



# California Wild Sheep

Summer 2022

## IN THIS ISSUE

From the Editor .....3

CA WSF Board Elections.....3

President’s Message .....5

This is not the ram I wanted —  
but I’ll take it! .....6

CA Wild Sheep Summit XXXI .....8

“Heavy Metal” Ram 2021 .....9

Annual Fundraiser Review  
Photos, Awards, and more ..... 11

Director Biographies ..... 18

Election Ballot ..... 23

Kaylee’s First big game animal . 17

GALAD Update ..... 24

Favorite Gear ..... 24

CA WSF — 2021 in Review ..... 25

Just the Beginning ..... 26

CA Fish and Wildlife Update ..... 28

Governmental Affairs Update .. 29

Water development in  
the Mojave Desert..... 32

Water 4 Wild Wool “W4WW” ..... 34

Bighorn Sheep Hunting In CA:  
The First 35 Years ..... 36

First Lamb at Razor Ranch Tank:  
(GALAD) Success!..... 38

2022 Legislative Session ..... 40

Plus  
Photos from the Field,  
Recipes, Humor, and More



**COLLIN ALEXANDER**  
**Orocopia Mountains**  
**Kika Worldwide**  
**“Heavy Metal”**  
**January 2022**



# ULTIMA THULE LODGE

CONTACT: DONALD C. MARTIN 310-766-3921



# From the Editor's Desk

I hope you enjoy this issue. And I hope you have a coveted sheep tag, or other premium tag, in your pocket from a state drawing already (I don't, but remain hopeful). This issue includes your ballot for the Director election (please, please take a moment to vote!), lots of pictures from our recent 20th anniversary fundraiser, 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 & 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 3Q22 issue is August 20. Stay healthy, safe and looking forward to hunting season!



## Clear Fork Baked Doves

from Texas Trophy Hunters Association

### Ingredients

- 12 whole doves, cleaned and split
- 1 Tbs black pepper
- 8 oz mushrooms, finely chopped
- 1 c finely chopped sweet onion
- 3 c flour
- 3 c milk
- 2 c chicken broth
- 2 c vegetable oil

### Directions

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Add salt and pepper to flour in a dredging pan or plastic bag. Pour milk into a deep bowl large enough to hold six doves. Place doves in milk for 5 to 8 minutes while you're getting a skillet ready with oil.
- Remove doves from milk and dredge in flour. Fry in medium heat for 2-3 minutes per side, turning dove once. Drain on paper towels.
- While the first batch of doves is frying, soak the remaining doves in milk. When all doves are cooked, pour chicken broth into a 9x13 baking dish, add mushrooms and onions. Place birds, split side down, in the baking dish. Cover tightly with foil and bake 30 minutes. Uncover and bake an additional 15 minutes.
- If gravy is too thick, add a small amount of water. Serve in baking dish.
- Serves six with hot biscuits and French cut green beans, tart jelly (plum or peach).
- Note: recipe can be doubled for 9 to 12 servings by using two 9x13 baking dishes. Double all ingredients except vegetable oil and milk.



"I hate that guy."

The federal government, which has "Tomahawk" cruise missiles and "Apache," "Blackhawk," "Kiowa" and "Lakota" helicopters - and used the code name "Geronimo" in the attack that killed Osama bin Laden, officially objects to the name of the Washington Redskins.

# Board of Directors

## Officers

### *President*

Donald C Martin (2023)

### *Northern California Vice President*

Ken Crother (2023)

### *Southern California Vice President*

Glen Pyne (2023)

### *Vice President, Operations*

Mike J. Borel (2022)

### *Secretary*

Matt Burke (2023)

### *Treasurer*

Adam Casagrande (2023)

## Board of Directors

Jim Fitzgerald (2022)	Paul Schultheis (2022)
Ben Gordon (2022)	Mike Torres (2023)
Robert Keagy (2023)	Zack Walton (2022)
Maggi Kouffeld (2023)	Darryl Williams (2022)
Don Priest (2022)	Shawn Wood (2022)

**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.

Content editing by Zack Walton  
Humorous outtakes provided by Tammy Scott  
Published by Beverly Valdez, ORC-KF1 LLC

# Events

## 2022

June 1	Ballots out for Board of Directors election
June 28	Completed election ballots due
August 20	Due date for articles for 3Q2022 CA WSF Newsletter
November 20	Due date for articles for 4Q2022 CA WSF Newsletter
December 2	Sheep Summitt XXXII Ontario, CA

## 2023

January 11-14	WSF Sheep Show, Reno
January 19-21	GSCO Convention, Las Vegas
February 20	Due date for articles for 1Q2023 CA WSF Newsletter
February 22-25	Safari Club Convention, Nashville
April TBD	Desert Bighorn Council Mtg
April 28	Sheep Summit XXXIII Sacramento DoubleTree by Hilton
April 29	CA WSF Annual Fundraiser Sacramento DoubleTree by Hilton
May 20	Due date for articles for 2Q2023 CA WSF Newsletter

---

# President's Letter

By the time you read this the CA application season should have come and perhaps gone. I wish each and every one of our members luck this year in the CA desert bighorn sheep application. I believe there are 27 tags up for grabs through the public draw and hopefully some of you will be fortunate enough to draw one of these coveted tags for the opportunity at the "hunt of a lifetime." All of you contribute the most to CA wild sheep conservation and there are few more deserving. Good luck!

Already, some states are reporting draw results and though I haven't been successful in any of the draws yet, there's still upcoming opportunities! ...And I, like many of you, remain hopeful. I wish you luck in the remaining draws and I hope all of you will have a chance to get out this fall and enjoy our great outdoors.



For some of us, this is an election year here at CA WSF and it's important that as many of you as possible participate in the process. There are many qualified candidates and I hope you take the time to read their bio's and vote during this election cycle (see page 18-23). The direction of this organization is determined by you the members and we represent you and your conservation dollars, so please participate.

We had a very successful fundraising dinner this past April 30 and I want to thank everyone for coming out. It was great to see everyone and have a live event after two years of virtual-only events. I'll explore the details of our event more later in this issue, but I wanted to plant the seed in your mind to start planning for next year's event. It's never too early! We will be having our next live event April 29, 2023 once again at the Doubletree by Hilton's Grand Ballroom in Sacramento, California. If you couldn't make it this year, please make plans to attend next year.

It looks like we're going to have another long hot summer and it will be particularly difficult for our CA desert bighorns. In association with our affiliate, The Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, we are committed to meeting the challenge of providing water for wildlife in the desert. We are working hard to meet this challenge and mitigate the impact of persistent drought to our Southern California wildlife. We are working with our legislative advisors, other NGO's, and State and Federal Agencies to meet the needs of our desert bighorns, our peninsular bighorns, and our recovering Sierra Nevada bighorns. I can assure you, this organization is dedicated to "putting and keeping sheep on the mountain" and though the progress is slow, there is progress.

Hunting is the by-product of a successful conservation effort and this year there are a total of 30 desert sheep permits available to the public through the draw and auctions. We are working hard to increase public opportunity and public participation in this process. It's easy to get cynical about the progress we've made, but our old "Drive to 35" motto is still alive and we are still working to that end to provide 35 sheep permits to the public. There is hope and the means to that end is near. We need to maintain our dedication, vigilance, and our resolve to follow this endeavor through to the end together. Thank you.

*Good hunting! Donald C. Martin*

*A man who is not a Liberal at sixteen has no heart; a man who is not a Conservative at sixty has no head.*

*—Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881)*

---

# THIS IS NOT THE RAM I WANTED — BUT I’LL TAKE IT!

## *Ralph Adams’ Desert Bighorn sheep hunt in California*

Ralph Adams is well known in the sheep hunting community. He has taken over 100 sheep hunts. He has not one, not two, not even five or six but SEVEN Grand Slams of North American Wild Sheep as of 2014. That means at least seven of each of the four species of North American sheep. His trophy room is spectacular including all the sheep and many deer, moose, and other big game.



One of Ralph’s trophy rooms

In fact, Ralph loves sheep hunting so much that in his office he made a wall of license plates of every place he had taken a sheep. It’s a bit of a mystery where those plates came from!

That did not keep Ralph from wanting AT LEAST one more sheep. It was hard to believe but in 2020 Ralph had never gotten a desert bighorn sheep in California. Ralph grew up and lived in California all his life. He always applied and saved up points as soon as they started with the point system. Luck of the draw was just not on his side. That was completely unacceptable. As it would be for any of us!

In 2020 Ralph was where he loved to be — out in the mountains — and he spied the sheep he wanted. It was beautiful with a high turn, deep curl, and heavy body mass.



Another room with only sheep

And it so happened that in 2020 California Wild Sheep Foundation (CA WSF) had a special Governor’s tag for the Cady Mountains unit to auction at the annual fundraiser. Few of these are available each year and it is not always a given that CA WSF would

receive one. As a Life member of CA WSF and someone who had never missed the annual fundraiser dinner, Ralph was very supportive of the organization. This was the perfect situation to make sure he could hunt for that one ideal ram.

Ralph took the “ram by the horns” as it were, and decided to bid on the special tag fundraiser auction. He was determined to be able to get that sheep tag and he did. So the hunt was on.

In 2020 COVID19 became a big stumbling block for many things. It did not prevent hunting but made some things more difficult, such as getting all the materials together for a long hunt.

Ralph hunted for seven days with his long-time friend Neil. They searched throughout the Cadys for seven days, looking for that one special ram that would fulfill Ralph’s quest. Terry Anderson of San Gorgonio Wilderness



Part of the license plate display

Outfitters joined them for several more days trying to track down the elusive ram.

On the last day, Ralph saw a beautiful desert ram — not the one he was looking for but still a beauty with full curl and hefty body. He was hunting with his trusty 300 Weatherby with Swarovski scope. At 256 yards Ralph took the shot and history was made.

Most people might think this beautiful ram was enough but Ralph kept thinking of the ram that didn't show up. In 2021 he once again was able to get a Governor's tag and hunted an additional 21 days for that elusive ram. He wasn't able to get it and health kept him out of the hunt for 2022. But the joyful excitement of the hunt still lights up his smile when talking about it. Maybe in another year!

When Ralph talks sheep, he talks about people. His focus and memories are all around friends made, camps shared, challenges faced and adventure. Discussions around size and record books is generally limited to some trophies being "nicer" than others. His humility is humbling and a reminder that we can't control the outcome of our hunts, but we can control who we are with and how we face adversity.



Ralph with his 2020 desert bighorn

## CA Tribal Lands In DBH Country

Have you ever wondered which tribes and what land is involved? Here is the picture:



---

# CALIFORNIA WILD SHEEP SUMMIT XXXI

## “IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL”

*By Mike J. Borel, VP Operations, Distinguished Life Member*

CA WSF hosted Sheep Summit XXXI as a combined “in person” and “virtual” event on April 29, 2022 in conjunction with the annual CA WSF fundraiser. The purpose of these summits is “to accomplish more collectively for Bighorn sheep in CA, through sharing and collaboration, than the sum of what each organization can accomplish individually.” Following is a summary of Summit XXXI.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS: CDFW, USFS, USBLM, USNPS, CA WSF, SCBS, DWU, Twentynine Palms Marine Base, China Lake Naval Base, Fort Irwin base, Oregon State University, WSF, CA mining interests, Modoc Nation, key independents, and others). 44 persons participated (18 virtual).

Information reviewed:

1. CDFW Statewide Update, including Personnel additions and changes, Budget and budget outlook, BGMA Grant Plans, Helicopter contracts, etc. Chad Dibble and Scott Gardner
2. US BLM - the Big Picture, Update Brian Novosek
3. Navigating the guzzler/drinker planning process for maintenance, replacement and new installations, Update on Programmatic EA, etc. Brian Novosek
4. CDFW Status of the Comprehensive Sheep Plan & Unit Plans Jeff Villepique
5. CDFW Desert Bighorn Sheep Update from Region 6 Jeff Villepique
6. Report on Recent Activities that are of value and interest for CA wild sheep -- e.g. WAFWA, Wild Sheep & Goat Council, Desert Bighorn Council, Boone & Crockett Club, WHBAB, Rocky Crate endowed Chair at WSU, etc. Vern Bleich
7. Update on Brightline and Overpasses for Mitigation with Cal Trans Don Priest
8. Modoc Nation Habitat Restoration Co-management Proposal Ken Sandusky
9. State Lands Leases Progress, SCBS Guzzler (BGG) Repairs and New Drinkers (RWWS) Update Steve Marschke
10. GALAD (Give a Lamb a Drink) progress, funding Mike Borel

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 XXXII is scheduled for December 2, 2022 and will also be a combination “in person” at CDFW Offices in Ontario, CA and “virtual.”*



**THANK YOU**  
to  
**Ultima Thule Outfitters**  
for making many  
dreams come true!

---

## “HEAVY METAL” RAM 2021

Collin Alexander was very excited but he didn't know much when he drew the Orocopias sheep tag in 2021 so, like any of us would have done, he looked around and contacted Jake Franklin, owner/PH at Kika Worldwide, about a guided hunt.

