



California Wild Sheep

Winter 2018



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Reuben Sarian
Clark Kingston Mountain, Right side is
98", 17 5/8" base, and 40" long!
Hunting with Terry Anderson
at San Gorgonio Outfitters



ULTIMA THULE LODGE

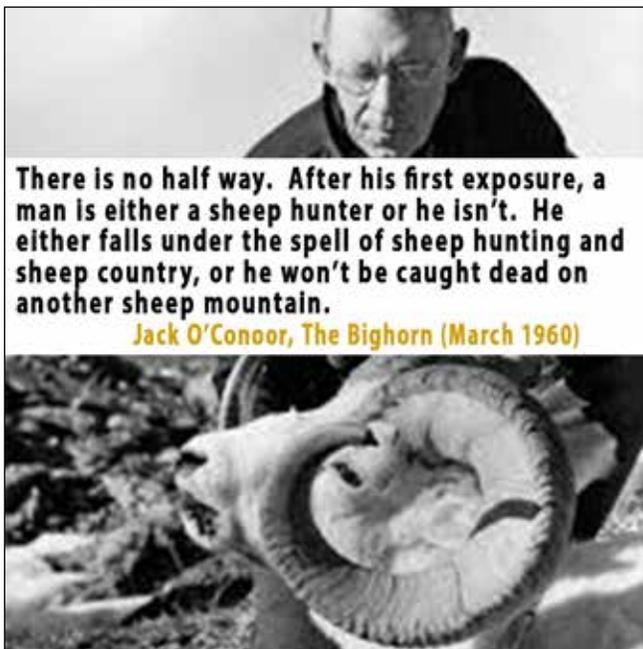
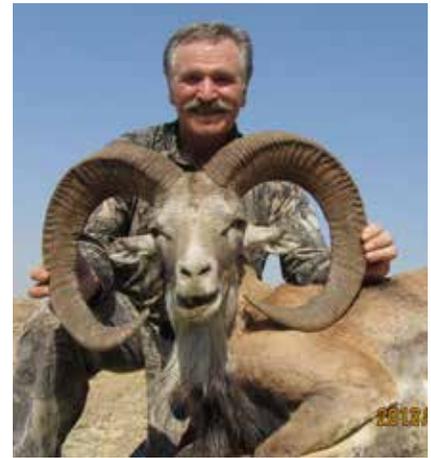
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From the Editor's Desk

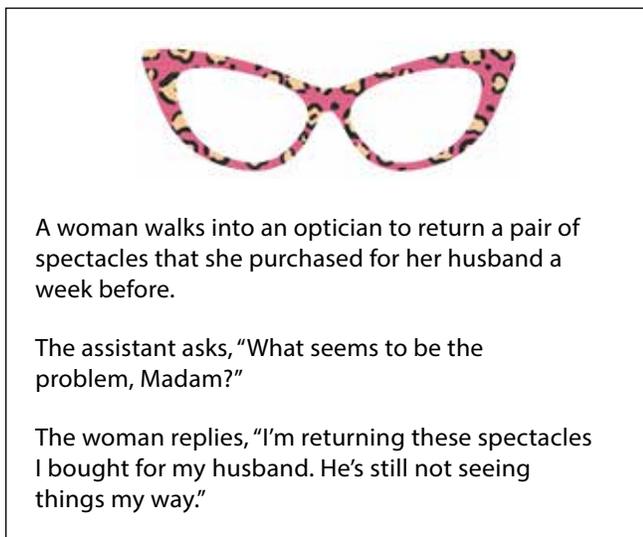
I hope you enjoy this issue. It includes some great hunting stories, more on our 2019 Fundraiser, fun humor, interesting desert insights from Carlos, science and CDFW articles, pictures, AND MORE! I hope you still have some hunting to do before the conventions and planning for the next season begins.

Your feedback, ideas, articles & requests are always welcome. Best way to reach me is email: mike.borel@contextnet.com. Due date for input to the 1Q19 issue is February 20.



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

Jack O'Conoor, The Bighorn (March 1960)



A woman walks into an optician to return a pair of spectacles that she purchased for her husband a week before.

The assistant asks, "What seems to be the problem, Madam?"

The woman replies, "I'm returning these spectacles I bought for my husband. He's still not seeing things my way."

One evening, shortly after the honeymoon, Kent was working on his Harley motorcycle in the garage. His new wife was standing there by the bench watching him.

After a long period of silence she finally said, "Honey, I've just been thinking, now that we are married, maybe it's time you quit spending so much of your time out here in your garage. You probably should also consider selling your Harley and all your welding equipment along with your gun collection, your fishing gear, the boat and all those stupid model airplanes, plus dump that vintage hot rod sports car and your home brewing equipment."

Kent got a horrified look on his face. She said, "Darling, what's wrong?"

He replied, "There for a minute, you were starting to sound like my ex-wife"

"Ex-wife!?" she screamed, "YOU NEVER TOLD ME YOU WERE MARRIED BEFORE!" Kent replied, "I wasn't."



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California Wild Sheep is published quarterly.

Please email all articles and photos to

mike.borel@contextnet.com

Photos should be high resolution and in color.

It is recommended that digital photos be sent by email.

Please include photo credits and captions.

Humorous outtakes provided by Tammy Scott

Published by Beverly Valdez, Gaiatec Services

Events

2019

January 3-6	SCBS-GALAD Water Project
January 9-12	SCI Convention, Reno
Jan 30-Feb 2	GSCO Convention, Las Vegas
February 7-9	WSF International Sheep Show Reno
February 14-17	Western Hunting & Conservation Expo, Salt Lake City
March 4-7	Boone & Crockett Convention Denver, CO
April 5	Sheep Summit XXV in Sacramento (Doubletree)
April 6	CA WSF Annual Banquet and Fundraiser, Double Tree by Hilton, Sacramento
April 16-19	55th Desert Bighorn Council, Mesquite, NV
May 16-18	WSF Chapter & Affiliates Meeting XII, Las Vegas, NV
May 20	Due date for articles for 2Q2019 CAWSF Newsletter
June 1	Ballots out for Board of Directors Election
June 28	Completed CA WSF Ballots due
August 20	Due date for articles for 3Q2019 CAWSF Newsletter
September TBD	Wild Sheep Foundation Fly-In and Walk on Capitol Hill (Washington DC)

President's Letter

As I sit down to write this President's Message, we are closing in on Thanksgiving and I'm thinking about all the things I am thankful for. I had a father who took me hunting when I was so young, he'd cross a creek with a gun in one hand and me in the other. Although, like most teenage boys, we went through a rough patch when I knew so much more than he did, I will forever be thankful to him for introducing me to an activity that has become such a big part of who I am. I am thankful to have a job that provides the resources necessary to feed my mountain hunting habit. I am thankful that I live in a country where we have the freedom to 'keep and bear arms', where we can still hunt millions of acres of public land, and where the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation guides wildlife management and conservation decisions. I am thankful to be able to serve the CAWSF and WSF membership and contribute what I can to "Putting and Keeping Wild Sheep on the Mountain". I am thankful for my friends and family, and most thankful for a wonderful wife who supports my habit although she won't eat wild game (or allow taxidermy in the bedroom!).



It is very easy to get pulled into the negativity of our political process, to be brought down by all the bad news we are bombarded with each day, and the stress of our daily lives. I hope all of you take the time to think about the things you are thankful for and take advantage of the bounty of our beautiful state and country.

Your board has been very busy this summer between government affairs, working with CADFW to increase sheep tag numbers, identifying potential new hunt zones, and planning our fundraiser. This newsletter will provide details on these and many other things that are sure to interest you. I'm sure you'll enjoy this newsletter and I'd like to thank Mike Borel for all his hard work to bring each issue to us.

BOONE AND CROCKET BIG GAME AWARDS FOCUS ON BIGHORN SHEEP

The Wonders of Wildlife National Museum & Aquarium in Springfield, Missouri, will be the site for the Boone and Crockett Club's 30th Big Game Awards exhibit and celebration in August of 2019. Today the Club is projecting that one species of big game doing remarkably well is bighorn sheep.

"In more than 71 years of hosting these triennial awards events, we anticipate that the quality and number of outstanding specimens on display next year will exceed anything we have seen before," said Justin Spring, the Club's director of Big Game Records. "We still have the 2018 hunting season to go but **we know for sure bighorn sheep will be one of the shining stars.**"

On display will be the new World's Record bighorn (216-3/8) with seven additional rams scoring more than 200-inches accepted in the 30th Awards, including a ram taken by a youth hunter in Montana. Justin D. Sheedy's ram scores 208-3/8 and is a pending tie for the largest hunter-taken bighorn ram of all time.

The three larger rams from recorded history were picked up trophies, including the new World's Record ram that was confirmed in early 2018 by a Special Judges Panel. All other exhibited trophies will be panel scored by senior B&C measurers to verify their entry scores.

HUNTING WITH THE STARS!

By Andrew Ohanesian



This sheep hunt starts in the flatlands of Sacramento, CA at the 2017 California Wild Sheep Foundation dinner. My family and I have gone to and enjoyed the California fundraiser every year since its inception. Upon arriving at the event, while I already had a few dall sheep hunt raffle tickets, I couldn't help myself and bought a few more for this grand prize. What a thrill when later that night, Ultima Thule Guide and WSF Board Member Don C. Martin called my name as the lucky winner! Wow!!!

Early August 2018 rolled around and I was off headed for the Wrangell Mountains of Alaska. I joined Don and the other three hunters, Doug and Shelly Sayer of Idaho and Adam Bronson of Epic Outdoors for a scenic drive from Anchorage into the Copper River Valley and the town of McCarthy for a short flight into "Thule-Town", or Ultima Thule's primary lodge.

Ultima Thule's lodge serves eco-tourism clients as well as hunters, and their facilities are nothing short of spectacular. Warm and comfortable cabins, bathrooms, a shower and a dining hall with gourmet meals. As I ate a buffalo rib-eye dinner and drank an IPA on tap in the lodge with a great view of the Wrangell Mountains, I thought 'Well isn't this just amazing!'

You've heard of the television show 'Dancing with the Stars'. Well with Don 'Hollywood' Martin, Adam Bronson of Epic Outdoors and major Wild Sheep Foundation and conservation benefactors Doug and Shelly Sayer – I was 'Hunting with the Stars'!

After a day of getting our gear settled at the main lodge and sighting in rifles, each hunter departed by super-cub to their respective hunt area. Don and I and our delightful wrangler Job headed out to a remote glacier. We camped on a gravel bank at the mouth of

a valley of mountains and glaciers. There was a light drizzle and cloud cover all about.

Opening day of dall sheep season came and we were off. We headed down a valley basin between mountains and glaciers looking for a good spot to start our ascent. As we moved through this basin we found a small group of rams. These rams were too distant for opening day but they were a good and exciting sign.

We continued down the valley and eventually found a spot to climb atop the mountain, and well, I guess the hunt began. I had killed a stone sheep seven years earlier in British Columbia when I was 33 and thought that experience would help me for this hunt in the Wrangell's. Yet time and the happiness of marriage had softened me a bit and I found the climb very challenging. I am chagrined to admit I was more in lodge-shape than sheep-shape.

Despite the rigor of the climb, I enjoyed it. Don and Job were wonderful company for the journey up and very helpful. The rain, rocks and vegetation made finding good footing challenging. If all people had mountains like these in their backyard, no one would need a gym membership.

We climbed for a few hours, searching for sheep in small mountain bowls. We'd glass and then keep advancing up the mountain. I recall the cloud cover broke about mid-day and the sun made a brief appearance. It was beautiful.

As we advanced, Don eventually spotted a band of rams about 400 to 600 yards out that were casually feeding up the mountain. Don felt one of them was a good ram and had me take a look through the spotting scope. He was facing left and I got a clear view of his left horn. I thought that left horn was



huge. It fully bridged his nose.

A year and a half of anticipation for this hunt now boiled down to just a few moments. You have to make a decision so quickly. Given Don's endorsement and how handsome that left horn was – I thought – lets do it. Don told me he was about 385 yards out. I got my back down, steadied myself, and sqeeeeeeezed that trigger! BOOM!!!

