



THE RAM'S HORN

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
ARIZONA DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP SOCIETY, INC.

VOL. 8

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NO. 4

SOCIETY RECEIVES AWARD

By George Welsh
Kingman, Arizona

The Desert Bighorn Council's highest award was presented to the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, Inc. on April 10 in Moab, Utah at the council's annual meeting.

The coveted Ram Award is awarded only for outstanding contributions to the knowledge and welfare of the Desert Bighorn and has not been given since 1969. This year's presentation is only the seventh since its inception in 1960.

The award was presented by Dave McLean, United States National Park Service, Boulder City, Nevada. In making his presentation, Dave cited the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society's participation in forty water development projects throughout the state for sheep, participating in surveys with state and federal agencies, conducting seven hunter training clinics and awards banquets, publishing the Ram's Horn and Hunter's Manual, manning the Society's speakers bureau, library and legislative watchdog committee, and constructing the recently completed and dedicated zoo project.

President Bob Grey accepted the award on behalf of the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society and thanked all of its members for their years of hard work and dedication for making the award possible.

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1974 Outstanding Contributions Trophy presented to the Society by The Desert Bighorn Council.



The Exhibit Building as viewed from the south side on the dedication day. It was hard to believe that it was finally completed as we gathered for the ceremonies. Additional pictures of this event are on page 4.

PHASE II ZOO PROJECT

Phase II of our Zoo Project was culminated by the dedication ceremonies held on 28 April 1974. The last few days were hectic but worth waiting for.

The event attracted over 400 members and friends of the Society and indeed it was a great tribute to all who took part in this undertaking.

The Society is proud of this accomplishment and expresses its sincere thanks to all who helped to make this project a reality.

ANNUAL MEETING AND SHEEP CLINIC

The annual general membership meeting and sheep clinic will be held on 27 and 28 of September at the Black Canyon Rifle Range in Phoenix. The general membership meeting will elect Society's officers for 1975 and therefore is of great importance to all of us. If you have suggestions for the slate of officers, please contact Cecil LaVance, Nominations Committee Chairman.

The programs for these events will be published in the next issue of Ram's Horn.

May 20, 1974

SHEEP HUNT

This year will feature an early bighorn sheep hunt from 10/12 to 10/28. The late hunt will be from 12/7 to 12/27. A total of 63 permits will be available.

LEGISLATIVE CORNER

Our recently appointed Legislative Chairman, John F. Krause, acting for the Society has submitted the letters reproduced below. These letters represent the official position of your Society and were prompted by DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT NO. 74-38 prepared by Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife concerning the Kofa Wilderness Proposal. The complete draft became available to the Society and the following direct quote is of importance to all of us: "The proposed wilderness designation would prohibit future development of water facilities. Extensive planning efforts have not identified a need for additional facilities and restriction is not believed to be significant."

If you have any questions regarding our efforts in this particular position or have suggestions for other solutions or other areas we should investigate, let us know. Address your correspondence to Legislative Chairman, c/o Ram's Horn, P.O. Box 5241, Phoenix, Az. 65010.

May 13, 1974

Mr. Joe T. Fallini, State Director
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of the Interior
3022 Federal Building
Phoenix, Arizona 85025

Dear Mr. Fallini:

The Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society wishes to go on record as being opposed to certain provisions of Withdrawal Application A7950 relating to the KOFA Game Range and A 7951 relating to the Cabeza Prieta Game Range as filed by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

First, we oppose those provisions of the withdrawal applications which call for vesting sole jurisdiction in the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife in contrast to the present joint administration by the BSWF and the BLM. In our opinion, this would result in an undue burden being placed on the already limited resources of the BSWF, and this could well prove to be detrimental to the proper management of these important Desert Bighorn Sheep ranges.

Second, we oppose those provisions of the withdrawal applications which call for a name change from "Game Range" to "National Wildlife Refuge". Implicit in those provisions is the assumption that the federal government has jurisdiction over indigenous wildlife species, and we are adamant in our posture that this is properly the prerogative of the state government. Also, in the absence of clarification to the contrary, the use of the term "refuge" implies the possibility that these ranges could be administratively closed to hunting at a future date, and this we strongly oppose.

Third, we oppose those provisions of the withdrawal applications which would remove these ranges from the scope of the Taylor Grazing Act. We feel that the cattlemen now using these ranges have contributed to the conservation of the Desert Bighorn Sheep by developing and maintaining year-round water, and that serious cutback in grazing privileges could well result in the loss of these important resources.

Sincerely yours,

John F. Krause
Legislative Chairman

Mr. W. O. Nelson, Jr., Regional Director
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife
U. S. Department of the Interior
P. O. Box 1
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

Dear Mr. Nelson:

The Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society wishes to go on record as being opposed to inclusion of the KOFA Game Range in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

This Society is dedicated to the preservation and conservation of Desert Bighorn Sheep, and it is our view, based upon appraisal of the facts available, that the designation of the KOFAs as a wilderness area will be detrimental to the Desert Bighorn Sheep in that mountain range. In reaching this conclusion there were two major considerations.

