



SHEEP SHEET

January, 1997

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.

The **Annual Membership Meeting**, held January 27th, was the occasion to elect Members of the Board of Directors, and officers for 1997 and enjoy the companionship of members and friends at a graciously hosted evening courtesy of member Kei Higashi.

Along with Kei's display room at Alu-Mont Furniture Co. as the setting for the meeting, Kei and his family prepared a fine buffet dinner for those who arrived for the 6:00 P.M. dinner call.

Calling the business meeting to order, Acting President, Glenn Sudmeier, welcomed those in attendance and provided a commentary as Dick Conti, Dennis Powell, Mark Lecompte, Linda Roy and John Roy gave annual reports concerning the finances and activities of the Society. Also reported was the beginning of an exciting, new project of high technology, under

the direction of Steve Hill, John Roy, and Celso Morrison (satellite monitored water conditions) that will allow the Society to receive a periodic communication reporting on the status of water supplies at selected desert sites. Also, of great importance to the development of sheep habitat, Glen Sudmeier announced that the Society and the Twenty Nine Palms Marine Depot will be entering

into a joint project to build guzzlers linking a 40 mile spread, from the Sheephole to the Newberry mountains allowing sheep to move more freely, increasing their range and population. Jim Davis, DFG Biologist treated the gathering to a status report and slide presentation on the monitoring of the movement and activities of the Cushenberry herd of the San Bernardino Mts. where he estimates there may be from 15 to 25 sheep. To track the movement of the sheep, or as it may appear the lack of movement, two ewes and one ram have been collared with electronic tracking devices. Unfortunately, one of the ewes, designated as #456, is believed to have been killed by a mountain lion and scavenged by a bear. The monitoring project is considered crucial to understanding population dynamics of these sheep and whether they can survive as an isolated group.

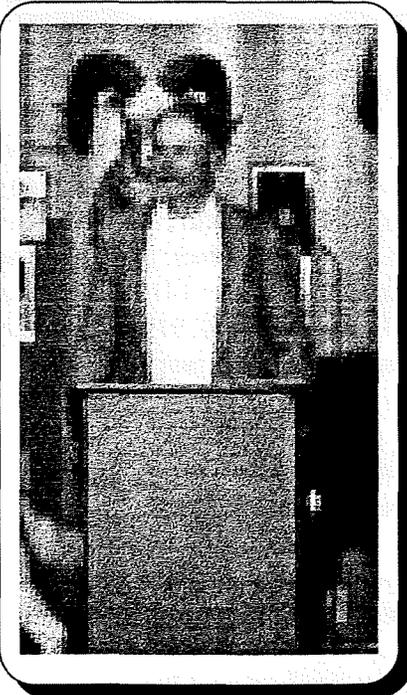
In recognition of their contributions to the Society, Jack Glatt, Bob Campbell, Irene Birchard, Evelyn Doll, Mike Ralles, Dennis Powell, Jim Davis and Kei Higashi were honored with a presentation of a certificate of appreciation for their work in behalf of the Society and the desert sheep.

Elected to continue as members of the Board of Directors were John Carnakis, Dick Conti, Ralph Gerrard, John Hybarger, Mark Lecompte, Celso Morrison, Dennis Powell, Karyl Ralles, Mike Ralles, John Roy, Linda Roy and Glenn Sudmeier and newly elected were Irene Birchard, Norm Steiner and Bryan Whipp. Chosen to lead the Society throughout 1997 are Glenn Sudmeier, President, Dennis Powell, 1st Vice President, Mike Ralles, 2nd Vice President, John Roy, 3rd Vice President, Linda Roy, Secretary and Mark Lecompte, Treasurer.

1997 PROJECT DATES

February 22-23, March 15-16, April 12-13
April 26-27, May 17-18, May 31-June 1,
June 14-15, July 3,4,5, 6 - Desert Census

For details and assignments Call:
Dick Conti, Waterhole Coordinator,



Glenn Sudmeier at the speakers stand

GUZZLER GOSSIP

AS PROVIDED BY DICK CONTI,
WATERHOLE COORDINATOR

The 1997 Volunteer Desert Water and Wildlife Survey season is about to begin. The schedule of habitat/waterhole projects should be available by the time you receive this newsletter and our first event will most likely be held in mid or late February.

If you received this letter in the mail, you will also be mailed the new schedule with some updated guidelines. Please take the time to review them.

Many of our projects this season will be repair/maintenance items. Some of these will be labor intensive while others will be smaller in scale.

The agencies do not have the manpower to keep the guzzlers in service or the springs running. It is up to volunteers like YOU to keep the water flowing to our desert critters.