Ram down. We were all pumped. High-fives, hugs, chest-bumps were given all around. We walked up to him and Wow! He was gorgeous. His right side horn was every bit as handsome as the left horn I had seen. We took our time admiring him and took pictures and dressed him. The journey down the mountain was difficult as well.

While it was an opening day kill, this adventure, which I won at the annual banquet, could not have had more excitement, wonderful people or a more spectacular ram to show from the experience. It was truly first-class. All four hunters on this opening hunt with Ultima Thule ended up with amazing rams.

I would like to thank California Wild Sheep Foundation and Paul Clause and the Clause Family of Ultima Thule for making such a dream hunt possible.

I would also like to thank Don Martin for all his support in guiding me to an amazing Ram, a true trophy of the north that I will cherish by my fireplace for the rest of my life!

UPGRADE YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN TODAY – REAP THE REWARDS IN APRIL BY WINNING A DALL'S SHEEP HUNT WITH ULTIMA THULE OUTFITTERS

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 benefits including a special gift (TBD). Already a Life Member? Upgrade to Distinguished Life Member for \$1,000. Upgrade annual membership or join as Distinguished Life Member for \$1,500.

ALASKA MOUNTAIN GOAT A KENAI PENINSULA DRAW HUNT

By Carrie M Kegler

Every November in Alaska, the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game releases the next years Draw Hunt Supplement, where you can look up hunting opportunities by game species for next season. I'd say most dedicated hunters spend a fair amount of time researching their most preferred areas as they relate to access, success rates, season dates, and draw odds. Taking all of those things into consideration, you can apply for up to six hunts per species, and also for the same hunt all six times if you choose to. Both Residents and Nonresidents can apply for Draw Hunts, although Nonresidents must hire a licensed guide to legally hunt most large game species should they draw; this includes Mountain Goat.

After hunts are chosen, and applied for, we anxiously wait for February when the winners of the Drawings are published. For a hunter, it's a lot like Christmas, but with a higher chance of disappointment if you get your hopes too high. It is a lottery after all, and a no points system.

Having the friends that I do, I have yet to look up my own name and find out if I've drawn, or struck out. Someone always seems to beat me to it. This year, 2018, my friend Ryan texted me first thing in the morning, "Congrats, you drew goat!"

I shared the good news with my boyfriend, Jon, and his immediate response was "So when are we going?!"

It's not everyday someone commits without hesitation to a mountain hunt, and from years of planning and trying to execute Dall Sheep hunts with friends, I knew this all too well. That was it, we were going.

From there, we made a plan, arranged flights with a local bush pilot, continued our physical training routines, and geared up. For practice, and fun, Jon and I would quiz each other daily with photos of Mountain Goats we'd find throughout social media and the Goat Alliance website, so we could sharpen our skills in identifying sex. Sometimes it's not as obvious as one might think to determine a Nanny from a Billy, especially if it's a haired up mature Nanny.

My tag was for either sex, but if a nanny is taken in this area, you're not allowed to apply for goat hunts there for five regulatory years, so making sure we took a Billy was imperative; not just for my future hunting options, but what was better for goats on the Kenai.

The summer came and went, and on an unseasonably clear, warm September weekend, we headed across Kachemak Bay for a five day adventure. On this hunt, we'd learn a few things, and re-learn a



couple more. Trips like this always seem to remind us who we are, and what our limits might be; making us more prepared for the next round.

We flew into a small glacial lake, above the alpine, and surrounded by mountains. It was absolutely beautiful country. The altitude made for a leap in season; it was already autumn there. The short shrubs that carpet some of the mountain sides were ablaze with bright red foliage, Willows in the drainage bottoms were turning yellow, and the Alders still clung to green; they're always the last to turn.

When we landed, we were greeted by six other hunters. A party of four had just finished their goat hunt and were headed back to town. Two of them had the same tag I did, and had been successful in their efforts although one had problems retrieving their Nanny.

I've heard so many stories from my Dad and other goat hunters over the years, about goats literally running for the nearest cliff, and Kamikaze off the side after they've been shot. Even a good lung shot will give them enough time to jump if the terrain allows it. The importance of making sure these animals are in a good place to take a shot at them is just as important as good shot placement. A solid vital shot isn't any good if you've shot and killed an animal in a location you cannot retrieve it from. You'll still have to punch your tag, and then you'll have nothing but regret to show for it.

The party of two, were a couple of local guys from Kenai who hunt the area every year for Black Bear; which are very abundant in the higher elevations of the bay later in the year. They had already established their camp right next to the shore where we'd been

dropped, so we packed our gear, and made our camp about a half mile away, creating some space, but not getting carried away in distance from the pickup site.

With the tent set on a bit of a knoll, we had the lake to our right, and a huge glacial valley braided with clear running streams that extended a few miles, ending at a folding moraine at the toe of a glacier, on our right.

In the state of Alaska, you cannot fly and hunt on the same day, so we settled in, and made a game plan for the next morning.

Day one officially began. It was clear and cold, and not a cloud in the sky. Jon and I left our camp, and started at the base of a mountain just behind our tent. We hiked up, one terrace at a time, stopping to glass in every direction with the new perspective we'd have. You really can't help but admire the scenery, and take note at how far you've come, and how much further you've got to go to reach the top. It's something that has always reminded me of just how small we really are. It's humbling.

To me, the best part of hunting or hiking in a new area is the unfamiliarity. Everything is new and you don't really have any expectations, so you can easily find yourself miles from camp while exploring the folds of a mountain, traversing its flanks which are so steep that you can hold a hand out at an arm's length, and be touching the very ground you're stepping on. Each step is made with careful intent, as you don't have much, if anything to break your fall or tumble should you lose your footing. One lazy move, and a bit of a slip will get your attention quickly should you lose focus. Being mindful in this environment, and knowing your limits are imperative.

We spotted several goats on our way up, but most of them were miles away on other mountains, separated from us by deep canyons, and steep alpine forests.

At one point we spotted what we assumed was a lone Billy on the other side of the valley from us as he made his way around a nearly vertical pinnacle with a rounded face in good time. It was almost like he was traversing the widest part of a globe. I watched in awe, as one of the bulkiest, seemingly un-agile creatures defied physics as he made his way across the rock,

rounded the corner, and was out of sight. He reappeared on a snowpack, and launched into a full gallop across the snow, zig-zagging this way and that from one small rocky outcropping to another. He eventually went out of sight again, but we'd see him several times that day as he wondered about the mountainside. He was about two miles away as crow flies, so he wasn't out of range to pursue, but we had four more days, so we took note of where he was and continued on.

Our curiosity in what was over the next ridge, rolling corner, across this rocky gut and that eventually brought us to the top and revealed what was on the other side. More mountains. The view was absolutely stunning. The tops of the closest peaks seemed so close you could touch them, their bases in shadow and couldn't be seen. We sat at the bottom of a mossy hill that overlooked a topaz blue glacial pond where part of the glacier still remained, and was completely surrounded by rock.

As we started glassing, I only had my binos up for but a few seconds and Jon leans over pointing to his cheek. "Really?!" I asked in excited disbelief. See, we made a deal of sorts before we left camp, and for every goat Jon spotted, I owed him a kiss. I know, sickening in the most adorable sense, but a deal is a deal.

I took a look in the spotter and directly across from us in a cliff, on the other side of the glacial pond, was a single goat. He was 1700 yards away, bedded down with his eyes closed, napping in the remnants of the afternoon sun.

What distance we had between us and the goat appeared to be rolling hillside, but as expected, that's never the case. You'll see the tops of everything, while hidden below and in between these folds in the mountain are incredibly steep guts and crevasses, some very narrow, and filled with loose shale which makes navigating and closing that gap more time consuming, and very dangerous.

I followed behind Jon as we carefully made our way down and across the ridge we were on, creeping as low as we could so that we wouldn't get sky lined. If he could see our silhouettes moving along against the sky, he'd spook and we'd lose him.





Jon initially chose a route that would get us closest to the goat in the least amount of time, but as I followed him down the winding and steep gut I reached a spot where I was not only uncomfortable with where I had just found myself, but that I couldn't make my next step without using both of my hands to grip the rock to my right with my rifle in hand. As I peered below and realized if I lost my footing, I'd fall twenty feet or more onto jagged solid rock and probably be piled up at the bottom regretting the decision if I survived it. Knowing that I had reached my limits with the potential for risk in that situation, I went with my instincts, and decided to retreat back up the gut. Jon took my rifle for a minute while I got turned around, and we went back up to look for another route. In no time at all we had found another way, and side-hilled the back side of the peak which was mostly covered in crowberry moss, following the natural switchbacks down to a rocky platform.

As we had been moving closer in his direction, we watched the goat as he got up and began making his way towards us, closing the gap even more. We had reached a spot where we couldn't go too much further without him seeing us, so we stopped and waited to see what he was going to do. The wind was good, and in our favor, we were about eighty feet above him, and we still had some light left in the day although we'd lose it fast. When in the mountains, the sun essentially sets on you before anyone else who may have a flat horizon since the mountains cast such long shadows, and you find yourself in them. This is also about the time you get the incredible light called "alpenglow", where a reddish glow illuminates the mountains as light from the setting sun is reflected in a temporary band.

When the goat was at about five hundred yards, and still getting closer, Jon confirmed he was definitely a Billy, and I began to get setup to take a shot if he came inside of 400 yards. I'm comfortable at the range shooting this particular rifle, a Remington 7mm SAUM, out to 800 yards and beyond, but while hunting, I simply will not take those kinds of shots.

The Billy got closer, and I struggled to get into a

comfortable prone position where I could keep steady on the downward pointing slope we were on. I tried a rock, and then my pack, but was still struggling to get steady enough where only my breathing controlled the rise and fall of my reticle. I got as steady as I could, and as he stopped broadside at 400 yards I took a shot. I watched him through my scope and loaded another round. He just stood there, a puff of dust came up behind him, and then he looked up at us. I missed. I've heard it happens to everyone, and it was finally my turn. He headed back in the direction he had just come from in a hasty gate, completely unscathed, while my ego and my analytical nature duked it out quietly over what just happened. I was disappointed, but also relieved. Disappointed because I had taken a shot I should not have taken because I wasn't ready, I rushed it, and although the goat wasn't injured, it could have been, and I know better. Relieved because the light was fading quickly, and we would have been dressing and skinning in the dark, and most likely spent the night on that mountain with only the packs on our backs.

We packed up, and thanks to Jon's humor, I beat myself up a little less on the hike back to camp. We made it to the tent just after dark.

Day two we woke up and had a plan. We'd hike nearly all the way to the toe of the glacier, and start our ascent from there, as it should save us some time in getting to the back side of the mountain where we were the night before. Our hope was that the Billy hadn't gone too far, and we'd be able to spot him again.

On the way up, dozens of rock ptarmigan clucked and scattered, letting us know we were in their way. They could make an easy distraction from the ultimate goal is someone had packed a shotgun. At one point, we took a break at the top of a steep section in our climb, resting at the edge of a rather wide and rocky gut that I mentally flagged as a waypoint for reference. On the other side, I think we both made note at how rolling and mild the remainder of that end of the mountain seemed to flow down into the valley bottom we'd started from. We'd later find out that was an illusion.

We ended our short break, and made another burn up and over to the other side, where we found ourselves higher than we were the night before, but were able to see much more area. Glassing for a couple of hours, Jon spotted two healthy Black Bears a few ridges over, but we hadn't seen the Billy. We decided to glass the other side facing the valley, spotted the goat we'd initially seen the day before and planned to head that direction if we didn't spot the Billy we were looking for on our side. After about an hour more, Jon had the idea of splitting up and taking a look in separate directions for a little while, so he went left, and I went right. I ended up on the back side of the rocks we had just been glassing from all morning, and took a look around. Something caught my eye, almost

shiny for an instant. I took a look through my binos, and couldn't believe it. He was bedded down about 1300 yards away on a flat rock and between another glacial pond and what looked to be a cliff behind him.

I went back and found Jon; my smile from ear to ear gave it away.

"You found him!"

From the distance we were at, we made a plan as to where we'd head down and across to him without him seeing or winding us. We had two options, but again went for the longer and less technical route as it'd undoubtedly be quieter as well. How could we not have seen him that whole time we were glassing from above? He must have come up and settled where he now was after we'd moved spots and split up.

