide, this permit will end up in our live auction. I will keep you updated.

Our grand prize random drawing item will again be an epic adventure as you join me for 2019 10-day guided Dalls sheep hunt with Ultima Thule Outfitters in Alaska's world famous Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve. I will personally guide you. Come to our event and talk with 2016 winner, Paul Schultheis about his adventure. YOU MUST BE IN THE ROOM TO WIN IT! Do not miss our dinner.

We are working hard to provide other sheep hunting opportunities, but as of this issue, I can only report that we are fortunate to once again have the 2018 Alaska Delta Junction Controlled Use Area (CUA) Permit. This is one of the most sought after permits in Alaska. The first half of the season, the unit is "walk in only." The second half of the season, it is open to the use of aircraft. This permit is good for both, and is good for both residents and non-residents. Currently I do not have a guide arranged for this hunt, but I will continue to work on it so this opportunity is turn-key for non-residents.

New developments on the rifle front! We are currently working to secure another Gunwerks custom rifle for a special random drawing. That is a work in progress and once we have it secured and I have the specs, we will move forward aggressively on marketing it and start to sell random drawing tickets at the 2018 WSF National Convention. In addition, at last Spring's WSF Chapter and Affiliate meeting in Polson, Montana, I spoke with WSF CEO Gray Thornton and committed to another Kimber Rifle Package for our event. More details on that as well as our line-up of firearms for the 2018 general raffle will be available in our next issue. But keep in mind there will still be a few surprises! You'll have to attend to find out what they are.

Our live auction is continuing to develop, as Don Priest and all your CA WSF Directors are working on your behalf to secure the best opportunities possible for next year's dinner. We have local hunts, U.S. hunts and International hunts. In addition, we'll have a variety of fishing trips, family vacation opportunities, wildlife art, and other special items and opportunities.

Thanks to the continued dedication of Craig Van Arsdale and the rest of your CA WSF Directors, we'll once again be focusing on quality in our silent auction. It's what sets us apart from other wildlife conservation dinners. It's what we're known for and it's what we're working hard to continue.

Shawn Wood and friends are working hard to provide unique and special items for our card raffles once again, while Beverly Valdez and Roger McCosker will again be handling our now very popular "cake auction." How often do you get to buy a cake and have a chance to win a gun? ...only at our dinner, so don't miss it!

Make plans now! May 5, 2018 at the Doubletree by Hilton in Sacramento! Come and see old friends and make some new ones. See why our dinner is the best wildlife conservation party in California. Take a moment to introduce yourselves to the Directors and thank them for their efforts "Putting and Keeping Sheep on the Mountain" and give us an opportunity to thank all of you that make it possible. I'll see you there!

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.

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

\$100 / 1 ticket Only 500 Tickets Sold!

Send or Fax form to:

CA WSF

1314 Center Drive B #267, Medford, OR 97501

Fax: (650) 472-3889 Email: cawsf@cawsf.org

Ticket orders must be received by APRIL 20, 2018 See more details at www.cawsf.org

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 5, 2018 to win

CheckVisaMasterC	CardDiscoverAmEx CCV	No tickets sent to purchaser; we
#	Exp. Date	
Signature:		you. A receipt and ticket numbers will
Name (Please Print):		be sent to the provided email ad dress or via mail when a SASE is
Address:	Zip:	enclosed with your order.
Phone:	Fmail:	

TWO WOMEN AND A DESERT SHEEP IN MEXICO - WHAT A HUNT!

by Debi Ramsey Casey



Charlene Winkler drew the lucky tag in the "One More for Four" fully donated by La Palmas Outfitters Mexico at WSF 2016 Convention and Conference.

Charlene harvested this beautiful ram on the second day of hunting, a B&C 174 7/8. The hunt accommodated 2 extra guests. I was asked if I wanted to go the night Charlene's name was drawn. (Mike and I sponsored the One More for Four the year Charlene was drawn). I at first declined then had a change of heart when Ralph passed away.

Really glad I went.

What an absolute wonderful habitat for the animals on the property they take so well care of. Beautiful sheep. Nice decent bucks. A few so-so elk and herds of antelope, still endangered in Mexico, that are healthy on the land. They will eventually relocate some of these animal into areas of Mexico that have been endangered for years. This ranch is an effort we all took part in as members of WSF. The relocation of sheep into this area shows the fruits of labor of dedication to the Preservation of Wild Sheep. Very successful in terms of big healthy herds. We saw approximately 19 rams, some takers for some. This guy was too good to pass. Good stalk, good shot.

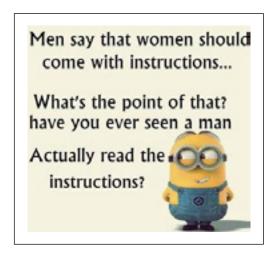


It was the first time they had two women hunters together. I was in my element — I love sheep hunting —I don't care where! Even if I am shooting a 35mm. this time.

Debi Ramsey-Casey GS #867 Women Slammer #29. Charlene Winkler GS #1967 Women Slammer #63. Charlene completed her Slam on this hunt.

We had a great hunt. And it was platinum service all the way — 4 star accommodations (our own casitas) and meals. If I could I would take my guys there in a heartbeat. But....they will just have to keep hoping to get drawn at the Life Breakfast WSF 2018. Mike needs a Desert and Bighorn. Guy is still a <1 member.

Stay Safe, Happy Trails to you..... Debi Ramsey-Casey



WHITE MOUNTAINS DESERT BIGHORN

by Chris Castello

The first Big Horn tag in 114 years, tag #001 was purchased July 1987 for \$70,000 when I was just 19 years old and the first year I could put in for the draw. Once in the 1990's I was drawn as an alternate but persistence pays off and now 30 years later after faithfully putting in for the draw I finally got drawn for a tag. I couldn't believe my eyes when I read that I had been drawn and of course I had to tell all of my hunting buddies (enthusiasts) and they all wanted to know what my plans were so they could vie for tagging along as my Sherpa. But I had my group of hunters (Jess and Sean Rasmussen) that have been hunting with me since my twenties and are the best big game spotters I know. Plus, they are great with my daughters that are hunters too. Last year my middle daughter drew a tag in Round Valley and I was out of town so they drove her down and I met them and we all had a great time getting her a buck.

Sean was on the injured list when I got my tag but I asked him first anyway cause that's what friends do so when he bowed out I asked Jess, Sean's brother. Once the people got sorted out then the fun began, find a guide, track down all my gear and start exercising. I'm in good shape but we'll be hunting at altitude so I needed to up my cardio. Next I had to get people to feed my cows while I was gone and make sure all my critters where taken care of. With business all squared away I could now focus on getting a guide, several phone calls later that was settled too. Kika Worldwide Outfitters, Jake Franklin was the only outfitter that provided a guided hunt horseback, easy choice for me since I've been riding all my life and have done guided horseback hunts in the past.

Two weeks before our hunt it just so happens that our guide Jake was headed to Sacramento for a mandatory orientation class so we met at Bass Pro in Manteca and I dropped off some of our gear for the trip. On August 17th Jake went scouting and texted me that the gear was on the mountain and he saw 45 rams with two good ones. Now I'm getting excited and so is my buddy Jess. I can't tell you how many calls and text messages Jess and I sent to one another but needless to say we were pumped about our trip.

Wednesday August 24th at 4am Jess and I headed out from Tracy to Bishop CA, with our expected arrival at 10am then reality set in and we got hung up in road construction traffic. But not even that could dampen our spirits and we arrived at 11am in Bishop. Upon our arrival we met with our guide Jake and the wildlife biologist to have our mandatory orientation. After class and lunch we headed up the mountain with Jake, Josh Schulgen and Geoff Rowley from Kika Worldwide to our camp or so we thought. It was made known



to us that Josh and Geoff had never ridden a horse before. Josh was sent ahead on foot while we tended to Geoff as he proceeded to fall off his mount (bought some real estate). Lucky for Geoff he fell off the rump of the horse onto his backpack so he had a "soft" landing. It was probably a good thing Josh went ahead he beat us to camp by 2 hours and spotted several rams behind our camp, which meant we could sleep in the next morning. Riding out early could spook some of the rams Josh had spotted.

