



California Wild Sheep

Fall 2018



IN THIS ISSUE

From the Editor.....	3
President's Message.....	5
The Gambler Ram	6
British Columbia Stone's Sheep	10
California Lightning Strikes — Again!.....	12
Chapter & Affiliates Meeting XI	14
2019 Fundraiser Preview	16
DFW Update.....	19
And Then There Were None.....	25
Hunting Photography Part 3	28
Thoughts and Ideas on BHS Hab- itat in the Information Age	31

Sean Gambler
White Mountains, 2018
Dry Creek Outfitters



ULTIMA THULE LODGE

CONTACT: DONALD C. MARTIN 310-766-3921



From the Editor's Desk

Glorious Fall and the start of hunting season (at least for the Northern Hemisphere) has arrived. We always feel more alive with the cooling air and the anticipation for our hunting plans (some have already started, as you'll see). This issue includes some great and very current hunting stories, interesting and valuable science, info on new directors, fun humor, a teaser about our 2019 Banquet and Fundraiser, interesting desert insights from Carlos, CDFW update, AND MORE!

Your feedback, ideas, articles, pictures & requests are always welcome. Best way to reach me is email: mike.borel@contextnet.com. Due date for input to the 4Q18 issue is November 20.



CHECK PUBLIC LAND CLOSURES CAUSED BY WILDFIRES

As California's 2018 deer hunting season begins, CDFW is urging hunters to research where they plan to hunt in advance, as access to some areas may be restricted due to wildfires. CDFW does not close or open areas due to fires, but leaves that authority to incident commanders with CAL FIRE and the U.S. Forest Service. Given the exceptionally dry conditions this year, it is important that hunters do their part to prevent wildfires. One less spark means one less wildfire.

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/hunting/area-alerts>

NONLEAD AMMUNITION

Nonlead ammunition is now required for all hunting on CDFW wildlife areas and ecological reserves and when taking upland game birds with a shotgun, except for dove, quail, snipe and any game birds taken in licensed game bird clubs. In addition, nonlead shot is required when using a shotgun to take resident small game mammals, furbearing mammals, nongame mammals, nongame birds and any wildlife under the authority of a CDFW depredation permit.

Although full implementation of the nonlead ammunition requirement for big game hunting does not go into effect until July 1, 2019, CDFW urges California hunters to start acquiring and practicing with nonlead ammo well before 2019.

After my recent Prostate Exam, which was the most thorough I've ever had, the Doctor left and the nurse came in. As she shut the door, she jokingly asked me a question I didn't want to hear. She said, "Who Was That Guy?"

Board of Directors

Officers

President

Darryl Williams (2020)

Northern California Vice President

Ken Crother (2019)

Southern California Vice President

George Kerr (2019)

Vice President, Operations

Mike J. Borel (2020)

Secretary

Don Priest (2020)

Treasurer

Adam Casagrande (2019)

Board of Directors

Jim Fitzgerald (2020)

Dwight Ortmann (2020)

Ben Gordon (2020)

Glen Pyne (2019)

Robert Keagy (2019)

Paul Schultheis (2020)

Donald C. Martin (2019)

Craig Van Arsdale (2019)

Andrew Ohanesian (2019)

Shawn Wood (2020)

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

September 4-7 Wild Sheep Foundation Fly-In and Walk on Capitol Hill Washington D.C.

November 20 Due date for articles for 4Q2018 CAWSF Newsletter

December 7 Sheep Summit XXIV in Ontario

2019

January 9-12 SCI Convention, Reno

Jan 30-Feb 2 GSCO Convention, Las Vegas

February 7-9 WSF International Sheep Show Reno

February 20 Due date for articles for 2Q2019 CAWSF Newsletter

April 5 Sheep Summit XXV in Sacramento (Doubletree)

April 6 CA WSF Annual Banquet and Fundraiser, Double Tree by Hilton, Sacramento

May 16-18 Chapter & Affiliates Meeting, XII, Las Vegas, NV

May 20 Due date for articles for 2Q2010 CAWSF Newsletter

August 20 Due date for articles for 3Q2019 CAWSF Newsletter

President's Letter

I'm writing this President's Message from my outfitter's lodge having just finished a successful Stone's Sheep Hunt! British Columbia is one of the most beautiful places on earth and it is a distinct privilege to hunt here.

Like most of you, this time of year really turns my crank! Even if I'm not lucky enough to be out in the mountains, I absolutely love seeing the pictures on Facebook of all the hunters with their hard earned trophies. We all work hard to be successful, but most of us wouldn't have a chance without a guide and I'd like to spend a minute reminding you of the incredible responsibility these folks have to make sure our time afield is safe, enjoyable, and hopefully successful.



A guide wears many 'hats' on every hunt. First and foremost, we think of them as our tour guide to an unknown area. Without a guide, where its legal to hunt without one, we'd have to take multiple trips into an area and spend countless hours to become familiar with the terrain and the habits of the animals – guides provide this vital information on day one. Your guide is in charge of your 'lodging' and cooks your meals. Your guide is charged with your safety, always vigilant for changes in the weather and to make sure you don't do something stupid and hurt yourself.

Your guide evaluates your trophy to ensure it is not only legal, but considers the conservation impacts on the herd by only selecting older males who are past their prime breeding age. Guides provide the range to your quarry, give you advice on shot selection, evaluate the wind and angle, and provide instant feedback to let you know if its time to celebrate or continue shooting.

After the shot, your guide takes care of field dressing, caping and boning out the delicious meat, and packing that animal back to camp (hopefully with your help of course). Guides are also amateur psychologists and motivational speakers. They talk you back from the emotional abyss when you miss and encourage you to press on when you just don't think you can make it to the top of one more ridge.

I know I couldn't have possibly had the hunting success I've enjoyed without the help of some fantastic guides. Guides do what they do because they love the mountains, the animals, and the lifestyle. None of them are getting wealthy guiding, but they are richer than all of us in my opinion. Please consider all your guide does for you when deciding what to tip.

In closing, I hope all of you are 'getting out there'. If you're lucky enough to be enjoying a guided hunt this year, please consider asking your outfitter for a donation for our banquet. That's all for now...out after moose tomorrow!

Yours in Conservation,
Darryl Williams

THE GAMBLER RAM

by Sean Gamble

“The mountains are calling and I must go.”

Every May and June I'm reminded of this quote from the founder of the Sierra club, John Muir. But what's the importance? Well, that's when draw season is of course. Even as a father, husband and full time family provider, I've never lost my groundings of the hunter I am. I've been hunting my whole life. I acquired my outdoorsman lifestyle from my father and his father before him, and I passed down that knowledge to my own children. Now 45, over the years my success of drawing tags has varied. I have been blessed to draw some great hunts in my lifetime, including several premium deer tags and coveted California buck antelope tags. Draw results are usually available mid June, so naturally that is the time of the year that I looked forward to with anticipation.

Before going into work June 21, 2018, my wife reminded me to look up the California Division of Fish and Wildlife 2018 draw results. While simply scrolling through the website, I paused in amazement. Before my eyes I couldn't believe what I saw. There was a Y next to one of my preferences. Did I just draw a hunt of a lifetime? Almost every year since I started hunting, I would put my money down for all the hunts I wanted; California's deer, elk, antelope, and Nelson bighorn sheep hunts. After finishing the online applications, I wondered how long it would actually take to get the draw results I prayed for. I continuously stacked my preference points in the hopes of one day drawing. As I applied for the White Mountains Nelson desert bighorn sheep hunt this year, I had no plan of drawing a tag. I had been a max point applicant for quite some time. I've been putting in for the desert bighorn hunt for over 20 plus years and I honestly thought I'd be putting in for the rest of my days before I would actually get the opportunity to take part in my dream hunt. I was so shocked that my fingers staggered in excitement as I dialed my brother Mike in Utah to share the unbelievable news. We made small talk like usual, and trying to keep my calm, I broke the news to him — “I drew a tag.” He quickly asked what I got. I told him nothing big, just a bighorn sheep tag. I could hear a pause over the phone which kind of worried me that we lost connection. Then I heard him say NO WAY. He thought it was a joke, that I was bluffing. I assured him I was serious. What he said next made me stop and ponder if this hunt is even possible for me. He said you better buckle down and get prepared because that's a hard hunt. I chose the White Mountains



because it was closest to home, I had no clue how physically demanding the hunt would actually be.

Then it started to sink in, that this was real and I was about to go on one of my dream hunts. With only two months to plan and prepare, my brother and I started doing research immediately. After seeing the comments on how rough the terrain was, I knew I needed to find some outside help to accomplish this task, someone who knew this hunt and what it all entailed. In my research, every time I typed in desert bighorn sheep, Dry Creek Outfitters (DCO) came up in my browser. After my research, I decided to send an email to Cliff St Martin at DCO. I explained that I drew a White Mountains sheep tag and would like some insight on what I should expect. I left my number with the anticipation of a single phone call.

Cliff contacted me the following day giving me a ton of information about the area. I had already looked at the DCO website and it was loaded with pictures, a blog, and stories of their successful hunters. From one phone call, I knew this was the outfitter for me. We talked about using pack stock or simply backpacking in. Cliff gave me the cost of the 5 day backpack hunt, and that was the first time I realized I could actually make this hunt work. With the affordable cost and now the right expertise, my excitement only grew. I immediately told Cliff I was ready to book my hunt, I just needed some time to put the money together and talk to my wife. We agreed on a timeline and then settled on a handshake over the phone. My wife of 20 years was so supportive in my endeavors and with an agreement that this was a once in a lifetime experience, and was worth spending the money to get the best possible ram, I officially secured a spot with Dry Creek Outfitters.

As with many of my other memorable hunts, I called my friend, Fred Bird. Fred was excited for me and told me to put the phone down and get to work. He also gave me tips on training with an altitude training mask to really get my lungs prepped for the White Mountains high elevation of 14246 ft at its peak. Living in the Sacramento Valley I needed all the help I could get to prepare myself. The very next day I bought myself a training mask and I had a plan to walk 3-5 miles with the mask and adding on a 30lb pack. I did this every chance I got, because I wanted to be ready.

Cliff and I spoke to one another regularly, and he suggested that I have a well broken in pair of boots. I was ready for a boot upgrade and I asked his opinion on the Kenetrek un-insulated Mountain Extreme boots. He said that's what he's been wearing for years and loved them; durable, comfortable and long lasting. I looked at the boots as an investment in my feet. I was going to need to cover miles comfortably and I knew I needed to start breaking in the new boots as soon as possible. I already had a trip to Utah planned to visit my brother. Now we saw it as an opportunity to fit in some hikes on high elevation trails. We hiked a little over 25 miles in 4 days. It was great to see one of my favorite hunting partners and before heading back home, we made a plan to get new hunting apparel from Kuiu and get Mike a pair of Kenetrek boots as well. We had talked about how great it would be to share this once of a lifetime hunting experience with our young adult sons, my 23 year old son, Wyatt and Mike's 17 year old son, Justin.

Before taking the hunt, more phone calls and preparation were in order to get everything up to par. Cliff thought it was awesome that all of us wanted to experience this adventure. He explained how the open country fills up fast when you have a number of people in the vast alpine tundra of the Eastern Sierras. So, adding the boys to the trip would only be a benefit to becoming more eyes on finding My Ram. We planned on the boys watching in spotting scopes as we played out the stalks. One more thing down, but still so many things I needed to get checked off my list.

