



California Wild Sheep

Fall 2022

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DANIEL MESSICK
Ord Mountains
DIY Hunt with Friends
December 2021



ULTIMA THULE LODGE

CONTACT: DONALD C. MARTIN 310-766-3921



From the Editor's Desk

Wonderful Fall and the start of hunting season in the Northern Hemisphere. I am SOOO ready!! I feel more alive with the cooling air (that is arriving soon, I hope) and the anticipation of scheduled hunting trips. This issue includes some great hunting stories, fun pictures, Drinker Work, history and clarification of CDFW's intended meanings of "legal" and "mature" rams, important information you want to know, fun humor, lots of legislative info, AND MORE!

Your feedback, ideas, articles, pictures & requests are always welcome. Best way to reach me is email: mike.borel@contextnet.com. Due date for input to the 4Q22 issue is November 20.

Wishing you personal renewal and great success in your hunting this fall!



THANK YOU MEMBERS!

The 2022 Board of Directors election was completed in late June and the newly comprised Board met in early July. See the next page for a listing of current Board members and the end dates of their service.

In future issues we will be having one-on-one conversations with our Board members asking them why they serve and what they get out of the service. As always, everyone has different reasons but almost all will mention how important it is to stay connected through out love of wild sheep and mountain hunting!

Your continued involvement helps to keep us strong! Take the opportunity every time you can to make your voice heard. In this issue there are several more ways you can make your membership more valuable to both the organization and yourself. Join a committee! Send your hunt story in -- whether you are successful or not! Upgrade your membership and get your friends to join.

Everything that makes the organization better makes it better for you too.

Contact me (mike.borel@contextnet.com) or Beverly (forthesheep@gmail.com) for more information.

An atheist was seated next to a dusty old cowboy on an airplane and he turned to him and said, "Do you want to talk? Flights go quicker if you strike up a conversation with your fellow passenger."

The old cowboy, who had just started to read his book, replied to the total stranger, "What would you want to talk about?"

"Oh, I don't know," said the atheist. "How about why there is no God, or no Heaven or Hell, or no life after death?" as he smiled smugly.

"Okay," he said. "Those could be interesting topics but let me ask you a question first. A horse, a cow, and a deer all eat the same stuff -- grass. Yet a deer excretes little pellets, while a cow turns out a flat patty, but a horse produces clumps. Why do you suppose that is?"

The atheist, visibly surprised by the old cowboy's intelligence, thinks about it and says, "Hmmm, I have no idea."

To which the cowboy replies, "Do you really feel qualified to discuss God, Heaven and Hell, or life after death, when you don't know crap?"

Words of Wisdom from Jack O'Connor

Trophy hunting never hurts sheep herds because the rams with big heads are all the old ones within a year or two of death. ... Hunters could take every ram over nine on every sheep mountain in North America without jeopardizing the herds at all."

—"The Art of Sheep Hunting," September 1954



COMPLIMENTARY DAD JOKE:

What did the grape say when it was crushed?
- Nothing, it just let out a little WINE!

Board of Directors

Officers

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Donald C Martin (2023)

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Brenton Scott (2024)

Maggi Kouffeld (2023)

Mike Torres (2023)

California Wild Sheep is published quarterly.

Please email all articles and photos to

mike.borel@contextnet.com

Photos should be high resolution and in color.

It is recommended that digital photos be sent by email.

Please include photo credits and captions.

Content editing by Zack Walton

Humorous outtakes provided by Tammy Scott

Published by Beverly Valdez, ORC-KF1 LLC

Events

2022

November 20 Due date for articles for 4Q2022
CA WSF Newsletter

December 2 Sheep Summit 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 11-14 Desert Bighorn Council Mtg,
Alpine, Texas
Hosted by Texas Parks &
Wildlife Department

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

Hunting season is upon us! As of this writing, I am currently guiding sheep hunters in Alaska. All across the Western states sheep hunters are taking to the field. Even here in California, the White Mountains desert bighorn unit is open and hunters are chasing their dreams. I want to wish all of our members good luck this Fall in their pursuits, especially those lucky few pursuing sheep.



The opportunity to hunt these majestic animals is a rare experience. It's not the rarity of opportunity alone that makes it special, but the combined immersive experience of being in the mountains that the sheep call home. For so many of us, we must answer the Siren's song and go to the mountain. We must test ourselves. We must push beyond our discomfort and pain; push beyond our limitations real or imagined. We must "get lost to find ourselves", and in doing so, endeavor to become better. Hopefully we endure the trials of sheep hunting to become stronger, more humble, more patient, and more appreciative of our natural world and the role we play in it as its apex predator.

I'm not a man known for profundity, but I have often said, "there is no greater opportunity for self-discovery than sheep hunting." You're going to find out things you like about yourself and you're going to find out things you don't like about yourself. Sheep hunting is a ritualistic experience. You will be changed. And regardless of a hunt's success, the person at the end of a sheep hunt will be different than the one who engaged upon the journey.

Because of this transformative nature of the sheep hunt, North America's wild sheep are often the only specie we pursue that more often than not instantly transform "hunters" into "conservationists". And "conservationists" are what we need more of. Hunting is the byproduct of successful conservation. Without the dedication of all of you, there would be no hunting. So I wish to extend my thanks to all of you that continue to support this Chapter's efforts to "put and keep sheep on the mountains." And because this conservationist philosophy yields increased opportunity for all of us, we are all working hard to "put and keep more hunters on the mountain."

Please make plans now to join us on April 29 next year in Sacramento for our Annual Banquet and Fundraiser. We'll be giving away a 2024 ten day desert bighorn hunt with Rancho La Guarida in Chihuahua, Mexico and you can purchase tickets now at <http://www.cawsf.org/store.html> Go to our website now and purchase a chance to win and help us meet our goal of doubling the number of desert bighorns in Southern California.

In closing, good luck this Fall and thanks again for your support. I look forward to seeing you next Spring in Sacramento and maybe we'll be calling out your name and sending you to hunt in Mexico! Buy your tickets now.

Good hunting! Donald C. Martin





Have Sheep Fever? CA WSF CAN HELP!

Do you dream of sharp, jagged mountains with record numbers of wild sheep hiding in valleys and just over the next mountain? Are you a Californian or a transplant to or from? Do you want to help assure that wild sheep thrive for future generations? Do you want to be part of a growing organization that is making a positive difference?

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

Joining is very easy – www.cawsf.org or email Beverly Valdez at forthesheep@gmail.com.

Want to get even more involved? Email Don Martin, President, at don-martin@earthlink.net.

CA WSF is a proud Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation – you’ll want to be a member there too! www.wildsheepfoundation.org.



JOIN A CA WSF COMMITTEE

Sheep talk any time and for hours!

Yes, committees are hard work, but they can also be filled with fun and facts you never knew or maybe you just forgot them! All of the CA WSF committees have members dedicated to the cause of **“Putting and Keeping Sheep on the Mountains”** and they talk sheep for many hours!

2022-23 CAWSF Committee Chairs

Banquet/Fundraiser
Donald C. Martin/Ken Crother

Water Projects
GALAD-Mike Borel

Projects Beyond Water
Don Priest

Communications
Beverly Valdez/Mike Borel

Youth Outreach
Glen Pyne

Governmental Affairs/Major Issues
Don Priest

Newsletter Editor – Mike Borel

Membership
Open (Seeking a volunteer)

As a CA WSF member, you are invited to join. Get in touch with Don Martin (don-martin@earthlink.net) or Beverly Valdez (forthesheep@gmail.com) for more information.

MY NUMBER 1

By Ron Monk, Member

This story starts in the early “80’s” while living in Idaho and ends with a hunt of a lifetime in California.

My first sheep draw was for a Rocky in Idaho, and I applied for a zone that had the best draw odds. First thing I needed was a Sheep Gun and the Legendary Jack O’Conner was a big proponent of the .270 Winchester Model 70. So, I headed to “Blue lakes Outfitters” in Twin Falls, Idaho to get set up. I purchased that very gun and topped it with a Leopold 3x9 compact scope, and this rifle instantly became my “Number 1”!

That first Sheep hunt was a backpack hunt by myself in a roadless section of the Middle fork of the Salmon River, truly wild beautiful country. There are a wide range of wild animals in this country and after spending nearly the entire season, I think I laid my eyes on most of them, except No Sheep! So, my first sheep tag went unpunched. Later I learned that no sheep were harvested that year in that zone, so I felt a little better but still hoping to draw again.

A few years later, without drawing any more sheep tags, I decided to move to California to pursue a career in construction. I continued to apply in Idaho and other Western States and then in the mid “80’s” California started their Sheep program, so now as a California resident I started applying in California.

In June of 2021, I received a call from a good friend that the California draw results were out and he had drawn the X Zone deer tag he had been trying for. So as soon as our phone call ended, I went to my computer and went to the draw results page and started down the list. It is really an indescribable feeling to see YES next to Bighorn Sheep! After it sunk in I called family and friends to give them the good news and also to gather as much information on California Sheep hunting as I could. This time I was going to get some help and bring family and friends to share in this experience.

In California we are fortunate to have several top-notch sheep outfitters, after talking with anyone who was willing and several previous clients I hired Matt and Cliff St. Martin of “Dry Creek Outfitters”. A Father and Son team that has a real passion for the outdoors and especially Sheep Hunting. Now I have my guide and my crew, now the long wait until the season opens.

It was the longest 7 months of my life, like a child waiting for Christmas morning. Although I had



Ron Monk and his 13 year old ram

acquired many firearms since my first Sheep Hunt, the choice of which rifle to use on this hunt was an easy one, the Jack O’Conner inspired .270. I had bought that gun all those years ago, for my first Sheep Hunt, now I got another chance to use it to harvest a Bighorn Sheep.

The long wait is finally over, and we are in the truck headed for the desert. We arrived in camp that afternoon to news that our target ram had been located.

Early the next morning we are heading up the mountain to pursue the Ram but to no avail, that Ram eluded us. After 2 days we were climbing into the Mountains to chase this Ram only to be outmaneuvered each time seemingly without the knowledge of our presence he eluded us at every turn and eventually moved higher and deeper into the Mountain.

The next day, the spotting crew located a band of sheep in an area of the unit that was known for older rams. The next morning, we split into groups to see if we could locate a Ram to go after. At around 10:00 am Cliff received a call; they had relocated the band of sheep near the same area where they had seen them the day before and the Old Ram was with them.

Once again, the sheep eluded us, so we retreated off the mountain to the most stunning desert sunset and back to camp.

The morning of the fourth day was crisp and clear another beautiful winter day in the desert. We made our way back to where we had seen the sheep the

night before, it didn't take long to find the sheep were back on the ridge, with a mile of open ground between us and the foot of the mountain. It was impossible at this point to make a move on them and after hunkering down and watching the sheep for several hours they had worked their way along the ridge to our right.

Now was our chance, Matt and I made our way to our left into a small side drainage. Using the terrain to conceal our approach, we paralleled the ridge towards the location that we had last seen the sheep.

Once near the top we no longer had a depression to hide our approach so we went from rock outcrop to rock outcrop glassing as we went trying to relocate the sheep. We arrived at the edge of a saddle on the main ridge looking across at the tall knob on the ridge. We set up there behind the biggest rock pile we could find.

It didn't take long, and three Rams came around from the backside of the tall knob and to the left into a large bowl at the top of the drainage. Matt whispered, "the lead ram is that Old Ram, so get ready". He put his binoculars on him and said, "no that's not him hold off we will sit here awhile longer".

It didn't take long and we saw movement on top of the knob, Matt said, "ok, that's him, get ready he is coming straight towards us". He worked his way down the knob towards the saddle at about 250 yards he stopped broadside looking towards where the other 3 sheep had gone.