Whether it was the excitement of the hunt or the lack of oxygen at 11,800 ft elevation I had a restless sleep that night. Once we were up, we had a hearty breakfast of coffee and oatmeal and off to go hunt some sheep. Using some spotting scopes from camp the first nice one we spotted was unfortunately broomed off on one side so we kept on looking. On a different mountain south of camp about a mile or so away we spotted the one I would end up shooting. Now off to saddle up and hopefully get to the rams without trouble. We strategically placed one of our guides North while we snuck around the herd. Unfortunately for us they grazed down into a valley so we had some lunch to see if they would come back out, but no, so we had to get closer without them catching our scent. On our way over we crossed paths with some bow hunters hunting deer. Per hunter etiquette we asked if we could hunt through and they realizing it was a once in a lifetime hunt gladly allowed us to hunt through. However, this must have been my lucky day that the rams were out of sight because on our way over it was Josh's turn to fall off his horse in the creek. Luckily both Josh and Geoff were good sports about all the ribbing over their horsemanship skills. When we got about 500 yds above the rams and everyone was in agreement that

there was one worthy of my tag, plans were made for a stalk. Jess and Josh stayed at the 500 yd vantage point while Jake and I circled around and came across at their level when we peeked across they were only 165 vds away. Of course we needed to wait for them to sort themselves out, get in a good orientation and good separation from the herd before I could take my shot. That separation from the herd part was the challenge and Jake was adamite that I could only shoot one, Fish and Game would frown on "accidently" shooting two. I must have taken the safety on and off of my gun 3 or 4 times before I got my opportunity to shoot. Jake wasn't excited with the quartering shot but he said he would be okay with it and BANG! I pulled the trigger and down went my first and only Desert Bighorn. From 500 yds away all I heard was Jess and Josh's whoops and hollers. From down below the two deer hunters who had been watching got in on the celebration. I've never had soooo many eyes watching me shoot... fortunately I didn't get nervous and miss.

After all the celebration it was time for the photo ops. While we were waiting for the rest of the crew to get to us, Jake and I noticed a horse wandering the ridge riderless headed back towards camp. Turns out one got loose and Josh had to walk to us while leading one horse and trying to catch the other. Geoff filled with excitement made it to us before the other two did. After all the pictures were taken, we packed up the ram and headed back to camp for our celebratory dinner of fresh sheep meat cooked on a rock, which tasted quite good. The next morning we broke camp and headed back, the hardest part of heading back was packing out the eight days' worth of food. We had planned for a 10 day hunt but gotter' done in two.

My thanks to Jake, Geoff and Josh of Kika Guides & Outfitters for my once in a lifetime ram and Jess for sharing in a once lifetime adventure. Fish & Wildlife aged the ram at 10 years old and scored 171.



Plan to join CA WSF in our booth for a totally refreshing beverage **during Floor**Credit drawings while you listen for YOUR NAME as a winner!

You'll be able to hear the announcement and get there quickly from our booth!

Have time at the Sheep Show? Sign up to be in the booth and help promote CA WSF and our game-changing Give A Lamb A Drink program! Contact Beverly at forthesheep@gmail.com or Click here!

Don't Miss the



PROGRESS TOWARD EVALUATING THE ROLE OF HARVEST, DEMOGRAPHY, AND CHANGING ENVIRONMENTS ON HORN SIZE OF MOUNTAIN SHEEP: PART II

By Tayler N. LaSharr, Kevin L. Monteith, and Vernon C. Bleich

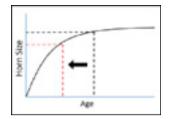


This is the second in a series of articles summarizing progress toward a better understanding of the relationships between hunter harvest and horn size in North American wild sheep. Using long-term data for four subspecies of mountain sheep (Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, desert bighorn

sheep, Stone's sheep, and Dall's sheep) from across western North America, we are in the process of testing three hypotheses potentially explaining how hunter harvest and other factors influence the size of mountain sheep horns through time. We have termed these the Demographic Shift Hypothesis, the Selective Harvest Hypothesis, and the Environmental Effects Hypothesis.

Let us again be reminded that mountain sheep represent an ideal taxon to test the question of how selective harvest influences horn size for two reasons. First, the presence of horn annuli allows biologists to estimate the age of mountain sheep with a high level of confidence. These age data are critically important for assessing changes in the age structure of a population, which can result in population-level changes in horn size through time, and that may mimic trends caused by selective harvest. Second, harvest of mountain sheep is highly regulated, and harvested individuals must be checked in to state or provincial wildlife agencies. In many areas, biologists and managers have collected horn measurements and age data from wild sheep for decades. These records represent one of the few sources of empirical data that are currently available for testing the question of selective harvest at the time scale at which evolutionary processes occur in a long-lived species. In this issue of California Wild Sheep, we describe the Demographic Shift Hypothesis, the Selective Harvest Hypothesis, and the Environmental Effects Hypothesis in some detail. We will provide insight into our initial results in a subsequent article.

The Demographic Shift Hypothesis predicts that the intensive removal of males in a population will result in a shift, through time, in the overall age structure of a population. Young males will become more common in the population, and the mean age of harvested males will decrease through time. Concomitant with



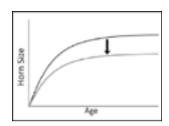


Figure 1

Figure 2

this change in age structure, average horn size of the population will decline (Figure 1). The shift in horn size of the population will occur solely because of the younger average age of harvested animals, and the mean horn size of individuals within age classes will change through time.

The Selective Harvest Hypothesis predicts that hunter harvest of fast-growing and large-horned males will favor persistence of males with slow-growing and small horns in a population. Over time, horn size relative to age class will become smaller because individuals with large horns or fast-growing horns are removed from the population as they reach legal requirements (Figure 2).

The Environmental Effects Hypothesis predicts that environmental conditions during different stages of life will influence horn size of males (Figure 3). Forage availability, precipitation, and winter severity all influence the nutritional condition of an animal. Males that experience poor nutritional conditions, possibly resulting from low precipitation, low forage availability, or high winter severity will have smaller horns than males of the same age that experience better nutritional condition.

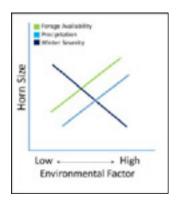


Figure 3

—Tayler LaSharr is a graduate student working under the direction of Kevin Monteith. In the fall of 2015, she began this project, which focuses on understanding the effects of harvest on horn size of mountain sheep, identifying the relevancy and use of trophy record books to assess biological trends, and understanding the influence of nutrition and the environment on annual growth of horns in North American wild sheep. Kevin Monteith is an Assistant Professor at the University of Wyoming, where his research program is centered on establishing protocols for habitat-based, sustainable management of ungulate populations while investigating the effects of predation, habitat alteration, climate change, migration tactics, and novel disturbance through the lens of nutrition. Vern Bleich retired from the California Department of Fish and Game in 2007, is Research Professor at the University of Nevada Reno and remains active in wildlife research and conservation. Additional project collaborators

are Ryan Long (University of Idaho), Jim Heffelfinger (Arizona Game and Fish Department), Paul Krausman (University of Arizona), Justin Shannon (Utah Division of Wildlife Resources), and Terry Bowyer (University of Alaska Fairbanks). This project is a cooperative effort that would not be possible without the support of biologists and managers throughout the West, data contributed by the Boone and Crockett Club, Pope and Young Club, and Safari Club International, and financial support from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, California Wild Sheep Foundation, the National Wild Sheep Foundation, Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation, Alberta Wild Sheep Foundation, Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition, Iowa Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, Utah Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, and the Pope and Young Club.

FOUND -THE "MOST NEARLY IDEAL" TREKKING POLE/HIKING STAFF YET

By Mike J. Borel

I've appreciated the value of a hiking staff for a long time – and particularly appreciate finding a good wood staff on-site. Unfortunately, one should never count on that (same as a quality rifle to borrow – that's another story). I saw, what is now my latest acquisition, in an ibex camp being used by John Thodus, President of Shikar-Safari Club Foundation from Chicago. It's very strong, feels and works like it has no joints, yet folds to only one foot long! EASY to pack.

Check out my evolution:

- 1. Leki with 1 joint way too long to pack and not particularly strong
- 2. Leki with 3 joints packable, but even less strong than the 1 joint model. I bent one in half in the Yukon last year.
- 3. Wood staff with a robust screw connector in the middle reasonably packable, but requires a long duffel to do it. I like/liked this one a lot, but wished it was more packable.
- 4. My latest the Micro Vario Carbon model Leki. It is strong enough to use in side hilling, yet packs small, and is light. It costs 2X the standard Lekis, but it's worth it to me.

It's now among my favorite gear. I have some others, perhaps I'll share more in future articles.







