



California Wild Sheep

Spring 2018



IN THIS ISSUE

From the Editor	3
President's Message.....	5
New Mexico Aoudad	6
Caprinae Safaris Pakistan Hunt	7
Cady Mountain Warrior	9
Photos from the Field	11
Fundraiser Update and Registration	15
Passover No More	21
Hunting Photography	24
Cadiz Water Project Update..	26
Desert Bighorn Update	27
Horn Size Study, Part 3.....	29
Sheep Show Recap.....	32
Effects of Minerals on BHS	35

Dave York

Cady Mountains Desert Ram

December 2017

San Gorgonio Wilderness Outfitters



ULTIMA THULE LODGE

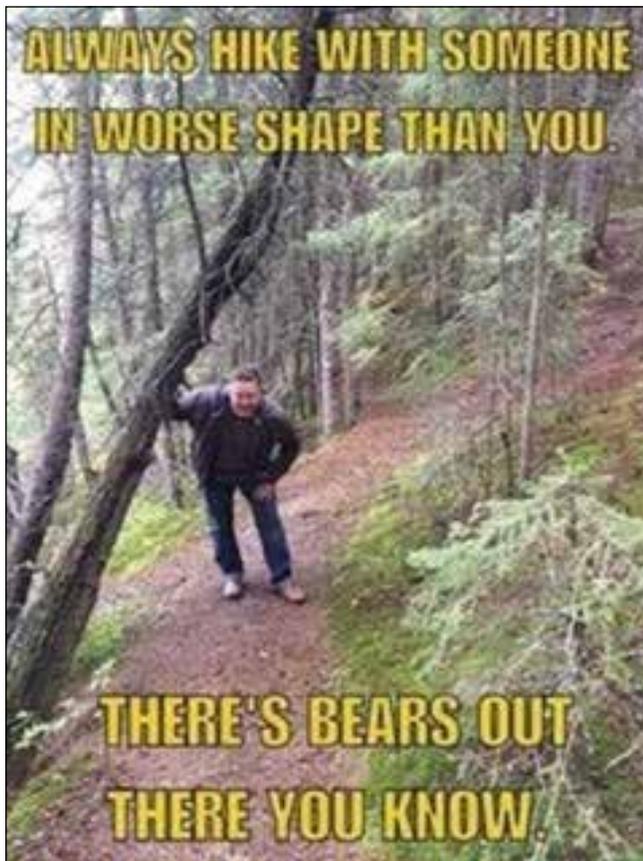
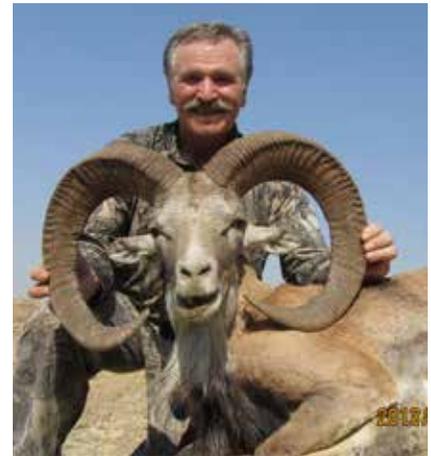
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From the Editor's Desk

I hope you enjoy this issue. It includes some great hunting stories, more on our 2018 Fundraiser, fun humor, interesting desert insights from Carlos, science and CDFW articles, pictures, AND MORE! Good luck in the various state tag draws and raffles for 2018. We have another Ultima Thule Dall Sheep Hunt Raffle – See page 19 and reserve a table for the Fundraiser May 5 and bring your friends!

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 2Q18 issue is May 20.



Seenager

I have just discovered my age group! I am a Seenager. (Senior teenager)

I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 50-60 years later. I don't have to go to school or work. I get an allowance every month. I have my own pad. I don't have a curfew. I have a driver's license and my own car. I have ID that gets me into bars and the wine store. The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant, they aren't scared of anything, they have been blessed to live this long, why be scared? I don't have acne. Life is Good!



Note: In the Winter 2017 Edition, TWO WOMEN AND A DESERT SHEEP IN MEXICO - WHAT A HUNT! by Debi Ramsey Casey, Charlene Winkler adds: "The Outfitter/Ranch is La Palmosa Ranch in Monterrey Mexico. They are huge supporters of WSF."

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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

2018

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
August TBD	DBH Hunter Orientation in Sacramento
August 20	Due date for articles for 2Q2018 CAWSF Newsletter
September TBD	Wild Sheep Foundation Fly-In and Walk on Capitol Hill Washington D.C.
September TBD	DBH Hunter Orientation in Ontario
November 20	Due date for articles for 4Q2018 CAWSF Newsletter

2019

January 9-12	SCI Convention, Reno
Jan 30-Feb2	GSCO Convention, Las Vegas
February 7-9	WSF International Sheep Show, Reno

President's Letter

Dear CA Wild Sheep Members and Friends:

As I write this President's Message, the show season is winding down. If you're like me, this time of year is an opportunity to catch up with old friends, visit with outfitters to plan that next adventure, and drool over the latest gear. It's also a time of year that wears us down from all the fun! If you haven't had an opportunity to experience Sheep Week, you don't know what you're missing. The 2018 Wild Sheep Foundation Convention was another record breaker in every way so please take a look at the highlights later in this newsletter.



The Chapter and Affiliate banquet season is now in full swing with an event occurring somewhere almost every weekend. I'll be attending the Washington WSF and Nevada Bighorns Unlimited banquets this year and I'm always on the lookout for ideas to improve ours. If you attend a fundraiser this year and see an idea that looks great, please share your discovery with the Fundraising Committee.

Speaking of banquets, your Fundraising Committee has been very busy working the details of our 2018 CA WSF Banquet & Fundraiser so look for the latest details in this newsletter — you'll be excited to see what they have in store for us. It's not too late to help us with quality Silent and Live Auction donations, so if you enjoyed a guided hunting, fishing, or other outdoor adventure recently please ask your outfitter to donate to our banquet. Your Communications Committee is also busy working to improve our outreach and advertising to increase membership and drive attendance at our banquet.

Finally, like many of you I dream of that next sheep hunt but my financial situation can't possibly fund all my desires – like my Dad was fond of saying “I have a champagne attitude on a beer budget.” Time outdoors, for any purpose, fills the void that day-to-day living in civilization creates and I encourage us all to take advantage of every opportunity to enjoy the gift we have here in the U.S. I recently returned from a public land Aoudad hunt in New Mexico – A.K.A. “Poor Man's Sheep” — and can tell you that experience charged my ‘outdoor batteries’ beyond capacity!

Yours in conservation,

Darryl Williams

NEW MEXICO ALOUDAD

By Darryl Williams

If you've never had an opportunity to hunt free-range Aoudad sheep you are missing out on one of the great hunting experiences available in the southwest. I had a less than satisfying hunt in Texas a few years ago and decided to apply for a New Mexico hunt in hopes of taking a larger ram.

Just what is an Aoudad? Native to rugged areas of Northern Africa, the Aoudad, also known as Barbary sheep (*Ammotragus lervia*), is a tough and intelligent species of Caprid (goat-antelope). Aoudad are the only species in the genus *Ammotragus*. However, some include this genus in the goat genus *Capra*, and others in the sheep genus *Ovis*. From a hunting standpoint, they are usually considered a sheep. Aoudad were introduced to Texas in the 1940s and 50s and to New Mexico in 1960's on the McKnight Ranch near Roswell, New Mexico.

Aoudad are a reddish-tan color, and the insides of their legs are whitish. There is no beard, but they do have a beautiful mane of long, soft hairs on the throat, chest, and upper part of the forelegs. The horns of the male sweep outward, backward, and then inward; they are rather heavy and wrinkled, and measure up to 34 inches in length. They can retain water from sparse vegetation and survive long periods of time without it. This adaptation gives aoudad the ability to live in rugged, dry habitats that are too harsh for other animals. These factors combined with the Aoudad's sense of smell, hearing and alertness to danger; make aoudad hunting very challenging.

New Mexico offers public and private land tags to both resident and non-resident hunters. I applied for a public land tag through Worldwide Trophy Adventures (formerly Cabela's TAGS) and drew the first time! As I later found out, non-resident draw odds in the outfitter pool are about 1:3. WTA also recommended Kiowa Hunting Services for my hunt. Kiowa offers 4-day Aoudad hunts in the area just outside Roswell.

On day one, my guide Grant Hottmann picked me up at the hotel at 3:30am and we drove about an hour and a half to the area where we would hunt for the day. We hiked deep into the area to get past where most local hunters give up and saw our first Aoudad around 7:00am – 5 ewes and a lamb. After watching them for a few minutes we continued on and soon saw our first rams – group of 4 juveniles who allowed us to videotape them before moving out of the area. A couple of hours later we came across another group of 4 juvenile rams that proved to be the last rams we saw on day



one. After 13 hours and 18 miles of hiking behind a 26-year old guide I collapsed in the passenger seat of the truck.

Day two started at 5:00am (WOW...I got to sleep in!). We drove a much shorter distance from town to a spot that Grant found where the fence on private and BLM land provided a small corridor for access into an area we could hunt. With the exception of this spot, all the public land in this area is surrounded by private land – it really paid to have someone who knew the area!

After hiking about 4 miles, Grant spotted a 'solid' ram grazing on a ridge above us. This ram was just what I was looking for and I prepared for the shot. I ranged him at 274 yards, dialed my scope for the range, and took a prone position. I quickly found the ram in my scope and made a perfect shot. The ram ran downhill about 75 yards and dropped. Unknown to me, Grant videotaped the shot through his spotting scope, which made an extra special memory of this hunt.

After taking lots of photos, Grant worked on caping my ram while I began boning out the meat. About an hour later we divided up the load and hiked back to the truck.

If you're looking for a 'poor man's' sheep hunt, Aoudad is the ticket! I would have to say that this hunt was physically tougher than my Alaska Dall's and success was just as satisfying. I strongly endorse WTA for their application services, Kiowa Hunting Services and my guide Grant Hottmann.

CAPRINAE SAFARIS PAKISTAN HUNT

by Bob Keagy

Last week I had the great pleasure of hunting Branford Urial and Sindh Ibex with Caprinae Safaris in the sere Sindh desert of Pakistan.

Among many overseas hunts, it was certainly right up there at the top. Caprinae had everything well-planned and organized, was very responsive, and had fine, supportive guides and local staff. Accommodations were in a guest house in a Pakistani prince's compound, and were, as might be expected, very lovely and with excellent cuisine. Our January temperatures were moderate and pleasant. At no point did I feel the slightest danger or difficulty, other than hauling my 73-year old self up the ridges.

My guide was a slender, cheerful fellow named Bilal, with whom, together with local staff, I hunted Branford Urial on the first full day after arrival. We climbed at first light, and reached the mountain summit at about 10:30. We went to several look-outs and promontories, and saw quite a few urial, but could not get a shot. We went down the reverse slope for four or five hundred yards, and waited on a craggy look-out over a large basin for over an hour, while local guides tried unsuccessfully to push some urial rams within range.

After a late lunch, we began our return down the mountain about 3 p.m., and had dropped several hundred yards, disconsolate, when we saw movement several hundred yards away. Two rams had bolted across a wide side-draw, and our head local guide, Rana, told me to get in position, as there might be other urial moving about.

