

# California Wild Sheep

Summer 2021



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## Plus

Photos from the Field,  
Recipes, Humor, and More

**Greg Gomes**  
California Desert Bighorn  
Newberry/Rodman/Ords  
2021 with Dry Creek Outfitters  
Above L to R: George (brother), Greg, and  
Brandon(son)



# ULTIMA THULE LODGE

CONTACT: DONALD C. MARTIN 310-766-3921



# From the Editor's Desk

I hope you enjoy this issue. If you are at all like me, with restrictions relaxed and immunization complete, you are travelling or have a trip in the near-term plans. Roz and I are in Costa Rica enjoying a travel vacation as I write this!

This issue includes your ballot for the Director election, (see page 21 and please, please take a moment to vote!), hunting stories, milestone news about GALAD our major initiative that will more than DOUBLE the number of desert bighorn in California (pique your interest?!), fun humor, AND MUCH MORE!

Your feedback, ideas, articles and requests are always welcome. Best way to reach me is email: [mike.borel@contextnet.com](mailto:mike.borel@contextnet.com). Due date for input to the 3Q21 issue is August 20. Stay healthy, safe and looking forward to hunting season!



## Juniperberry Rubbed Bighorn Backstraps from John McGannon, WildEats Enterprises



- 1 - 2 lbs strip of boneless Bighorn Loin (or any other big game animal, properly dry aged at least 2 weeks)
- 3-4 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tbsp fresh minced garlic
- 3-4 tbsp WildEats Juniperberry & Peppercorn Steak RUB
- Kosher or Sea Salt to taste

Trim all the silver skin from the loins. Brush the loins with the olive oil, rub the meat with the garlic, then dust and rub the meat with the dry rub. For the best results place in a zip lock bag overnight. This allows the seasoning to penetrate the meat.

My two favorite ways to cook tender cuts of meat like this is either over a very hot grill OR quick seared in a black iron skillet. Leans cuts of meat like this needs to

be quickly seared and cooked evenly on all sides until its rare (125° F internal temperature). Always allow your meat to rest. This redistributes the moisture throughout the meat and lets carryover-cooking finish the meat to a juicy medium rare.

I really don't  
mind getting  
older, but my  
body is taking  
it badly.

# Board of Directors

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**California Wild Sheep** is published quarterly.

Please email all articles and photos to

[mike.borel@contextnet.com](mailto: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

## 2021

June 1	Ballots for CA WSF Director Elections presented
June 23-26	WSF Chapter and Affiliates Mtg Lewston, ID
June 28	Director Elections ballots due
August 20	Due date for articles for 3Q2021 CAWSF Newsletter
September TBD	Wild Sheep Foundation Fly-In and Walk on Capitol Hill (Washington DC)
November 20	Due date for articles for 4Q2021 CAWSF Newsletter
December 10	Sheep Summitt XXIX Ontario, CA

## 2022

January 12-15	WSF Sheep Show, Reno
January 19-22	Safari Club Convention, Las Vegas
January 26-29	GSCO Convention, Las Vegas
February 20	Due date for articles for 1Q2022 CAWSF Newsletter
April TBD	Desert Bighorn Council Mtg
April 29	Sheep Summitt XXX Sacramento DoubleTree by Hilton
April 30	CA WSF Annual Fundraiser 20th Anniversary! Sacramento DoubleTree by Hilton

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# President's Letter

By the time this newsletter is out, most of the Western states will have concluded their annual drawings for this fall's permits. Already, I have been contacted by a couple lucky members who have drawn permits. Congratulations. For the rest of us, there is still hope as Nevada will draw soon and the deadline for CA hunt applications is fast approaching. I encourage all members to apply for desert bighorn if you are eligible.

More importantly, to better serve our desert bighorns be sure to purchase tickets for the CA State Fundraising Random Drawing for Desert Bighorn. This year's fundraising permit will allow the lucky winner to hunt a desert bighorn ram in the Marble/Clipper/South Bristol Units. This is a great opportunity in units known for good sheep density and historically has provided opportunities for individuals of all fitness levels.

For more info and to purchase tickets for this random drawing opportunity, please visit:

<https://www.ca.wildlifelicense.com/InternetSales/>

Recently, we held our annual fundraiser and once again we were forced to hold a virtual event. However, we set a new record for online participation and had a very successful event again this year. Please be sure to read the recap regarding our event, later in this issue.

Also, quite recently, I was able to participate in a podcast with Kyle Stelter and Steve Hamilton of the Wild Sheep Society of British Columbia to discuss wild sheep conservation and common challenges our community faces in both the United States and Canada. If you have an hour to spare, have a listen at:

<https://www.wildsheepsociety.com/talk-is-sheep-podcast/>

Please keep an eye on your email. There will be numerous opportunities this Summer to volunteer on sheep projects, especially emergency water hauls. Our lack of rainfall this year will make for a particularly difficult summer for our desert bighorns. If you can, please volunteer to help our efforts to provide water for wildlife during this dry summer. If you are not a member of Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, please consider joining our affiliate at: [www.sheepsociety.com](http://www.sheepsociety.com)

With that said, I wish all of you luck in the remaining draws, especially the upcoming California draw and thank you for supporting CA WSF and **"Putting and Keeping Sheep on the Mountains of California."**



*"Is this how it feels to die? I asked myself, opening my eyes for a moment to watch crystal bits of heaven do a ballet in the Alaskan night. . . . If I die here, will they name this mountain after me? I wondered.*

***Not bad, Mount Carmichel—a place where wild sheep live. Better than Carmichel Street or Carmichelville."***

— from "The Saga of the White Ram" by Jim Carmichel

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# JAN 5-14, 2021 DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP HUNTING STORY

*by Eric Ferguson*

Think about being 25 years old; drawing for your first time on California's Big Game Hunting Lottery and you get nothing but a "Y" for the Bighorn Sheep drawing section. Let me take you through my story of this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

First off, I think the phrase "having dedication and being a hard worker" is certainly something that is mistaken for and not truly demonstrated in today's world. Most people think they have what it takes to do something difficult in life, but when you are put in a setting that fully tests you with elements that makes you uncomfortable, people cringe. This trip not only tested my physical ability, but my mental ability of what I can accomplish. Certainly, there was some luck involved, but I won't underestimate the work that everyone put into this hunting experience. This hunt was nine days long and we clocked in 89 miles of hiking. This is not your neighborhood hiking trail type of hiking. For the non-sheep hunters out there, this terrain is very steep and rocky. In addition, you have anywhere between 25-50 pounds on your back, sometimes more. To name some of the things I carried in my pack: optics, rifle, water, glassing pad, extra clothes, extra ammo, tripod, food and snacks.

It was April 2020 when I got the notification that the California drawing results were in. I saw a big "Y" on the screen and I was shocked. Again, for non-sheep hunters, people wait 20-plus years to have an opportunity to see a "Y" on their screen for a sheep tag. Needless to say, my odds were probably .0001%. I've heard of these sheep hunts in years past and knew they were something special. I've watched the different videos on YouTube and seen these type of hunts before. But seeing something is a totally different game from experiencing it. I've heard the stories of the preparation it takes and the struggles people have out in the wilderness hunting these animals. Lucky enough I'm 25 years old and been working out four days a week with a buddy that trains for CrossFit. I was also fortunate enough to practice at a buddy's shooting range between 100-500 yards.

Of course, the guys who helped me get this all done was Terry Anderson of San Gorgonio Outfitters. I've had multiple guided hunts in my hunting experiences, when I say these guys are with you every step of the way, I'm not stretching the truth. Terry, Andrew, Brad and Ed gave me that experience I was looking for and it was very easy to choose them because of all the experience they had in the Old Dad and Kelso Peak Mountains. Since they started the guiding service they have rolled in 188 Sheep Hunts. I would never think twice about doing this hunt alone without an outfitter. Thanks to these guys I got a ram of a lifetime.



San Gorgonio Wilderness Outfitters: Guide Andrew Pontious, hunter Eric Ferguson, and Brad Aboltin, outfitter.

It was Jan. 5, 2021, when I arrived to the camp in the middle of the Mojave Desert. The camp had a great feeling with three camper trailers all set up. I met Terry and the guys and it felt welcoming! I could tell they were a little shocked on how young I was, but I thought we all would gel together real fast. Right off the bat, Terry suggested we should go to bed because of our game plan for the first day. The next morning, we hiked 5 miles to a glassing spot where they had seen sheep in the past. It's the first day and I'm already jittery, had my rifle ready, all my gear set up and we go to their first honey hole where we don't spot anything till late in the day. I was with Andrew—the lead guide—when we got a signal from another guide that a big ram was coming our direction. I couldn't believe how quick we spotted rams already. For the first day, not only did we see some rams but there was one book ram that we had gotten very close to. I never got a chance to take a shot, but I saw the ram's head in my scope and from that moment on the hunting trip became very real to me on what type of creature we were going after. Day 2, 3 and 4 were very slow days and didn't see many potential rams to go after.

Day 4, I actually spotted my first ram, which was very cool and experienced how difficult it is to spot these animals from a couple miles away. Day 5 is where things get intense. I remember the morning of Day 5, Andrew told me in the truck as were driving to the spot "We're going to see a good ram today" and sure enough we did. We spotted a couple rams posted on the ground laying in the sun without a worry in the world. Eventually we raced across the desert and lined up for a 327-yard shot. Andrew said repeatedly to breathe slowly and I did the complete opposite. Not only was I already breathing from running across

the desert to get a shot before sun goes down, but my adrenaline was through the roof. I eventually took a shot and missed high about 6 inches. The rest was history.

“Sometimes you only get one shot to achieve something” and that’s exactly what was racing through my mind when I got back to camp that night. Days 6 and 7 go by and we don’t see much at all. All I could think about is that I’m coming down to my final three days and have already gotten two great opportunities to harvest a ram. Day 8 comes around where we tried a very similar spot to the first day and it wasn’t until the last couple hours where we spotted a group of rams two-and-a-half miles out in the desert. It was a very bizarre location, but it was the one thing that gave the entire group hope on getting another chance at a ram. Oh yeah, I forgot to mention Terry Anderson has a 100% success rate in the 188 hunts he’s been on and if you don’t think there’s pressure to be the one to break that record, you’re wrong. So, Day 8 ended with us watching the group of rams to where they bedded down and our final game plan was to go all out on day 9 to spot the rams quickly and make a move on one.

Day 9—Andrew said was the definition of “Predator Mode.” In the back of my head when the alarm went



off 4:30 a.m., I knew it was my final shot to harvest a ram and it was GAME TIME! We got out there in the area where we last saw the rams before it got

dark. Our plan was to spread out to spot them. We waited and waited and waited. Andrew finally spotted the group of rams and as we were coming up with a game plan, Brad was coming around the corner in his truck after glassing a spot and suddenly the rams got spooked from around a mile and a quarter away. I think it’s true to say everyone’s heart sank.

But it gets better: there was one ram that ran in a different direction and stopped in its tracks. Not sure if he didn’t believe if he saw something or what. He

ended up going back to the area where they were originally located and started chomping on a lovely barrel cactus. Thank God for that barrel. Quickly we came up with another game plan to walk through the flat desert without being seen and try to get on top of the ram for a good shot. Andrew and I hiked around the ram 4-5 miles just be safe and, in the process, ran out of water. We had Terry and Brad spotting from a distance, watching the rams every move until we were within 100 yards.



This stalk took around 4-5 hours and the final moment had come where Andrew gave me his walking stick to hold my gun on an edge. I put my crosshairs on the ram and all I saw was the body of this ram and its eyes looking right at me. Without hesitating, I pulled the trigger and landed a perfect shot. The moment it hit the ground was a feeling like I’ve never felt before. The hunt was finally over. I sat down and called my parents to let them know and they couldn’t believe what I told them. I had killed a Desert Bighorn Sheep. I didn’t think I would be emotional for such an action like this but this felt like it was one of the greatest achievements in my life. The rollercoaster of emotions and the pain of blood blisters on my feet would finally end. I walked up to the ram and it was a beauty. Nice flare, beautiful hide, awesome horn texture and spectacular character. I would never want the ram another way. To sum it up we dressed the ram took it back to the truck and headed back to the camp. The Coors light I had at camp that night was probably the most refreshing beer I’ve ever had. I harvested a ram of a lifetime and I wasn’t going home with nothing. Hell Yeah!

Big shout out to Terry and Andrew of the San Gorgonio outfitters. Awesome food (best meatloaf of my life), service, respect, dedication, attitude, knowledge, and care. Seriously these guys are top notch and great to be around on the downtimes of hunting as well. Thanks boys!