They had lunch, with Jake explaining how difficult a sheep hunt can be both to draw and to actually hunt. And what an incredible opportunity Collin had come into! Collin committed that he would do whatever is in his power to make it successful.

Collin did put in the work — spending months getting physically ready, mentally prepared and scouting the Orocopias himself a half dozen times throughout the summer. Jake and the Kika team were also scouting and had photos and information about the sheep they were seeing.

Jake and Collin kept in touch, looking everything over and decided that they would hunt the oldest ram in the unit rather than the biggest. It was getting that 'old warrior' that made Collin the most excited. The ram they believed to be the oldest they had nicknamed “Heavy Metal” due to all the chips, dents, and evidence of fighting exposed on his body and horns.

Hunting season came with Collin and Jake deciding on a back pack hunt on the second weekend of the season.

The team was Collin, Collin's friend Charley, and the Kika team of Jake, Landon Mendoza, Geoff Rowley, Cody Blair on the hunt.

They spent 5 days hunting throughout the Orocopias with more challenges than you might expect.

The sheep were all spread out with the old ram not moving a lot and keeping himself to the bottom so there was a lot of moving camps and spotting down from the top into the valleys, working down to the valley and back up again.

One day they caught up with Heavy Metal going to water, which was unique for him. It was about a two hour hike to the water and by the time they got there he was gone.

At that point they lost him for a day or two. The hunt got extended. Jake reminded everyone that this sheep was so special, old with unique horns, that no other sheep in the unit really mattered to them. This probably caused a lot more stress but it turned out to be very true!

The team spread out on the mountains looking for him. It was Jake and Collin scouting together when they finally spotted him again. They were at about 400 yards and they were sure it was Heavy Metal. After stalking in to about 200 yards they could see that he was bedded with 3 ewes. It was mid-afternoon, siesta time for the sheep.

Collin got set up and took a shot — MISSED! The ram never moved, maybe his hearing isn't so good any more!



Collin Alexander with “Heavy Metal”

Jake reminded Collin “Take a deep breath” and Collin let go of the excitement and got the adrenaline under control to take another shot.

On the second shot the ram jumped up, went a few yards, and then went down.

The exhausted excitement that followed can only be known by those who have done this! It is a unique feeling and one we all hope to have at least once in a lifetime. That feeling is what makes sheep hunting so addictive!

They were very far in and needed to get help packing out; Jake got on his satellite phone out to the team and was able to get them headed in. Then he started working on the ram, after a good photo of course!

Heavy Metal was 12+ years old. He had one horn so cracked it had drips of blood showing throughout the fall photos that could readily be seen once you were up close.

Collin said this hunt exceeded all his expectations, challenged his shooting ability, pushed him physically due to the high heat and lack of shade, and he had a lot more emotion invested into it than he'd ever expected.

The hunt was done; a crowning achievement for any hunters' long career.

Now, in the words of Paul Harvey, for the rest of the story...

This was Collin's FIRST EVER big game hunt; he had mostly been an upland bird hunter. He applied for the tag ONE time! He and his friends had talked about just starting to put in for tags so that some day when they were “old” they could maybe get a sheep hunt!

What a story! What a sheep hunt! Congrats to Collin, Jake, and the Kika Worldwide team on a great hunt and a great story to share!



# 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	SCOTT GIBSON	ANDY MOECKEL	ALAN SHULTZ
VINCE BLOOM	BEN GORDON	PATRICK OILAR	DAN SMITH JR
MARGARET MAY BLOOM	TINA GORDON	CHRISTOPHER PEATROSS	DAN SMITH III
MIKE BOREL	CORY HIGGINS	JEREMY PECHTEL	DAN SMITH IV
JED BRUSSEAU	TYLER W HIGGINS	JEFF PERACCHI	RENEE SNIDER
ADAM CASAGRANDE	GARY HILL	DON PERRIEN	ADAM STARR
KEVIN CHENG	PATTY HOLLOWAY	JOHN PESTORICH	BILL TITTLE
DAVID COMBS	ERNEST HOLLOWAY	DON PRIEST	MICHAEL TORRES
WILLIAM CULLINS	SHAD HULSE	CAROLINE PYNE	NATHAN TREADWELL
JIM DISMUKES	BRETT JEFFERSON	CONNOR PYNE	REUBEN VALLES
NOAH DISMUKES	BOB KEAGY	GLEN PYNE	ZACK WALTON
BRET DISMUKES	RANDY LASKOWSKY	MADISON PYNE	JOHN WARE
DAN EVENSON	JEFF F. MARTIN	TOM REA	JIM WARNER
SCOTT FINLEY	DONALD C MARTIN	MASON ROGERS	SHAINA WARNER
JAMES FITZGERALD	ROGER MCCOSKER	DAVE ROWAN	SIMON WHETZEL
RICK GARZOLI JR	RICHARD MCDREW	PAUL SCHULTHEIS	DARRYL WILLIAMS
ANTHONY GIGLIOTTI	KYLE MEINTZER	RICH SELLERS	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.**

---

# 2022 ANNUAL FUNDRAISER & ANNUAL BANQUET IN REVIEW

*by President Donald C Martin, Distinguished Life Member*

WHAT A GREAT TIME! That pretty well sums it up. It was so refreshing to be together once again and raise money for our common passion, California's bighorn sheep! I got a lot of positive feedback from our regular supporters and also those that attended the event for the first time. Keep reaching out to those first timers, that's vital to growing our event and spreading the good word about our efforts to provide water for wildlife in Southern California, protect the rights of California hunters, and living up to our mission statement of "putting and keeping sheep on the mountains of California!"

Big picture, this event was a success of the efforts of many, I want to thank my Committee co-chair Ken Crother for his tireless work ethic and dedication to our event. I would also like to thank Admin Beverly Valdez and her partner John Ware for their efforts throughout the lead up and execution of our event. Special thanks to Ben Gordon, Jim Fitzgerald, and Paul Schultheis for their roles as sub-committee chairs for the live auction, silent auction, and general raffle, respectively. I would also like to thank all of our volunteers that were willing to participate, too many to name. And special thanks to our entire Board of Directors for their participation without whom we would not have had such a successful event.

We had a lot of catching up to do as this was our first "in person" event since 2019! Many awards were handed out and be sure to browse our award photos for all of our "Biggest and Oldest Ram Awards." I would also like to congratulate on behalf of The Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep award winners, awarded by Vern Bleich to George Kerr and Glenn Sudmeier. Congratulations gentleman and thank you for a lifetime of dedication to CA's bighorn sheep. Our 2022 CA WSF "Above and Beyond" award winners were Robert S. "Bob" Keagy and Paul and Donna Claus of Ultima Thule Outfitters. We thank them both for a lifetime of hard work and dedication to conservation and the hunting community. I'm especially proud that we were able to surprise Bob Keagy with his award.

All told, our event was huge success, largely in part to our "event team" that included Scott Jensen of Jensen/Hall Creative and Auctioneer Rohn Nelson, both of whom came all the way from Alaska to help us out. Our hybridized live/online auction in conjunction with our multi-camera bigscreen/livestream feeds provided an entertaining show for both our live and online audiences. Thanks to all of you that tuned in to our live feed on [www.onlinehuntingauctions.com](http://www.onlinehuntingauctions.com) and participated in our event.



All told, through our collaborative efforts and your generosity, we raised a tremendous amount of money for California's wild sheep. We raised nearly \$20,000 in new life members or upgrades that will go to our long-term life member account and insure the future of our organization in perpetuity. Additionally, approximately \$46,500 was raised in funding that will go directly to "Give a Lamb a Drink", GALAD, dedicated solely to fund new water projects or water project repairs for wildlife. All told, \$145,000+ was raised for our combined efforts to ensure the recovery of the Sierra Nevada bighorn, support the expansion of desert and peninsular bighorn herds, increase hunter opportunity, provide emergency water for wildlife, and protect the rights and privileges of California's hunting conservationists.

With that said, it's never too early to start planning for next year! Our event will take place April 29, 2023 at the Doubletree by Hilton in Sacramento and I can let you in on a secret... We will be giving away a fully guided desert bighorn sheep hunt for 1 hunter and 1 observer with Rancho La Guarida in Chihuahua, Mexico. You can even upgrade to include desert mule deer and javelina! Don't miss out, get involved now! In addition, there will be a surprise life-member give away for youth life, life, and distinguished life members. You need only be in the room to win! So please make your plans to attend now and thank you for supporting the California Wild Sheep Foundation.

**DON'T MISS NEXT YEAR!**  
**April 29, 2023**  
**DoubleTree by Hilton**  
**Sacramento**

---

## THE BICKET-LANDELLS AWARD

The Bicket-Landells Award was established by the Society for Conservation of Bighorn Sheep (SCBS) in honor of Don Landells and Jim Bicket, both of whom died in a tragic helicopter crash at Clark Mountain on 6 October 1986. Both of these men were well-known to members of the Society, and had worked closely with SCBS for many years. The Bicket-Landells award was established to recognize, "...significant dedication of effort to promote the principles of wild sheep management through labor, donations of time, financial support, and the perpetuation of the Society. This award will focus on a recipient who has provided multiple years of involvement and has received formal or informal acknowledgment by a peer group for their contributions which are considered to be outstanding and of significant content."

George Kerr and Glenn Sodmeier, were selected for this recognition in 2022 in recognition of their decades-long involvement with and service to the Society, their efforts to promote wildlife conservation and habitat management, their strong support of hunting, their generosity, and their overall dedication to the wild sheep of California. It also is fitting that their contributions be recognized during the 35th anniversary year of Don and Jim's passing, as both nominees had worked closely for many years with our fallen colleagues. Both Glenn and George remain, or have been, members of the SCBS Board of Directors. Both men have participated in and played leadership roles in dozens of volunteer projects over the past 50 years, and have volunteered their time in numerous survey or capture events while flying with CDFG personnel up through 2010, when those flights were terminated as the result of another fatal accident.

In keeping with one of the criteria for the Bicket-Landells Award, the contributions of both George and Glenn have been recognized nationally by the Wild Sheep Foundation: George received the Gordon Eastman Grass Roots Award in 2011, and Glenn received the Outstanding Achievement Award in 2015, in both cases for their contributions both to the conservation of bighorn sheep and their strong and decades-long support of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep. In addition, Glenn was an early recipient of the Outstanding Conservationist Award from the Western Section of The Wildlife Society in recognition of his contributions and leadership on behalf of conservation, and specifically bighorn sheep. For 25 years, both of these men played leadership roles in the annual Sheep Hunter Clinic that, unfortunately and beyond control of the Society, no longer occurs in its earlier format. There have been only three prior recipients of the Bicket-Landells Award, George and Glenn will be only the fourth and fifth individuals so recognized and especially fitting because of the amount time both men spent in the field and the friendships developed with the namesakes of this award.



**Shawn Wood accepting for Glenn Sodmeier (left, center) and George Kerr (right, center)**

**ALL ANNUAL FUNDRAISER PHOTOS ARE COPYRIGHT CA WSF AND PHOTOGRAPHER PAM KEAGY. PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE COPIES.**

---

## THE ABOVE AND BEYOND AWARD

The CA WSF Above & Beyond Award was created to recognize contributions over time that are particularly notable and "Above and Beyond" anything considered normal or standard! This award is ONLY presented when someone's contributions are deserving this recognition. It is the highest and most prestigious recognition of CA WSF.

Bob Keagy is our newest awardee for his stellar work over multiple years at obtaining sponsorship donations to underwrite our annual fundraiser, his regular and successful solicitation of high value hunt and trip donations for our fundraising auction, and for his personal generosity to GALAD and CA WSF.

THANK YOU BOB and Congratulations!