WHITE MOUNTAIN DESERT BIGHORNS CAPTURE AND RELEASE

By Don Priest

Each year the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CA DFW) performs a capturing of Bighorn Sheep in order to learn more about the species and to further the management of wild sheep. During the capture collars are placed on the middle aged to older sheep in order to learn more about their behavior, movements and should a sheep pass to learn the causes of mortality. In addition, blood is drawn from each animal for both genetic research and disease management. Lastly many measurements and the weight of the sheep are taken and recorded prior to the sheep being returned for release exactly to where they were found for temporary capture.

The Department worked in a nearly a dozen mountain ranges this year, from the high Sierra to some of the state's most southern mountains. In the Sierra they studied and captured the aptly named Sierra Nevada Bighorn, one of the two Bighorn Sheep species found in the state, and only in California can you find the Sierra Nevada Bighorn. From there it was south to a number of desert mountains which started with the Sespe Mountains north of Los Angeles, then to the Peninsular ranges which hold a special Desert Bighorn Sheep of concern - the Peninsular Desert Bighorn. Next it was off to two areas with Desert Bighorn Sheep with a week spent in the mountains of the Mojave Desert, and finally wrapping up in the White Mountains just east of Bishop, California for five days.

The White Mountain's is where I had the wonderful opportunity to join the CA DFW team to assist with their work. As these efforts are within Region 6 of the CA DFW the capture was led by





Desert Bighorn Sheep Biologist Paige Prentice, stationed in Bishop, CA and Tom Stephenson of the CA DFW Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Recovery Program and Northern Region 6 Wildlife Supervisor. Along with Paige and Tom were a number of Biologists, Scientific Aides and others from the Bishop office. This work also couldn't get done without the biologist team from Rancho Cordova. This team joins in the capture work, collecting all the blood samples and returns them to their offices for analysis providing biologists and geneticists with invaluable information.

The CA DFW utilizes a professional helicopter team for the capture work. This team works with California and a multitude of other western states for wildlife capture. They're so experienced that they can process wild animals in the field at the point of capture or bring them to a base camp for processing before returning the sheep back to the mountains. It was a pleasure to meet this professional team, watch their work as well as the pilots amazing and agile flying abilities.

I was able to help out with a few sheep including a couple rams. My job assisted in helping with the security and comfort of the animals during their short temporary handling. Was a terrific learning experience to watch the seasoned biologists gently work with the animals to secure a plethora of valuable information on each one, draw blood and attach monitoring collars.

One day of work in the White Mountains was abated due to concern and to deal with a few domestic sheep that had abandoned a flock. The North Coso range, about an hour's drive south of the White Mountains, is being re-inhabited by Desert Bighorn Sheep that have naturally moved into that area from what biologists believe are existing herds in mountain ranges to the east and south. This is very exciting to see wild sheep return to native lands. However, domestic sheep have used many of these areas for well over a century. These old world domestic sheep are one of the greatest, if not the greatest, threat to wild sheep due to their carrying deadly bacterial diseases. Our day south of the White Mountains was to find and hopefully secure these domestic sheep in order that they do not come in direct contact with our native Bighorn wild sheep.

Congrats to Paige and the team for a successful five days of working with our White Mountain Desert Bighorn Sheep capture. The program was a terrific success and the CA DFW team should be commended for all their hard work.

WSF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE GOES TO WASHINGTON

By Kyle Meintzer



In the second week in September, the Wild Sheep Foundation's Legislative Affairs Committee went back to the nation's capitol yet again to lobby on behalf of wild mountain sheep.

Of the four times we've done this since 2015, I consider this trip to be by far the most successful.

Eight WSF representatives attended on your behalf. Four were veterans of this effort and four were new to the process.

The veterans were WSF CEO and President Gray Thornton, (twice), WSF director Jim Wilson, (twice), Rocky Mountain Bighorn Society Executive Director Terry Meyers, (twice), along with myself, (four times).

The newbies were WSF director Larry Jacobs, retired USFS 'Full Curl' sheep program Supervisor Melanie Woolever, retired NDOW Commissioner and biologist Jim Jeffress and past WSF Board Chair and Arizona Commission Chair, John Harris. The extensive history the newbies had professionally in dealing with wild sheep and federal agencies in particular was invaluable. It's hard to overstate the value they added to this trip.

We had a very aggressive schedule, thanks to our Legislative Affairs advisor, Greg Schildwacter. Meetings with thirteen Senators and/or their staffs, all of whom represented 'sheep states' were on the agenda, in addition to meetings with three Congressmen, two of which represented 'sheep states.'

All the Members we met with were selected because they sat on the Dept. of Interior Appropriations Committees for their particular legislative branches. In addition, we also met with Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke's staff, three key BLM staffers as well as the Chief of the USFS and his staff.

Due to the intensive schedule, we split into two groups based on our individual expertise and home states.

Our agenda and 'asks' included the following:

- 1. Support for including strong language from the Senate and House's Dept. of Interior's Appropriations Committees directing the Forest Service and BLM to continue our initiative to identify high risk of contact domestic sheep grazing allotments as well as potential alternative grazing allotments.
- 2 Asking the various Members to advocate for such language in their Appropriations Committee meetings.
- 3. Asking the Members to sign a 'Member Support Letter' re. the above and to solicit other Members to do the same.
- 4. Asking for their support for either closing the domestic Sheep Research Station in Dubois, ID or at least changing its' mission.

In my observation, we largely succeeded, sometimes beyond expectations on the first three items and at least moved the ball in our favor on the fourth item.

When you make an 'ask' to a Senator or Congressman and they not only say, "I'm all in" but then turn to a staffer and direct them to, "Get this done," you've hit a home run.

We also had solid support from both sides of the aisle, which was very encouraging. After all, wild sheep don't care which party you support, nor how you vote!

To our great surprise and pleasure, just two days later, Secretary Zinke issued an Executive Order requiring Department of the Interior personnel to work with their state agencies, Tribal agencies and their NGO partners to grant access on federal lands not just for sportsmen, but more importantly for state, Tribal and their NGO partners to ensure access to manage wildlife on federal lands would be ensured.

This is an issue which has been a high priority for the WSF LAC, so it's great to see Sec. Zinke take this step!

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

by Bill Gaines Gaines & Associates Government Relations

The California State Legislature completed their 2017 Session – the first year of the two-year 2017/2018 Session – on September 15th, with some bills of interest and concern passing on to the Governor's desk, some failing, while further consideration of others was pushed back to 2018. Governor Jerry Brown had until October 15th, to act on bills placed on his desk by the Legislature. Below is a recap of the final fate of two bills of importance to the California Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation and others in the wildlife conservation community.

AB 7 (GIPSON) - OPEN CARRY OF LONG GUNS:

Current law prohibits, with some exceptions, openly carrying a handgun or a long gun outside a vehicle while in a public place or on a public street of an "incorporated" city or city and county, or while in an "prohibited area" where it is unlawful to discharge a firearm. As amended in September, AB 7 – legislation by Assembly Member Mike Gipson (D/64-Carson) – would extend that law to also make it illegal to carry an unloaded long gun in a public place or on a public street within a "prohibited area" located within the "unincorporated area" of a county.

AB 1527 (Portantino), which passed in 2012, banned openly carrying long guns in incorporated areas – but the legislation did not include unincorporated areas because it was known that people were more likely to be carrying long guns in those areas for hunting, shooting or ranching purposes. Proponents of AB 7 argued there are areas within urban areas which are unincorporated – including large unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County that are surrounded by incorporated areas. The intent of AB 7 was to also ban long guns in these areas, referred to as "doughnut holes".

AB 7 passed through the Assembly early this year by party-line vote, and off the Assembly Floor in April. The bill then passed through the Senate, and off the Senate Floor to the Governor's desk for his consideration in early September.

In late September, CA WSF joined with 13 other wildlife conservation groups in a letter to Governor Brown urging him to veto AB 7. Among other things, the request for veto pointed out that California already has some of the most severe laws in the nation regarding the ownership and possession of

firearms; and that the additional restrictions proposed by AB 7 were not only unnecessary, but they would only impact law-abiding hunters and shooters – not the criminals or the gun violence the bill proposes to target. The letter further argued that – although



those with a valid hunting license would receive some exemptions – under the provisions of AB 7, a hunter or shooter could be committing a serious crime simply by carrying his or her unloaded rifle or shotgun to the gunsmith or on their way to a sporting goods store – should they unknowingly pass through a prohibited area.

Regardless of the efforts of CA WSF and our allies to secure a veto of the bill, Governor Brown signed AB 7 into law on October 13th. In his signing message, the Governor stated that AB 7 "does not in any way alter the dozens of current provisions of law that allow gun-owners to openly carry long guns in common everyday situations." The Governor did not provide any more specificity.

