



SHEEP SHEET

January, 1998

The *Sheep Sheet* is distributed
as an official publication of the
Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep.

The Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, an affiliate of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, is a nonprofit organization registered in the State of California, dedicated to the conservation and management of the wild sheep of California and throughout North America.



SCBS Does DC Dick Conti

Those of you who actually read this newsletter or attend a working project know that I have been in contact with several Congressmen to help resolve some of our "Wilderness" related issues with the Bureau of Land Management. The California Desert Protection Act states in Title I, Section 103 (f): *FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT - Management activities to maintain or restore fish and wildlife populations and the habitats to support such populations may be carried out within wilderness areas designated by this title and shall include the use of motorized vehicles by the appropriate State*

agencies. Yet, certain wilderness staff zealots of the BLM consistently attempted to restrict or deny DFG access to wilderness areas enacted by the CDPA. BLM wilderness staff have stated that any new guzzler in wilderness would require an Environmental Assessment (as is usual), the paperwork for which could take a year (I view this as a stalling technique) and *their* decision would still be NO. Their minds appear to be ignoring the law as written by Congress. House floor debate was quite clear that DFG activities to maintain or restore wildlife and its habitats may be carried out in wilderness. The House vote for this wildlife management provision was 360 to 0. I'd say that was a pretty strong be-partisan mandate.

However, nearly every DFG project, no matter how small, was met with resistance from wilderness staff. I have documented a number of specific, attempted restrictions and relayed them to several members of Congress. As a result of this, I was invited to testify in Washington, DC. by Representative James V. Hansen of Utah. The House Committee on Resources that I testified before is exploring the implementation of the Wilderness Act by the Forest Service, BLM and the National Parks and possible abuses by these agencies regarding interpretation of the Act.

While in Washington I knocked on House and Senate doors and presented our problems to as many of California's elected officials as I could. I spoke with the offices of Mr. Lewis, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Hunter and Mr. Bono, as well as Senator Diane Feinstein's office. Every one of them, including Senator Feinstein's office, agreed that the BLM's wilderness people are wrong

in their interpretation of the CDPA. The Honorable Duncan Hunter has taken the lead to contact the BLM to help them understand the law as written. Every legislator, including Senator Feinstein's office, have agreed to add their name in support of Mr. Hunter's letter. Good news travels fast. By the time I got off the plane in Burbank, there were messages on my answer machine from local Bureau personnel. I think I may have struck a nerve.

When this Sheep Sheet reaches you, SCBS, DFG and the Bureau will have discussed projects for the coming season. I am hopeful we can reach an agreement on how to keep this important program moving forward.

Special Last Minute Note: The DFG and BLM have signed a Memorandum of Understanding regarding maintenance and access for existing water sources. I have not seen a copy as yet, but I am told we may be able to live with this document. Now we need to address future installations and waterhole improvements.

Page One of Dick's Congressional Testimony

Congressional Testimony
April 15, 1997

Good Morning,

My name is Dick Conti. I represent the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, a California non-profit corporation. Since 1969 this Society has cooperated closely with the California Department of Fish and Game to implement the State's bighorn sheep management plan. We help the DFG to construct, inspect, and maintain a desert-wide series of man-made wildlife drinking devices called "guzzlers".

Since 1988, I have been the Society's Waterhole Coordinator. I consult with the DFG in their planning efforts to return bighorn sheep to their historic ranges throughout California. This program has been very successful and has resulted in a doubling of the Nelson desert bighorn sheep populations in our deserts.

For 25 years the DFG, BLM and the Society have cooperated jointly to manage desert wildlife on public lands in California. However, with passage of the California Desert Protection Act (CDPA) much of our desert is now designated Wilderness. The BLM is attempting to administer lands designated by the California Desert Protection Act as it does most Wilderness lands covered by the Wilderness Act of 1964. However, the authors of the CDPA understood that this DFG program was beneficial to the resource and they wanted it to continue. They included language in the CDPA that specifically allows management activities to restore and maintain wildlife populations and the CDPA further states that these activities "shall include the use of motorized vehicles by the appropriate State agencies."