**Bob Keagy (l) receiving the CA WSF Above and Beyond award**



**ALL ANNUAL FUNDRAISER PHOTOS ARE COPYRIGHT CA WSF AND PHOTOGRAPHER PAM KEAGY. PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE COPIES.**

## 2022 ANNUAL FUNDRAISER RAM AWARDS

This year we were catching up on recognizing three years of our members' oldest and largest rams. All had their photos in prior newsletters. This was our chance to let them know what a great achievement it was for them and for the sheep!



Walt Limon



Jim Doering



Robert Bond



Ron Munk

2019/2020 Season Oldest - 17 yr old ram in is Walt Limon ram from the Marble/Clippers w/ Dry Creek Outfitters

2019/2020 Season Biggest - James Doering 179 4/8" ram from the Clark/Kingstons w/ Dry Creek Outfitters

2020/2021 Season Oldest - Robert "Robbie" Bond from Marble/Clippers scoring 167 6/8 Green that is 12 years old, self guided

2020/2021 Season Biggest - Brice Young of Visalia, CA from Clark/Kingstons scoring 177 5/8 Green that is 8 years old, with Jake Franklin of Kika Worldwide

2021/2022 Season Oldest - Ron Munk out of Marble/Clippers 13+ yrs with Dry Creek Outfitters

2012/2022 Season Biggest - Kenny Womack out of Marble/Clippers 182 0/8" with Dry Creek Outfitters

Photos of Brice Young and Kenny Womack were not available. Photos of all winners' rams have been shown in prior newsletters

**ALL ANNUAL FUNDRAISER PHOTOS ARE COPYRIGHT CA WSF AND PHOTOGRAPHER PAM KEAGY. PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE COPIES.**



The next generation of bighorn sheep conservationists



Mike Borel makes the case for Give a Lamb a Drink (GALAD)



An elated Matt St Martin, winner (l) of the Life Member Dall Sheep Hunt with Don Martin (r)



Sutter Union High School Shooting Team assisted for the night -- a great help!

---

## KAYLEE'S FIRST BIG GAME ANIMAL

*By Kaylee Howard  
Hunting with Dry Creek Outfitters*

Wow, who would have thought a sixteen year old girl would get a California bighorn sheep tag? Well I got one and it was going to be the first big game animal I shot. I don't think any 16 year olds get this kind of opportunity or even gets a bighorn sheep as their first big game animal. Not many people get the opportunity to shoot one or even get the tag.

So then when my grandpa, grandma and I found out I got the tag for a bighorn sheep tag in California that's when the adventure started. We went to the shooting range every weekend for about 5 months and spent hours there working on shooting off the ground and different situations and let me tell you it really helped me. So day one and day two of hunting we were looking so hard for rams and we just couldn't find a good one meanwhile Cliff and my grandpa are looking for rams and we are on these sand mountains. My grandpa was using a bucket as his chair and we all just saw my grandpa sink in and fall over backwards and his binoculars took a big fall. We all looked away so he wouldn't be embarrassed. He got up smiling like nothing happened yet he did know we all knew what really happened. Anyways, here's how the whole day went about me getting my first big game animal.

We left camp about 5:40 AM December 31, we got to our spot and all the guides were talking about what we were doing today. So then the plan was for me and Matt to go in after these 2 rams. Nate, Eli and Jonston went up another mountain close by to watch for the rams. Cliff also went up a mountain close by to watch for the rams at a different angle. My grandma, grandpa and Julissa waited by the truck to watch from there. Casey was across the road using his spotting scope watching what was going on. So me and Matt are walking up a wash and it starts to rain. We couldn't see any of the mountains because of the fog and nobody knew where the rams were. So we sat down by some rocks in a wash and we had a bunch of conversations. One of the conversations was "yeah a lot of people miss or are not prepared" Matt says and I say to Matt "I'm not going to miss". Then we finally hear back from Cliff that we can start to walk up the mountain where the rams were but slowly. We finally got to a big rock at the top of the mountain and the



Kaylee Howard

guides were like be careful the rams are right in front of you guys be ready! So we waited in that position for about 2 hours. Let's say mine and Matt's legs were asleep and our knees were hurting so bad. Finally we get an okay to move up about 40 yards to these other huge rocks in front of us. We sat there for about an hour. Then Nate says "the rams are getting up". Matt then says "get up and get ready". I get up and position myself on top of a rock and Matt is right there next to me. Matt says "I'll tell you when you can shoot and let you know which one to shoot". The one ram got up and goes over the wash in the mountain. The other ram comes out of the wash and he starts to eat a barrel cactus then he puts his head down at it. Then he finally is in a position I can shoot. I said to Matt "I'm good" and Matt said "I'm good if you are ". The ram was 218 yards away. So I shot and Matt said "stay on him". But I couldn't. I was so excited and knew I had him. Then I said to Matt "I told you I wouldn't miss". So then Matt comes up to me with tears and gives me the biggest hug and says "I'm so proud of you Kaylee". It was the best feeling ever. After that Matt couldn't stop saying "you smoked him".

I'm so thankful for everyone that was there. It was a blast getting to experience hunting a bighorn sheep. I wouldn't have done it without Dry Creek Outfitters. They are the best people out there. Big thank you to Matt, Cliff, Nate, Casey, Eli, Jonston, Julissa, my Grandpa and Grandpa.

Lastly my ram came out to be 172 5/8.

# CA WSF Director Candidate Biographies for the 2022 Election Ballot

*Biography Listing is Alphabetical by Last Name*



## **MIKE J. BOREL, Alamo, CA**

CAWSF Founding Member, Current VP Operations, Newsletter Editor, Organizer/Facilitator of the CA Sheep Summits (number XXXII is scheduled for December, and lead person for the GALAD Initiative to more than double the population of DBH in CA). He is a Past President of the organization.

Mike is a Managing Partner in Context Network, a full-service business consultancy assisting agricultural businesses with winning strategy, effective management and actionable insights. Mike has lived across the USA, in France and Australia.

A hunter his whole life, Mike is an active supporter of wildlife conservation, hunting rights and the Second Amendment. He's been a Director of WSF, a Director and VP of SCI, and an officer in three SCI Chapters - in addition to CA WSF. He believes personal, political and legal action is necessary to preserve our hunting heritage and Second Amendment rights. He confesses to being severely afflicted with "Alpine Addiction - Sheep Fever" and has taken 48 of the worlds Ovis and Capra species. Mike invites your call (925-330-0463) or email ([mike.borel@contextnet.com](mailto:mike.borel@contextnet.com)) with any questions.

MEMBERSHIP – Founding Member, Distinguished Life Member

Type to enter text



## **JIM FITZGERALD, Orange Cove, CA**

Jim Fitzgerald is an avid hunter, outdoorsman, and strong conservationist. Jim has organized, supported, and led various conservation organizations including; National Wild Turkey Federation, Ducks Unlimited, and California Foundation for North American Wild Sheep for a cumulative 35 plus years experience. He is a Distinguished Life member California Wild Sheep Foundation (CA WSF), Life member of the National Rifle Association, Chadwick Ram Society member Wild Sheep Foundation, and is currently serving as a CA WSF board member, a banquet committee member and silent auction chair. He has been supporting CA WSF since its' inception.

Jim is a retired Battalion Chief from the Ca. Department of Forestry. He has extensive knowledge in the use of prescribed fire for wildlife habitat improvement.

Jim has been married to his wife Susan for 33 years and they have two adult children. They have a small ranch in Central California at the base of the Sierras and raise horses and mules for packing into the high country.

Jim would like to again serve on the CA WSF board to help provide the hunting and outdoor experiences that he has enjoyed for future generations.

MEMBERSHIP – Distinguished Life Member

Type to enter text

CA WSF Director Candidate Biographies for the 2022 Election Ballot  
*Biography Listing is Alphabetical by Last Name*



**SCOTT GIBSON, Joshua Tree, CA**

I grew up on the 2nd floor of an apartment complex with my mother and little sister. In high school, I began hunting and developed a love for the outdoors with my best friend and his family. In 1986, at age 16, my buddy and I became “Area Co-Captains” for two SCBS guzzlers in the Sacramento Mountains near Needles, CA. Later, my buddy’s father, would become President of SCBS. Three days after HS graduation, I shipped off to begin my enlistment in the Marine Corps. After returning from the first Gulf War, I began my career in construction and continued to serve in the Reserves until 1999.

Currently, I work for the County of Riverside, where I use my 31 years of construction experience to manage and deliver transportation construction projects. In my spare time, I volunteer and lead water projects with SCBS. Currently I serve as the Area Captain Coordinator for the Society and interface between CDFW and our volunteers for guzzler inspections and maintenance. Recently, I started cooking for our volunteers in the field, I look forward to being camp cook again. I belong to and volunteer with several other conservation organizations including Desert Wildlife Unlimited and Backcountry Hunters & Anglers. With my congressional representative, I am working towards the restoration of hunting to the Castle Mountains National Monument. With my military ties, I will continue working with the DoD to find and install guzzler locations on military installations. With all the sheep we are putting on military installations, I believe we will eventually have special sheep tags for hunting on military installations. Someday I hope to draw a sheep tag, but I am content seeing the sheep populations thrive because of the hard work groups like ours perform.

MEMBERSHIP – Distinguished Life Member

Type to enter text



**BEN GORDON, Princeton, CA**

Ben is a fifth generation Northern California rancher currently involved in commercial rice production and wildlife habitat management. His operation also includes a commercial duck hunting club managing hunting opportunities for 70 plus hunters each year and managing pasture land for cattle with upland habitat for pheasant, turkey and blacktail deer. He currently serves as director on two different mutual water company boards and has served on several committees involving farm cooperatives, banking, and county fish and game commissions.

Ben is a lifetime member of WSF, Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn, SCI, and also holds memberships in RMEF, NBU, Calif. Deer Assn., MDF, NWTF, and NRA. Married with two grown children, he and his family hunt many western states each year and has completed his collection of the four species of North American wild sheep (FNAWS).

MEMBERSHIP – Distinguished Life Member

Type to enter text

CA WSF Director Candidate Biographies for the 2022 Election Ballot  
*Biography Listing is Alphabetical by Last Name*



**STEVEN HUNTER, Livermore, CA**

I have been a pheasant hunter for 50 years and a big game hunter for about 20 years. I have only been on two sheep hunts and neither one resulted in a legal ram being spotted. However, both hunts were great adventures and I will try again for a Dall sheep this August. I did two chamois last fall, one Alpine and one Balkan. The alpine chamois hunt was a one day hunt in the Italian alps and the Balkan chamois took four days of hard hunting in Croatia. Again, two great adventures in beautiful country.

I volunteered to be on the CA WSF Board because of the good work that the organization does in keeping healthy sheep on the mountain. I am the SCI Golden Gate Chapter President, so I have a pretty good idea of the sort of

work involved with being on the board and look forward to helping out.

MEMBERSHIP – Annual Member

Type to enter text



**DON PRIEST, Cave Creek, AZ**

Don's heritage began in California with relatives arriving in the 1860's. Don is an Actuary and a member of all three US actuarial societies, with a degree in Applied Mathematics and advanced degree in Statistics. He has his own underwriting agency Pacific Reinsurance Managers, underwriting reinsurance into a number of Syndicates at Lloyds of London. In addition, he provides underwriting/actuarial/analytics consulting with his company Optium. Don is a member of and active conservation supporter through CA WSF, WSF, Safari Club, North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association, Boone & Crockett, Ducks Unlimited and Trout Unlimited. Don is currently Chair of CA WSF's Governmental Affairs Committee and Chair of the Projects (Other than Water) Committee and was previously CA WSF's Secretary. He also currently

sits on the Wild Sheep Foundation's Legislative Affairs Committee. In early 2022 Don was elected as a Board member of Wild Sheep Foundations Board of Trustees.

Don has been hunting his whole life, in the past sixteen years having harvested four North America sheep and a Mountain Goat, as well as a number of sheep and ibex/goat species in Asia and Europe. He has also hunted other species in North America and Africa. He is an active upland bird hunter, having competed with his three Large Munsterlanders. With such an active hunting life and strong supporter of wildlife conservation he looks forward to continue participation as a Board member of CAWSF in order to keep our lands and waterways conserved, populated with wildlife for hunters and non-hunters heritage, and enjoyment.