Creeping as close as we could, we got to the edge of the pond and were on a hillside scattered with enormous boulders. Jon ranged him at 280 yards, and he was still bedded, and facing right at us. We'd have to wait for him to get up and turn for a shot. Jon laid out all the extra layers we'd brought across the top of a large boulder where I'd lay down and get as comfortable as I could. It was perfect, and I had him in my sight ready to go should he get up. Having this much time to wait isn't common, but we made the most of it. Jon got his Phonescope out with his spotter, along with his DSLR camera and started taking photos. I practiced a dry fire, which I'm absolutely certain he heard. After a few minutes, Jon moved behind me and to my right with his camera, and while watching the Billy through my scope, it was obvious that he was watching Jon.

"Jon, he sees you."

"Well good, hopefully he'll get up."

Just as Jon sat back down to my left, the Billy found his feet.

It all happened so quickly.

"Let me know when you're ready to shoot." Jon said, so that he could cover his ears and avoid the ringing you'd expect from a muzzle break.

"Ok." (This was ok, I'm ready to shoot, not an acknowledgment to his request.)

In that instant, the Billy had quartered away, and I made the 280 yard shot, hitting him just behind the shoulder. He dropped instantly.

With Jon's ears ringing, I thought about all those stories I'd heard about goats getting up after being shot and making a run for it, so I waited before looking up from my scope and unloading. He never moved. The 140 grain Nosler Accubond rounds my dear friend, and gunsmith had loaded for me the week before had done their job.

We were both so excited, and didn't waste any time getting over to him. Jon beat me there in order to capture it on film, and when I got up next to him, I admittedly got a little emotional as I always seem to after I've taken an animal. He was so much bigger than I had expected him to be, and absolute tank,

and a beautiful one at that. His coat was pure white, not a knot or snag in it. We'd later find out from the biologist in Homer who'd seal him, that he was large for that area, surprisingly only five years old, and has a horn length of 8.5".

We got right to work after the obligatory photo session, got him skinned, and Jon deboned all the meat. It was going to be one hell of a pack out, and neither of us was sure we'd do it in one trip, but we did.

On our way out, we decided to take that route we'd noticed earlier in the day, the one that looked like a pleasant stroll down to the valley bottom, and once we'd made it most of the way down we realized our mistake. We'd followed those hills into a dry creek bed, which led to a very swift knee high river that was being fed by the nearby glacier. We were at a dead-end, and now we had no choice but to go back up, and find a good path. We made more than one wrong turn on our descent, and eventually ended up cliffed out 100 feet straight up from the valley bottom, and in the dark. It was too dangerous to continue, and we knew it.

Anyone who's spent any time in the mountains knows you always try to go down the same way you went up, unless you know without a doubt there's a safe alternative, something we both knew, and accepted the reminder. We did what we had to do, and spent the night on the side of that mountain under the only patch of Alders in sight. It was cold and uncomfortable.

At first light, we resumed our descent, crossed the large gut I'd made note of the morning before, and it was smooth, but heavy sailing from there. We took our time, and made it back to camp a few hours later. When we arrived I sent a Spot message to our pilot for a pickup the next day, we rehydrated, had some lunch, tied the meat and cape to Alders next to the tent in the shade, and took a well-deserved nap. We were exhausted.

The rest of our evening was spend recounting the last two days over dinner, a celebratory beer, and laughing at how we seemed destined to spend at least one night on that mountain.

The next day we packed up and hiked camp back over to where we were dropped off, and spend the rest of our time before the plane landed admiring the view, and watching another healthy bear make its way around the lake in our direction. The two bear hunters had left their camp to scout by that time, so we're unsure of the outcome of their hunt. I hope they ended up with at least one bear.

The hunt was an incredibly humbling success, both fun and challenging, and one I'll always remember.

ULTIMA THULE OUTFITTERS 2020 DALL'S SHEEP HUNT



Alaska's Best! Wrangell-St Elias National Preserve 10 day 1x1 Guided Hunt • Ultima Thule Outfitters with Guide and Board Member Donald C Martin

Don't miss your chance to win a 2020 Dall's Sheep Hunt with Ultima Thule Outfitters. Drawing will be held at the 2019 Annual Banquet and Fundraiser. Life Members and Youth 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 attend to win!



PAPA'S PRIDE AND JOY

by Paul Schultheis

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to purchase a private land deer tag in California for my daughter at the **CA Wild Sheep Foundation Annual Fundraiser banquet** this past May. One of the many very generous Life members of the organization donated his deer tag for this incredible opportunity. The only caveat was that the hunter had to be one of three things, a child/minor, first time hunter, or a female. My daughter, Hanna is all three. We were able to get it done this weekend in part due to two of my closest friends Zack Walton and Shawn Wood. We wanted Hanna's deer hunt to be perfect! And it was. Most importantly, Hanna made an incredible shot in less than perfect conditions. I could not be more proud of her! What a rush it is watching your child get it done. Congratulations Hanna and thank you California Wild Sheep Foundation and it's members for all that you do.

Editor's note: Taking a child hunting is one of the most rewarding activities! Be sure to share your love of hunting and fishing with a youth this year and pass along our heritage and love of the outdoors.



Proud Papa and Hanna



Hanna and Her Hunting Crew
Left to right: Dad Paul, Zack Walton, Hanna, and Shawn Woods

Hanna's crew are all CA WSF Members.

THANK YOU MEMBERS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

DESERT BIGHORN STATUS REPORT

by Paige Prentice, CDFW Desert Bighorn Sheep Biologist

I'm excited to share CDFW's Desert Bighorn Sheep Status Report. This report documents data collection and management actions performed by CDFW's Bishop Field Office between November 1, 2013 and October 31, 2016. The Bishop Field Office monitors desert bighorn populations within CDFW's Region 6 including: the White Mountains in the north to Highway 62 in the south, the Nevada border in the east, and California's Highway 395 in the west.

With that said, the collection of this data was a collaborative effort. A huge thank you to all of my colleagues—within CDFW, the National Park Service, Oregon State University, the Bureau of Land Management, CA Wild Sheep Foundation, and the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, to name a few—for your hard work, help, and support throughout the last five years. I look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts.

Get the full report at <http://bit.ly/CDFW13-16DBS-Report>

MOOSE ADVENTURE

By Glen Pyne

I had hunted bear with Frank Badey of Omineca Guides and Outfitters in north central British Columbia a couple of years earlier so once I saw they had donated a moose hunt to the 2018 fundraiser, I immediately knew that was a hunt for me! Frank and his family have owned Omineca Outfitters for about 30 years. His dad is retired now and Frank carries on the business.

The hunt camp for Omineca is on an island in one of the many lakes of the area so moose hunting is mostly done by prowling the shores in one of two boats which are set up to be great shooting platforms.

My hunt overlapped with Beverly Valdez's plus another father and son hunt. And my wife Caroline came with me, which made this trip even more special.

On our first day out, it was a beautiful sunny day and we were lucky to see a group of 5 or maybe even more moose! We are sure we saw two young ones, one or two cows, and at least one bull moose but there may have been two. It was hard to tell with all the noise they were making! We ended up watching this group for almost an hour just for the fun of it before heading back to camp.

The next day we saw another moose in the same general vicinity. On the third day I got a shot at a moose that we just happened to see as we were heading back to camp. He was walking on the beach away from us. The wind was blowing steadily as a storm had been brewing that day, the sun was in our eyes, and



the waves were choppy. The boat was heaving port to starboard. We got nearly parallel to him and I took a shot. He took another couple of steps. We could see blood so I took another shot just to make sure and waited about 20 minutes before going to find him laying quietly on his side.

Then the work began — a big moose means lots of work but many hands helped. Caroline helped skin (photo bottom left) while I did most of the quartering.

Beverly's moose hunt was a different story! She saw only 3 moose (none on the lake). John was with her and they did see several bears, which he passed on because they were smaller than he wanted. Not through lack of trying or any lack of guiding, Beverly went home with tag soup!

The Omineca team are great outfitters and guides. The camp provides wonderful rustic accommodations and Jilly can cook anything without the 'chef's kitchen' for excellent food.

Most importantly the camaraderie of the camp is so perfect – when you leave you feel you are leaving friends. It's everything you would expect in a British Columbia hunt plus more.

2019 CA WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION BANQUET AND FUNDRAISER UPDATE

By Donald C. Martin, Fundraiser Co-Chairman



For many the hunting season is winding down and for a lucky few there are still some great hunts ahead. This has been certainly one of my best hunting seasons ever and I hope all of you have enjoyed similar success. With only a few hunts left to guide, I'm thinking more and more of our 2019 Fundraiser on April 6 at the Doubletree by Hilton in Sacramento. Make plans to attend now as our event is a full month earlier.

Big news! The state of California has generously awarded our chapter with a CA Open Zone Deer Permit that will be available at our live auction next year. This is one of the most coveted permits here in California as the permit holder will have the freedom to hunt any unit in the state that is open to hunting. So whether you're chasing mule deer in the high country or blacktail deer on the North Coast, this permit will give you the freedom to explore the best of California's deer hunting. Plus you'll get to hunt early and throughout the season! There's no need to wait 12-15 years to draw that late season rut hunt permit you've been dreaming about! Attend our event on April 6 and bid on this permit and have a chance to hunt California's biggest deer in the best units next year.

Also in that live auction will be two of Alaska's most coveted tags. Once again we have generously been awarded the responsibility of auctioning North America's best free range bison permit, the Chitina River Bison Permit. There is no greater bison adventure than this hunt that takes place in the heart of Alaska's famed Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve. Need proof? ...Just ask Beverly Valdez about her experience hunting Boone & Crockett bison in

America's last frontier. In addition, we also have the Nunivak Island Musk-Ox Permit. This too is one of Alaska's greatest adventure hunts. Don't forget that Musk-Ox are now eligible for Wild Sheep Foundation's National Awards. If you need a Musk-Ox to complete your GSCO Super 10 or Super Slam, this could be your chance.

I want to remind everyone that we will be giving away 2 sheep hunts next year. There will be a random drawing for a desert bighorn hunt 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. The 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's sheep hunt and it will be a Life-Member random drawing. There is no cost to existing life-members, every life member including junior life members 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.

Our random drawing for a custom rifle is currently in the works and when those details are final I will let you know. Tickets will go on sale starting at the Wild Sheep Foundation's National Convention in Reno, Nevada on February 7, 2019. CA chapter members can expect to hear sooner and purchase tickets before they go on sale to the general public. You do not need to be present to win the rifle!

Our event will be here before you know it, so plan ahead and save the date, April 6, 2019 at the Doubletree by Hilton Grand Ballroom in Sacramento. Make plans to attend and invite a friend. Every one of us should strive to bring someone new to the CA Wild Sheep Foundation Dinner next year. Let's raise money for sheep and have a great time doing it. I look forward to seeing all of you there.



Editor's Note:

Some of the articles in this newsletter are from lucky winners or great bidders who got their hunts at the 2017 or 2018 Annual Fundraiser Banquet. Don't miss your opportunity to hunt with Omineca Guides at Outfitters (story on page 14), Ultima Thule Outfitters (story on page 5), or a great private land hunt (story on page 13). You may also be the winning bidder for one of the most coveted state tags in California, the Open Zone Deer Tag. Don't miss this year's fundraiser -- you can register now online at www.cawsf.org.

CA WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET
 April 6, 2019 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Sacramento

Be an "Early Bird" (complete registration by January 30, 2019) to get tickets for an Early Bird drawing for \$1000 in banquet credits.