I touched one off and after nearly 40 years my old Winchester has finally harvested my Big Horn Sheep. Walking upon this magnificent animal there was no doubt he was an Old Warrior, with much wear and huge chunks missing from his horns. The rest of the

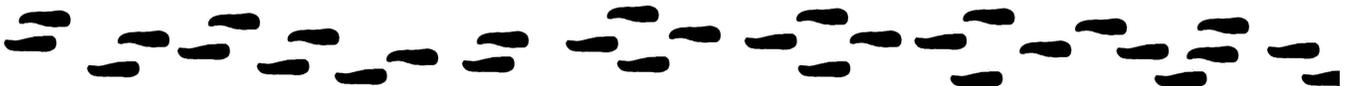
crew were more than a mile and a half away, watching the action, although they could not see the sheep they could see Matt and I. They heard the shot and saw Matt and I get up and high five. They all headed up to us, they must have run the whole way within 20 minutes everyone was on site hugging, high fiving and taking pictures, then the Dry Creek Crew began breaking him down to pack him out. It was like watching a team of surgeons at work and in no time, we were loaded up and working our way back to the truck arriving just as the last light of the day sat over the desert.

The next day the California Fish and Wildlife came to camp to check in the ram, aging it at 13 + years old. Later proving to be the oldest Ram harvested in California this season, a true desert Warrior! Because of this I won the "Patriarch award" for the Oldest Ram taken in the State. This was presented to me in Sacramento by the California Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation.

I would like to thank Matt and Cliff St. Martin, the entire Dry Creek Crew and my Family and friends who came along to share in this amazing adventure in the desert with me.

There was no Sheep Hunting in California during Jack O'Conner's lifetime. As a Hunter and conservationist, I am sure Jack would be pleased with the progress California has made with their sheep program.

We all owe a big thanks to all the Conservation Organizations, biologists, hunters, conservationist, and the California Department of Wildlife for all the time, money and effort that all these individuals have contributed to the success of returning, strong, healthy sheep populations to our California deserts.



SOMETIMES AT THE WATERHOLE IT'S A QUESTION OF MANNERS AND PERSONALITY

THEWAYOFTHINGS.ORG

Carlos Gallinger
June 6 at 8:18 AM ·

RALPH'S LAST RAM

By Mike Torres, Distinguished Life Member, Board Member

Our hunting world lost a great mountain hunter and supporter of CA WSF when my friend Ralph Adams passed on June 2, 2022. Ralph was a passionate mountain hunter who especially loved wild sheep. He hunted from the Arctic Circle to the deserts of Mexico completing 7 Grand Slams totaling 35 rams. This is the story of his last ram.

Ralph was participating in the Online Auction for the California Bighorn in Nevada for 2021 and was determined to get that tag. I watched him raise the bidding until the last hold out folded and Ralph was the winning bidder.

Ralph made arrangements with Nevada Outfitter Cody Brinkerhoff, Ram Ridge Outfitters, to hunt north central Nevada and the hunt was on. They scouted and glassed for many days in blistering heat, locating over 100 rams. Two of the rams that they called "Big Nose" and a dark chocolate ram they called "Obama" were very good rams and they focused on those two.

The two big rams finally made a mistake and moved into a huntable position when they went for water. Ralph was using his favorite rifle, a Christensen Arms .300 Weatherby Magnum with a Swarovski scope. They set up the shot and Ralph uncharacteristically missed. This was unusual for such a proficient long range shooter.



Ralph Adams with his last ram

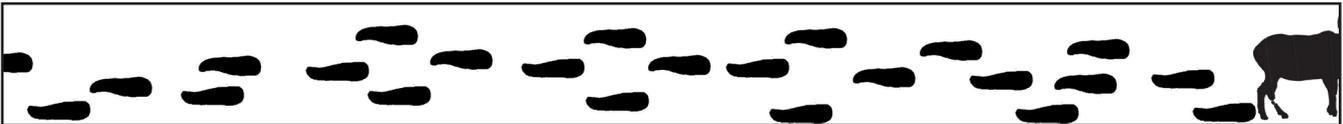
The rams went into panic mode and, as we all know, frightened rams change zip codes and disappear. Ralph called me shortly after the miss and when I asked how the hunt was going he told me in classic Ralph "The hunt is going very well except that I can't breath, can't walk, and can't shoot".

A serious sheep hunter like Ralph would not be deterred or quit. He and Cody continued to glass for long periods of time, day after day, until they located the big rams again on October 26. They stayed on the rams until they made another mistake on October 28. Cody set up the shot and Ralph's .300 spoke, taking the big chocolate ram at 700 yards. This 9 year old ram scored 165 2/8s and was Ralph's 35th ram. They hunted that ram for 40 days. Cody spent 6 hours packing out the number 2 California Bighorn in Nevada for 2021.

They saw 4 mountain lions on the hunt, and they weren't even looking for them, taking 1 lion. Ralph

told me that the highlight of this hunt was hunting with his 13 year old Grandson, Hunter.

Ralph will be missed by many of us and the mountains seem a little different without him in them.



The desert bighorn sheep have been finding their way across this cliff of lava for untold generations. Some of these places are marked by petroglyphs and game trails. You'll find two videos on my website about the petroglyphs in this general location, titled "Petroglyphs a focus point in the environment." thewayofthings.org

DESERT SHEEP FEVER (SUB-STRAIN OF SHEEP FEVER)

by Dennis Sites, Life Member

Mike asked me to say a few words regarding the pictures of My Desert Bighorns so here you go in a few words.

I started my quest to achieve a Grand Slam (at least that was what it was called back then) in the fall of 1988 and continued to hunt sheep after I had completed that as well as two more over the next few years, you might say I had the fever pretty bad! But that wasn't the worst of it, for now I contracted a sub strain of sheep fever called Desert Sheep fever(very contagious). I set my sites(no pun intended) on taking four Deserts over 180. Well as you can see by the pictures I was able to achieve that, I'm sure all you sheep hunters can pick them out.

I'm 81 now and my wife had hoped I would have gone into remission by now however I've still got a little fever left and hopefully I'll be in the Desert again this fall.

I can't get up the hill as fast as I used to, but I'll be there when I need to be.

Dennis Sites Salinas Ca Lifetime Member California Wild Sheep, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited, Wild Sheep Foundation.





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
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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.

2023 ANNUAL FUNDRAISER & ANNUAL BANQUET WE NEED YOU!

by The CA WSF Board and Banquet/Fundraiser Committee

Please save the date by putting this on your calendar and planning your participation.

This is a very fun, and inspirational event for all participants. We'd love to draw more members to participate – for example we have many members in the Bakersfield area who we would love to see make the trip. There are several other parts of California that have members, but have been under-represented at the event.

The sheep hunter conversations and the sheep biologist conversations are priceless to those involved. Older to Younger, and vice-versa, discussions are always valuable and fun. Some of us with gray hair and lots of wild sheep and goat species experience are very willing to share what we've learned (some from good experience and some from bad).

Bottom line – put it on your calendar and plan for it.

PLAN TO BE THERE!
April 29, 2023
DoubleTree by Hilton
2001 Point West Way
Sacramento



CALIFORNIA DESERT BIGHORN HUNTS AND CALIFORNIANS HUNTING WILD SHEEP IN OTHER RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Compiled by Mike J. Borel

Sometimes we feel alone as sheep hunters in California. Recently I noticed how many other publications have California Hunting and California Hunters "In the News." Here is my quick sampling from the summer. [Editors Note - Apologies for any I missed.]

Sports Afield (July/Aug 2022)

- California Dreamin' by Keith Hartman who hunted with Mossback Outfitters, Jonnie Kellogg

Huntin Fool (Sept 2022)

- Spur of the Moment by Logan Bongio

Epic Outdoors

- California . . . Not Just a Land of Liberals, by Daniel Ryan (Aug/Sept 2022)
- The Ghost – Desert Bighorn by Ken Womack (Jun/Jul 2022)
- Thirty Five Years – Desert Bighorn by Randy Kann (Jun/Jul 2022)

GSCO (Summer 2022)

- Rusty Brines – Triple Slam Milestone
- David Ollivier – Grand Slam Milestone
- William Craig McKenzie – Grand Slam Milestone
- Anthony "Gus" Osterkamp – Grand Slam Milestone

Wild Sheep Foundation

- So You Want to be a Sheep Hunter? Are you Sure? By Craig Boddington (Summer 2022)
- Desert Dozen - #12 by Jason Hairston Goliath from the Orocopias 2017
- Ambassadors Part II – including Craig Boddington

CALIFORNIA WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION

Putting and Keeping
Wild Sheep on the Mountains
in California



WIN A 2024 DESERT SHEEP HUNT WITH LA GUARIDA RANCH

10-day Fully Guided Desert Bighorn and Javalina hunt for 1 hunter and 1 observer at La Guarida Ranch

Dates: February 5 - 14, 2024

Location: Chihuahua, Mexico Includes:

- Hunting guides
 - Rifle permits, licenses, and CITES (bring your own gun or you can use one of theirs)
 - Trophy preparation for export and paperwork
 - Transportation to the ranch and back (Chihuahua City, Mexico Airport, currently there are 3 flights to CHIH from Dallas)
 - Landing strip with hangar for private aircraft.
 - Horseback riding hunt available
 - Bring one non-hunter companion for no extra cost.
- This is a free-range hunt, and you should expect to harvest a ram in the 175-185 B&C category.
- You will be staying in a luxurious Santa Fe style home with exquisite Mexican and International cuisine. Great hospitality, phone and internet service.

**YOU DO NOT
NEED TO BE
PRESENT TO
WIN**

**ANNUAL
FUNDRAISER**
04 / 29 / 2023
WWW.CAWSF.ORG

Join us for
A Celebration of Conservation



For details & tickets

October 22, 2022

Placerville Shakespeare Club
2940 Bedford Avenue
Placerville, CA 95667

Doors Open 5:00 / Dinner 6:30

COMMENTS FROM

Assembly Member Kevin Kiley

DFW Chief of Enforcement David Bess

El Dorado County Sheriff John D'Agostini

Celebrate conservation efforts with your fellow outdoor enthusiasts and enjoy a catered dinner, auction, raffle, and live music of

Bob Kinney & The Livin Daylites



For more information contact Wanda Gaines – 916-532-3735

HOW TO MAKE THE ULTIMATE HOMEMADE BREAKFAST BURRITO

By Alan Delgado, May 2022

[*Epicurious Recipes Online*](#)

This bacon, egg, and cheese burrito recipe is the secret to a breakfast burrito that will transform your weekend into something great. Preparing flour tortillas from scratch might seem difficult if you've never done it before, but with some practice your burritos will impress everyone who tastes them. (Fresh tortillas really, truly can't be beat!) Bonus: The light and fluffy tortillas will fill your home with the beautiful aroma of toasted flour.

How to make a great flour tortilla

A really good burrito starts with a really good tortilla, one that's pliable, elastic, and fluffy. If you've never made fresh tortillas at home before, know that repetition is key; with a little practice you'll get there.

In order to make the tortilla dough a bit easier to work with, make sure it's kept hydrated. Even when following my recipe exactly, your dough may vary from day to day, depending on the weather and moisture in the air. When measuring the hot water to add to the dough, I like to keep an extra cup on hand, just in case it is needed. As I begin to knead the dough, I am looking for something that starts off a bit sticky but slowly takes the shape of a smooth ball. Whenever your dough is resting, be sure to cover it to avoid letting it dry out.

When I first started making flour tortillas, I would sometimes overwork the dough, which then meant rolling them out was difficult and I ended up with firm tortillas. The more you practice, the more you get a feel for when to stop kneading: As I knead the dough, I look for signs of the dough beginning to give a little push back, which usually happens after 10 to 15 minutes. I check by pressing my thumb into the dough—just look for a slow spring back. If the dough springs back immediately, then I know I have gone too far—then I'd let it rest for an extra hour before rolling.

Giving the dough time to rest before rolling is a crucial step in the process. Not enough resting time will result in the dough being a little more difficult to roll out. The best way to check if you're ready for rolling is to press down on one of the portioned balls. If the dough remains pressed with no spring-back, then your tortillas are ready to be rolled. If not, then let the dough rest longer.

The best filling for breakfast burritos

I have been eating breakfast burritos for as long as I can remember, and so far I must say that this is my favorite version, and the one I most love serving at my burrito popup, Los Burritos Juarez. The creaminess of the cheesy soft-scrambled eggs and silky beans is contrasted by the crispy bacon strips and the tortilla chips mixed in with the eggs.