First, the limitation of access under the wilderness status could seriously hamper the management of the Desert Bighorn Sheep and their habitat. In this respect, the maintenance of water resources is critically important, as was pointed out in the KOFA Wilderness Study Summary.

Second, we consider it probable that the designation of the KOFAs as a wilderness area will serve to popularize this mountain range, with the result that usage will increase greatly. It is a well established fact that Desert Bighorn Sheep will yield to people pressure, thus resulting in the loss of another important sheep range.

In closing, the Society would point out that Executive Order 8039 of January 25, 1939 established the KOFA Game Range in order to conserve and develop natural wildlife resources. This Society feels that this should continue to be the prime objective in the utilization of the KOFAs, and that wilderness status is not compatible with that goal.

Sincerely yours,

John F. Krause
Legislative Chairman

CABEZA PRIETA PROJECT

On Friday Nite April 19, '74 which is the anniversary of the famous historic Boston Marathon. . . A tough grueling 26 mile foot race always held on the aforementioned "Patriots Day" date

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'til Washington got to using their Runnin' Irons on National Holidays — Anyhow, we got our ducks in a row at last! As things turned out it means that we were out on our good behavior once more — this time for the "Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife", Yuma, Arizona. We've been offering our Society Services to BSF&W in addition to our committed five projects per year for the Arizona Game & Fish Dept. This year we really outdid our appetites - As we were loaded down with our zoo project. But we managed to round up five for AG&FD, one for BSF&W, and one for the People of Arizona in the form of an exhibit building at the Phoenix Zoo. It's gonna be tough to follow an act like that. Let's get back to the barn. . .

Seems as how we latched on to the main group at Milepost 48 on Interstate 8. There was a good feeling in the nite air as once again we were to go back to an ol' fren. . . The Cabeza Prieta! Led by an Indianapolis Speedway reject our head camel driver herded us across 40 miles of dusty curvy and bumpy at unbelievable speeds. Guess we were trying to qualify our run tho! But we had sum good laffs 'bout that flying ground approach to our campsite. Not too much fireside activity — most of the hands turned in shortly after a few prayers were said for our safe trail from the hard highway to Senita Tank Town!

Bedrolls, flickering fire and shadows, the quiet of a desert nite, and slumbering men — all very much a part of project nites. Dawn. Breakfasts. Preparations. Then on over and slightly uppity to the work location. Kinda nice to have a close by camp to the tank. A by product is that our energies are saved for tank work and not spent climbing a mountain. This tank consisted of a diversion and silt dam up above in the wash — a drop in the wash to a sort of collector slow down that would allow a flow of rainwater to filter off into a side tunnel carved down deep into solid rock — only this solid rock was not as solid as it mite be! The original builders of this waterhole got a little carried away perhaps with their explosives because the veined rock was badly shattered. Looked to be dangerous, and did not hold water. This fragmented hole into the stone mountain had been written off several times by various surveys that said "Beware — Danger — Falling Rock". But the location, the need, and the knowhow was there at long last. BSF&W fellas had winched some large boulders and debris outa the hole on Friday. Saturday morning some ex-diver, an ol' cowboy, a former Californian turned yachtsman on the desert.

An Ajo prospector, and assorted other talents measured planned and installed shoring timber, bracing, supports, and protection from cave-in and falling rock. Then a bucket brigade began and with sledge hammers, picks, bars, (I'll have one. . .!) shovels the hole was cleaned of all dirt, rocks, fragmented stone, and debris. The tunned in the rock grew deeper at a forty-five degree angle eighteen feet down to solid walls. Amid all the dust down there the walls were chipped clean, the roof was chipped clean, floor was shoveled clean, and the many buckets were filled, passed hand over hand up the line of willing tiring fellas, dumped and sent back down to be refilled. The dust was really bad and some disposable face masks probably save the fight. Every so often a bucket full of Bud or Coors started back thru the line. This of course meant a short break for dust control — and I heard several nice things said 'bout P. D. Holt, Jim Peterson, and Les Cody who supplied these effective countermeasures against clogged passages. Bob Gray had brot a large air movement fan and with power supplied by a small electric generator this fan helped

to keep the air clearer and at least moving.

What can I say — except that this mans work went on and on, down to the best bare rock we could get to — then brushed clean, and a liquid bonding chemical painted and brushed on and into every square inch of tunnel — followed closely by a brushing on application of a waterproofing cement sealing mixture. Then the last process of a sealing coating follows. Let 'er dry and set a few days. Then pray for rain!