SB 464 (HILL) - FIREARMS DEALERS:

Storage and Security: Existing law requires firearms dealers to store all inventory firearms at a licensed location when not open for business, and for each firearm to be secured by: a) storing the firearm in a secure facility that is all or part of the firearms dealer's business premises; b) securing the firearm with a steel rod or cable with specified features; or c) storing the firearm in a locked fireproof safe or vault in the business premises. As amended in July, SB 464 – legislation by Senator Jerry Hill (D/13-San Mateo) – would require dealers who sell firearms at a street level location, and who secure firearms at their location with the steel rod or cable method. to install concrete or hardened steel bollards or other devices with a similar structural integrity to protect the location's front entrance, any floor-toceiling windows, and any other doors that could be breached by a vehicle. If a safe or vault method is used, SB 464 would require the safe to meet specified safety standards established by the Attorney General. The bill would also authorize the dealer to secure the firearms by storing them in a shatter-proof display case, in a windowless room without a door accessing the outside of the building, or by use of a steel roll-down door or security gate or in a locked gun rack. Finally, the bill would also require the dealer to install steel roll-down doors on perimeter doors and floor-to-ceiling windows, if the other securing methods described above are not used.

SB 464 passed through Senate Committees earlier this year and off the Senate Floor in late May on partyline votes. On the Assembly side, SB 464 again passed through on party-line votes – clearing the Assembly Floor in late August. After a quick trip back to the Senate to concur with Assembly amendments, the bill was on its way to the Governor's desk.

In late September, CA WSF again joined with 13 other wildlife conservation groups in a letter to Governor Brown urging him to veto SB 464. The request for veto argued that California law already requires firearms dealers to store their inventory in a "secure facility" which, as defined, includes

numerous security precautions – all of which must be satisfied. Further the letter stated that SB 464 would impose additional security requirements costing tens of thousands of dollars on most firearms dealers, and although larger firearms dealers may be able to absorb these costs, SB 464 would have a devastating financial impact on most smaller dealers – driving many of them out of business.

On October 13th, Governor Jerry Brown vetoed SB 464. In his veto message, the Governor noted that state law already requires that firearms dealers enact security measures to avoid theft. He stated that local jurisdictions can – and have – gone further by adding specific requirements, and that local authorities are in the best position to determine what additional security measures may be needed in their jurisdiction.

Lawmakers will reconvene for the second year of the 2017/2018 Legislative Session on Wednesday, January 3, 2018.

THE WAY OF THINGS

by Carlos Gallinger, www.thewayofthings.org

Desert bighorn sheep come in a variety of colors yet all of them show this pattern we see in this picture, and that is a white rear end highlighted with dark colors and the white patch the front of their nose also highlighted in black. The white rear end is common to many animal such as the white tailed deer the cottontail rabbit and the zebra tell lizard. Having watched sheep and guided hunts I can tell you that this is a signaling system, and sometimes works to a predators advantage. But I have also seen it work to their advantage. The use of modern optics allows one to over power the advantages the sheep derive from this system. This color scheme allows the sensory perception of an individual animal gains through vision sense of smell and hearing to be transmitted to other individuals such that a herd of sheep has both an individual and collective presence and awareness in their environment. If one sheep becomes aware of a source of danger very soon all of them will be aware of it. If one sheep is at a distance from the others but has a sense of safety and calmness about its movement and postures others may join it. This phenomena is a fascinating and complex part of sheet behavior that has affected the way they look and how they survive.



PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Brent Fassett 13 Year Old Stone Ram September 2017



Craig VanArsdale Greenland Muskox September 2017



Drew Herma Hangai Argali, Mongolia Hunting with Caprinae Safaris



Chris Castello White Mountains Desert Ram Hunting with Jake Franklin, Kika Worldwide Outdoors

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Bob Keagy Armenian Mouflon November 2017 Hunting with Rowdy McBride



Cliff St Martin Mormon Mountain Wilderness (Nevada Unit 271) Desert Ram November 2017 10 Years Old, 174 2/8" Self-Guided





Family Hunting Hannah Crother along with her brother Caleb each got their first antelope in Wyoming this year with their dad Ken as guide.

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Jeff Peracchi
Tule Elk hunting with Donald C Martin
Largest and oldest of the herd
Hunt was auctioned at 2017 CA WSF Fundraiser



Beverly Valdez Alaska Bison Hunting with Ultima Thule Outfitters Jay Stanford and Don Martin



Mike Borel
Eating another tag
– this one for a Kri-Kri Ibex Sapienza Island, Greece



Jason Hairston with Kika Worldwide Outdoors team



CA WSF RIFLE DRAWING – GUNWERKS LR1000 COMPLETE



Elite long range rifle maker Gunwerks and the California Wild Sheep Foundation are proud to once again partner to make one lucky person a big winner in 2018, while fundraising to benefit California's wild sheep.

In their Second Annual endeavor, Gunwerks and CA Wild Sheep have partnered to donate a custom Gunwerks rifle, designed for hunting and target shooting, that rightly boasts 1,000 yard "out of the box" accuracy. The rifle will be awarded at a special drawing, giving ticket holders a better chance of winning the \$9,000 rifle than they have of drawing a California desert bighorn tag. Funds raised by the drawing will help turn the odds of drawing a Desert Bighorn tag around.

Last year's drawing was extremely popular, highlighted by the drawing at the 2017 CA Wild Sheep gala fundraiser.

This year's rifle is Gunwerks' LR 1000 chambered in the <u>new and very successful 28 Nosler</u> (one of Gunnwerk's most popular calibers) featuring a stainless action, fluted barrel with muzzle brake, graphite Cerakote metal finish, and camo finish carbon fiber stock. The 9.9 lb. rifle is topped with a Nightforce NXS 5.5-22X 50 MOAR scope with Zstop capped windage and a custom Gunwerks long range turret. As an added bonus, the rifle comes packaged in a tough custom case.

"As with any of our rifles, it will be ready to hunt right out of the box," said Aaron Davidson, Gunwerks founder and president. "While our rifles are easily capable of shooting accurately well over 1,000 yards, our focus is on one shot, ethical kills whether from 10 or 1,000 yards, in any conditions. Our customers can rely on the LR 1000 to do its job perfectly."

The lucky winner of this magnificent rifle will be drawn at CA Wild Sheep's annual gala and fundraiser at the Double Tree Hotel in Sacramento on May 5, 2018. **The winner need not be present to win**. If the winner cannot personally pick up the rifle in Sacramento following the FFL waiting period, he or she will be responsible for shipping from Sacramento to a local FFL dealer, and is responsible for any additional license or transfer charges.

Gunwerks has built a reputation as a leader in long range shooting and hunting since its beginning over 10 years ago. With an obsessive commitment to the science behind engineering and building the world's most accurate and consistent rifles, Gunwerks has cracked the code in creating a true out-of-the-box long range shooting system. Yet Gunwerks has remained true to its hunting roots. A walk through its facility in Cody, Wyoming reveals a true passion for the hunting and shooting sports and the intricacies of fine gunsmithing. The Gunwerks business model is simple. They hunt hard. They shoot and train all year. The spend months, not days, with one shot between success and failure. And they build some of the finest rifles on the planet.

In addition to custom long range rifles, Gunwerks also offers custom ammunition to complement their firearms, ballistic ranging equipment, and a number of courses on all aspects of long distance shooting. More information on Gunwerks and their LR 1000 can be found at www.gunwerks.com.

Tickets will be available soon through the CA Wild Sheep website at cawsf.org, where additional information about CA Wild Sheep's mission, the 2018 gala and fundraiser, and other information about wild sheep can be found. Tickets for the Gunwerks rifle will also be available at the fundraiser if they have not been previously sold out. Due the anticipated popularity of this drawing, it is anticipated that few, if any, tickets may be available on the night of the fundraiser, so early ticket purchases are strong recommended.

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 WSF 2018 Rifle Drawing — GUNWERKS LR1000 Complete



\$50 per ticket
Only 400 Tickets Sold!

Includes: LR1000 chambered in 28 Nosler; stainless action; Nightforce NXS 5.5-22X 50 MOAR scope with Zstop capped windage and a custom Gunwerks long range turret.