I'll leave you with one more trick before you get rolling: the key to a perfect BEC (and beans) burrito is making sure everything is seasoned well. Taste each component as you go, then bring it all together for the ultimate morning meal.



WHY DO WE HUNT?

Everyone has their reasons for hunting, but there are common threads. Increasingly we're being forced to explain why in defense of our motivations and actions. We shouldn't have to. Humans have been hunters since Day 1. Nevertheless, our societies have evolved. Many of the things that make us human have been lost or skipped over in the process.

Here is a new film worth sharing that walks us back and explores some long-lost history about being human and adds back some very interesting perspectives.

Hunting and the Art of Human Existence was written and produced by our partners at Conservation Visions.

See it on YouTube at https://youtu.be/ntZo_kuoPqs/



ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

— California —

HUNTING

In California **401,000** hunters spent **\$1.4 Billion** on hunting-related purchases.

Total Multiplier Effect



Jobs Supported



Salaries & Wages



Contributions to GDP



State & Local Taxes



Federal Taxes



Statewide

\$2.2 Billion

16,100*

\$760 Million

\$1.2 Billion**

\$140 Million

\$186 Million

United States

\$109.9 Billion

688,542*

\$32.2 Billion

\$58 Billion***

\$5.4 Billion

\$8.3 Billion

There are **15 Million** hunters in the U.S.

In 2020 they spent **\$49.4 Billion** on hunting purchases!



*If hunters were to stop spending, this many jobs would disappear.
State GDP *United States GDP

sportsmensalliance.org
See reverse for target shooting

ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

— California —

TARGET SHOOTING

In California **1,538,000** participants spent **\$1.2 Billion** on target shooting-related purchases.

Total Multiplier Effect



Jobs Supported



Salaries & Wages



Contributions to GDP



State & Local Taxes



Federal Taxes



Statewide

\$2.3 Billion

17,300*

\$816 Million

\$1.3 Billion**

\$154 Million

\$201 Million

United States

\$39.4 Billion

281,200*

\$12.8 Billion

\$21.2 Billion***

\$2.2 Billion

\$3.2 Billion

There are **20 Million** target shooters in the U.S.

In 2020 they spent **\$15.7 Billion** on shooting purchases!



*If target shooters were to stop spending, this many jobs would disappear.
State GDP *United States GDP

sportsmensalliance.org
See reverse for hunting

COWBOY CAVIAR

Cowboy Caviar, is an easy, light, and fresh dip that is perfect for parties, potlucks, and cookouts!. There are many recipes and variations to make anyone happy to have this one! The bulk of the work for this recipe is chopping the vegetables.

INGREDIENTS NEEDED

DIP INGREDIENTS

- Canned Black Eyed Peas
- Canned Black Beans
- Canned Corn
- Cherry Tomatoes
- Red Bell Pepper
- Jalapeno Pepper
- Red Onion
- Cilantro
- Lime Zest
- Tortilla Chips (for serving)

DRESSING INGREDIENTS

- Olive Oil
- Apple Cider Vinegar
- Lime Juice
- Granulated Sugar
- Oregano
- Garlic Salt
- Cumin
- Paprika
- Salt

OVERVIEW: HOW TO MAKE COWBOY CAVIAR

1. Make the dressing: add the lime juice, apple cider vinegar, olive oil, granulated sugar, garlic powder, cumin, paprika, oregano, and salt into a jar and shake to combine. Set aside.

2. Make the dip: place the black eyed peas, black beans, corn, red pepper, cherry tomatoes, jalapeno, red onion, lime zest, and cilantro into a large mixing bowl and stir to combine. Pour the dressing over and stir to coat all ingredients.

3. Let the dip marinate for 30 minutes or up to 1 day prior to serving.

4. Serve and enjoy! Stir the dip prior to serving and then enjoy with tortilla chips.

RECIPE VARIATIONS AND SUBSTITUTIONS

- Beans: dried beans can also be used for this recipe instead of canned. If using, cook each bean variety separately



as the cooking times may vary. You need to cook $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of dried beans for every 15-ounce can of beans that is being replaced.

- Corn: frozen corn or fresh corn on the cob (boiled or grilled) can also be used in this recipe.
- Peppers: you can also use orange, yellow, or green bell pepper instead of red bell pepper if desired.
- Tomatoes: you can also dice roma (or your favorite) larger tomatoes for this recipe. In a pinch, canned diced tomatoes can work too.
- Vinegar: if you do not have apple cider vinegar, you can use white wine vinegar or red wine vinegar instead.
- Onions: purple onions are the best for this recipe. However, you can replace the purple onion with a white onion, a yellow onion, or a small bunch of green onions.
- Dressing: a popular substitution for the homemade dressing outlined in this recipe is Italian dressing. If you'd prefer to use Italian dressing, do not make the vinaigrette as outlined in the recipe and use $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of dressing and add more as needed.
- Avocado: some versions of cowboy caviar include avocado. If you'd like to add this to your recipe, start with one small avocado cut into small cubes. Stir in just before serving.
- Note: avocados tend to darken over time, so the salad may not stay as well in the fridge.

HOW TO SERVE COWBOY CAVIAR

Texas caviar is great served as a dip, as a fun party appetizer, as a side dish, on salads, on tacos, on nachos, and on grilled meats!

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Doug Sayer
Dall Sheep, August 2022
Hunting with Ultima Thule Outfitters



Mike Torres
Fanin ram, August 2022
Hunting with Blackstone Outfitters



Brett Fuller
Arizona desert ram, December 2021
Hunting with Dry Creek Outfitters"



Gregg Bell
Ord Newberry Rodman Mountain
Hunting with San Gorgonio Wilderness Outfitters

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Steve Hunter
Dall Ram, Alaska Range
August 2022

On my third sheep hunt, I was finally able to see a legal ram. There were actually two legal rams in the bunch. One had sharp horn tips on both sides and one was broomed off a little on one side. The broomed ram was older, so that is the one I selected. We were able to maneuver into a position to ambush them as they fed and I made the shot.

My InReach satellite text messaging system says that I backpacked over 70 miles with over 49,000 feet of elevation change. Yes, there was a lot of up and down.



Antal Török
Eastern European Guide



Paul Schulthesis
Desert Ram, January 2022, Sonora
First hunt in Mexico, 8.5yo ram

CALIFORNIA FISH AND WILDLIFE UPDATE

by Jeff Villepique
Senior Wildlife Biologist Supervisor, IDR-South

The CDFW Desert Bighorn Sheep Program has completed summer ground surveys and deployed cameras for mark-resight surveys at water sources. We're preparing for a busy fall and winter season by purchasing collars, finalizing documents for captures, and working with BLM to complete environmental documentation required for water projects including tank replacements and repairs involving use of a helicopter in wilderness under the newly executed contract using drought-emergency funding.

Setting priorities for habitat management work along with our volunteer workforce, the Society for Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, has been aided by tremendous gains in efficiency thanks to the great work of Sonja Schwartz, the Region's Drought Monitoring Biologist. Sonja has hunted down files from the depths of file cabinets near and far, to disparate digital sources, to assemble a database of the 'what, where, and when' of wildlife water developments (WWDs), and is now focused on integrating the current status of WWDs and implementing processes to collect updates via mobile app and by remote data collection, which we're looking to expand. Having information on water levels, short and long-term maintenance needs, and ultimately patterns of use by wildlife, will enable CDFW to make the case for the resources needed to implement long-term strategic management that keeps water on the landscape for wildlife.

This fall CDFW will be capturing and GPS-collaring desert bighorn in Death Valley NP, the Castle and Orocochia Mountains, as well as in the San Gorgonio population, and across the Peninsular Ranges, with a target of over 150 animals. Each animal will be extensively sampled for various health metrics, and we'll then be able to monitor their long-term survival, generate mark-resight population estimates, and in collaboration with Oregon State University (OSU), further our understanding of how population performance and disease resiliency relate to habitat quality, genetics, and connectivity.

The Desert Bighorn Program is pleased to announce that after a long search we've hired a great biologist, Danielle Glass, to assume the full-time role of co-lead for the Desert Bighorn Program. You may recall Danielle as a former Scientific Aid working for the Desert Sheep Program from Danielle's presentations at past Sheep Summits. Danielle applied her insights and data collected in the Mojave to graduate studies at the Yale School of the Environment, where

her master's research investigated influences of meteorological conditions on movements of desert bighorn and their use of water.

Danielle is currently wrapping up her work with the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and planning her move to Bishop for an October start date, and will make a great addition to the team. The Desert Sheep Program is also recruiting for three new Scientific Aids to re-fill slots opened by crewmembers who've left the program to take on new challenges. We look forward to having Danielle, and her co-leader Rick Ianniello, take on the challenges and rewards of managing our flagship desert bighorn program.

We also thank the Wild Sheep Foundation, California Chapter, for its recent support that allowed the Desert Sheep Program to hire a pilot and fixed-wing aircraft to monitor survival of radio collared animals across the Mojave Desert and in the White Mountains. That survival monitoring was key to enabling mark-resight population estimation. CDFW was unable to directly hire the contractor due to a liability issue, which has recently been resolved. Thanks to the California Chapter for filling that critical gap!



Danielle Glass
Co-Lead for Desert Sheep Program

GOVERNMENT ISSUES UPDATE

by Don Priest, Distinguished Life Member, Board Member

CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE 2021-2022 SESSION

The second year of the 2021-2022 Session of the California State Legislature year has been an extremely busy and emotionally challenging one. With ups and downs, high expectations, and sudden bill changes or expedited passages have required quick response management. The California Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation (CA WSF) sponsored two bills this year: SB 865, which would increase the age limit eligibility for Junior Hunting Licenses, and SB 370, expanded utilization of the Big Game Management Account by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Unfortunately, the former, SB 865, died in Committee; however, gladly SB 370 was signed into law.

The bill that has caused much alarm this summer was the suddenly passed and signed into law AB 2571 which placed severe restrictions on advertising firearms to minors. The bill was very general as to what constitutes such advertising and by whom. As a result, wildlife conservation Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) such as CA WSF rushed to comply with the law, and attain council as to the law's intent. In less than two months from the law's passage, two lawsuits were filed with the United States District Court. In the meantime, Gaines & Associates and advocates for other conservation NGOs were in discussions and working with the Governor's office in an effort to secure introduction of a new "cleanup" bill intended to clarify the intent of AB 2571 and to whom the bill applies.

Back on the legal front, the first challenge, filed by the California Rifle and Pistol Association (CRPA), was scheduled to be heard on Monday, August 22, 2022. However, as that date approached, the hearing was delayed at the request of the Department of Justice due to their being aware that a cleanup bill was pending - although the actual language of bill was yet to be released.

On Tuesday August, 23, 2022 the Governor's office released the draft language of the cleanup bill which, as promised, proposed to exempt conservation NGOs, such as CA WSF, and their activities, such as fundraising and the promotion of youth hunting/sporting from the list of those entities impacted by the bill. If this bill is to become law it will have to work its way through a



complicated legislative process in a little more than a week - as the 2021/2022 Legislative Session will end on August 31st. More on the outcome of this issue is sure to come in our next Newsletter.

An immense thank you to Bill Gaines at Gaines & Associates for his tremendous work and dedication during this challenging year. For further details on the above bills and others, please see Bill's article in this newsletter.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE UPDATE

This year has also been an exciting and challenging one for CDFW. Happily, after a long search a new Wildlife and Fisheries Division Deputy Director has finally been appointed, Chad Dibble. CA WSF is pleased to have Chad's selection given his experience and dedication in continuing support for conservation, and the role of hunting with those efforts.

The CDFW Wildlife and Fisheries Division has been working to hire into and expand its ranks in 2022 at both the Sacramento Branch office and Regional offices. Unfortunately, so are many other Divisions within California along with Wildlife Departments from other western states. As such, talent is very thin at the moment, with applicants quickly receiving multiple offers. We certainly support CDFW's efforts to quickly meet its staffing needs.