Before the trip, over the quick two months, I had logged over 150 miles of hike time in the orchards and levees around my home. All with the elevation training mask on. Not always easy when the Sacramento valley reaches a heat well over 100 degree Fahrenheit in the summer.

Knowing there will be steep mountains and rocky terrain, I also ordered hiking sticks to aid me on my hunt. I started using them on my routine hikes to get use to lugging one around. It took a little effort but I was able to find the perfect hiking stick for me. A 72" yucca hiking stick, that ended up being my life saver on that rigid mountain. I also planned on having plenty of range time. I made weekly trips to the

Spenceville wildlife area, where I could practice long range shooting at 300+ yards. With several rifles to choose from, I picked one that was a bit sentimental to me, a Remington 700 30-06 that my father had given me when I turned 16 years old. My father passed away a few years back and using this gun would be like having my Dad there with me on this hunt. Then, as California is a lead free zone, I came to the conclusion that I'd use Hornady Super Performance 165gr GMX bullets. I studied the ballistics and was quite familiar with the round by the start of my hunt. They shot true out of my old rifle and I was one step closer to being fully prepared.

As the time to hunt drew near, I made plans with the biologist, Mike Morrison in Bishop, to do my hunt orientation the Wednesday before the hunt opener on August 18th, 2018. Getting on the mountain at that time would give me plenty of time to acclimate to the high altitude at camp. I started setting up my gear in the huge Cabelas outfitter tent. My brother and nephew weren't expected to show up until the next day and my son Wyatt wasn't coming until Friday after attending his college classes.

Thursday morning we started early with a big breakfast consisting of delicious sausage and egg burritos, with some hot coffee to wake us up. I went to the trailhead to continue acclimating while the DCO boys continued their scout for potential rams. By 10 am they glassed several mature rams and continued to watch them from a distance with a phone scope adaptor to take pictures and video to show me back at the camp. I picked up Mike and Justin who were both really excited the hunting trip was finally here. Back at camp we looked at the photos of potential rams. After a huge dinner we all turned in for a good night's sleep to get reenergized for more scouting on Friday. With opening day being on Saturday, the DCO team wanted to ensure there was a mature ram located.

Friday started off as a cool morning. It was much the same as the day before with a big breakfast and heading out to the trailhead to scout. As the guides



covered tons of miles we stayed near the trailhead and continued to acclimate. None of us wanted to get altitude sickness. Being in the high altitude was

tougher than we expected. When the guides returned, they reported over 27 rams were spotted in various parts of the mountain range.

Saturday morning and Cliff was a pro — he suggested Wyatt and Mike stay at the top of the trail and watch and listen to the two way radio. The guides went on to perches high up on the mountain to glass for the groups of rams. I stayed with guides Matt St Martin and Shawn Lindy as we covered miles in the rock-filled alpine tundra getting closer to where the rams were last spotted. A few hours later Shawn spotted a group of rams just ahead of us down in a canyon. We crawled on our hands and knees about 50 yds to a large rock to use as cover to set up for a shot. A group of large rams held tight below us at 700 yds. As the patriarch of the group fed up the canyon the wind swirled and just like that, all the rams, 13 total, ran single file out and over the skyline dropping into another canyon. We waited what seemed like an eternity then Matt suggested we pull out and make our way out before dark, hoping to find the rams in the morning. Guide Nate Lang stayed up on the mountain until dark watching the rams in the new country they called home. Our spirits were low as we made a plan for morning, but we've come this far and we weren't giving up.

Dinner that night was delicious and we eagerly found our way to our cots for some much needed sleep. The Sunday morning sun had snuck up on us before we knew it. As we ate breakfast we discussed how to get into the country the rams disappeared into. With a plan carefully constructed we made our way up the mountain. After the climb to Barcroft observation, roughly a 1700 foot climb for about 2 1/2 miles long, we made it to our destination. There were no rams in sight. We then had a plan to get where we were yesterday and glass. Seven harsh miles later the rams were spotted in the next valley over on a plateau of green grass. Matt and I stalked the rams and came within 650 yards from them. The other guides were assembled on the different levels of terrain to keep the rams in sight.

Just when we thought I was going to get my chance at a mature ram, a large group of coyotes started to run circles around the rams, taunting the group. The rams spooked and, just like the day before, they busted out single file and ran over the skyline. Comes to show how unpredictable nature can be. The group of us were really starting to lose hope for the stalk, and I questioned if I was I going to get another opportunity on this group of likable rams. All until we saw five rams back on the plateau. Our hearts beating fast and back into action we went. Matt and I waited over two hours as they fed away to the edge of the drainage. Patience was becoming key to my success, because we didn't want to spook the rams for a third time.

Like a blink of an eye, that's when it all changed.

The same coyote's that had cursed the hunt earlier in the day were back! To our surprise the five rams chased the coyote's off. What a sight that was to see. It actually ended up working in my favor, the rams were now in rifle range. Those coyote's at first a curse, now a blessing. Matt came up with a plan to drop off of the edge of the skyline and move across the mountainside to a far away rock pile, to ensure a better shot. With the coyotes long gone and the rams bedded down, we were roaring to complete our sought out task of harvesting a mature ram. Matt got me setup with a possible shot opportunity at only 326 yards.

As we sat and waited for the largest ram to stand we talked about shot placement and identified what exact ram I intended to shoot. It was clearly obvious as he was wearing a gps tracking collar. After another thirty minutes, which seemed like forever, my opportunity finally came. The large ram stood and presented a perfect broadside shot opportunity. Everything was aligning like it was meant to be. I was quick to find him in my scope and with one perfectly placed shot my ram was struck hard with my bullet, thankful for that trusty old rifle for never letting me down. The toughness of these animals should not to be taken lightly. They are hearty, the shot ram had continued toward the drainage, which made it worrisome that we would lose him. Matt told me to put another round in him. As I go to squeeze the trigger my rifle made a swift click. The firing pin was falling on an empty chamber. As I opened the bolt and watched the round feed into the chamber. Matt's eye never left the ram, he said the ram went down but I should stay on him. Time seemed at a standstill. My ram was for sure down for good. Trying to calm my fast beating heart I took a deep breath. I stood up and gave Matt a huge hug overwhelmed with emotion. I turned and faced Cliff and Wyatt. They we're sitting on their perch high above us. Overseeing all that had just happened. I gave them a two handed wave and a double thumbs up. Even in the distance I could see their smiles looking down upon me.

Matt and I then walked down the steep hillside to where my ram had laid in his final resting place. As we walked up on him, I couldn't believe how majestic this creature actually was. Seeing my ram up close in person, I took a second and stood next to him in awe. His massive body and the mass of his long curled horns; it was more than I could have ever dreamed of. In a matter of minutes all the assisting guides had covered the long distance of their advantage points and met around my ram. It felt so surreal that the moment had to be captured in a photo. The memory of that mountain will forever remain in my memory and in my heart. I left something on that mountain that I'm sure glad to never get back. I left all my self doubt because working hard for months in preparation sure paid off.

I owe the success of this hunt to the dedication

of the Dry Creek Outfitters guides; Cliff, Matt Shawn and Nate. I thank them for their dedication, trust, and belief in me. Without their knowledge of the area and simply knowing how unpredictable these bighorn sheep can be, I couldn't have done it without them. The patience to wait and see what happens next because of nature's unpredictability is a lesson well learned. These men kept me motivated throughout this journey and my desire to succeed made it easy for me to make it through the tough mountain terrain. Hiking from one ridge to next, we conquered that mountain, with one step at a time we made it all together. This hunt, the mountains, these men, it gave me a sense of peace and tranquility to fulfill a lifelong dream. We shared a long embrace knowing my hunt of a lifetime was finally complete.



WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE BRIEF

FARM BILL

Cheney Amendment on Alternative Allotments: The Senate has named its conferees for the Farm Bill. WSF is already in touch with several Senate offices and will now focus on relevant conferees where we have relationships. Senate conferees include: Sens. McConnell (KY), Roberts (KS), Boozman (AR), Hoeven (ND), Joni Ernst (IA), Stabenow (MI), Leahy (VT), Brown (OH), and Heitkamp (ND). With a number of large, potentially deal-breaking issues in play, our task will be to persuade the conference committee that the Cheney amendment is more trouble than it's worth. We will cite the fact that an acceptable version is in the spending bill. The current Farm Bill expires 30 Sep 18, so pressure is on from House and Senate leadership to resolve the new bill's issues this month.

APPROPRIATIONS

Two of our spending bills have passed the Senate: Interior and Related Agencies (which includes both the Forest Service and BLM budgets), and Agriculture. Both are still reasonably "clean" from our perspective and carried with broad bipartisan support. The Interior package includes: our report language on separation (carried forward from FY16), the acceptable report language on alternative allotments (drought and wildfire only), the acceptable bill language on extending renewals for grazing permits, the weak bill and report language on wild horses and burros, and \$360 mm for LWCF. The Ag package includes the weird but harmless report language on "an experimental vaccine" and direction to Ag Research Service to continue studying the disease problem, and the report language keeping the Sheep Station, which has finalized the NEPA analysis of its operations, open and directing ARS to work with stakeholders on a new mission.

FULL CURL UPDATE

Headquarters Conservation Staff has delivered a proposal to the Forest Service describing a new reinstated Full Curl program.

SEPARATION

Several buy-out possibilities are in view for WSF and its allies on this program. Discussions continue on how to make these permanent with options for creating forage reserves where appropriate. A proposal along these lines could be part of a final solution on alternative allotments.

BRITISH COLUMBIA STONE'S SHEEP

by Darryl Williams

This odyssey started in 2012 when I booked a Stone's Sheep hunt with an outfitter who sold his area without notifying me. I did get my deposit back, but it took two years and many phone calls and letters. In 2015, I started looking for another outfitter and I eventually booked a hunt for 2018.

I started the drive from southern California to Toad River British Columbia on August 10th and arrived at my outfitter's lodge on the 12th. My outfitter's brother had a 'special' adventure planned based on the Face Book posts of my "Sheep Shape" training regimen. He had spotted a great ram couple of weeks before my arrival in an area that hadn't been hunted in at least 20 years and said it would "be a bit of a grind" (a phrase I would hear often over the next five days) to get into the area, but a ram of this caliber would be worth the sacrifice. After checking zero on my rifle, a delicious meal of Stone's Sheep steaks graciously donated by another hunter, and one last check of my gear, I hit the bed for a fitful night of 'sleep'. The excitement of six years of waiting had me much too excited!

On August 13th we loaded our gear, horses and enough food for ten days and started for the trailhead. After an hour plus drive we unloaded and started the four-hour ride to the drop off point and beginning of the hike. We paired our food down to seven days and hiked about two hours to our first camp – Grind #1. After a very satisfying Mountain House dinner my guide Chad, August – packer, wrangler, and chief water gatherer, and I hit the sack.

We were up on Day #2 at 6:00 for breakfast and the start of Grind #2. Google Earth and the topo map made our trek look much less difficult that it turned out. It literally looked like we would make one steep climb (Chad bush whacking because there was no trail) and would reach a series of connected ridges that would take us to the mountain we would hunt. Reality was much different and much more than a "bit of a grind". As we reached the top of the first steep ridge, it was obviously not connected to anything... down to the bottom we went losing all the elevation we gained. This scenario would repeat four times over the next 10 hours. I was so tired when we reached the last steep ridge; I counted twenty steps and rested a minute before the next twenty steps. My altimeter indicated that we were gaining a foot of elevation with each step! 11.5 hours after we started, we reached camp #2. We had dinner and collapsed into our sleeping bags.