MEMBERSHIP – Distinguished Life Member

Type to enter text

# CA WSF Director Candidate Biographies for the 2022 Election Ballot

*Biography Listing is Alphabetical by Last Name*



## **PAUL SCHULTHEIS – Clovis, CA**

My name is Paul Schultheis, I live in the Fresno/Clovis area and have been a lifelong resident of Central California. Having completed both an undergraduate and graduate degree in business administration at California State University Fresno, I currently own and operate multiple businesses in the central valley. My family includes my wife Shannon, daughter Hanna and son Colton.

I was introduced to big game hunting shortly after high school over 25 years ago and have spent the last several decades hunting throughout the Western United States. In 2017 good fortune turned my way at the CA WSF dinner and I was able to harvest my first ram, a Dall sheep, in the Wrangle Mountains of Alaska.

My most memorable and favored moments in life are being outdoors hunting or fishing but most of all just being outdoors with those I love.

I have a passion for conservation and would love to give back more to the sheep community. I plan to commit to working and fighting for our rights as hunters and to do all we can do to preserve our sheep in California. As well, I would like to ensure the generations that follow will have the same or better opportunity than I have had. I am a life member of the NRA and have served as treasurer for the local Friends of the NRA committee for the past ten years. I am also a Summit Life Member of the national Wild Sheep Foundation as well as a member of the Chadwick Ram Society.

I have very much enjoyed the last 3 years as a member of this board and look to continue doing good work in the future. This is why I am asking for your vote to help me help the sheep in taking on the role of director in 2022.

MEMBERSHIP – Distinguished Life Member

Type to enter text

## **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 – go to [www.cawsf.org](http://www.cawsf.org) or email Beverly Valdez at [forthesheep@gmail.com](mailto:forthesheep@gmail.com).

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).



# CA WSF Director Candidate Biographies for the 2022 Election Ballot

*Biography Listing is Alphabetical by Last Name*



## **BRENTON SCOTT, Littleton, CO**

Brenton has decided to seek to again serve our organization more actively to both continue and expand his service to the membership and the wild sheep of California. Brenton is a founding life member of our organization, served on the board for a number of years from its inception and has continued to serve on our Projects Committee(s) since their creation. His roots in conservation, and specifically the wild sheep of California, goes back to the 1980's when he started his long-standing relationships with many key personnel of the Fish & Game Department during his terms of service to the Golden Gate Chapter (and later his co-founding of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter) of Safari Club International. Brenton would bring a plethora of non-profit conservation organization experience to our board as he has served on multiple other boards

and committees for, but not limited to, Midwest WSF, Mzuri Wildlife Foundation, Rocky Mountain Bighorn Society, etc.

Various conservation life memberships include: California WSF, African Professional Hunters' Association, Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, Dallas Safari Club, Eastern Chapter WSF, Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia, Grand Slam Club / Ovis, Gun Owners of America, Idaho WSF, International Professional Hunters' Association, Iowa FNAWS, WSF Midwest Chapter, Montana WSF, Mule Deer Foundation, NRA, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited, Rocky Mountain Bighorn Society, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, SCI, SCI-PAC, SCIF Sables, Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, Texas Bighorn Society, Trout Unlimited, Washington WSF, Wild Sheep Foundation, WSF Alberta, Wild Sheep Society of British Columbia, Wyoming WSF.

MEMBERSHIP – Founding Life Member

Type to enter text



## **TAMMY SCOTT – Littleton, CO**

As a native Californian and avid hunter, I am proud to be part of the core group that founded the California Wild Sheep Foundation (previously the California Chapter of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep) over 20 years ago! Within the chapter, I have held positions as Vice President – Southern California, Director, Fundraiser Co-Chair, Fundraiser Committee Member, Grant In Aid Committee Member and Auction Spotter. I have attended and participated in wild sheep and goat meetings throughout the U.S. as the California Wild Sheep Foundation representative for multiple years. I have over 30 years of experience in

working with various nonprofit conservation organizations in multiple capacities. I would appreciate the opportunity to once again become more involved with CA WSF.

Memberships include: California WSF Founding Life Member, WSF Life Member, SCI Life Member, NRA Benefactor Life Member, African Professional Hunters Association Honorary Life Member, DSC Life Member, GSCO Life Member, Idaho WSF Life Member, Iowa FNAWS Life Member, Washington WSF Life Member, Wyoming WSF Life Member.

MEMBERSHIP – Founding Life Member

Type to enter text

CA WSF Director Candidate Biographies for the 2022 Election Ballot  
*Biography Listing is Alphabetical by Last Name*

**2022 CALIFORNIA WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS BALLOT**

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

Vote must be received no later than 5 p.m. on June 28, 2022.

**CANDIDATES (Listed randomly)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Mike Borel

\_\_\_\_\_ Jim Fitzgerald

\_\_\_\_\_ Scott Gibson

\_\_\_\_\_ Brenton Scott

\_\_\_\_\_ Paul Schultheis

\_\_\_\_\_ Don Priest

\_\_\_\_\_ Steve Hunter

\_\_\_\_\_ Tammy Scott

\_\_\_\_\_ Ben Gordon

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

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

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

Mail ballot to: Ca Wild Sheep Foundation, 1630 Williams Hwy #151, Grants Pass, OR 97527

Fax ballot to: 650-409-6005

Email ballot to: [forthesheep@gmail.com](mailto:forthesheep@gmail.com)

---

## GALAD (GIVE A LAMB A DRINK) UPDATE

GALAD, is CA WSF's major program to overcome the limiting factor of water to enable a doubling of Desert Bighorn in California by strategic siting and installation of 90 new Rainwater Wildlife Water Systems (RWWS). Our sister WSF Affiliate, the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep (SCBS) are the site selectors and installers. CA WSF is the funding and barrier busting partner.

We raised \$46,500 more for GALAD on April 30 at our 20th Anniversary Fundraiser. Thanks to members for your generosity, and especially to member John Brelsford who once again made a generous matching grant.

We've now raised \$686,000 and made 12 system installations. The total cost will be over \$4,000,000 so we will continue to raise funds and make installations. This is, of course, a multi year effort.



---

## FAVORITE GEAR – FILSON WILDFOWL HAT

*By Mike J. Borel*



This abrasion-resistant, water-repellent hat is lined with 100% virgin wool, for sweat-wicking warmth and comfort.

- It folds flat, so is easy to put into your pack or suitcase. It's too warm to use while climbing.
- The bill is short so no problems for an archer (no need to put it into "lock" or "reverse" mode).
- It's warm, waterproof and great for cold or wet weather.

It is one of my favorite pieces of gear. The only thing that would make it better is if it came in Kuiu Vais.

---

## CA WSF — 2021 IN REVIEW

2021 continued many of the overwhelming COVID-19 societal changes — from wearing masks to not being able to meet in person. In California, like many other states, many things changed. The serious drought also continued.

We did not let that keep us from the important work we do on behalf of bighorn sheep. We continued to have our virtual meetings, a very successful “virtual fundraiser”, 2 virtual “wild sheep summits”, actively enhance the environment for bighorn, and kept our focus on activities that benefit California’s iconic bighorn sheep - including many water hauls to replenish dry drinkers.

Our goal remains 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 2021 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], Desert Wildlife Unlimited [DWU], 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 mission of Putting and Keeping Bighorn 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 installed new Raincatcher systems, and supported SCBS in progressing the state land leases. In 2021 we funded installations “Razor Road” in the Soda Mountains and “CC Tank” in the Avawatz Mountains. The funding for these two systems was made possible by donations from our members. In addition to funding new installations we also funded, with member support, three upgrade projects at the SD tank, the Marvin Wood guzzler, and Ocotillo wells, and updated tanks at Eagle Mountain. The priority in 2021 necessarily shifted from new installations to water hauls due to the drought. It was a very big year for water hauling! Very significantly SCBS and CA WSF were able to get donated helicopter help from both CalFire and The Marine Corps. This was huge and enabled us to save our moneys for additional projects.

An exciting project begun in 2020 and completed in 2021 is the “Deep Sheep” project. This project, started at the request of CDFW sheep biologist Paige Prentice, allows a “first pass digital ID” of sheep from the thousands of images collected from trail cameras on the ground. The application should save CDFW biologists many hours of looking through collected photos from various sites.

We continue to actively participate in CDFW’s Big Game Management Account (BGMA) grant process. Unfortunately CDFW has not awarded any grants during the past 2 years. We hope these grants will resume in 2022 and beyond.

Looking ahead, we will be continuing our installations of Raincatcher systems in strategic locations, updating older equipment, hauling water when necessary, supporting science particularly as it relates to disease management, getting population surveys accomplished (and where possible using advanced tools - i.e. camera technology, UAV surveys), promoting installation of needed wildlife overpasses as mitigation for CalTrans and BrightLine, and in general supporting wild sheep in every way we can. Currently, we have seven GALAD installations or system updates pending for 2022.

We plan to continue our efforts at creating a program of Unit Surveys by drone. The new drone technology is being used in many other states to allow closer monitoring of wildlife with limited disruption of the wildlife itself. The latest technology includes live streaming of the video feed from the drone. Drone surveys would provide a safer and more cost-effective survey routine once it is proven reliable to the CDFW sheep biologists. COVID-19 and other CDFW priorities derailed our plans for this project for the past two years but we will continue efforts to fully test and compare a drone survey with a helicopter survey done at the same time, requiring close coordination with CDFW and drone partners.

CA WSF 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 \$2.6 million for the benefit of wild sheep in California; and we have raised over \$650K in donations specifically earmarked for GALAD. The total cost is estimated at \$4m, so we will continue to raise funds and have committed to SCBS not let access to capital slow the addition of water catchments in strategic locations for Desert Bighorn.

CA WSF hosts a twice annual “Sheep Summit” now in its 16th 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 more as a result of this sharing and collaboration. This group has become the guiding force for supporting CDFW in the management of bighorn sheep conservation in California. A high priority topic is the CDFW Bighorn Sheep Comprehensive Management Plan (BSCMP), and corresponding Area Plans. The BSCMP and one area plan are now through peer review.

Together we, CA WSF, ARE making a very positive difference! All of this has only been possible with 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! If you are not already a member, please join and get involved.

---

## JUST THE BEGINNING

*By Reina Seraaj, Member*

We sat quietly, as still as we could, waiting for enough light to come up over the horizon. In the distance, two bucks fought, their antlers clanking into one another. My hunting partner was laying amidst the tall grasses, our guide beside her. After what seemed an eternity, the sun rose, shedding light down into the canyon. Finally, we could see them.

There was a group of whitetails huddled beneath a tree. Out in the open was a single deer, a mama, with her fawn excitedly wiggling its tail while trying to feed. A couple others roamed, grazing. The two sparring bucks continued to brawl. All carried on, unaware of our presence.

As I continued to observe from behind my binoculars, my partner was in position, watching from behind her scope. She had “built her house,” having found a comfortable, sturdy place to position herself. Her rifle was set, loaded, and safety off. A deep breath and exhale. BANG! She took her shot and hit.

At that point, everything moved quickly. I stared in awe as the deer went down. At the loud noise, the majority scattered, running uphill into the safety provided by the trees. A few remained, frozen as if unsure of what had happened and what to do. As it all unfolded, I experienced a range of emotions – excitement, horror, sorrow, happiness. Even though it was not my bullet, I felt I might as well have been the one who had taken the shot.

\*\*\*\*\*

That was my first ever experience hunting. I had taken hunter’s safety three years before, but never made it out into the field. Several reasons contributed to my apprehension. I grew up in a big city within Silicon Valley. My family did not hunt; therefore, I did not grow-up surrounded by hunters. In fact, I am not sure I knew of anyone back then that hunted and it never crossed my mind that someday I would want to be one myself. Additionally, I had no mentor, no experience, and no knowledge of where to begin. Finding someone willing to show me the ropes seemed a daunting task.

When I first came across the Wild Sheep Foundation announcement for the Women Hunt program - New Hunter Course, I was hesitant in submitting an application. Despite my interest, there was no way I was possibly ready to participate in a hunt. I lacked much experience with firearms; therefore, I feared I



Reina Seraaj — “Women Hunt” CA WSF sponsored attendee

would not be able to hit the target area and make a quick and humane kill. If I was to hunt, I desired to be an ethical hunter -- to source food to bring home for me and my family, while causing as little pain to animals as possible.

I reached out via the email provided and explained my hesitation, hoping that maybe it was an annual event I could apply to the following year. A day or two later I received a call from Renee Thornton, the Chair of the Women Hunt Committee, encouraging me to apply. She stated the program was created for women just like me. Women who wanted to hunt, but lacked the experience and/or self-assurance. After a brief conversation, I had been convinced. I submitted an application and I am so glad I did.