Work continues to wrap up the CDFW Statewide Sheep Plan (Plan). Currently the Plan has undergone major changes after the release of the Plan's first draft in late 2021. Once completed, CDFW will attach one Bighorn Conservation Unit (BCU) Plan to the statewide Plan prior to

peer review re-submission. Five meta-population BCU's have been defined by CDFW. Plans for the remaining four BCUs will be completed shortly after the conclusion and release of the final over-all statewide Plan.

Two other regions within California containing bighorn sheep are not included in the Plan as they are currently operating under their own federal U.S. Fish & Wildlife Recovery Plans: the Endangered Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep, and the Endangered Bighorn Sheep of the Peninsular Ranges.

We continue to support CDFW to quickly make the Plan available for both peer and Tribal review, after which for public review. After many years of anticipation, we look forward to the Plan's completion.

CDFW AERIAL TELEMETRY MONITORING OF VHF-COLLARED BIGHORN SHEEP

CA WSF is proud to have assisted CDFW with the partial financial support for their recent aerial telemetry flight, monitoring the survival/mortality of Desert Bighorn Sheep (DBS) that are outfitted with VHF collars. The battery life of a VHF collar is approximately twice that of GPS collars, so the study focused on the 150 or so DBS whose VHF collars are still active, but with a non-functioning GPS collar. The survey was conducted by Black Mountain Air on behalf of CDFW utilizing their fixed wing aircraft outfitted with a specialized VHF receiving antenna. The mountain ranges flown include the Marble and Clipper Mountains, Kelso/Old Dad Mountains, Clark/Kingston Mountains, Sheep Hole Mountains, South Bristol Mountains and the Cady, Newberry, Rodman and Ord Mountains. These mountain ranges should sound familiar to our readers as nearly all have DBS available to those hunters whom are lucky enough to draw a tag.

BRIGHTLINE WEST HIGH SPEED RAIL LINE

The ongoing concern regards the Brightline West High Speed Rail Project (Project) from Victorville to Las Vegas continues. With the determination that the addition of the three desired and necessary wildlife overcrossings to the Project will ultimately be decided by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) upon the Project's National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) re-evaluation, two letters have gone out recently pressing the FRA on this issue.

First, on August 4, 2022 California Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla wrote to the Honorable Amit Bose, FRA Administrator, encouraging that meaningful environmental mitigation to the Project be a requirement. Their offices look to work further with the FRA, Caltrans, CDFW and Brightline

to make these three wildlife overpasses required mitigation measures.

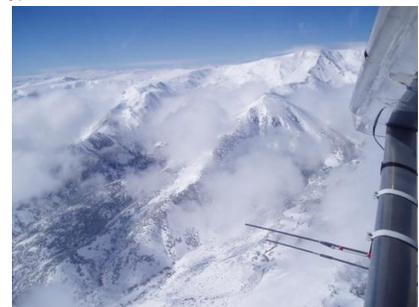
Second, the coalition of organizations that have been working on this issue for nearly two years now, of which CA WSF has been a part, also has sent a new letter to FRA Administrator Bose. This letter emphasizes the desire not just from the over thirty organizations that are signatories to the letter (organizations spanning the spectrum from NGOs to Native Tribes) but also recognizes that CDFW, Caltrans and the National Park Service also request that the Project incorporate connectivity mitigation with the three biologist/scientist determined wildlife overpasses at Cave Mountain, Soda Mountain and Clark Mountain into their NEPA re-evaluation.

We will continue to work and coordinate with our concerned NGO coalition partners, CDFW, Caltrans, and the California Secretaries of Natural Resources and State Transportation Agency to press all of our interests with the FRA.

PROPOSED CHUCKWALLA NATIONAL MONUMENT

Though very much preliminary, there is movement now from many land preservation and conservation groups in California to establish a new National Monument in the Chuckwalla and surrounding mountain ranges. The proposal would extend from the Mecca Hills in the west to the Palo Verde Mountains in the east, predominately south of I-40 down to the Marine Chocolate Mountain Gunnery Range. There are also discussions on the expansion of Joshua Tree National Park to be included within the language.

The bill has not yet been introduced to the US Congress, and CA WSF does not anticipate that such language will get introduced until the new 118th Congress gets started in January 2023. CA WSF will be working hard with these organizations and others that should such a bill be sponsored and introduced that the boundaries, accessibility for conservation work by NGOs such as CA WSF, along with CDFW, and continued access to hunting/sporting activities on these lands are included within the bill. Stay tuned to future articles in this Newsletter for this developing issue.



White Mountains from the Black Mountain Air Cessna 180

HOW TO WRITE A STORY ABOUT YOUR HUNT

By John Ware, Distinguished Life Member, Less Than One Club Member

We're all busy, we're all planning the next hunt, hoping to draw the great tag, or just dealing with life. And at the moment of completing a hunt, its vivid and indelible in our minds, and feels like we'll never forget a moment of the experience. It is easy to skip journaling or writing about the experience after a hunt. Usually we get home and have other stuff to catch up on. But there are good reasons to do it, and you can do it even if you aren't a "writer."

Why Write a Hunt Story

Reasons to write a story are many:

- To look back on and remember the hunt.
- To learn lessons to apply to future adventures.
- To have the story at hand to easily share with friends and family.
- To share with other hunters who might draw the same tag, for instance Huntin' Fool will share names of previous tag holders, and when your name comes up, nothing beats having the whole story written down—maybe with choice photos—to easily share.
- To get published, with the recognition and appreciation that goes along with that. Contribute to your hunting community such as your CA Wild Sheep Foundation magazine, GSCO, Safari Club International (SCI) Chapter, and others.
- To provide comfort and confidence for others considering the same hunt, or solace for other's who've eaten the same tag soup.
- So that when the bills come in for taxidermy, guiding, travel, etc., you'll be able to look back on how you felt when it was all so recent and clear, and know it was money well spent!
- Never forgetting is hard. We all say we'll never forget how it felt, what the experience was like, etc., but in time details fade. With a documented story you can reread the story yourself to relive the experience, and refresh the memories of the details.



John with second goat in Wyoming 2021

How to Write a Hunt Story

There was a time when lack of typing skill was an excuse to not write. But that time has gone, with modern smart phones' and computers' voice recognition, you can create a very serviceable draft of your story with no typing or texting required. Learn how to do it, and then "just do it."

Assuming you've got a way to get the text out of your brain and into your phone or computer, the next step is knowing what to write. There are a couple of reasonable approaches to this.

1 - Narrative

One is to enable that voice to text previously discussed and then leave it on while describing your hunt to a friend or family member. You'll probably have to go back and edit out some commentary along the way but this will give you a good starting point.

2- Question Driven

Another approach is to answer a list of questions that a reasonable person might have about your hunt, (or the future you).

Here is a list of questions to get you started.

Tags & Opportunity

- * How many years have you been applying for this tag?
- * How many years have you been applying for other tags for this species?

- * Will you keep applying for this or similar tags in the future? Why or why not?
- * What were your odds of drawing?

Guides and Outfitters

- * How did you pick your guide(s) and what did you like about them?
- * Did they deliver more or less than you expected?
- * Did they have any interesting characteristics or mannerisms.
- * Did they have other interests outside of hunting that you learned about?
- * How many hunts had they guided for this species in the past?
- * Were you happy with their service?
- * Was there anything extra ordinary about their efforts?

Value

- * Upon reflection, was this hunt as special as its made out to be?
- * Was it worth the amount of work to get the tag?
- * What advice would you give other hopeful / first time hunters for this species?
- * What advice would you give other hopeful / first time hunters for in this state, region, or unit?

Adventure

- * What elevation were you hunting at, and how much of you elevation was achieved in a vehicle, on horseback and on foot?
- * What were your accommodations like?
- * Anything special or unique about your accommodations?
- * What was the food like?
- * Anything special or unique about the food?
- * How long was the shot?
- * How many shots were required?
- * What was the first thing you said after you knew the animal was down?
- * What was your overriding emotion as you first touched the animal?

Other

- * Was this specific animal you took one that had been scouted ahead of time, or was he seen for the first time the day you got him?
- * How much did you / do you practice shooting ahead of time?
- * What were the firearm and caliber, and how did you select it for the hunt?
- * How much did you practice shooting before the hunt?
- * How did you get in shape for this hunt (or not)?
- * What will you do for taxidermy / to savor and save the moment?
- * Do you have a favorite picture beyond the trophy pose pictures from the hunt?
- * How long did the hunt take compared to what you expected? Was that a good thing or bad thing? Did you have regrets and wish it would have lasted longer or been shorter?

3 - Photo Driven

A third approach to writing a hunt story is to pull up your photos, sort them in chronological order, then simply describe the reason you took each photo, or a reaction to what's in each photo, or let them inspire your narrative of the hunt. For instance you might see in your pictures "We awoke in camp before dawn, and as we made coffee and huddled around the fire to take the chill off the morning greeted us with darkness fading into a vibrant sunset of deep purples and oranges. We had a half hour hike ahead to get to our glassing spot, and expected to be out all day."

Remember, the story isn't just the day you pulled the trigger.

Don't be afraid to mix-and-match the techniques you see here, and invent your own. If you use method 2 or 3, then read it to a friend, and you'll quickly see where you need to flesh out some details or you left out some of the best parts, which you can add in.

If you start writing hunt stories now, someday, with luck and drive, you'll have a books worth of stories chronicling your life's adventures.

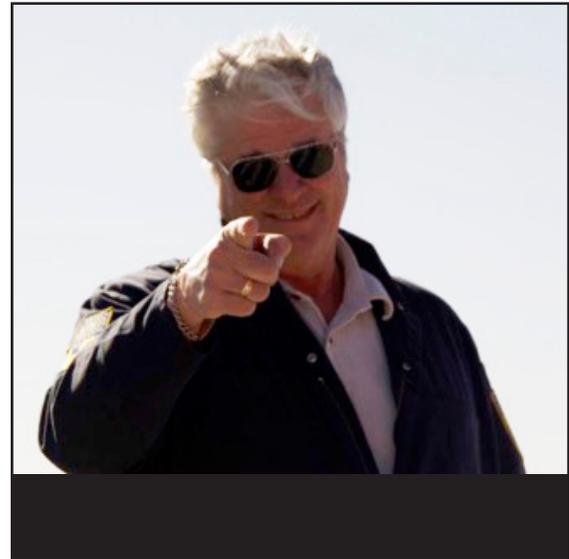
'MATURE' AND 'LEGAL' ARE NOT SYNONYMOUS TERMS: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE REGULATORY PROCESS

by Vernon C. Bleich, Ph.D.

When I began work with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) in 1973, I was assigned to Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Project W-26-D, the activities of which centered on wildlife habitat development. Following that assignment, I worked for the Department on a specially funded project to assess impacts of further development of Lake Mathews on wildlife. My supervisor at the time transferred to the Puzzle Factory in Sacramento near the end of 1974, and during a going-away-party I had the opportunity to converse with several high-ranking CDFG officials. In one case I asked, "Why doesn't our Department show greater interest in desert bighorn sheep?" The response I received was surprising, and I can best paraphrase it as, "Well, bighorn sheep are very controversial so we don't talk about them very much."

In a recent article in *California Wild Sheep*, Bleich (2022) included a quotation from Jack O'Connor (1974), who wrote in his classic book, *Sheep and Sheep Hunting*, "The season on bighorns has been closed in California for over a century; it will never be reopened". Shortly thereafter, things in CDFG began to change, in large part a result of efforts by the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep to bring greater attention to that species. In 1979, California State Senator H. L. "Bill" Richardson introduced Senate Bill 833 (mistakenly identified as Senate Bill 83 in my aforementioned article, and elsewhere in the published literature), which would have made *Ovis canadensis nelsoni* a game animal and retained threatened status for the two other subspecies (*O. c. californiana* and *O. c. cremnobates*) recognized at the time. As described in earlier articles, SB 833 was not passed by the legislature.