Day #3 started with breakfast and August looking for water. He triumphantly returned to camp with enough to last us another day. We spent most of the



day glassing and recovering, but moved camp further down the ridge to be closer to the mountain we'd be hunting. On the way there, I was attacked by Yellow Jacket Wasps and stung four times. It is amazing how much energy you find to make a steep climb when wasps are eating you!

After setting up camp we settled into a bit of glassing and spotted two young rams and a beautiful chocolate ram on the west side of the mountain we planned to hunt on Day #4. I told Chad I would be thrilled with the chocolate ram and he said you haven't seen the big one yet...this guy will be the backup ram. After dinner August went to look for water again, but came up short this time. Although the topo map and my GPS showed a creek in a nearby drainage, it was obviously seasonal. He would have to make the 3-hour round trip back to the spring he found the day before in the morning.

Day #4 started with breakfast and August's water run. We left camp at 10:00am and started up the connecting ridge to reach the mountain where we spotted the rams the day before. When we reached the top, Chad belly crawled to the edge to see if the rams were there. He immediately came back and told us there were 6 rams feeding in a basin on the east side and one of them was the big ram he had seen during the goat survey. We quickly moved north along the west side of the mountain to get to a location that would put us in shooting position.

Again Chad crawled to the edge to check on the rams and returned to tell us they were now mostly bedded and the big ram was 433 yards (angle corrected to 400) away. He asked if I was comfortable with a 400-yard shot and I said I was if I could get a steady

rest. I dialed my scope to 400 yards and crawled behind Chad to get into position. The big ram was bedded and his gray coat blended into the rocks so well, I had a difficult time finding him in my scope. While I was trying to get comfortable, he stood up and we thought I'd have a broadside, standing shot. Not so fast...he bedded again...facing me this time. The angel on one shoulder kept saying don't look at those horns while the devil on the other kept reminding me how big they were!

I was able to get a rock-solid rest and told Chad I was going to take the shot. I believe Chad and August were surprised that I shot so quickly, but I heard the thwack of the 180-grain Barnes Tipped TSX hit the ram and he never moved! All the excitement, the months of preparation, the exhausting hike into the area, and the realization that I had just shot the ram of a lifetime overcame me and I started crying. It was an incredibly emotional moment for sure.

The other five rams had no idea what happened to their leader and continued feeding. After about 30 minutes, my ram started rolling downhill and picking up speed fast, which spooked the other rams. Thankfully he only made it about half way to the bottom before a patch of willows stopped his descent. The other rams actually descended the mountain to see what happened. We gave them more time to move off so they wouldn't make the connection between people and the death of the big ram.

We moved down the mountain to my ram and, when I saw him, I was overcome by emotion again. I cried like a baby when I saw how incredible he was! Chad and August took loads of pictures before they

caped him for a life-size mount while I boned the meat. We packed everything up and started the steep climb back to the top. We made it back to camp, had dinner and celebrated with some Jack Daniels Tennessee Honey and a fine Cuban cigar before turning in for the night.

We were up at 6:00 on Day #5, had breakfast, packed up our camp and started "a bit of a grind" back to civilization. I could write a book about the trials and tribulations of the hike out, but will only say it was filled with another 11 plus hours of bushwhacking, no trails, and many more wasp stings...10 more for me and a nearly the same for August. I think Chad stirred them up without being stung, I was second in line so they attacked my legs and arms, and poor August bringing up the rear provided a head and neck target. He was stung in the same ear 5 times!

On Day #6 we returned to the lodge. After a hot shower, shave, and clean clothes we enjoyed an incredible sheep steak dinner expertly prepared by Chad's wife Ashley. After dinner we had another celebratory libation and another Cuban!

As Chad said, it takes a team to pull off a hunt like this one and I had the best! Chad and August were a pleasure to share a camp with and are two very experienced mountain guides I'd recommend to anyone. The rest of my 'team' is my wonderful wife, Cassie, who indulges my passion to spend time in wild places. She gave me this hunt for completing graduate school and is enjoying her vacation in Kauai while I'm in BC...our first separate vacation in 37 years.

SIERRA NEVADA BIGHORN SHEEP RECOVERY REPORT AVAILABLE

CDFW recently released the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Recovery Project report for 2015-2016. This report covers monitoring, management and conservation activities carried out between May 1, 2015 and April 30, 2016 by the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Recovery Program. This program monitors population sizes, demographic rates, and habitat use to inform management decisions on translocations, augmentations and predator management. In addition, the program team works to reduce the potential for disease transmission from domestic sheep and promote bighorn recovery through public outreach.

During the 2015-16 year, the Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep population continued to increase. An estimated 320 adult and yearling females in the Sierra Nevada were dispersed among 14 herds. These numbers

surpass the downlisting goal of 305 females and the distribution includes occupancy in all required herd units.

Field crews worked diligently to count adults, yearlings and lambs in 10 of the 14 herds. 62 BHS were captured from seven herds, which should improve ability to track herd sizes and measure demographic rates. Although most herds increased in abundance, there was also a notable increase in the number killed by mountain lions. Within herds, annual collared ewe survival averaged above 90% and estimated lamb survival ranged from 15-100%.

See <http://bit.ly/SierraNevadaBHSRecovery> for the full report.

CALIFORNIA LIGHTING STRIKES — AGAIN!

by Dave York

2017 was still fresh on my mind this year when I filled out my California draw hunts. In 2017 lightening finally struck after decades of waiting and dreaming about a Desert Ram Hunt here in California. I was one of the fortunate few that was drawn for a Cady Mountain Sheep Hunt in December 2017. So when the draw results came out and this year I had drawn an antelope tag here I was just ecstatic. I know there are states where you can get an OTC tag for antelope as most everyone knows but to get one here in California is just special.

I was 15 or 16 when a friend said he had been drawn for an antelope hunt here. That was around 1965. So the next year I applied for an antelope hunt. And so began decades of never getting drawn.

One of the first persons I contacted was a hunting friend that knew people in Lassen County. My friend Daniel was excited to hear I had been drawn. He said he would make some calls up north to friends and had a request. His daughter, Sophia, had just turned 12 and had taken her hunters safety course. He asked if they could go along on the hunt. I said of course they could especially since a future hunter was coming along.

As an aside, my dad died when I was 12 and those few years that he let me tag along with him left an imprint on me for all my life. From 12-18 I was too busy hunting and trapping to get into trouble. I wish more parents would ditch the electronics and spend some time outdoors. I now have 15 grandkids. When my oldest grandson was 12, I flew him down from Oregon to work on my property in exchange for a pig hunt and he got his first pig on that trip. I have a granddaughter that's interested in going pheasant hunting this fall. She will be my bird dog. Her younger sister is 6 yrs old and loves furs. As a taxidermist I manage to get her a bobcat skin about every two years. That's because she wears the fur off of them. Some kids have blankets she has her bobcat skin that she takes everywhere. At night it's wrapped around her head. Funny thing is when I was her age I found my moms sable coat collar and did the same thing.

Back to my antelope -- there's not much time to wait from when the drawing results come out in mid July until the August 18 opener. I got a call from Daniel that we had someone that loves to hunt and go out with others on their hunts. I found out he had an appropriate name also, Hunter. Hunter began scouting and sending me pictures of animals in a short period of time.

Friday afternoon four of us headed out scouting. We saw a few antelope but nothing stood out. We went to another spot to glass near alfalfa fields and



Take a child hunting. Even if they are too young to hunt they are never too young to be mentored.

Dave York with friends

BLM land. We spotted a young buck and some does. Then a nice buck came out that definitely looked good enough to go after. The plan was to head out at first light. Once we got there a hunter was walking across open BLM land where we spotted the buck the night before. One small buck was there but he spotted the hunter and left, and so did we.

We drove to a number of different areas to glass and check out small herds to see if there were any potential animals but were coming up empty. At about 1 pm we were headed out into a large valley to glass when Hunter got a text that a friend out changing sprinklers had spotted a wide buck. Hunter asked me what I thought and my reply was I like wide so off we went. We arrived at the ranch and got the situation on the antelope. The plan was to ride out in the ranchers 4x4 mule so as not to spook them. Once there I would try and use a Montana Decoy to try and close the distance. At about a 1/4 mile from the antelope we stopped near the sprinkler pivot to look the situation over. The antelope were under a juniper at around 400 yds.

Past the alfalfa field, out around 100 yds from the field, was an old abandoned tractor. The plan was for two of us to get down behind the tractor and head for the tractor. As soon as the 4x4 stopped for us to get out the antelope stood up. A couple does started to walk off. I thought this hunt was going to be over

before it starts.

So Hunter and I got down low behind the decoy and headed towards the tractor. When we finally got to the tractor I peaked up over the tractor to see four does and the buck still under the juniper. By now I was a little shaky and had to range them several times. The conclusion was they were right around 300 yards. Then I took a good look at the buck. I was impressed with how he looked — his cutters looked like they were pointing down and he had good width. So now

It was time to calm down and wait for him to get clear of the does. I was shooting a Tikka T3 in 270wsm and using a 130 grain Federal solid copper bullet. I was several inches high at 200 and knew at 300 hundred yds the bullet would drop about 5 1/2". I got a good solid rest on top of the seat of the tractor. There was some foam left on the seat so I pushed my rifle into the foam as best I could. The buck started to walk out from the juniper but a doe walked in front of him. More waiting for her to clear. Then he started to walk and my mind was now racing thinking where to aim. Since he was walking I decided to aim right on the front of his shoulder and about 3/4 up on his body. He was quartering away some too. Calm down breathe, exhale and touch the trigger. The next sound was Hunter yelling "You Dropped Him!" I got him I asked? Yes, he dropped in his tracks. My knees now were

shaking and Hunter's hands were shaking. He was excited. The rest of the crew came over to see the buck and congratulate me.

He didn't lose any size as we got closer. When we got in we measured him up. Inside widest measurement was 22-1/2, 15-1/2 tall. He weighed 80". He's a unique animal which I like.

The nice part of this was getting to share this hunt with friends. Hopefully Sofia will get drawn for one of the upcoming apprentice hunts. She is excited to begin a new adventure in life, hunting. Her dad has done a great job sharing his love for hunting with her. I hope all dads out there with daughters encourage them to hunt. One of my grand daughters will be going out with me this fall hunting.

A hunter's favorite time of the year is here. Take a child hunting. Even if they are too young to hunt they are never too young to be mentored. I'm 68 and still remember my dad taking my brother and I out hunting back in the 50s.

Good Luck Everyone.

VENISON DIANA RECIPE

Tammy Scott writes: One of my favorite recipes is from Pepi's Restaurant, Executive Chef, Helmut Kaschitz, a native of Austria. Pepi's Restaurant, 231 E. Gore Creek Drive, Vail, 1-970-476-4671, which was opened in 1964. It serves continental cuisine, wild game and Austrian specialties.