My experience at the FTW Ranch was nothing short of incredible. I was one amongst twelve other women from various locations across the United States and Canada. We were of diverse ages, backgrounds, and levels of experience; yet, even with all our differences we had such a positive group dynamic, leading to the establishment of some long-term friendships.

The first two days of the course, the focus was learning about our rifles and marksmanship. Even with my limited exposure to firearms, the instructors had me hitting targets beyond 500 yards within just a few hours. The following four-day schedule included morning and evening hunts, along with classes introducing us to the basics of hunting. Even though I did not harvest a deer, I thoroughly enjoyed just having the opportunity to hunt: off-roading in jeeps, hiking up and down hillsides, crawling through tall



grass and mud, sitting in a blind, learning the habits of the deer, and simply being outside connecting with nature.

Within those six days, we accomplished plenty. Some of the knowledge I gained extended beyond the scope of shooting and hunting. Unexpectedly, I learned a lot about myself; discovering not only my limitations, but of capabilities I was unaware. I believe we all left the New Hunters Course with so much more than we expected.

\*\*\*\*\*

Six months later, I am at a deer camp. After a morning downpour the rain finally settles. With the chance of further rain, presence of slight wind, and the creep of fog, the turkeys are most likely not going to be out. I hop in the truck with my mentor, Donald C. Martin, to hunt for wild pig.

We come upon a field; in the distance, several pigs root through the damp soil, foraging for plants and grub around a tree. Don comes to a stop. He instructs me to grab my gear, slowly get out the truck, and setup my rifle on a particular mound of dirt. As quiet as I can be, I open the door, crouch down, and cautiously make my way around the truck.

My rifle is ready and so am I. Inhaling deeply, I release a breath and try to relax. Digging my toes into the ground, I feel them sink into the soft dirt. I push myself forward, building pressure against my bipod to steady my shot. A small pile of wood blocks my view of all the pigs but one. With the crosshair set on him, I wait patiently for him to give me a good shot. The

wind shifts and the pig sticks his snout into the air. Upon his having detected me, I fear I may have lost my opportunity.

Regardless, I continue to be patient. Another pig saunters into sight. I take aim, he turns broadside toward me; taking a deep breath and exhaling, I squeeze the trigger...My first successful hunt is in the books!

As the day goes on, the weather takes a turn. The sun is out and I can now hunt turkey. After one unsuccessful attempt, we spot a jake on the hill, on the other side of a ravine. Though it is a longshot, the window to hunt turkey for the day is nearing an end, so we go for it.

Hurrying to the end of the road, we jump out the truck, grab the gear, and quickly make our way downhill. Urgently, Don throws up the blind and sets up the decoy. As we are settled, he begins to call in the jake. I point my shotgun in the direction of the decoy, thinking he is going to come down center. While intensely focused on being still and situating my rifle, my heart is racing and I can hear it beating rapidly.

Suddenly, Don informs me that the jake is up the hill to the right. Everything is happening so fast. Frantically, I move the shotgun over. However, as I attempt to line up the sights, the mesh window hangs down, obstructing my view. I try to shake it out of the way, but my attempt is futile. Regardless of the difficulty, I become more determined, focus even harder, aim and shoot. Got him!

It was an incredible to end the weekend so successful. However, it is not something I take for granted; I know I will not always be so fortunate. Although, the best part of all of this is the learning and growth, making connections and building relationships, spending time in the outdoors while challenging oneself to become better...and I am sure so much more that I have yet to discover. One day I hope I will have gained enough experience to mentor other women, sharing with them what I have learned and provide them the opportunity to develop their own skills and establish a love for hunting.



WOMEN HUNT™

---

# CALIFORNIA FISH AND WILDLIFE UPDATE

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

What a treat to meet in-person at the Sacramento Sheep Summit on April 29! It was great to see many folks, in the flesh, for the first time in years -or months, for those persevering in critical field work that keeps water - and bighorn - on the landscape. We also met new folks, including CDFW's brand-new Deputy Director of Fish and Wildlife, Chad Dibble, Brian Novosak, BLM's statewide Wildlife Biologist, and the Inland Desert Region's new Drought Biologist, Sonja Schwartz (whom I hadn't physically met, having hired Sonja over video last November). It's encouraging to interact with a team committed, at all levels, to conserving desert bighorn sheep and their habitat!

The CDFW Desert Bighorn Sheep Program is winding down its winter field season and shifting focus to the planning and preparation required to conduct summer camera surveys, and wildlife water development (WWD) projects, bighorn sheep captures, and bighorn surveys next fall and winter. That work entails planning the distribution of 90 GPS collars to be deployed across the Mojave, in coordination with Oregon State University (OSU) and National Park Service (NPS) collaborators.

Those collars allow generation of mark-resight population estimates required to support tag allocations. Collars also allow surveillance to detect disease outbreaks or other novel mortality events. Data collected from GPS collars, when leveraged by the efforts of our invaluable cooperators at NPS and OSU, provide the evidence (and analysis) required to make a compelling case for maintaining connectivity across the Mojave Desert ecosystem, specifically through the construction of wildlife overcrossings in concert with construction of the planned Brightline high-speed rail proposal. Those data, analyses, and their impact on decision makers, have been powerful.

We've also planned to deploy 53 long-life GPS collars on bighorn sheep in the Peninsular Ranges of southern California. Those collars will enable generation of mark-resight population estimates across the nine identified recovery regions. If numbers persist in meeting recovery criteria, as they did six years ago, the estimate would support downlisting of federally-endangered peninsular bighorn sheep. Collars will also be deployed, and sampling conducted, in the San Geronio population, to aid in monitoring the recovery from the 2018-2019 respiratory disease outbreak which impacted that iconic zone.

We transmitted a job offer this week to a highly qualified candidate to fill the position of Co-Leader, along with Rick Ianniello, for the Desert Bighorn Program. We'll learn whether that candidate accepts that permanent, full-time, position next week. We hope to have a new staff-member on the ground by the end of June. We're also working through the process of filling one last vacancy, as our latest Scientific Aid hire stayed only six weeks before leaving for a better offer. As is the case across many industries and specialties, the ratio of job openings, to qualified candidates, in the general field of Wildlife Ecology remains at levels unseen in generations, and hiring and retaining our great staff remains a challenging, and high, priority.

Final approvals for a drought-funded helicopter contract to haul materials - and water - to WWDs and fly the critical survey of peninsular bighorn sheep are nearly complete in CDFW's contracting division, pending the final dotting of "i"s and crossing of "t"s. We've also proposed using drought funding to hire additional seasonal/scientific aid staff to help with the critical work of maintaining WWDs, add resiliency to existing desert water sources, and add new WWDs. We appreciate CA WSF's support in meeting the challenges of maintaining and increasing resilient populations of desert bighorn sheep in California!



---

# GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS UPDATE

*by Don Priest*

## **Brightline West High Speed Rail Line**

Further developments have occurred regarding the Brightline West High Speed Rail Project (Project) from Victorville to Las Vegas over the course of late 2021 into 2022. In our prior article we resolved that the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) would be the key decision maker in attaining the objective of making the three biologist determined wildlife crossings a required part of this Project.

On December 14, 2021, representatives from a conservation coalition which included the California Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation (CA WSF), Gaines & Associates, National Park Conservation Association, Defenders of Wildlife, Center for Biological Diversity and the Mountain Lion Foundation met virtually with Caltrans Director Toks Omishkin (now the Secretary of the California Transportation Agency), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Director Chuck Bonham and California Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot to advocate for the construction of overcrossings as a requirement in permitting the proponent's Project. As a result of this meeting on March 28, 2022 this coalition received a Response Letter from Caltrans outlining: (i) Caltrans's estimate for the total cost of the three overcrossings at \$113 million (in 2021 \$), (ii) their validation and recommendation of cross funding from various sources, including Project proponent, state, federal and local partners, and (iii) the determination of the addition of the three wildlife overcrossings to the Project would ultimately be a decision of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) upon the Project's National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) re-evaluation.

This movement of the three overcrossings decision by Caltrans was due to a late January 2022 decision by the FRA indicating that they will be updating their NEPA re-evaluation that was completed in September 2020 due to Project design changes. An email text from FRA Supervisory Environmental Protection Supervisor Amanda Ciampolilo indicated that the FRA completed a NEPA re-evaluation in September 2020 for the Brightline West Las Vegas to Apple Valley Project. The FRA will update this re-evaluation to include any design changes since September 2020. The NEPA re-evaluation includes a review of design, regulatory, and the associated environmental impacts and associated mitigation. The NEPA re-evaluation also includes revisions to the Project's mitigation measures. In the updated re-evaluation, FRA would consider new information provided by the State of California (e.g. CDFW, Caltrans, etc.) and federal partners (e.g. National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, etc.) regarding effects to wildlife and wildlife movement and currently proposed mitigation measure for such wildlife and wildlife movement.

We understand that in early April 2022 CDFW Director Chuck Bonham sent a letter to the FRA Administrator Amit Bose regarding the Project and its impacts to wildlife



connectivity. Director Bonham detailed that CDFW's statutory responsibilities in general for California's wildlife and specifically the species to be impacted by this Project, including those that are threatened or fall under the California Environmental Security Act (CESA). CDFW's evaluation finds this Project would significantly affect wildlife connectivity given the substantial research conducted and data collected since the Project's 2001 Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision. And lastly, that the solution to this Project, CDFW recommends that overcrossings be constructed and included in the Project at three designated locations: Cave Mountain, Soda Mountain and Clark Mountain

With the FRA re-evaluation opened up CA WSF, in coordination with our WSF Washington DC (DC) lobbyist Greg Schildwacher of Watershed Results, is working with Neal Desai of the National Park Conservation Association to press our efforts in DC regarding the insistence that three wildlife overcrossings be made a mandatory part of this Project. We are looking to have direct discussions with FRA staff and management on the mitigation requirement, coordinating with Senators Feinstein and Padilla for their offices to assist in this request to the FRA. Both offices are fully aware of the developments and had previously sent a letter to Governor Gavin Newsom in November 2021 for their desire that California provide for wildlife overcrossing mitigation within the Project. We will also look to work with the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service given the interests of the Mojave National Preserve in this issue, and communicate to the FRA their strong desire for these wildlife crossings.

Lastly we will continue to work and coordinate with CDFW and Caltrans, along with California Secretaries of Natural Resources and State Transportation Agency to press all of our interests with the FRA.

# RENDERING BEAR FAT FOR USE IN COOKING

JOSH BOYD 4.12.2022 SITKA BLOG

Where I reside in Montana, winter days are short, menacingly dark, with snow storms frequently followed by rain; weather that is unappealing to most. As the spring days grow longer, I am drawn to spend more time outside enjoying the extra hours of the season.

Everything about spring turns my thoughts to adventures in the mountains. Witnessing the mountains emerging from winter while engaged in a hunt is something I never grow tired of. The varied thrush is a bird I often hear during long, drawn-out evening glassing sessions in the mountains. With their first calls echoing through dense stands of old growth timber, and the scents of a forest gradually rewarming, it's easy to fall in love with spring black bear hunting.



Black bears provide an opportunity to hunt a big game species in the spring, but also an opportunity to fill the freezer with delicious meat and even more desirable: fat! For over a decade I've rendered the fat from every bear I've harvested into lard. The uses for rendered fat are many, but in my household, it is used mostly for baking and short frying. The process of rendering is simple, and once complete the lard will store for several years in a freezer or many months in a refrigerator.

The first step is to remove the fat from the carcass

and cool it much like you would any game meat. The rump and back on a large bear can yield multiple ten-pound slabs of fat. Once cooled, the next steps are to trim as much meat from the fat as possible, cut it into two-inch cubes, and load it into a slow cooker. Take the cooker outside, set



it to Low Cook and stir every hour. A fully- loaded slow cooker will take eight to ten hours to fully render.



When the solids or "cracklings" turn a golden brown, remove them with a slotted spoon. Strain the remaining oil through several layers of cheesecloth to remove the fine solids. Keep the oil hot as it strains more easily with less clogging of the cheesecloth. I prefer to strain the oil into pint sized canning jars for storage. The rendered oil will be a golden brown when warm and after cooling will turn solid white. Store The room temperature jars in the freezer, and keep one in the refrigerator for convenient use.