_____ **Single Dinner/Event Ticket - \$100; After March 6, 2019 - \$110** \$ _____

- > One (1) Dinner/Event includes entry to the Displays, Speakers and Auctions
- > Get one (1) chance at the Early Bird drawing if registered by January 30, 2019

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

- > One (1) Youth Dinner, includes entry to the Displays, Speakers and Auctions plus special youth prize drawing. Must be under 18

_____ **Reserved 1/2 Table (5) Dinner/Event Tickets - \$475; After March 6, 2019 - \$525** \$ _____

- > Five (5) Dinner/Event includes entry to the Displays, Speakers and Auctions
- > Get five (5) chances at the Early Bird drawing if registered by January 30, 2019

_____ **Reserved Full Table (10) Dinner/Event Tickets - \$900; After March 6, 2019 - \$1,000** \$ _____

- > Ten (10) Dinner/Event Ticket includes entry to the Displays, Speakers and Auctions
- > Get ten (10) chances at the Early Bird drawing if registered by January 30, 2019

General Raffle Tickets are \$20 each or select one of these packages

_____ **\$100 Drawing Ticket Package** \$ _____

\$120 (6) General Drawing tickets

_____ **\$300 Drawing Ticket Package** \$ _____

\$400 (24) General Drawing tickets and one (1) \$300 Bonus Drawing tickets.

_____ **\$500 Drawing Ticket Package** \$ _____

\$700 (42) General Drawing tickets, three (3) \$300 Bonus Drawing tickets and two (2) \$500 Bonus Drawing tickets.

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

_____ **Desert Bighorn Sponsorship** \$ _____

Donate to underwrite firearms for the drawing; tax deductible. You will receive recognition in the event program and the quarterly newsletter. 1 firearm \$350 2 firearms \$700 3 firearms \$1050

_____ **Donation to Help Sponsor the Event and Support Wild Sheep in California** \$ _____

Please especially consider if you will not be able to be there! (Any amount)

_____ **2019 Sonoran Desert Bighorn Sheep Hunt - \$100 each (ONLY 500 AVAILABLE)** \$ _____

Total Payment: _____	Check	Credit	VISA	MC	AMEX
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EXP DATE ____ / ____ CVC# _____ BILLING ZIP CODE _____

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SIGNATURE _____

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Make checks payable to
 CA Wild Sheep
 Foundation

Mail to:
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 Medford, OR 97501

Fax to:
 650-472-3889

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

THE FISH ARE REALLY BITING

By Tammy Scott

When the six gals got together for a half day of fishing, little did they know that blood, a lot of blood, was going to be shed before the day was through.

At 7:45am we met Nate Zelinsky, guide and owner of Tightline Outdoors and guide, Will Dykstra, at Spinney Mountain Reservoir for a half day of fishing. Spinney, a gold medal fishery, is located about 2 ½ hours South and West of Denver. Nate left it up to us how we would split the anglers and guides. Since I had fished with Nate prior on a fantastic trip on Antero Reservoir, I spoke up and said that Peggy (my mother) and I wanted to go with Nate. Glenna thought this would be fun and was our third angler.

It was a sunny and gorgeous, but cool start to the day. We were all wishing we had brought more clothes, but by noon it had warmed up to 75 degrees. Honestly, it was a slow day for everyone on Spinney, not just our two boats. We were getting a few hits trying different lures and techniques. After a couple of hours, Mom caught an under 20" cutbow (a cross between a cutthroat trout and rainbow trout), so by regulation we had to put it back. She was really excited to have landed one. Then mom caught a rainbow trout that was over 20" so we got to keep that one (I was thinking "Mmmm. Dinner!")

Nate decided we needed to try trolling. We were up for anything that would offer us the opportunity at catching more fish. We were at it for a little while and then my reel went weeeeeeeeeeeeeeee! I started reeling and reeling. Nate tightened the drag on my reel and I kept trying to bring in whatever was on the other end of my line. My triceps were screaming and I was wondering what the heck I had hooked into. I kept thinking that I didn't know if I could bring this fish all of the way in to the boat, but I really didn't want to give up and ask for help. As the fish got closer, Nate put the smaller of the nets back and got out the much larger net. I could see that it was a northern pike and I kept thinking "Don't get off! Don't get off!" Nate scooped up my fish and was smiling from ear to ear, "You have a real trophy here!" I had caught my first ever northern pike! I was so happy that my cheeks hurt from smiling. I was glad that I hadn't given up and asked for help getting him to the boat. We took some photos and then put a tape measure on him. 46" wonderful inches! Not only was this my first northern pike, but a huge one.

We decided that we needed a few more pictures with both Nate and I in them. Glenna was the photographer, Nate was holding the pike and I was just smiling! After the last picture, just before we were going to release it, the fish had decided that it had enough, it whipped around trying to get loose



while Nate was holding on tight and hit Nate on the face, which made Nate stumble, almost falling in the reservoir and he dropped the fish. Nate caught himself, bent over and picked up the fish. When Nate looked up, we all saw blood all over the left side of his face. We didn't know if the blood was from the fish or Nate. Nate wiped his face and it bled more. Uhh oh. We tried to stop the bleeding and after a closer look we could see that the pike had bit Nate's face! Yes, you read that right. The pike actually bit Nate on the face. The pike was fine, so Nate put it in the hold while he tried to stop the bleeding. It looked like a comb made of razors had dragged down his face. Nate was ecstatic about the pike and wasn't too worried about the wound or all of the blood. Every time he smiled, it opened the wound and blood would pour out of his face again. Needless to say, with such a great fish in the hold, he kept smiling!

Nate called Will and said to cruise on by and look



at what we had caught. Nate had a permanent ear to ear grin. I'm not sure what Will was expecting, but it certainly wasn't the huge pike Nate pulled out of the hold. The jaws of everyone on Will's boat dropped when they saw how large the pike was. It was such a cool feeling to know that I had such a lucky day. Will and the three anglers were all talking at the

same time asking who caught it, how big is it, etc. Everyone was very happy for me. We put the pike back in the reservoir and it swam off to wait for the next lucky angler.

When asked about the experience, Nate said, "Well... After landing over 1,500 40" Pike over the years, today they got revenge. Immediately after this photo, no lie, this 46" monster flipped around in my hands, with so much power and speed and drilled me in the face. Totally went numb, dropped the fish and almost went in, ha, ha!!! Don't worry, the fish was fine and lived to fight again. I've never in my career seen a fish with more power and speed! I'll be black and blue by morning! My hats off to these mega Pike! I've been beating them for 16 years, I guess they deserved a shot at me this time!"

All three of the anglers on the other boat limited out with trout. Glenna and I left without any fish in the cooler, but all of us have a fish story of a lifetime!

If you would like to book a trip with Nate, his contact information is: Tightline Outdoors with Nathan Zelinsky, website: www.tightlineoutdoors.com email: tightlineoutdoors@gmail.com.

SAVE YOUR FEET!

By Darryl Williams

As I wrote in our last newsletter, I enjoyed a successful Stone's sheep and Canadian moose hunt in August. Like all of us, I have my favorite gear: Swarovski optics, Stone Glacier backpack, Kuiu sleeping bag, Thermarest pad, Black Diamond trekking poles, etc., etc., etc. The one piece of 'kit' that I have struggled with for years is boots. I have narrow feet, so that presents a challenge itself, but I have also experienced lost toenails on nearly every mountain hunt.

I've worn Kenetrek (and still do for some hunts), Danner, Schnee's, Meindl, Scarpa, and even custom boots from Russell. None of them worked perfectly, so I decided to give Lathrop and Sons a shot. I had heard great things about their process and customer service and figured that since I was headed out for the hunt of a lifetime (and my most expensive to date!) why not try to solve the 'boot issue'.

Lathrop and Sons has a very specific process to make sure the boots you buy, fit your feet...specifically. It starts with the purchase of their mapping kit, which creates 3D imprints of your feet. You'll also need to have someone trace around your feet while you're standing and take pictures of your feet from the front, back, and both sides. A couple of weeks after you send everything back, Lathrop and Sons will set up a call with you to discuss your results.

During this call, they will ask your height, weight, type of hunting you'll be doing and the max weight you expect to carry in your pack. This information is vital to ensure they pick the correct durometer rubber for the foot beds of your boots. Next they'll tell you, based on your 3D mapping, photos, etc. which boots they recommend. In my case I could have purchased a Lowa boot or one of theirs. I chose the Lathrop and Sons Mountain Hunter boot. The next step is to receive your new boots and set up a call to discuss the fit.

Once I received my boots, I called James Lathrop to discuss the fit. He walked me through lacing my boots and then asked that I walk around while we discussed how they felt. He then said, "every boot feels good for 10 minutes, wear them for about three hours. Walk up and down stairs and see how they feel. If they still feel good, take them on a test-drive." These boots fit perfectly and felt great, so I took them on a 5-mile test-drive the next morning with a 50-pound pack on my back. Perfect performance!

So...fast-forward to BC. I only hiked 2 hours on day one, but day 2 was an 11.5-hour grind. After I shot my ram, we had an 11.5-hour hike out. We hiked 5 miles in and out of two areas hunting moose, not to mention the miles looking for a good bull. No hot spots, no lost toenails and my feet felt great. I can't recommend Lathrop and Sons more enthusiastically. Do yourself a favor and save your feet...give them a call today!

YUKON STONE

by Mike Torres

This past August saw me on my fourth hunt with Dueling Stone Outfitters in the Yukon. I have been fortunate to have taken a couple of Stone Rams and a huge moose with Jarrett Dueling and was looking forward to another adventure. I was booked on the second hunt and met the hunters from the first hunt at the float plane dock in Whitehorse. The four hunters on the 1st hunt had very bad weather and were stuck in their tents for 7 days of rain, only taking 1 ram.

The weather seemed to be improving and we flew 1 hour into a remote mountain lake base camp. Jarrett informed me that I would be guided by Terry Ollie with wrangler Joel. I was pleased to hear that Terry would be guiding me. I hunted with Terry 7 years ago on an unsuccessful hunt due to rain, and knew that he was the real deal. Terry is of the Kaska First Nation and possesses traditional woodsmanship skills, and can spot game with his eyes that most people can barely see with binoculars.

Terry, Joel, and I left base camp with 8 horses for a remote camp in Crystal Valley. I hunted this same area 7 years before, I was unsuccessful but by friend Frank Borges Jr. took a dark ram in this area that year. We set up our spike camp and woke the next morning to pouring rain. It reminded me of my prior hunt here. We were tented up that day, but the weather improved some and we headed out to glass for sheep. We had pretty poor weather for the next 2 days seeing a few sheep, but nothing to get excited over.

On the fourth day the weather broke and we rode our horses up a drainage on Sheep Ridge and tied the ponies up in some willows. We started up a very steep boulder field and I believe that this mountain got steeper in the 7 years since I was last on it. We made it to the top and in every direction you could see endless mountains with very good sheep habitat that are just about inaccessible and not hunted much, if at all.

We weren't seeing much sign on top and were working our way down a steep ridge on the edge of a canyon that looked like the Grand Canyon when Terry saw a set of two ram tracks and he went into hunt mode. Terry looked like a bird dog on a hot pheasant scent and was patiently checking out every nook and cranny that could hold sheep. I believe that Terry has the ability to read a sheep's mind. Terry dropped to the ground and I crawled up to him to find a bedded dark ram at 140 yards. Although legal, the ram was only about 8 years old and did not meet Jarrett's goal of only taking 10 year old rams. While watching the 8 year old ram we spotted 4 other rams about 1 mile away down the ridge we were on. The 8 year old got up and walked away and we started down for the 4



rams, one of which looked pretty heavy. We lost sight of them about a half mile down and were creeping forward when a loan ram popped out of the timber and dwarf arctic willow about 600 yards below us. I set up on him at 500 yards but held off shooting as he was walking up the ridge to our location. I had him at 400, 300, and 200 yards when he walked into a little ravine below us. We were not sure where he would come out and were pleasantly surprised when he popped out at about 100 yards. We were out of his sight and I had a dead rest when Terry told me to take him. I made the shot at 73 yards after the half mile stalk.

The ram was down and he turned out to be dark 11 year old Stone Ram. I was very happy with my eighth ram and after the photo session we caped him out and boned out all the meat. We started down the mountain with 3 very heavy packs. When we got near the bottom we cut cross country through the bottom of several creek drainages, headed to the creek where our horses were tied. When we got to our drainage off of Sheep Ridge, Joel the wrangler headed up for our 3 horses. Two of the horses had pulled loose from the willows and had returned to camp, leaving us with only 1 horse. It was now 12:00pm and I was just about physically done in after 16 hours of hiking and packing in some of the toughest terrain I've seen. The guys let me ride the only remaining horse and we got back to our spike camp after 1:00am.