GUZZLER GOSSIP

Dick Conti - Water Hole Coordinator

Hi Friends,

I'm sorry my column missed the last edition of the Sheep Sheet. We're not sure what happened to it, so I'll just say "The dog ate my homework!" This column should bring you up to date.

This past year the volunteer Desert Water and Wildlife Survey (VDWWS) volunteers repaired several guzzlers, pumped water while honoring an old friend and conducted our annual 4th of July Census.

The first project of last season was Feb. 22nd at Parrish Big Game Guzzler in the Chemehuevi Mts. We had replaced the aging water storage tanks last season and the DFG was to have flown the old tanks out. Due to funding shortages and logistics the DFG was not able to fly them out. This guzzler is in Wilderness and the Bureau of Land management was anxious to remove the old tanks. The DFG towed their large trailer up the guzzler access route as far as possible and the volunteers pushed, pulled, rolled and carried the tanks down the canyon to the trailer and loaded them on to it for the journey out.

The second project was at Fair E. Hare BGG in the Whipple Mts. on March 15th. The concrete and rock pad the water storage tanks rest on was undermined by flash flooding the last few years. This pad was shored up and gabions (rock filled wire baskets) were installed to prevent this from occurring in the future.

April 12th, 26th and May 17th we improved and repaired the Hyten Spring BGG and the Lew Carpenter BGG in the Bristol Mts. We installed Hypalon rain collection mats at the Hyten Spring BGG to better capture water for the 10,000 gallon storage tank. The Lew Carpenter BGG had been damaged by flash flooding too. the pipe that carried water from the collection dam to the tank was washed out and the drinker sanded in. the drinker was dug out and the water lines have been improved and rerouted.

Our sixth project occurred on May 31st in the Mojave National Preserve. We honored our dearly departed friend, John Doll, by renaming the Kelso BGG the *John Doll Guzzler*. We installed a bronze plaque to commemorate this event and we also pumped about 1,000 gallons of water into the nearby empty water tanks. John's wife, Evelyn, and his nephew, Dave White, attended this project. This event was well manned by Sheep Society and Panorama Sportsman's Club members. Evelyn related how she had come across a book of DFG *Certificates of Appreciation* that John had earned as a volunteer. The first certificate in that book was for the Kelso BGG project. How ironic that we had chosen to rename this guzzler in John's name. when we chose to rename this guzzler we didn't know it was John's first.

This Kelso / Old Dad area was special to John for other reasons as well. Over 200 bighorn have been captured

here and translocated to historic sheep ranges and the area is also one of California's hunt zones. Because of these factors, John has always gone the extra mile in his interest here. It was during the extended drought of the early 1990's that John contacted the BLM about pumping water to several guzzlers to enable the sheep to survive the summer. The BLM agreed to do this on occasion when the fire truck at Hole-in-the-Wall was not needed for fire suppression. Without John's efforts, many of the sheep in this range would not be here today.

I'd like to share a special moment with you. After some water pumping and the dedication most folks left to return to camp for our evening BBQ. Four of us stayed to police the area and pump the last bladder of water from the DFG truck. As we took a break and relaxed in the shade, I saw a large ram appear on the skyline above the guzzler. It took him 15 minutes to venture down to within 20 feet of the drinker. He stood on a boulder watching and scenting us for a while. there were too many strange sights (the water pump and equipment) and smells (us) for him to trust. he posed for pictures and then climbed up and over the ridge from whence he came. I know he and others like him will be returning for a cool drink for years to come. This is what John loved and worked for. This is why we all do what we do. ----- Pardon my pause here but I had to wipe away the tears again. Sometime I get a little sappy about these things. John's other favorite organization, the Panorama Sportsman's Club, provided a great dinner for us after this project. We feasted on beef, salad, corn, potatoes and all the trimmings. As a special bonus, Ron and Shirley Vickrey attended this project and the now *infamous* Vickrey beans were served with dinner as well. Thank you to the folks of PSC and the Vickreys for adding a perfect ending to a great function.