Soon a group of seven or eight urial crossed the shoulder of the side-draw, threading their way around boulders, and presenting me with a 225-yard uphill shot. The guide said to shoot the last urial, but as I picked up the group in the scope, I saw that the big ram was now actually second from the end. They were walking quickly amongst the boulders, and I managed a difficult shot, just as the big urial ram was disappearing between two boulders. The ram dropped like a sack of potatoes.

The jubilation and high-fiving can only be imagined, and this success surely helped my tired feet the remaining hour and one-half down the mountain. On this fifteen-hour day my diabetes was kept in check by use of rehydration packets, a couple of Nu-Go bars, plus a small plastic baggie of sweetened, dried fruit which I kept in my jeans pocket.

My artificial knees also got a bit swollen up, but we nevertheless decided to try for ibex the next morning--after all, "nothing ventured, nothing gained".

That evening another guide, Mete, arrived from Caprinae's Antalya office to assist and join our crew.



We all left early the next morning, and drove across a broad plain, toward a high sandstone ridge projecting straight up out of the desert floor. Our local staff and guides were following in a second Land-Rover. We climbed over the ridge-back and were driving down the other side, when we noticed that the second vehicle had disappeared. Looking back, the second vehicle suddenly re-appeared far behind us, flashing its lights, and with staff hanging out of the windows, yelling and waving frantically. Rana had spotted a big ibex, grazing behind a bush about 250 yards above a curve in the road!

We turned around, and drove back as quietly as possible, parking the two vehicles behind a shoulder above the curve of the road.

Walking bent over down to the foot of the curve, there was a culvert at road-side with a fortuitous stone guard-wall about three feet high. Hopping into the culvert, and resting the rifle on the top of the stone guard-wall made a perfect rest. I had a perfect sight picture as the ibex stepped out from behind the bush. The ibex dropped at the shot, and although probably unnecessary, I put a second shot into the ibex, "just in case" (I have NO desire to chase a three-legged ibex!!!).

Everyone was simply stunned by our good fortune. This was unprecedented — an ibex shot from the road!! It was about as likely as finding a pot of gold. I looked at my watch; it was only 7:45 in the morning.

It was very difficult to get to the ibex, but the guides soon had the gorgeous 13-year old, 40-inch ibex down to the road. After obligatory photos, we were back to the compound about 10 a.m.

We returned to Karachi two days later, and I spent a quiet day reading and resting at the very nice Pearl Continental hotel. I returned to San Francisco on



Emirates Air which had impressively good service.

We were blessed with extraordinary good fortune on this hunt, but it is also true that one makes one's own luck. The Caprinae guides, especially Balil and Rana were excellent, and together with local staff, made the opportunities for success, for which I am very grateful.



Attached are pictures of the guest house in the Prince's compound, a photo of the very nice Urial, and, finally, my beautiful ibex

I hope that this has been of interest.

Best regards, Bob

Last Campfire



Lavelle Lesicka

Lavelle Lesicka passed away in late January 2018. Lavelle met her husband of 67 years, Leon, at Brawley High School. They were stationed in Fort Ord for 2 years and then returned to Brawley where they built their home and had three children. Lavelle and Leon were early members of Foundation for North American Wild Sheep now California Wild Sheep Foundation. She particularly enjoyed deer and elk hunting. These loves led to the creation of Desert Wildlife Unlimited. She also had the ability to cook and cook well. It was no secret that many volunteered for DWU projects just to eat Lavelle's cooking, especially her Coca-Cola cake.

CADY MOUNTAIN WARRIOR

By Kevin Townsend

I didn't have high hopes for 2017 based on how it started but it did get much better as the year moved along. Early in the year my best friend Brian Barton left work with what he thought was the flu. In a few short weeks he lost his life to complications from a very common virus that almost all of us carry. We grew up together, went to school, played sports, hunted and fished together for almost our entire lives, he was like one of my brothers. A few months later I was blessed with a beautiful granddaughter. Life begins and life ends, sounds simple but it sure makes you think.

One thing I kept thinking of was Brian's plan to take his two sons fishing in Alaska but time for my friend ran out much quicker than anyone ever expected. When the time came to apply for my 2017 hunts Brian was definitely on my mind. I would be 60 years old by the end of 2017 so I made the decision to stop applying for hard to draw hunts and start burning points while I still had my health. Hopefully when my time comes to go to the happy hunting grounds it will be with no preference points in my pocket. One of the hunts I applied for was for Desert Bighorn sheep in California so I went with the Cady Mountains instead of the areas that were producing the bigger rams.

When the results of the draw came out I was shocked that I had actually drawn the Cady Mountains tag, sure the odds were better than the other units but it was still like winning the lottery. I know very little about sheep hunting and even less about the desert so I started looking for help on the internet. I sent an email to Cliff St. Martin of Dry Creek Outfitters asking a few basic questions. Within a half hour I received a call from him. He didn't pressure me to hire him but he did let me know how rare this tag was and that I would be wise to make the most of it.

The next week I was talking about draw results with a friend and when he found out I had drawn a sheep tag his first words were "my cousin knows a guy named Cliff that you need to talk to". I said "that's funny because I have been talking to a guy named Cliff". The endorsements were stellar but I already knew from talking with Cliff that he was the real deal. You knew that he spoke the truth and when he said he would do something, it would get done, you could take that to the bank.

It was clear to me that this once in a lifetime hunt qualified for the kind of help Cliff and Dry Creek Outfitters specialized in. Dry Creek is not your typical outfitter, they are professionals top to bottom. I had never been on a guided hunt but I know outfitters and I have even spent a little time working for one. There are no flakes in the Dry Creek bunch and you find out



really quick that you are the king and they are there to please you. I love do it yourself hunts but going with Dry Creek on this hunt was probably the best decision I have made in 50 years of hunting.

My nephew Josh Townsend flew in from Colorado to join me on this hunt. Being a diehard mountain hunter Josh knew this might be as close as he ever gets to a sheep tag and he just couldn't pass up the chance to learn from some of the best sheep hunters around. We met Cliff's partner Tim Mercier at camp and he showed us around while Cliff, Ben Mattausch and Kirk Stiltz were still out looking for rams.

That night Josh and I had a great meal in a great camp and we started to learn a lot about sheep hunting. The next morning everybody went in different directions looking for sheep. By the end of the day Josh and I realized we didn't know what we thought we knew about long range glassing. I thought two miles was long range before this hunt but that is the close stuff for these guys. Ben and Cliff were spotting and judging rams that were in a different time zone.

On the second day of the hunt they spotted a band of nine good rams on a mountain that was several miles away and just when we thought they would bed for the day they headed off for another mountain.



My hopes sank until I ask Cliff about the chances of us ever seeing them again. I got a warm feeling all over when he confidently said “really good”. It got even better when Cliff didn’t even give me the option to shoot a high 150’s ram that afternoon. Tom Humphreville joined us that evening and I just looked at Josh and said “we have five of the best sheep spotters in the world and two pretty good amateurs looking for one ram to shoot. How cool is this”.

The third morning saw five of us back in that same area looking for the band of nine while Kirk and Tim kept an eye on a few rams they thought would score in the low 160’s. The morning started slow but Cliff moved a mile to the west and quickly picked up four of the nine rams we had seen the day before including the biggest of the bunch. Tom took Cliff’s place in the crow’s nest while Cliff joined Ben, Josh and I for the final stalk.

Everything was perfect until my guides realized that the two smaller rams were higher on the hill than the bigger rams and we would need to be exposed to them before we could see the bigger rams. I didn’t think it was a big deal, but I didn’t realize how good sheep spot a small amount of movement that is three hundred yards away. They busted us and Cliff told me to quickly move up and take the shot. I threw my pack on a rock that thought it was a teeter totter and held at the top of the back for the 300 yard downhill shot. That rookie mistake sent the shot over his back and the race was on. The second shot found its mark at 317 yards and the big ram fell back from the other three. A third shot ensured the eleven year old desert warrior would be going home with me.

I know this big ram will be on my wall but he belongs to Josh and the guys at Dry Creek just as much as he does to me. When the ram comes back from the taxidermist I will remember this hunt when I look at him, I will also think about the friend I lost and the five new ones I made.

MEASURING IS DONE AND RECORDS ARE SET!

Kyle Meintzer has advised us that Jason Hairston’s ram taken with Jake Franklin and the Kika Worldwide Outfitters team has set a new California state record “by a mile!” This ram, “Goliath,” was taken in the Orocopias in December 2017.

GROSS 191 7/8”
NET 190 4/8”

Congrats again on a great hunt!



PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Mike Borel
Chartreuse Chamois
France
January 2018.



Clyde Ulrich
San Gorgonio Wilderness Mtn
183 2/3 B&C
****Largest harvest in San Gorgonio Wilderness****
Hunting with San Gorgonio Wilderness Outfitters



Brandon Hushbeck
San Gorgonio Ram
Hunting with Dry Creek Outfitters



Adam Heil
Marble/Clippers Ram
Hunting with Dry Creek Outfitters

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Dave York
Cady Mountains Desert Ram
December 2017
Hunting with San Gorgonio Wilderness Outfitters



Eric Gould
Texas Transcaspian Urial Ram
Hunting with Morani River Ranch



Kevin Townsend
Cady Mountains Desert Ram
December 2017 - 11 year old B&C ram
Hunting with Dry Creek Outfitters



Darryl Williams
New Mexico Aoudad
January 2018
Hunting with Kiowa Hunting Services

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Sean Browne
Cady Mountains Desert Ram
December 2017
Hunting with Dry Creek Outfitters



Tom Marquez
Clark Kingston Mtn
178+
Hunting with San Gorgonio Wilderness Outfitters



Tony Phelps
San Gorgonio Ram
Hunting with Dry Creek Outfitters



This is NOT Kyle Mentzer's Yukon Ram
But Kyle Says — "This Yukon Ram is
the one I missed!"

Give a lamb a drink

Game Changing Water Development Installations *Expanding desert bighorn sheep habitat in California*

One down, 89 to go! That's our status right now and we are continuing to seek funding and process through all the required paperwork for installations. Together with the Society for Conservation of Bighorn Sheep (SCBS) we have identified the next two installations, both of them on federal lands within the confines of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in the Bullion Mountains north of Twentynine Palms, CA.



The two installations' baseline cost is \$50,000. We have one system already funded by our grant from the Wild Sheep Foundation. Additionally we have raised just under \$15,000 for the second installation. To continue our funding, over the past six months we have submitted grant requests or proposals for funding to many groups including Water For Wildlife (headquartered in Wyoming), Mzuri Wildlife Foundation (headquartered in the Bay Area), and the California Big Game Management Account. We have plans to continue submitting grant proposals to other organizations so if you know of one, please get in touch with Mike Borel (mike.borel@contextnet.com) or Beverly (forthesheep@gmail.com).

Even with large dollar grants, we will still need the help of members and friends and any of the general public that has an interest in making sure that all animals within the desert environs. Of course, the primary species to benefit are bighorn sheep in California. However, any species within the range of the water systems will benefit from the installations. This includes golden eagles, desert tortoise, mule deer, squirrels, quail, desert hare (jackrabbit), coyote, and other denizens of the desert. For these individual donations we have set up a [GO FUND ME](#) page. You can share this link with family, friends, coworkers, or anyone that you feel may have an interest in helping sheep or other desert animals.