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# UPDATE FROM CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

*by Jeff Villepique, Senior Wildlife Biologist Supervisor, IDR-South*

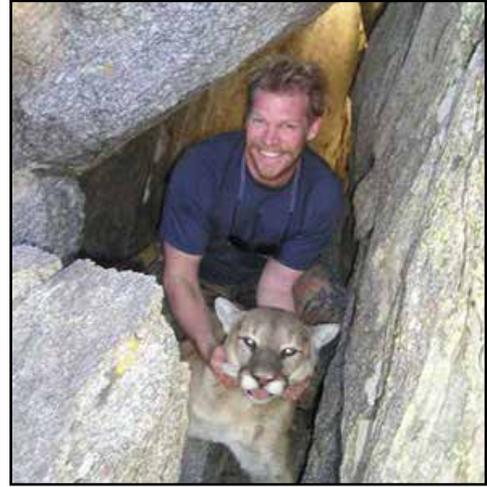
“Drought” is a word we’re hearing a lot, as California enters into yet another year in which winter precipitation failed to deliver, with dry vegetation and drying water sources the result. Whether this year’s drought is another anomaly or part of a “new normal” doesn’t concern the wildlife which rely on rainfall for vegetation growth and replenished water sources. The label is also irrelevant for those of us who care about desert wildlife and the unique ecosystems which sustain them; it’s dry and we need to act to help desert bighorn sheep and other wildlife deal with it.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife is taking action on emergency water delivery to critical Mojave Desert wildlife water sources (i.e., guzzlers) that cannot be accessed from the ground. The Department’s Deputy Director of Fish and Wildlife has committed to fund helicopter operations, to be conducted in June. Our own Air Services unit will conduct the operation, with the Senior Warden/Pilot as Pilot in Command. The Department is actively planning logistics to make this operation succeed as the first such internal effort with a Department pilot and aircraft.

Additional water hauling efforts will be required through the summer, and the Department plans to conduct additional helicopter (and ground) water deliveries. Fortunately, the Governor’s proposed budget includes a large infusion of drought emergency funds, enabling the Department to conduct additional water hauling operations in the fiscal year beginning July 1. The Desert Bighorn Sheep Program has made the case for drought action to benefit desert bighorn sheep as among the highest priorities, and Department leadership has heard us, and agreed to support emergency water hauling with those funds. We will also pursue the possibility of using drought emergency funding, slated for spending over 3 to 5 years, to add temporary positions to assist with desert water projects.

On the staffing front, the Desert Bighorn Sheep Program is pleased to announce that by June 1, we will have filled a new position for a ¾-time Environmental Scientist, who will assist with our population and disease monitoring, and assist with water projects. We also are currently advertising for three new Scientific Aid positions, to backfill for staff who have moved on in their careers, and we hope to fill those by July 1.

Volunteers remain essential to making water available for wildlife, and CDFW counts on volunteer organizations, including the California Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation and the Society for



Jeff with captured cougar, 2019

Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, which continue to serve as a key force to keeping water on the landscape. The Department looks forward to adding capacity to help carry out critical projects to maintain—and add to—water sources in the desert.

The Department is working with our partners at the Bureau of Land Management to draft a programmatic environmental assessment (EA) addressing the work of the Department and its volunteers to maintain guzzlers inside and outside of designated Wilderness. The EA will also simplify the additional analysis required for permitting new installations and upgrades to storage capacity at existing guzzlers. The 1994 California Desert Protection Act recognized the role of volunteers, for more than half a century, to keep water available for wildlife. This programmatic EA, targeted for completion by Thanksgiving, will institutionalize and codify the role and authority of our volunteer partners in the work of keeping water on the landscape. We appreciate your help and support as we gear up for the challenges of the present and future.

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# Give a lamb a drink

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



## **MILESTONE OF \$600K ACHIEVED!**

**The GALAD Payoff** - 90 new drinkers can enable the Desert Bighorn population to more than double. And with the added population more tags for residents and non-residents!

We received donations of \$36,750 for GALAD during our Virtual Fundraiser in April 2021. This took us to a total of \$614,500 to date!

We plan to put much of that to good use in this coming “drought” year as the CDFW plans to make it easier for EA studies to be completed.

Thanks to all donors:

Pamela Atwood

Stan Atwood

Mike Borel

John Brelsford

David Combs

Don Callahan

Iowa FNAWS

Bob Keagy

Brad Peters

Rich Pierce

Dan Smith III

Renee Snider

Bill Tittle

John Ware

And, 50% of all the **“Give Hollywood a Haircut”** donations too – Thanks to those donors too!

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# “THE OROCOPIA HAMMER”

by Sergio Resendiz

I remember when I was a little boy watching a documentary on TV and the first time that I saw a bighorn ram, I was mystified by this majestic creature!

Through years of hunting deer, I only dreamed about hunting desert sheep, especially when everyone said it was practically impossible to draw a tag.

One day, my good friend and hunting partner, Jacy Tatum, told me to apply for desert sheep in California. Low and behold a few weeks later, I received a letter from California Fish and Wildlife stating I drew a sheep tag! Jacy and I were shocked, especially since this was my first time applying!

The next thing we needed to do was find an outfitter and after speaking to Matt St. Martin with Dry Creek Outfitters, there was no question who I was hunting with. We booked the hunt for the end of January 2021 and while getting in shape the following months, the excitement grew every day! Nothing can compare to when you are finally there at the base of the majestic Orocoopia Mountains, knowing you have the only tag for the entire unit!

After meeting the Dry Creek crew and planning the hunt, it was obvious this was the “Real Deal.” During the fourth day of the hunt, we got the word that one of the guides had spotted a heavy ram a few miles away. With snow on the ground, we made the grueling hike, reaching the bluff where we were able to spot the ram.



First time applying and a great specimen!



Sergio, center front with Dry Creek Outfitter team

Everything came down to this moment at 318 yards, there he was! A beautiful ram standing like he was “King of the Mountain!” There was no question, this was the ram I wanted! With one well-placed shot, I finally had my California desert sheep. This was definitely the highlight of my hunting career!

This ram turned out to be a book ram and was estimated to be 9-10 years old with unbelievable mass. The Lord had provided me with an amazing hunt! I would like to thank California Fish and Wildlife for choosing me for this amazing hunt. I would also like to thank the entire Dry Creek Outfitters crew—Matt St. Martin and his legendary Father, Cliff St. Martin, Kirk Stiltz and his sons, Brooks and Cacey. These guides have this amazing ability; and work to put you in the right spot! Also, a big thank you to my good friend Jacy Tatum for making this all possible. If it was not for him, I never would have put in for the draw!

I now have even more respect for the bighorn desert sheep and what they represent. I recognize the importance of the people who work every day and their efforts to preserve the desert sheep for future generations so they can have a once-in-a-lifetime experience like I did!



# Are YOU a CA Wild Sheep Foundation Life Member? NOW is the time to join or upgrade!

**SHOW YOUR TRUE COMMITMENT TO THE WILD SHEEP OF CALIFORNIA AND THE WORLD! JOIN OR UPGRADE YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY.**

You will be joining a hard working, and hard hunting, group of CA WSF Distinguished Life members when you join or upgrade. Meet our Distinguished Life Members:

PEGGY BARNETT LEE  
VINCE BLOOM  
MIKE BOREL  
JED BRUSSEAU  
ADAM CASAGRANDE  
KEVIN CHENG  
DAVID COMBS  
WILLIAM CULLINS  
JIM DISMUKES  
DAN EVENSON  
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ERNEST HOLLOWAY  
BRETT JEFFERSON  
BOB KEAGY  
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ZACK WALTON  
JOHN WARE  
JIM WARNER  
SHAINA WARNER  
SIMON WHETZEL  
DARRYL WILLIAMS  
SHAWN WOOD

## **Join as a Life Member (\$500)**

**Make a commitment now to continue PUTTING AND KEEPING WILD SHEEP ON THE MOUNTAINS of California! Join CA WSF as a Life Member or a Junior Life Member and receive ONE chance to WIN the special Life Members hunt in 2022.**

## **Upgrade your CA WSF Life Membership (\$1,000)**

**Upgrade your CA WSF Life Membership to DISTINGUISHED Life Membership (\$1,000) to receive THREE chances to WIN the special Life Members hunt in 2022.**

**You may also join at the Distinguished Life Member level for \$1,500.**

**All Distinguished Life Members receive a PELOTON 240 VEST from Kuiu emblazoned with the CA WSF logo.**

Only 600  
tickets  
available

100 Tickets  
reserved for  
4/30/22

# Stone Sheep Raffle 2022



\$100 per ticket

Enter to win a 16-day Stone Sheep Hunt with Golden Bear Outfitters July 29 - August 13, 2023 in the the Telegraph Creek and Stikine River area of British Columbia. Golden Bear Outfitters' hunt area is over 8,000 square miles of rugged, mostly untouched wilderness in one of the oldest guide regions of BC. This is a hunt any mountain hunter will remember as "once-in-a-life!"

Golden Bear Outfitting provides: Air and ground transportation within the hunting area, a guide for each hunter and support personnel, lodging and meals, snacks and soft drinks, camping equipment, trophy preparation.

## Value of the hunt is \$48,500.

Winner will be drawn at the California WSF Annual Banquet April 30, 2022. Winner will be notified by email or phone.

### ADDITIONAL COSTS TO BE PAID BY WINNER (due July 15, 2023):

Air charter: \$1,500  
Hunt Package GST tax: \$2,500  
Wildlife Stewardship Fund: \$250  
Government Royalty: \$450  
License/tags: \$980

### NOT INCLUDED IN YOUR HUNT

Hotel before and after the hunt  
Tips/Gratuities  
Crate and Freight charges for shipping trophies  
Additional hunters or non hunters if arranged with outfitter  
Additional trophy fees if arranged with outfitter  
Non resident firearms fee



Wild Sheep Foundation President and CEO Gray Thornton hunted with Golden Bear Outfitters and says "...cannot recommend them highly enough!! The best!"

**Tickets available at [www.cawsf.org/store](http://www.cawsf.org/store)**

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# ONE MORE FOR FOUR

by John Zenz

No, it's not for a Grand Slam. It's my own creation, that I call a "Virgil's Slam." For entry, all you need to do is draw in state big game drawings four Desert Bighorn tags and harvest four desert rams – nothing to it.

For me it all started in about 1967, when stopping into a local Sporting Goods to buy my deer tag and seeing the Nevada Trophy Big Game regulations. On the cover was a picture of a ram, that I later learned was a captive ram at the Desert National Wildlife Refuge's Corn Creek Station just a few miles north of Las Vegas. At that time, I had no idea what a bighorn was, let alone that we had Desert Bighorn in Nevada. Intrigued, I started to read everything I could find about our State animal. In the late sixties and early seventies there were very few articles in outdoor magazines (NO NBU & NO Wild Sheep Foundation) about sheep hunting and even fewer about hunting desert sheep. So few, in fact, that I hoarded the few that I could find and have kept them to this day.

My first application for sheep was in 1968, when the Desert Bighorn was the only sheep population in the state. Back then, there were areas on the Sheep Range that had four tags with only twelve applicants. Another area had four tags with sixteen applicants. That year I applied, unsuccessfully, in an area along the Colorado River with three tags that had twenty-one applicants. For comparison, last year four hundred sixty-eight applicants used the Sheep Range as a choice for only four tags. If it weren't for bad luck, you know the rest of the saying. Not being able to get a tag and having sheep fever really bad, I started to apply for an Arizona desert ram in 1970.

In 1980 Nevada had a preferential drawing, where each applicant had to have saved four rejection cards and submit those cards with their application to be in the preferential draw. That year there were only eighty-nine hunters that saved the four cards and applied for the eighty available tags. I got my first Nevada sheep tag that year!! Waiting twelve years when you are twenty years old seemed like a couple of lifetimes. After harvesting my Nevada Desert Bighorn, I continued applying in Arizona and several other western states trying to get another tag while waiting to apply in Nevada again. A lot of hunters think that I am way too lucky in the drawings. It is not luck, just persistence and tons of apps in all the western states. Having drawn six bighorn sheep tags (4 out of state – 2 in Nevada) sounds like a ton, it took me 52 years and countless applications. Five of those six tags were with max



Above Left to Right: Rob Van, Kevin Oliver, Ray Taft, Zack Doster, John Zenz, Brayden Van  
Still the same "good luck hat"!

points in max bonus point drawing systems, only one was a truly random draw back in 1992 to finish my Grand Slam with a Rocky Mountain Bighorn. My first Desert Bighorn was taken at the age of 32 in NV – the second at age 56 in NV - AND my third in Arizona at the age of 72. Needing one more for four, I am not sure I will be physically capable nor lucky enough to complete my "Virgil's Slam" with a fourth Desert Ram, but will keep applying.....One can only dream!

In the 2020 drawing for Bighorn Sheep in Arizona, there were 26 residents and ONE nonresident with Max Bonus points with 24 tags available in the Max draw. To have max points, you had to have taken hunter education within the state of Arizona. A friend, Dick Henry, whom I met at the Sheep Show made arrangements to conduct a hunter education class on a weekend a couple of decades ago. Another Sheep Show acquaintance from Idaho, George Law and I flew to Arizona to take that class and acquire the hunter education bonus point to stay at the Max point level. George drew his Arizona Desert Bighorn tag and harvested a very nice ram in 2011. Obviously, I was the very last nonresident to have max points and drew my tag in 2020, after 50 years of applying. To say that I was a little emotional when I found out would be a BIG understatement.