Venison Diana Serves 2

- 2 (6-ounce) slices venison short loin,
or a 3-rib venison rack
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 8 ounces fresh wild mushrooms, cleaned and sliced
(a mix of chanterelle, cremini or porcini)
- 1/3 cup white wine
- 1 cup heavy cream

- Heat olive oil in a heavy pan over medium-high heat. If using venison rack, cut the meat off the ribs. Season.

- Sear meat on both sides; cook pieces until internal temperature reaches 160 degrees.

- Place on serving dish in a warm oven while you make the sauce.

- Using the same heavy pan, lower heat to medium.

- Toss in diced onion and sauté until translucent. Add the sliced mushrooms and allow them to cook until their water comes out and mushrooms are fragrant.

- Deglaze the pan with the white wine. Turn burner up and allow wine to simmer 5 minutes. Add the cream.

- Simmer, stirring occasionally, until sauce is slightly reduced. If you'd like a thicker sauce, use a little cornstarch slurry: whisk equal parts water with cornstarch and whisk into pan.

- Pour the sauce over the cooked venison. Serve with noodles or spatzle.

Nutritional information per serving, not including pasta: 818 cal., 64 g fat (31 g sat.), 308 mg chol., 12 g carb., 141 mg sodium, 2 g fiber, 46 g pro.

CHAPTER AND AFFILIATES MEETING XI, JACKSON WYOMING

“One Tent, One Campfire”

This past month President Darryl Williams and Director Donald Martin had the pleasure of representing CAWSF at the Wild Sheep Foundation Chapter and Affiliates Summit XI hosted by Wyoming WSF in beautiful Jackson Wyoming. Our hosts put together a fantastic couple of days of sightseeing and Steve Kilpatrick was a great tour guide.

Gray Thornton, Wild Sheep Foundation President and CEO, started these summits with the idea of “One Tent, One Campfire” to create a stronger relationship between the chapters and affiliates and the national headquarters and they have certainly done that! This year the annual event brought together over 90 wild sheep leaders from across North America to discuss the health of wild sheep across their range, the threat of disease to our wild sheep populations, some very interesting research on horn size, and regional updates from each chapter/affiliate represented.

And, as always, there was a good mix of fun included with the sharing and learning! Saturday evening including a fabulous BBQ dinner at the “top of the world” Teton National Park along with an auction to raise funds for Wyoming’s bighorn sheep.

Here is a note from Gray about Summit XI.

What a great gathering for wild sheep!

I just wanted to take a moment and thank all the Chapter & Affiliate delegates that participated and made the Chapter & Affiliate Summit XI an incredible event. Special thanks to all the Wyoming WSF folks for their over the top hospitality and Steve Kilpatrick for organizing and hosting such a rewarding experience for everyone that attended. Thanks as well to all of the speakers and presenters that shared their wild sheep knowledge and experience with the rest of us, as well as the WSF staff that helped from behind the scenes to make the programs flow as seamlessly as possible.

Gray also provided a conceptual / tentative schedule for the next WSF Chapter & Affiliates Summit, XII to be hosted by the Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn in Las Vegas, NV.

Friday, May 10th - Early Arrivals

Saturday, May 11th - Visit “Big Bertha” (Mormon Mts Water Development)

Thursday, May 16th Opening Reception

Friday, May 17th - Meetings, Lake Mead Dinner Cruise

Saturday, May 18th - NDOW bighorn sheep viewing, Meetings, Wrapup Dinner



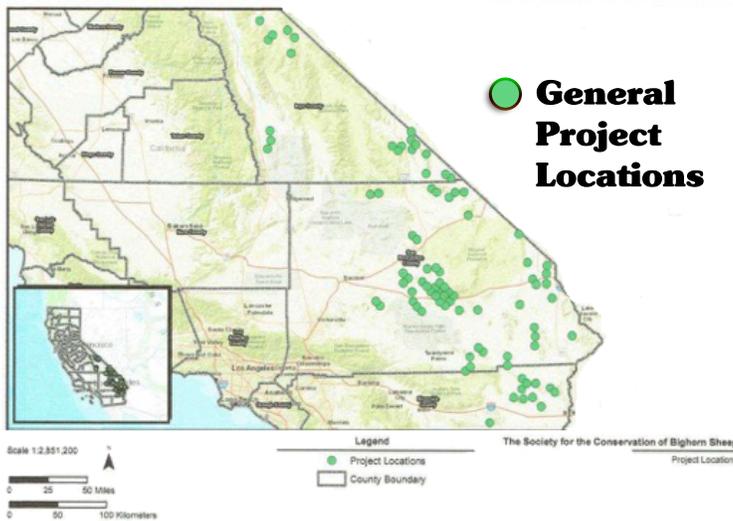
Mark your calendars now for what should be a great 2019 gathering in Las Vegas for wild sheep!

Give a lamb a drink

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



Our funding for Give a Lamb a Drink is going full force.. To date we have raised \$348,050 dollars out of a total materials/parts need of \$2,071,350. We also anticipate a need for helicopter delivery of the materials to the sites adding \$450,000 to the need, and, depending on the rate at which installations are made, another \$610,000 for labor to extend the efforts of the Society for Conservation of Bighorn Sheep (SCBS), our partner in the project.



You may be wondering, “where will all these water installations happen?” The map to the left shows general locations that have been identified as being available within the historic bighorn sheep ranges. These are primary locations for water development. As we progress with obtaining funding we are also moving forward on preparing applications for many of these sites. Of the 99 sites identified, 23 have been visited by team members (boots on the ground) and would be high priority targets for completion.

Look for announcements coming to you via email so that you can help in one or more installations.

We have plans to continue submitting grant proposals so if you know of one we should contact, please get in touch with Mike Borel (mike.borel@contextnet.com) or Beverly (forthesh sheep@gmail.com).

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 B Center Drive 267
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 [GO FUND ME](#)

2019 CA WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION BANQUET AND FUNDRAISER UPDATE

by Donald C Martin, Fundraiser Co-Chair

Hunting Season is underway and many members have been texting and emailing photos of recent hunts. I too had an opportunity to engage in an early season hunt and was blessed with a successful hunt for early season antelope. My first ever! I couldn't be happier.

August finds me in Alaska and I'm looking forward to another great season guiding for Ultima Thule Outfitters. This year will be special for me as I have 3 hunts scheduled with CA WSF Directors. First off, Andrew Ohanesian, our 2017 CA WSF Banquet dall sheep raffle winner will be joining me for opening week of sheep season. Later in the season, I will have the pleasure of guiding Director and Chapter Secretary Adam Casagrande, and finally to wrap up my season in Alaska, newly reelected Director Jim Fitzgerald will be joining me for a brown bear/grizzly hunt. It should be a great season shared with friends.

It's never too early to start planning your next hunt and it's never too early to start planning to attend the 2019 CA WSF Annual Banquet and Fundraiser. It's April 6 next year! It's a whole month earlier. So plan now to attend. Mark your calendars, this is the one wildlife conservation dinner you do not want to miss. Unfortunately, we will not have the pleasure of sharing the venue with Northwest Leather-fest, but who knows? ...they may change their



dates, because they obviously love you guys and gals. Registrations will open tentatively in November of this year. Watch for our email blast and mailer.

The big news, as many of you know, is that we will be giving away TWO sheep hunts next year! The first hunt is a general raffle for a desert bighorn sheep in Sonora, Mexico courtesy of Oscar Molina's San Jose Outfitters and Jack Atcheson and Sons Inc. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN.** This hunt is for 10 days 1x1 on the mainland in Sonora conveniently located near Hermosillo. Historically this hunt has produced mid 160's to low 170's desert bighorns. Hunt may be taken any available time between November 2019 and April 2020. There are only 500 tickets available at \$100 and they will sell out. You can buy your tickets right now at: www.cawsf.org/store ...buy one ticket every month until next April for your best chances to win!

Our second sheep hunt will be an Alaskan dall sheep hunt and it will be a Life-Member drawing. There is no cost to existing life-members, every life member will be entered, but **YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN.** Life members will each receive one entry. So upgrade to Life-Member today. If you're already a life member, you can triple your chances by upgrading to Distinguished Life-Member and receive 3 entries into the life-member drawing. Upgrade to Distinguished Life-Member today! Go to: www.cawsf.org/join.html, and click on JOIN TODAY!!! Remember you must be present to win so make your plans to attend April 6 at the Doubletree by Hilton in Sacramento, CA.

We're fortunate to have Don Priest heading up



our live auction again this year and I have a few announcements regarding the live auction. As you know, our chapter shares a long history of support from the State of Alaska. This year is no exception. We have been awarded two of the best adventure hunts in Alaska. First, we have been awarded a Nunivak Island musk-ox permit. This is truly an adventure hunt for one of North America's most unique big game animals. And secondly, we have once again been generously awarded the Chitina River bison permit. This is the premiere bison permit in North America. There are only two bison permits issued through the Alaska controlled hunts draw for the Chitina River and this is the rarest opportunity in Alaska to hunt bison in the heart of the Wrangell St. Elias Park and Preserve. Two years ago we raffled this permit off and Beverly Valdez won it and took a spectacular Boone & Crockett class bison bull. We're excited to offer this bison permit in the live auction. This permit sold at auction for \$10,000 some years ago and I expect it may set a new record next year.

One of our longtime supporters has been Bryan Martin's Asian Mountain Outfitters. Once again we are offering a mid-Asian ibex hunt in Kyrgyzstan. This is one of the best values in International mountain hunting and truly is a great way to get your feet wet in the international sheep/capra game. In addition, and for the first time, we will be offering a hunt for Eastern tur in Azerbaijan. This is truly a mountain adventure hunt and often regarded as some of the most rugged terrain on Earth. If you're looking for a challenge, this could be the hunt for you!

Of course there will be much more to come in the Winter issue where I will announce our special rifle raffle and additional items in our live auction. As always, our general raffle and silent auction will focus on high quality items with a broad range of appeal to both ladies and gentleman. And we will continue to



make our event more family friendly, so don't forget to bring the kids and introduce them to California Wild Sheep Foundation. We now have Junior Life Memberships and they will be eligible for the life member drawing.

So don't wait! Plan to attend today! Buy your desert bighorn tickets and upgrade to Life- Member or Distinguished Life-Member today. I'll see you April 6 next year in the Grand Ballroom of the Doubletree by Hilton in Sacramento, CA. Good luck this Fall! Shoot straight or shoot often. Where there's lead, there's hope! ...and for my bowhunting friends, here's wishing you many "red fletchings."

Get Your Room at DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Sacramento Now!

Do you remember last year when you couldn't get a room at the DoubleTree? Don't let that happen this year! Register now and get your room for the Fundraiser and the Sheep Summit.. We have a limited block for the April 4 - 7, 2019 dates with a special room rate of \$112/night plus tax. The special rate will only last until that block is filled.



DoubleTree by Hilton Sacramento
2001 Point West Way
Sacramento, California 95815
USA
Tel: +1-916-929-8855
Fax: +1-916-924-4913
<http://bit.ly/DT2019>

2019 Sonoran Desert Bighorn Sheep Hunt Special Drawing



ONLY 500 TICKETS AVAILABLE

\$100 PER TICKET



ORDER YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

Name

Address

City State Post Code

Day Phone

Email

Payment Methods

- Check
Make check payable to:
CA Wild Sheep Foundation

- MasterCard
 Visa

Credit Card Number

Expire Date CCV Code

Billing Postal Code

Signature

ARRANGED EXCLUSIVELY FOR CA WSF BY



Hunt Information

10 day 1x1 hunt with San José Outfitters
Dates: November 2019 to April 2020
Location: Private Ranch near Hermosillo, Mexico

Get Tickets by Mail, Fax, or ON LINE

Mail order form to:
CA WSF
1314 B Center Drive #267
Medford, OR 97501

FAX order form to:
650-472-3889
ONLINE ORDERS:
www.cawsf.org/store

Orders must be received by March 23, 2019. Drawing held April 6, 2019. Do not need to be present to win.