Send or Fax form to: CA WSF

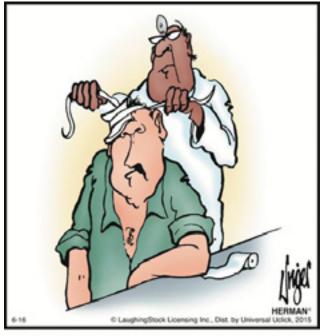
1314 Center Drive B #267, Medford, OR 97501

Fax: (650) 472-3889 Email: cawsf@cawsf.org

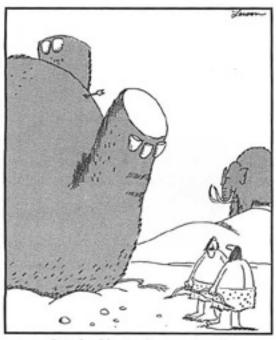
Ticket orders must be received by APRIL 20, 2018 See more details at www.cawsf.org

Need not be present May 5, 2018 to win

CheckVisaMasterC	ardDiscoverAmEx	No tickets sent to purchaser; we
#	Exp.	Date make out and submit tickets for
Signature:		you. A receipt and ticket numbers will
Name (Please Print):		be sent to the provided email address or via mail when a SASE is
Address:	Zip:	enclosed with your order.
Phone:	Email:	



"So I said to her, 'How about giving me something to remember you by?"



"We should write that spot down."

DFW UPDATE

by Kyle Meintzer

Inertia.

Unfortunately, that's the word that best describes the lack of progress on most of CA WSF's issues with the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Several times this year, we were promised that the final Sheep Plan would be on Director Bonham's desk by October 1st.

"Promised!" "Guaranteed!"

Unfortunately, that not only did not happen, it appears the 'final' version may not get to the Director for several more months.

If you're asking yourself, "Haven't I heard this somewhere before?" that's because you have. In fact, we've been hearing this over and over again for several years now. "It's almost done. Just a few more months!"

Then there's aerial surveys, which are so vitally important to determining sheep populations across the state. As you'll recall, CA WSF fought long and hard to get helicopters back in the air after the fatal crash in 2010 that took four lives. Finally, in 2015 a new helicopter survey contract was issued and approved, meaning surveys were conducted in 2015 and 2016. That two-year contract expired this past summer, but for some inexplicable reason, a request for proposals for a new contract was four-five months late in going out, resulting in no aerial surveys being conducted in 2017.

Multiple times this year, DFW agreed with us that they were not issuing nearly enough sheep tags in the draw and would work to remedy that. Well, as Gomer Pyle used to say, "Gollee! Surprise, surprise, suprise!" because it appears it's not going to happen for the 2018-2019 season as we'd been led to believe.

In addition, on multiple occasions this year, both CA WSF and our fellow NGOs on the Big Game Advisory Committee were told that all of the things we'd been promised by the Department would get done, despite a couple of important personnel changes.

Well, guess what? Surprise, surprise, surprise! Because as far as I can tell, almost none of those things have been done as of yet.

This includes getting a Charter drafted and approved for the BGAC, which was and remains a high priority item for both the DFW and the BGAC. Craig Stowers and I worked on numerous edits and revisions on the Charter before agreeing in late August that we finally had it right. Craig was then going to submit it to the DFW's executive team for approval before he retired at the end of September. So again, inertia.

Finally, before I get to some good news, on several occasions over the past two years the NGOs



on the BGAC were encouraged to submit proposals for very large, multi-year grants from the Big Game Management Account Reserve. As of this writing, at least two such proposals have been submitted, one of which is our proposal to build ninety new Big Game Drinkers in the CA desert. But it appears little if anything has been done on these requests, primarily because the Department needs to put together a formal process for such requests.

Yes, this stuff is frustrating. Very frustrating!

But there is some good news to report as well. Paige Prentice, DFW's dedicated bighorn sheep biologist in the desert has done several ground surveys this year and just completed a capture project in numerous mountain ranges, many of which are not currently hunt units. Earlier this week, Paige wrote to me as follows:

"It's certainly been a busy few weeks but it was all so worth it!!!

I'm ridiculously excited about some of these new areas we were able to capture in. It's going to be great to have a better understanding of the health, distribution, habitat use, and etc. of these new ranges."

So at least there's that!



ANNUAL FUNDRAISER FEATURING 2019 ALASKA DALL SHEEP HUNT

Alaska's Best! Wrangell-St Elias National Preserve
10 day 1x1 Guided Hunt • Ultima Thule Outfitters
\$100 per ticket — Only 500 tickets sold!

Fully outfitted 10 day hunt with *Ultima Thule Outfitters* and guide Donald C.
Martin.



LIVE AUCTION INCLUDING

Oregon Mountain Goat Tag! Alaska Unit 14C Bird Creek Mountain Goat! Alaska Delta Junction Controlled Use Area (CUA) Permit!

LOOK FOR US AT THE SHEEP SHOW

January 18-20, 2018 at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center Booth 875



May 5, 2018

DoubleTree by Hilton 2001 Point W. Way Sacramento, CA 95815

REGISTER OR PURCHASE TICKETS BY APRIL 21, 2018 DRAWING HELD MAY 5, 2018

WWW. CAWSF.ORG

AN EPIC ALASKA ADVENTURE

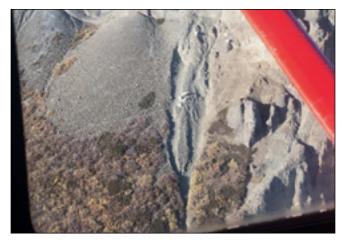
By Beverly Valdez

Flying in the Cessna 185 from McCarthy to the Ultima Thule Lodge I still can't believe my good luck — winning an exciting hunt in Alaska at the 2017 CA WSF fundraiser was beyond surprising. I had never even bought a ticket! Unbeknown to me, my partner John Ware bought tickets in my name. After I won I started dreaming of what this adventure would be like — I dreamed about it and planned it for the few short months I had leading up to this very minute.

Ultima Thule Outfitters (UTO) is very well known for Dall sheep hunting, especially among Wild Sheep Foundation members and partners. I can see why as I spot dozens of Dall sheep below us on what appears to be soft rolling pasture hillsides. [I know intuitively, and later confirm empirically, how steep and difficult these hillsides really are!] The sheep appear first as white dots along the horizon and then, as we get closer, the lambs, ewes, and rams begin to show their characteristics. The plane, flown skillfully by Paul Claus, a pioneer of Alaska bush piloting and owner of the beautiful Ultima Thule Lodge, curves in to get a better look at the sheep and my heart sings to see them!

But I am not here to hunt Dall sheep so that dream remains to come true. I am here to hunt one of the most massive animals on earth —North American free range bison! The hunt I won was the Governor's bison tag. Ultima Thule Lodge and UTO guide Jay Stanford donated the hunt outfitting, for which I am very grateful – I would never have been able to take the hunt without that assistance. In addition, CA WSF Director (and UTO guide himself) Don Martin was along. John, of course, had to come along even though he sprained his ankle badly just days before we arrived and hobbled most of the trip. I also want to thank **Zack Walton** — his blog (www. weekendbowhunter.com) had a posting of his very own bison hunt that gave me much information and pointed me to a great book (Steve Rinella's American Buffalo: In Search of a Lost Icon) which I read with both excitement and trepidation — stripping to cross a river? Not on my agenda!

We arrived at the Lodge after a day of driving about four hours and then that nice short plane trip where we were met by Ellie Claus, Paul's daughter, as she does all the visitors to the Lodge. This personal touch is something that permeates the Lodge in everything. It is a family-owned and run business and when you arrive you become one of the family. The Lodge is as beautiful and homey as the photos make it appear. Having oogled those photos for many years I was so happy to finally see them up close! We would only spend one night at the lodge before being flown out to our camp in the wilderness but going back for a



Sheep on the mountains as we are flying to the Lodge

wilderness retreat is high on my bucket list!

That afternoon we did some shooting to make sure I could actually hit a bison — after a couple of adjustments on the Nikon scope, I was in the zone with the .375 and Jay, Don, and I all felt like I could take a good shot. This rifle and scope was one that John bought at an estate sale some years before but we had never needed to use it until this hunt. I had done some practice with it during the summer but not really lugged it around much or had it in any kind of weather.

The next day we flew about 20 miles into the Chitina River valley, in the Ultima Thule Super Cub planes. Smaller and lighter, these planes can land on almost anything — they fly with only one passenger and the pilot. Since there is a state law prohibiting hunting on the same day as flying (maintaining a no-advantage for humans ethic), we spent the afternoon finishing preparation of the camp and getting our gear ready.