The Superstition Mountains, Area 24B South, is known for high quality Desert Rams. In 2019 there was a wildfire in this unit and again in 2020. These fires rearranged the sheep in the Superstition

Mtns. The other tagholder lived in the unit and had guided there previously. He took his ram on day 24 of the season. Angst was setting in, after a few days of scouting and ten days of hunting. Sheep were seen but not the numbers nor the quality we expected. I feel extremely fortunate to have taken a beautiful record book Mexicali desert bighorn ram on day twelve. I would like to thank everyone who helped me, in so many different ways, but there are too many to list here so I am only listing those who were present on the hunt, in no particular order:

Michelle Zenz -- Camp cook – my wife

Rob & Brayden Van – father & son

Kevin & Hayden Oliver – father & son

Ray Taft – his Nevada Desert sheep hunt is still one of my favorites

Troy Robb -- who guides in Nevada with Deep Creek Outfitters

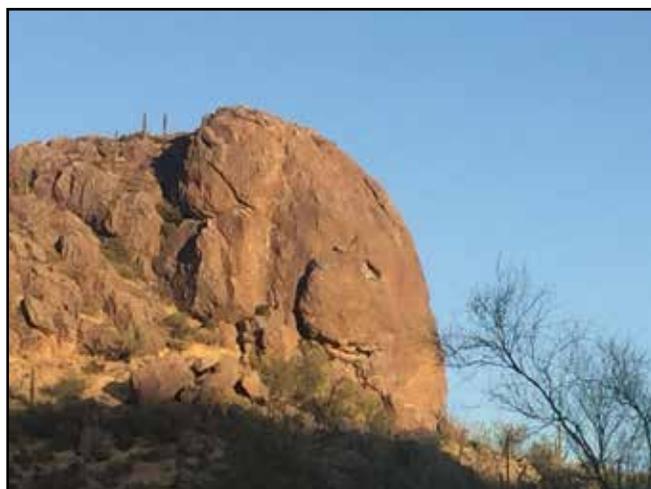
Zack Doster -- Arizona Desert Outfitter's guide

THANK YOU !!

*Editor's Note: This story was originally published May 22, 2021 in Northern Nevada Outdoors – a High School Publication*



Superstition Mountains



Elephant Butte



## CA WSF WANTS YOU – As a Member!

Please share this info with your friends.

Are you a Californian? A transplant to or from? Do you hunt wild sheep? Do you dream about hunting wild sheep, especially in California? Do you want to help assure that wild sheep thrive for future generations? Do you want to be part of a growing organization that is making a positive difference?

If you answered yes to one or more of those questions – please join CA WSF! If you are able, join or upgrade to Life Membership or to Distinguished Life Membership. The Desert Bighorn in California are doing well and CA WSF is making a real difference by raising funds, getting connected, working with CDFW, and by collaborating with SCBS to add rainwater catchments to preserve and enhance Desert Bighorn populations in California.

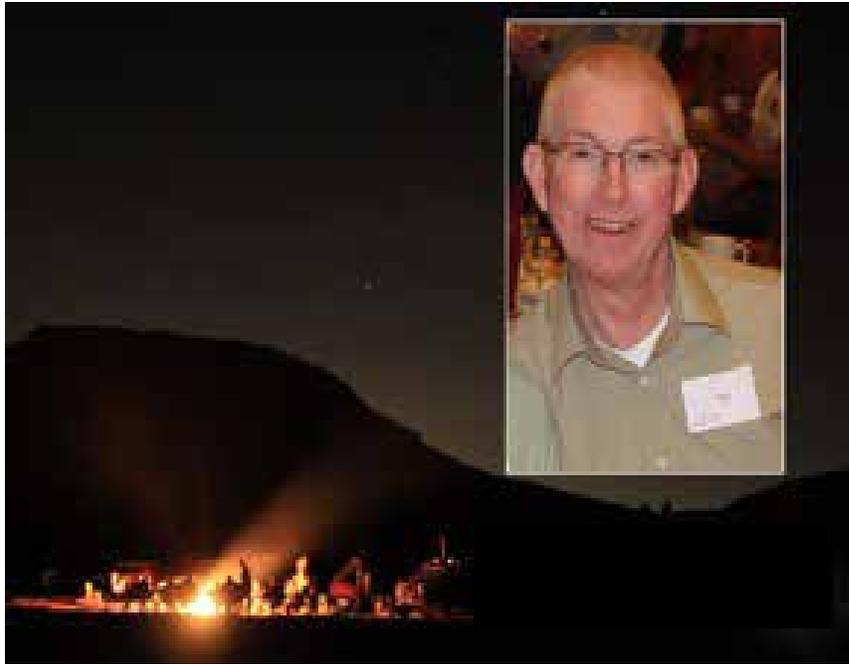
Joining is very easy – [www.cawsf.org](http://www.cawsf.org) or email Beverly Valdez at [forthesheep@gmail.com](mailto:forthesheep@gmail.com).

Want to get even more involved? Email Don Martin, President, at [don-martin@earthlink.net](mailto:don-martin@earthlink.net).

CA WSF is a proud Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation – you'll want to be a member there too! [www.wildsheepfoundation.org](http://www.wildsheepfoundation.org).

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# Last Campfire



## IN HONOR OF ANDREW M. PAULI (1953–2021)

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

Hunters and other conservationists familiar with the eastern Mojave Desert lost one of their strongest supporters on 8 April 2021 with the unexpected passing of California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Wildlife Biologist Andrew Pauli. Andy was born on 18 May 1953 in Palo Alto, California, and attended Los Altos High School where he was an outstanding athlete, and starred in track and field and basketball. He held several scholastic records in the high jump, and was proud to have been among the last of the classic ‘western roll’ jumpers. Following high school, Andy attended Chico State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology.

Andy was employed by CDFG for 33 years, and served in a variety of capacities in the eastern Sierra Nevada and the deserts of southeastern California prior to his retirement in 2010. He began his career as a Seasonal Aid with the

Inland Fisheries Branch in 1977 working out of the Bishop Office, and continued as a Seasonal Aid in the Blythe Office, where he had been recruited both as an employee and to play for the office basketball team. Following his work in fisheries management, Andy continued as a Seasonal Aid with Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Project W-26-D (Wildlife Habitat Development), and shortly thereafter was hired as a Fish and Wildlife Assistant on that project, a position he occupied until 1986. He then promoted to Assistant Wildlife Manager-Biologist and filled the position of Colorado River Unit Wildlife Manager at Blythe.

In 1989, Andy promoted to Associate Wildlife Biologist in the Desert Wildlife Management Unit (DWMU) in San Bernardino County, where he established an office at his home in Apple Valley. As part of his duties, Andy oversaw management of the Camp Cady Wildlife Area,

and he remained an important contributor to the Department's efforts to ensure water was available for all species of wildlife inhabiting the eastern Mojave Desert. Andy performed inspections and helped to maintain the many dozens of desert springs and water developments located in the DWMU on which mule deer and bighorn sheep especially were dependent. He very much enjoyed conducting annual brood counts to evaluate quail and chukar production, dove surveys, and being responsible for oversight of the mule deer hunt in Zone D-17, where he continued the long-standing tradition of conducting aerial hunter surveys on opening weekends; those data formed part of his important paper that described the distribution and societal value of recreational hunting in the eastern Mojave Desert. During his assignments as a member of the habitat development crew, as the Colorado River Unit Manager, and as the Desert Unit Manager, Andy was a regular participant in aerial surveys to assess bighorn sheep populations. Additionally, he participated in more than 200 telemetry flights while keeping track of the dozens of bighorn sheep that had been collared for research or for translocations.

Andy developed a close working relationship with wildlife protection personnel and his pleasing personality paved the way for increased hunter interest in, and an enhanced appreciation for, the eastern Mojave Desert, which included the first areas to be opened to the hunting of bighorn sheep in California since 1878: Old Dad Peak and the Marble Mountains. Thus far, 7 of the 11 zones that have been opened to bighorn sheep hunting are within what once was the DWMU and that—to the dismay of Andy and many others—remains an administrative area to which no one, as yet, has been assigned individual responsibility.

Throughout his career, Andy worked closely with members of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep (SCBS) on numerous water development projects, all of which involved volunteers and provided hundreds of interested individuals with opportunities to enhance habitat for bighorn sheep and likely resulted in many life-long commitments to conservation. In all probability, many of those commitments would not have occurred were it not for Andy's enthusiastic work ethic and his get-it-done approach. Following development of several of



Then President Ken Fish presenting Andy with the CA WSF **Above and Beyond Award** in 2012

those wildlife water sources, bighorn sheep in the eastern Mojave Desert received increased interest among CDFG administrators, and Andy participated in numerous helicopter surveys while collecting data that resulted in the reintroduction of bighorn sheep to the Eagle Crags, Whipple Mountains, Argus Range, Sheephole Mountains, Bullion Mountains, and the northern Bristol Mountains, as well as augmentations of bighorn sheep populations in the Avawatz Range and Chuckwalla Mountains.

Andy helped plan and implement the annual Bighorn Sheep Hunter Clinics that hunters are required to attend, and participated in the first such clinic in 1987, which was held at Camp Cady. He participated in every such event until 2012, at which point the number of hunters fortunate enough to draw a bighorn sheep tag had outgrown the facilities available at Camp Cady. By that time, however, that venture had evolved into an annual event sponsored by the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep and the California Wild Sheep Foundation, and had become a tradition that lasted 25 years. During those Hunter Clinics Andy and many other individuals—most of whom volunteered their time—generously shared detailed information on bighorn sheep occupying the hunt zones, access, geography, hunting techniques, equipment, desert safety, taxidermy, photography, and regulations; each of the clinics exceeded, by far, the minimum requirements dictated by the state legislature. In addition, Andy ensured the bunkhouse and associated facilities were in top condition for

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each clinic and that, following a generous social hour and hosted supper, extended well into the evening and frequently involved hunt zone 'show-me' trips the following day.

Andy Pauli was a dedicated sportsman, a true friend of hunters and other outdoorsmen, and he fulfilled his role as a wildlife biologist very capably. He did not have a penchant for notoriety, but his efforts on behalf of conservation were recognized widely. His work ethic, combined with his tremendous athletic ability and the outstanding eye-hand coordination developed during his athletic career, led to his being among the initial CDFG employees approved as aerial net-gunners. In 1989, he was honored for his service on behalf of desert wildlife by the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep with the Bicket-Landells Award, which was established in honor of BLM Wildlife Biologist Jim Bicket and Helicopter Pilot Don Landells who died while conducting a bighorn sheep survey at Clark Mountain on 6 October 1986. In 1996, he served as Chair of the 40th meeting of the Desert Bighorn Council in Holtville, California. Upon his retirement, SCBS again recognized his contributions to conservation by presenting him with the Society's Service-Above-Self Award.

Following retirement, Andy worked as a retired annuitant for several additional years, and he remained the "go-to" guy for successful bighorn sheep hunters needing their tags to be validated. During his career, Andy likely validated and scored the majority of bighorn sheep that as yet have been harvested in California. He also became the most popular CDFG representative at the annual conventions of the Wild Sheep Foundation—now known as Sheep Week®—where prospective hunters consistently sought his advice on hunting conditions and opportunities to harvest desert bighorn sheep in California. Andy also had the privilege of validating at least 20 auction tags that, as of his retirement, had generated more than \$2.6 million specifically for the conservation of bighorn sheep. True to his desire to recognize all of those playing important roles in the conservation of bighorn sheep, his first action following each auction was to seek out and thank the runner-up before locating and congratulating the winning bidder.

Andy was preceded in death by his father, Frank, and is survived by his wife Lori, his children Andrea and Brian, his mother Rita, grandchildren

Leah and Owen, siblings Tricia, Bob, Judy, and Jim, and numerous nieces and nephews. As per Andy's request, no services were held; if readers are so moved, however, the family suggests donations be made to the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, an organization with which Andy worked with on an almost daily basis throughout his professional career.



Vern Bleich

Desert wildlife and bighorn sheep in particular—along with California's sportsmen and the public in general—have been the beneficiaries of Andy Pauli's many contributions to conservation. He was a kind and generous person, a dedicated employee, a fine naturalist and avid sportsman, and he was widely respected by his peers. He was humble and unassuming, he readily and willingly accepted the sometimes less-than-glamorous tasks to which he was assigned, and he loved his family dearly. His positive attitude, pleasing personality, and his many contributions to the conservation of desert wildlife should not be forgotten. Andy will be missed by all that worked with him, knew him, or loved him. In his absence the desert will be less than what it had become as a result of his presence, but it will remain far more than it would have been had he not landed there.

# CA WSF — 2020 IN REVIEW

2020 was the year of COVID-19 and so many, many things changed. For one thing, just like much of the US, we were unable to hold in-person meetings. Not deterred, we added “virtual” to our meeting locations and were able to continue our work for the sheep on many fronts. Even still, CA WSF has remained laser focused on activities related to desert bighorn sheep in California. Our objective is to lead a collective, collaborative effort to achieve maximum sustainable populations of bighorn in as many areas of historical presence as possible. And as quickly as possible!

In 2020 we continued our efforts to lead, support, influence, and raise money on behalf of wild sheep with our partners. Our collaborations with CDFW, the Mojave National Preserve, BLM, military bases in California, USFS, our sister organizations (Society for Conservation of Bighorn Sheep [SCBS] and Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn), Oregon State University, Washington State University, WSF and others remains strong. Most importantly, our membership remains committed to our goal of Putting and Keeping Sheep on the Mountains in California.