YOU are the missing ingredient —

Give a Lamb a Drink Today!

Your donation, no matter how big or how small, will help CA WSF build 90 new wildlife water sources in the next five years.

Make checks payable to
CA Wild Sheep Foundation
Mail to: 1314 Center Drive B267
Medford, OR 97501
Fax this form to: 650-472-3889

Donation amount \$ _____

Name on Card _____

eMail or Phone _____

Credit Card _____

Exp Date ____ / ____ CVC# _____ Billing Zip Code _____

Signature _____

Donate online at WWW.CAWSF.ORG
or at www.gofundme.com/galad

WHY YOU ABSOLUTELY MUST PARTICIPATE!

2018 CA WSF BANQUET/FUNDRAISER UPDATE

By Donald C. Martin

Trade show season is winding down and I can't tell you how terrific it was to share the last 5 events with so many of you. Wild Sheep Foundation had a record setting event in Reno this year and all of us, especially me, have so much to be thankful for. Thanks to the stock market's record highs in January, all of the trade shows this year have been a huge success and I am so eager to see that enthusiasm carry forward into our CA Wild Sheep Foundation dinner that is fast approaching.

If you haven't saved the date yet, DO IT NOW! May 5, 2018 at the Doubletree by Hilton in Sacramento, we are going to throw a great party and I want to extend a personal invitation to every one of you. We are always looking to build on past successes and this year's event has the potential to be a record setter!

Doubletree by Hilton is the same location as last year and I know there was some confusion when we moved to the new location and I apologize to those of you that ended up at our previous location and had to hustle over to our new location. The Doubletree by Hilton is located at 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, CA 95815. Our event will be held in the Grand Ballroom. Reservations for the night of May 5 may be made through the hotel directly at 1-866-238-4218 or online at: <http://www.guestreservations.com/doubletree-by-hilton-sacramento/booking>

Our room block code is "CWS" and I've received a couple of phone calls from members that the front desk informs them that our event is not on the schedule. I assure you, I have confirmed our event with the event manager, you can book your room with confidence.

By the date of publishing of this article, our website, www.cawsf.org will be updated to allow you to purchase your dinner tickets/tables and raffle tickets online. If you have any issues purchasing a table or tickets, please reach out to any of the Directors or email Beverly Valdez at: forthesh sheep@gmail.com

All of our Directors have been hard at work to maintain our reputation as the best conservation fundraiser in California and I can't thank them enough for their dedication to "put and keep sheep on the mountain!"

Paul Brisso has been hard at work once again as head of the general raffle and as always our general raffle is about quality, quality, quality. Not only do we have a Gunwerks 1000 yard rifle as a special random draw item but I can tell you now that we have outdone ourselves this year on the firearms available through the general raffle. Of the firearms, I have confirmed in front me right now, we have 3 rifles that any of us would be thrilled to walk away with. Two of them are courtesy of Nosler. First and foremost, we are fortunate to offer

a .28 Nosler Liberty with synthetic stock and the other, a beautiful blued/walnut Nosler rifle chambered for .270 Winchester Short Magnum. In addition, we are continuing our long standing relationship with Kimber. As part of a deal negotiated through Wild Sheep Foundation-National, we are once again receiving a Kimber Mountain Ascent to include in our general raffle. For the rest of our general raffle line-up, you'll have to make plans to attend to see all of the quality firearms, electronics and ladies' items that will be available at this year's event.

Craig Van Arsdale is once again heading up our silent auction and as usual he's living up to his reputation as an "over-achiever". There are just too many items to go into to detail so you'll just have to attend to see the stunning line-up of hunting apparel, equipment, and wildlife art. Don't miss it, I guarantee there is nowhere else to bid on a bass fishing trip with yours truly.

Don Priest is head of our live auction committee and this year's auction is shaping up to be perhaps our best ever. I can't include every single item in this update, but there are a handful of items and changes that I feel I need to inform you of. First and foremost, our event is "sheep-centric". That's who we are, a "sheep" organization. We currently have two sheep opportunities on our plate as I write this article. Once again, the state of Alaska has awarded us a DS 203/204 Delta Junction Controlled Use Area Dall Sheep Permit for the 2018 season. This is one of the best draw permits in the state! The first half of the season is "walk-in" only and the second half is "airplane access legal". This is a tremendous opportunity to take a ram 38" or better. I can put you in touch with a guide/outfitter for the unit if you need.

Our other current sheep hunt is an international opportunity for Hume Argali with Bryan Martin's Asian Mountain Outfitters. This could be the best value in adventure sheep hunting worldwide. This is a tremendous opportunity for mid-50's rams with the opportunity to add Mid-Asian ibex. This hunt utilizes mountain ponies and has a broader appeal than many other Asian mountain hunts. I have personally hunted with Bryan and couldn't recommend this opportunity enough.

Sticking with the theme of mountain hunting, I'm pleased to say that the state of Oregon has taken a huge risk and awarded the Oregon State Governor's



tag for Mountain Goat to California Wild Sheep Foundation. This is the first time ever that this permit has been awarded to a 501(c)3 non-profit wildlife conservation group outside the state of Oregon. I want to personally thank your Director, Jon Kruger, for soliciting this permit. This is a tremendous opportunity to harvest a trophy goat in excess of 50 Boone and Crockett points. In the year 2017 alone, Oregon hunters harvested five billies scoring 50" or better. As a percentage of harvest in 2017, 22% of successful mountain goat hunters in Oregon made the all-time Boone and Crockett record book! If you are looking for the opportunity of a lifetime for trophy mountain goat, this is it. In the unlikely event that you cannot attend our event, phone bidders are welcome. Please reach out to Beverly Valdez at: forthesheep@gmail.com to make arrangements to bid by phone.

Regarding our second mountain goat opportunity, there has been a change. The state of Alaska awarded us a unit 14C Bird Creek Mountain Goat permit. After a highly trusted guide in the area scouted the unit for us. I have amended our application to the state of Alaska and we will now be receiving a Unit 14C non-resident Lake George permit. This permit has a much higher density of mountain goats with a resident population of near 500 goats and guides in the unit report a success rate of 100% with no more than 4 days in the field for hunter effort. This is a huge improvement over the Bird Creek permit and we humbly thank the State of Alaska for working with us to secure the best permits possible for our members. If you need a mountain goat, this permit is an excellent opportunity to take a great goat with a number of highly qualified guides in the area. I can refer you to a licensed 14C guide if you need, just let me know. Don't spend your whole life waiting to draw this permit. Make the commitment to bid and go!

Closer to home, once again, Bob Swanson of the Jim Bardin ranch in Monterey county has donated us a tule elk permit. But this year, Bob has asked to do something a little different. Bob sees the need to recruit youth to our way of life and as result has offered a 2 day tule elk cow hunt for a youth rifle-hunter age 12-17 to be taken in December 2018, dates are negotiable pending availability. This is a great opportunity for a young person to harvest an elk in Monterey County and previous success rate has been 100%. I will personally guide this hunt and do all that I can to insure the success of the youth hunter. Wild pig for the youth hunter may be added at no charge if time and opportunity are available. In the event, the youth hunter is successful in harvesting both a tule elk cow and a wild hog, the parent may harvest a wild hog at no additional charge if time allows.

If you need a coues deer, do not miss our event. We have multiple opportunities for coues deer this year. Both archery and rifle hunters will have the opportunity to bid on opportunities to hunt for the

"grey ghost" with a couple of Arizona's finest outfitters.

As usual there will be some surprises, but our live auction line-up will reflect our dedication to quality opportunities for the hunter and his family with hunting trips here in the US and abroad as well as family vacations, recreational trips and wildlife art. Our team will continue to update you via email as we get closer to our event on May 5!

If you hang around 'til the very end you'll get to watch someone, **MAYBE YOU**, win a \$22,500 10 Dall sheep hunt with Ultima Thule Outfitters(UTO). I will personally guide this hunt and do everything humanly possible to send you home with a great Dall sheep ram. I have guided many raffle hunters and I admit, I'm not 100%, but I've only sent one hunter home empty handed. And even he, an Alaskan resident, told me it was one of the best hunts he had ever been on. Tickets this year are limited in number and are \$100 each. **YOU HAVE TO BE IN THE ROOM TO WIN IT!** Odds will never be better. This is your best chance at winning the Dall sheep hunt of a lifetime in the best place on planet Earth for trophy Dall sheep. We have world record genetics! Just ask Eric Gould, Dennis Morrison, or Joel Franzoia! They have been there, done that, and they got the T-shirt(...no really, there's a T-shirt)! UTO swept awards this year taking Gold medal at WSF-National and Diamond and Gold Awards at GSCO along with "Ram of the Year" honors. Come support CA's desert bighorns and try to win this hunt of a lifetime. CA WSF thanks Paul and Donna Claus and the entire UTO family for their continued support of wild sheep and wild sheep hunters.

We used to be a chapter with a lot of money and no projects. Well, we've turned the corner now and thanks our partnership with the hard-working members of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, we're a chapter with unlimited projects and not so much money. Come to our event and "Give a Lamb a Drink." Come see what all the excitement is about. We are on track to double the number of bighorn sheep in the state of California. You can be a part of that legacy. You can be a part of creating opportunity for ourselves and our kids. You can be a part of this family. I personally invite all of you to come out and enjoy the party as we raise money to "put and keep sheep on the mountain" and brighten the future for all of us that love and cherish our great outdoors.

Cinco de Mayo!!!! Come share it with your sheep hunting family at the Doubletree by Hilton in Sacramento on May 5, 2018. This is the wildlife conservation party you absolutely can't miss. You will see things you can't unsee! I guarantee it will be an adventure! Be a part of the fun and plan to attend our 2018 fundraising party in our state capitol!

I will see you there,
Donald C. Martin
2018 Banquet/Fundraiser Co-chair.



OREGON ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT TAG

This special tag allows the high bidder to:

- Hunt anywhere there is an authorized Rocky Mountain goat season and tags in 2018
- Extended seasons: Aug. 1 – Nov. 30
- Previous holders of any Oregon Rocky Mountain goat tag are eligible.
- Any weapon legal for that species may be used.

All funds raised by this Oregon Big Game Auction and Raffle tags directly fund big game management, big game research, and habitat and hunter access projects.



ALASKA STATE GOVERNORS' TAGS



• Mountain goat unit DG889/Unit 14

Hunt season September 1 - October 15, 2018
Either sex is legal, but harvesting males is encouraged for conservation reasons. The taking of nannies with kids is prohibited.

Unit 14C is within the drainages of the Knik River upstream from, but not including, Big Timber Creek drainage.



• Dall's sheep unit DS203/204

The Delta Controlled Use Area (DCUA) was created in 1971 to provide quality walk-in sheep hunting opportunities free from competition with other transportation types during the early portion of the sheep season. The area went to the drawing permits system in 1978 with a limit of one ram

with full curl or larger horns. Sheep hunting in this area has two hunt periods, the DS203 (walk-in hunting only) from Aug. 10th – Aug. 25th when the use of any motorized vehicles or pack animals are prohibited, then the DS204 (unrestricted access) is from Aug. 26th – Sept. 20th. From Aug. 26th to the close of sheep season on Sept. 20th; motorized access and the use of pack animals is allowed.