On the first day of hunting we were able to see a big herd and we did a lot of sneaking up on them, heading out across the valley and then back in towards them. We got close enough that I actually was on the tripod and about ready to shoot when the herd started moving. First it was one or two that were on the move, then suddenly the entire herd was running, some this way and some that. When the air cleared we saw that one part of the herd had headed around us and most likely were going to be going right past our camp site! But it would take us a lot of time to get back there. The other part of the herd went in the opposite direction and headed toward a low forested area so we tracked them for a while, trying to get ahead of them



Bev and the huge bison

and able to take a shot. It didn't work and we headed back to camp, wondering what had made them scatter and ready to hunt another day.

Day two and I'm awake at 4 am wondering if that's a moose or bear outside the tent but more importantly, wondering if today will be the day. We headed out after Jay and Don did some scouting from the top of Gibraltar without seeing anything. We went around Gibraltar to the other side, where another huge valley gave some idea of what this river had been like in the Ice Age. We posted up at a place where we could see two valley areas and waited for anything to show — the afternoon was a bit rainy but not bad. We could see both where the herd had originally been spotted and where one group might have been. We didn't see anything all afternoon, although I did hope to see at least a moose or bear — it is great country for both of those.

Day three and I was up early again, not hearing anything but just anxious to get a bison or see one today. We walked around Gibraltar and didn't see anything. It was raining a bit harder and Jay and Don decided it might be best if we spent the afternoon deciding what to do about two things: my boots and moving camp. Don called the Lodge to get someone to bring boots out for me and also to see if they would see the herd anywhere along the way. Once the plane was in the air we could not hunt until the next day. After talking things over with Lonny, one of the UTO excellent pilots, the decision was to stay and hunt this area another day. John and I enjoyed the afternoon spent at camp but I was worried that my lack of preparedness meant I wouldn't get a bison



Team flying out from left to right: Paul Claus, Don Martin, Beverly Valdez, Jay Stanford, John Ware

Day four I was waiting and it was now full out raining in the early morning. Don said we should just stay in camp for a while until he and Jay had a look at what might be out there. They went in opposite directions to see if they could find either one of the herds. Within minutes of them leaving to scout Jay came running by the tent and yelled to me to get ready — he'd seen a big bison "just out from the camp". Whoo-hoo! I was ready!

Don and Jay came back and we hustled out — about a mile and a half — until we were ready to do some sneaking. John stayed behind with packs and gear since his ankle couldn't take any more.

The big bull had a younger, smaller bull shadowing him and we needed to get in front of both of them without being visible. We reached a knoll at about 200 yards and I got the rifle on the tripod. Looking through the scope I was amazed to find that I could barely see — and I couldn't figure out why. Don had told me once we got into position to shoot and keep shooting, these are big animals and you need to make sure to get them down quickly. I did that but was having a hard time seeing exactly where my shots went. At last, after a couple of shots, I heard a TWACK letting me know I had hit something.

Then came what Don Martin would say was "a bit of a rodeo" — and what I would call running and gunning. Finally the bison was down and I was relieved! He was beautiful and massive! I hugged Jay so many times and so hard I'm sure I must have broken a rib — and I was almost in tears. This epic adventure was one I never imagined to have and couldn't imagine NOT having once it was done!

As always, the intensity of the hunt brings people together more than almost any other positive activity. I can't thank Jay and Don and the Claus' family enough for helping me to have such an epic adventure!



Buying ammo online or through catalogs about to change. Starting January 1, 2018:

Vendors must have Department of Justice approval to sell ammo – Current retailers with an ammo supply may stop providing ammunition altogether due to the process of getting DOJ consent. For hunters and shooters in rural areas who rely on mom-and-pop sporting goods stores, they may need to seek out a new supplier as well as plan on

driving a lot farther to find the ammunition of their choice.

Importing ammunition – Californians must go to an ammunition vendor that has been approved by the DOJ. If a resident orders ammunition from a website, the ammo in question must be sent to an approved vendor for the consumer to pick up. Purchasing ammunition out of state and then returning to California runs the risk of carrying a misdemeanor charge of transporting ammo across state lines.

Transferring ammunition – For anyone who has ammunition they are looking to part with, you will need to enlist a DOJ-approved vendor to complete the transaction, same way you would transfer a firearm to a new owner.

ARMENIAN MOUFLON WITH ROWDY MCBRIDE

by Bob Keagy

I am home from a very nice but brief hunt with Rowdy MacBride, near Alpine, Texas. This is a very lovely area, with great hunting, fine accommodations and a great guide in Rowdy.

He is unique in offering free-ranging Armenian Mouflon and red sheep, both originally gifts from the former Shah of Iran.

We were fortunate on the first morning in having spotted a group of beautiful Armenian Mouflon about 10:30 a.m. at roughly 1,000 yards, and we were able to follow a dry arroyo 6-700 yards to within 300 yards of the group of fifteen or so. We crept across a rocky shelf, and with fortuitous winds and having the sun behind us finally got a shot over Rowdy's backpack at the Mouflon as they tensed to run at about 175-200 yards.

I am very pleased with the gaily colored, romannosed, eight year old Armenian Mouflon that fell to our shot. It will score either very high silver or gold for SCI. Rowdy did an excellent job of getting us in position, and I am grateful for his care and efforts on the stalk.

The second day we drove around the very extensive property and saw numerous groups of freerange Aoudad, and a group of red sheep, including a great ram, which we observed for an extended time.



We also saw many lovely Texas songbirds and raptors. We followed this with a visit to the nearby famed Macdonald observatory and hiking through the many wonders and grottos of the Carlsbad Caverns.

GIVE A LAMB A DRINK 29 PALMS LAVA GUZZLER INSTALLATION

On November 18-21 scores of volunteers from CA WSF and the Wild Sheep Foundation along with many others turned out to install a new two-tank Raincatcher Wildlife Water System code-named "Lava". The group was led by members of the Society for Conservation of Bighorn Sheep (SCBS) who have installed more than 70 water systems throughout the organizations history. Since it's inception in 2001, CAWSF has partnered with SCBS to provide funding and volunteer laborers.

The Lava install is 16 miles inside the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center known as 29 Palms in an area where collared ewes have been lambing. The project finished a day ahead of schedule thanks to the hard work of all involved.

On hand from CA WSF was President Darryl Williams (also a member of SCBS) and Board

Member Don Martin. From WSF, Kevin Hurley, senior conservation director, came to present CA WSF with a check for \$25,000 as a contribution to the "Give a Lamb a Drink" campaign.

In what is might be the driest place in the country, the Lava project included prepping a rainwater collection apron, excavating, installing, and plumbing two huge water storage tanks with built-in drinkers, and reclaiming the disturbed area as much as possible, using only a variety of hand tools. There was a lot of hard work shoveling, hauling rocks, running excavators to dig the holes for two tanks and rolling out rain mats. But many hands made it easier with all involved dedicated to PUTTING AND KEEPING WILD SHEEP ON THE MOUNTAINS.



A Few of The Install Team Volunteers



Kevin Hurley (L) presents check to Darryl Williams and Don Martin (R)



Lava Install big equipment



Lava Install site





Lava Install rain mat

Lava Install equipment



Lava is the first of 90 installations to be funded and installed in the next five years. The next two locations have been determined and will also be on 29 Palms. We don't have dates yet so look for those to come to you via email shortly before the installation. In addition to volunteering for the work team your donation will help us buy the materials and rent necessary equipment for the volunteers to use installing these life-giving systems.

Give a Lamb a Drink Today!

Yes, I want to donate \$300 to give a lamb a drink.



Name on Card
eMail or Phone
Credit Card
Exp Date/ CVC# Billing Zip Code
Signature

Make checks payable to CA Wild Sheep Foundation

Mail to: 1314 B Center Drive #267, Medford, OR 97501

Fax this form to: 650-472-3889 Visit the website at: www.cawsf.org

HUNTING INDUSTRY NEWS

In what some locals categorized as perhaps the driest place in North America, this water development project included prepping a rainwater collection apron, excavating, installing, and plumbing two huge water storage tanks with built-in drinkers, and reclaiming the disturbed area as much as possible, using only a variety of hand tools. Without these precious water developments, desert bighorns would struggle for survival, and many desert mountain ranges in southern California would be void of desert bighorn sheep. [See associated story about the Lava installation on page xx.] Read more: CA WSF and SCBS Bringing Water To The Desert And To Desert Bighorns!