The GALAD project – the Give A Lamb a Drink initiative to more than double the carrying capacity of DBH in California – has progressed the state land leases, installed new Raincatcher systems, and continued repair and/or retrofitting older guzzlers. In late 2020 we funded the Oro Belle, a new drinker installation in San Bernardino County. The funding was made possible by donations from Water for Wildlife and our members. The construction of the 3-tank Raincatcher Wildlife Water System was led by the SCBS and included volunteers from both SCBS and CA WSF. See the Spring 2021 issue for more information on this installation.

We have more GALAD installations pending, mostly delayed due to Environmental Assessment (EA) requirements. See page 8 where DFW and the Bureau of Land Management are planning an updated EA process by the end of 2021.

Another exciting project begun in mid-2020 and nearing completion is the “Deep Sheep” project. This project, was started at the request of CDFW sheep biologist Paige Prentice, and allows a “first pass digital ID” of sheep from the thousands of images collected during surveys and from trail cameras on the ground. The project should be completed in 2021. Once completed, additional work may be undertaken to broaden the application to deer, wild pigs, and other mammals.

We continue our efforts at creating a program of Drone Unit Surveys with a new organization, Overwatch Aero. Their technology includes live streaming of the video feed

from the drone. Drone surveys would provide a safer and most cost-effective survey routine if it is proven reliable to the CDFW sheep biologists. COVID-19 derailed our plans for this project in 2020 but we will continue planning to complete a drone survey with a helicopter survey done at the same time requiring close coordination with CDFW and our drone partners.

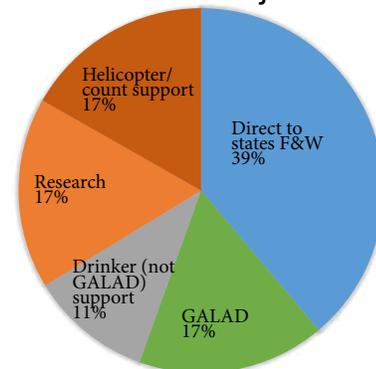
We continue to actively participate in CDFW’s Big Game Management Account (BGMA) grant process and have applied for multiple grants each year. Unfortunately CDFW has not awarded CA WSF any grants during 2018-2019 and did not have any grants in 2020.

CA WSF also continues to monitor possible problems (domestic sheep and goats in Bighorn proximity, travel corridor impediments, etc.) and opportunities (mineral needs of bighorn, artificial intelligence for individual animal identification, etc.).

Since our founding, we have raised and invested over \$2 million for the benefit of wild sheep in California; and we are now over \$600K in donations for GALAD (see the GALAD update on page 9). In addition we have hosted a twice annual “Sheep Summit” each year. The CA Sheep Summit was initiated by CA WSF to bring together all stakeholders in the stewardship of bighorns in California. All parties involved in the CA Wild Sheep Summit believe we are achieving some great things. This group has become the guiding committee for bighorn sheep conservation in California. One of the major results of the Sheep Summit is the CDFW Bighorn Sheep Comprehensive Management Plan (BSCMP), and corresponding Herd Unit Plans. The final BSCMP is pending with unit plans to follow.

We ARE making a very positive difference! None of this would have been possible without the support of our members and supporters. Members are how we’ve accomplished so much and Members will be the reason we will accomplish even more in the years ahead!

CA WSF Lifetime Projects Funding



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## CENTRAL EUROPEAN MOUFLON

*by Bob Keagy*

Among the more obtainable, free-range wild sheep available today are the various varieties of the mouflon, which are widely spread across an arc from Spain to Bulgaria, with populations also going into Iran and Turkey. These are smaller wild sheep, usually a handsome dark brown, with white and black facial and body markings that vary widely throughout their range. One of the several varieties is the Central European Mouflon, which has a wide range from Croatia through much of Central Europe, including Austria, Hungary, Poland, and other European locales. In many of these areas Mouflon are hunted in an "Estate" or fenced area of varying size. In Croatia, however, they are hunted on a free-range basis, which is much more attractive to many of us.

Our Chapter has been fortunate to receive two donations for Croatian Central European mouflon hunts from "Hunt in Europe", a booking agency run by Srdja Dimitrijevic and his daughter Sonja. The Dimitrijevics donated a mouflon hunt to us in 2016 and 2020, and in 2021 they donated a very attractive Kamchatka "Bighorn" hunt. They are long-time supporters of SCI, Wild Sheep Foundation, and other Sportsmen's groups.

Since we may be able to negotiate more Croatian Mouflon hunts in the future, a brief re-cap of my experience on this hunt in 2019 may be of interest.

My wife, Pam, and I arrived in the seaport town of Split (formerly Spoleto) in northern Croatia in Mid-November for our Croatian Mouflon hunt. This was rather late in the year, but it followed a Tanzania buffalo hunt.

We were met in the airport by our guide Igor Matosic, who ushered us through the customs and firearm formalities. We were supposed to spend the next day sightseeing the Split's famous ruins of the Palace of Diocletian, but Igor said to skip this, and head immediately South to the hunt area, as a major weather system was moving in.

The majority of Croatian mouflon hunts occur on the rocky sixty-mile long Peljesac Peninsula, which projects Northwestward from the mainland into the blue Adriatic Sea. It is a rugged, rocky peninsula, with lush pine-forested mountains dropping to shelving beaches, numerous wineries, and quaint villages. The whole had rather a "Monterey-Peninsula-in-the-1930s" feel to it, which was reinforced by numerous waving palms and citrus dotting the red-roofed towns.

Our destination was the resort town of Orebic. Our hotel faced right on the beach, and at first light we found that our room looked out through orange trees to the adjacent island of Korcula. We were up early, and the hotel restaurant put on a massive breakfast, which we pecked at, as we were anticipating a long and arduous day. Getting in the car, we drove to pick up our cheerful local guide, Mladen. The mountains rise up behind Orebic, and are cut by dirt roads for access to cattle and sheep that graze in the mountain foliage.

We would drive along the dirt roads very, very slowly,



Bob, getting ready to shoot..

from one promontory to the next, stopping at each to glass. Mladen would disappear for ten to fifteen minutes, into the heavy cover behind the rocky points then return to the car.

This went on for four or five such episodes, and by 10:30 -11:00 I was getting pretty impatient to get out and do a bit of glassing myself, when Mladen came bustling back with a huge grin. He indicated that a family group was grazing at the head of a valley, overlooked by a rocky cliff that we could get out on.

I grabbed my Weatherby .270 and my binoculars, Pam grabbed her trusty camera, and we followed Mladen and Igor on a narrow goat trail through dense, second-growth foliage for about 200 yards. The soil turned to broken granite, and the foliage cover ceased. Bending over and keeping low, we skirted the cliff top in single file, keeping boulders and outcroppings between us and the mouflon family gazing below the cliff. The broken granite was extremely difficult to walk on—full of sharp edges, shifting when weight was put on it, and creating a grinding noise that was worrisome. The saving grace was that a strong wind had blown up, blowing the sound away from the sheep.

Mladen was already crouching in a crevice, peering down carefully around the base of a large boulder when we caught up with him. He pointed almost straight downwards and I saw seven or eight small dots in a shale basin, grazing at sparse grass, and laying in the shade of stunted trees. Mladen pointed to one tree, and I realized that the big rock in the shade at the base of the tree was a ram, facing directly away. We spotted another, smaller ram bedded down, so the final count was nine mouflon in the group.

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At Igor's hand signal, I worked my way forward on the sharp, broken rock and peered down at a 60-degree angle on the bedded ram. His bases looked really nice, but I couldn't tell about the curl. Igor studied the ram, which moved its head slightly. Igor nodded "yes" and moved back out of the way, so I could get into shooting position. The wind, curling up the cliff face was ripping. I got in position, and made sure I could get a clear shot, with no intervening rocks. It was clear. Now leaning over the lip of the cliff, my head was down and Igor grabbed hold of my belt as I angled forward and got a solid position. I put the crosshairs a bit behind the on-side shoulder and slowly squeezed, the wind was ripping along and tugging at both me and the rifle. At the echoing sound of the shot into the basin, mouflon scattered like quail, ran to the right, bunched up, continued to run ...and were gone!

Igor looked pretty doubtful, and gave me the old "Well, Bob, it was a tough shot hanging over the edge like that" routine. I told Igor I had hit it hard, as I knew my sight picture had been true. He looked, but through the binoculars could see no blood where I had shot (180-200 yards). He again indicated he thought I had missed. I repeated that the shot had been good. Then Mladen spoke up: "There they go over that far shoulder", and, sure enough, they were still running. There were, however, only eight mouflon, and the large ram was missing. Igor said that we

should drive down to the base of the valley, park, and he and the local guide would climb up and see what they could see.

It was a real quiet ride down to the base of the valley. Igor and Mladen hitched up backpacks and belted on knives and canteens and began hiking up the steep valley. It was by now one o'clock, and my certainty of the shot was beginning to slip a bit.

About 2:30, Pam said she saw movement, and back came Igor first, then Mladen with the dead ram on his back. They had found blood beginning a short distance from the spot of the shot, increasing blood, and then the ram, lying dead about 50 yards from where he had been shot. It was a lovely little ram, with 26" horns and 10" bases. We went back to the hotel in high spirits.

We did get to see Split and Diocletian's Palace, but it was now filled with Hermes, Luis Vitton and other up-scale shops. We also visited Dubrovnik, which was very pretty, but largely deserted in the last half of November.

We greatly enjoyed the beautiful country, the great hunting, the camaraderie, and the truly friendly people. I don't know if Jack O'Connor would consider this a great hunt, but a record-book ram on "day one" is, to me, at least, always welcome!!!!

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## CA ASSOCIATION OF TAXIDERMISTS ANNUAL AWARDS 2021

*by Gary McDaniel, C.A.T.*

For several years the CA WSF Chapter has sponsored a special award at the annual CA Association of Taxidermists (C.A.T.) awards. Last year the awards program was canceled due to COVID-19. This year C.A.T. was lucky enough to be able to hold the event outside in mid May.

The CA WSF award is call the "Best Horned Game Mammal" award. There is a plaque presented to the winner along with a cash prize.

The judging is done by a team of very experienced taxidermists from around the US. There is also a "people's favorite" category.

This year's winner was Tom Weatherson from Chester, CA. Tom has long been a CAT member, a board member, and a good friend for many years. He received our coveted "Taxidermist of the Year" award this year as well. The pedestal ram he entered in competition was flawless, I believe it was taken (by a client) in southern California.

He wanted me to tell you how thankful, and honored he is to have earned your sponsored award.

Thank you again for your loyal support of the CAT!



C.A.T. is a not-for-profit organization.  
ID/EIN): 68-0263478

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# CA WSF DIRECTOR CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES FOR THE 2021 ELECTION SLATE

*Listing is Alphabetical by Last Name*



**ADAM CASAGRANDE — Eagle, ID**

Born and raised in California, I was taught the importance of family and conservation through hunting and fishing with my father and grandfather. Whether I was sitting on a bucket along a fence line during dove season with my grandfather or in a drift boat casting to rainbows with my father I always felt I learned more about life spending time in the outdoors with those two. My passion for the outdoors took me to Colorado where I attended Colorado State University and earned my degree in Agricultural Business. With college out of the way I felt the time was right to go exploring, which took me to Alaska and Chile where I spent two years guiding fly fishing trips. With an urge to start a family of my own I landed in Texas where I met my wife and started a career with Morgan Stanley. After six years in TX we moved back to CA where I had the opportunity to work with my father in the family insurance business. My wife and I moved to Eagle, ID in 2015. We have three boys who are learning the importance of family and conservation in the outdoors just the way I did. With the

desire to conserve wildlife so that my boys continue to have the opportunities that I had, I joined CAWSF in 2010 and chaired the Live Auction for the 2011 fundraiser. I have been involved with the annual fundraiser each year since 2011. Current conservation group memberships include WSF, IDWSF and BHA. I have been a Director of CAWSF for 9 years and an Officer for the past 8 years.

**MEMBERSHIP – Distinguished Life Member**



**MATTHEW BURKE — San Jose, CA**

Matthew (Matt) Burke was born and raised in Southern California. His educational experience includes a bachelor degree in agricultural business management from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, as well as a Masters of Business Administration from Santa Clara University. Matt is currently employed by Wells Fargo Banks as a Senior Vice President in the Commercial Banking Group, where he has managed credit portfolios comprised of businesses ranging from family-owned farming enterprises to fortune 500 corporations.

In his capacity as a California WSF board member, Matt has been active in the chapter's fundraising activities. He was Auction Chair for the 2006 banquet and Raffle Chair for the 2007 banquet. A passionate bowhunter, Matt has hunted a number of western states and Canadian provinces, and Alaska. Matt has a great interest in wildlife conservation and the defense of the rights of hunters, evidenced by his life membership of the California Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation and the

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, as well as his membership in the United States Sportsman's Alliance, Safari Club International, the NRA and the Wild Sheep Foundation.