SOUTH AFRICA PLAINSGAME

This 7-day plainsgame safari for 2 hunters can be taken in EITHER the Eastern Cape Province OR the Limpopo Province! Graham Sales, Professional Hunter of the Year in

both 2004 and 2007 will include filming of your safari along with trophy fees for each hunter (impala and warthog in Limpopo; common springbok and warthog in Eastern Cape) along with fees for additional game to be shared between hunters. Don't miss this great opportunity to take a custom South African hunt!

KYRGYZSTAN HUME ARGALI

This is a 7-8 day hunt for 1 hunter with Asian Mountain Outfitters. Bryan Martin and his team offers the most unique and adventurous mountain hunting experiences in Kyrgyzstan.



This hunt for the Hume Argali, a subspecies of the majestic Marco Polo, can be taken Oct. or Nov. 2018 or January 2019. This is a very physically demanding hunt — it will fulfill your wildest dreams of a true mountain hunt - and every moment will be worth it!

PLUS MARQUEE RAFFLES INCLUDING —

Nosler 26 Liberty with synthetic stock

Nosler .270 Winchester Short Magnum blued/walnut stock

Kimber Mountain Ascent in 6.5 Creedmore with

Leupold VX-6HD /3-18x44 Subalpine scope and Boyt Long Gun Case

Leupold Thermal Tracker

Leupold RX 1600i TBR/W Rangefinder

Leupold Mark 5 HD 3.6-18x44 Rifle Scope

\$1,000 Gift Card

65 inch Vizio Ultra HD Smart TV



**CA WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION
ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET**
MAY 5, 2018, DoubleTree by Hilton in Sacramento 3PM - 10PM

Be an "Early Bird" (complete registration by April 7, 2018) to get tickets for entry to drawing for \$1000 in banquet credits.

_____ **Single Dinner/Event Ticket - \$100** \$ _____

- > One (1) Dinner/Event includes entry to the Displays, Speakers and Auctions
- > Get one (1) chance at the Early Bird drawing if registered by April 7, 2018

_____ **Youth Single Dinner/Event Ticket(s) - \$50 each (14 and under)** \$ _____

- > One (1) Dinner/Event Ticket, includes entry to the Displays, Speakers and Auctions plus one special youth prize

_____ **Reserved 1/2 Table (5) Dinner/Event Tickets - \$475** \$ _____

- > Five (5) Dinner/Event includes entry to the Displays, Speakers and Auctions
- > Get five (5) chances at the Early Bird drawing if registered by April 7, 2018

_____ **Reserved Full Table (10) Dinner/Event Tickets - \$900** \$ _____

- > Ten (10) Dinner/Event Ticket includes entry to the Displays, Speakers and Auctions
- > Get ten (10) chances at the Early Bird drawing if registered by April 7, 2018

Raffle Ticket Packages

_____ **HALF CURL \$100 Ticket Package** \$ _____
\$240 value in (12) General Raffle tickets

_____ **THREE-QUARTER CURL \$500 Ticket Package** \$ _____
\$1,600 value in (30) General Raffle tickets and (5) Super Raffle tickets.

_____ **FULL CURL \$1,000 Ticket Package** \$ _____
\$5,200 value in (60) General Raffle tickets and (20) Super Raffle tickets

Thank you for your generosity in sponsoring and donating to CA Wild Sheep Foundation

_____ **Give a Lamb a Drink** \$ _____
Donate to help build Rainwater Wildlife Water Systems; tax deductible. You will receive recognition in the event program and the quarterly newsletter. \$250 \$500 \$1,000

_____ **Donation to Help Sponsor the Event and Support Wild Sheep in California** \$ _____
Please especially consider if you will not be able to be there! (Any amount)

_____ **Custom Gunwerks Rifle Drawing Tickets - \$50 each ONLY 400 SOLD!** \$ _____

_____ **Dall Sheep Drawing Tickets - \$100 each ONLY 500 SOLD** *Must be present to win* \$ _____

Total Payment: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Check Enclosed <input type="checkbox"/> Credit card
--

CREDIT CARD _____

EXP DATE ____ / ____ CVC# _____ BILLING ZIP CODE _____

NAME ON CARD _____

SIGNATURE _____

SELF _____ 6 _____

2 _____ 7 _____

3 _____ 8 _____

4 _____ 9 _____

5 _____ 10 _____

Make checks payable to
CA Wild Sheep
Foundation

Mail to:
1314 Center Dr. B267
Medford, OR 97501

Fax to:
650-472-3889

For your records, CA FNAWS (dba California Wild Sheep Foundation or CA WSF) is a nonprofit organization. CA WSF tax identification number is 69-0481140.



ANNUAL FUNDRAISER FEATURING TWO SPECIAL DRAWINGS

Alaska's Best! 2019 Ultima Thule Outfitters Dall's Sheep Hunt Wrangell-St Elias National Preserve with guide Donald C Martin **Value \$22,500**

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

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



**\$100 per ticket - ONLY 500 TICKETS SOLD
MUST be present May 5, 2018 to win**



Custom Long Range Rifle **Value \$9,000**

Designed for hunting and target shooting 1,000 yard "out of the box" accuracy
Includes: LR1000 chambered in 28 Nosler with fluted barrel; stainless steel action; Cerakote metal finish; Nightforce NXS 5.5-22X 50 MOAR scope with Zstop capped windage; a custom Gunwerks long range turret and custom hard case.

**\$50 per ticket - ONLY 400 TICKETS SOLD
Do not need to be present to win**

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

Or at our annual fundraiser on May 5, 2018 at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Sacramento

CA Wild Sheep Foundation 2018 ORDER FORM

Gunwerks Drawing 1 ticket \$50 x _____ = \$ _____
Dall Sheep Drawing 1 ticket \$100x _____ = \$ _____

Check Visa MasterCard Discover AmEx CCV
_____ Exp. Date _____

Annual Membership (\$40) = \$ _____
Life Membership (\$500) = \$ _____

Signature: _____

Name (Please Print): _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Total Amount: \$ _____

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 SASE is enclosed

Send or Fax form to:
CA WSF
1314 Center Dr. B267, Medford, OR 97501
Fax: (650) 472-3889
Email: cawssf@cawssf.org

**Ticket orders must be received by APRIL 15, 2018
See more details at www.cawssf.org**

CA WSF is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

PASSOVER NO MORE

By Dave York

I'm new to the sheep world. I never dreamed of going in my lifetime. Then one morning in July someone had posted CADFW results are up. After 30 years of never being drawn I refer to this time of year as Passover because I'm always passed over on tags. So I logged on and the first tag up was Bighorn sheep. As I scrolled down there's the question, "Did You Win"? I look over and there's a Y. Wait what's "Y" mean?? I've only ever seen "N" so I'm confused. I read it over and over, logged off and back on. Still a Y. I just stared in disbelief. I told my wife and her response was how much does that cost? So I explained how important to a hunter this is. It wasn't until a friend of one of my sons that works for the state of Nevada said that they had auctioned one off for \$145,000 that she realized how big a deal this was.

I logged in many times that day to see if someone realized they had made an error and awarded me a tag.

Two weeks of restless sleep followed before I could finally get a full nights sleep.

I had posted that I had been drawn on several hunting sites and one name came up that if I was looking for a guide get ahold of Terry Anderson of San Gorgonio Outfitters. He lives in that area and spends a lot of his time volunteering doing work on guzzlers out in the desert for the Bighorn sheep society (Ed note: Society for Conservation of Bighorn Sheep or SCBS). Lots of trips are spent during the blistering summer hauling water for some of the guzzlers. So I contacted him and spent time learning all about sheep and the Cady Mountains where I would be hunting.

Fast forward to August and the mandatory sheep Orientation in Sacramento. It was an enjoyable day learning about the history and biology of the sheep here in California. Also I got to meet all the other lucky hunters and hear their experience of getting drawn.

So December finally arrived and my wife and I headed down to Barstow where our two sons would be there to join us at Terry's camp.

Terry informed me that the four of them had been out in different areas trying to locate sheep for four days with no results until that day. Two nice rams had been spotted in an area where they had never seen them before. The Cadys look pretty small on the map but at 75x150 miles it's pretty large if you're looking for sheep.

After dinner and the last guide got in we met to come up with a plan for the morning. One of the guides had some long range pictures through a spotting scope of the two rams. Both looked nice, not broomed off and decent mass.

The 4:30 wake up call came and we had breakfast



that my wife had fixed. At 5:30 we hit the road. There are dirt roads running all over in the desert and easy to get lost in the dark like I had the night before.

As it started getting light enough to see we arrived at a glassing spot. Off in the distance were some barren lava rock mountains. So chairs were got out and spotting scopes set up. Within minutes Terry and his men had started seeing sheep and then, RAMS! Big Rams. Seeing one of those regal animals sky lined at two miles is an incredible rush. The first thing that is spotted are those huge horns. Unfortunately the two big rams were in a hurry to get over the mountain and gone.

Don, one of the guides drove down the road a mile or so to glass where he had seen the rams the day before. He spotted two rams, a young one and a nice mature one. We went to the spot and the one was a good one to go after. The problem was they were headed west. When they disappeared we headed that direction in the vehicles on the road. The big ram bedded down but the younger ram was nervous. At a mile and a half away they were staring us down.

A plan was formulated and four of us headed east to start a stalk. Don, Andrew, my son Shawn and myself. Three were staying to keep track of them. Terry, Tim and my other son Travis.

We went a mile or more down the road east to start. We had to make sure that they could not spot us on our march. By the time we hit the first hill I had to stop to start shedding layers. It was 27 degrees early but warming up quickly. We were headed out in a wash that was low enough to conceal us. Sand, sand and what wasn't sand was lava rock.

At 67 I'm not the quickest guy out there. What would get a workout was my knees. Both have been replaced and one of them twice. Five years ago this hunt would not have been possible. I got a staph infection after a knee surgery that ended up going septic. According to the ER doctor I was hours away from the point of no return. The next three years everything that could go wrong did. I had 9 knee surgeries in three years and another staph infection that I thought I was going to lose my leg from.

So here I am trudging through the desert thanking God for two legs. Hours went by on our trek; at one spot I was down on all fours climbing the mountain. It seems the sheep were moving west as we were moving west.

Finally we reached the ridge where the sheep were supposed to be somewhere on the other side in the ravine hopefully bedded. I shed my pack and we had a confab on what they were expecting. The guides said it was going to be a 4-450 yard shot. I had been shooting out to 300. Don had brought his 300wsm rifle that was a tack driver out to that distance and beyond. I opted to leave my rifle and use his.

Andrew went slowly to the edge of the ridge to see where the sheep were. No Sheep! Down the ridge and hike higher on the ridge. A great spot was seen where they could glass from and I could stand behind to shoot. No sheep. Now my mind is starting to wonder if after all this we would be repeating this again. It was now after 12.

Back off the ridge and hike higher and higher. Don belly crawled up to the crest and glassed. He looked down at us and gave a slight nod. Game on!!

All this time we had to be as quiet as possible in this garbled rock mountain. My knees were throbbing and I needed water but that would have to be shelved. I started my crawl up and this is where I had to be careful. On my right knee there is no muscle protecting the joint. My knee cap is not even in the center of my knee nor is it flat like it should be. Any thorn or small rock can penetrate the thin skin there and if it does I will have to have another surgery or risk another infection and losing my leg.