The Professional Hunters Association of South Africa (PHASA) recently reversed its 2015 policy condemning the practice of hunting captive-bred lions under controlled conditions, bringing an outcry of condemnation from ethical hunters. WSF recognizes the South African wildlife conservation model, based on privatization of wildlife and regulated hunting, has played an integral and critical role in the country's incredible conservation success. However, WSF condemns the practice of breeding and captive-rearing of predators which cannot sustain themselves naturally and then releasing them for the sole purpose of shooting them under restrictive conditions. Read more: WSF Severs Ties with PHASA over Captive Bred Lion Hunting Policy Reversal

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has released a draft of the Statewide Elk Conservation and Management Plan for public review and comment. The plan provides guidance and direction to help set priorities for elk management efforts statewide. Read more: CALIFORNIA ELK PLAN DRAFT NOW AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The percentage of people who hunt and/or fish in this state (California) today is far, far lower than it was in the mid-1980s, and that trend is unlikely to change directions. I know many folks around these parts who grew up hunting and fishing, but those family traditions have stopped with them. They're not passing them on to their kids, primarily because the opportunities just aren't there. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife continues to charge hunters and anglers more while providing them less. It now costs more than \$20 to hunt for a single day on a Type A wildlife area and there are nearly as many added-fee stamps associated with hunting and fishing licenses as there are species of fish and game. It's beyond ridiculous. Read more: John Johnson's Outdoors: Hunting, fishing has changed — and not for the better

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) today announced the selection of four projects to receive funding for habitat restoration projects within California's Northern Coastal watersheds most impacted by unregulated cannabis cultivation totaling \$1.3 million.

"These grants mark an important step forward in our efforts to address the extensive damage to habitat and toxic chemicals threatening a host of wild species," CDFW Director Charlton H. Bonham said. "Providing a resource to address the impacts of reckless cannabis cultivation adds an important piece to the complex puzzle of our existing watershed restoration work." CDFW Awards \$1.3 Million For Restoration In Watersheds Impacted By Cannabis Cultivation

The US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) announced that it will begin issuing permits to allow the import of hunted elephants from Zimbabwe, on or after January 21, 2016, and on or before December 31, 2018, for import permit applications that meet all other applicable requirements. "Legal, well-regulated hunting as part of a sound management program can benefit the conservation of certain species by providing incentives to local communities to conserve the species and by putting much-needed revenue back into conservation. To support conservation, hunters should choose to hunt only in countries that have strong governance, sound management practices, and healthy wildlife populations." Read more: Hunting Can Contribute to Biodiversity Conservation

Bighorn sheep living in decades past along Idaho's Salmon River from Riggins to its East and Middle forks far upstream were more genetically diverse, and the different groups of sheep there were more connected with each other, compared to sheep populations of today. By analyzing genetic samples taken from wild sheep skulls and horns that are part of the Carrev-Boggan Collection on display at the Jack O'Connor Hunting Heritage and Education Center at Lewiston. researchers were able to compare the genetics of the sheep in the collection with samples taken from contemporary populations. They wanted to know how the genetic makeup of the sheep has changed over the years, particularly in response to severe population declines brought on by things like habitat degradation and disease introduced by domestic sheep. "A lot of people look at these things on a wall and don't realize they are actually really valuable to science," Waits said of old horns and taxidermy specimens in general. "We can answer questions with that horn or part of the mount on a wall that we can't answer if we sampled the wild animals that are present today." Read more:

Researchers study the genetics of bighorn sheep

ORDER CA WSF LOGO'D WEAR FROM CABELA'S, HERE'S HOW:





CA WSF Corporate ID **25441318**

Order Worksheet

Phone Orders Only

- Call 1-877-892-4424 to place order.
- Use CA WSF Corporate ID to receive a discount.
- Front placement embroidery #30008435 \$6.50
- Back placement embroidery #30009792 \$26.38 (no lettering on back placement)

SHIPPING ADDR	ESS
Name:	
E-Mail:	

	Questic	ns:
E-mail: embroidery	y@cabelas.c	om

BILLING ADDRESS (ONLY if different from CONTACT INFORMATION)				
Name:				
E-Mail:				

ITEM#	QTY	DESCRIPTION	SIZE	COLOR	Front Logo #30008435 (Add \$6.50)	Back Logo #30009792 (Add \$26.38)	PRICE EACH	TOTAL
						MERCHANDISE TO	OTAL	
					Cabela's	ADD SHIPPING AI	ND HANDLING	
					will {	ADD SALES TAX		
					calculate	TOTAL		

1-877-892-4424

DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP CAPTURES

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE REGION 6:

by: Paige Prentice



103 desert bighorn, 14 days, 7 herd units, and over 50 participants helping to make it all happen. Needless to say, it's been an exciting and busy November.

The table below shows the distribution of CDFW's capture efforts across seven different

areas. Some of these areas consist of a single range (i.e. the Marble Mountains) and others are a complex of ranges that are known to be connected via regular bighorn movement (i.e. the Clark, Kingston and Mesquite ranges). All of the bighorn captured were given uniquely identifying ear tags and samples were taken for disease testing. The majority of individuals were also carefully fitted with a GPS and a VHF collar.

One of the many exciting aspects of this capture was being able to collar desert bighorn in the Funeral and the Clark, Kingston, Mesquite ranges for the first time in over 20 years. The data collected during this capture—plus the data that will be collected with the GPS/VHF collars and follow-up surveys—will help to inform CDFW on the disease status, habitat use, range connectivity, and overall desert bighorn population health and demographics in these areas. Additionally, we'll be able to compare this new data to the datasets that were previously collected in the 1990s.

Although rare, a ram was mortally injured during capture. Despite good capture terrain, it's tibia and fibula on the right, hind leg were shattered and the ram was humanely euthanized. In an effort to make the most of this unfortunate accident, the CA WSF was contacted and subsequently agreed to pay for the







Photo 1: Two rams being flown into base camp in Death Valley National Park. Photo 2: A happy capture crew! PC: Paige Prentice. Photo 3: White Mountain Ranch base

ram to be taken to a taxidermist and mounted—it will be on display at one of our local visitor centers and used to educate the public about desert bighorn sheep. Thank you CA WSF for the support.

This capture was truly a collaborative effort and would not have been possible without the help and support of our partners—BLM, NPS, USFS, DOD, OSU, SCBS, CAWSF—and all the researchers that came before us and paved the way.

Fall 2017 Desert Bighorn Capture	Ewe	Ram	Total	Last Capture	Land Managing Agency
Newberry/Ord	7	4	11	2014	BLM
S. Bristol	6	0	6	Apr 2017	BLM
Marble	18	2	20	Apr 2017	BLM
Old Dad, Kelso, Marl	8	3	11	Apr 2017	Mojave Preserve (NPS)
Clark, Mesquite, Kingston	6	4	10	1995	BLM
Funeral	8	4	12	1992	Death Valley National Park (NPS)
White Mountains	21	12	33	2009	USFS
Total	74	29	103		

A POTENTIAL THREAT TO MOJAVE WILDLIFE AND VEGETATION THE CADIZ WATER PROJECT

By Bob Keagy

There is a water project of monumental proportions that potentially threatens the Mojave area. This threat is probably not on your "radar screen", but it should be!

In 1992 a publicly-traded for-profit corporation, "Cadiz Inc", began acquiring acreage and water rights in the Mojave desert's Cadiz and Bristol valleys, with a long-term objective of accessing the ancient aquifer underlying the Mojave area, and transporting this vital and ancient water via a 43-mile pipeline to the everexpanding Los Angeles basin. Once the water reached the Colorado River Aqueduct, it could be sold to any of 26 member agencies in the L.A. Metropolitan Water District.

After many years of legal maneuvering, an appellate court has held that Cadiz Inc. has the legal right to pump 50,000 acre-feet of water annually from their 34,000 acre holdings in the Mojave basin for the next 50 years. The Cadiz problem then revolved around gaining approval for a pipeline, and the ability thereby to transport the water to the aforementioned Los Angeles Metropolitan Water District's 26 member agencies.

(To give you some idea of the magnitude of this pumping, one acre-foot is 326,000 gallons, so 50,000 acre-feet per annum is a staggering 16,300,000,000 gallons per annum, sucked out of an ancient aquifer, much faster than even the most optimistic replacement rate. This purportedly would provide water for 100,000 households and 5,000 jobs. In fifty years, if the aquifer held out, a total of over eight hundred billion gallons would be drained out — equivalent to pumping out either the entire New Melones reservoir or Trinity Lake — to meet the demands of water agencies in the L.A. Basin.)