In 1983, Assemblyman Frank Hill introduced Assembly Bill 1548, which contained many of the provisions of SB 833, but also emphasized the need for statewide investigations of the status of populations, effects of competition and disease, and reintroduction needs in accordance with a study plan prepared earlier by CDFG scientists. As introduced, AB 1548 also failed to gain approval, but funding was allocated for the investigations called for. Subsequent research yielded important information on the safety and efficacy of capture methods (Kock et al. 1987a, b, c), status of



diseases among mountain sheep populations (Clark et al. 1985, 1993), importance of nutrition and the effects of cattle grazing on mountain sheep (Wehausen 1989), and syntheses of long-term behavioral and demographic phenomena (Bleich et al. 1997, Wehausen 2005).

In 1986, Assemblyman Richard Mountjoy once again introduced legislation that would provide harvest opportunities for mountain sheep. Assembly Bill 3117 proposed to reclassify mountain sheep as game animals in two geographic areas of California (Old Dad Peak, Marble Mountains), but retain fully protected status then accorded all other populations. Both Assemblyman Hill and Assemblyman Mountjoy spent several days in the desert with Department of Fish and Game wildlife biologists assigned to Project W-26-D, and both of them were familiar with the accomplishments that had occurred on behalf of bighorn sheep. Additionally, then CDFG Director Charlie Fullerton had participated in an aerial tour of the Marble Mountains, during which at least 100 bighorn sheep were observed. Director Fullerton also participated in the construction of the Marble Mountains South Wildlife Water Development, and witnessed first-hand the dedication of those devoted to conserving bighorn sheep by interacting directly with them (Bleich 2021).

In part, passage of AB 3117 occurred because populations of bighorn sheep in the Marble

Mountains and at Old Dad Peak had provided large numbers of animals (especially females; Bleich et al. 1990) for translocation to historical ranges from which bighorn sheep had been extirpated, and thereby circumvented arguments that limited and tightly regulated sport hunting of males would jeopardize those populations (Wehausen et al. 1987). Assembly Bill 3117 also required the preparation of bighorn sheep management unit plans, included a provision that one sheep hunting tag could be made available for fund-raising on an annual basis, required that successful applicants participate in a clinic prior to hunting bighorn sheep, and included a sunset clause that, perhaps, made it more palatable to legislators concerned about potential impacts of hunting on the targeted populations.

Assemblyman Mountjoy's legislation stated very plainly that, "The commission may adopt all regulations necessary to provide for biologically sound management of Nelson bighorn sheep (subspecies *Ovis canadensis nelsoni*)". Moreover, the legislation stipulated, "After the plans developed by the department pursuant to Section 4901 for the management units have been submitted, the commission may authorize sport hunting of mature Nelson bighorn rams. Before authorizing the sport hunting, the commission shall take into account the Nelson bighorn sheep population statewide, including the population in the management units designated for hunting" and that, "... the commission shall not, however, adopt regulations authorizing the sport hunting in a single year of more than 15 percent of the *mature* [emphasis added] Nelson bighorn rams in a single management unit, based on the department's annual estimate of the population in each management unit ". Interested parties may obtain additional information on the legislative history associated with opportunities to harvest bighorn sheep as provided in the California Fish and Game Code elsewhere (ALHS 2021).

The harvest of bighorn sheep in the Marble Mountains and at Old Dad Peak was made possible by the state legislature, and future action remained subject to compliance with stipulations included in the enabling legislation. The Department of Fish and Game was charged with the process of developing the regulations for those hunts, which ultimately would require adoption by the Fish and Game Commission. Such regulations would necessarily include the setting of opening dates for regular and fund-raising permits, length of hunting season(s), hunt zone boundaries, and other miscellaneous regulations. The enabling legislation did not define a mature Nelson bighorn ram, although it limited sport hunting opportunity to no more than 15% of "... the *mature* [emphasis added] Nelson bighorn rams in a single management unit... based on the department's annual estimate of the population in each management unit", as emphasized above. The absence of that definition necessitated that CDFW biologists define a "mature Nelson bighorn

ram" while simultaneously placing a constraint on the number such individuals that could be made available for harvest during any given year.

Richard Weaver and I were assigned to develop regulations that would apply to the legal harvest of bighorn sheep for the first time in California history. Dick represented the Wildlife Management Branch, and I represented Region 5, the administrative area in which the authorized hunt zones were located, and we worked together closely to formulate regulations that would be considered by the Fish and Game Commission. Weaver and I were assisted in our efforts by Terry Mansfield of the Wildlife Management Branch, and Bob Vernoy, who was the Unit Manager in which the hunt zones were located.

Weaver and I, in conjunction with field personnel, formulated those draft regulations, and they were reviewed at appropriate administrative levels within CDFG. Defining boundaries of the zones to be opened to hunting, establishing opening dates and season lengths, and special opportunities associated with the special fund-raising tag, were simple tasks and our recommendations were readily accepted. The lack of a definition of a "mature Nelson bighorn ram" in the enabling legislation, however, created some controversy and required additional time and consultation. Collectively, we agreed that the simplest solution would be to define a mature ram as any male that was at least 1-year-of-age (i.e., a yearling male), and base harvest recommendations on the total number of yearling or older males estimated to be present in the population, consistent with the enabling legislation. In short, our recommendation was that any male sheep that was at least one year old was a mature sheep (and, by default, a legal sheep). Our recommendation was based on: (1) the fact that this was the first bighorn sheep hunting season ever authorized in California, and we wanted to minimize any opportunity for violations to occur; (2) some young males begin to join all-male groups at the onset of the hunting season (Bleich et al. 1997); (3) the constraint that harvest recommendations could not exceed more than 15% of the "mature Nelson bighorn rams" estimated to occur in either population open to harvest; (4) a desire to maximize hunter opportunity by not constraining the number of tags to an unjustifiably low level, given the uniqueness of the hunting opportunity; and (5) guarantee that a hunter would have the opportunity to take an older animal possessing two broken horns if the hunter were so inclined, even if the animal selected did not meet a criterion based on horn length or on a minimum age.

Shortly after the regulatory process was initiated and our recommendation had been submitted, Weaver and I were directed to revise our proposed definition of a "legal" ram, and that the forthcoming definition would have to withstand a legal challenge in the event a citation were issued. We reviewed the criteria in use in other jurisdictions and, given the controversy associated with hunting bighorn sheep in California

and the opposition the proposed hunt had generated, we set to work to define a legal bighorn sheep based on horn morphology relative to readily identifiable anatomical features on the animal's head. Dick and I settled on a slight modification of the description of a "legal" ram, at the time defined by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department as, "... a male bighorn sheep with a horn which can be intercepted at both the outer edge of the forward base of the horn and the tip of the horn by a straight line drawn through the center of the eye socket when viewed in profile, or any bighorn sheep that has attained the age of eight (8) years as determined by the horn annuli".

We modified the Wyoming regulation slightly by eliminating reference to age because brooming or breakage compound the subjectivity involved in counting horn annuli (Ryder et al. 2007), as well as how the regulation pertained to minimum horn length. As a result, in California, a legal bighorn sheep is, "...a male Nelson bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) having at least one horn, the tip of which extends beyond a point in a straight line beginning at the front (anterior) edge of the horn base, and extending downward through the rear (posterior) edge of the visible portion of the eye and continuing downward through the horn. All reference points are based on viewing the ram directly from a 90 degree angle from which the head is facing". These revisions eliminated any uncertainty associated with determining exactly where the center of the eye socket was; moreover, they provided a hunter with an additional opportunity—albeit small—if he or she were unable to locate a ram meeting the aforementioned Wyoming criteria. I find it ironic that, in 1996, Wyoming regulations were modified to permit the harvest of any ram in the majority of hunt units, and that females and lambs became legal game in some units.

Dick and I intended the adjective "mature" to refer to any male bighorn sheep at least one year-of-age (i.e., not a lamb), and to be included among the "mature males" estimated to be present in the population. We were directed to develop the definition of a "legal" ram to ensure regulations pertaining to this new hunting opportunity would be enforceable and withstand legal scrutiny; hence, we recommended that a legal ram be defined as it currently exists. We felt there was an advantage to base our modifications on the then-current definition of what constituted a legal ram in Wyoming, a state with a long and successful history of regulated hunting of bighorn sheep. What is especially important, however, is that Dick and I did not alter our definition of what we previously had consistently considered to be a "mature" ram for the purpose of determining harvest limits in any population. Thus, the term "legal" and "mature" were not (and are not) intended to be synonymous, should not be confused with each other, and must not be used interchangeably.

Our rationale for distinguishing between the terms mature and legal was four-fold: (1) by including all males at least one year-of-age in the annual estimate of mature males, hunter opportunity could be a bit higher than would be the case if only "legal" males were considered in that estimate; (2) older males with two broken horns would count when generating recommendations for allowable harvest; (3) in the absence of substantial experience (and that we correctly assumed would be the case at some point in the future), it is extremely difficult to distinguish with certainty the legal status of a male bighorn sheep, yet it is easy to determine what qualifies as a mature male (Bleich 1982, 1998); and, (4) younger-age males would, at some point in the future, become "legal" to harvest but, if taken at a younger age their mortality would be compensatory, in that a larger animal would not have been harvested and would remain alive, potentially to be harvested in the future.

It appears that rapidly waning corporate memory has resulted in misinterpreted definitions—whether unintentional or otherwise—of the terms legal and mature, why those terms were selected, and how they differ in the context of setting harvest regulations when compared to determining if a bighorn sheep is legal to harvest in California. Thus, failure to recognize historical context and intent has the potential to create a conundrum, and one that may not serve managers, hunters, or bighorn sheep very well. It is my strongest suggestion that anyone lacking familiarity with the management history of bighorn sheep—or are uncertain about how, what, why, when, or where the issues that pertain to regulations affecting the harvest bighorn sheep came about—take the time to familiarize themselves with that information. Doing so now has the potential to prevent substantial frustration in the future.

In closing, I very much appreciate input provided by the local wildlife enforcement officers tasked with enforcement of the newly developed regulations, but particularly the comments received from retired CDFG Fish and Game Wardens Tom Jackson, Greg Orr, and Rusty McBride, whose patrol districts included the Marble Mountains and Old Dad Peak. I thank Kevin Hurley, formerly with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, for providing an historical copy of the Wyoming hunting regulations that were current when Weaver and I were tasked with defining a legal bighorn ram. Finally, I thank Dick Weaver for his friendship, wise counsel, contributions to the conservation of bighorn sheep and, especially, for sharing with me his seemingly unending optimism.

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This article is part of a series by Dr. Vern Bleich, who increasingly is concerned that many aspects associated with the history and management of bighorn sheep in California are becoming inconsequential due to the loss of 'corporate memory' and resultant 'generational amnesia.' That history is long and complex, and at times has been misinterpreted or even wrongly conveyed by those without a direct connection to the past. Vern was employed by the California Department of Fish and Game for 34 years, during which he worked extensively with large mammals occupying the Great Basin, Mojave, and Sonoran deserts of California. He was fortunate to have joined the Department shortly after completion of a thorough inventory of bighorn sheep in California, and has remained active in the conservation and management of that species since 1973. He currently is Research Professor at the University of Nevada Reno, serves on the Advisory Board of the Texas Bighorn Society, is Science Advisor for the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, serves on two committees of the California Wild Sheep Foundation, 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 and management concerns. Interested parties can contact Vern directly (vbleich@gmail.com).

GOOD NEWS IN THE EAST MOJAVE

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

Habitat improvement is a long term investment in our environment. The Society for Conservation of Bighorn Sheep appreciates the partnership and support from the California Wild Sheep Foundation in creating new opportunities for habitat enhancement in our drought stricken deserts.

On October 24, 2020, SCBS installed a brand-new East Mojave big game guzzler in the Castle Mountains. This was achieved by and through team work which included contributions from the California Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation and the landowner, Equinox Gold.

Almost two years has passed since the installation of the guzzler “Oro Belle”. Equinox Gold has provided photographs gleaned from the guzzler’s trail cameras which demonstrate how successful this new system is. The Oro Belle currently has a very healthy population of bighorn sheep, complete with the most robust lambs in all of the East Mojave. This is exciting news that should be shouted from the desert peaks far and wide! The presence and availability of water makes a profound and measurable difference in keeping sheep on the mountain. The included images, essentially, represent Oro Belle’s “report card” – Oro Belle gets an “A”!