I'm trying to crawl up this loose rock using mostly my elbows because I can't get traction with my feet in the loose rock. Then Don says He's Up! You need to hurry! Andrew gave me a push to get in place. I get on the gun and I can't find him through the scope. He's running!! Open both eyes Don said. I finally spotted him. He stopped to take a look to see what was going on down hill. He's now a little over 200 yds. I put the crosshairs right behind his right leg and touched the trigger. He jumped and I put another round in. Andrew said he's got a broken leg and heading uphill, shoot again. The ram stopped and stood straight up on his hind legs for three seconds. (Discovered that after watching a video shot through the spotting scope). I shot just as he went over backwards. He was down and rolling downhill. The



first shot was through his right leg and heart taking out his left leg before lodging in the skin.

I was spent. The guides congratulated me and I thanked them. I thanked and hugged my son for being there. We sat down right there and ate our lunches.

The three down below had been watching all this unfold from a mile and a half away. They were agonizing when they saw the ram get up and run uphill. In the video you can hear them talking back and forth. Then you hear them say he's hit! Seconds later the rifle shot can be heard echoing downhill.

As the three were coming uphill we made our way across to the ram. I decided a straight shot would be best. My knees, now weak, we're having trouble negotiating the large lava outcropping. One misstep or loose rock was going to end up with a helicopter ride out of there.

We all made it there and I just marveled at this incredible animal. Splendid looking horns with good mass. The Cadys don't have the huge horn genetics like some of the other areas. This ram was a great ram for the Cadys.

The tape came out and they rough scored him between 170-171".

It was photo time and everyone had their phones and cameras out. Then my quads started cramping up.

As the sun was getting low we headed downhill to the vehicles far below. I was happy it was downhill, well sort of. My knees didn't especially like it.

We all arrived safely and celebrated with a toast to the hunt with a cold one.

It still seems surreal that I was able to enjoy such an incredible hunt.

I'm a taxidermist so this ram is going to be a life size mount. The king of the desert deserves to be remembered lifesize in all his glory. They are tough



animals to live in such a harsh environment.

The next day two F&W representatives came out to collect DNA, a tooth, and measure him. He came out 170 6/8".

Thanks to Terry, Don, Andrew, Tim and my two sons, Travis and Shawn. I would never have found this sheep in my own but San Gorgonio Wilderness Outfitters knew where to look.

To all out there that put in for these hunts don't

The way all sheep hunts start – a view from 1.5 miles away!

give up, keep applying. One day you may be fortunate enough to hunt for these incredible animals.

Oh I forgot to mention how wonderful these are for eating. I have never had any game as good eating as they are. The mildest meat with absolutely no sheep or lamb flavor. They are excellent eating.

GSC/OVIS CONVENTION RECAP

By Bob Keagy

The 2018 GSC/Ovis Convention was held January 24th through 27th at the Westgate Hotel in Las Vegas, which has been the venue for the past several years. The hotel offered attractive room packages to GSC/Ovis members, and these sold out before the convention.

The GSC/Ovis registration, exhibit hall and dining facility are all in the same wing of the hotel, which is convenient.

The exhibit hall included approximately 115 booths, including many familiar and famous names, such as: UltimaThule Outfitters, The Hunting Consortium, Safari Outfitters, Profluhunt, Caprinae Safaris, Shikar Safaris, Go With Bo, Jim Shockey's Hunting Adventures, Amigos Guides and Outfitters (Nayo Balderamma), Alcampo, HuntinSpain, as well as manufacturers such as Leopold and Trijicon and taxidermists such as Monarch Taxidermy.

In adjoining conference rooms there were seminars by Jim Shockey, Dan Adler, Tom Miranda and others.

Although attendance was up approximately 30% over last year, there was still a definite pall cast over the convention by the sad news that Dennis Campbell, for many years the driving force behind GSC/Ovis, and a great friend to all, was terminally ill with cancer. Dennis

has been an active supporter of the hunting community for over twenty years and has donated hunts at his Magnolia Lodge in Alabama to many sporting organizations.

On a more positive note, Saturday night's banquet was a personal highpoint, as California Wild Sheep members Larry Day, Vic Mancuso and myself, together with our wives, joined with Mike Borel and Roz Faugier for dinner. After dinner Larry, Vic and myself were called to the stage to receive our GSC/Ovis "Triple Slam" awards. The Triple Slam consists having achieved the Capra World Slam, the Grand Slam of North American Sheep, and the World Slam of sheep. Great fun!

The convention was well attended, with great exhibits, was well-organized, and financially a success. It was saddening, however, to think of the organization without the continual good will of our friend, Dennis Campbell. The next convention is January 30 to February 2, 2019 at the Westgate again-- so plan ahead!!!



HUNTING PHOTOGRAPHY PART 1: CHOOSING A CAMERA

By Craig Van Arsdale



We as hunters are a lucky group of outdoorsmen and women. The places hunting takes us are truly second to none. Many of these places are burned into our memory forever! BUT... with time some of those memories fade and the fine details seem to get a little blurry as time passes on. Just like a great piece of taxidermy will bring back the memories of a hunt each time you look at them, so will learning to take good photos of your adventures afield. You will be rewarded with a lifetime of quality images to remember all of the great places and times you've had hunting and your photo collection will likely be passed onto your future generations to come. In this photography series I will break down the advances in today's technology in photography equipment and how you can use it to take phenomenal photos for your collection and document your adventures. In part one I will first discuss how to select a camera and the needed accessories to get you started.

Digital cameras can be summed up into several categories but I will explain only two of them here to recommend to the beginner photographer. Although today's cell phones have made leaps and bounds in camera technology I highly recommend that they be used as a secondary camera to one of the camera designs I recommend below.

COMPACT DIGITAL CAMERA (POINT AND SHOOT) – The most popular camera design is the Point and Shoot digital camera. These cameras are affordable and very easy to use hence the “Point and Shoot” phrase. I personally think most people just looking to get their feet wet in photography should start with a point and shoot camera. I know I did and it served me well. Half the battle is getting used to just taking lots of photos and learning from your mistakes.

PRO'S

- Size and weight. Especially for the hunter in mind the size and weight of a point and shoot digital camera is hard to beat. Most point and shoot cameras will fit in the belt pouch of your pack or even your pant pocket which will make it easy to access therefore making you more likely to grab the camera for that photo when the opportunity presents itself.
- Price. From between \$500 to \$1200 you can find a great quality point and shoot digital camera that will suit your needs of documenting your adventures.
- User Friendly. They call them “point and shoot” cameras for a reason! Compact digital cameras are great for beginners as they have very few bells and whistles and will do most of the work for you shooting in Auto.

CON'S

- Image Quality. Because the sensor on a Compact Digital Camera is very small (most sensors are in the 8X6mm to 12X9mm size) They typically lack in image quality compared to a Full Frame DSLR which has a sensor size of 36mmX24mm and provides the best image quality available. Think of sensor size as how much light a sensor can take in or data to compile an image.
- Flexibility. With a Compact Digital Camera the user is generally limited to auto controls only and limited zoom. Compacts also do not have interchangeable lenses.
- Slower focus and shutter speed. Compacts will take longer to focus and longer to take multiple photos at a time vs a DSLR which will focus and shoot photos at lightning speeds. Battery life can also be poor so keep this in mind while selecting cameras.

DSLR OR (DIGITAL SINGLE LENS REFLEX CAMERA) – If your serious about superior photo quality and know you will be taking photography very seriously I recommend a DSLR camera.

PRO'S

- Image Quality. Unlike Compact Digital Cameras DSLR's will typically have one of two sensor sizes. Full frame as mentioned above which provides the absolute best in image quality or a APS-C (cropped sensor) that will measure 22X15mm generally.

- Most professional photographers are shooting DSLR's with Full Frame sensors.
- Flexibility. DSLR's will allow the user to shoot in either full Auto mode or full Manual. As you learn more about photography you will be able to adjust the camera on the fly to best suit the image you are trying to capture ultimately leading to phenomenal photos. Lens options are also almost endless allowing for very high quality images from afar and great focusing capabilities.

CON'S

- Price. Although cropped sensor DSLR's start off not too much higher in price than a high end Compact Digital, DSLR's are still very much so on the pricey side of things. A good DSLR with an entry level lens will run in the \$1500 to \$3500 range. Once you start buying lenses the price really adds up!
- Size and Weight. DSLR's are not small or light weight either compared to a Compact Digital. My current DSLR runs about 3 pounds and clips onto my pack shoulder strap for ease of access otherwise I have to carry it inside my pack. To me though it's a price I am willing to pay for the images I get from it.
- Not User friendly. Unlike a Compact Digital, DSLR's are not as user friendly and can be a chore to learn the ins and outs of all the different settings. On the positive side though this will force you to learn the

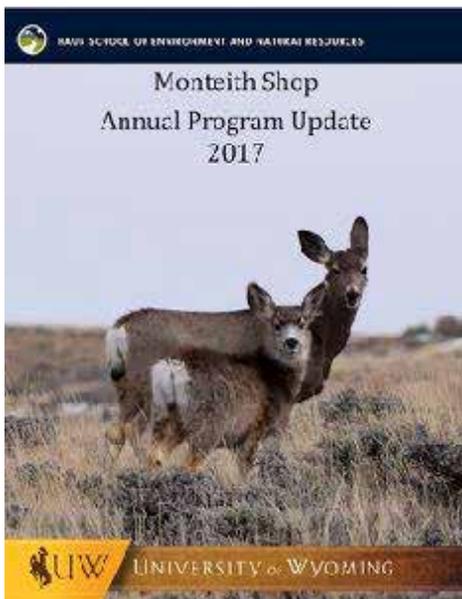


camera and the theory behind each setting which will make you a better photographer. YouTube is a great resource for accelerating your learning on your specific camera.

Coming next quarter in Part 2 I will discuss photo editing to enhance and develop your photos in post processing software and general tips for shooting landscape and trophy photos.

In my final part 3 I will focus on DSLR's only and breakdown some of the basic settings, what they are and how to use them. If you have any further questions and would like to dive further into the topic or recommendations on cameras feel free to email me at craig_74chev@hotmail.com

University of Wyoming Monteith Shop Annual Program 2017 Update Now Available



The work of the Kevin Monteith team at the University of Wyoming has been ongoing for 10 years and spans wildlife projects throughout the western U.S. including several sheep-related studies.

CA WSF has proudly participated as a Project Partner in the the Harvest Records Project (report beginning on page 68). Also of special interest to members will be the Bighorn Sheep Nutrition-Disease Project report beginning on page 58.

Download the full Monteith Shop report update at:
<http://bit.ly/UWyMonteith2017>

For more detailed data and information on the 2017 Harvest Records Report, see the document at: <http://bit.ly/UWyomingHornSize2017>

THE CADIZ WATER PROJECT UPDATE

By Don Priest

In our Winter 2017 issue of California Wild Sheep Bob Keagy had introduced to most of us the threat the Cadiz Water Project could have on our Mojave Desert wildlife and habitat, including desert bighorn sheep (DBS). Since that time, a number of parties with great interest in the conservation of DBS have worked together to determine the dangers of this Project. This group of dedicated DBS enthusiasts conducted research into the Project's potential impact and effects on the desert landscape, on water resources, water aquifers, and on DBS. Thanks is given to this group for all their efforts.