Our last project of the season was the annual Fourth of July Desert Census. it took place on July 3rd through the 6th. this year we covered three sites in the Bristol Mts. and two sites in the Sheephole Mts. The heat this year was debilitating at over 110° every day. Those of you who gave it your best have my thanks and respect. Most of you saw sheep. Some saw more than others and one or two of you were shut out. All of this info. is valuable and a great contribution to SCBS and the DFG.

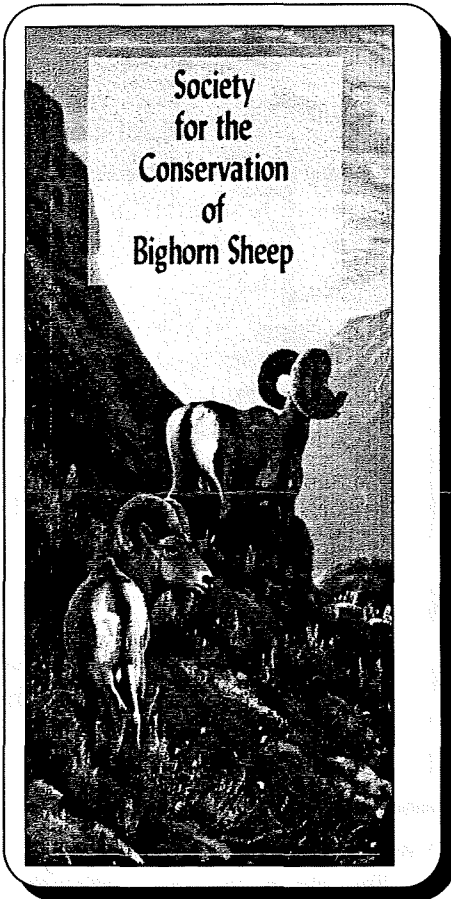
Thanks to all of you who contributed "Sweat Equity" to our cause during the past year.

The 1998 VDWWS season will be dedicated to repairing and maintaining water availability at springs and guzzlers through out our deserts. If every one of you would give just 10% of the effort that John gave we would have to establish a sheep removal program like the burro adoption program because we would be awash in bighorn.

Please give me a call at (213) 256-0463 if you want to invest in the future of Bighorn Sheep.

A New Look

Under the direction of Board Member Karyl Ralles, the Society is in the process of producing a new brochure to be used in an outreach program for membership and public awareness. Over the last several months, Karyl has designed and formatted the brochure, which is a double sided tri-fold, overseen the art work and the printing agreement. The new brochure presents the history and purpose of the Society in text and full color pictures.



Highlighting our activities that point to the future, the publication tells of the remote sensing water devices and the projected guzzler development within the boundaries of the Twenty Nine Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center. Currently, the publication is undergoing printing and is expected to be available in a very short time.

Internet Users can *surf* the DFG at
www.dfg.ca.gov/

Spring Area Captains' Meeting

An area captain's meeting of the SCBS will be held on Sunday, March 15 from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M. in the showroom of the Alu-Mont Furniture Company, 5400 Irwindale Avenue, Irwindale, CA. Designated Area Captains will receive their travel permits and instruction sheets as well as hear the latest pertinent information from Gary Weiss of the California Department of Fish and Game and Regional Wildlife Habitat Supervisor, Al Lapp who is expected to attend.

All interested persons are welcome, and big game guzzlers will be available for adoption and / or trade. Joining the AC program will give participants the opportunity to visit many areas designated as wilderness which except for the guzzler program would be inaccessible to the would-be desert traveler. These areas are normally closed to vehicular access by the Bureau of Land Management, and National Parks per Federal Regulations.

Present area captains are requested to come and mentor new volunteers. Lunch will be pot luck with last names beginning with A through G bringing main dishes, H through P vegetable salads, Q through S fruit or dessert, T pickles or relishes, and U through Z rolls.