We slept in the next day, working on the cape and meat, and decided to move to one of Terry's moose camps and hunt for moose, caribou, wolves and grizzly. We spent several days in moose camp but didn't find any good caribou or bull moose. When we ran out of sheep back strap and coffee we decided to return to the lake base camp. On return to base

we found that the 2 other sheep hunters had been successful too.

I have been fortunate to have hunted in many wilderness locations in the last 50 years and have a passion for the Yukon. The Yukon is extremely remote and offers some of the last true wilderness experiences.

While saying my good byes to Jarrett Deuling and his crew, I made arrangements to return again in 2020 with my wife Lee. Mountain Sheep live in some of the most spectacular country on earth, and I am going to hunt them as long as my legs and lungs let me.



Jason Hairston 1971 - 2018

We were all shocked and saddened to learn of the tragic passing of KUIU founder Jason Hairston this fall. Jason was an early supporter of California Wild Sheep Foundation and a Life Member Wild Sheep Foundation. As the founder of Kuiu, Jason brought his innovative mountain hunting clothing to the annual fundraiser for many years. He was a great advocate for wildlife and was asked by Donald Trump Jr. to serve as a liaison to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, sportsmen's groups and the White House on conservation and public lands issues.

He will be missed.



PHOTOS

Top Left: Jason Hairston Instagram Photo

**Top Right: Jason with his 12 Years Old 190 6/8”
Desert Sheep nicknamed “Goliath” in 2017**

**Left: Jason and his Northwest Territory
Dall’s Sheep in 2011**

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Adam Casagrande
Adam (r) with Don Martin just finished his FNAWS getting this Dall's sheep in Alaska at Ultima Thule



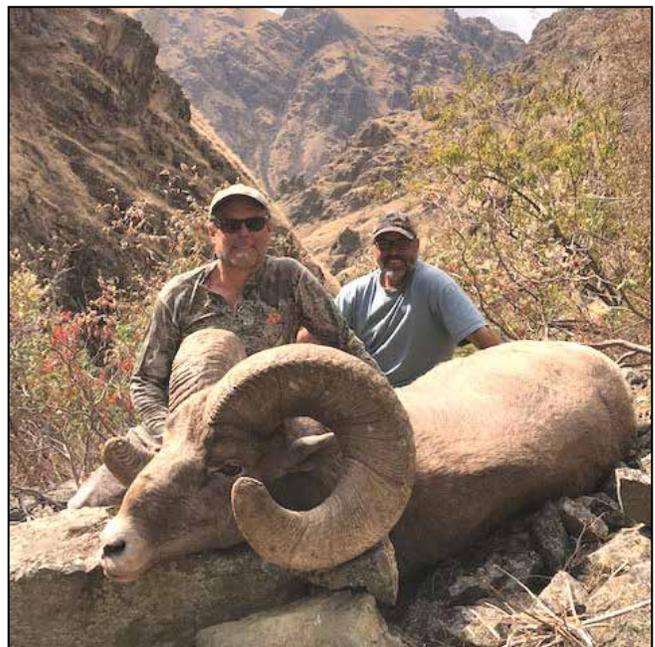
Adam Casagrande
Adam's Four North American Wild Sheep



Andrew Ohanesian – 2018 Nevada elk



Curt Pilcher of RedRock Precision
2018 Marco Polo Tajikistan



George Houston
Dr. Lyons' 2018 Rocky Mountain bighorn, Idaho scored 187". Hunted with Jon Barker Outfitter / Guide

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



John Ware
2018 Utah elk



Elijah Wallis
2018 Utah antelope



Elijah Wallis
2018 Montana Mule Deer



Mike Borel
Anatolian Chamois, Turkey Nov 2018

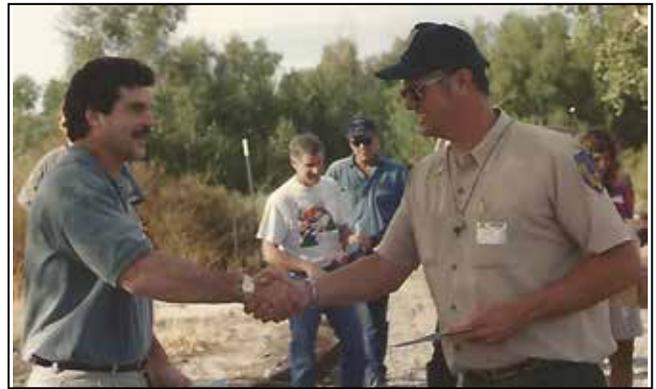


Mike Borel
Tian Shen Argali, Kyrgyzstan Nov 2018; Mid Asian Ibex, Kyrgyzstan Nov 2018

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Terry Noring
Siberia Snow Sheep



Two important members in an earlier year!
Roger McCosker (L) and Vern Bleich (R)



Darryl Williams
British Columbia Moose 2018



Darryl Williams
Wyoming Antelope 2018

Join us at The Sheep Show!

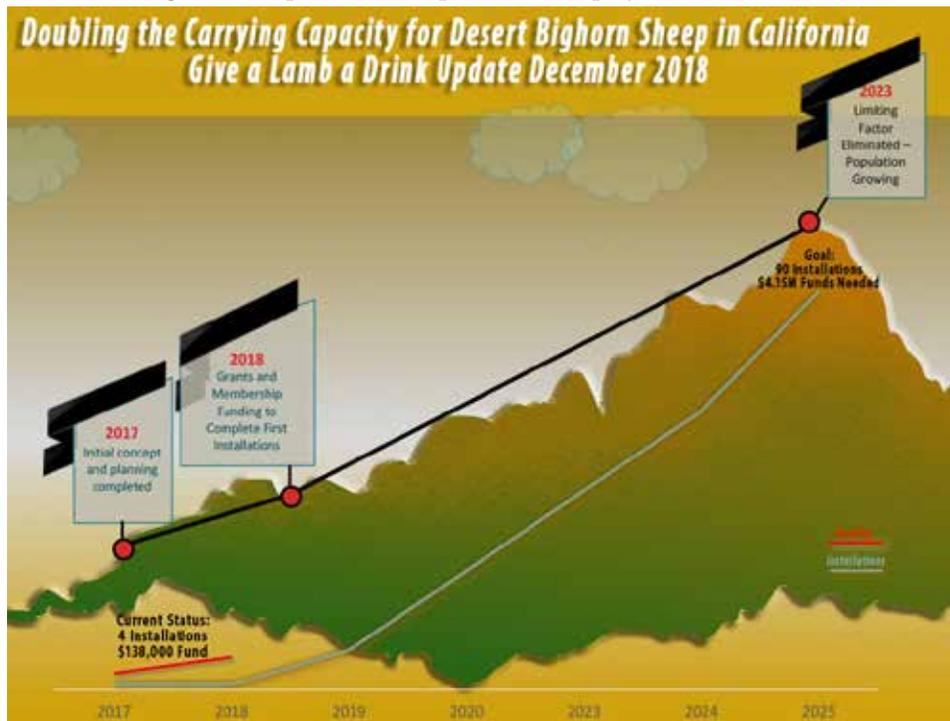
Once again we will be at the Sheep Show in Reno, February 7-9. We'll be at booth location 1001 -- turn left as you enter and you won't miss us!



Give a lamb a drink

Project to Double the Carrying Capacity for DBH in CA *Expanding desert bighorn sheep habitat in California*

Funding for the CA WSF Give a Lamb a Drink project continues to increase and we are preparing to install three to five new systems over the next 6 to 12 months. We are submitting proposals to many organizations to increase our funding and plan to install as quickly as we can. To date we have raised \$348,050 including \$250,000 held in CA WSF reserved funds out of a total materials/parts budget of \$2.08M. 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 \$1.5M for labor to extend the efforts of CA WSF members and volunteers along with members and volunteers from the Society for Conservation of Bighorn Sheep (SCBS), our partner in the project.



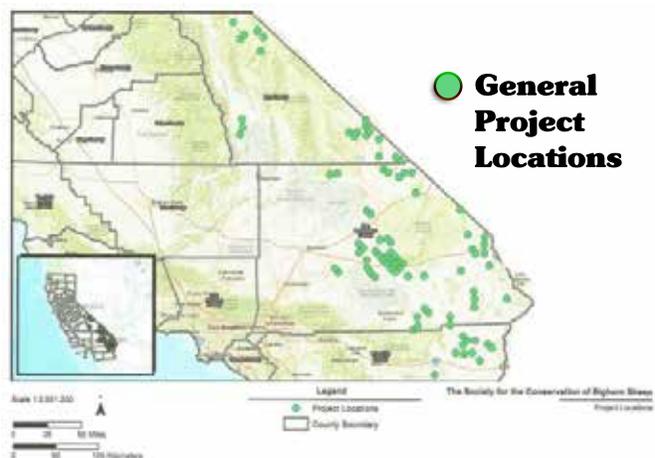
While volunteers do a great job, to get this project done quickly we must take on some hired labor.

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. As we progress with obtaining funding we are also moving forward on preparing applications for many of these sites.

Of the 90 sites identified, 23 have been visited by team members (boots on the ground) and will be high priority targets for completion.

The next RWWS installation will be in early January. If you have not received an email with information, please contact Beverly (forthesheep@gmail.com) to update your email address. Announcements and requests for volunteers will continue coming to you via email so that you can help in one or more installations.

Do you know of a program or organization that may provide a grant to help us complete the project? If so, please get in touch with Mike Borel (mike.borel@contextnet.com) or Beverly.



DFW UPDATE

By Kyle Meintzer



The past quarter has seen some very positive developments at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

First, Kari Lewis and Brad Burkholder seem to be getting more comfortable and informed about their

new roles with the DFW. That's a very good thing, as they are two of the key people CA WSF works with.

Next, in early October, the Big Game Advisory Committee met again to review the proposed charter for the committee. Revisions were made and will be reviewed again at the next meeting and hopefully, finalized at that time.

Then, the DFW has agreed they are not giving out enough sheep tags and have been working with us on the issue. A public scoping meeting will be held on this on November 30, then it will go to the Commission for their approval in early December. At that meeting, they will also weigh in on the DFW's request that a new hunt zone be opened in the Newberry/Rodman/Ord complex.

In the long run, however, the biggest issue for your chapter was the success of our Unmanned Aerial Vehicle grant project in the Mojave not long ago.

The use of drones, aka, UAV's, is a very new thing for all of the involved parties and a lot of progress was made, despite some limiting weather issues we faced.

As far as we know, no one has ever attempted to do what this grant is attempting. And I mean no one. Not a state agency, not an NGO, not a UAV company and not even the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration). So we're all breaking new ground and learning as we go.

Fortunately, our partners at Drone America are not only on the leading edge of UAV technology, they have also earned the trust and respect of the FAA and are therefore able to get regulatory waivers to do what otherwise would not be allowed. If they then perform as hoped for, the FAA will likely move the bar and let them advance further. This was obvious with the way both Drone America and the FAA approached this project. It was 'crawl, walk, run.'

Now that it's been shown that the 'crawl phase' works, the 'walk phase' is next and more latitude and more waivers will likely follow.

On Day One, we spent the entire day driving around the Ord Mountains and surveying for the best observation points and evaluating flight strategies.

On Day Two, we ran into a problem with high

winds near the top of the mountains, so had to scrub the planned UAV survey. The high wind issue also caused the DFW to call off a helicopter capture project in a nearby range.

Day Three started out promising and the UAV lifted off as planned, orbiting to gain enough altitude before heading to the top of the northwest corner of the Ords where the survey was to begin.

Unfortunately, as soon as the ship started toward the mountain, a strong headwind came up and the ship slowed noticeably. It was, however, able to make several passes along the west side of the range before the wind yet again forced us to cancel the rest of the flight.

However, despite only surveying for :20 - :25, the ship's cameras took over 6,500 quality pictures and numerous desert bighorn sheep were caught on camera.

The forecast for strong winds for the next several days resulted in us suspending the rest of the mission, but with plans to return next spring with higher resolution cameras, a more powerful motor on the ship, as well as a longer lasting battery. The length of the delay has mainly to do with the ability to schedule all of the parties on common available dates.