I guarantee you, there is nothing more rewarding than donating some sweat equity to our natural resources by day, unless, it's sharing a campfire by night with old and new friends and millions of stars 60 miles from a town.

I'm Looking forward to the new season. Won't you join me?.



Mr. Butch Kufiak presents a \$1,000.00 check to the SCBS issued by the Grand Slam Club at the completion of the Butch Kufiak Guzzler constructed in the East Chocolate Mts. during the last Waterhole Season.

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Member communications may be addressed to
SCBS, P. O. Box 801, La Canada, Ca. 91012

New Members

Ken Searer, Will Taylor, Teres Whipp,
Matthew Davis, Bruce Carey, Hazrat Adam,
Gary Langden, Daniel Gordon, Phil Lahr,
Michael Dickinson

LOST SHEEP

We are attempting to locate those who have strayed from the fold without wearing a bell or leaving a forwarding address. If you have a current address or know if they have been taken by wolves, please contact John Roy, Membership Chairman, 1415 Larkwood, West Covina, CA 91791 or call (818) 919-0925. Here are the names and last known grazing range.

Greg Botelho, Salina CA
Larry Cattrell, Woodland Hills CA
Even Daniels, Covina CA
Phil Hallen, Panorama City CA
Carl Jacobson, Novato CA
Deborah Jardstrom, Mendocino CA
Dick Manning, Visalia CA
Bill Martin, Anchorage AK
Steve McPeek, Burbank CA
Ernie Sanders, Vallejo CA
Bill Shirley, Sherman Oaks CA

Wilderness Alert

Dick Conti

Dear "Heat Sheet" Volunteers and Friends,
Your letters are urgently needed. There is no time to waste. The BLM wilderness bullies are at it again. The Bureau is proposing to revise current Wilderness Act guidelines. The Bureau wants to make it "clear" that parachutes, sailboards, sailboats, carts, wagons and similar devices (wheelbarrows?) are considered "mechanical transports". The proposal also defines chainsaws, (we use them in tamarisk removal) power drills and motorized vehicles as "motorized equipment".

The Wilderness Act of 1964 prohibits the use of "mechanical transports" and "motorized equipment in Wilderness Areas. The proposal further seeks to prohibit aircraft from landing or dropping materials (volunteers, pipe, cement, water tanks) in wilderness areas. They may be able to apply these new restrictions to other wilderness areas but we cannot allow them to think that they can apply them to wilderness dedicated by the 1994 California Desert Protections Act (CBPA). The CDPA states: Article I sec. 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.

On June 13, 1994, that simple amendment was debated for hours on the House floor. During that debate, motor vehicle, helicopter, jackhammer and mechanized tools used by DFG and us was mentioned and agreed to by those for and against this amendment. The vote on the amendment was taken by electronic device. The results: AYES 360, NAYS 0. A unanimous victory for our State wildlife. Immediately after this vote, a substitute amendment that would have allowed Federal rangers to control wildlife management and DFG's access to wilderness areas designated by this Act was voted down.

It is clear that Congress wished for us to continue our VDWWS waterhole/wildlife work.

Contact your representative today; ask him to remind the Bureau that Congress unanimously agreed that our work with DFG was critical to the survival of desert wildlife in these wilderness areas. Tell him the Bureau's wilderness division has repeatedly attempted to restrict or deny DFG's motorized access to these

CDPA wilderness areas. DFG's biologists have been denied access to perform their day to day wildlife management duties.

When you write (or better, call) be polite and to the point. Ask for a response from your representative as to how this issue was addressed by his office. I have a 15 page printed copy of the floor debate on paragraph (f). If you need a copy, I will provide it for you. Feel free to give my phone number to your Congressman, I would be happy to point out to him the difficulties we are facing with the "enforcers".

Submit your comments to:

Bureau of Land Management
Administrative Record
401 LS
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington D C 20240

A response by the public can and probably will be dismissed by the BLM, but, inquiries from Congress will get their attention. Do it today!

Society for the Conservation
of Bighorn Sheep
Waterhole Coordinator Office

5029 Vincent Avenue
Eagle Rock, CA 90041-1220
(213) 256-0463

July 30, 1996

The Honorable Duncan Hunter
U. S. House of Representatives

Dear Representative Hunter:

RE: BLM Attempted Restrictions of CDFG Activities in Wilderness

We need your help immediately. Last week I spoke with Matt Simmons of your office and I faxed you concerning California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Motorized Access to Wilderness. A copy of that letter will follow this request as well as six specific examples of how the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is attempting to restrict CDFG employees in the performance of their duties. There are other instances as well.