The impact of this Project would have greatest effect on DBS in the Clipper Mountains, potentially influencing the water levels and pressure on some of the lower natural springs in that range.

Since Bob's thorough review of the Project in the Winter 2017 issue, further developments and hurdles that must be overcome for the Project prior to implementation have occurred. The first development involves the water conveyance pipeline; a necessity for the Project to bring water from the Project's pumping station to the Colorado Aqueduct. As Bob outlined the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) under the Trump administration after their review has approved the active railroad 'Right of Way' for the pipeline. The argument made for approval by the Trump BLM review is that this water indeed has a railroad purpose as it could be used for the fighting of railroad tie fires. Soon thereafter the Center of Biological Diversity sued the Department of Interior and BLM challenging this review, with the suit currently unsettled.

An additional potential impediment involves the State School Lands Commission (Commission) as they are currently considering whether an additional environmental review under CEQA* will be required. The initial CEQA assessment was made by the Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD), the original supporters for the Project. However, the SMWD CEQA review did not directly determine the environmental impact of the pipeline via the railroad 'Right-of-Way' discussed above through the State School Lands in which the pipeline will be required to lie through. Should the Commission require this new CEQA review it is possible that the additional mitigation measures will be required by the Project prior to approval, either slowing or further impacting the economic feasibility of the Project.

Lastly, this water does contain Hexavalent Chromium, or Chromium-6, as Bob outlined. This is the cancerous agent made famous by the movie "Erin Brockovitch." We understand that this is

an outstanding issue as to whether the California Metropolitan Water District, which operates the Colorado Aqueduct, would require the treatment of the Project's water prior to inclusion into the Aqueduct. This requirement could also have a major impact on the economic viability of the Project as this treatment would greatly increase the cost of this water.

Going forward your California Wild Sheep Foundation will look to cooperating with other conservation organizations to most effectively raise our concerns and impede, if necessary, the development and implementation of this Project. As this issue develops we will keep you, our fellow CA WSF members, updated through future articles.

** CEQA: What is CEQA? The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was a statute enacted in 1970 requiring state and local agencies to identify the significant environmental impacts of their actions and to avoid or mitigate those impacts, if feasible. Here is a website to learn more about CEQA: <http://resources.ca.gov/ceqa/more/faq.html>*



PUTTING AND KEEPING SHEEP ON THE MOUNTAINS



**MAY 5, 2018
DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON
SACRAMENTO**

DESERT BIGHORN UPDATE

By: Paige Prentice



Winter is my favorite season to be in the desert. With captures finished, new collars deployed, and highs in the mid-70s it is a great time for field work and range exploration.

The WSF Sheep Show in Reno is always a fun way to kick-off the year. This year the Sheep Show started with great discussions during the WAFWA Wild Sheep

Working Group and Wildlife Professional meetings, followed by a great turn-out in the convention hall

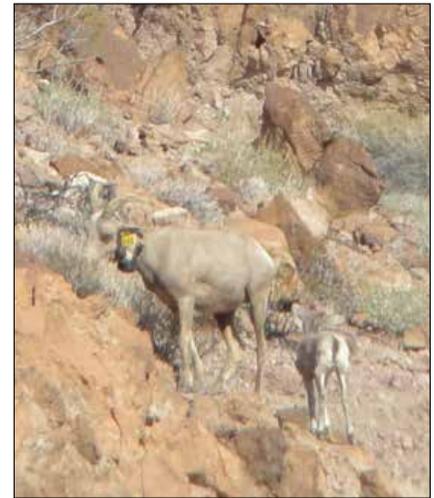
and banquet dinners, and the laughter-filled backpack races. The highlight for us, of course, was having the CA Desert Bighorn tag sell for \$200,000!

In the Marble Mountains, between mid-January and mid-February we saw 19 of 32 collared ewes, 15 of which had lambs. In addition, we counted at least 10 yearlings (last year's lambs). This is the highest number of yearlings we've recorded in the Marbles since the disease outbreak in 2013. We will continue to monitor the lambing status of collared ewes in the Marbles throughout the spring.

Other planned activities include: checking and maintaining big game guzzlers, conducting bi-monthly telemetry flights, recovering mortalities, scouting ranges we plan to survey via helicopter, and getting visuals on newly collared bighorn.



R. Abella (left), T. Glenner, P. Prentice, and A. Evans (right) at the CDFW booth during the Sheep Show. The mount is the ram mortality from fall capture, CAWSF funded the taxidermy--it's beautifully done.



*Marble Mountain ewe 1581 with her newborn lamb. January 2018.
Photo by: Ashley Evans*

FAVORITE PIECE OF GEAR UNDER \$100

By Jon Kruger



One of my favorite pieces of gear isn't very expensive at all. Coming in at around 35\$ and 2.2oz it's definitely not going to break your bank or your back for that matter. I've been using the same Havalon

Piranha knife for about 8 years now. It uses scalpel 2.75" 60 XT blades and is about the sharpest thing available. Convenient for the fact that when a blade gets dull you can just clip in a brand new surgically sharp blade. This is the only knife I carry while hunting and no longer pack a big sheath knife.

PROS

- Weights only 2.2oz with blade installed
- Compact
- Can gut/skin/quarter a deer only needing to use a couple blades
- You will always have a razor shape knife
- Don't have to bring a knife sharpener with you
- Great for intricate work on capes
- Blades are cheap (\$26 for 100) which should last you a lifetime

CONS

- Not designed for heavy duty cutting
- Blades are a little tricky to switch and I always use a rock or stick so I don't cut myself
- You will need to carry extra blades with you
- Blades break with excessive side loading pressure

I recently was gifted an Outdoor Edge Razor- Lite EDC (\$25 on amazon), which is a similar design to the Piranha. However, it has some improvements on the Havalon piranha design. First off, the blade change out process is significantly easier and safer on the Razor-lite. It is slightly heavier weighing in at 2.8oz and blades cost more (\$10 for 6, 3.5" blades). Another improvement that this knife has over the Havalon piranha is that the blade is better supported which is going to allow you to do more aggressive cutting without breaking blades. If you haven't tried a surgical blade knife for cleaning game I encourage you to buy one and give it a try on your next hunt. I did so 8 years ago and it has been a game changer for me.

CA WSF BECOMES A WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION JOINT MEMBERSHIP PARTNER

As a chapter we believe that PUTTING AND KEEPING WILD SHEEP ON THE MOUNTAINS is paramount to ensuring wild sheep for future generations and to preserving our outdoor heritage. Having a solid membership base allows us to follow up on opportunities as they develop, such as developing our multi-year program to "Give a Lamb a Drink," and also allows funding of research into the habits and health of wild sheep.

Wild Sheep Foundation also strongly believes that conservation of wild sheep and preservation of our outdoor heritage depends on close cooperation with their chapters and affiliates.

To streamline membership, and provide some membership discounts and bonuses, we are now part

of the WSF Discounted Dual Membership Program.

What this means for you is one place to join or renew your membership in BOTH WSF and CA WSF. And your normal membership is now at a reduced price (annual membership is \$35, three year membership is \$80). Life membership remains \$500. You will also receive a discount on your WSF membership.

Does this mean that we will have less to spend on sheep in California? Actually, probably not! WSF will pay associated processing fees so that we will retain just about the same amount of membership funding as before.

Renew or join today at our new web page (or new form on page 37) — and get your friends to join too! The sheep need us NOW so that we can all enjoy them in the FUTURE.

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

Taylor N. LaSharr, Kevin L. Monteith, and Vernon C. Bleich



Harvest plays a critically important role in the management and conservation of wild populations. Understanding how harvest practices influence populations is essential for maximizing the effectiveness of wildlife management programs throughout North America.

This is the third in a series of articles summarizing progress toward understanding the influences of hunter harvest, demography, and the environment on horn size of North American wild sheep. Funding for the research has been provided by a multitude of agencies and organizations; it is especially noteworthy that the California Wild Sheep Foundation and other chapters or affiliates of the Wild Sheep Foundation have invested generously in this project, and that all three of the big game records-keeping organizations in North America have cooperated fully by providing access to the long-term data in their archives. In this installment, we summarize some of our results to date; publication of the final results will occur following completion of the project.

CHANGES IN HORN SIZE OF BIGHORN SHEEP

Preliminary analysis of bighorn sheep harvest data from 171 hunt units in 11 states throughout western North America revealed 72% (n= 123) of hunt units did not exhibit changes in horn size, after accounting for age, over the past 45 years. Furthermore, of the 48 hunt units that did show a temporal change, 58% (n=28) of those hunt units were declining, whereas 42% (n=20) exhibited increases in horn size through time.

In Wyoming, where sample size for individual hunt units typically was very large, three of the twenty hunt areas we examined exhibited age-specific changes in horn size through time. The largest decrease in horn size in Wyoming was in Hunt Unit 9, with a 2.5" decline in horn size from 1970 to 2015. The largest increase in horn size in Wyoming was 2.8" in Hunt Unit 19 from 1970 to 2015.

Some hunt areas did not exhibit changes in horn size or changes in age at the population level but did show changes in the size of horns of specific age classes. Accounting for age is critically important when addressing the question of how harvest influences size of horns through time, because

evaluating population averages alone may not tell the whole story. For example, many populations did not show a change in average horn size or average age through time but did exhibit changes in horn size of individual age classes.

ASSESSING LONG-TERM TRENDS IN OTHER UNGULATE SPECIES

Harvest records of mountain sheep are a valuable tool for assessing long-term trends in the size of horns, and these records are one of the few sources of empirical data that exists for testing the question of how harvest influences the size of horns and antlers through time. The Boone and Crockett Club, the first records program in North America, was created over a century ago to promote conservation and the ethical and sustainable management of wildlife, one of our greatest natural resources. To this day, that goal remains the foundation of numerous records programs, and because of the diligence and enthusiasm of the individuals that created records programs, decades of measurement data exist for most species of big game that are harvested in North America. Consequently, the measurements of trophy animals kept by records programs may be one of the most robust and valuable tools available for understanding how harvest influences horn and antler size.

There has been recent criticism, however, of the effectiveness of trophy records books for assessing changes in the size of horns and antlers through time. This criticism stems from the idea that trophy records books are inherently providing truncated samples (i.e., they are limited by a minimum size requirement for entry). If horns and antlers must reach a minimum size to be entered into a records book, the trends seen in records books could be underrepresenting the trends actually occurring in populations that include a wider range of horn and antler sizes. A minimum size requirement for entry will mean that all individuals must be at least a certain size, and even if there are changes through time, the minimum size that all animals must attain to be recorded in a records book may dilute the trends seen through time.

To understand the usefulness of trophy records books for assessing trends in the size of horns and antlers through time, we are evaluating the prediction that lower requirements for entry into a records book (i.e. a records book that includes a wider range of horn and antler sizes; Pope and Young Records Book) will

indicate a stronger temporal trend than records books with higher requirements for entry (i.e., a records book that includes narrower ranges of horn and antler sizes; Boone and Crockett Records Book).