A favorite use of bear lard in my house is shortening in biscuits. They tend to be extremely flakey, delicious, and pair well with elk stew, or with a little bear sausage and gravy.

## Words to live by...

Throughout almost all of man's existence, hunting has been one of his main occupations as well as one of his chief pleasures. Hunting has also had a considerable influence on man's physical evolution, and it has certainly shaped his character by the premium it places on quick thinking, endurance, and courage.

*"The Epic of Man" Time-Life Inc, 1961*

---

## WHO IS THE FLIP FLOP GUY AND WHAT IS A “FLIP FLOP”

The Flip Flop Chef, or as he is often referred to as ‘Andy Flippin Moeckel’, is easily one of the most interesting and entertaining people you’ll ever meet: a road warrior, hunting guide and expert camp chef. Andy’s affable nature and love of bringing people together, along with his passion for hunting collide when he prepares his family’s generations-old recipe for wild game that has become a cornerstone of the Moeckel family tradition.

The Flip Flop is the west Marin County way of cooking a whole bone-in quarter of deer, antelope or wild sheep over an open flame, but there’s much more to this family tradition than just cooking method and mouthwatering meat. It’s about heritage and the experience of bringing something from the field to your dinner table to share with friends and loved ones.

This unique recipe and method is steeped in tradition and community camaraderie. The Portuguese immigrants that settled in Marin County in the 1800’s brought with them close-knit communities and traditional cuisine such as the Flip Flop. From there, other sheep and cattle ranching families adopted this new-to-them cooking method as part of their local culture. In the 1950’s Andy’s grandfather Al Giddings tried out the West Marin flip flop method for his first time. Al, a game warden for the state of California and accomplished hunter, concocted a secret marinade for wild game, and applied it to a whole bone-in quarter with a rosemary sprig brush, then cooked it over a hot bed of coals. Like all great masterpieces, what appears simple today actually required repeated fine tuning and years of experimentation. Beginning as a utilitarian preparation, the Moeckel Flip Flop has become a legendary contribution to the age-old craft of preparing food over fire.

### **Flip, Flop, Repeat.**

Once you get the quarter on the hot grill and one side has enough of its outer layer seared and cooked, flip the quarter over and flop it down. Meat from the cooked side is thinly sliced onto a sourdough dinner roll and served. From there, reapply the marinade to the cut side and the flip-flopping process continues until you’ve cooked and sliced your way all the way down to the bone.

The lineage of tradition continues from Andy’s grandfather, father and now to him. Like most family traditions, the style hasn’t changed much since its inception, but it continues as a right of passage for the next generation. In fact, the exclusive use of a Burch Barrel for cooking has been the only radical development since 1961. Still, after all these years,



Andy Moeckel - “The Flip Flop Guy”

Moeckel Flip Flop’s have only gotten better and the experience is unlike anything else you will be a part of.

**Step 1.** There are three essential aspects of the authentic Moeckel Flip Flop that separates it from all other wannabe flip flop methods. First, never source meat from a butcher, only from the field. “To assume that you could source meat from a butcher that would ever compare to a deer quarter is preposterous” in Andy’s opinion. “Wild game only!”

**Step 2.** The second aspect of the Flip Flop is specific to the Moeckel formula for hospitality. The ritual of experience and excitement that Andy brings to the process creates a real community of engagement over your food, and he delivers it with awesome energy.

Whether the quarter comes from a personal harvest or from a client’s, there’s a guarantee that Andy will show them the fun of taking an animal from field to table.

**Step 3.** The final aspect of what makes the Moeckel family Flip Flop so unique is the secret family marinade. It’s been on lock down since 1961 and will remain secret as long as Andy is at the helm. So, if you ask if you can have the recipe to use for yourself, he will politely and with a smile on his face respond by saying “No F-king way.” And while you may be able to copy the Moeckel ritual for steps 1 and 2, the 3rd is something unique to you and your family, that only the bonds of Food, Fire, and Friends can create.

### **Technical Tip for the Flip Flop**

“One of the most important parts of cooking choice cuts of meat for me...is the heat!

Sear, sear, sear!!! My barrel throws better heat than any open fire or charcoal grill I have ever used and while spitting out all that heat the outside of the barrel remains safe for children to be around with out worry.” -Andy Moeckel

---

# WATER DEVELOPMENT IN THE DESERT

*by Debra Miller Marschke  
Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep*

SCBS is proud to announce the successful placement of a brand new Raincatcher system, which was graciously funded by CA WSF's "Give a Lamb a Drink" (GALAD) program. On February 25-28, 2022, a crew of 39 caravanned into the Fort Irwin National Training Center to install the first Big Game Guzzler within the boundaries of the expansive U.S. Army property near Barstow, California. It is a monumental achievement. This system will be known as "CC Tank", named to honor past SCBS Presidents Dick Conti and John Carnakis, both of whom are military veterans.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has been conducting ongoing studies in the ranges surrounding the Avawatz Mountains, had evaluated extensive GPS collar data points, and conducted field evaluations. The natural resources department within Ft. Irwin did receive solid recommendations from CDFW advocating the installation of supplemental water sources, which is expected to broaden the scope of the bighorn's range. The GPS collar data confirmed what was suspected; BHS are not crossing over the busy Interstate 15 freeway and thus are not intermingling with the herds found in the Soda Ranges. Ultimately, CDFW aims to successfully bridge this gap with the installation of a wildlife overcrossing corridor. If achieved, this goal will be realized many years ahead of us. The placement of the new guzzler will benefit the current populations regardless of the installation of the proposed overcrossing.

SCBS was first contacted by Ft. Irwin's biologist David Davis on February 10, 2020. CDFW had recommended that the guzzler be placed, but offered no services beyond the initial science work. This began two years of scouting and pre-planning by SCBS and the Base biologists. Ft. Irwin is a live-fire training facility with constant training rotations. The proposed location of the new Raincatcher was only accessible a few days per month because of the active schedule. Furthermore, the location is remotely imbedded within the Base after enduring a 25 mile trek over rough wash boarded dirt roads that are constantly traversed by heavy equipment such as Armored tanks. The successful scouting and selection of the proposed



Photos by Debra Miller Marschke

guzzler location occurred in December of 2021. In January 2022, many SCBS volunteers contributed an intense amount of administrative preparatory work because all the volunteers needed to be vetted by Homeland Security. It was expected that they receive specialized safety training in person before they could set foot on the Base. At times it seemed improbable that SCBS could recruit enough volunteers that would be willing meet the strict requirements: 1) Provide personal data and sign two types of waivers in advance of the project 2) Arrive on Friday by 1 PM in order to receive special training for access 3) Caravan more than an hour over excruciatingly annoying and dusty washboard for over 25 miles in one's own four wheel drive vehicle 4) Be prepared to primitive camp, self contained, for up to 3 nights 5) Be willing

to remain on Base until Monday to ensure the project is completed. SCBS is very proud to brag that our crew of 39 accepted the challenge and performed their work cohesively.

Our volunteers received an unexpected show upon entry to the Training Area on Friday. Concurrent with our entry, the Army troops were exiting the training area along the same route. What we witnessed was downright spectacular and surreal. Heading towards us was wave upon wave of Humvees, M1 Abrams and M2 Bradley tanks, M3 Calvary fighting vehicles, 155mm turreted howitzers, M109 self propelled artillery, armored personnel carriers, M88 recovery vehicles and military trucks of many sizes and functionalities. We were like salmon attempting to swim upstream in the approaching traffic, diesel exhaust and dust. Equally perplexed were the military commanding officers that passed us, as civilian volunteers have never been allowed to enter the Training area. This strange meeting was a poetic metaphor between Ft. Irwin's armored tanks and SCBS's Raincatchers; tanks leaving, tanks arriving. Due to the unanticipated "traffic" delays and the SCBS caravan halting to extract one of the lead vehicles bogged down in sand, our crew arrived to camp in the dwindling twilight. Thus began a very productive extended weekend.

Part of the money granted through the GALAD program was directed to pay for the services of Diversified Excavating. Diversified's crew agreed to comply with the same strict requirements endured by the volunteers and the Mini excavator was transported to the work site as part of the Friday caravan. Diversified worked alongside SCBS as a partner, which included primitive camping. Our hats off to Diversified, they delivered top notch work which was indispensable. This spared our volunteers from having to dig the excavations by hand, and the project crew was able to complete the entire project much earlier than anticipated.

Another remarkable feat that was achieved was by our water hauling crew. We had arranged a small but mighty detachment to haul water from the main operational facility on Base to the guzzler site. This meant driving back and forth all day on the washboard, and enduring countless delays because of military traffic. SCBS had set up a bladder to store the water on site until the Raincatchers had been plumbed. A total of 6900 gallons was hauled and transferred to the new guzzler. Upon our exit of the work site on Monday, February 28, the guzzler was full and ready for business. SCBS would like to extend thanks to all the volunteers who answered the call of duty. They had come from as far away as Wisconsin, Bakersfield and

Bishop CA. Our crew had representatives from SCBS, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Boy Scout Troop 77 from Twentynine Palms, Desert Explorers, BLM, and CADFW. Partnered with the support of the California Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation, we all achieved far more as a team than each of us could accomplish alone.



All Photos by Debra Miller Marschke

---

# OPERATION: WATER 4 WILD WOOL “W4WW”

## USMC DROUGHT EMERGENCY WATER HAUL FOR

### DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP

#### AUGUST 27TH – 30TH, 2021

SoCal Summer 2021 was probably the driest recorded in nearly a hundred years.

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (ABDSP): ABDSP is home to approximately 60% of the federally listed endangered population of desert Bighorn Sheep known as “Peninsular Bighorn Sheep.” Although once considered a separate subspecies (*O. c. cremnobates*), bighorn sheep of the Peninsular Ranges have recently been classified the same as desert bighorn sheep in the subspecies *O. c. nelsoni*.

The Vallecito Range, located within ABDSP, is critical sheep habitat. Over nearly 50-years, the State park and volunteers have installed a network of developed water sources (guzzlers) to help supplement or replace natural water sources impacted by human activity. SCBS, was of course there since the beginning with construction of the first two.

In 2021, two critical water sources were identified as failing to collect water, Whale Peak and Harper Canyon. In particular, the Whale Peak guzzler is important, this is due to the number of sheep that rely on this single isolated water source and that they are predominantly ewes and lambs.

Sheephole Mountains Wilderness: The Sheepholes are home to a small and isolated herd of Desert Bighorn Sheep (*O. c. nelsoni*). After survey of the Sheephole population of bighorn sheep in the late 1960’s, supplemental developed water sources (guzzlers) were constructed by CDFW and SCBS volunteers in the 1970’s. In 2020 & 2021, the entire Sheephole range was missed by winter rains and summer monsoons. The guzzlers failed to collect water, putting the sheep population in jeopardy.

Volunteers from SCBS have hauled water, via 4x4 truck to the guzzlers reachable by vehicle. Two additional guzzlers located deep in the mountain range interior are only accessible by hiking or helicopter. In addition to water, an inspection indicated that a new drinker box and other repairs were needed at the Suds Hole guzzler.

Bullion Mountains, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC): The Bullion mountains on MCAGCC lack permanent & natural surface water, but contain excellent Desert Bighorn Sheep Habitat. The Marine Corps and SCBS volunteers have worked over the last



decade and a half to build ten guzzlers on base. In 2020 & 2021, the entire Bullion range has been missed by winter and summer monsoonal rains. The guzzlers have failed to collect water with two systems identified for supplemental water hauling, .

Mission: After weeks of planning and coordination, volunteers from SCBS, DWU and BHA staged at Fish Creek on the northern side of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park on Friday afternoon. The temperature was 117°F. When the day's shift ended at the nearby US Gypsum quarry, mine personnel delivered water to fill our dip tanks. The Marines arrived in their helicopter and set up camp with us. Janene Colby and her husband, Scot Martin set up chow for our volunteers and the Marine air crews. We all met for the first time and had our mission meeting. Due to the high temperature, one of the Marine UH-1 Venom helicopters required repairs. The mechanics worked on the bird overnight and in to Saturday to get the bird flying again.

Saturday morning at 01:00 AM our "hike-in" crew began their journey to the guzzler to wait for the first water drop. The Marines spun the rotors up on the single UH-1 at first light and began hauling water to the Whale Peak Guzzler deep in the Vallecito mountains. We had to take advantage of the cool morning air of 100°F.