Please consider becoming an SCBS volunteer. Participating in the installation of new Raincatcher systems can become your personal connection with the desert ranges and the resident bighorn sheep herds. Speaking from personal experience, I find myself riveted to the weather forecast and the images shown from the doppler radar. Like a gambler fixated on the ball as it circles the roulette wheel, it’s my fervent hope that the doppler images will display heavy rainfall dropping over the desert ranges where I have previously participated in an SCBS installation project. If Mother Nature is kind, a single cloudburst over a rain mat collection basin can fill a guzzler for the entire year. This is the payoff that I hope each storm leaves behind. It fills me with great pride and satisfaction that I contributed my time and sweat equity to provide the resource that collects a lifetime of beneficial water for the wildlife. It feels great to know that my efforts and stewardship make a difference. I feel a meaningful connection with that guzzler and that place. Check out the

photographs provided by Equinox after just two years post installation at Oro Belle!



All Photos submitted by Debra Miller Marschke

SCBS AREA CAPTAIN FIELD REPORT: SB22 “WHIPPLE” WILDLIFE DRINKER REPAIR SUCCESS!

Scott Gibson, Life Member, SCBS Area Captain

On July 3rd and 4th, husband and wife team Brian and Michelle Schwab, ventured out to the Colorado Desert to perform multiple drinker inspections. On Monday, July 4th, they were joined by Monte Hammer, for the 4x4 drive and hike to the SB22 “Whipple” guzzler site.

The SB22 “Whipple” drinker is located within the BLM managed Whipple Mountains Wilderness, which is the eastern most portion of California. The Whipples are bordered by the Colorado River on the east, the City of Needles is to the north and Parker, AZ is located to the south. The shape of the land mass resembles a “nose” protruding into Arizona and is sometimes referred to as the “Nose of California”. The Whipple Mountains, and the surrounding area, are the ancestral home of the Chemehuevi. The northern portion of the Whipple Mountains is located within the Chemehuevi Indian Reservation. Volunteers (Area Captains) with The Society inspect and maintain three bighorn sheep wildlife drinkers within the Whipple Mountains Wilderness.

In 1948, Donald McClean, with the Department of Fish & Game, estimated there were fewer than 20 bighorn sheep remaining in the Whipple Mountains. In 1970, Richard Weaver, with CDF&G, estimated the resident population of sheep to be zero (0) animals, the population had become completely extirpated. The first two wildlife drinkers (SB20 and SB21 guzzlers) were installed in the early 80’s by CDF&G and SCBS. It was hoped that the extirpated population of mountain sheep could be restored to the Whipples. Dick Conte of SCBS was the then “Area Captain” for the Whipples, responsible for inspecting and maintaining the drinkers.

In 1983, the first of three (3) bighorn sheep translocations to the Whipples took place. Sheep were captured in the Marble and Old Dad Mountains in the Mojave and then transported to be released in the Whipple Mountains. A total of 80 bighorn sheep were translocated. The sheep successfully took hold and the need for additional water was recognized. On March 10, 1984, employees from the California Department of Fish & Game, Bureau of Land Management and volunteers from the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep constructed SB22 Whipple BGG. On June 8th, 1991, the original three (3) tanks were replaced by helicopter with two (2) new plastic tanks.

For our Area Captain volunteers to get to the “Whipple” drinker, it’s 165-miles of highway driving followed by 10-miles of moderate/difficult 4x4 off-roading. It is a 2.5-mile hike from where they park, the hike leads up a sandy wash then steep



Above: Brian Schwab and Monte Hammer reach the tanks at SB22 Whipple. Photo by Michelle Schwab



Above: Brian Schwab replaces broken plastic inlet screen with old “Johnson Screen”, which was coated in heavy rust and mineral deposits. Photo by Michelle Schwab.

canyon to the drinker. Area Captains often team up with more than one vehicle and volunteers for safety, there is no cell reception or readily services in these remote wilderness locations. SCBS volunteers have continued to lovingly maintain these water catchments in the Whipples since their construction.

Upon arriving at the “Whipple” drinker on July 4th, Brian, Michelle and Monte found the tanks were full of water, but the

float valve regulating water level in the drinker box was seized closed. The check dam was full of sediment from past rains, after taking turns shoveling, the trio found the plastic inlet screen broken and missing. The volunteers performed their routine inspections and recorded all the pertinent data that "Area Captains" are required to do. Unfortunately, they did not have the materials or the tools to make the needed repairs and bring the system back to operation during this trip. Results of their inspection were reported to the Area Captain Coordinator and a plan was hatched to replace the faulty float valve in the drinker box and repair the older metal "Johnson

Screen" that had been rusted, but stored on site for decades. Brian was able to hike in, complete repairs and hike back out before the temperature reached a high of 109°F that day. The bighorn sheep will now have this water source to help them get through the remainder of the dry season in this important habitat area.

Thank you to Dr. Vern Bleich for providing the above background information and all your work to restore bighorn sheep to the Whipples, continued advocacy and sharing with us the history of these important drinkers.

On Friday, July 8th, Area Captain Brian Schwab returned to the Whipple drinker armed with a new stainless steel float valve and a wire wheel to clean rust from the old metal "Johnson



SCBS Area Captain, Brian Schwab with his pack of tools for the 2-1/2 mile hike.



Above: Johnson Screen after cleaning with the wire wheel. Now we are ready to collect.



Above: Drinker box full of water with "bee rocks" in place.



These photos of lambs are from the 29-Palms "Argos" system. Argos was installed with CA WSF funding (prior to our GALAD project). Photos are courtesy Sheri Shiflett and her team at MCAGCC 29-Palms..

BIGHORN SHEEP HUNTING IN CALIFORNIA: THE FIRST 35 YEARS (CONTINUED FROM SPRING 2022 ISSUE)

by Vernon C. Bleich, Ph.D.

Editor's note: The Spring 2022 issue of CA Wild Sheep Foundation's newsletter included an article by Vern. We accidentally omitted several important graphs from that article. If you have not had the opportunity to read the article, please note that you can find the electronic version on the [CAWSF website](#).

BIGHORN SHEEP HUNTING IN CALIFORNIA: LOTTERY TAGS AVAILABILITY 1987-2021

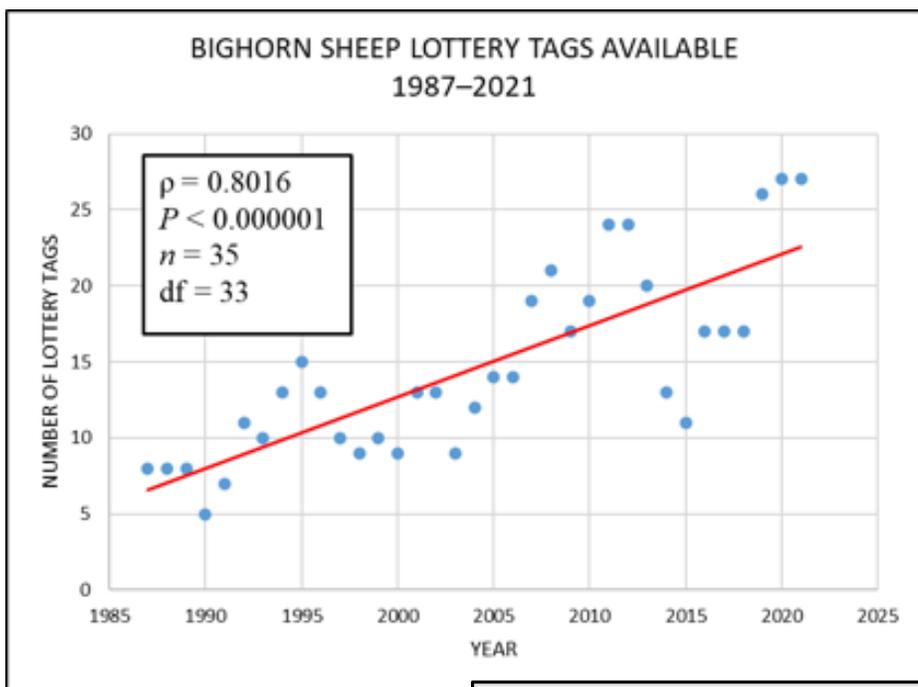
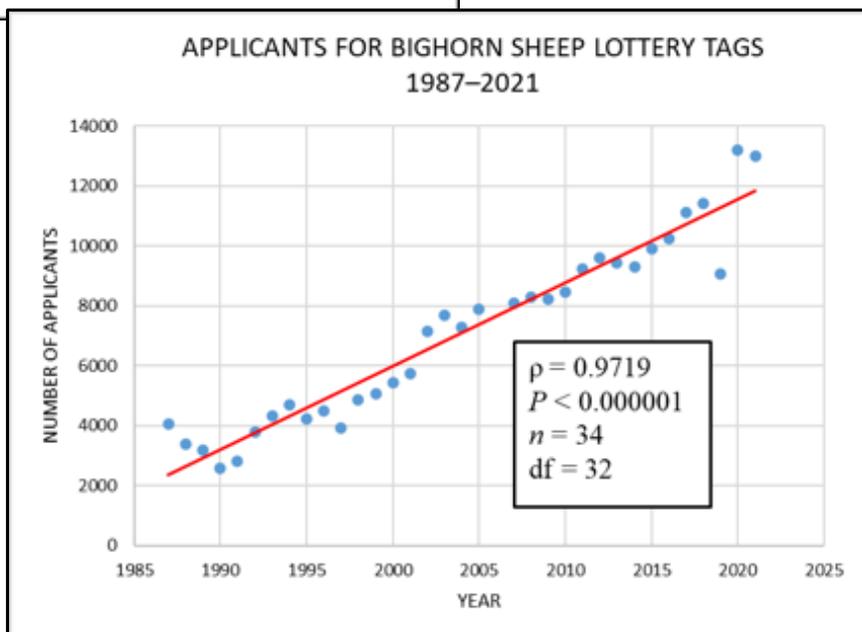


Figure 1.—There has been a strong upward trend in the availability of bighorn sheep tags during 1987–2021. During this period, as many as 11 different hunt zones were established, and 10 zones currently are open to the harvest of bighorn sheep. The red line in this graphic is not a regression line but, instead, is a trend line and clearly illustrates a highly significant upward trend in the number of lottery tags available since 1987..

Figure 2.—Despite the increase in the number of lottery permits available from 1987 to 2021, the interest in applying for a bighorn sheep tag has increased at a rate exceeding that of the number of hunting opportunities available. The straight line in this graphic is not a regression line but, instead, is a trend line and clearly illustrates a highly significant upward trend in the number of individuals applying for a bighorn sheep tag since 1987.