Please provide me some guidance on the intent and interpretation of your amendment concerning wildlife management so I might encourage the CDFG. Possibly a letter on Congressional stationery supporting the CDFG position will help the BLM see the light.

I eagerly await your response to my questions and concerns.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Conti, Jr.
President

PR PROGRAM PAYS DIVIDENDS

by
Karyl D. Ralles

The weekend of 1-3 November 1996 marked SCBS' second annual foray into the Great Western World of Hysterical Paraphernalia known to us old-timers as the Great Western Gun Show. This show is held annually at the Pomona Fairgrounds and is well known and extremely well attended.

In keeping with a recent decision of the SCBS Board of Directors to embark on a public relations program, the Great Western Show guaranteed high visibility and a unique opportunity to share our accomplishments with a large audience and a chance to voice our escalating concerns for the future of the Bighorn Sheep in the current political and **fiscal** environment.

The SCBS display booth was set up in a choice location just to the right of the building's entry doors. With several poster-size reproductions and photographs depicting past SCBS exploits and endeavors, along with two strategically placed rains heads, the booth drew lots of attention and provided an opportunity for many discussions about our society and its goals. We told our story to some genuinely interested folks; added a creditable number of names to our volunteer list for upcoming projects; signed up some promising new members; and in the process gained some lessons learned for future shows. And, in spite of all this fun, we still managed to recoup some of our expenses.

This was a worthwhile and rewarding effort and provides SCBS members with valuable planning insight for determining how, when, and where to continue with our goal of educating the public, sharing knowledge, gaining public support (for both moral and monetary purposes), and pursuing grant dollars to help defray costs on major projects such as water resource development and maintenance programs.

Special thanks to SCBS members the Roys and the Ralleges and Messrs. Hybarger and Morrison who contributed their time, talent, and tradesmanship to this important public relations effort. A special acknowledgment and thanks to SCBS member, Mr. Kei Higashi, who made all this possible by designing, building, and donating the display booth.



After two months of hunting every week-end, one missed sheep and several blown stalks, my buddy Roy Matlock and I spotted a small band of rams feeding at evening time before the last day of the hunt. After a night of little sleep we headed out to where we had seen the rams. As we came over the top of a ridge there they were! At about 250 yards away, a couple of shots with an '06 and I had my ram (February 96). Thanks to both the DFG, they did a great job, and to the SCBS. **Don Ison**

The Hunter Clinic at Camp Cady brought together representatives from each of the agencies governing the desert regions of the Bighorn, once in a life time hunters, members of the SCBS and thanks to member George Kerr, members of the San Fernando Safari Club International who provided a fine setting for the hungry participants.

Heading up the clinic was Vern Bleich, DFG and Steve Hill, SCBS, who MC'd the presentations and kept the agenda moving throughout the morning and afternoon sessions.

Highlighting the day was the return of Dick Weaver, DFG retired, who says he feels like "Moses" because he has "wandered these deserts for forty years", to present a historical overview of the efforts to return the Bighorn to their homes and the ethical responsibility of a sheep hunter.

New to the hunting range, the Chocolate Mts. will be hunted this year providing a new opportunity, even though according to the experts, the sheep are smaller due to the harsher conditions of the area.

Hunters were reminded that the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (FNAWS) records ram size for competition placement for hunters who have become (FNAWS) members before their trophy is taken.



Displaying their newly earned tags, Bighorn sheep hunters and Steve Torres, (left) DFG Bighorn Sheep Program Coordinator, pose for a picture following their completion of the Hunter Clinic.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA-THE RESOURCES AGENCY
 DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
 1416 NINTH STREET
 P.O. BOX 944209
 SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2090
 (916) 653-7664

PETE WILSON, *Governor*

November 13, 1996

Mr. Dick Conti, President
 Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep
 5029 Vincent Avenue
 Los Angeles, California 90041

Dear Mr. Conti:

This letter is to express the California Department of Fish and Game's appreciation for the continued sponsorship of the bighorn sheep hunter orientation clinic by the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep (SCBS). The dedication of your members has helped to successfully provide bighorn sheep hunters with the regulations and other helpful information to facilitate a quality hunting experience. Further, the information that you provide regarding SCBS, our bighorn sheep management program, and a shared conservation ethic, greatly benefits our program goals.

The Department is proud of our bighorn sheep management program, our partnership with SCBS, and our shared commitment toward enhancing and restoring mountain sheep populations in California. Please extend our thanks to your Board of Directors and members.

Sincerely, Jacqueline E. Schafer
 Director

SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP
A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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