For further information call area captain coordinators Irene Adam (310) 838-0371 or Jim Steinmetz (909) 305-0875.

Membership Renewals

Just a reminder, that as the new year begins it's time to be reminded that your 1997 Annual Membership has ended but we look forward to having you continue working with us. Membership fees remain the same and are payable to SCBS, attention of the Membership Chairman at our PO Box.

Annual\$35
Student (full time)\$20
Life\$300
Corporate\$1000

The People Made the Difference Tim Glenner

Dear Steve: *(Steve Hill ed.)*

You asked me for a short story about my experiences hunting desert bighorn sheep in the Clark, Kingston and Mesquite Mountains this year. After thinking about this "once in a life adventure," my most special memories will be of the great people I met during the hunt.

You meet few people in your lifetime that can help you fulfill a life-long dream, but during this hunt, I met too many to name them all. Members of the Sheep Society, Fish and Game staff, other hunters and guides all helped to make this hunt a special experience. From the orientation in October, to the day I harvested my ram in January, everyone I dealt with went all out to help me locate sheep. I spent a lot of time in the desert scouting before the season opened and even more time out in the field during the season without seeing very many sheep, but everyone kept encouraging me to hang in there.



You and Jef came out to the Clarks and Kingstons on opening weekend; and although we didn't spot any rams then, your support was appreciated. Donna Davis and Andy Pauli from Department of Fish and Game gave me plenty of tips to find those big Class IV rams out there, but the sheep proved to be very elusive. I even called Glen Sudmeier on my cellular phone from the east side of the Kingstons to locate a

particular canyon where he had seen rams before. Even though Glen was sick in bed with the flu, he spent a lot of time giving me directions to the best hunting spots. I met Don Ison, the one of the other hunters in my zone, and his friend Roy every weekend, and we exchanged information on where we had been and what we had seen.

We saw ewes and lambs and plenty of other sheep sign, and that's the way the hunt went for 22 days, until I finally spotted a ram in the Kingstons. That ram took off over the ridge before I had a chance to get a shot off, but the chase kept me eager to go out each weekend and keep at it. The other hunter and the guides that shared my zone were a great help, also. The guides gave me suggestions on which ridges to glass for rams, which paid off when I shot a nice ram on a slope in the Mesquites. I have to say thanks to Don and Roy, who helped me carry my ram out from the Mesquites to Excelsior Mine Road. They were as excited as I was that we had finally got one.

This hunt was really a dream come true, and an experience that I will always remember. Meeting many new friends who all have a great respect and admiration for desert bighorn sheep made the experience much more special

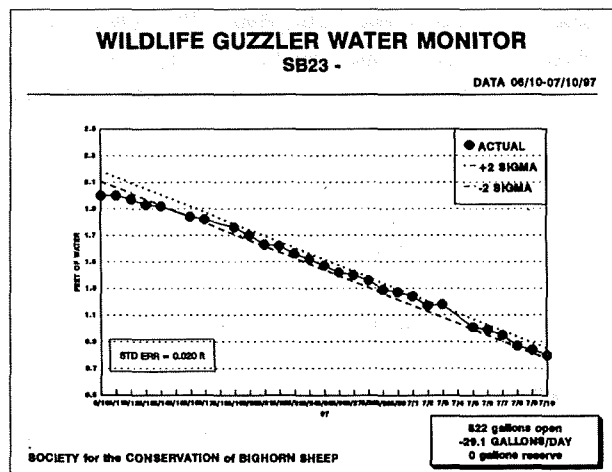
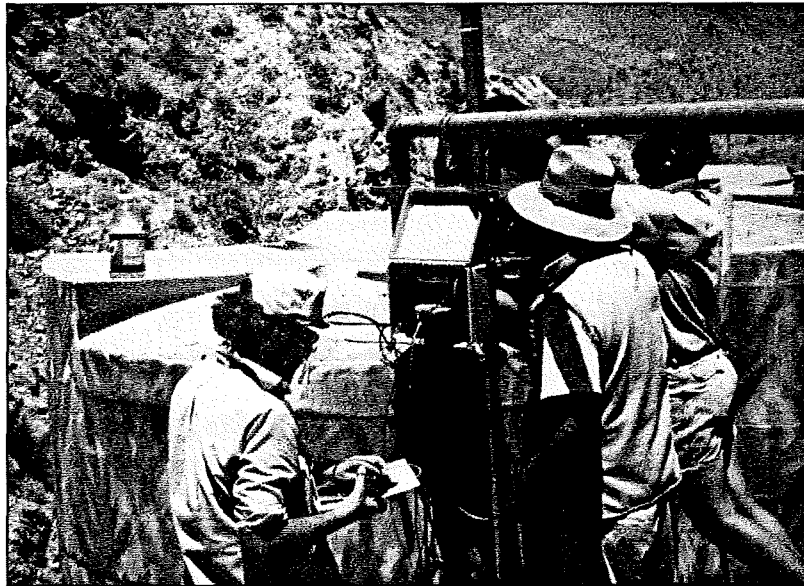
Water Monitor Report