PROBABILITY OF DRAWING A BIGHORN SHEEP TAG 1987–2021

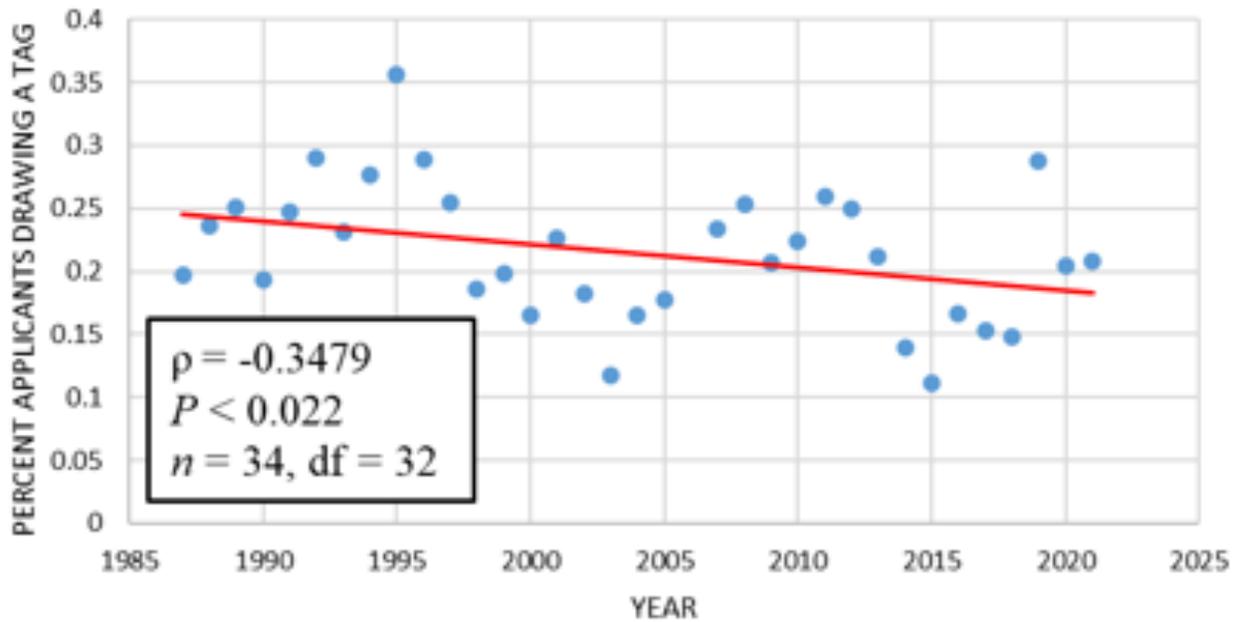


Figure 3.—Because of the difference in the rates of increase between availability of hunting opportunities (as evidenced by the number of tags available each year) and hunter interest (as evidenced by the number of individuals applying for those tags each year), there has been an overall downward trend in the percentage applicants successful in drawing a bighorn sheep tag since 1987. Over the past 35 years, the mean percentage of applicants successful in drawing a bighorn sheep tag has been 0.214%. The probability of drawing a tag will continue to fluctuate as a function of ecological conditions, survey results, hunter interest, management practices, habitat enhancements, political meddling, and potentially other factors.

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 (vcbleich@gmail.com).

JOIN US AT SHEEP WEEK 2023!

Plan your trip today and see us in booth 437!



WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION PUMPKIN CARVING TEMPLATE

Show your support for Wild Sheep and have some fun with the kids this Halloween! Create this WSF pumpkin in any size by copying the template and enlarging it to fit your pumpkin! When you've finished be sure to take a photo and tag it online with #WSF. Let's get the word out!



Download the template at

https://www.wildsheepfoundation.org/cache/DOC392_Halloween.pdf?20211027043344

- 1) Print a copy of the template and tape it on the pumpkin.
- 2) Transfer the design by poking holes along the black lines with a thumb tack or the tip of a pen.
- 3) Remove the template and keep it on the side as a reference.
- 4) Use a pumpkin carving saw to cut along your dotted lines, removing sections of the pumpkin as you go.
- 5) Wipe pumpkin clean, insert light and tag take those pumpkin photos



2021/2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION NEARS CONCLUSION

By Bill Gaines, Gaines and Associates

On Monday, August 1, 2022, the California State Legislature returned to Sacramento from their one-month Summer Recess. With the two-year 2021/2022 State Legislative Session set to come to a close with the final gavel on August 31st, and countless bills of concern still pending, August is crunch time for the California Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation (CA WSF) at our State Capitol.

Below is the latest status of important bills we have reported on in recent issues of California Wild Sheep, as well as new legislation CA WSF is currently working to help keep sheep on the mountain and you in the field. The status of legislation noted below is as of August 20, 2022.



SB 865 (DODD) – JUNIOR HUNTING LICENSES: AGE OF ELIGIBILITY – DEAD

First the bad news. As reported in the Summer 2022 Issue of California Wild Sheep, co-sponsored by CA WSF and authored by Senator Bill Dodd (D/3-Napa), AB 865 proposed to 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.

With both cost and opportunity identified as major barriers to the recruitment, retention, and reactivation (R3) of hunters, the intent of SB 865 was 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.

SB 865 quickly and easily passed through the Senate and over to the Assembly before the end of May. Once on the Assembly side, SB 865 maintained its momentum passing out of Assembly policy committee in June via a unanimous vote.

Unfortunately, SB 865’s promising journey through the Legislature came to a sudden end when the bill was held and died in Assembly fiscal committee in August.

SB 370 (DODD) – BIG GAME MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT: USES – SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

Now for some brighter news. Co-sponsored by CA WSF and also authored by Senator Bill Dodd, the passage of SB 370 authorizes the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to enter into contracts or other agreements with for-profit and nonprofit entities for the use of the funds from the Big Game

Management Account (BGMA) to carry out their big game program.

As reported in the Spring 2022 Issue of California Wild Sheep, the BGMA was established in Fish and Game Code §3953 via the passage of SB 1058 (Harman) – legislation co-sponsored by CA WSF in 2010. Our intent with that legislation was to ensure that revenues generated via the sale of sheep and other big game tags were separately accounted for in the BGMA and dedicated to land acquisition, projects and programs which specifically benefit big game species and expand public hunting opportunity and related public outreach. Further, our SB 1058 also gave DFW the authority to partner with CA WSF and other nonprofit conservation organizations on projects and research which advance their big game program.

Since the passage of SB 1058, DFW has used BGMA funds to enter into agreements with CA WSF, other nonprofits, and many other types of entities to help implement big game programs and projects. However, a 2020 internal audit of the BGMA by the DFW Audit Branch determined that §3953(d) only allows DFW to enter into contracts or agreements with nonprofits.

The intent of our SB 370 was to restore DFW access to all the tools they need to implement programs and projects that are essential to the successful management of their big game program.

SB 370 passed through the Senate and to the Senate Floor by the end of April 2021, and then off the Senate Floor in January 2022. Once on the Assembly side, SB 370 quickly passed through the Assembly and off the Assembly Floor and to the Governor’s desk in June.

The Governor signed SB 370 into law on July 19th.

AB 2571 (BAUER-KAHAN) – FIREARMS: ADVERTISING TO MINORS – SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

As chaptered on June 30, 2022, AB 2571 by Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D/16-San Ramon) prohibits a “firearm industry member” from advertising or marketing any “firearm-related product” in a manner that is “designed, intended, or reasonably appears to be attractive to minors”. AB 2571 imposes a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 for each violation and authorizes a person “harmed” by a violation to bring suit to recover any damages suffered. The bill makes each copy or republication of marketing or advertising prohibited by these provisions a separate violation. Amended in June to include an “urgency clause,” AB 2571 took effect immediately upon being signed by the Governor on June 30th.

Triggered by a cartoon type video advertisement by “Wee 1 Tactical” which marketed a “youth model” AR-15 (coined a “JR-15”) to children and their parents, AB 2571 was just one of numerous gun-related bills considered in the State Legislature during the 2021/2022 Session.

AB 2571 loosely defines a “firearm industry member” as:

(4) “Firearm industry member” means any of the following:

(A) A person, firm, corporation, company, partnership, society, joint stock company, or any other entity or association engaged in the manufacture, distribution, importation, marketing, wholesale, or retail sale of firearm-related products.

B) A person, firm, corporation, company, partnership, society, joint stock company, or any other or association formed for the express purpose of promoting, encouraging, or advocating for the purchase, use, or ownership of firearm-related products that does one of the following:

- (i) Advertises firearm-related products.
- (ii) Advertises events where firearm-related products are sold or used.
- (iii) Endorses specific firearm-related products.
- (iv) Sponsors or otherwise promotes events at which firearm-related products are sold or used.

Further, AB 2571 defines “firearm-related product” as:

(5) “Firearm-related product” means a firearm, ammunition, reloaded ammunition, a firearm precursor part, a firearm component, or a firearm accessory that meets any of the following conditions:

(A) The item is sold, made, or distributed in California.

(B) The item is intended to be sold or distributed in California.

(C) It is reasonably foreseeable that the item would be sold or possessed in California.

(D) Marketing or advertising for the item is directed to residents of California.

The manner in which this language was loosely written cast a sweeping net which technically classifies many nonprofit conservation organizations as a “firearm industry member.” Further, the bill’s language could easily be interpreted to classify much of the well-intended nonprofit youth related outreach, activities, events – and even hunter education efforts – as “designed, intended, or reasonably appearing to be attractive to minors” and, as such, subject to possible substantial financial penalties. Making matters even worse, the bill’s provision which authorizes persons “harmed” by a violation to bring suit, opens the door wide open for frivolous lawsuits brought forth by those who simply are in opposition to the ideals of our conservation community and our hunting traditions. As a result of all the above, the signing of AB 2571 suddenly brought California’s outreach to youth regarding hunter education, youth raffles, apprentice hunts, youth camps and other related R3 efforts largely to a screeching halt.

Aware that nonprofit conservation organization events, publications, social media, hunter education programs and other R3 related outreach that includes and/or targets youth was not the objective of this bill, CA WSF worked diligently with other conservation interests to insert language in the bill prior to it going to the Governor’s desk which would have expressly exempted nonprofit conservation organization publications and other youth related activities from the bill’s provisions. In June, prior to the bill’s passage, we met with the author’s office and the Governor’s office regarding our concerns with AB 2571 and followed up with two letters requesting specific amendments to the bill. In these meetings, both the author’s office and the Governor’s office confirmed that, although impacting our youth outreach efforts was not the intent of AB 2571, they could not take any amendments to the proposal.

With conservation organization events, outreach, hunter education and other youth-related R3 at a near standstill, we continued to meet with the Governor’s office over the recent Summer Recess regarding the pressing need to run a bill to “clean-up” our problems created by AB 2571. In late July, the Governor’s office agreed to support “urgency” legislation during this last month of Session to address our concerns with AB 2571 and we have collaborated on language.

As of August 20th, we have yet to see a bill in print, but we do expect to in the coming days.

AB 1227 (LEVINE) – FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION: EXCISE TAX – SENATE FLOOR

As also reported in the Summer 2022 Issue of California Wild Sheep, CA WSF is continuing to actively oppose AB 1227 by Assembly Member Marc Levine (D/10-San Rafael) – legislation which would impose an additional excise tax in the amount of 11% on the gross receipts from the retail sale of long guns and ammunition, and 10% on the gross receipts from the retail sales of handguns. Coined the “Gun Violence Prevention, Healing, and Recovery Act,” AB 1227 would require that ½ of the revenue generated be used to fund gun violence prevention, research, and education programs, and the other ½ of the revenue go to the Board of State and Community Corrections for the California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) Grant Program.

Prior to being gutted and amended to propose the firearms and ammunition excise tax in May, AB 1227 had already passed out of the Assembly and over to the Senate in its previous form which dealt with building energy efficiency standards for solar reflectance of roofs.

After being gutted and amended, AB 1227 was heard in two Senate policy committees in June. CA WSF provided opposition testimony in both committees, but the bill easily passed out of each via party-line votes. In mid-August, AB 1227 passed out

of Senate fiscal committee and to the Senate Floor. Because AB 1227 proposes a tax, the bill requires approval of 2/3rds of the membership of each house of the Legislature.

As of August 20th, AB 1227 remains on the Senate Floor, but could be brought up for a vote at any time. Because AB 1227 was substantially amended in the Senate, should the bill pass off the Senate Floor it must go back to the Assembly Floor for concurrence.

AB 2344 (FRIEDMAN) – WILDLIFE CONNECTIVITY: TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS – SENATE FLOOR

As reported in previous issues of California Wild Sheep, CA WSF is actively supporting AB 2344 by Assembly Member Laura Friedman (D/43-Burbank) – legislation which 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.

AB 2344 passed through the Assembly and to the Senate before the end of May. Once in the Senate, following testimony in support of the bill provided by CA WSF, AB 2344 easily passed through two Senate policy committees in June. In mid-August, AB 2344 passed out of Senate fiscal committee and to the Senate Floor.

As of August 20th, AB 2344 remains on the Senate Floor where it could be brought up for a vote at any time.



RAINBOW 1 AND RAINBOW 5 DRINKERS ACTIVE

The Rainbow systems are two drinkers on the MCAGCC 29 Palms base and we expected to haul water to with the Marine Corps helicopters. Both systems were full of recent monsoon rain water, so no water haul will be necessary to 29 Palms this year!