Much was learned by us as well as by the FAA on how to better do these surveys in the future and that such operations definitely can be done effectively and safely, even in unforeseen weather conditions.

The Drone America team will do a sheep survey in January in the Virginia Range just east of Reno, NV to gather more information as to how to best do this kind of work.

In the end, all parties came away very excited and optimistic about the use of UAVs in the future to better manage sheep.

We believe that UAVs will give us better data, more supportable and defensible data and at a lower cost than helicopters. And best of all, if a UAV crashes, no one dies.



DESERT BIGHORN UPDATE

By: Paige Prentice



It's been a very busy fall for the Desert Bighorn Program with two weeks of helicopter surveys quickly followed by 12 days of captures. This year we flew surveys in the Nopah, Avawatz, Kingston, Mesquite, Indian Spring/Marl/Kelso, Dead, Cady, Newberry/Ord, Orocopia, and Piute/Castle ranges.

Across these 10 areas we counted a total of 696 desert bighorn (see the table for individual range counts). It is important to note that due to the vastness of these areas, the finite amount of helicopter survey time, and the need to survey multiple ranges, the numbers below are considered minimum counts and are not "population estimates."

A few days after surveys were over we repacked our bags and headed back down to the desert for captures. This year's captures were a collaborative effort between CDFW, NPS, BLM, and Oregon State University (OSU). The capture efforts conducted on BLM were covered under an exciting, new, 5-year

Winter 2018 Desert Bighorn Helicopter Survey Minimum Counts	
Range	Count
Nopah	93
Avawatz	6
Kingston	85
Mesquite	30
Indianspring/Marl/Kelso	35
Dead Mtns	12
Cady	94
Newberry/Ord	222
Orocopia	42
Piutes	77
Total	696



Photo 2: A group of ewes and lambs in the Newberry Mtns



Photo 3: A ram in the Kingston Mtns

permit for the BLM's California Desert District.

In addition, this year's capture efforts were primarily targeting animals in mountain ranges along Interstates 15 and 40 as part of a three year "Connectivity Project" with OSU and the NPS. One of the main goals of this project is to better understand how desert bighorn interact with these barriers (interstates) and specifically with underpasses. Capture also focused on sampling populations previously untested for pneumonia. Overall, we captured 80 animals across 14 ranges; including in Death Valley National Park, Mojave National Preserve, Castle National Monument and BLM land (see the capture table for details).



Winter 2018 desert bighorn sheep survey crew (left to right) L. Harrison, A. Evans, N.Kallman, R. Ianniello, M. Davis, D. Everson (pilot), R. Vu, P. Prentice

Winter 2018 Desert Bighorn Capture			
Range	Rams	Ewes	Total
Newberry/Ord	0	3	3
Cady	3	7	10
Marble	3	0	3
S. Bristols	4	1	5
N. Bristols	6	6	12
S. Soda	2	5	7
Inidan/Cane Springs	2	2	4
Granites	1	1	2
Avawatz	3	2	5
Clark	1	4	5
Piute	2	7	9
Nopah	1	5	6
Panamint	2	2	4
Black Mtns	0	5	5
Total	30	50	80



In 2018, Official scorers at the Boone and Crockett headquarters in Missoula, MT measured this ram's skull at 216 3/8. The ram shatters the previous world record by 6 inches. The ram died of natural causes on Montana's Wild Horse Island State Park

THE FUTURE OF BIGHORN SHEEP CONSERVATION

by Carlos Gallinger, *The Way of Things*

Editor's note: This article continues a further discussion of the importance of minerals in bighorn sheep dietary requirements, an area where little if any studies are available. We feel it is an area that may need additional attention and may warrant a project in the near future.

At present bighorn sheep conservation strategy can be put into three categories. They are predation, disease, and water. There is little discussion and virtually no action in regard to mineral sources for wild sheep. Yet minerals are a major concern to those who farm domestic sheep.

Minerals affect every facet of wild sheep biology and behavior, and this is true whether we're talking about an individual or a population. So mineral sources must be understood and acted upon to advance any strategy for conservation and reintroduction of wild sheep.

For example, as a disease spreads from one population to another the difference in physiology between these populations comes into play. Part of this will be the difference in genetics; for the most part genetics varies little from one population to another. Then there will also be a number of other environmental factors. I believe the most importantly of these environmental factors will be the difference in the mineral diet between the various populations. For any given disease to successfully move from one population to the next it will have to acclimate itself to a very different cellular biology driven largely by the particular minerals or lack of minerals available to that population. Here it is also good to know that it is well known to veterinary science that selenium is important to the immune system. Currently I know of no survey regarding this mineral in any bighorn sheep habitat, or of testing the sheep themselves for any possible deficiency. Sometimes there is a tendency in science to collect data and then not utilize it.

If we want to look at the effects of predation, we have to take into account the reproductive ability of that particular population to accurately assess the effects of predation. Here again this will be largely



influenced by minerals, most likely selenium and perhaps calcium availability. The effects of selenium on reproduction are well known to veterinary science and is utilized on an industrial scale by domestic sheep farmers. At the same time there seems to be little or no recognition of this knowledge or its utilization within wild sheep management programs anywhere that I know of.

Then there is water. Many populations of bighorn sheep have a sufficient or even abundance of water, yet they struggle to maintain a viable population and are unable to fill the environmental potential they live in. Of course, there are desert bighorn populations that live in an area of water scarcity. It is, however, my opinion based on my observations that one cannot truly understand the relative value of these limited water sources to a given population of desert bighorn sheep without understanding the minerals associated with them or their lack of minerals. Perhaps another way of expressing this is: If you have a water source in the right place the desert bighorn sheep will drink from it, yet without the proper minerals their population will not grow. There are many examples of this throughout the desert.

For an animal to partake of a given substance it must first look right and smell right. Then, to continue consuming this substance it must have the right texture or feel and taste good. If a substance fails one or

more of these it is possible that the animal will not try it, or if it does try it, will not go back to it. However, it should be understood that a substance can pass all these tests and still be detrimental to the health of those that consume it.

I've done an experiment with minerals in an attempt to see if desert bighorn would try a new source. The outcome I found very interesting and led to some new ideas. I took a small amount of dry lakebed material and put it in a small container. This material was no doubt rich in salt. I took it to a higher elevation, single-point water source. And then placed a motion sensing video camera there to see what would happen. While a few animals walked right by it as if it were just another piece of dirt or rock most stopped and looked at it as if they might try it, but none sampled the material. What was missing, I believe, was the sense of smell.

Eventually this may prove to be a key understanding and tool for wild sheep conservation. It is common knowledge that the sense of smell can make you hungry and really want to take a taste of that particular item. There's been a recent case in the Olympic National Forest where mountain goats were removed that were said to be addicted to human urine. Of course, urine has salts and other minerals in it, as well as a very strong odor. The odor of urine is used by many animals as a territorial marker. Bighorn sheep have a very well-developed sense of smell. Rams use this sense to smell the urine of the ewes in order to ascertain if they're ready for breeding.

The use of minerals to affect bighorn sheep conservation and reintroduction can be used on a small scale or very large one. As an example, the wild sheep population in the San Gabriel Mountains often runs around 700 or more. This is unique because it's a forest habitat that is inhabited by desert bighorn sheep. A large percentage of this habitat has brush too thick for man or beast to utilize, as well as a sizable mountain lion population. In essence it does not appear to be an optimal desert bighorn sheep habitat. Taking this into account one should also consider that the entire population of bighorn sheep in California run somewhere around 4000 sheep. Therefore one has to ask, why do the San Gabriel Mountains hold such a

large percentage of California's wild sheep population? I believe the answer is minerals and there were people who suspected this even as far back as the late 1970s and early 80s. If one were to transpose the sheep population density of the San Gabriel's on the Sierra Nevada's we would be talking about tens of thousands of sheep, not the 200 or 300 that currently live in the Sierra Nevada's. The Sierra Nevada's are largely made of granite and as a rule this is not a good source stone for quality soluble minerals. What few mineral sources the Sierra Nevada's have most likely the sheep have not found, consumed, understood, or remembered.

Now I'd like to talk about some observations that may lead to a greater understanding of

bighorn sheep habitat and their behavior in it. There is a crossing point between the Cady Mountains and the Sleeping Beauty Mountains that I have been monitoring for a number of years. The Sleeping Beauty mountain range is quite small and to the best of my knowledge does not have a liquid water source anywhere in them and thus does not have a resident desert bighorn sheep population. The sheep that are there are definitely the Cady Mountain herd, but they utilize the Sleeping Beauty Mountains on a fairly constant basis.

For years I monitored and explored what I thought would be the obvious crossing point which is an area with the best escape terrain between the two mountain ranges. Time and again I found absolutely nothing to indicate the sheep were crossing there. Eventually I found where they were crossing, approximately a mile away in a relatively open flat area, certainly not the best as far as escape terrain goes. The curious things about this area was it was very open and seemed to have no real strategic path from one mountain range to the other. Yet there was a highly focused route. In fact there was a well defined game trail. I have seen wide open undefined crossing places like this before. In such cases the sheep will use a wide area to cross from one range to the other, sometimes a quarter-mile wide, and having no game trails. When I first discovered this game trail I had not developed any ideas about the importance of minerals so this phenomena puzzled me. Eventually I came to realize that there was a small relatively focused mineral source along this trail situated at a relatively low elevation between the

two mountain ranges on the Cady side. This mineral source had no liquid water source associated with it or any large or significant trees.

Here we must understand the large and significant trees in a Mojave Desert will often attract a lot of birds and with these birds come bird droppings and small bones. These bird droppings and small bones may be a mineral source in of their own right and one with a sense of smell. As these bird droppings rain down on the soil below them whatever texture or taste this soil has may be enhanced. This same process also occurs amongst various rock formations which are common in bighorn sheep habitat. Often however, these rock formations channels snow and rain in such a way as to wash away any collection of droppings/minerals at their base. I want to investigate this issue further. Currently I believe bird droppings generally are a second or third level mineral source and do not provide a rich or sustaining mineral source necessary to maintain a vibrant population. In the future I hope to understand this concept further and ascertaining the degree to which this provides minerals and the depth of its complexity”

Another important thing to understand about this particular mineral source between the Cady's and Sleeping Beauties is that this side of the Cady's is made of granite which, as we've discussed in this article and others, is a poor source of minerals. Therefore, it is likely that after the sheep have spent a few days in this part of the Cady Mountains they may become mineral deficient and will begin to look for a mineral source. Hence this mineral source allows the sheep to spend more

time in this part of the Cady Mountains as well as enriching the entire Sleeping Beauty Mountains. Or another way of putting it is this mineral source adds size and value to their habitat.

Now, let's do a little thought experiment with this mineral source between the Cady's and the Sleeping Beauty mountain ranges. Let's imagine for some reason perhaps a disease outbreak, the population of desert bighorn sheep in the Cady Mountains drop to such an extent that there were no individuals that knew where this mineral source is, in essence it is no longer in the herd memory. (By herd memory I do not mean something that is mystical in nature but rather the fact that numerous animals in a given herd know where a particular resource, such as water sources or lambing grounds are located.) Then as this population recovers or is reintroduced, the individuals and thereby the herd would not have knowledge of this mineral source. Under these conditions they would not use this part of the Cady Mountains very often due to the fact that it was made of granite and had no minerals known to them. Those animals that crossed over to explore and utilize the Sleeping Beauty Mountains would naturally take the preferred escape terrain route a mile or so north. Thus, it would take decades and perhaps centuries before the sheep would discover the mineral source route and begin to use it again. I believe such conditions exist in many places where sheep population have crashed significantly and are currently surviving with little or no growth.

Understanding the various aspects of bighorn sheep, mineral sources can go a long way to mitigating this situation. I believe that



a large percentage of the efforts of the various bighorn sheep conservation groups should be concerned with this. What we need now are people on the board of directors level status to officially pursue this issue. Currently their first job would be to convince other people within the various sheep conservation organizations of the value of this knowledge and take action. Then we need to do surveys of what mineral sources are out there and their effect on various populations.