On May 30, 1997, the society installed a Wildlife Guzzler Water Monitor (WIGWAM) at the SB 23 guzzler. A WIGWAM measures the water level in a guzzler and then transmits the data through a satellite, the internet and then by e-mail to the Society. Differences in water levels from one reading to the next can tell us the date, time, and the amount of water consumed.

From June 10 through July 10, 1997, Dr. John Wehausen, under contract to the California Department of Fish & Game (DFG), videotaped the wildlife drinking from that guzzler. Simultaneously, water consumption data was recorded and plotted.

During the hottest days of the videotaping period, bighorn sheep and other wildlife were consuming over 30 gallons per day. The society calculated and predicted when the guzzler would go dry and called DFG for refills. DFG, in turn, called the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Hole-in-the-Wall Fire Department to pump water into the guzzler. There were so many calls that fire hoses were left at the guzzler for the duration of the summer season.

WIGWAM and Camera Installation



FREQUENT WANDERINGS

Bob Campbell

REPORT ON THE JULY 4, 1997 SHEEP CENSUS

Sheephole Mts: Bob Campbell and Joel McCauley

Campbell backpacked into the Sudshole BGG and found two young rams and three adult ewes, one with a radio collar, browsing near the BGG. There is a seep there with two small pools holding a couple of gallons of foul smelling black water which the sheep were using, but the tanks were dry. Being unwilling to drink it himself unless paid to do so, Campbell did not stay up there.

McCauley went to the Bearclaw BGG and saw one ram, four adult ewes, and two female lambs. They all drank and then would lie around watching him into the evening until he wished they would go away so that he could strike his sunshade and leave without scaring them.

Bristol Mts: Joe Steinmetz, Bob Assarian, Bill Kasubowski, Marc Waterman

Steinmetz and Assarion found their way into Millers Cabin Spring. This spring was formerly used by sheep, but mining activity in the 50's and 60's caused it to be abandoned. We knew a radio collar had been picked up in the area lately, but no one had seen sheep in there yet. Steinmetz and Assarion saw a ram, a ewe, and a yearling ewe. These animals have come over from the Marble Mts.

At Hyten Tank Kasubowski saw one ram. At Hyten Spring Waterman saw only sheep tracks in his own tracks. This is about the same result as obtained 3 years ago by Campbell, Birchard, and Selich. We know there are sheep in there but see almost none. Are these results telling us something? Your reporter suspects the buggers have a water source unknown to us, possibly near Hyten Spring.

Water for Wildlife Raffle 1997 James Steinmetz - Raffle Coordinator

Thanks to the many participants in this year's Water for Wildlife Raffle. Through this activity the Society has generated just over \$3,000 for ongoing wildlife conservation efforts. The winners of this year's prizes are as follows:

Henry Forbes - 1st prize - gun safe donated by Sun Welding Safe Co.