These are some pictures of some young rams using Rainbow 1.

Photos courtesy of Sheri Shiflett and Liz Barron from the 29 Palms base.

LAST CAMPFIRE

RALPH ADAMS 1944-2022

The sheep hunting community lost a great soul this summer. In June our friend Ralph Adams died at home after a lengthy illness.

Ralph was an intrepid sheep hunter and conservationist. His many adventures took him around the world but as a native Californian he was partial to hunting our local trophies of blacktail deer, black bear, and especially wild sheep. This love of wild sheep led him into Canada where he started a guide business for sheep hunts. His partner on those hunts became one of his main hunting partners throughout his life. His passion for wild sheep also made him one of the sheep communities conservation stars, always giving back to the communities.

Ralph had more than 200 sheep hunts under his belt when he went on his last hunt in 2021 (see page ## for that wonderful story). He holds multiple Grand Slam sheep awards, seven at his last count in 2014, as well as records for deer and elk. Ralph's entire trophy room, consisting of many full sheep mounts along with deer, moose, and other trophies, has been donated to a new children's learning museum being built in Richmond, California. Once built, this may be the largest collection of wild sheep in the state.

Ralph was also a self-made business man. After serving in the Army, he worked in construction for a number of years. He started his business back in his hometown of Cottonwood CA. He said he knew it could be done better and made it his business to do just that. He continued building into his seventies, and many residents in the area have lived in an apartment, duplex, or house built by Ralph.

Many remember Ralph and his good natured ways:

Ralph was always happy to chat, we shared numerous conversations on many topics, and over quite a few shots of good whiskey. He always had something to say, but he never bragged about anything; I had no idea about his many sheep-hunting accomplishments. Thanks, Ralph, for your friendship, generosity, and humility; I will miss our chats about wildlife management.

Vern Bleich

Such a generous and adventuresome spirit, gone too soon. I wish I would have known him earlier in my life. I enjoyed him immensely every time we interacted.

John Ware





My buddy ol' Ralphie ... was a dear friend for over 25 years. I had the honor of mounting over 6 grand slams all lifesize for Ralph. I was able to see him at home twice just before he passed. He was still full of jokes and humor. Going to miss my buddy. I was able to tell him I drew a desert sheep hunt this year in Nevada: his comment: "Even a blind squirrel finds a nut sometimes !!"

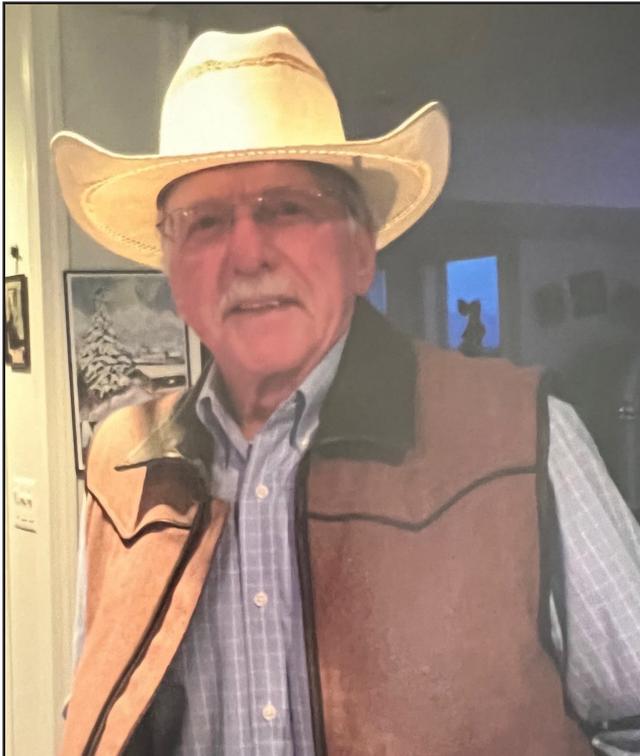
Eric Gould

Ralph loved Wild Sheep hunting and hunters - and we loved Ralph. He was a Character, with a capital C. He was quick to smile, tell a story and help a worthy cause. He was an inspiration to me. I hope there are wild sheep in heaven my friend.

Mike J. Borel



While we knew Ralph as a sheep hunter and conservationist, he was first and foremost a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He will be greatly missed by his family members and his extended family which includes many of us in the sheep conservation communities. He made friends everywhere he went and was always quick with a smile and a hug. Ralph leaves his imprint on our hearts, in our minds, and especially in our souls.



USEFUL GEAR ITEM – PORTER CASE (HAND TRUCK, CARRY ON COMBINATION)

By Mike Borel

Smooth with your gun case and duffel, a bit clunky as a carry-on.

I've had mine for over 20 years. It is very handy when transiting an airport or hotel. It is approved carryon size, and when opened to cart position it can easily carry a gun case and a large duffel with room and strength to spare. I have often carried my gear plus another person's in one trip.

After checking your gun and duffel, it works as a rollaboard, but is a bit clunky due to its wheels being opposite the handle (see pics). It works but isn't as slick as a dedicated carry on. Available at various sources. They don't seem to have their own website. See a demonstration at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ew9_TrS853Y.

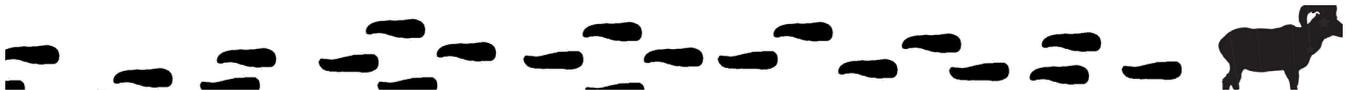


PHOTO OF MOUNTAIN LION PREYING ON FERAL BURRO

Editors Note – CA WSF is seeking Mountain Lion Whisperers to convince cats that Desert Bighorn taste bad and Burros taste Great! Applications welcome!



Photo Credit: Erick Lundgren.
<https://www.fieldandstream.com/conservation/mountain-lions-kill-feral-burros-photos/>



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



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL

Name: _____

Phone: Primary: _____ Alternate: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

Have you hunted Sheep? Yes No

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

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

CA WSF Membership:

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

Wild Sheep Foundation Membership:

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

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

Credit Card Type: Visa MasterCard Discover AMEX

Cardholder Name: _____ CCV: _____

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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

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



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

www.cawsf.org

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION

DON'T MISS

the next

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

APRIL 29, 2023

DOUBLETREE SACRAMENTO

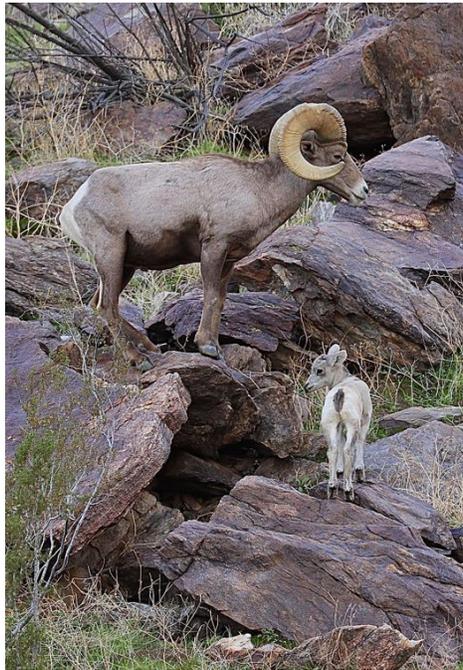
- | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|
| OR | 812. STEPHEN WALKER | 1433. TOM GRIFFITHS |
| OS | 813. DAVID PRICKETT | 1434. JOHN CAVIN |
| | 825. STANFORD H. ATWOOD | 1435. JIM CLARK |
| | 826. PAMELA S. ATWOOD (Lady Slammer #28) | 1504. VINT VARNER |
| | 830. NORMAN ETCHISON | 1510. R. P. MUSSELMAN |
| | 832. WILLIAM R. PRITCHARD (D) | 1516. MIKE PASSAGLIA |
| | 842. ROGER L. GREGG | 1525. MARK BUCHANAN |
| | 845. DENNIS SITES (Third Slam, 2011) | 1540. FRANK STATHOS |
| | 861. JOHN GEBBIA | 1566. TONY AIVAZIAN |
| | 867. DEBI RAMSEY- CASEY (Lady Slammer #30) | 1569. JIM McISAAC |
| | 868. GEORGE L. WILSON | 1570. GARY P. BROWN |
| | 869. ANN PALMER (Lady Slammer #31) | 1577. LARRY DAY |
| | 874. FRITZ NACHANT | 1591. CHRISTOPHER MARX (D) |
| VIN (Archery Slam | 875. HOWARD BARNETT | 1615. DON PERRIEN |
| | 896. STANLEY A. WEINRICH | 1624. RON WADE |
| | 927. RENEE SNIDER (Lady Slammer #35) | 1647. JIM COFFRINI |
| | 943. ROBERT HIGHFILL | 1650. JASON BRUCE |
| BE | 947. ARNOLD JARDSTROM (D) | 1666. DANNY DANELL |
| SOULIS | 952. FRANK COX | 1701. JOHN R. DRUMMOND |
| GH JR. (Second Slam, | 980. RALPH E. ADAMS (Seventh Slam, 2014) | 1713. MARK MEGAZZI |
| | 993. JAMES SANDERSON | 1721. GREGORY FOWLER |
| (Second Slam, 1996) | 998. CHIP MOONEYHAM | 1772. JOHN WHIPPLE (D) |
| | 1007. DENNIS ANDERSON | 1797. MIKE TORRES |
| | 1020. MIKE J. BOREL | 1807. GEORGE DAVIS |
| | 1028. KEVIN SMALL (Third Slam, 2018) | 1854. GARY BORDESSA |
| | 1035. RANDY E. THOMAS | 1865. KIRK WARNER |
| MAN | 1036. DON GIOTTONINI, JR. (D) | 1887. DAVID HARRISON |
| I, JR. | 1047. VICTOR MANCUSO JR. | 1958. GREG PRASTER |
| | 1064. LEONARD BUTLER (D) | 1964. CHARLENE WINKLER (Lady Slammer #63) |
| (Second Slam, 2016) | 1073. LESTER (JACK) GRAF (D) | 1965. BOB KEAGY |
| | 1086. ROBERT J. STALLONE | 1966. BLAKE QUINN |
| N | 1101. CRAIG BODDINGTON (Second Slam, 2008) | 2009. JASON HAIRSTON |
| SEN (D) | 1124. ARMEN AVEDISSIAN | 2077. NINO ROSINI |
| BERG | 1126. MARGARET (PEGGY) BARNETT (Lady Slammer #40) | 2088. SPENCER QUINN (Archery Slam #73) |
| | 1143. LONNIE RITCHEY | 2107. TIM LYONS |
| | 1155. TED PETERS | 2119. BILLY GRISSOM |
| | 1164. GREGORY L. POPE | 2124. WILLIAM TITTLE (Archery Slam #77) |
| RD | 1203. STEVE YEAGER | 2148. ERIK A. ROSINI |
| (Third Slam, 2009) | 1213. DAVID FITZPATRICK | 2153. WILLIAM FREED |
| N (D) | 1260. GRAHAM G. WEISS | 2156. STEPHEN G. HOBLICK |
| GER | 1300. WILLIAM A. PAULIN | 2164. DON TRAYNHAM |
| | 1399. BEN GORDON | 2177. WALTER J. MILLER |
| | 1402. WALTER O. KIRBY | 2182. RUSTY BRINES |
| | | 2196. ANTHONY H. (GUS) OSTERKAMP JR. |

Larry Day (CA)

Ben Gordon (CA)

Give a lamb a drink

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



MILESTONE OF \$600K ACHIEVED!

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

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

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

Thanks to all donors:

Pamela Atwood

Stan Atwood

Mike Borel

John Brelsford

David Combs

Don Callahan

Iowa FNAWS

Bob Keagy

Brad Peters

Rich Pierce

Dan Smith III

Renee Snider

Bill Tittle

John Ware

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

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