Matt has been a Director of CAWSF in the past and looks forward to joining the Board once again.

**MEMBERSHIP – Life Member**



**KEN CROTHER — Yuba City, CA**

I am one of the few that have had the opportunity in California to reap the benefits of CA WSF's hard work and determination to keep these sheep on the mountain as well as fight for our rights to pursue them. In 2008 I was fortunate enough to draw a coveted tag in our state and began a turn in my hunting life. I am interested in continuing on the Board so that I can give back and help do the same for others, including my children. After attending college in San Luis Obispo at California Polytechnic I moved back to Yuba City and to begin my family and work career. Waterfowl was my love growing up and upon returning from college I began hunting large game in the Western States. The sheep tag I drew was a bonus that was never planned on and then I drew a tag the following year in Idaho for a Rocky Mountain Bighorn. After drawing the tags, I began meeting people in many different ways that all seem to start to tie together with the sheep community. I have been on the Board for the last 10 years and currently hold the position of Northern California Vice President. I am involved with the Legislative Affairs Committee where I attend various Fish and Wildlife meetings and got involved in the Hunting Conservation Coalition as well. My current goals on this board is

to increase involvement in our state through growing our membership, continue to stay involved with fish and wildlife to hold them accountable for their responsibilities for the benefit of our wild sheep in California. There is a lot to work still to do in our state to not only preserve but continue to help grow the population of the species but also to protect our rights as hunters and conservationists.

**MEMBERSHIP – Life Member**



### **BOB KEAGY, Lafayette, CA**

Bob, aged 76, is completing his fifth term as CA WSF Director. He is an avid hunter, earning both the SCI Crowning Achievement and GSC/OvisTriple Slam awards, while hunting in 30 countries. Bob grew up in a non-hunting family, but was a great fan of the works of Roy Chapman Andrews, James Corbett, Elgin Gates and Jack O'Connor. His love of the writings of Jack O'Connor led him to his first sheep hunt in British Columbia in 1979, a second Stone ram in 1981, followed by Dall, Nepalese Blue, four of the wonderful Asian Argali, and others, ultimately totalling 15 free-range wild sheep. Bob's love of mountain hunting extends to a wide variety of mountain game. In addition to sheep, he has also collected ibex, chamois and the rare Golden Takin. Bob is dedicated to the hunting cause, is an active member of SCI national committees, his SCI local Chapter, and President of the Mzuri Safari Club of San Francisco, and a Chadwick Ram Society Member. He is an active supporter of GALAD, and would like to continue to assist in California Wild Sheep's many efforts.

#### **MEMBERSHIP – Distinguished Life**



### **GEORGE KERR, Simi Valley, CA**

I was raised in hunting family; my father was a premier sportsman/conservationist and one of the founders of the SCBS in the beginning. By trade, I am a landscape contractor specializing in custom landscape design and architecture. I have the joy of family hunting experiences and look forward to hunting together with family, three sons-in-law and with grandchildren, which renews my incentive to pass our legacy down. I am a life member of CA WSF and honoree of the Eastman Grass Roots Award given by the Wild Sheep Foundation. Other memberships also include Safari Club International and a life member of Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep (SCBS) – where I've been a member for over 35 years and a Past President and board member. I am currently a member of the Ventura County F&G Commissioner, serving more than 20 years on the FGC, as well as Hunter Clinic Chairman for F&G and Southern California Vice President of CA WSF. I am dedicated to mentoring youth in wildlife conservation and proper management practices. This will be my fourth term and I again hope to help better interface with other conservation organizations. I still have not pulled California sheep tag as of this date after 30 years of applying. Just saying, not complaining!

#### **MEMBERSHIP – Life Member**



### **MAGGI KOUFFELD — Anderson, CA**

Hello my name is Maggi Kouffeld and I am a lifelong hunter that has been dedicated to wildlife conservation and ensuring the future of hunting traditions. I've been a quiet advocate of R3 and have mentored numerous youth and women in the outdoors with turkey and big game hunting including 5 years of mentoring NWTJ Jakes. I am an accomplished solo hunter and have hunted throughout the Western and Midwestern United States as well as Kyrgyzstan, South Africa, New Zealand, Tasmania, and Hungary for big game, small game and waterfowl species. I am a Captain for Cal Fire and have worked throughout the state to protect lives, property and natural resources for the past 15 years. As a dedicated lifetime member of both the Wild Sheep Foundation and California Wild Sheep Foundation I am committed to putting and keeping sheep on the mountain. Like many in the organization I have a deep personal interest in returning sheep to their range throughout the great state of California and would appreciate the opportunity to become more involved.

#### **MEMBERSHIP – Life Member**

## **CA WSF WANTS YOU As a Member!**

Please share this info with your friends. Are you a Californian? A transplant to or from? Do you hunt wild sheep? Do you dream about hunting wild sheep, especially in California? Do you want to help assure that wild sheep thrive for future generations? Do you want to be part of a growing organization that is making a positive difference?

If you answered yes to one or more of those questions – please join CA WSF! If you are able, join or upgrade to Life Membership or to Distinguished Life Membership. The Desert Bighorn in California are doing well and CA WSF is making a real difference by raising funds, getting connected, working with CDFW, and by collaborating with SCBS to add rainwater catchments to preserve and enhance Desert Bighorn populations in California.

Joining is very easy – [www.cawsf.org](http://www.cawsf.org) or email Beverly Valdez at [forthesheep@gmail.com](mailto:forthesheep@gmail.com).

Want to get even more involved? Email Don Martin, current President, at [don-martin@earthlink.net](mailto:don-martin@earthlink.net).

CA WSF is a proud Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation – you'll want to be a member there too! [www.wildsheepfoundation.org](http://www.wildsheepfoundation.org).



**DONALD C. MARTIN — Elk Grove, CA**

Don grew up hunting and fishing in California's central valley. As a youth, he became an accomplished bass fisherman, having competed in over 40 bass tournaments by age 18. Don is a graduate of Humboldt State University (HSU) where he majored in Theatre Arts/Film Production and also studied Wildlife and Fisheries Management. After graduation from HSU, Don apprenticed as a hunting/fishing guide in Alaska and has been a Registered Guide there for over 25 years. Also, for over a decade, he guided in Sonora, Mexico for mule deer and coues deer. Don is currently the Director of Hunting Operations for Ultima Thule Outfitters, and is a licensed guide in California for tule elk, wild hogs, and turkeys. In the off-season, Don is a digital-film producer and bass fishing guide, and resides in Elk Grove with his wife, Katie.

Having guided over 300 successful hunts for 12 different species of North American big game, Don recognizes the need for sound wildlife management and habitat conservation and is dedicated to "putting and keeping sheep on the mountain." Don is a Summit Life Member of WSF, a Chadwick Society Member, and a life member of CA WSF, Eastern WSF, ID WSF, SCBS, WA WS, Wild Sheep Society of British Columbia, and the Alaska Professional Hunter's Association. He also maintains memberships in SCI, GSC/OVIS, P&Y Club, and the NRA. In 2019, Don was elected President of CA WSF, having served on the Board for 11 years, with the last several years as Vice-President and Fundraising co-chair. Don has been the Master of Ceremonies for CA WSF since 2017, and has hosted events for Eastern WSF, WA WSF, and APHA. Don was awarded the CA WSF "Above and Beyond Award" in 2015, and he received the guide industry's highest honor in 2018, the Wild Sheep Foundation's G.C.F. Dalziel Outstanding Guide Award. Donald C. Martin is standing for reelection and would appreciate your vote.

**MEMBERSHIP – Distinguished Life Member**

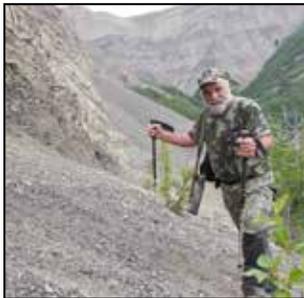


**GLEN PYNE — Yorba Linda, CA**

Glen Pyne was born and raised in Southern California. He received his BS in Animal Science from Cal Poly, Pomona and his DVM degree from Ross University. Although primarily a small animal surgeon today, Glen began his career as a mixed animal practitioner in Ohio and currently donates his services to the Fullerton High School Districts FFA program.

Glen is active in Rotary Club International as a former Vocational Chairperson and Paul Farris Fellow. An avid hunter, Glen has hunted most of the western states as well as Canada, Europe, and Africa. Glen has been a supporter of CA WSF and the Wild Sheep Foundation for many years, in particular helping support and grow the youth programs, and hopes to continue his conservation efforts in his third term as a member of the CA WSF Board of Directors.

**MEMBERSHIP – Distinguished Life Member**



**Mike Torres — Redding, CA**

I am a retired Division Chief with Cal Fire and spent my 35 year career in Fire Control and Law Enforcement statewide. I have been with the California Deer Association (CDA) for about 20 years and have served on the Statewide Project Committee, additionally I am the Coordinator for hunts, firearms, and projects for the Redding CDA Chapter. The Redding CDA Chapter is the largest and most successful CDA Chapter in California and we focus on Youth Outdoor Opportunities as a local Chapter Project.

I have been fortunate to have hunted extensively in the Western United States, Africa, Mexico, Alaska, and the Canadian Provinces. To date I have taken 8 rams in North America and look forward to more adventures in search of big rams. As we all know, Mountain Sheep live in the most spectacular county on earth and I cherish every moment spent with them. I am committed to doing everything possible to help these fantastic animals and the mountains they call home.

In addition to belonging to the National Rifle Association, Safari Club International, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, I am a lifetime member of the California Deer Association, the Wild Sheep Foundation, and the California Chapter of the WSF. I would like to apply my career experience and background in conservation and hunting to benefit our wild sheep.

**MEMBERSHIP – Distinguished Life Member**

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# CA WSF 2021-2023 DIRECTORS BALLOT

The California Wild Sheep Foundation Nominating Committee is pleased to present nine candidates for Board of Director positions. These positions are for two-year terms beginning July 1, 2021. We believe the candidate biographies on the prior pages will provide you with the input needed to vote; however, should you have additional questions feel free to contact me. You may also contact Beverly at the office (forthesheep@gmail.com or 650-409-6005 phone) and she will forward information.

Mike Borel  
Nominating Committee Chair 2021  
mike.borel@contextnet.com

*Putting and Keeping Sheep on the Mountains*

## VOTING FORM

This is the voting form (you may also receive this via email; please vote only by email or by using this form). You may vote for a total of eight candidates, including write-in votes.

## HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR VOTE

Your ballot must be received no later than 5 p.m. on June 28, 2021.  
You may mail your ballot to the CA WSF office at:

CA WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION  
1620 Williams Hwy #151  
Grants Pass, OR 97527

You may also fax to 650-649-1958. Or reply to the email sent to you to place your vote.

Vote no more than ONCE for each candidate (no cumulative voting). Vote for up to EIGHT candidates.

Vote must be received no later than 5 p.m. on June 28, 2021.

## CANDIDATES (Listed randomly)

\_\_\_\_\_ Maggi Kouffeld  
\_\_\_\_\_ Adam Casagrande  
\_\_\_\_\_ Glen Pyne  
\_\_\_\_\_ Matt Burke  
\_\_\_\_\_ Ken Crother  
\_\_\_\_\_ George Kerr  
\_\_\_\_\_ Mike Torres  
\_\_\_\_\_ Bob Keagy  
\_\_\_\_\_ Donald C. Martin

\_\_\_\_\_ Your Write-in Candidate

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ optional

Email or Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ required

CA FNAWS dba Ca Wild Sheep Foundation is a not-for-profit organization with the goal of KEEPING SHEEP ON THE MOUNTAIN through conservation, education, and promotion of professional management to ensure generations to come are able to experience the phenomenal beauty of wild sheep. CAWSF tax identification number is 68-0481140.



**California Chapter**  
**Wild Sheep Foundation**  
 1630 Williams Hwy #151 Grants Pass, OR 97527  
 (650-605-4009 PH / 650-649-1958 Fax)  
 cawssf@cawssf.org www.cawssf.org



**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Primary: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

Have you hunted Sheep? Yes No

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

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

**CA WSF Membership:**

Annual Membership (\$40) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Life Membership (\$500) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Distinguished Life Membership (\$1,500) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Distinguished Life Membership (\$1,000) (Life upgrade) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Youth Annual Membership (\$25) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Youth Life Membership (\$400) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Wild Sheep Foundation Membership:**

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

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

Credit Card Type: Visa  MasterCard  Discover  AMEX

Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CCV: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form to CA WSF, 1630 Williams Hwy #151, Grants Pass, OR 97527 or fax to 650-649-1958.

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

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## 2021 ANNUAL FUNDRAISER RECAP

*by Donald C Martin and Ken Crother, Fundraising Committee Co-Chairs*

April 24th we held our annual fundraiser and once again, it was a virtual event. We live-streamed our event from my home here in Elk Grove with approximately 10 people in attendance, most of whom were CA WSF Directors. If you missed our livestream, I will try to get a copy and post to social media in the upcoming weeks.

This year, CA WSF contracted JensenHall Creative from Anchorage, Alaska to livestream our show. In addition, John Bair traveled from Utah to be with us in person and be our auctioneer. The show was a huge success! We had record online participation through our online auction service [onlinehuntingauctions.com](http://onlinehuntingauctions.com) and in total, we were able to raise over \$100,000.