Upon completion of helicopter water drops at 13:00 and 115°F, we packed up all the dip tanks and made the 150-mile trek to the Sheephole Mountains staging area as temps were climbing above 120°. We finally had the water dip tanks set up and filled by 22:00 on Saturday night. Our "hike-in" crews departed camp at about 02:00 on Sunday to be waiting for the Marine UH-1s at first light. It was interesting climbing up slick rock dry water falls with only a headlamp to see your hand and footholds. At first light, both UH-1s began hauling water. We were enjoying the higher elevations in the Sheepholes and cooler temperature of 98°F at dawn. The hike out at 13:00 was miserable though.

On Monday morning, we again had full dip tanks and the Marines began hauling water to the Cleghorn and Lava Guzzlers on Base. We completed our work and waved goodbye to the helicopters when the day's water haul was complete. All told, we were able to deliver critical water to five guzzlers in three mountain ranges.

Special Thank You to California Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation, without your support, this project would not be possible. Thank you to Donald C. Martin and Mike Borel for coordinating with Anza-Borrego and the financial generosity of CA WSF. Thank you to Ms. Paige Prentice for coordinating with BLM for Sheephole permissions. Thank you to Mr. Andrew Pontious for the detailed reconnaissance visits and reports to the sheepholes. A very special thank you to Mr. Terry Anderson, for all your advice, use of tank, pump and hose. Terry spent many hours coordinating purchases, putting together replacement drinker and so much more.

Without Brett O'Mara and Evan Nordstrom from Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (AFI-Camp Pendleton), this project would not have happened. Thank you for bringing the Marines and believing in the mission to bring emergency drought relief to our Desert Bighorn Sheep.



---

# BIGHORN SHEEP HUNTING IN CALIFORNIA: THE FIRST 35 YEARS

by Vernon C. Bleich, Ph.D.

*The season on bighorns has been closed in California for over a century. It will never be reopened.*

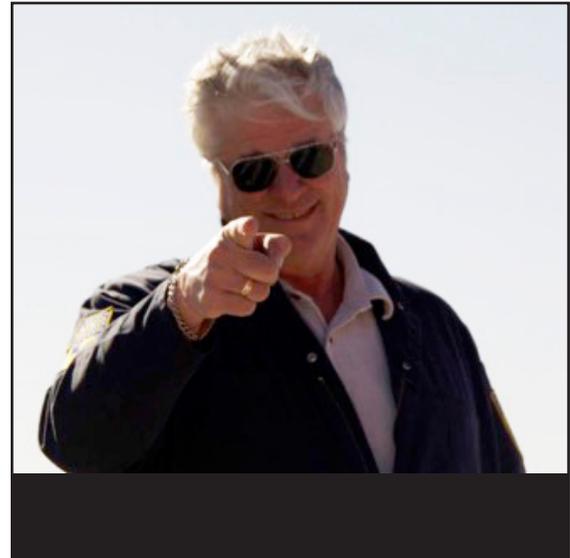
Jack O'Connor  
*Sheep and Sheep Hunting*

*Editor's note: This was the general belief at the time. Thanks to men like Vern Bleich and Dick Weaver we proved otherwise!*

Many interested parties are unfamiliar with the history of bighorn sheep management in California and, as time passes, that history is apt to become more and more obscure. What appears below is a brief summary of laws and regulations affecting the conservation of bighorn sheep in California, beginning with the initial effort to regulate the take of big game in the state. It is probable that some aspects of legislative or regulatory actions have been omitted inadvertently, but his compilation provides the bulk of the history associated with such actions as they have affected the status of bighorn sheep in California.

In 1872, the state legislature passed a law protecting elk, pronghorn, and deer for 8 months of the year. Shortly thereafter, in 1878, the legislature amended the Act to establish a four-year moratorium on the taking of any elk, pronghorn, female deer, or bighorn sheep. In 1883, the newly established moratorium on the taking of bighorn sheep was extended indefinitely, and in 1933 bighorn sheep became the first species in California to receive "full protection" from the California Legislature.

During the early 1970s, the legislature enacted the California Endangered Species Act, and two of the three subspecies of bighorn sheep then recognized as occurring in the state were listed as "rare" by the California Fish and Game Commission. At that time, *O. c. cremnobates* and *O. c. californiana* were thought to be unique subspecies that occupied the peninsular ranges of southern California and the Sierra Nevada in eastern California, respectively. As a result of state listing, recommendations were made for the development and implementation of recovery plans for each of those putative taxa. In 1984, both of these listings were changed to a new category (threatened), which replaced the term rare, and bighorn sheep occurring in the Sierra Nevada were up-listed to endangered by the Fish and Game Commission in 1999.



Since then, bighorn sheep occupying the peninsular ranges have been synonymized with other desert bighorn sheep in California (*O. c. nelsoni*), but in 1998 were listed as an endangered distinct population segment by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In April 1999, the Fish and Wildlife Service granted emergency endangered status to bighorn sheep inhabiting the central and southern Sierra Nevada and simultaneously published a proposed rule to list those animals as an endangered distinct population segment. The final rule granting endangered status to that distinct population segment was published on January 3, 2000. In 2005, bighorn sheep occupying the Sierra Nevada were recognized as a distinct subspecies (*O. c. sierrae*). In 2007, concurrent with the proposed designation of critical habitat for bighorn sheep occupying the Sierra Nevada, the Fish and Wildlife Service formally proposed a taxonomic revision to amend the final listing rule from that of distinct population segment to the subspecies, *O. c. sierrae*, consistent with the revised nomenclature. A federal recovery plan was completed for sheep in the peninsular ranges in 2000, and a federal recovery plan for Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep was completed in 2007; both plans are being implemented.

Over the years in California, there have been a number of legislative attempts to change the status of bighorn sheep to that of a game animal. One such effort occurred in 1922, when Senate

---

Bill 527 proposed an open season, with a \$100 license fee and tag system; that legislation was unsuccessful. In 1979, Senate Bill 83 proposed that the Nelson subspecies be classified as a game animal, while maintaining threatened status for the other two subspecies then recognized, but that legislation also was defeated. In 1983, Assembly Bill 1548 proposed the same changes as Senate Bill 83, but also emphasized the need for a statewide investigation of the status of populations, effects of competition and disease, and reintroduction needs in accordance with a study plan prepared earlier by the Department of Fish and Game; Assembly Bill 1548 also failed to gain approval. The legislature did, however, allocate monies for the investigations called for in the failed legislation. Resulting research yielded meaningful insights related to capture methods, status of diseases among mountain sheep populations, the importance of nutrition and effects of cattle grazing on mountain sheep, and long-term syntheses of behavioral and demographic phenomena.

In 1986, the legislature passed Assembly Bill 3117, which reclassified bighorn sheep as game animals in two areas of the Mojave Desert—Old Dad Peak and the Marble Mountains— but retained fully protected status for all other populations. In part, passage of Assembly Bill 3117 occurred because both of the reclassified populations had provided large numbers of animals for translocation stock, and thereby circumvented arguments that limited harvest by hunters would place either population in jeopardy. The bill also provided that one sheep hunting tag could be made available on an annual basis for fund raising purposes, and placed a strict limit on the number of tags that could be issued in any particular hunt zone after considering the demographic composition of each population and the number of bighorn sheep in California. Among other things, Assembly Bill 3117 also contained a sunset clause, perhaps making it more palatable to legislators concerned about potential impacts of hunting on the targeted populations, and a stipulation that successful applicants must attend a hunter orientation prior to receiving their bighorn sheep tag.

Subsequent legislation has eliminated the sunset clause and provided the Fish and Game Commission the authority to consider additional hunting opportunities for mountain sheep, required the Department to prepare management plans addressing the conservation of subpopulations, authorized additional fund-raising tags if a minimum number of permits were available to the general public on a drawing basis during any particular year, and altered the fees associated with bighorn sheep tags. Moreover, wording with respect to the limit on the number of tags that may be issued in a particular hunt zone has changed over

the years.

In an forthcoming article, I will present a brief history of the evolution of the original derivation and rationale for the limitation on the number of tags, the changes that have occurred in wording over the years and, most recently, the way that wording has been interpreted and its implications for hunter opportunity. Nevertheless, the hunting of desert bighorn sheep is, and continues to be, a legal and highly sought activity in California, despite Jack O'Connor's earlier pessimism.

Beginning with the first bighorn sheep season in 1987, there have been 35 annual hunting seasons. During that period, more than 500 tags have been issued, and hunter success has been nearly 100%. A total of 11 separate areas have been open to the harvest of bighorn sheep at one time or another, and the number of lottery tags available has trended strongly upward during that period (Figure 1). Similarly, the total number of individuals applying for a bighorn sheep tag has been on a strong upward trend, but has increased at a rate surpassing the rate of increase in the number of tags available on an annual basis (Figure 2). A major hurdle to setting recommendations for harvest was eliminated when the Department of Fish and Game determined that a hunt zone could remain in place and in the regulations, even if no harvest were recommended for the forthcoming season. Following that determination, the regulatory process was simplified immensely, and no longer required the substantial paperwork previously needed to re-open a closed zone.

Although hunter opportunity, as indexed by the number of individual tags available each year in 2021 was 3.5× that in 1987, the increase in demand for a tag has resulted in a downward trend in the probability of an applicant being successful in the drawing (Figure 3). Over the last 35 years, the percentage of successful applicants has ranged from a low of 0.111% in 2015 to a high of 0.356% in 1995 and, on average, the percentage of applicants successful in drawing a tag has been 0.214%.

*Dr. Vern Bleich was employed by the California Department of Fish and Game for 34 years, during which time he worked extensively with large mammals occupying the Great Basin, Mojave, and Sonoran deserts of California. He currently is Research Professor at the University of Nevada Reno, and remains actively involved in conservation and research activities. He serves on the Advisory Board of the Texas Bighorn Society, as Science Advisor for the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, and is a member of the Wild Sheep Foundation's Professional Resource Advisory Board. In 2019 he was appointed to the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board, on which he represents wildlife conservation interests. Interested parties can contact Vern directly (vbleich@gmail.com).*

## FIRST LAMB AT RASOR RANCH TANK: GIVE A LAMB A DRINK (GALAD) SUCCESS!

Last summer, CA WSF funded the installation of a 2300-gallon Raincatcher tank on private property in the South Soda Mountains. SCBS volunteers, Jeff Crouse and Jenny Hinojosa installed the tank with the property owner. Since installation, several bighorn sheep have been visiting the guzzler, which the landowner keeps full of water from his well pump. We are excited to report the first lamb sighting of this year. This 3-month old lamb is shy and difficult to photograph, but we want to share the photos we have.

Photos by Scott Gibson.



Figure 1: First Lamb at Rasor Ranch



Figure 2: a collared ewe with her group come in for a drink



Figure 3: The Raincatcher Tank kept full by the property owner



**THANK YOU**  
**to the**  
**Wild Sheep Foundation**  
**for supporting**  
**CA WSF.**

---

# Last Campfire

It is with an extremely heavy heart that I must inform you of the tragic passing of one of the most devoted advocates of Conservation and Hunting in the State of California – Many would consider her #1. Our fellow Safari Club International Member and Legislative Advocate Kathy Lynch and her partner, Jerry Upholt, were tragically murdered earlier this year.

Kathy spent countless hours on e-mail, phone and in the offices of our Legislators in California. She upheld a standard of relentless and devoted pursuit of ensuring the preservation of our hunting rights in California. She was a tireless leader who worked towards her client's objectives with a passion no one else could match.

She was an avid Conservationist, Hunter and Second Amendment proponent. If you were ever in a meeting with her, there was no doubt that she was on our side, and through her dedication to the issues, made all in the room want to be on her side.

Sincerely,  
Lisa McNamee  
Chair, SCI CA Coalition



---

# 2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION AT FULL SPEED COMMISSION REJECTS BEAR HUNTING BAN

*By Bill Gaines, Gaines and Associates*

*As we approach the end of May 2022 – with the deadline to move bills out of their house of origin and pass the FY 2022/23 State Budget both inching closer – activity on issues of concern to the California Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation (CA WSF) at our State Capitol is hectic. Meanwhile, in another theater, CA WSF helped secure a major victory for conservation.*

*Saving the best for last, let's start with our State Capitol and the latest status of just some of the many bills of interest CA WSF is currently working to help keep sheep on the mountain and you in the field.*



## 2022 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE

### AB 1227 (Levine) – Firearms and Ammunition: Excise Tax

If you think you've seen this one before, you have. In the past three issues of California Wild Sheep, we have covered AB 1223 (Levine) – legislation CA WSF actively opposed for over a year that would have imposed 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 and required that the revenues be used to fund illegal gun violence prevention efforts. After a long battle, in our Spring 2022 Issue we were pleased to report that we had finally defeated this negative proposal.