Once again all this effort was completed by High Noon on Sunday. As a group working together we do these projects in a day and a half. Both AG&FD and BSF&W folks figure it'd take one of their own crews several weeks to do the same project. But remember — our pace for 1½ days would not be practical over a period of those hard hot dry days. And also our group this year averaged between twenty-five and fifty-two fellas. And that's a heckuva bigger crew than they have available. But a big plus is that these Agency crews are right in there with us, shoulder to shoulder, getting the job done. They are good guys and we appreciate their cooperation and the opportunity to serve their organization.

I get to hand writing this info that I most forgot to tell you that we did stop working late Saturday afternoon to have some supper — followed by blessed rest 'til Sunday dawn. While some of those dudes were slickin' up John Houzenga, John Krause, Joe "KK", and helpers P.D., Les, Ken Mills, and other KP helpers, turned out another great dutch oven camp supper. This time member George Hill donated Buffalo roasts for the meal. Around this main dish master cook John had white bisquits, regular cornbread, Mexican hot style cornbread, tossed salad with various dressings, mashed potato, stewed corn, and Buffalo gravy. Splitting the cost of ingredients purchased (such as milk, flour, dressings, butter, oils, misc groceries and produce) our meal came to a buck a head for all you can eat. Not bad for a few fellas to turn out, huh? Try it next supertime with us.

While allowin' our supper to settle Dave Mitchell and Dan Pffaf broke out a portable record player and entertained us with recordings of "The Streaker" and other humorous ones. Something different alright!

'Bout the time dusk came Dave Riley, Zone Supervisor, BSF&W, Yuma arrived by jeep with newspaperman Terry Mikelson, Yuma Sun & Ariz. Sentinel. Shortly thereafter 'round a large campfire and a portable lite with the aid of Graphic Visual Aids Dave presented a program of interest and concern to all of us. His subject matter was on the Kofa Wilderness Study, and was followed by a question and answer period.

We met several new fellas from Yuma this project. I'm referrin' to Rog Kopp, Paul Connolly, and Merl Baldwin. Tucson was represented by Joe Sheehey, and all metropolitan Yuma sent Joe Rodriguez, Jr, and Bud Phillips of BSF&W; and Bill Snider. We saw Joe Gundry, Mason Bauer and Bill Furedy at various times in the Tank, at Chuck, 'round the fire. . . While I was havin' Sunday breakfast of Mexican cornbread and black coffee at the campfire I observed John Krause doing his sourdough flapjacks for Wade and Matt Dominy, and other drop-ins at breakfast time. Last to leave the campsite Sunday noon was Jim Creasy BSF&W at Ajo, Ariz. — and his shotgunner Marvin Silva, schoolteacher in Ajo. Speakin' of leavin' — the trip out to the big ol' highway was more fun as daylite lets a fella have a looksee where he been or goin'.

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AWARD...

In closing Bob said that his eyes had really been opened at the council meeting to the complex problems concerning the desert sheep and its management, and would relay this information to the board of directors. "Receiving this award gives us the impetus to do more for the bighorn in future years," said Grey.

The Desert Bighorn Council was formally organized in 1959, and its membership is composed of individuals engaged professionally in the management, protection, and scientific study, and of others interested in the welfare of the Desert Bighorn Sheep. The Desert Bighorn Council was established to promote the advancement of knowledge and the long-range welfare of the desert sheep.

Congratulations again to the Society for a fine job, well done, and for their concern for the desert bighorn sheep of Arizona.

PROJECT...

In saying our farewells we thanked our friend Monte Dodson, BSF&W - Yuma for the chance to work on one of his Department's waterholes once more. It was he who first showed several of us in the Society the "Senita Tank" and expressed a wish that it could have been salvaged. We raised his hopes when we said that we'd do it - either officially, or as a work party some weekend. Wal - under his supervision we as a Society Waterhole Project crew have helped make his wish come true. And if Senita Tank didn't have a fine name (named after a certain cactus nearby) we'd probably suggest Cathedral or similar monicker because of the many beams set at angles to retain the ceiling structure. Anyhow, Monte has a good one to be proud of. Thanks again "Men of Senita"! I'll drink to that...

Signed Joe "KK" Kane
Writ By Hand

News Flash

On 25 June 1974 a lamb ram was born at the Phoenix Zoo. To celebrate this occasion the Phoenix Zoo has extended an invitation to all members to visit the exhibit free of charge upon presentation of the Society's membership card till 15 July 1974.

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P.O. BOX 5241
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85010



President Robert Gray addressing the crowd at the Exhibit Building.



Mr. Jack Tinker, Director of Phoenix Zoo, making his acceptance speech.



The ribbon cutting ceremony was performed by Mrs. Jack Walters. Looking on are from left to right John Houzenga, our project chairman, Mr. Jack Tinker, Milton Evans (partially obscured), Chairman AG&FD, and Ben Avery our keynote speaker. All photos by Doug Reynolds.