I'd like to congratulate our lucky random drawing winners. The 14-day opening week Scoop Lake Stone sheep was entirely sold out and the winning ticket was #1380 held by William Miller. Congratulations Will. On a side note, Will purchased only one ticket. That's the best \$100 he ever spent; I guarantee! CA WSF would like to thank Darwin and Wendy Cary for helping us provide this hunt of a lifetime to our lucky winner.

Our Life Member random drawing was for an up to 10-day, 1x1 Dall sheep hunt with Paul and Donna Claus's Ultima Thule Outfitters in Alaska. The winning ticket was ticket #10 held by Distinguished Life Member Shawn Wood. Congratulations Shawn. CA WSF would like to thank Paul and Donna Claus for their continued support of Wild Sheep Conservation here in California.

Support for GALAD, Give a Lamb a Drink, was strong this year and we were able to raise sufficient funds through direct donations and matching fund challenges to fund an entire drinker project. I thank all of you that donated to this specific effort to provide water for wildlife.

I would also like to thank the many generous donors to "Help Hollywood Get a Haircut". The haircut fund not only got my head shorn but also raised approximately \$19,000. The hair, some measuring 18 inches in length, will be donated to Wigs for Kids. Due to the breakdown in matching fund challenges, our haircut stunt yielded \$7,500 for the Children's Leukemia Foundation and the balance will go to Give a Lamb a Drink. I personally want to thank everyone that donated.

I would like to thank all of the Directors for their hard work on this event. I would like to thank my Co-Chair Ken Crother for his hard work on yet another



Don Martin will emcee the 2021 Banquet Fundraiser

fundraiser. In addition, I would like to thank John Ware and Beverly Valdez for their hard work during a very trying time. I would like to specifically thank Ben Gordon, Bob Keagy, and Glen Pyne on their live auction efforts. I would like to thank Jim Fitzgerald for his work on the gear and equipment and getting that shipped out quick to our winning bidders. I'd like to thank Bob Keagy, Renee Snider, and Mike Borel on the GALAD efforts. I would like to thank Zack Walton on his efforts with "Help Hollywood Get a Haircut". And I would like to thank Shawn Wood and Paul Schultheis on their efforts regarding raffle ticket sales. This annual event is real team effort and I want to recognize the entire Board for their hard work and dedication to making this event a success.

It's never too early to start planning, our next event will be live and in person, God willing. We're all due for a good party! Please plan to attend, at the Doubletree by Hilton in Sacramento. Watch your email and future newsletters for additional updates. This year's grand prize random drawing will be for a Stone Sheep Hunt with Golden Bear Outfitting and once again our Life Member random drawing will be for a Dall sheep hunt with Ultima Thule Outfitters. Please plan to attend, we all have a lot of catching up to do. I look forward to seeing you all!

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# PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Hunter Andrew Landis  
Bristol Mountain zone  
San Gorgonio Wilderness Outfitters"



Hunter Eric Ferguson  
Old Dads zone  
San Gorgonio Wilderness Outfitters



Hunter Nick Terlip with his sons Ryan and Brett .  
Newberry/Rodman/Ord zone.  
San Gorgonio Wilderness Outfitters



Greg Gomes  
Newberry/Rodman/Ords zone  
Dry Creek Outfitters

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# PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Hunter Bob  
San Geronio Wilderness Outfitters



Hunter Sergio Resendiz  
Orocopia Mountains  
Dry Creek Outfitters



Hunter Brenton Scott (far right)  
Texas DBH



Hunter John Zenz  
Superstition Mountains  
Arizona Desert Outfitters

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# CALIFORNIA WILD SHEEP SUMMIT XXIX – APRIL 30, 20201

## “VIRTUAL”

*By Mike J. Borel*

CA WSF once again hosted Sheep Summit XXIX as a “virtual” event. The purpose of these summits is “to accomplish more collectively for the Desert Bighorn in CA through sharing and collaboration, than the sum of what each organization can accomplish individually. Following is a summary of Session XXIX.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: CDFW, USFS, USBLM, USNPS (incl. MNP and JT), CAWSE, SCBS, CDA, Twentynine Palms Marine Base, Fort Irwin, Oregon State University, WSF, CA mining interests and key independents (including Vern Bleich, John Wehausen, Steve Torres, Danielle Glass). 51 persons in all. CAWSE was represented by Mike Borel, Don Priest and Beverly Valdez.

Information reviewed:

1. DFW Update - the Big Picture by Stafford Lehr & Scott Gardner
2. BLM - the Big Picture, and Water Management by Sarah Bullock
3. Status of the Sheep Plan by Regina Vu
4. Are there knowledge gaps that still need to be filled? What management actions are being taken? How is knowledge being applied? by Regina Vu
5. Sierra Sheep Recovery Status by Tom Stephenson
6. Desert Bighorn Sheep Update from the Region 6 - Surveys and Field Work including GPS collar information, movements by Jeff Villepique
7. Updates on bighorn movement along I-15 and I-40 and sign surveys in non-resident ranges by Christina Aiello
8. Progress report: Investigating Eco-evolutionary dynamics of infectious diseases in desert bighorn sheep population networks by Leigh Combrink
9. San Gorgonio Herd - what do we know, etc. by Thomas Batter & Erin Schaeffer
10. Linking Environmental Variation, Animal Movement, & Resource Utilization: The Importance of Surface Water to Desert Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) by Danielle Glass
11. SCBS Update by Deb Miller-Marschke
12. GALAD (Give a Lamb a Drink) State Lands status, progress by Deb Miller-Marschke (leases) & Mike Borel (funding)
13. Report on Recent Activities in WAFWA, Wild Sheep & Goat Council, Desert Bighorn Council, Boone & Crockett Club, WHBAB, Rocky Crate Chair at WSU, etc. that are of value and interest for CA wild sheep by Vern Bleich

Our previously committed COLLECTIVE VISION FOR WILD SHEEP IN CALIFORNIA:

- Ensure the persistence and restoration of healthy and sustainable metapopulations of bighorn sheep throughout their historical distribution in California.
- Develop and use science as the basis for conservation and management.
- Provide for recreational uses of bighorn sheep wherever appropriate.

Summit XXX is scheduled for December 10, 2021 and is planned for “in-person” in Ontario, CA.

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# GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS UPDATE

*by Don Priest*

## **California Department of Fish and Wildlife Bighorn Sheep Conservation and Management Plan**

There have been developments on the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Bighorn Sheep Conservation and Management Plan (Plan) since we last discussed the Plan with you in our last quarterly newsletter. CDFW had taken the Plan out for a peer review late last year, which included to other state Departments of Fish and Wildlife that also have herds of Desert Bighorn Sheep along with other longtime biologists and experts on wild sheep. After receiving comments back from these peers CDFW has decided to delay for a few months the release of the Plan for public review.

The purpose of the delay was to expand the Plan to include not just the general Plan that covers all Desert Bighorns in our California deserts, but more specific information at the Unit level as was recommended by their peers. CDFW is now defining a Unit to include several mountain ranges and their Bighorn Sheep herds that have connectivity without the interference of natural or human created obstructions, such as a highway. For example, the ranges north of Interstate Hwy 15 to the Nevada border and east of the Sierra Nevada range would account for one Unit. CDFW has recognized seven such Units within the state.

The Plan that will be coming out later this summer will thus include the general Plan along with two Unit Plans, with the following Unit plans being released in the near future. CA WSF will be monitoring the Plan's release to the public, at which time we shall conduct our own review.

If you would like to appraise the Plan yourself please monitor the following CDFW Bighorn Sheep Program web page for its release:

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/Bighorn-Sheep>

### **The 2021 Desert Bighorn Council Meeting**

The 57th Meeting of the Desert Bighorn Council (Meeting) was held in early April 2021 as a virtual gathering. The Meeting included biologists and representatives from each of the United States and Mexican States that have desert Bighorn; along with others including retired and/or unaffiliated biologists, NGO group representatives, and additional interested persons.

Yours truly was happy to attend this very informative meeting on behalf of CA WSF. Always exciting to see



what California and other States have to share with one another regards research, conservation, sheep recovery and expansion plans of sheep herds, amongst other topics. As the Meeting was held in Texas a topic that was covered many times by a number of biologists was the rising potential conflict between our native Desert Bighorn Sheep and introduced exotic species, most specifically the Barbary Sheep. Given that Barbary Sheep ewes may have more than one lamb per year, and are very hardy animals having adapted incredibly well to the western mountains of Texas, the Barbary Sheep numbers have risen substantially over the past ten plus years. This clash between the two species includes the potential for disease transmission, habitat competition and the reduction in Desert Sheep recovery and expansion plans given the presence of Barbary Sheep on candidate mountain ranges.

With the Meeting held bi-annually, the next meeting will be in Spring of 2023. The State of Texas hosted this year's event. Given that it was held 'virtually', it was decided that Texas will again host the next 'in-person' Meeting, gathering in west Texas's Bighorn Sheep country.

To learn more about the Desert Bighorn Council please visit their website at:

<https://www.desertbighornCouncil.com/>

### **California Department of Fish & Wildlife Big Game Management Account**

The Big Game Management Account was established by an act of the California Legislature in 2010. The legislation secured the funds raised from the sale of big-game tags and licenses be directed toward the conservation and management of California's big-

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game wildlife by CDFW, including Bighorn Sheep, Elk, Deer, Pronghorn, etc. through species programs and specific projects.

The legislation also created a Big Game Management Advisory Committee (BGMAC) made up of interested non-profit organizations. The purpose of the BGMAC is to advise on the CDFW Big-Game budget and review of project proposals presented to CDFW potentially being funded through the BGMA via grants. CA WSF has been a member of the BGMAC since its founding.

The past few years have unfortunately experienced a lapse in the CDFW's involvement of the BGMAC in its decision making process. In 2020, a full internal audit was conducted by CDFW showing this pause in the required role the BGMAC in the BGMA funds management by NGOs, with the audit results made available to CA WSF in early 2021.

CA WSF has been working diligently with other NGOs and Gaines & Associates to bring a fuller, more accessible and transparent accounting of the BGMA by CDFW to these NGOs and the public in general.

We would like to thank Scott Gardner and Brad Burkholder at CDFW for all their work in the past six months to bring this process forward. And with the addition of a full-time financial manager onto CDFW's staff in the near future we look forward to this opening up and more transparent BGMA decision and budgeting process. CA WSF will continue to be a vital and permanent participant of the BGMAC, pressing for our interests in CDFW's continuing Desert and Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep conservation work funded through the BGMA.

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## THE PHILOSOPHY OF BEER



"Sometimes, when I reflect on all the beer I drink, I feel ashamed.

Then I look into the glass and think about the workers in the brewery and all of their hopes and dreams. If I did not drink this beer, they might be out of work and their dreams would be shattered. I think, it is better to drink this beer and let their dreams come true, than be selfish and worry about my liver.

**Babe Ruth**

"Without question, the greatest invention in the history of mankind is beer.

Oh, I grant you that the wheel was also a fine invention,

But the wheel does not go nearly as well with pizza".

**Dave Barry**

"When we drink, we get drunk. When we get drunk, we fall asleep.

When we fall asleep, we commit no sin When we commit no sin, we go to heaven.

So, let's all get drunk and go to heaven".

**George Bernard Shaw**

One night at Cheers, a TV Sitcom, Cliff Clavin said to his buddy, Norm Peterson:

"Well, ya see, Norm, it's like this ... A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. And when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first.

This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members.

In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells.

Excessive intake of alcohol, as we know, kills brain cells.

But, naturally, it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first.

In this way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine.

That's why you always feel smarter after a few beers".

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# FAVORITE GEAR – MY PACK

*By Mike J. Borel*

I've had many packs over the years, but my current one has been with me for 15 years! My criteria for need has shifted and currently includes the following requirements:

1. 3200 cu in (+/-) – big enough to have what you need, but NOT BIG ENOUGH to tempt your guide to load you up with extra
2. Separate, outside, area for my tripod and spotter
3. Water – Bladder AND Bottles
4. Gun Carrier – I like the Kifaru unit, which I've added to this pack. It's quick access, yet hands free (only downside is it slants forward and if you are climbing it's challenging to keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction – no issue if you are in the LEAD! See pictures for how this carries a rifle. It has a quick release at the top.
5. Handy zippered pocket at the top for headlamp, PhoneSkope, iPhone holder for tripod, license, glasses, rain cover for pack, monofilament for holding the mouth shut for pictures, etc.
6. Sized to work as your carry-on for travel (mine is 2" too long to go straight into an overhead bin, but it fits sideways well, and has never been denied by Flight Attendants)
7. Big enough to help with boned meat and/or cape & skull pack out

My pack evolution and the ages I used them (I had a couple that didn't make it past 1 hunt, and are not shown below):

- A. Freighter Frame with Moose Bag (25-35)
- B. Barneys Freighter Frame with Moose Bag (35-42)
- C. Kifaru (42-45)
- D. Kuiu (45-55)
- E. Sitka Flash 32 Pack (55-69+)

There are a LOT of great packs out there, my pick serves my needs better than any other I've tried or seen. I hope my sharing above gives you some ideas.