DFW UPDATE

by Kyle Meintzer



The past quarter has been challenging for CA WSF to say the least.

As I wrote last time, at the Big Game Advisory Committee meeting in late May, we had over

\$2.9 million dollars in grant requests but only \$1.1 million was available. If you count the grant requests for multi-year projects, far more than the \$2.9 million was requested.

For bookkeeping and accounting purposes, multi-year grants which are approved are 100% booked and accounted for from the current year's available funds. For example, a request for \$300,000 per year over a three-year period, if approved, would take \$900,000 out of the current year's available funds. This would then leave only \$200,000 in the pool for all of the other requests.

As such, the BGAC has been reluctant to approve multi-year grants. We'd rather evaluate and approve such requests on a year-by-year basis.

There were numerous worthy grants requested at the May meeting. As a result, the BGAC asked the Department if we could approve partial funding. We were told we could, so we did so for several of the grant requests.

One problem! Two months later we learned the DFW had turned down all of the approved requests for partial funding due to accounting and legal issues of

which they were not aware at the May meeting.

The reason they gave us, which makes total sense, is that they could not determine exactly how partial funds would be allocated and spent, whereas with full funding, they would know.

They apologized for the oversight and said that next year, the PSN (Proposal Solicitation Notice) will address the issue as well as state how proposals could be structured so as to address the partial funding issue.

What this all means for CA WSF is the grant we thought we were getting for our Give A Lamb A Drink project, was rejected, because the BGAC had approved partial funding for this grant.

The good news is that the DFW Executive team then told us we could re-submit our request now, and if we broke the costs of each drinker down, they could approve the funding via a "Directed Action" process. So we will absolutely do that!

Thanks to Mike Borel for taking this on!

The second big issue for us has been getting the Department to secure a helicopter survey contract. Fortunately, this is about to become reality, we hope! The DFW sent out a Proposal Solicitation Notice for surveys in mid-July with an August 16 deadline. As I write this, that deadline has now passed and at least one and likely more than one bids have been submitted.

As soon as the Department sits down to open the bids and make a selection, we will let you know!

Finally, it appears the Sheep Plan is almost done and should be ready for public comment any day now. This is something we've been pushing hard for for a decade and it seems the end is near!

WATER DEVELOPMENT WORK IN THE DESERT

by Steve Marschke and Glenn Sudmeier

The Society for Conservation of Bighorn Sheep (SCBS) reports that water has been delivered to several systems over the past few months as the dry summer progresses. Faydee, Kelso, Kerr, and Vermin were all replenished. CA WSF members were given the opportunity to help and many answered the call. Thanks to the cooperation of SCBS and CA WSF many sheep have water.

Once all the systems are updated to the new Raincatcher style we would have very little to manage during the hot summer months. However, we still have many systems of the old check dam and upright tank style that have low collection efficiency.

As we have reported in other news, three projects ready to be installed, named Catclaw, Creosote, and Fishhook. All are on the 29 Palms Base. These sites are marked, permitting is completed and much of the inventory (other than tanks) is in stock. Once the projects are scheduled a tank order will be placed. However, no gaps in the military training schedule were available last winter or this spring. We are expecting the base to have some openings this fall. Once we have the go-ahead we will schedule installation dates.

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Andrew Ohanesian with Donald C Martin
Dall's Sheep, Alaska with Ultima Thule Outfitters
Hunt won at the Annual Fundraiser!



Shawn Wood
Bighorn Sheep, Montana
Indian Reservation hunt
This completes Shawn's FNAWS — Congratulations!



Jon Kruger
Tahr, New Zealand



Dennis Dunn
7x6 Tule Elk
Hunting with Doug Roth

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Cliff St. Martin lunching with Secretary of the interior Zinke Monday, discussing all things sheep. "Very pleased with what he had to say." says Cliff



Elijah Wallis
Blacktail, California



Patty and Ruggy Holloway
Wild Boar Hunt with Cary Jellison of G&J Outfitters
Won on Auction at 2018 Annual Fundraiser

FEDERAL GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS UPDATE

by Don Priest



MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

With the closer of the public comment period for the Mojave National Preserve's proposed Water Management Plan concluding July 19, 2018 the compliance pathway for the plan now moves to Regional Director Stan Austin. The final decision on which alternative within the Plan, if any, will be decided upon by the Mojave National Preserve and Department of Interior leadership. We anticipate that a decision will occur this fall.

CA SENATOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN'S SENATE BILL 32 AND REP. PAUL COOK (CA-8) HOUSE BILL 857

Since our last issue House Bill 857 (California Off-Road Recreation and Conservation Act) passed out of the House of Representatives on June 25, 2018. The bill has since been received in the Senate and read twice on the floor then referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. This is the same Committee where Senate Bill 32 (California Desert Protection and Recreation Act of 2017) resides. With time for this 115th Congress running short, may be difficult for these bills to be reconciled and passed prior to session's end. Nevertheless, we anticipate in the near future in this Congress or the next a bill regards our California Desert will become law. We are working with both offices to raise our concerns that these two bills would have on Desert Bighorn Sheep conservation efforts, including water development installations and management along with access for conservation and study efforts.

CASTLE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT AND CRESCENT PEAK WIND PROJECT

A new issue is quickly raising its head. The Crescent Peak Wind Project is a 32,000 acre proposal to install 160 500-foot wind turbine generators near Searchlight, Nevada. The project would be exclusively in Nevada, but right on the California/Nevada border. The Castle Mountains, though mainly in California, extend across the border into Nevada as does the northern portion of the New York Mountains and the McCullough Range in Nevada. These three ranges would all have wind turbines installed within their mountains in various stages as part of the Project.

This area is unique in varieties of grasses and scrub and is home to Desert Bighorn Sheep along with Desert Tortoise and Pronghorn Antelope. The Project would be, if not right within, alongside Bighorn Sheep habitat. Also, the extent of the Project would be disruptive to the connectivity of Bighorn Sheep whom move through and between these ranges. It is critical that sheep have mobility through corridors such as these ranges for genetic flow. This Project would be very disruptive to this process let alone the impact and stresses the Project would have on local native sheep herds within these ranges.

The human visual impact would also be significant given the height and location of the wind turbines, being highly visible from Searchlight, and Highways 95 and 164.

CA WSF is now involved with this issue, coordinating our efforts with the Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn in Las Vegas, Nevada. We will keep you up to date on developments.



CA WSF — WORKING TO KEEP YOU IN THE FIELD

by Bill Gaines

Gaines & Associates Government Relations

AB 2348 (AGUIAR-CURRY) – CALIFORNIA WINTER RICE HABITAT INCENTIVE HABITAT PROGRAM

As amended August 17, 2018, AB 2348 – legislation by Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry (D/04-Winters) – would establish the “California Winter Rice Habitat Incentive Program” to encourage growers to winter-flood productive rice fields which have been deemed by DFW to be important to the conservation of waterfowl. Under this Program, DFW would enter into initial 3-year contracts which would restrict the use of the land for waterfowl conservation and habitat purposes in a manner that allows for the use of the land for rice farming. Waterfowl hunting would not be precluded on lands enrolled in the Program. AB 2348 would make funds appropriated in the FY 2018/19 State Budget available to the Program.

Prior to being amended in mid-August, AB 2348 proposed to make winter-flooded rice fields eligible to compete for the very limited funding available to the “California Waterfowl Habitat Program”, (a.k.a. “Presley Program”) – a multi-faceted incentive program created to enhance the waterfowl values of our state’s privately owned and managed wetland habitats. Administered by DFW, the Presley Program has enrolled roughly 30,000 acres of habitat throughout the Central Valley since 1993.

However, throughout its entire history, the Presley Program has been underfunded with a lengthy list of private wetlands waiting to enroll. AB 2348’s proposal to authorize of winter-flooded rice lands to also have access to the Presley Program’s limited funding would have drawn critically needed resources away from higher priority private wetland habitats and resulted in a net reduction in the Program’s waterfowl benefits.

To address this serious concern, we worked with the author’s office to secure amendments now placed in AB 2348 which create a new separate program – the “California Winter Rice Habitat Incentive Program” – to encourage farmers to winter-flooded rice fields important to waterfowl.

With our amendments in the bill, AB 2348 passed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee in mid-August and to the Senate Floor where it will be brought up to a vote prior to the close of the 2017/2018 Legislative Session on August 31st.

AB 2697 (GALLAGHER) – WILDLIFE, BIRD AND WATERFOWL HABITAT: IDLED AGRICULTURAL LANDS

As amended August 6, 2018, AB 2697 – legislation by Assembly Member James Gallagher (R/03-Yuba City) – would require DFW to establish the “Nesting

Bird Habitat Incentive Program”, which may include direct payments or other incentives to encourage landowners to voluntarily cultivate or retain upland cover crops or other upland vegetation on idled lands to provide waterfowl, upland game bird, and other wildlife habitat cover for purposes – including, but not limited to, encouraging the use of idle agricultural lands for wildlife habitat. AB 2697 would also authorize DFW to develop guidelines and criteria for the program as it deems appropriate, and to consult with the Wildlife Conservation Board, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and nonprofit waterfowl and upland gamebird organizations before implementing the program to determine the optimal ways of increasing and enhancing wildlife habitat on idled lands.

AB 2697 would be implemented only if the Water Supply and Water Quality Act of 2018 is approved by the voters at the November 6, 2018, general election or if a sufficient amount of federal grants or other funds are secured for the purposes of the bill.

AB 2697 passed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee on in mid-August and to the Senate Floor where it will be brought up to a vote prior to the close of the 2017/2018 Legislative Session on August 31st.

SB 1100 (PORTANTINO) – FIREARMS: TRANSFERS

As revised August 16, 2018, SB 1100 – legislation by Senator Anthony J. Portantino (D/25-Glendale) – would raise the age to legally purchase a long gun in California from 18 to 21 years of age. SB 1100 would exempt from these provisions the purchase of a long gun by an individual 18 years or older who possesses a valid hunting license, and those who are on active duty or who have been honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces, the National Guard, the Air National Guard, or the active reserve components of the United States. Current law prohibits the sale or transfer of a handgun to any person below the age of 21, and the sale of a long gun to any person below the age of 18 years.

SB 1100 passed out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee and to the Assembly Floor in mid-August on a party-line vote and is now on the Assembly Floor



where it was brought up for a vote prior to the close of the 2017/2018 Legislative Session on August 31st.

SB 1487 (STERN) – ICONIC AFRICAN SPECIES PROTECTION ACT

As amended July 2, 2018, SB 1487 – legislation by Senator Henry I. Stern (D/27-Calabasas) would enact the Iconic African Species Protection Act and would prohibit the possession of any part, product, offspring, or dead body of African elephant, African lion, leopard, black rhinoceros, white rhinoceros, giraffe, Jentink’s duiker, plains zebra, mountain zebra, hippopotamus, and/or striped hyena.