Our celebration was brief.

In early May 2022 – with the mid-February deadline for introducing new bills long past – Assembly Member Marc Levine (D/10-San Rafael) used the shifty “gut and amend” tactic to reintroduce his thinly-veiled gun control proposal in the form of AB 1227.

Like AB 1223, AB 1227 would double the excise tax already assessed on the sale of firearms and ammunition pursuant to federal Pittman-Robertson Act (PR). But PR dollars are appropriately allocated back to the states to fund positive programs – including wildlife habitat projects, hunter safety classes and shooting/target ranges. In fact, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) typically annually receives well over \$20 million in federal PR funding (\$30+ million in FY 2022/23) for these positive purposes.

Because all Californians benefit from programs designed to address illegal gun violence, all of California's public should help to fund their implementation. However, under AB 1227, gun violence prevention research, education, and programs would only be funded by law-abiding citizens who legally purchase firearms, firearm parts and ammunition. Given that California will enjoy a record near \$100 billion budget surplus in the coming 2022/23 fiscal year, ample General Fund revenue is available to fund programs aimed at addressing criminal gun violence. Knowing that – unsuccessful in their countless efforts to overthrow the 2nd Amendment – AB 1227 can only be viewed as yet another attempt to price law-abiding Californians out of the firearms and ammunition market.

Fortunately, similar to AB 1223, because AB 1227 proposes a “tax”, the bill requires approval of 2/3rds of the membership of each house of the Legislature. However, to increase the bill's chances of success, AB 1227 also includes an “urgency clause” which will allow the proposal to ignore deadlines and linger on the Floor until the author believes he has the votes to move the bill.

Having already passed out of the Assembly in its previous form as legislation dealing with building energy efficiency standards relating to solar reflectance of roofs, AB 1227 is already on the Senate side and is currently pending referral to Senate policy committee.

---

AB 1753 (Gallagher) – Fish and Wildlife: Poaching Violations – Probation Period

Also highlighted in our Spring 2022 Issue was AB 1753 – legislation by Assembly Member James Gallagher (R/3-Yuba City) which would have reinstated a maximum 3-year probation period for several serious violations of the Fish and Game Code (FGC).

CA WSF has long worked to sponsor and pass bills to increase penalties for wildlife poaching violations. Yet our efforts took a major step back in 2020 when the State Legislature passed AB 1950, “easy on crime” legislation which reduced the maximum probation period from three years to one year for most misdemeanor violations – including even the most serious poaching violations. Not only did passage of AB 1950 eliminate the option of a longer probation period to help ensure collection of poaching penalty assessments, but it also removed the ability of a judge to prohibit individuals convicted of serious poaching crimes from hunting for up to three years.

In February, AB 1753 was referred to the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee. But, regardless of relentless efforts to get this bill a hearing, AB 1753 was held by the Committee Chair and not heard. With the late April deadline for bills to be heard in policy committee now passed, AB 1753 is dead.

AB 2344 (Friedman) – Wildlife Connectivity: Transportation Projects

AB 2344 by Assembly Member Laura Friedman (D/43-Burbank) would require DFW and Caltrans to coordinate on establishing a wildlife connectivity action plan by January 2024 and to develop a list of priority wildlife passage projects to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions and enhance wildlife connectivity.

Statistics show that one out of every sixteen automobile accidents in California involve wildlife. In addition to the vehicle damage, injury and death suffered by motorists, millions of small and large animals – including many big game species – are killed on our roadways annually. In fact, researchers at the Road Ecology Center at the University of California at Davis estimate that as many as 100,000 deer alone are killed on California roads each year.

Passage of AB 2344 would improve the health of deer, elk, wild sheep, and other wildlife by requiring DFW to coordinate with Caltrans on a systematic course for promoting wildlife movement and habitat connectivity via wildlife passage projects.

Momentum created by AB 2344 also gives us some much-needed leverage to urge the Legislature to also fund implementation of a wildlife-vehicle collision data collection program pursuant to SB 395 (Archuleta), the “Wildlife Traffic Safety Act”. Successfully sponsored and passed by conservation interests in 2019, SB 395 authorizes DFW to: 1) develop a pilot program using existing technology to collect data via the use of a smartphone app which allows motorists to report the real-time location and animal species of wildlife-vehicle collisions; and 2) establish a pilot program for the issuance of wildlife salvage permits through that smartphone app to those desiring to salvage edible deer, elk, antelope, or wild pigs killed on our roadways.

Implementation of SB 395 is critical to DFW’s ability to effectively gather the data needed on wildlife-vehicle collision hot spots to develop the list of priority wildlife passage projects called for by AB 2344. As such, along with our support for AB 2344, CA WSF is also working with lawmakers in an effort to insert a \$1 million augmentation for DFW in the FY 2022/2023 State Budget to fund SB 395.

Double-referred, AB 2344 passed out of two Assembly policy committees in April, and out of Assembly fiscal committee in mid-May. Now on the Assembly Floor, AB 2344 must be heard and passed off the Floor and to the Senate by May 27th to meet legislative deadline.

SB 865 (Dodd) – Junior Hunting Licenses: Age of Eligibility

Another bill covered in our Spring 2022 Issue was SB 865. Co-sponsored by CA WSF and authored by Senator Bill Dodd (D/3-Napa), this legislation would extend the age eligibility to purchase a California junior hunting license from 15 years of age and under to 17 years of age and under.

Both cost and opportunity have been identified as major barriers to the recruitment, retention, and reactivation (R3) of hunters. To help address this concern, the intent of SB 865 is to inspire youth to become life-long hunters by allowing 16- and 17-year-olds to take advantage of the much less expensive junior hunting license and the many special “apprentice hunts” now made available by DFW and many nonprofits.

Moving swiftly, SB 865 passed out of the Senate policy committee in early March and out of Senate fiscal committee in mid-May. SB 865 will now go to the Senate Floor where it must be heard and passed off the Floor and to the Assembly by May 27th to meet legislative deadline.

## FISH & GAME COMMISSION REJECTS PETITION TO BAN BEAR HUNTING

In our Spring 2022 Issue, we reported that the California Fish and Game Commission had received a petition by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) that called for the black bear hunting season to be closed in California until an empirical study was conducted of the state's black bear populations; the effects of drought and recent wildfires on our bear populations were adequately studied; and the state's bear management plan was updated.

In that issue we noted that CA WSF was pleased to provide testimony on this item at the Commission's February 2022 meeting – noting that we strongly opposed a ban on bear hunting; that, although the bear management plan may be dated, the methodology DFW currently uses to determine bear populations is well accepted in the scientific community; and that all the best available science indicates that California's bear populations are possibly at historic highs. Fully confident in the accuracy of our comments, we closed our comments by urging the Commission to refer the petition to DFW for their review and recommendation. Following additional public testimony, the Commission did refer the petition to the Department, which quickly committed to providing their recommendation back to the Commission at their next meeting in April.

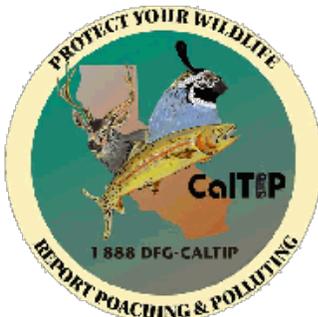
As soon as the February Commission meeting gavelled to a close, CA WSF immediately went to work with a coalition of state and national conservation organizations to do all possible to assist DFW with their review by compiling our own inventory of the scientific research we were aware of on black bears in California. In late March, CA WSF and 23 other conservation organizations submitted our comprehensive list of studies and projects in a 16-page letter to DFW and followed our written submission with additional contacts with DFW staff.

In mid-April, DFW completed their review of the petition and submitted their recommendation to the Commission in a detailed 11-page memo which, in part, stated "...our best available science, from multiple lines of evidence, points to an abundant and stable black bear population. Hunting affects only a small fraction of that population and serves as a management tool to provide key population monitoring data that cannot be easily obtained otherwise. The Department recognizes the challenges California's wildlife faces with increasing frequency of wildfires and prolonged drought under a changing climate regime. The Department is investing unprecedented amounts of funding to monitor, respond, and reduce the effects of these climate related impacts to the state's wildlife, with significantly more funding identified in the Governor's budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23." The memo concluded with DFW's recommendation that the HSUS petition be denied.

One week later, at the April 2022 Commission meeting in Monterey, consideration of the HSUS petition opened with a comprehensive 30-minute presentation by DFW staff which covered the Department's current research on bears, noted that bear populations are abundant, that hunting has no notable impact, reported on how DFW is working to "modernize" their bear population model, and closed with the Department's recommendation that the petition be denied..

Following DFW's presentation and additional testimony by CA WSF and countless others on all sides of this issue, the Fish and Game Commission unanimously voted to reject the petition by HSUS to ban bear hunting in California.

CA WSF appreciates the extensive efforts of DFW to demonstrate the science necessary to support the denial of the petition and we thank the Fish and Game Commission for embracing the science-based management of our wildlife and a strong future for hunting in California for generations to come.



### Cal-TIP

#### Californians Turn in Poachers and Polluters

**1 888 DFG-CALTIP(888 334-2258)**

A Confidential Secret Witness Program

CalTIP (Californians Turn In Poachers and Polluters) is a confidential secret witness program that encourages the public to provide Fish and Game with factual information leading to the arrest of poachers and polluters.

CalTIP was introduced in California in 1981 in order to give Californians an opportunity to help protect the state's fish and wildlife resources. The toll free telephone number operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You do not have to give your name.

For more information go to <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Enforcement/CalTIP>

# THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 HUNTS / TRIPS DONORS!

*You have donated generously!*

*Our thanks and sincere appreciation for helping us in our goal of  
PUTTING AND KEEPING WILD SHEEP ON THE MOUNTAINS.*

In addition to the many members who donate unsparingly of their items for auction, money and tremendous amounts of time, we have the tremendous benefit of close relationships with many of the most important sheep hunter merchandisers, professional outfitters, and extraordinary guides. We hope you will take the opportunity to check out these great businesses when you need their services and thank them for their support of CA WSF!

Algar Safaris Mariano Fernandez www.algar-safaris.com	Azyre Gear https://azyregear.com	Boyt Harness Company Tony Caliguri www.boytharness.com
Jim Bardin Ranch Bob Swanson and Donald C. Martin	California Deer Association http://caldeer.org/	Caprinae Safaris of Turkey Derya Celik http://www.caprinae.com/
Diamond Outfitters of AZ Dan Adler www.diamondoutfitters.com	FN-Hunting Austria Martin O. Neuper www.fnhunting.com	Giuseppe Carrizosa Spain Curro Carrizosa www.giuseppecarrizosa.com
Graham Sales Safaris Graham Sales www.grahamsalessafaris.com	GSCO / OVIS www.wildsheep.org	Hunt In Europe Srdja Dimitrijevic www.huntineurope.com
Iber Hunting Antonio Teruel www.iberhunting.com	Kenetrek Boots www.kenetrek.com	KUIU Ultralight www.kuiu.com
Leupold www.leupold.com	Rowdy McBride Hunting Services Rowdy McBride rowdymcbridehuntingservices.com	Nosler www.nosler.com
Omenica Guide Service Frank Badey www.omineca.bc.ca	Point Blank Hunts Joe Jacob pointblank.jj@gmail.com	Schnee's Boots www.schnees.com
Tim Shinabarger Art timshinabarger.com	Sitka Outdoor Wear www.sitka.com	Sitka Outdoor Wear www.sitka.com
Superior Safaris Jeffrey Austin superiorsafaris.com	Swarovski Optics www.swarovski.com	Turner's Outdoorsman www.turners.com
Vortex Optics www.vortexoptics.com	UC Hopland Research Station hrec.ucanr.edu	WSI Sportswear wsisports.com



CA Wild Sheep Foundation  
1630 Williams Hwy #151  
Grants Pass, OR 97527

[www.cawsf.org](http://www.cawsf.org)

---

## CALIFORNIA CHAPTER WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION

**DON'T MISS**  
the next

**ANNUAL FUNDRAISER**

**APRIL 29, 2023**

**DOUBLETREE SACRAMENTO**