I'd welcome an article on another favorite pack for a future issue!



These 2 pictures show the Kifaru gun carrier. On the left, it is on a Kifaru pack, on the middle it is on my favorite Sitka Flash 32, showing you how the gun is positioned.

Padded pocket for spotter and tripod along with a handy top pocket

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# Last Campfire



William R. Pritchard  
1924 - 2020

Dr. William Roy Pritchard (Bill) was a farmer, a father, a husband, a nature lover, an outdoorsman, a scientist, a military veteran, a professor and a dean. But mostly he was an achiever, leaving behind a distinguished legacy and an enormous body of work in the areas he chose to pursue. His profession, veterinary medicine, became his lifelong devotion and the pursuit of scientific innovation and the development of a world class teaching and research program in that field was his driving force.

Born in Portage, Wisconsin to William Roy Pritchard and Lillian Edith Roberts Pritchard, Bill and his three siblings grew up on a farm in southern Wisconsin where he was deeply involved in tending to his family's crops and animals. This resulted in his lifelong love for the natural world and agriculture. Bill attended a one-room school house until the 8th grade and often remarked that this resulted in a love of learning as he was able to learn at his own pace. He attended high school in Randolph, WI and served in the U.S. Army and selective service during World War II; discharged with the title of Brigadier General.

Bill received his DVM from Kansas State University in 1946, doctorate from the University of Minnesota in 1953, and doctor of jurisprudence (first in his class) from the University of Indiana in 1957. His experience in tropical veterinary medicine, international agriculture development and law led him to serve as an international consultant on several U.S. agriculture research and development programs and for the Rockefeller Foundation. He was a member of President Lyndon Johnson's Science Advisory Committee Panel on the World Food Supply, chairman of the Scientific and Cultural Exchange Mission to the U.S.S.R. in 1967, and served on President Richard Nixon's Science Advisory Committee Panel on Biological and Medical Science. Bill worked extensively in developing countries, especially Latin America and Africa advising governments on agriculture, livestock and wildlife and the education and research programs needed to support these sectors of the economy. He personally advised three presidents from Kenya, Tanzania and The Gambia. He also served

two terms as president of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges. His last public effort was as co-director of the Pew National Veterinary Education Program.

He began as dean of the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine in 1962 by preparing for major expansions in facilities and the professional curriculum to meet the evolving needs of society. He and other faculty leaders completed a comprehensive self-study document that gave rise to major curricular and policy changes in the 1970s. Bill testified before the U.S. House of Representatives in 1966 regarding the future of veterinary education. As a result, his vision and leadership are largely credited with helping to gain federal funding for veterinary schools and teaching hospitals in the U.S., and with making UC Davis a model for U.S. and Canadian veterinary schools.

Recognized by his peers, Bill received the K-State Centennial Award for Distinguished Service in 1963, an Outstanding Achievement Award from the University of Minnesota in 1976, and was elected to membership in the National Academy of Practice in Veterinary Medicine in 1986. He was named a Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine Alumni Fellow in 1987. In 1991, he was awarded the UC Davis Academic Senate Distinguished Scholarly Public Service Award.

Bill's founding work with the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine led to national prominence and set the school on an exciting path, an impact which is still felt today and will persist well into the future. With the renaming of the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital in his honor in 2007, recognizing his career achievements in veterinary education and service, his name became synonymous with the world-class veterinary program that he helped create.

In addition to his demanding career, Bill also found time for numerous personal interests including farming and outdoor pastimes. Bill was a Founding Member of California Foundation for North American Wild Sheep which is now known as CA Wild Sheep Foundation.

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# WATER DEVELOPMENT WORK IN THE DESERT

*by Scott Gibson, SCBS*

## May 15 and 16 -- Kelso, Kerr, and Small Game Water Haul

Working with the National Park Service (NPS), SCBS was able to refill two tanks that were dangerously low as we head into summer.

Neil Darby (NPS) put everything together for this project. The water truck and portable restrooms with the hand wash station were great to have on site!

**Kelso Peak** had 10" of water when we arrived. We added approximately 2000-gallons and raised the water level to 40" or approximately 2/3 full. Since this guzzler serves mostly a small group of rams, the water should be sufficient for the rest of the season.

**Kerr** had 41" of water when we arrived and was full when we finished. We added approximately 2300-gallons of water. Due to the anticipated heavy use predicted for Kerr, we can look at hauling water again in late summer or early fall.

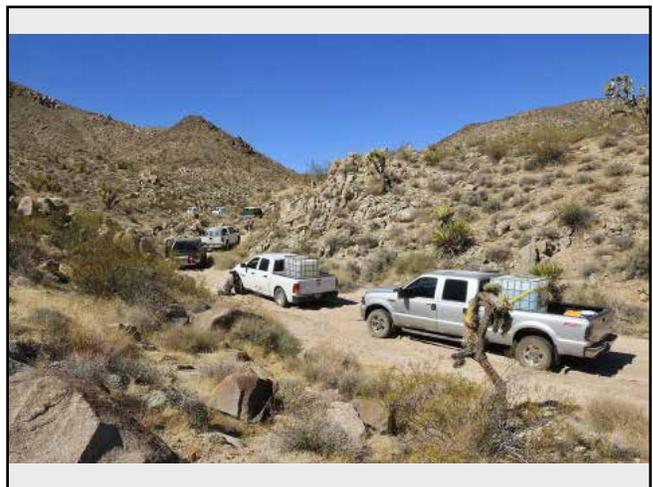
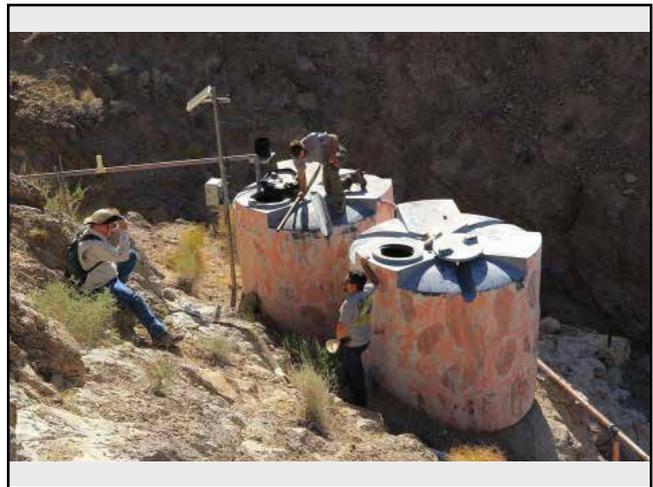
We added approximately 500-gallons to the small game guzzler so it is now full.

### SCBS Participants:

1. Jesse Lopez: 275-gallon cube
2. Jessica Lopez
3. Tim Hayes: 275-gallon & 500-gallon NPS trailer
4. John Voght:
5. David Dickenson: 275-gallon cube
6. Wendy Elias (NPS Volunteer)
7. Jake Devine:
8. Jill Devine:
9. Lee Taber: 275-gallon cube
10. John Fulton:
11. Scott Gibson: 275-gallon & 500-gallon trailer
13. Richard Alamillo: 275-gallon cube
13. Daniel Soltero:

### National Park Service Volunteers

1. Neal Darby: 275- cube
2. Mike Burchett: 275- cube
3. Misumi Ogawa: 275- cube
4. Aern Calton: 275- cube



Photos courtesy of David Dickenson

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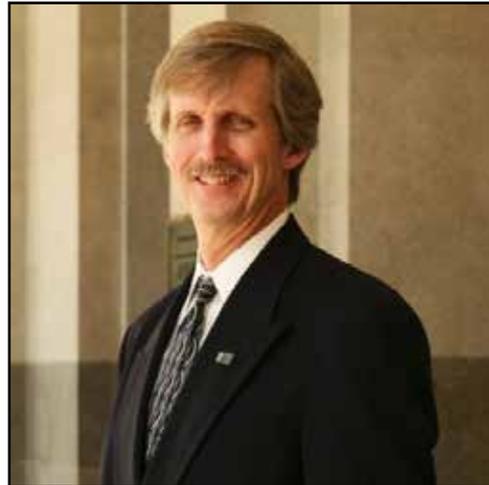
# 2021 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION IN FULL SWING

## CA WSF — WORKING THE HALLS

### TO KEEP YOU IN THE FIELD

*by Bill Gaines  
Gaines and Associates*

As we approach the end of May – with legislative deadlines quickly passing, and the FY 2021-22 State Budget debate in full swing – the California State Legislature has never been busier. With several bills having been introduced which could impact the management of wild sheep and those who hunt them, the California Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation (CA WSF) has been working hard in the halls of our Capitol to keep sheep on the mountain and you in the field. Below is a summary and status of just some of the many bills CA WSF has been actively working the past several months on behalf of our members.



#### **AB 645 (GALLAGHER) – FISH AND WILDLIFE: POACHING VIOLATIONS – PROBATION – TWO-YEAR BILL**

In an effort to curb poaching, over the course of the last several years, CA WSF has worked to help craft and pass two important bills to increase penalties for the most egregious offenses – including legislation which significantly increased fines for possessing more than three times the daily bag limit and for the illegal take of wildlife for profit or personal gain, and legislation which increased penalties for the illegal take of trophy wild sheep and other game animals.

Unfortunately, these positive efforts took a step back last year when the State Legislature passed legislation that reduced maximum probation from three years to one year for all misdemeanor violations whose provisions do not call out a specific probation length. Because current law does not specify maximum probation periods for any poaching crimes, the effect of this legislation was to limit probation for even the most serious misdemeanor poaching violations to one year. Said differently, prior to passage of last year’s legislation, a judge could sentence individuals convicted of serious poaching crimes to probation that would prohibit them from hunting for up to three years. The option of a longer probationary period also helped to ensure that penalty assessments could be collected.

To address this serious concern, CA WSF has been working with Assembly Member James Gallagher (R/3-Yuba City) on AB 645 – legislation which, as amended March 11, 2021, would reinstate a maximum 3-year probation for the following serious violations of the Fish and Game Code:

- §12012 – The illegal take of wildlife for profit or personal gain
- §12013 – The illegal take or possession in the field of more than three times the daily bag limit
  - §12013.3 – The illegal take of trophy deer, elk, antelope, bighorn sheep or wild turkey
  - §12002.3(b) - The illegal sale purchase of abalone

AB 645 failed to pass out of Assembly Appropriations Committee earlier this month. AB 645 is now a “two-year” bill at best and cannot be heard until January 2022.

#### **AB 804 (DAHLE) – FREE HUNTING DAYS – SENATE POLICY COMMITTEE**

Over the past few decades California has suffered a steady decline in hunting license sales and an associated reduction in critically needed funding for wildlife conservation. This decline in license sales has not only cut deep into the size and breadth of our hunting community, but also the annual revenue generated via the sales of licenses, stamps, tags, and associated federal Pittman-Robertson dollars made available to DFW to carry out its wildlife research, management, enforcement, and outdoor recreation mandates.

To help address this serious concern, Assemblywoman Megan Dahle (R/1-Redding) has graciously agreed to author AB 804 – legislation which would take a big step towards addressing this problem by requiring the Department of Fish and Wildlife to designate two days each year as “free hunting days”, one in the spring and one in the fall. The bill stipulates that to take

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part in a free hunting day, an unlicensed hunter must have completed the Hunter Safety Course and must be accompanied by a licensed hunter, 21 years or older, who has held a valid hunting license for at least the last three consecutive years. To ensure safety in the field, AB 804 would restrict mentors to only accompanying one unlicensed hunter at a time and require the unlicensed hunter to always remain within close visual and verbal contact. The bill would preclude those participating in the free hunting day from taking wild sheep or any other species that would require a draw or a lottery to obtain a tag.

Moving quickly, AB 804 has already passed through of the Assembly and is now in the Senate. AB 804 has been referred to the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee but has yet to be set for hearing.

### **AB 1223 (LEVINE) – FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION: EXCISE TAX – ASSEMBLY FLOOR**

As amended May 20, 2021, AB 1223 by Assembly Member Marc Levine (D/10-San Rafael) would impose an additional excise tax in the amount of 11% on the price of long guns, firearm parts and ammunition and 10% on the price of handguns. Amendments just placed in AB 1223 have deleted the requirement that revenues collected via this additional excise tax be utilized for programs which remediate the negative effects the illegal firearm use, and instead directs the revenues to be deposited in the General Fund – at a time when California already has a budget surplus of \$75 billion. As such, AB 1223 appears to be nothing more than another attempt to price law-abiding hunters and shooters out of the firearms and ammunition market.

AB 1223 would double the excise tax currently assessed on the sales of firearms and ammunition. Law-abiding hunters and shooters already pay an 11% excise tax on long guns, ammunition, archery, and other hunting equipment and a 10% excise tax on handguns pursuant to federal Pittman-Robertson Act. But those dollars are appropriately allocated back to the states to fund positive programs – including wildlife habitat projects, hunter safety classes and shooting/target ranges. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife typically receives \$20+ million in federal Pittman-Robertson Act funding for these purposes annually. Because AB 1223 would significantly raise the cost of firearms and ammunition, it would also notably decrease their sales and the federal funding allocated to California's each year for wildlife habitat programs and projects and other important uses.