When we compared trends in the size of horns and antlers of these records books, we found that five of the sixteen categories differed in the direction and magnitude of temporal trends (non-typical white-tailed deer, typical American elk, Roosevelt's elk, muskox and bighorn sheep). Our prediction that a records book with lower minimum entry requirements (Pope and Young Club) would exhibit trends of greater magnitude through time than a records book with higher minimum entry requirements (Boone and Crockett Club) however, was supported only in three of those trophy categories (typical American elk, Roosevelt's elk and bighorn sheep). Furthermore, although we did observe a divergence in some categories, over two thirds of the trophy categories that we tested did not show significant differences in trends between the two records books. The majority of categories did not differ, suggesting that trends evident in trophy records books accurately represent trends that are occurring across a broader range of age or size classes, or both, and therefore provide a valid tool for assessing range-wide changes through time.

As one of the longest-standing sources of data for large game that are harvested in North America, trophy records books provide a wealth of information, and their potential usefulness as a tool for assessing the effects of management strategies and conservation success was a primary goal of the founders of the records programs. These records books contain information that spans a vast range of spatial and temporal scale and that may indicate how horns and antlers of different species are changing through time. Given their truncated nature, however, care must be taken when interpreting any patterns in those data.

MOVING FORWARD

Preliminary results from the analysis of mountain sheep horn size using harvest records are just the beginning of our efforts to understand how harvest influences horn size through time. Thus far we have assessed if there have been age-specific changes in horn size, but not what underlying factors might be responsible for those changes. Our next steps are to begin to understand how environmental conditions, including population size, forage quality, and climatic conditions during different stages of life influence patterns of horn growth and size. Nevertheless, our preliminary analyses indicate the majority of hunt areas in North America have not shown changes in horn size through time after accounting for age. Additionally, only 16% of all hunt units showed age-specific declines in horn size, while 11% exhibited age-specific increases in horn size.

Addressing questions of selective harvest is a

critically important step in communicating both the effectiveness and value of management of big game throughout North America to the public. Additionally, we can use these results to identify areas where there are population-level changes occurring because of harvest, which will provide the opportunity to reconsider harvest practices for those areas should maintenance of horn size be a management objective.

Preliminary results from the analysis of trophy records books indicates that records programs are most likely collecting data that may be a useful for assessing changes in the size of horns and antlers from trophy animals through time, although those data are truncated and must be interpreted with care. Our results currently include only sixteen trophy categories, but we are in the process of incorporating almost 10 more years of data from Boone and Crockett records into the analysis. Inclusion of these new data may allow us to better test our prediction that low requirements for entry into a records book result in the detection of trends of greater magnitude when compared with records books having greater requirements for entry. Additionally, we will incorporate data from a third trophy records book (Safari Club International) into this analysis. The inclusion of an additional records book will allow us to increase sample size and to compare trends in the size of horns and antlers of three records books, all with different ranges of horn and antler sizes.

Harvest plays a critically important role in the management and conservation of wild populations. Understanding how harvest practices influence populations is essential for maximizing the effectiveness of wildlife management programs throughout North America. This project is a collaborative effort that would not be possible without the support of biologists and managers throughout the West; data contributions from the Boone and Crockett Club, Pope and Young Club, and Safari Club International; and financial contributions from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, National Wild Sheep Foundation, California 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.

—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 records 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 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 (University of Nevada Reno) retired from the California Department of Fish and Game in 2007 but 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).

2018 YOUTH WILDLIFE CONSERVATION EXPERIENCE SETS NEW RECORDS!

Glen Pyne, Youth Committee Chairman

The Youth Wildlife Conservation Experience, YWCE, was a huge success at the Wild Sheep Foundations annual meeting in Reno, Nevada. Ryan Brock, Ph.D, continues to raise the bar as he has for the past 4 years setting records in youth participation and program content.

Since the inception of the YWCE, Dr. Brock has channeled the efforts of his team of dedicated volunteers and corporate sponsors to produce an event that continues to grow annually. This year saw the expansion of the program into meeting space formerly occupied by the Ladies Luncheon. That additional space allowed the YWCE to incorporate many new and exciting events into the schedule.

An arts and crafts station helped students learn how to make ornamental necklaces using beads and bear claws. Each student tested their skills as cowboys or Indians at the rifle and archery events. There were pellet and BB gun stations for the traditionalists as well as laser predator and wing shooting for the digitally inclined. Archery skills were tested at the floating target ranges while gamesmanship was exhibited at the Tic-Tac-Toe station.

Over 1,000 duck calls were handed out! And what should have been expected to be heard as a cacophony

of beginner trumpeters was no more than blissful silence. It was an amazing sight to watch Dr. Brock in action. His children must behave as angels! Or, perhaps, the students were too tired to blow on those duck calls after an exhausting climb on the rock climbing wall or casting the fly's they learned how to tie with the help of ever-patient volunteer fly fishermen.

The Youth Conservation Experience, over a 3 day program, exposed 1,400 students to the elements of conservation and participated in outdoor skill development. With the aid of many volunteers and the Nevada Department of Wildlife, the Wild Sheep Foundation continues to advance their goal of putting and keeping sheep on the mountain by educating our youth about the importance of understanding wildlife and the environment in which they survive.



2018 SHEEP SHOW KNOCKS THE COVER OFF THE CONSERVATION BALL!



The 2018 WSF convention not only set a new conservation funding record, it knocked the cover off the prior conservation record “ball”!

Some highlights over our prior 2017 record event:

- \$1 Million revenue increase – up 63% over 2017
- 37% increase in banquet attendance (~1,900 Saturday night)
- 18% increase in Life Member Breakfast attendance (862)
- 15.4% increase in funds raised for state/provincial /tribal agencies
- Seven (7) new permit proceeds records established
- 11% increase in overall attendance

But more than just “numbers” the Sheep Show is a celebration by a very special family...the WSF family and the sheep conservation community which continues to grow without losing the culture, the specialness and the essence of the mountain hunting community.

WSF’s Sheep Show now occupies all four halls of the Reno-Sparks Convention Center. New to 2018 was the expansion into Halls 3 and 4. Hall 3 hosted the WSF Membership Area, WSF Store, Silent Auction (with new smart phone bidding), a Chadwick Ram Society Area, a wild Ride for the Brand Tattoo Parlor & the <1 CLUBs Reception. Hall 4 hosted an expanded Youth Wildlife Conservation Experience and plans for 2019 include a regional 3-D Archery Shoot and Competition.

Once again WSF set the standard for industry show fun including a Backpack Trail Race, Sporting Clays shoot, the Wild Sheep Calling World Championships,

Horse Packing competition, the Outer Circle Club, our ever growing <1 Club reception, Indoor Backpack Races, Sheep Camp Hospitality Room and...Ride for The Brand Tattoos. 85 WSF members now “branded” forever with their wild sheep and WSF passion, including some of our very own CA WSF members!

At the CA WSF booth, we hosted friends and members to a cold brew each afternoon during the Floor Credits drawing and two lucky members won floor credits. We also added three new life members and more annual members to the CA WSF family as well as opening our sell of tickets for the Dall’s sheep hunt with Ultima Thule and the Gunwerks Rifle with both drawings to be held at our local fundraiser on May 5th in Sacramento.

Our California Department of Fish and Wildlife Bighorn Sheep Tag sold for \$200,000 and was among the many special tags to sold raising money for conservation! The revenue from these special state permits and hunts is given to the state for their sheep conservation programs.

Makes plans to attend the 2019 Sheep Show set for February 7-9, 2019!



DONALD C MARTIN WINS WSF GUIDE'S OSCAR

CA WSF Board member Donald C (Don) Martin was selected as the Wild Sheep Foundation 2017 G.C.F. Dalziel Outstanding Guide Award winner, which for all intents and purposes is like winning the Oscar if you're one of the hardworking guides that allow the rest of us to realize our hunting dreams.

The WSF Outstanding Guide Award is presented annually to a North American guide (one who is not an outfitter). The winner shall have been nominated for the Award by a current member of WSF, and selected to receive the Award by a committee that has been designated by the WSF Board of Directors. Preference will be given to a sheep guide.

Among the criteria the committee will consider are the following:

1. A deep commitment to high ethical standards and sportsmanship.
2. The esteem in which the guide is held by the hunting community, and his/her peers.
3. Consistent willingness to go the last mile to ensure a quality hunting experience for his/her clients.
4. Knowledge of the country that he/she hunts and the wild game animals inhabiting that country.
5. An unfailing sense of humor.
6. A work ethic and dedication to the health, safety, and well-being of his/her clients.

Don has been an active member of the California Wild Sheep Foundation for more than 10 years and has been a member of the Board of Directors helping to steer the organization for the past 6 years.

In addition to serving on the Board, Don has donated California Tule Elk hunts for the past 5 years and has worked with Ultima Thule Outfitters to



provide an Alaska Dall's Sheep hunt as a special raffle item since 2007 and he donates his guide fee for these hunts. In addition, Don has helped CA WSF obtain Alaska fundraising tags and provided guide service at no charge for the winning hunters. Don's contribution over a ten-year period exceeds \$100,000.

As a long time licensed Alaskan and Californian guide, Don knows the areas he hunts very well. He also has a successful California fishing guide business. Each hunter that returns from a hunt with Don expresses that he is well prepared for the hunt and the hunter; he goes the extra mile to make sure that hunter is prepared and able to manage the hunt



while taking into account their age and abilities. Don adheres to a very high level of hunting standards and ethics, but is still able to allow each hunter to be at their own pace, ensuring his client's safety and providing the best opportunity for success.

Don has also served on the annual fundraising committee, both as a member of the committee and as the committee Chair. He has a great management style that encourages people to get things done but still have fun doing it. Don is great to work with – it is rare to see him without a smile on his face. He does not take setbacks personally but rather tries to find a solution for any problems, often the solution costs him time or money and he is prepared to go that extra mile for success.

As you can see, WSF couldn't have possibly found a better candidate for this award! I was fortunate to be in the room when Don received his award and his personality showed prominently during his acceptance speech. I have been to many conventions and award shows and can say that was the best acceptance speech I've ever heard. I would go so far as to say it was better than most of the keynote addresses!

Don – your CA WSF family couldn't be prouder of your accomplishment and steadfast commitment to ensuring the future of California's wild sheep!



A VIEW ON THE EFFECTS OF MINERALS ON THE POPULATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND HEALTH OF DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP, PART 1

The Way of Things by Carlos Gallinger

I have recently solidified my thoughts and developed theories about the effects of minerals on the health of bighorn sheep after many years of observation. Many of these ideas stem from my comparison of the desert bighorn sheep population in the Newberry Mountains to populations in other mountain ranges.

Due to the same classic problems that have plagued wild sheep populations throughout the Western United States, the Newberry herd had dwindled to perhaps 25 to 50 head and were completely isolated. In my opinion there were two specific events that happened to the Newberry population approximately 100 years ago that was significant to this herds' decline and near extinction.

The first one was the human occupation leading to the drying of Newberry Springs. There were once two different water sources that were close enough to one another to be considered one for these purposes, and were collectively called Newberry Springs. The one to the east was where the railroad would get its water and distribute it throughout the desert. The one to the west was behind the gas station and motel in downtown Newberry. When I was a kid this one still provided enough water to fill a small swimming pool. These two water sources were what I am calling "point mineral water sources" and provided the water and minerals for this population of desert bighorn. A point mineral water source is a term I use to describe a place where there is both liquid water and minerals where the sheep can use the minerals straight from the ground, usually in a powder form. These two resources are typically within 100 to 200 yards of each other when in a useful configuration. I believe that having these two resources in this close proximity allows the individual sheep to better regulate its water and chemistry balance and therefore allows an increase in value for maintaining their health. The two water sources at Newberry Springs each had two separate sources of minerals, one was in a layer of rock strata above the valley floor and the other was the crusted salts or brackish water on the lake bed. These provided a reliable source of minerals and water to the desert bighorn sheep that occupied what is now in legal definition the Newberry Wilderness.