Kirk Thompson - 2nd prize - cash value in lieu of listed prize

Ronald Vickrey - 3rd prize - 20 gauge Wingmaster shotgun

John Henson - 4th prize - Burris compact binoculars

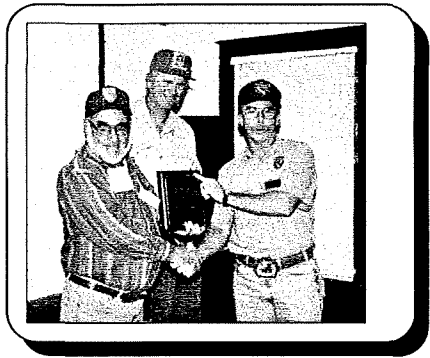
Howard Hamel - 5th prize - Cabela's limited edition print

Look for the Remington 30-06 to reappear in one of next year's events !

Water for wildlife Raffle II - Hunters' Clinic

Jim Hoskins won the raffle prize offered during the Hunter Clinic, a Rossi .38 special donated by Irene Birchard - Adam. Tickets sold generated \$460 for wildlife. Thank you hunters, guests, agency representatives and Society members. A special thanks to Irene for her generosity.

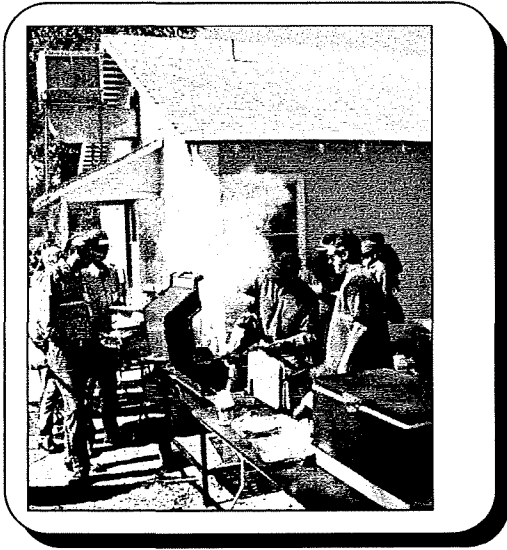
Hunter Clinic at Camp Cady



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
RINDOW SHEEP SHOWS ORIENTATION/CLINIC
25 October 1997
IN COOPERATION WITH
THE SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF RINDOW SHEEP

0400-0415	Registration	R. Gervard	NCBS
0415-0445	Office & Donors		NCI*
0445-0515	Opening Slide Show	G. Barr	NCBS
0515-0530	Introduction & Welcome	V. Ralich	CDFC
0530-1200	California Sheep Program	S. Torres	CDFC
	Wool Scores and Breedings	V. Ralich	CDFC
	Collection of Specimens	A. Pardi	CDFC
	CDFC Laws and Regulations	D. Davis	CDFC
	Butcher Examination	D. Davis	CDFC
	Rim Regulations**	R. Willmond	SM
	FPS Regulations	Everybody	SM
	Questions and Answers	Everybody	CDFC
	Distribution of 1997 Tags	V. Ralich	CDFC
1200-1300	LUNCH		
1300-1330	Optics and Finding Sheep	G. Submeier	NCBS
1330-1400	Ageing and Scoring Rams	G. Submeier	NCBS
1400-1430	Techniques and Equipment	G. Barr	NCBS
1430-1445	Photographing your Trophy	R. Hill	NCBS
1445-1500	SHAKE		
1500-1530	Field Trophy Give	A. Leeds	NCI*
1530-1545	Water Monitoring	R. Hill	NCBS
1545-1600	Patriarch Ram Award	G. Submeier	NCBS
1600-1930	Field Judging Trophy Rams	Ralich, Pardi	CDFC
		Submeier	NCBS
1730	DTMBA (entered by NCBS; donations accepted)		

* San Fernando Valley Chapter of Safari Club International
** Rams of representative not available at "press time"



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