Through these surveys we will learn many things, some predictable and, I imagine, some more surprising. For instance, there may be mineral sources being used by wild sheep that are detrimental to their health. Perhaps one that tastes good yet has a lot of lead or perhaps arsenic in it. Throughout many bighorn sheep habitats there are both old and active mines, some of which have sheep population centered on them, no doubt due to the crushed/pulverized rock they are using as a mineral source. But some of these mines have natural and artificially placed arsenic in them. Others just have veins of minerals that are extremely concentrated. If such mineral sources are detrimental or even poisonous to a given population it is currently unknown. This could be determined with the technology we have at hand.

These situations can be utilized or mitigated once we have the knowledge. Here again one must consider the importance of the various bighorn sheep conservation organizations realizing the power of this knowledge and acting upon it. I believe that once this knowledge takes root in the various bighorn sheep conservation groups it will make a huge impact on the success of their efforts, to the point where public criticism will be leveled that wild sheep are being farmed. While this criticism is not new, this knowledge will carry habitat management to a new level of success, thereby producing new and interesting results in the court of public opinion. The point of this is that these conservation organizations need to have an understanding that their success will be measurable and significant. Thus they need to prepare for the consequences of success. The environment we work with is like a river, it is ever flowing and ever-changing and the use of minerals to affect wild sheep populations must be seen in this light. That is, the science and technology

we have are only the tools, the goal is to bring about a work of art something beautiful something inspiring, in essence, a large vibrant herd of wild sheep. We can never achieve a pre-Columbian bighorn sheep population because the change in the bighorn sheep is at the cellular level due to population reduction and inbreeding. Furthermore, the landscape has also changed with highways, fences, and other man-made structures as well as invasive plant species. But this doesn't mean that we cannot bring about more of the primeval beauty that we find so desirable.

To sum all this up, I believe there is a new era in bighorn sheep management on the horizon that will lead to incredible success and the fulfillment of many peoples hopes and dreams.

Maintaining Momentum for Conservation: Bighorn Sheep as an Example

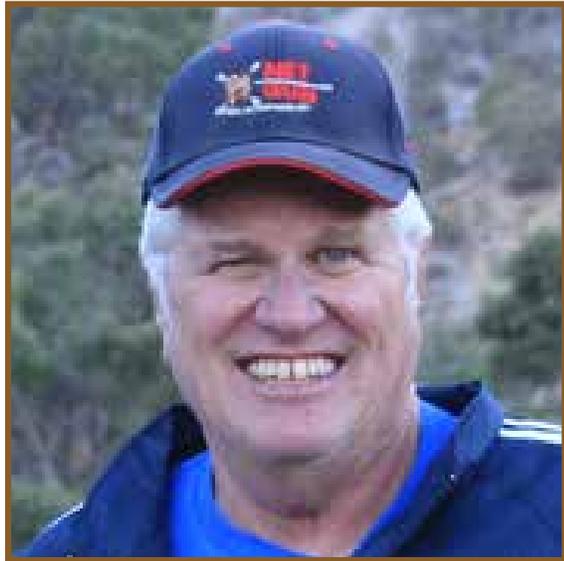
Vernon C. Bleich

ABSTRACT Bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) and Dall's sheep (*O. dalli*) are among the iconic megafauna of North America. Both species generate great public interest and have received much attention from management agencies and conservation groups. Bighorn sheep, however, have suffered far more management setbacks than have their northern congeners and, as a result, have been the beneficiary of aggressive conservation programs. Nevertheless, both species face continuing challenges. Among those challenges are limited preparation of personnel, interagency competition, bureaucratic inertia, confounding legislation, public advocacy (or the lack thereof), political expediency, and interpersonal issues. To foster and maintain momentum for conserving wild sheep, I encourage managers to 1) enhance relationships with nongovernmental organizations, private enterprise, and the media; 2) work more closely with sister agencies to take advantage of opportunities or skillsets; 3) seize opportunities for enhancing conservation by working with agencies whose primary missions are other than wildlife conservation; 4) recognize the importance of private lands and role of private landowners; 5) take advantage of opportunities to involve academic institutions in conservation; 6) acknowledge skills and contributions of colleagues or coworkers, and fully use those talents; and 7) develop and maintain personal attitudes that enhance working relationships and build on past successes. Application of these recommendations likely will enhance the effectiveness of conservation of wild sheep, and for other species of North American wildlife as well. 2018 The Wildlife Society.

Editor's Note: This is a summary of a recent article published by Dr. Vern Bleich in a recent "The Wildlife Society" journal. [You can read the complete article here.](#)

WHITE COLORATION IN BIGHORN SHEEP IS A WIDESPREAD PHENOMENON

by Vern Bleich



Early in my career with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Dick Weaver (CDFG) and Bob Campbell (Society for the Conservation Bighorn Sheep [SCBS]) told me of ‘white’ desert bighorn sheep they had seen in the Clark Mountain Range of eastern San Bernardino County, California. Although reports of abnormal coloration in wild vertebrates are encountered frequently in the literature, these were the first reports of white bighorn sheep that I became aware of. A short time later, while reading Jack O’Connor’s 1974 classic, “Sheep and Sheep Hunting,” I came across a published reference to white-colored bighorn sheep in southern Nevada, and Fred Jones (a wildlife biologist formerly employed by CDFG) made mention in 1980 of having seen an “albinistic” bighorn sheep but indicated neither when nor where.

Since then I have located several additional references to white bighorn sheep, among which are one describing the cultural history of the Arakara Indians of western North Dakota and alluding to the presence of white bighorn sheep in the Badlands of that state and another, published in 1951, that suggests the presence of white bighorn sheep in the Avawatz Range of San Bernardino County, California. Nevertheless, the earliest record of any reference to white bighorn sheep in a specific locality that I have been able to locate was published in 1958 by wildlife

biologist Al Jonez—who at the time was a District Supervisor with the Nevada Fish and Game Commission.

Abnormal white coloration occurs in many species and manifests itself as albinism or leucism, and those terms are often used interchangeably, albeit erroneously, to describe such individuals. There are differences between those conditions. Albinistic individuals are characterized by a complete lack of pigmentation in the skin and hair and have pink eyes, while leucistic individuals are white in color but have pigmented skin and eyes that are normally colored, or blue. Genetic differences also exist; leucism is a double-recessive trait and, as a result, parents of normal coloration can produce leucistic offspring. During an aerial survey in the Clark Mountain Range in 1983 my colleague Les Coombes, helicopter pilot Don Landells, and I retrieved the fresh carcass of a leucistic lamb (Figure 1), the apparent mother of which was of normal coloration. That adult female did not leave the lamb until we landed, and I had approached on foot to within 15 m, at which point she finally departed. To date, almost all the white bighorn sheep that I have observed or have become aware of have exhibited traits characteristic of leucism and, as yet, I have been unable to confirm any observations of



Figure 1. Photo of Bill Landells and Vern Bleich with the carcass of a white lamb retrieved from the Clark Mountain Range, San Bernardino County, during a brief aerial survey of that range on 24 April 1983. Photograph taken at Lanfair Valley following the flight.

albinism in bighorn sheep. It is important that the genetics of leucism not be confused with the genetics of albinism.

In western North America, bighorn sheep occupy suitable habitat in two Canadian provinces, 5 states in Mexico, and 15 of the contiguous United States. To explore the distribution of this trait, I carefully compiled my personal observations of leucistic bighorn sheep and reports from throughout North America that I obtained from the professional literature, observations by fellow managers or researchers, hunters, naturalists, and credible images obtained from digital sources. I also reviewed the results of waterhole counts conducted by SCBS volunteers or CDFG personnel, similar counts sponsored by Anza Borrego Desert State Park, and aerial observations conducted from 1976 to 2009 by CDFG or Bureau of Land Management (BLM) personnel in the Nopah Range, Inyo County, California and the Kingston, Mesquite, and Clark Mountain ranges, San Bernardino County, California—areas from which leucistic bighorn sheep previously had been reported. In addition, I reviewed results of aerial surveys of the Avawatz Range, San Bernardino County, an area of particular interest because of the 1951 reference that described avawatz, a Southern Piute word, as referring to ‘white sheep’.

During my investigation I confirmed that white-colored bighorn sheep have been described from at least 30 geographic areas extending southward from British Columbia to Baja California Sur, and eastward as far as the Badlands of North Dakota. I confirmed observations in different geographic areas of Nevada (9), California (5), Arizona (4), Utah (4), Wyoming (2), North Dakota (2), and at 1 location each in Idaho, Baja California Sur, and British Columbia. Further, the location of an additional observation in California was not disclosed by the author of that report. As further evidence of the wide-spread, albeit infrequent, distribution of leucism among bighorn sheep, that trait has been reported among four (*O. c. canadensis*, *O. c. cremnobates*, *O. c. nelsoni*, and *O. c. mexicana*) of the five clades of bighorn sheep recognized in a 2016 paper by Mike Buchalski and his colleagues.

My interest in abnormal coloration dates back more than 4 decades and I have recorded

all records of abnormally colored bighorn sheep that I became aware of, among which are several piebald (i.e., spotted) or melanistic (i.e., extremely dark or black) individuals. Reports of piebald or melanistic individuals



Figure 2. This leucistic ram originally was collared as a lamb in the Nopah Range, Inyo County, California, and in 1994 was captured and recollared in the Clark Mountain Range, San Bernardino County. It was taken by a hunter in the Clark Mountain Range during California’s 1995 bighorn sheep season.

were, however, far less common than those of white-colored animals, perhaps because they are more cryptic and, thus, more difficult to see. Despite the fact that leucistic bighorn sheep are highly visible when compared to normal-colored individuals (think about it—bright white pelage against a gray, tan or brown [and often flecked with greenish vegetation] background), I am aware only of three such individuals that have been



Figure 3. This white ram was taken during 2012 in the Wind River Range of Wyoming.

harvested, but there could be others. One was killed at Potosi Mountain in southern Nevada in 1954 and described by Al Jonez in 1958 as noted earlier, and this may be the same animal that is referred to in the 1995 edition of the Nevada Wildlife Records Book. Another, which had been captured and ear-tagged several years earlier in the Nopah Range, was re-captured

and collared in the Clark Mountain Range in 1994 (Figure 2), where it was harvested in 1995. The third that I have been able to confirm was harvested in the Wind River Range of Wyoming in 2012 (Figure 3).

It has become clear that the white color morph referred to as leucism occurs widely across the range of bighorn sheep. I encourage those reading this article to record observations of any such sheep (or other bighorn sheep exhibiting unusual coloration) and share them with me; I will add those observations to the list of locations from which abnormally colored bighorn sheep have been recorded.

Dr. Vern Bleich is an independent wildlife biologist who retired from the California Department of Fish and Game after 34 years with that organization,

*during which he worked primarily in the desert regions of southeastern California. Vern currently serves as an advisor to the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, the Texas Bighorn Society, and the Wild Sheep Foundation. He is a member of the Professional Resource Advisory Board of the Wild Sheep Foundation, the Conservation Grants Subcommittee of the Boone and Crockett Club, and chairs the Grants Committee for the California Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation. This article has been adapted from Bleich, V. C. 2017. Abnormal coloration in bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*). *Bulletin of the Southern California Academy of Sciences* 116:54–59. A copy of that paper can be requested directly from Dr. Bleich (vcbleich@gmail.com).*

False Deathbed Essay by Steve Jobs Has Life Lessons

In November 2015, a rumor began circulating on social media that when Apple co-founder Steve Jobs passed away at age 56 in 2011, he delivered a speech or left behind a deathbed essay about the meaning of life. While this has been proven to be untrue and we don't know who actually wrote the following essay, it is none-the-less very inspirational and we share it here.