Because AB 1223 would result in a taxpayer paying a higher tax, the bill requires approval of 2/3rds of the membership of each house of the Legislature.

AB 1223 is currently on the Assembly Floor where it must be voted on and passed off to the Senate by Friday, June 4th to meet legislative deadline.

### **SB 370 (DODD) – BIG GAME MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT: USES – TWO-YEAR BILL**

As amended April 28, 2021, SB 370 by Senator Bill Dodd (D/3-Napa) would authorize DFW to make grants to, reimburse, or enter into contracts or other agreements

with public and private entities –including nonprofit organizations – and federally recognized Indian tribes for the use of the funds from the Big Game Management Account (BGMA) to carry out their big game program. SB 370 is sponsored by the California Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation in partnership with the California Deer Association with the assistance of Gaines & Associates.

The BGMA was established in Fish and Game Code §3953 via the passage of SB 1058 (Harman) – legislation sponsored by CA WSF in 2010. The intent of our legislation was to ensure that revenues generated via the sale of wild sheep, antelope, elk, deer, wild pig, and bear tags were separately accounted for in the BGMA and specifically dedicated to land acquisition, projects and programs which benefit those big game species, and expand public hunting opportunity and related public outreach.

Knowing that DFW already had the authority to partner with other types of entities to advance their big game program, we inserted §3953(d) into the language to ensure that DFW could also partner with non-profit organizations. There was never any intent to preclude DFW from using BGMA funds for contracting with for-profits, research institutions or other entities whose partnership effort could benefit the big game species.

For the past 10 years, DFW has, in fact, used BGMA funds to enter into agreements with for-profits, non-profits and all types of entities to help implement big game programs and projects. However, a 2020 audit of the BGMA by the DFW Audit Branch determined that §3953(d) only allows DFW to enter into contracts or agreements with non-profits.

The ability of DFW to also enter into agreements with public and private entities and federally recognized Indian tribes to implement necessary programs and projects is essential to the successful management and health of California's big game species. As just a few examples, important big game related efforts performed by for-profits that are now precluded by the audit's determination include helicopter surveys and captures of wild sheep and other big game; research and analyses performed by universities which are not non-profits; and laboratory tooth analyses necessary to determine the age structures and health of big game populations.

By restoring the ability of DFW to also enter into agreements with public and private entities and federally recognized Indian tribes, SB 370 will insure DFW has all the tools necessary to implement all the programs and projects that are essential to the successful management of wild sheep and other their big game.

SB 370 quickly passed through Senate policy and fiscal committee and to the Senate Floor by mid-May. Although enjoying overwhelming support and moving swiftly – the author has decided to hold the bill until the 2022 Session due to a new rule which limits Legislators to moving only 12 bills this year. SB 370 is now a two-year bill.

### **FY 2021-2022 CALIFORNIA STATE BUDGET**

Since Governor Newsom released his initial FY 2021-2022 State Budget proposal in early January, CA WSF has been actively working closely with a sweeping coalition

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of conservation, environmental and other interested organizations to secure additional funding to fill the chronic funding deficiencies across all of DFW's important program areas. Advocating for additional funding for DFW programs we care about is something we have done each spring for years. But, after years of advocating for additional funding without any detailed quantitative data on what and where actual shortfalls in DFW budget were, this year's effort is finally a bit different.

Three years ago, the FY 2018 19 budget package included an appropriation for DFW to conduct an unprecedented comprehensive review of the activities necessary to accomplish their mission and the associated budget, tasks, and labor needs. Coined "Service Based Budgeting" (SBB), DFW was directed to work with stakeholders to conduct and conclude this review with a report to the Legislature by January 2021. For the past three years, CA WSF was pleased to join other interested stakeholders in partnering with DFW on this effort, which was intended to provide more clarity regarding the following:

Not surprisingly, the Final SBB Report provided to the Legislature this past January revealed serious "service gaps" between the current actual level of service and the level of service required to fully meet their required mission. In fact, only two DFW service categories – Administrative Support and Education & Outreach – are currently meeting more than 50% of their "mission level" of service. Even more troubling, the two categories of perhaps greatest concern to conservation interests – Species & Habitat Conservation and Public Use & Enjoyment – are currently

meeting only 26% and 33% of their mission level of service, respectively.

Shortly after the release of the Governor's initial FY 2021-22 state budget proposal in January – with the SBB report in hand – CA WSF and our partners in conservation began working the Governor's Office and Senate and Assembly Budget Subcommittees via testimony and written correspondence to fill the long-standing DFW budget deficiencies highlighted by the SBB report and to fund an authorized, yet unfunded, DFW program to collect wildlife-vehicle collision data in order to more effectively place future wildlife roadway crossings and restore habitat connectivity.

Our diligent efforts were partially rewarded in mid-May when – with the backing of an unexpected \$75 billion dollar state budget surplus – the Governor's "May Revise" embraced many of the additional DFW budget items we requested. Although his "May Revise" did notably augment the DFW budget he recommended in his January 2021 proposal, it failed to propose funding for the wildlife-vehicle collision data collection program. With Senate and Assembly Budget Subcommittees still debating the budget, and the June 15th deadline for the Legislature passing the budget looming just a few weeks away, CA WSF and our conservation partnership is continuing to make a strong push for funding to implement this much needed program and the benefits it would provide to the health of wild sheep and other wildlife.

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## 56TH MEETING OF THE DESERT BIGHORN COUNCIL

*by Brenton Scott*

The California Wild Sheep Foundation has been involved with the Desert Bighorn Council (DBC) basically since our group's inception as CA FNAWS in 2001. I was able to "attend" the meeting this year representing our organization and specifically our Project Committees, thus I'm providing this quick report.

For those of you that are not aware, the DBC was unofficially organized in 1957, and officially organized with adoption of a constitution in 1959. The DBC was established to promote the advancement of knowledge concerning the Desert Bighorn Sheep and the long-range welfare of these animals. The meetings provide a forum where leading desert bighorn managers and researchers share research results, management strategies, and emerging issues in the realms of bighorn management throughout North America. More in-depth background may be found on their website at [desertbighornCouncil.com](http://desertbighornCouncil.com).



DBC meetings are currently held in odd years while even years are the domain of the Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council gatherings.

The 56th meeting of the DBC was held on April 7th and 8th of this year. Unfortunately, as with so many other events occurring since COVID arrived on the world stage, the event had to be held virtually for the first time ever. The event was very effectively hosted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) from their office in Alpine, Texas and sponsored by both the Wild Sheep Foundation and the Texas Bighorn Society.

The theme for this meeting was: "Past, Present and Future Threats: disease, exotic ungulates, and a change in mindset" and

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was sanctioned by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) and specifically their Wild Sheep Working Group. Those people presenting papers for this meeting were required to record them in advance and be submitted for broadcast during the allotted time. A terrific side benefit of having the event done virtually, and recorded, is that the proceedings have been made available to view online via the DBC website. Links are available on their home page and "Meetings" page for both the Final Program - 56th Meeting of the Desert Bighorn Council (which also includes abstracts of presented papers) and Presentation Video Links - containing further linkage to everything from Carter Smith's (TPWD Executive Director) Keynote Speech to all presented papers and finally the State Status Reports.

The host team kept to strict presentation time limits and things moved along without undue delays (except

for the occasional technical "Zoom" centric technical difficulties that we've probably all become accustomed to over the past year-plus), a first in my experience with these meetings.

The Texas host team was so disappointed about not being able to have the gathering in person this year that they asked for a do-over in 2023. This idea was enthusiastically accepted by the DBC membership, so the location of the 57th meeting of the DBC will again be Alpine, Texas. I will look forward to seeing (in person!) a lot of the nearly 150 people that virtually attended the meeting this year, along with the TPWD personnel that volunteered for this 56th meeting and that I had the opportunity to meet in person at the end of April (more on that story in the next newsletter).

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## THE SHED HUNTING PURSUIT: SHED HUNTING TIPS & TRICKS

*Reprinted from Kuiu.com*

Lance Roberts, with Tines Up, was born and raised in Southern Utah, where he was surrounded by some of the best hunting and shed hunting in the state! His shed hunting passion began as a young boy and he hopes to pass this same hobby on to his kids. He has guided for the past 18 years, with mule deer being his favorite.

It's addicting... and something you will look forward to almost as much as the regular hunts each year! People often ask, "Why do you shed hunt?", and our response is almost always the same... "It's fun to do, it's rewarding, it gets us outdoors, and it's something everyone can do, without having to draw a tag!"

### WHY SHOULD I SHED HUNT?

Just like hunting, people shed hunt for different reasons:

#### 1. To stay busy and stay in shape over the winter

It's a great excuse to beat the wintertime blues, by getting outside scouting for deer or elk in hopes that you may get lucky enough to pick up their head gear. People simply love the shed hunt itself and the bonus of finding that "Brown Gold" (the shed antlers) is icing on the cake! Lastly, it's an enjoyable way of exercising to help you get back into shape for the fall months that lie ahead.

#### 2. Scouting

Shed hunting can be a fantastic scouting tool, allowing you to acquire more knowledge about the animals that you may be hunting the following season. It helps piece together the traveling pattern of where that animal may spend its time, and if you're



lucky enough to watch it during the summer and fall months, knowing where they winter helps you put the whole thing together.

#### 3. Make some extra bucks

Shed antlers are worth money! A lot of people sell their antlers each year to antler buyers that make their rounds across the country. While this would probably be hard to make a living off of, it can help offset the cost of gas and supplies used to locate and watch them through the winter months.

### HOW TO HUNT SHED ANTLERS

To be more successful at finding more sheds, you really must be determined and willing to put in more time than the next shed hunter during those crucial late winter and early spring months (January-March). It goes without saying that if you're willing to put in more time, your success with finding shed antlers will go up immensely. It's no secret that quality time

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equates to success.

Just because you're out there putting in more time than the next guy, doesn't mean you'll be guaranteed to find more. Shed hunting can be difficult and there are days when you go out ready to conquer the world and end up coming home empty handed. On the flip side, you will also have days when you luck into that big one or get lucky and match up a big set from one of the mature bucks/bulls you've been watching.

#### WHERE TO SHED HUNT

So, where do I start?

The best place to start is anywhere that has a good, healthy population of big game that you are looking to find the sheds from. For deer antlers, that is going to be a different area than it would be for elk, most of the time. A couple of standards that usually don't change for both are:

1. Find feeding areas

The animals must be where they have fed, and this is usually more on the south-facing slopes where the sun has been able to melt off all or most of the snow, leaving more food sources available to the animals.

2. Deer and elk are easier to pattern in the winter

Deer and elk don't usually move a long way in the winter because at that point, their bodies are worn down from the rut and the long winter months they have just had to endure. This makes patterning and watching them a little easier if they don't get pushed by someone or something else.

3. Look for bedding areas

Bedding areas can also be a great place to look. As stated earlier, the animals will get into a pretty good pattern from bedding areas to where they feed, and vice versa, so when it comes time to actually search for shed antlers, be sure to look in both places as they could very easily be in either one.

If you really want to learn an area that you are going to hunt in the future, then put in some time watching the animals in the winter and as you shed hunt. This will allow you to become more familiar with the area and could also help you narrow down an animal's specific travel pattern.

#### WHEN TO SHED HUNT

Deer usually start shedding their antlers in January and February, while elk are usually later, from March through April. By the first part of May, most of the deer and elk will have shed their antlers and started into their new head gear.

Each state has their own set of guidelines and rules that you must follow for shed hunting—some states have specific dates of when you can start to look for and gather the sheds, while others are more open and less restrictive. Be sure to check the state's guidelines before you head out on your next shed hunting adventure because you don't want to end up getting a ticket or fine.

Gone are the days of being able to shed hunt wherever and whenever you want to. Because the animals are at their low points for body strength and stamina, it is crucial that we don't put more stress on them during these months; shed hunt with the wildlife in mind. Give animals time to recover from the tough winter and even then, if you do come across them, leave the area or be cautious to not bump them out.

#### WORK SMARTER, NOT HARDER!

This saying goes for shed hunting in many instances. Find a good vantage point and use your glass (binoculars) to scan the area and save yourself some footsteps by scouring the area before you go hike through it. You will be surprised how much more successful you can be by putting your optics to work, rather than your legs/feet. Covering a lot of ground is always a great thing and will help you be successful, but why not put that together with glassing, and find even more.

Make a plan to get out more—you won't regret it and you may even get lucky and stumble onto something great in the process. Shed hunting can be a fun family outing or something you do alone, but it will help you get into shape, learn more about the area/animals, and it gets addicting. Good luck in your upcoming shed hunting season.

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"We had worked much harder getting that ram and packing him off the mountain than at any time we were prospecting, but we enjoyed every minute of it. Fellows who like to hunt are that way."

— **"My First Mountain Sheep, Jack O'Connor**



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## CALIFORNIA CHAPTER WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION

**DON'T MISS**  
**the**  
**20TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER**  
**APRIL 30, 2022**  
**LIVE IN-PERSON EVENT**