Having gained the ability to pump this water, the problem for Cadiz Inc. was next how to get the water to market. Cadiz wanted to lay the 43-mile pipeline along a Federally-granted railroad right-of-way, but had been stopped by two prior administrations. In April, however, the Trump administration cancelled a restriction upon utilizing a federal railroad right-of-way, effectively allowing Cadiz to build a new pipeline for moving the water to the existing aqueduct without undergoing a federal environmental review.

Currently, there are several potential remaining stumbling blocks to the project. First, there was a bill in the State legislature to enhance environmental quality reviews on this and similar projects. This was AB1000 "The California Desert Protection Act", which, despite active support by Governor Brown, Dianne Feinstein, Gavin Newsom and a host of Democratic powerhouses, was defeated under active campaigning

by Cadiz Inc., which has also been a substantial donor. This may, however, not be the end of legislative efforts.

Secondly, the railway right-of-way crosses a small band of State of California land, and would seemingly require Cadiz Inc. to purchase or lease it for passage thereof, and, thirdly, the water contains many minerals, including excessive levels of chromium-6 (the cancerous agent made notorious in the movie "Erin Brockovitch") at levels 160% of California's limit, that pose a possible health threat. Cadiz Inc., of course, believes it can defeat these obstacles, and they have proved both extremely well-connected and persistent.

Finally, it must be noted that the Cadiz project is one of approximately 30 water-related projects in the L.A. area, including desalinization and waste water recovery projects.

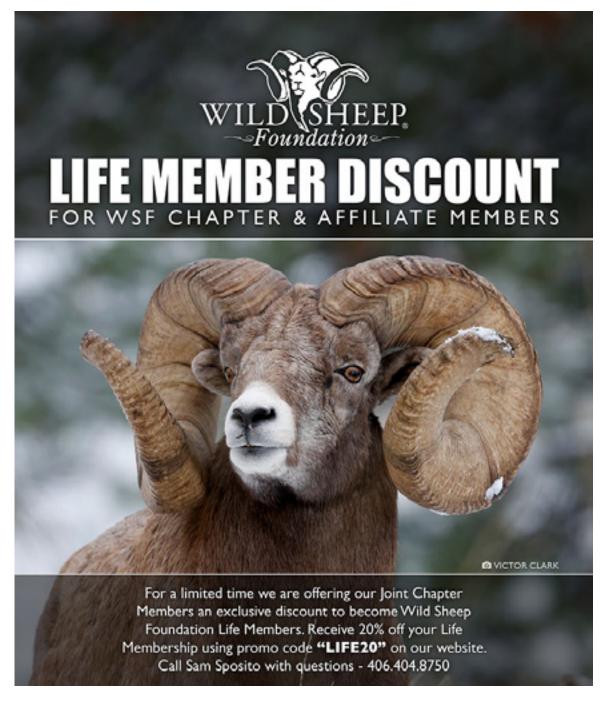
Looking at this from the perspective of the concerned hunter and environmentalist, it is hard to assess what this pumpage would do to the springs, seeps, guzzlers etc. upon which the quail, rabbits, deer and desert sheep depend. Hunters and environmentalists have been late to the fight, and their views do not appear to be effectively voiced. Immediate impact surveys of both wildlife and native plants need to be made, assessing their ability to survive with presumably (greatly) diminished accessible water.

This is a very serious matter, as anyone who saw Mono Lake will understand, and I suggest we use all resources, including most especially our contacts in Sacramento, to obtain a fuller and more complete picture. Please note that I have compiled this article from news sources, and Wikipedia, and have not had the opportunity to review source documents, such as CEQA documents and Environmental Impact Reports.

For further information on this complex matter, the L.A. Times has run several articles on this project (See: "The ludicrous plan to pump Mojave water to L.A." May 17th, 2017 and:

"The scheme to pump desert water to L.A. could destroy the Mojave. California's Legislature needs to block it." by Senator Dianne Feinstein

Also there is a Reuters article on the defeat of SB100 More recently, the L.A. times ran a rebuttal piece on the project in their "Blowback" forum; "The myths used to needlessly delay the Cadiz water project, debunked. This article was authored by the Chief Executive of the Los Angeles County Business Federation.



Special WSF Life Membership discount

Become a life member of Wild Sheep Foundation now and receive a **20% discount**. This is a limited time offer; take advantage today!

Upgrade your CA WSF Membership

Upgrade your CA WSF membership at the same time and you will also receive a 20% discount on your CA WSF life membership. Contact Beverly at forthesheep@gmail.com to save \$100 right away or use the form on page 34!

Make a commitment now to continue PUTTING AND KEEPING WILD SHEEP ON THE MOUNTAINS of California!

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

Have you moved? Changed phone number or email? In these fluid times, almost everyone does make a change to their contact information at least once a year. Help us stay in touch with you by sending us your updated information. And if you have a friend who is not a member, share this page with them too!



California Chapter Wild Sheep Foundation 1314 Center Dr B #267 Medford, OR 97501



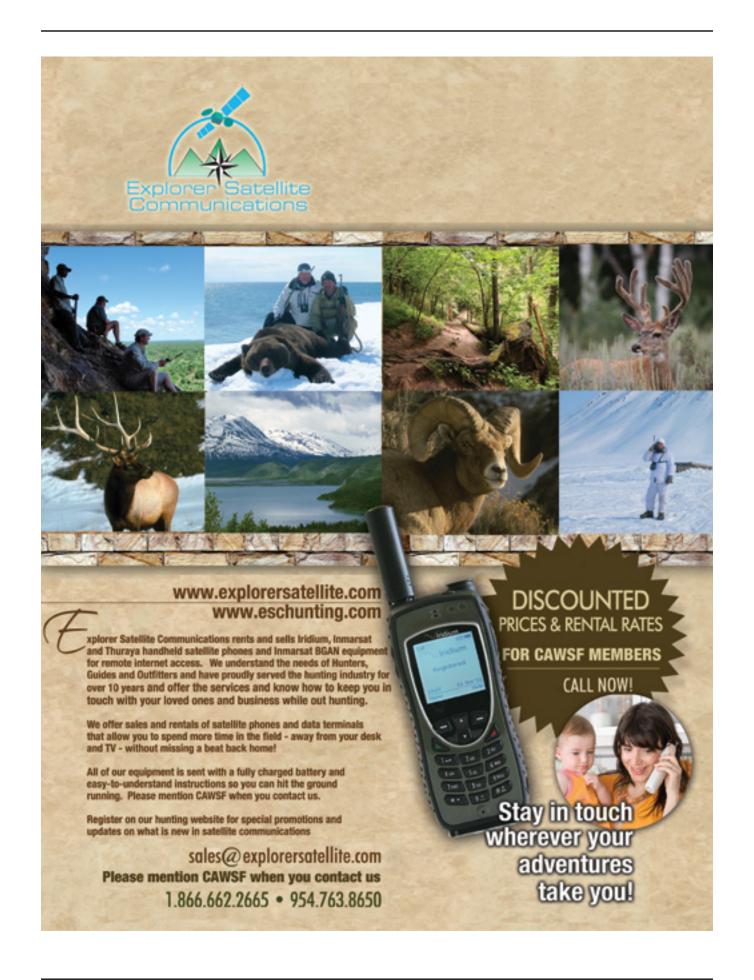
(650) 472-3889 (Phone and Fax) cawsf@cawsf.org www.cawsf.org

JOINT MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL

Name:		
Phone: Primary:	Alternate:	Fax:
E-mail:		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip: Country:
Preferred method of communic	cation (check one): Phone eMai	1 Fax
Yes, I would like to voluntee about volunteer opportuniti	r to help the California Chapter wit es! (check here)	h its' events and/or projects! Please
Are you a Grand Slam/Ovis (C	GSCO) Member? Yes No No	
Do you have GSCO Slam®: 1	/2 Slam □ 3/4 Slam □ Grand Slam	
Have you hunted Sheep? Yes	s 🗆 No 🗆	
		Iandgun: Don't Hunt: D
,		
Which sheep have you harveste	ed? (Please list and note year)	
CA WSF Membership:		
Annual (\$40) 3-Year (\$100) _		er (\$25)
Wild Sheep Foundation Mem	_	
	Family (\$80) Life (Under age 59 - \$1,00	
Payment Type (check one): Cre		(payable to: "CA WSF")
Credit Card Type: Visa		EX
		_
Signature:		Date:

Please mail this form to CA WSF, 1314 Center Dr B #267, Medford, OR 97501 or fax to 650-472-3889.

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





www.cawsf.org