The other event was the occupation and drying out of a water source known currently as Willis Wells that is at the foot of Ord Mountain on the north side. The Willis's were a husband-and-wife team that raised



The sheep have been using the salts in this dry lake for untold ages

cattle to sell to the various mining outfits on Ord Mountain at that time. They lived right on the water for 10 years and aside from dropping the water table to its present level 10 or 15 feet below the surface, their very presence made this water mineral source unavailable to the desert bighorn sheep. After they left it was still used for cattle and had a lot of human occupation and activity. Eventually this point mineral water source was forgotten by the desert bighorn sheep. Presently nobody lives at Willis Wells and the water is at the bottom of a 15 foot shaft completely unavailable to anything but a butterfly leaving this particular herd of sheep with only a few very poor and spotty mineral sources on Ord Mountain.

A genetic survey taken in the year 2002 by Dr. Clint Epps indicated that this population was highly inbred, that is to say, it had low genetic diversity. With this genetic situation and a low population of 25 to 50 head we have a scientific basis to expect poor health and low reproductive ability. It is reasonable to conclude then that at some point, if nothing happened in a positive way to this herd, it would have died out taking with it a certain portion of the original genetic diversity of the species.

The first attempt to help and study this group of sheep was done in 1986 with the installation of a guzzler, an artificial water source, in the Newberry Mountains designated BGG 25. With the installation of this water source there were several transects marked out, these are areas marked out near the guzzler that are checked biannually for sheep droppings as a means to show use. I was the designated area captain — the person who takes care of this installation. I took care of BGG 25 until the year 2000 and never observed any sign that desert bighorn sheep were drinking at this facility, although

I could find evidence of their presence in the vicinity, sometimes as close as 200 or 300 yards away.

Sometime around the years 2005-2006 the people at the Hansen quarry put out water for the desert bighorn sheep at the quarry. This water source changed the fortune of this herd immensely as it turned out to be a point mineral water source. That is, it had water and minerals available to them literally side-by-side and this seems to be a very advantageous combination for the desert bighorn sheep. It is my assertion that the water seems to allow them to directly take minerals from the earth, thus changing the health of this herd and its ability to reproduce. Having heard about this new water source in 2008 I went to witness it myself and was impressed with the number of sheep using it and their frequency of use.

At the time I did not associate the mineral ingestion with the water source. However this led me to visit BGG 25. When I got there I was absolutely amazed at the difference from years past. It was heavily used, so much so it actually smelled like a stockyard. Due to this observation I spent a few days looking through the Rodman, Ord, and the rest of the Newberries and came to the conclusion that there had been a significant increase in the population. This was well documented by the Society for Conservation of Bighorn Sheep (SCBS) photo survey starting in 2009.

The next positive event that occurred to this population was the installation of a number of big-game guzzlers on the Twentynine Palms Marine base. The original reason for this was to use water to bridge individual sheep from the Sheep Hole Mountains into the Newberries introducing genetic diversity. Presently we have DNA evidence that indicates this has happened, but to what degree I'm not sure. No doubt though, this influx of new DNA is of great benefit to the health and reproductive capacity of the Newberry herd. It is my belief that among the artificial water sources on the Twentynine Palms base, one or more of them are a point mineral water source. This may be due to the aerial bombardment and artillery used in this area providing the right kind of pulverized rock as a soluble mineral source.

When rock is pulverized artificially or naturally the surface area to mass ratio changes exponentially to a point where the rock is readily soluble. In my opinion this makes a huge difference in the sheep's ability to digest and process these minerals. One can look at numerous examples where various mines and quarries have pulverized rock and then put out a water source — suddenly there is a population of desert bighorn sheep centered on this binary resource. Currently we can conclude that the sheep on the Twentynine Palms base is an outgrowth from the Newberry herd. Yet at some point, due to the fact that it has its own point mineral water sources and large geographic area, we will have to start referring to this as a separate herd, the Twentynine Palms herd.

To fully understand what happened on the Twentynine Palms base it would be useful to understand what did not happen in the West Ord Mountains.

There has always been a few sheep running around in the West Ord's, coming from the central Ord Mountain. But they have never stayed very long or constituted a population. Yet there are three good springs, each one of which could provide enough water for 20 to 30 sheep. The springs provided for this many cows in the past. The area that comprises the Newberries, Ord, and Rodman Mountains once had about 250 cows on it. Now it has only about 25 leaving plenty of room for wild sheep.

So, one does need to ask why this sheep population started in the Twentynine Palms base, which is much further away from the population that inhabits the Newberry and Ord Mountains than the essentially unpopulated West Ord's. There is also in the West Ord's another three springs that could provide for a number sheep with a little effort. For three or four years we had a camera on one of these springs, known as Badger Springs, and never saw a single sheep, yet in the hills above that spring we could find sign that some sheep were in the area though not many or very often.

For the sheep to get to the West Ord's they have a relatively short walk and often walk right past a place known as Saddle Springs. I have monitored this spring for decades and I don't think I've ever found any sign of sheep drinking water there, yet within a couple hundred yards of it you can find tracks and droppings. The West Ord Mountain is a relatively large area with good escape terrain and reasonable vegetation. Yet it has no resident sheep or any large seasonal occupation. I believe the reason for this is in understanding the relationship between desert bighorn sheep and minerals.

Now as we look at this mountain range, the West Ord, and contemplate the idea that there's a lack of minerals in this area we might consider the reason for this lack of minerals. The rock throughout the West Ord is granite. Granite, with few yet notable exceptions, does not provide minerals as granite is a hard, insoluble material that rarely degrades to a fine powder. Only rarely will you find a point mineral water source in granite. Whatever minerals granite might have they are securely locked up in this exceptionally hard material.

So, while West Ord is much closer to the central Ord mountain sheep population it has never spurred a separate population or major seasonal occupation, even though it has lots of room with good escape terrain water as well as good vegetation. The Twentynine Palms base is much further away. I believe the difference is in one or more point mineral water sources that is comprised of artificial water and artificially pulverized rock, and thus has its own stable definable population.



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JOINT MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL

Name: _____

Phone: Primary: _____ Alternate: _____ Fax: _____

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Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Preferred method of communication (check one): Phone eMail Fax

Yes, I would like to volunteer to help the California Chapter with its' events and/or projects! Please contact me about volunteer opportunities! (check here)

Yes, I am already a member of Wild Sheep Foundation! My member number is: _____

Do you have a FNAWS (Four North American Wild Sheep)? Yes No

Do you have GSCO Slam®: 1/2 Slam 3/4 Slam Grand Slam

Have you hunted Sheep? Yes No

Do you hunt with a: Rifle: Bow: Muzzleloader: Handgun: Don't Hunt:

Which sheep have you harvested? (Please list and note year)

CA WSF Membership:

Annual (\$40) 3-Year (\$100) Life (\$500) 3/4 Curl Youth-17 & under (\$25)

Wild Sheep Foundation Membership:

Annual (\$45) 3-Year (\$120) Family (\$80) Life (Under age 59 - \$1,000; Age 59-64 - \$750; Age 65+ - \$500)

Payment Type (check one): Credit/Debit Card Check Enclosed (payable to: "CA WSF")

Credit Card Type: Visa MasterCard Discover AMEX

Cardholder Name: _____ CCV: _____

Credit Card #: _____ Exp. Date: ____/____/____

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!

CA WSF – WORKING TO KEEP YOU IN THE FIELD

By Bill Gaines

Gaines & Associates Government Relations

ON THE FEDERAL FRONT...

The California Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation (CA WSF) is leading an effort on Capitol Hill to seek the introduction of federal legislation which would move the recently created Castle Mountains National Monument into the Mojave National Preserve. The Castle Mountains National Monument was created by Presidential Proclamation in February 2016 by President Obama, with all hunting within its boundaries subsequently prohibited in Monument's management plan. The move of Castle Mountains Monument into the Mojave National Preserve would not only reestablish public hunting opportunity, but also provide for improved coordination between the State of California and federal agencies on the research, enhancement and active management of wildlife and their habitats within the Castle Mountains. Because the 20,920 acre Castle Mountains National Monument falls within the district of U.S. Representative Paul Cook (R-CA/8th), CA WSF and our conservation partners are appropriately urging Representative Cook to introduce the bill.

The letter was presented to Representative Cook at a meeting in Washington DC on Wednesday, February 21st.

CA WSF will be pleased to keep our membership posted on all notable developments in this important effort.

CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE NEWS

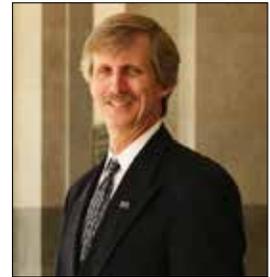
AB 3117 (MATHIS/DAHLE) – HUNTING: NONLEAD AMMUNITION: TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

We are pleased to be co-sponsoring legislation in the current 2018 Session of the California State Legislature which, if passed, could prove critical to keeping hunters in the field.

Assembly Bill 3117, legislation authored by Assembly Member Brian Dahle (R-1st/Bieber) and Assembly Member Devon Mathis (R-26th/Visalia), would provide hunters with critically needed relief from a law which will soon ban lead ammunition for all hunting statewide – should nonlead ammunition prove to be unavailable. CA WSF is teaming with the California Deer Association and the California Houndsmen for Conservation on co-sponsoring this important bill.

Although nonlead loads are already required for the taking of wild sheep in California, on July 1, 2019,

California will become the only state in the Nation to require the use of nontoxic loads for the taking of any wildlife, statewide, for any purpose. In addition, California is now the only state which prohibits the direct internet/mail order of ammunition, and substantially restricts the over-the-counter/out-of-state purchase of ammunition by California residents.



With California only representing a small market share of ammunition demand nationwide, the production of non-toxic loads – even in the most common calibers – will be understandably limited by manufacturers, and likely non-existent in many others. Should the required nonlead loads be unavailable for purchase, California's ranchers and farmers will be unable to address depredation concerns, and hunters will be kept out of the field. Although the intent of the ban on lead ammunition and subsequent prohibitions on out-of-state ammo acquisition may not have been to keep law-abiding hunters out of the field, or farmers and ranchers from protecting their property and livestock – the result may be just that.

As introduced, AB 3117 would help address this concern by giving the Fish and Game Commission the authority to “temporarily suspend” the prohibition on the use of lead ammunition for a specific hunting season and/or caliber, if the Commission finds that nonlead ammunition of a specific caliber is not available for any reason. The bill also would require the Fish and Game Commission to establish an advisory committee made up of ammunition manufacturers, retailers and ranching, farming and hunting interests to provide recommendations to the Commission on the criteria used for determining when nonlead ammunition is not available, and which calibers should be considered for temporary suspension. AB 3117 would prohibit any suspension from remaining in effect for longer than three years.

AB 3117 has not yet been set for hearing, but will first be heard in the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee. The bill cannot be heard before March 19th.



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