I reached the pinnacle of success in the business world. In others' eyes, my life is an epitome of success. However, aside from work, I have little joy. In the end, wealth is only a fact of life that I am accustomed to. At this moment, lying on the sick bed and recalling my whole life, I realize that all the recognition and wealth that I took so much pride in, have paled and become meaningless in the face of impending death. In the darkness, I look at the green lights from the life supporting machines and hear the humming mechanical sounds, I can feel the breath of death drawing closer ... Now I know, when we have accumulated sufficient wealth to last our lifetime, we should pursue other matters that are unrelated to wealth ... It should be something that is more important:

- Perhaps relationships, perhaps art, perhaps a dream from younger days
- Non-stop pursuing of wealth will only turn a person into a twisted being, just like me.
- God gave us the senses to let us feel the love in everyone's heart, not the illusions brought about by wealth.
- The wealth I have won in my life I cannot bring with me. What I can bring is only the memories precipitated by love.
- That's the true riches which will follow you, accompany you, giving you strength and light to go on.
- Love can travel a thousand miles. Life has no limit. Go where you want to go. Reach the height you want to reach. It is all in your heart and in your hands.
- What is the most expensive bed in the world? A sick bed. You can employ someone to drive the car for you, make money for you but you cannot have someone to bear the sickness for you.
- Material things lost can be found. But there is one thing that can never be found when it is lost — Life.
- When a person goes into the operating room, he will realize that there is one book that he has yet to finish reading — Book of Healthy Life.
- Whichever stage in life we are at right now, with time, we will face the day when the curtain comes down.
- Treasure love for your family, love for your spouse, love for your friends.
- Treat yourself well. Cherish others.

CALIFORNIA STATE GENERAL ELECTION 2018 — THE OUTCOME – WHAT CAN WE EXPECT IN 2019?

by Bill Gaines, Gaines & Associates

With the 2019/2020 version of the California State Legislature set to reconvene on Monday, January 7th, 2019, it's time to recap the results of the November 2018 California State Election, and what those who care about the future of wildlife conservation and hunting in California may expect over the coming two years.

CALIFORNIA STATE ELECTION BRIEF – NOVEMBER 2018

Whether you are paying close attention or not, what takes place under the dome of California's State Capitol has a tremendous impact on nearly every aspect of your life. To begin, to lay some foundation for those who may be confused by California's complicated political process, let's begin with a brief overview of how our State Legislature is built and how it works, followed by the results of last November's election and how it may impact hunting, shooting and wildlife conservation in our state.

CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE – HOW IT'S BUILT

The California State Legislature is a bicameral body consisting of the California State Assembly with 80 members, and the California State Senate with 40 members. Members of the State Assembly serve two-year terms, while members of the State Senate serve four-year terms. In short, all 80 State Assembly seats are up for election every two years, while twenty State Senate seats are up for election at each two-year election cycle. Making things even more interesting, under Proposition 14 – which passed on the June 2010 ballot – statewide and congressional candidates in California, regardless of party preference, participate in the nonpartisan “blanket primary”. After the June primary, the top two candidates – regardless of party affiliation – advance to the November general election.

Finally, just to make things even more confusing, the California's State Legislature has “term limits” – initially established in 1990 following the passage of Proposition 140. Proposition 140 limited Legislators to three terms in the State Assembly and two terms in the State Senate. In June 2012, voters approved Proposition 28 which allows Legislators to serve a maximum of 12 years without regard to whether the years are served in the State Assembly or the State Senate. Legislators first elected on or before June 2012 are restricted by the previous term limits called out by Proposition 140. With term limits eliminating long-serving incumbents from the ballot, each California State election proves to be interesting, with many



seats up for grabs and much at stake. The November 2018 State election was no different.

CALIFORNIA STATE ELECTION – NOVEMBER 2018

When it comes to issues of importance to California's hunting, shooting and wildlife conservation community at California's State Capitol, does it really matter which political party is in control? Frankly, it really does. Although there certainly are many exceptions, the Democratic Party has historically been the party least supportive of hunting and our Second Amendment rights. Why? Because, in many cases, it is the Democratic Party that represents California's urban legislative districts – constituencies that largely do not hunt or shoot, and which have little understanding of hunters, hunting, our critical role in wildlife conservation, or the important positive impact we have on our state's economy. Residents of these urban areas elect representatives that reflect their values and often share their misunderstandings of our outdoor activities.

As California's landscape becomes increasingly urban and our State Legislature made up of increasingly urban districts, the future of hunting and shooting in our state is facing an uphill battle. Six years ago, in the November 2012 election, Democrats captured two-thirds of the seats of our State Senate and State Assembly – giving them a legislative “supermajority” and the power to raise taxes, override legislative rules and pass emergency legislation, and/or place constitutional amendments on the ballot without a single Republican vote. Two years later, however, when the dust settled on the November 2014 election, the Democratic Party had narrowly

lost its supermajority in both houses. Fast forward to November 2016, although conservatives scored big wins on Capitol Hill and in state races nationwide, California was – no surprise – different. Two years ago, after the dust settled and all the votes were cast and counted, Democrats had netted back enough seats in the State Assembly to recoup their supermajority, while falling only one seat short in the State Senate. So, did the Republican Party net enough seats this past November to avoid a Democratic supermajority in either or both houses in the upcoming 2019/2020 State Legislative Session? Let's see....

STATE ASSEMBLY

In the State Assembly, 54 seats are needed to hold a supermajority. Heading into the November 2018 election, the Democratic Party narrowly held a supermajority with 55 seats in the Assembly, compared to the Republican Party holding 25. On November 6th, all 80 Assembly seats were up for grabs. With California's "blanket primary", all 80 districts had a Democrat in the race, while 15 districts did not have a Republican or an "Other" party represented on the ballot.

When all the votes were counted, and some recounted and recounted again, Assembly Democrats had grabbed five more State Assembly seats – strengthening their supermajority by now holding a whopping sixty Assembly seats to the Republicans twenty. Races of note included Republican incumbents losing their bid for re-election in three districts – District 16 (San Ramon), District 38 (Santa Clarita) and District 74 (Costa Mesa).

STATE SENATE

In California's State Senate, a party needs to control 27 seats to hold a two-thirds supermajority. Leading up to the November 2018 election, the Democratic Party narrowly missed having a supermajority by holding 26 of the State Senate's 40 seats, with the Republican Party holding 14. Due to the "blanket primary", four of the 20 total Senate seats up for grabs did not have a Republican or an "Other" party in the race, while all the seats up for election had at least one Democrat in the race.

When the dust settled on the Election Day 2018, the Democratic Party had picked up three more seats, giving them 29 State Senate seats to the Republicans 11 – easily re-establishing their supermajority. Races of note include Republican incumbent Senator Andy Vidak losing his seat in District 14 (Southern Central Valley) and Republican incumbent Senator Janet Nguyen losing her bid for re-election in District 34 (Santa Ana).

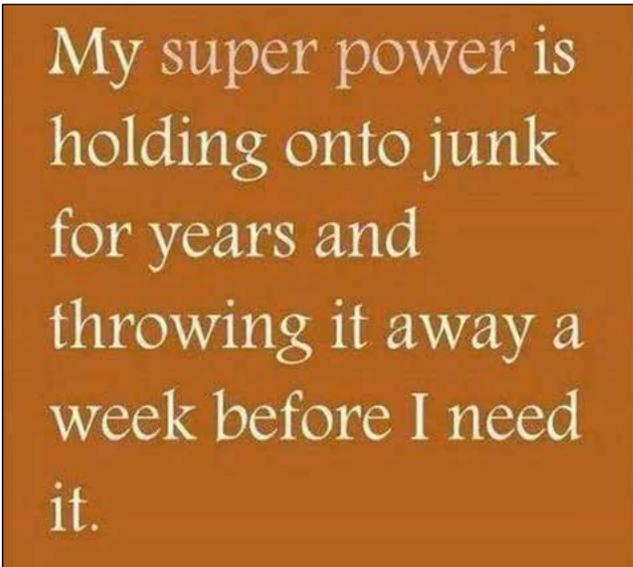
SUMMARY – WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN?

Re-securing a strong 2/3rds supermajority in both chambers, while also maintaining all statewide elected offices, will keep the Democratic Party in complete control of California's policy decisions for the next two years. But, will it make a notable difference on policy associated with wildlife conservation, hunting and/or sporting arms?

Looking back to the recent past, in the 2017/2018 Legislative Session, the Democrats held a supermajority in the Assembly and a near supermajority in the Senate. They also controlled the Governor's office. In the upcoming 2019/2020 Session, the Democrats will have a stronger hold on both houses and arguably the most liberal Governor in state history. In short, the results of the November 2018 election could make the next two years the most challenging ever in the halls of our State Capitol for those who seek a strong future for wildlife conservation and hunting in California.

We have our work cut out for us. What can we do? With the help of our partners and you, we will continue to educate both new and experienced urban Legislators of the importance of science-based wildlife management, the critical lead role of hunting in wildlife conservation and the importance of our Second Amendment. Gaines & Associates will also continue to canvas every corner of every political forum of importance in our state to provide you with real-time updates on pending policy decisions of concern – along with the information you need to have your voice heard to help make a difference.

For more information on any district race of California State Election 2018, please contact Gaines & Associates at info@gainesandassociates.net



My super power is holding onto junk for years and throwing it away a week before I need it.

WILL I EVER GET A BIGHORN SHEEP

by Lew Webb

In a nutshell, packed 16 miles (7 1/2 hours by horse) into the Wakashie Wilderness of the Shoshone National Forest on August 14th. The next day was the opener, and that evening made a great stalk and had a 9 1/2 year old, 170ish ram, at 25-30 yards. I needed him to take 2 or 3 steps to clear the trees and give me a shot. He didn't get the memo, and eventually walked the other direction. No problem, though, as that was a great start to the hunt and I had all the time in the world. Yeah, right! Made a big run on another ram of similar size on the 19th (he didn't get the memo either) transiting through a very steep canyon, sidehilling for probably half a mile each way. When I got back to where I had started, my right knee was a little tender. I had about a mile of very steep downhill to get back to where we could ride the horses, and by the time I got to the horses I knew I was in serious trouble! I've had 4 meniscus tears in my left knee, with 4 surgeries, and only one was really very painful. This one was excruciating, and though I could've chewed enough pain meds to ride out, it would've been a VERY painful experience. The problem was that there were 4 different spots on the ride out I would've had to walk the horse because it was too steep to ride down (one about 400 yards) and that wasn't even close to happening. If I stepped on ANY uneven surface in camp I would damn near pass out from the pain. I don't even use Novocain for a filling or crown, so I can do pain pretty good, but this



was just stupid pain. Anyway, I was choppered out of the mountains on the 21st, home on the 24th, surgery for a severely torn medial meniscus and 2 cartilage tears on September 4th.

CALTRANS EFFORT TO PROTECT PENINSULAR BIGHORN AT CROSSING SITE PART OF WATCH OUT FOR WILDLIFE PROGRAM



According to the California Highway Patrol, 12 people died and 383 people were injured in 2,134 collisions with wildlife on state, county, and local roadways throughout California in 2017. And many deer, elk, sheep and other wildlife were also fatalities.

To help reduce collisions, Caltrans and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife remind motorists to be on the lookout during Watch Out for Wildlife in the fall.

Part of the efforts underway are to decrease vehicle collisions with Peninsular bighorn sheep, a federally endangered species, on a windy portion of State Route 74 above Palm Desert. In June 2018, Caltrans installed four bighorn sheep warning signs with two flashing beacons to alert drivers that sheep may be in the area. This was a coordinated effort with the Bighorn Institute, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and CDFW.

California Chapter



Wild Sheep Foundation

Putting and Keeping Sheep
on the Mountains



2019 Sonoran Desert Bighorn Sheep Hunt Special Drawing

ARRANGED EXCLUSIVELY
FOR CA WSF BY



**JACK ATCHESON
& SONS, INC.**



Hunt Information

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

**ONLY 500 TICKETS AVAILABLE
\$100 PER TICKET**

2019 CALIFORNIA OPEN ZONE DEER TAG ON AUCTION

One of the most coveted special tags for any deer hunter, the **California Open Zone Deer Tag** allows you to hunt during the regular season dates of any deer hunt zone, using the specific method and meeting any special conditions of the hunt for that zone and dates. Proceeds from this special auction will be used for deer conservation projects and to support the CA WSF *Give a Lamb A Drink* program. You do not need to be a California resident to purchase this tag. All tag and license fees are included in the high bid price.

Phone Bidders Welcome!



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California Wild Sheep Foundation is a nonprofit organization incorporated in the state of California in 2001 with tax identification number is 68-0481140. Our address is 1314 B Center Drive #267, Medford, OR 97501.



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CALIFORNIA CHAPTER WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION



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