Among other things, SB 1487 would “grandfather” in articles possessed for noncommercial purposes in California before January 1, 2019. The bill would also exempt articles used for educational or scientific purposes by a bona fide educational or scientific institutions, or those distributed directly to a legal beneficiary of a trust or to a legal heir, provided that

the article was possessed by the decedent before the enactment of SB 1487.

In an effort to defeat this misguided legislation, Gaines & Associates teamed up with renowned conservation attorney John J. Jackson III, President of the Conservation Force – the most active and effective NGO working on behalf of hunters to protect and promote the important role of hunters and hunting in the conservation of wildlife in Africa. Regardless of our extensive efforts at our State Capitol, numerous face-to-face meetings with the offices of Legislators, and letters from the governments of Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Namibia, the Republic of South Africa and others stating their strong opposition to the bill due to the importance of hunting to the conservation of wildlife and the benefits it provides rural communities in their countries, SB 1487 has easily worked its way through the legislative process on party-line votes.

WSF’S DR. RYAN BROCK EARNS PRESIDENTIAL AWARD



The Wild Sheep Foundation (WSF) is proud to announce that WSF Youth Education Coordinator, Dr. Ryan Brock, has been honored with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). PAEMST is the highest honor

bestowed by the United States government for K-12 mathematics and science teaching. Established by Congress in 1983, the President may recognize up to 108 exemplary mathematics and science teachers who develop and implement a high-quality instructional program that is informed by content knowledge and enhances student learning.

Since the program’s inception, more than 4,700 teachers have been recognized for their contributions, and act as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education.

Ryan has been an educator for 19 years in Nevada, including 13 years at his current school, Jessie Beck Elementary School. He has taught fourth, fifth, and sixth grade, including one year as the school’s kindergarten through sixth grade science teacher. He currently teaches all subjects to fifth grade.

Early in his career, Ryan found his niche with science education, connecting science concepts across

the curriculum into mathematics and literacy for his students. As he improved his own science education, he provided professional development to teachers through the University of Nevada-Reno, Washoe County School District, and Sierra Nevada Journeys.

In addition to teaching, Ryan has served as the director of science camps for the Discovery Museum, teaching science camps during the summer and after school. He served as the field-based faculty member, emphasizing science education for pre-service teachers at the University of Nevada-Reno. He also currently serves as the Youth Education Coordinator for the Wild Sheep Foundation, where he educates youth and the general public on outdoor education, wild sheep conservation and regulated hunting’s invaluable role in their restoration.

Ryan received a certificate signed by the President of the United States and a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation. Awardees were also recognized during special events that took place in Washington, D.C. These events include an award ceremony, professional development opportunities, and discussions with policy-makers on how to improve STEM education.

“The Wild Sheep Foundation is honored to have Ryan on our team, and looks forward to using his knowledge and expertise to promote outdoor education and conservation to future generations” stated WSF Chairman Brett Jefferson. “We salute Dr. Brock for earning this prestigious Award and most deserved recognition” Jefferson added.

AND THEN THERE WERE NONE: THE DEMISE OF DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP IN THE PUSCH RIDGE WILDERNESS

Book Review by Vern Bleich



“... wilderness areas shall be devoted to the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical use.”

— 88th Congress
(Second Session), 1964
The Wilderness Act

“We can wring our hands and do nothing about the destructive policies that harm the wild big-game populations of the world, or we can figure out how to modify or work around benighted government policies ...”

— Ronald S. Gabriel, 2013
A Sheep Hunter's Diary

“This is no time for refusing to look facts in the face.”

— Agatha Christie, 1939
And Then There Were None

Paul Krausman and his students have spent more than 40 years studying the population of desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) inhabiting the Santa Catalina Mountains, and specifically the Pusch Ridge Wilderness, in southern Arizona, USA. Paul is an authority on southwestern wildlife in general and on the ecology of desert bighorn sheep in particular. In this book, Krausman has compiled much of the history of the Catalina Mountains and the Pusch Ridge Wilderness—an area of ~230 km² established in 1978—located adjacent to and just north of the metropolis of Tucson. In the introduction, Paul details the early habitation by the Hohokam Indians, who disappeared from the area more than 500 years ago; early exploration of the area by expeditions led by Padre Kino; establishment of a game preserve in 1934; and a brief history of what is known about the numbers of bighorn sheep occupying the Santa Catalina Mountains.

Chapter 1 is dedicated to describing the Santa Catalina Mountains study area, and how land

developers and others used the proximity of the Pusch Ridge wilderness as a marketing tool. Also included is a history of the Catalina State Park, and its transition to ownership by the U.S. Forest Service.

Chapter 2 consists mostly of a description of the life history characteristics and taxonomy of desert bighorn sheep, and is based largely on a review paper published earlier by Krausman and Bowyer (2003). A detailed description of the study area is included, but the basic material in this chapter is somewhat dated. Although useful to those not familiar with the biology of bighorn sheep, it would have been more complete if a greater amount of more current literature was referenced. Much of the material included in this chapter is based on results of research conducted by Krausman's students at the University of Arizona.

Krausman provides the details of what is known about the population of bighorn sheep inhabiting the Santa Catalina Mountains in Chapter 3. Therein he details the historical literature on the subject, observations reported by individuals as documentation that bighorn sheep persisted in the area, and population estimates based on records of USFS personnel from 1925 to 1954 and those based on ground and aerial surveys by Arizona Game and Fish Department personnel from 1955 to 1997, the year when the last official survey was conducted. There may have been a “sheep or two” remaining in the area and unconfirmed sightings continued until 2010, but the population was, by 1997, no longer viable.

“Human Intervention and Management” is the title of chapter 4, and in it Paul discusses the potential for “Urbanization, recreation, fire suppression, hunting, water shortages, predation, other ungulates, and disease...” as potential contributors to the demise of bighorn sheep in the Pusch Ridge Wilderness. Each of these factors are plausible explanations of the extirpation of those unique ungulates from an area in which they formerly occurred, and my friend and colleague dwells at length on urbanization, unbridled recreation (i.e., disturbance), and habitat fragmentation as primary factors in the extirpation of bighorn sheep from that federally protected area. He concludes that fire suppression was instrumental in eliminating bighorn habitat and, hence, played an important role in the demise of those native ruminants. Additionally, Paul provides a detailed description of bighorn sheep harvested from the Catalina Mountains, and states that, “It is possible... that along with urbanization and fire suppression, the hunting of bighorn sheep contributed to their

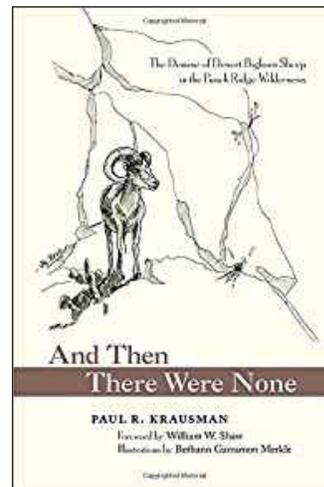
demise... because of their small population size.” Although unlikely and speculative, that possibility cannot be completely ignored. He goes on to dismiss an absence of water as an explanation, and concludes that abundance of forage was a problem because, “...it hinders visibility, more than because it is of low quality or in limited quantity.” In summary, he concludes that there is no evidence that predation, limited water, disease, or the presence of other ungulates were factors contributing to the extirpation of bighorn sheep from the Pusch Ridge Wilderness. Instead, encroachment of Tucson and surrounding urban areas have not had positive influences on the population of bighorn sheep despite “protection” afforded by designation as wilderness. In the penultimate sentence of chapter 4, he concludes that there are “numerous, cumulative influences” that challenged the viability of bighorn sheep on Pusch Ridge.

In Chapter 5, Krausman describes in some detail the ongoing effort — now several years into implementation — to restore bighorn sheep to the Santa Catalina Mountains and the Pusch Ridge Wilderness, and the importance of public support for that and similar efforts. He provides a somewhat detailed review of translocation successes and failures, credits many non-governmental organizations for their advocacy and financial support of bighorn sheep conservation, and concludes that current efforts are now more efficient and effective than in the past. He then continues with a list of “Keys to Successful Translocations.” Based on my experience overseeing dozens of capture or translocation projects over a period of >30 years, that section is a must read for all managers addressing the restoration of bighorn sheep to historically occupied range. Paul also goes on to emphasize that, “Wilderness areas and national parks are places where anthropogenic influences are minimal, but the wildlife in those places still has to be managed.”

Krausman’s research on bighorn sheep in the southwestern United States is nearly legendary in scope. This is especially true with respect to the contributions that he and his many students have made on behalf of understanding the decline and eventual extirpation of bighorn sheep from the Pusch Ridge Wilderness. From that perspective, this is a work that every wilderness advocate and political operative, as well as politicians themselves, must read. Indeed, the road to Hell is filled with good intentions and, in this case, bighorn sheep were the losers despite good intentions. Protecting an island of bighorn sheep habitat that advocates thought would ensure natural processes occur in perpetuity clearly was not an adequate strategy in the absence of active management on behalf of that iconic species.

Krausman concludes the book with several appendices, one of which is comprised of Section 1 and Section 2(a), (b), and (c) of the Wilderness Act; it is

noteworthy that Section (c) emphasizes that wilderness areas must be of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition, and that such areas “may also contain ecological [emphasis added], geological, or other features of



Available at [Amazon](#) and other booksellers.

Shop “smile.amazon” and donate to CA WSF!

scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value” (US Congress 1964). Clearly, designation of the Pusch Ridge Wilderness was a futile effort to preserve the ecological integrity of that area, in large part because most such areas have been established with little, if any, ecological forethought and its implications for wildlife conservation (Bleich 2014, 2016).

Two additional appendices are included. Appendix 2 addresses the agreement between the University of Arizona and a corporate land developer that resulted in funding for the research conducted by Paul and his students. The third includes a summary of important components of an adaptive mountain lion management plan that was a precursor to the ongoing efforts to reestablish bighorn sheep in the Pusch Ridge Wilderness. That plan was a critically important component of the restoration effort and was supported by stakeholders despite the many differing opinions regarding the management and conservation of Puma concolor.

This book is not the best-edited piece that Paul has produced in his career, but part of that shortcoming might lie with the copy editors. There are numerous misspellings and minor editorial inconsistencies, particularly early in the book (e.g., areas are referred to as refugium, not refugia; gallapova, not gallipavo, for the specific epithet of the wild turkey; infraorbital foramen instead of infraorbital foramen; the use of a singular reference [that] to refer to a plural term [anatomy and physiology]; wildlife mammals instead of wild mammals; the occasional misspelling of names (Akeson instead of Akenson); and mistaken dates of publication [Jones 1959 instead of Jones 1949], etc. My intent is not to diminish the value of Krausman’s

contribution but, rather, to encourage refinement if there is a second edition. Additionally, the book likely would be more useful to individuals not familiar with the ecology of bighorn sheep if the literature had been updated a bit and was more current.

Despite these minor flaws, Paul Krausman has produced a volume providing a history of what is known about the demise of bighorn sheep in a federally protected wilderness area, an extirpation that occurred despite the good intentions of that designation. Moreover, he provides the reader with suggestions regarding the importance of intervening on behalf of wildlife conservation to maintain the ecological integrity of such areas. I can only hope that the well-planned and widely supported efforts to restore bighorn sheep the Santa Catalina Mountains will be successful. If that is the case it will be, at least in part, a result of the efforts of Paul Krausman and his students over the past four decades. — Vernon C. Bleich, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Science, University of Nevada Reno

and Eastern Sierra Center for Applied Population Ecology, Bismarck, North Dakota [Reprinted from California Fish and Game 103:138–141].

LITERATURE CITED

BLEICH, V. C. 2014. Thoughts on the Wilderness Act. *Wildlife Professional* 8(4):7.

BLEICH, V. C. 2016. Wildlife conservation and wilderness: wishful thinking? *Natural Areas Journal* 36:202–206.

KRAUSMAN, P. R., AND R. T. BOWYER. 2003. Mountain sheep (*Ovis canadensis* and *O. dalli*). Pages 1095-1118 in G. A. Feldhamer, B. C. Thompson, and J. A. Chapman, editors. *Wild mammals of North America: biology, management, and conservation*. Second edition. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland, USA.

US CONGRESS. 1964. *Wilderness Act*. Public law 88–577, 88th Congress of the United States, second session. Washington, D.C.

ANNUAL ANZA BORREGO SHEEP COUNT SHOWS MORE SHEEP THAN 2017

The Anza-Borrego Foundation sponsored the 48th annual Desert Bighorn Sheep Count this summer admit that the annual sheep count is not a walk in the park. In fact, they call the event the “Extreme Sheep Count,” because it happens each year at the peak of summer heat when few people venture out into the zone of triple-digit temperatures.

This year’s event ended successfully with more than 70 volunteer scattering to remote locations, some spending most of four days camping out and living out of backpacks.

This annual citizen-science project is an important source of information for wildlife managers who use the observations to determine population, condition, movements, and potential threats to the small herd of sheep found here only in a narrow band along the western edge of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

This year’s count recorded 225 animals, compared to last year’s tally of 207. The highest total of 356 was recorded in 2009.

One significant observation was the return of sheep to Rattlesnake Spring, an extremely remote location in the Santa Rosa Mountains. Last year, counters saw no sheep there because the spring was dry.

This year water has returned to the spring and there were 35 sheep counted, and that was the highest number seen at any one location, except Second Grove in Palm Canyon which also recorded 35.



Officer, he’s about 5’3”, wearing a red jacket, smells of beer. AND he shot a gun at me!

HUNTING PHOTOGRAPHY PART 3 DSLR BASICS

by Craig Van Arsdale

In this final part 3 of my photography series geared towards the outdoorsman I will focus on DSLR cameras only and break down some of the basic settings to allow you to get a head start on taking full advantage of your camera's ability to take amazing shots in the field.

Most people are intimidated when they first pick up a DSLR and immediately put the camera in Auto mode and start shooting. This is perfectly ok and it's what I did as well when I first got into photography; just make sure it's used as a stepping stone as the best photos will come after you've learned what each setting does and you manually adjust the camera to the situation.

Most DSLR's have four major modes to choose from. They will be listed on a dial on the left side of your camera and are denoted in Letters such as "M" for Manual, "A" for Aperture Priority, "S" for Shutter Priority and "P" for Program mode.

APERTURE PRIORITY

Aperture is the size of the opening in the lens in which light is allowed to pass through when the camera shutter is opened and is measured in "f-stops" such as f/2.8, f/4.0, f/5.6 etc,

The lower the f stop the larger the opening and the more light is passed through to the sensor, the higher the f stop the less light is passed through a smaller opening. Think of Aperture as your depth of field or the amount of a photo that is in focus. The smaller the f stop the less of the photo will be in focus so a portrait or a macro photo will be shot with a low f stop whereas a landscape photo of a large basin you would want a higher f stop to get as much of the background and foreground in focus.

Think of Aperture priority as a semi-automatic mode. Shooting in aperture priority requires the photographer to set the aperture manually and the



Most people are intimidated when they first pick up a DSLR and immediately put the camera in Auto mode and start shooting.

camera will automatically adjust the shutter speed to take the photo. I recommend shooting in aperture priority as soon as you come off the training wheels of automatic mode on your DSLR.

SHUTTER PRIORITY

Shutter priority is another semi-automatic mode like Aperture priority but just the opposite. While shooting in Shutter priority the photographer must manually set the shutter speed while the camera automatically sets the Aperture. For example if you were shooting a running deer or a bird in flight you would want a very fast shutter speed in the 1/2000 Second range, whereas if you were taking a nighttime Milky Way photo your shutter speed could be as long as 30 seconds. For reference any photo taken with a shutter speed slower than about 1/30 Second will need a tripod to produce a good sharp image.

PROGRAM MODE

Program mode is basically a middle ground between Aperture priority and Shutter priority. Program mode allows you to change the Aperture and Shutter speed while the camera will maintain the exposure of the image. Program Mode is another good mode to play around with before jumping to full manual operation of your camera.

MANUAL MODE

Just as the title says Manual mode requires the photographer to make all of the settings adjustments on their own for each photo as they see fit based on their knowledge of shooting conditions and what they



are trying to get out of the photo. The settings are Aperture, Shutter Speed and ISO.

ISO is also known as the sensors' sensitivity to light. In the old days you would buy a specific sensitivity level of film prior to shooting in certain conditions. Today we are able to electronically change the sensitivity level of the camera's sensor to do the same on the fly. Think of ISO as in how much light you have available in the image. If it's a bright sunny day you may shoot a very low ISO rating in the 100 to 200 range as you don't need any help from the camera to get a good exposure on the image. On the opposite side of things if you're shooting in low light conditions you may want to shoot in the 3200

range to help the camera get a proper exposure due to the low light conditions. You must keep in mind though that the higher the ISO the more "noise" or grainy look the image is likely to have so use ISO conservatively.

I hope this has helped a few of you spark your interest to take better photos afield on your adventures and maybe even pick up a new hobby in photography. Keep in mind that the internet and YouTube specifically has a ton of information out there that can help you through the process of learning photography.

ESSENTIAL GEAR

by Kyle Meintzer

A good Surefire flashlight with extra batteries and a good GPS.

In 2004, while on a Colorado archery elk hunt, these two items combined may have saved my life. Seriously!

Late one afternoon I was hunting 1,200' of elevation below and two miles from my truck. I was getting ready to call it a day as darkness came when a hellacious thunderstorm moved in. It was about 7:00 PM.

It was my first time hunting that spot and, while there was a small trail, it was very difficult to follow, even in the daytime. In the dark, it was a lot worse. When the storm hit, not only was it pitch dark, it knocked down some bushes along the trail and I lost the trail. As a result, I ended up bushwhacking in total darkness through a lot of very nasty brush and dense, snagged timber for almost two hours.

It was the first time I'd ever used a GPS, and even then it was one my hunting buddy had lent me that morning.

I was clueless as to how to use it, but at least I was able to figure out how to keep my truck as my destination. So as long as the distance to my truck was shrinking, I knew I was making some progress, even though there was no trail, no stars (it was so dark I couldn't see five feet without using the Surefire), and even then, there was not a single reference point, not even in the daytime!



After about two hours, I finally ran into the trail about a mile from my truck and from there things got easier and lot less worrisome.

I finally got back to my truck at 10:00 PM, just as my buddy was starting to come looking for me.

The Surefire was of immense help and comfort and while I had to put in new batteries a couple of times, without it and the GPS, I might still be out there.



New Membership Levels

Remember these are two new membership levels. Other membership levels are available. Join, renew, or upgrade today at www.cawsf.org — for the sheep.

Junior Life Member \$400

Youth under 18 years of age will be granted Life membership in CA WSF

with all benefits of adult Life membership now and in future. What a great way to get a youngster started in the sheep hunting community!

Distinguished Life Member \$1,000 / \$1,500

Distinguished Life Member will give you greater opportunities for special drawings and other Life Member Only activities. Already a Life Member? Upgrade to Distinguished Life Member for \$1,000. Upgrade annual membership or join as Distinguished Life Member for \$1,500.

Our joint membership program with national Wild Sheep Foundation provides you with discounts from both organizations when joining or renewing together. For membership information see the website, www.cawsf.org.

Life Member Only Dall Sheep Hunt Drawing April 6, 2019



Don't miss your chance to win a Dall sheep hunt in Alaska at the 2019 Annual Banquet and Fundraiser! Life Members will have one ticket in the drawing; Distinguished Life Members will have three entries. ALL Life members will be entered but you **MUST** be attending to win!

THOUGHTS AND IDEAS ON DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP HABITAT IN THE INFORMATION AGE

by Gallinger, thewayofthings.org

The digital information age that we live in allows us to see and discuss various attributes of Bighorn Sheep habitat that was once largely hidden. Prior to the information age this type of knowledge was solely the domain of those that could track and read sign and spent a lot of time in a particular mountain range or region. While the ancient art of tracking and reading sign is information rich it often leaves the transmission of this information in the realm of opinions and hearsay due to the fact there is no transmittable graphic record. To use this traditional information for any kind of management or environmental decision it will always be necessary to assess the personality and skills of the person or persons giving the opinion. Then invariably after making a decision the decision-makers will have to rely on the same type of skills and opinion to assess the outcome with little or no graphic representation.

One of the most common and powerful tools of this new information age is the trail camera. The modern trail camera is an amazing piece of equipment. It is highly programmable can take still pictures night and day as well as video and hold a tremendous amount of data. They can hold tens of thousands of still pictures with the resolution currently at about 20 megapixels. Indeed anybody that has used these cameras can tell you that you can quickly go into data overload. Putting up one of these cameras at a spring or water source is as if a person sat by that water source and watched it 24/7 for weeks and even months at a time and photographed what happened. Spending the time to go through and interpret this data often requires a considerable amount of time and effort.

Another very useful technology in this information age is the radio or satellite collar. Nowadays these devices transmit the whereabouts of a particular Desert Bighorn Sheep to the internet via satellite. The cost and the fact you have to first capture these animals to put the collar on, means that there's not as much of this type of data available. However this data is usually worth the effort it takes to get. There are a lot of things that this type of information can show that is difficult to get otherwise, such as the sheep's placement due to weather, vegetation, and time of the year, as well as many other factors.

Now let's talk about a very inexpensive and easy to use yet powerful tool we have in this information age. That is satellite imagery, most notably Google Earth. The resolution of these images is incredible and while I have never found a discernible image



of a bighorn sheep it is possible to make out people on certain hiking trails in the Grand Canyon. One of the key abilities of these images is their detailed rendering of vegetation. Often times vegetation patterns are key to finding water that is not otherwise known about, such as springs that are not on topographical maps or do not have a name, or a road leading up to them. Another attribute that these images have is the ability and resolution to reveal game trails. While game trails don't always lead to water, many do. Often times game trails that are in the proximity of water are the only clue you have of that water's existence, due to the fact it's either too small or they do not have any other tell-tale sign such as vegetation to indicate its location.

Now I'd like to speculate on a technology I know exists but to my knowledge has never been applied in an attempt to have deeper knowledge of wild sheep. This is a form of satellite image technology that covers various spectrums of light in an effort to ascertain the health of various crops. This type of imagery could reveal an in-depth understanding on rain events. Rain events are complex. To understand them one must take into consideration the time of year, the type of rain, such as a summer thunderstorm or a wide-ranging winter rain. Then take into account such things as the wind, the ground temperature and the radiant energy from the sun before and after the event and many other important factors. This can be difficult to sum up especially without spending weeks if not months in that particular location. All the while this is summed up in the biomechanical process of the plant, which to a large extent can be revealed in a graphic satellite image that is taken in various wavelengths of light. This will give the viewer a detailed understanding of the plant side of the plant-sheep interface. This can literally shed new light on the population dynamics of Desert Bighorn Sheep.

Like so many things, when you bring together these technologies they are much more than the sum of their parts. For instance, a trail camera can tell you many things yet it cannot tell you where the

sheep came from or where they went to. Likewise the satellite collar can tell you everywhere one particular sheep has gone, though not what other sheep were with it. Then when you put together these two information sources in conjunction with satellite imagery you can achieve a level of understanding and the ability to discuss these things that is only possible in this high-tech information age.

Now I would like to enter into a discussion that will showcase what these individual information technologies can do, as well as what the convergence of these technologies can accomplish. To do this we will talk about some water sources in the North Bristol Mountains of California.

We will start with a tale of two springs. One is known as Hyton Tank and the other as Hyton Springs. Hyton Tank is a spring that has been augmented with a tank and is taken care of by the Society for Conservation of Bighorn Sheep. There have been cameras on both of these on and off for a number of years. We also have a fair amount of satellite collared sheep in the North Bristol mountains. This data shows that the sheep overwhelmingly prefer to use Hyton Tank as opposed to Hyton Springs. The most likely reason for this is the close proximity of mineral sources at Hyton Tank. Over the course of the years at Hyton Tank there has been tens of thousands of pictures taken of the Desert Bighorn Sheep and very few photos that show predators. Hyton Springs seems to be the opposite, there are a lot of predators and very little use by the Desert Bighorn Sheep.

These two water sources are approximately a mile and a half away from each other and are both in reasonable escape terrain. So the desert bighorn sheep could use either one for water if that's all they wanted. I first noticed the sheep using the area around Hyton Tank for minerals using the old methods of tracking and reading sign. Then it was verified by me and other



people using trail cameras placed directly on the mineral sources. The idea that I want to put out here is just because we have a focus point water source in the desert being used by the Desert Bighorn Sheep, it may still be advantageous to put another one in close proximity, especially if we consider the effect of mineral sources. While putting a water source close to another may seem counterintuitive, when you see the data on these two water sources it tells an interesting story. There are

THANK YOU TO OUR OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS...



Aaron Armstrong has served on the CA WSF Board of Directors for many years. Highlighting his efforts has been his involvement in the annual fundraiser with a focus on youth activities and getting youth involved. Aaron plans to continue this tradition. Thanks Aaron for all you've done and for your ongoing support!



Jon Kruger transplanted to Arkansas last year but he remains committed to continue efforts in PUTTING AND KEEPING WILD SHEEP ON THE MOUNTAINS in California. For this to happen, Jon believes Ca WSF needs a strong voice as well as support for habitat improvement and science-based management improvement efforts. Thanks Jon for keeping your voice loud and clear for California wild sheep!

number of localized mineral sources in this area. Delving into the satellite collar data may indicate which mineral sources they prefer. Then this would allow us to sample these minerals and find out what makes them valuable to the bighorn sheep and explore any possibility there might be a detrimental mineral element in them.

Now let's talk about some observations and ideas about what might be going on in the North end of the North Bristol Mountains. Some time ago I was shown some satellite tracking data of two ewes starting from two different places and ending up together in the north end of the North Bristol Mountains. After seeing this I looked up the area on Google Earth. There were no obvious water sources, though I could see that where these two sheep met there were some well-defined game trails. I still thought there might be a liquid water source there in the form of a tinaja or small spring. So I went there to investigate and found no sign of liquid water of any kind. This area was comprised of excellent escape terrain with a fair amount of places that had deep and permanent shade. For Desert Bighorn Sheep, good deep shade can be considered a form of water as it is utilized in such a way as to prevent these animals from drying out. Furthermore there was an abundance of barrel cactus which is also a source of moisture/water for these animals. There were also some sand dunes, many of which had a north slope exposure, this allowed moist leafy annual plants to grow where otherwise they would not. These three attributes combined make for a usable amount of water as far as Desert Bighorn Sheep are concerned. It's also interesting to note that in this area there are mineral sources that look very similar to the ones that are at Hyton Tank.

The fact that there is no focus point liquid water

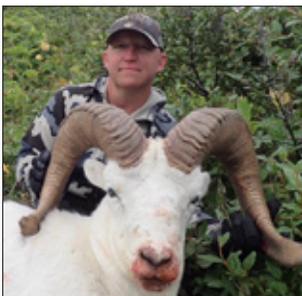
source in the north end of the North Bristol's, reduces the effectiveness of trail cameras. However these trail cameras can be put on game trails as the name implies and deliver usable numbers of pictures/data in a situation like this. Hopefully someday we will have this type of data from this place. When these pictures are compounded by satellite data you'll get a very clear and accurate picture of what is going on there. Also you can put cameras at Hyton Tank and when these collared animals show up there you will be able to see what other animals are with them, most importantly lambs. This would let us know if the north end of the North Bristol's is a lambing ground or not. I suspect this is a lambing ground and that examining the satellite collar data that we already have will reveal this.

One of things to consider about this situation is the lack of liquid water and the significance it may play in this portion of their habitat. If in fact there is no liquid water anywhere near this place and it is a lambing ground this would have some interesting implications. This lack of liquid water would tend to reduce the activities of predators such as coyotes, bobcats, and mountain lion. While no doubt they can make forays into this area they will not be able to stay long as these animals have a higher need for liquid water. What this also indicates that putting an artificial liquid water source into this part of their habitat may be detrimental to this population of the Desert Bighorn Sheep. Generally adding water is always looked at as a positive for a population of Desert Bighorn Sheep. Here we have a prime example of our ability to view and discuss the attributes of a particular piece of Desert Bighorn Sheep habitat and their behavior that is only possible in this high-tech information age.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!



Jim Fitzgerald has previously served as CAWSF board member and as a banquet committee member. He is an avid hunter, outdoorsman, and strong conservationist. Jim has organized, supported, and led various conservation organizations for more than 30 years. His experience and extensive knowledge in the use of prescribed fire for wildlife habitat improvement will provide a positive relationship in working with land management agencies for improving wild sheep habitat.



Paul Schultheis has a passion for conservation and looks forward to giving back more to the sheep community. I plan to commit to working and fighting for our rights as hunters and to do all we can to preserve our wild sheep in California. Paul is also interested in youth activities and ensuring the generations that follow will have the same or better opportunity than he has had.

THE CADIZ WATER PROJECT UPDATE

by Donald Priest

This past April 2018 within the Journal of Environmental Forensics a study paper was published on “Understanding the source of water for selected springs within the Mojave Trails National Monument, California”. The study indicates that, indeed, the largest natural spring within the Mojave Trails, the Bonanza Spring, will be directly impacted by the Cadiz Water Project. Bonanza Spring is on the south side of the Clipper Mountains which are just to the north overlooking the Project.

The study analyzed the mineral make-up, temperature and flow of the waters coming from Bonanza and other springs within the Clipper Mountains. Analysis of potential water sources that could produce such a mineral signature, consistent flow rate and cool temperature shows that the source water for Bonanza Spring is at a minimum from north of the Clipper Mountains via a very deep basin. This basin water is most likely coming from the Providence and New York Mountains to the north which then flows down through the Fenner Valley into the aquifer Cadiz wishes to draw from, also feeding the Bonanza Spring which is well below the Providence and New York Mountains in elevation.

Other continuing hurdles for the project include: Los Angeles Metropolitan Water does not want the water; the water contains hexavalent chromium; and distribution of the water from the well to the main water purchaser Santa Margarita Water District. For the latter, the two options for getting the water to buyers are: (1) via pipelines, one to the Colorado aqueduct or (2) via old gas pipelines that Cadiz has/will purchase, taking the water through Barstow. Both pipeline options have many obstacles, including the issue of scrubbing the water of hexavalent chromium,

pipelines crossing over California State Lands which may very well require a new CEQA review and additional complex issues regarding the pipelines right of way use next to active railroads or through old gas pipelines.

Another development that has happened quite recently is the introduction of California Senate Bill 120 (SB-120). The crux of SB-120 reads as:

“...a transfer of water shall not use a water conveyance facility that has unused capacity to transfer water from a groundwater basin underlying desert lands that is in the vicinity of a national monument, a national preserve, a national park, a state or federal wilderness area, or state lands to outside of the groundwater basin unless the State Lands Commission, in consultation with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, finds that the transfer of the water will not adversely affect the natural or cultural resources, including groundwater resources or habitat, of those federal and state lands...”

By the time of publication of this Fall issue of “California Wild Sheep” we anticipate a vote on SB-120 will have taken place on the California Senate floor, likely the week of August 27th.

Given the above there are still a number of hurdles for this Cadiz project to overcome prior to implementation, if ever. We will continue to stay on top of this issue and report on further developments.



BLM BURRO GATHER IN SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

BLM California Desert District, Needles Field Office conducted a bait-trap gather using water to capture and remove up to 60 excess wild burros within the Piute Mountain Herd Area due to lack of water. A helicopter population survey conducted on May 19, 2018 observed that Fenner Spring, which is the only water source within the herd area for up to 80 wild burros, had receded to a 4'x4' mud/water hole from a 10'x10' shallow pond.

Due to the unpredictable variations of the water output of the spring, expected summer daily temperatures exceeding 1000 F in drought conditions, and the burros dependency on this sole water source to survive, BLM removed burros from the Piute Mountain HA.

Burros removed from the Piute Herd Area will be made available for adoption at the Ridgecrest Regional Wild Horse and Burro Holding and Adoption Facility through the Wild Horse and Burro Adoption / Sales Program.

More information on the availability of these burros can be obtained from the Ridgecrest Regional Wild Horse and Burro Holding and Adoption Facility at 760-385-5765.



www.explorersatellite.com
www.eschunting.com

Explorer Satellite Communications rents and sells Iridium, Inmarsat and Thuraya handheld satellite phones and Inmarsat BGAN equipment for remote internet access. We understand the needs of Hunters, Guides and Outfitters and have proudly served the hunting industry for over 10 years and offer the services and know how to keep you in touch with your loved ones and business while out hunting.

We offer sales and rentals of satellite phones and data terminals that allow you to spend more time in the field - away from your desk and TV - without missing a beat back home!

All of our equipment is sent with a fully charged battery and easy-to-understand instructions so you can hit the ground running. Please mention CAWSF when you contact us.

Register on our hunting website for special promotions and updates on what is new in satellite communications

sales@explorersatellite.com
Please mention CAWSF when you contact us
 1.866.662.2665 • 954.763.8650

**DISCOUNTED
 PRICES & RENTAL RATES
 FOR CAWSF MEMBERS**

CALL NOW!



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



CA WSF
1314 B Center Drive #267
Medford, OR 97501

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage Paid
Van Nuys, CA
Permit #2497

www.cawsf.org

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION



Double Tree By Hilton, Sacramento

Featuring Two Special Drawings!

- **Sonora Desert Bighorn Sheep Hunt**
- Life Member Only **Dall Sheep Hunt**
- Live and Silent Auctions plus More Quality Product Drawings
- Games and Youth Program
- Fun and Friends