

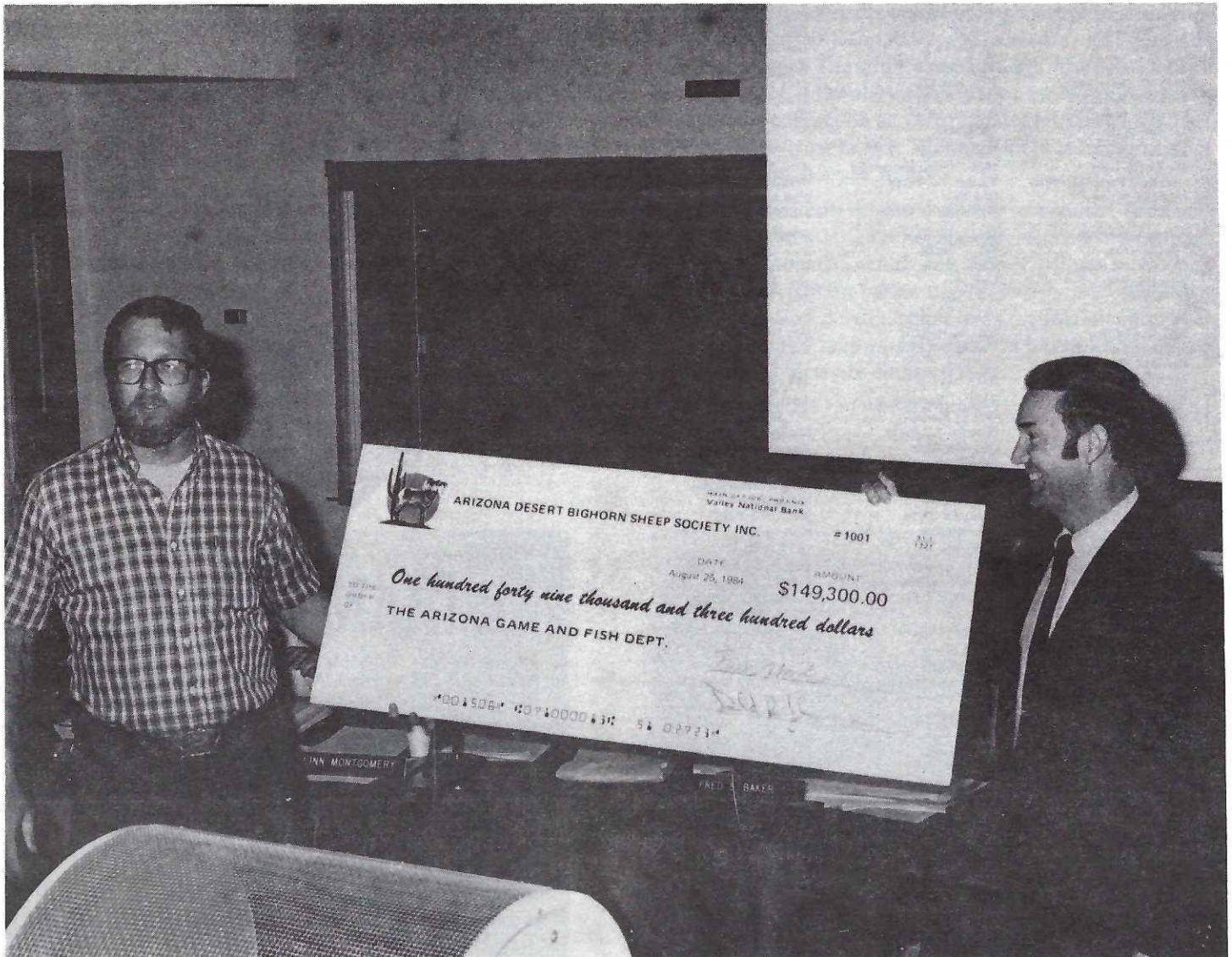
# THE RAM'S HORN

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARIZONA DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP SOCIETY, INC.  
A NON-PROFIT, TAX EXEMPT CORPORATION

VOLUME 19

SUMMER '84

#3



(Photos courtesy of Arizona Game & Fish Department, Dave Daughtry)

## LIST OF 1984 SHEEP HUNTER PERMITS

Eldon D. Bills 1630 N. Fittre Flagstaff, AZ 86001 Unit 15A & 15B East 1st Choice	Michael R. Vaccaro 6271 W. Pierso Phoenix, AZ 85033 Unit 15C South 1st Choice	John F. Youngker Rt. 2 Box 318 Buckeye, AZ 85326 Unit 44B North 1st Choice
William J. Barkley Star Rt. Box 1 Payson, AZ 85541 Unit 15A & 15B East 2nd Choice	Thomas L. Freeston Rt. 2 Box 1048 Safford, AZ 85546 Unit 15D 1st Choice	Michael C. Finley 6528 E. Bar 2 Paradise Valley, AZ 85253 Unit 44B South 1st Choice
Michael L. Campbell 3022 E. Lewis Flagstaff, AZ 86001 Unit 15B West 1st Choice	James Short 4145 Van Nuys Kingman, AZ 86401 Unit 15D 1st Choice	Jack H. Simon 6401 S. 44th St. Phoenix, AZ 85040 Unit 44B South 2nd Choice
Walter D. McDonald 12450 Blue Me Saratoga, CA 95070 Unit 15B West 1st Choice	James W. Short 4145 Van Nuys Kingman, AZ 86401 Unit 15D 1st Choice	Gerald McEwem P.O. Box 204 Young, AZ 85554 Unit 45A South 1st Choice
Tom E. Ridgeway 1055 E. Indian School Phoenix, AZ 85014 Unit 15B West 1st Choice	Howard Grounds 2650 Ricca Dr. Kingman, AZ 86402 Unit 15D 2nd Choice	Ben F. Johnson 1187 Leisure Mesa, AZ 85208 Unit 45A South 1st Choice
Darryl M. Gibson 1934 E. Mitchel Phoenix, AZ 85016 Unit 15B West 2nd Choice	Raymond Rende 1407 E. Gemini Tempe, AZ 85283 Unit 27 1st Choice	Loren M. Hogam RR 1 Box 130 Show Low, AZ 85901 Unit 45B South 1st Choice
Mark A. Klarer 6423 W. Desert Hills Glendale, AZ 85304 Unit 15B West 1st Choice	Travis Holder P.O. Box 823 Globe, AZ 85501 Unit 31 2nd Choice	Ronald F. Taylor 1844 W. Natal Mesa, AZ 85202 Unit 45B South 1st Choice
Donald Bennett 490 Estero Land Litchfield Park, AZ 85340 Unit 15B West 1st Choice	Eric D. Cahan 5951 Camino Hermosillo Tucson, AZ 85718 Unit 33 1st Choice	Fred W. Loy 4752 Bluff Rd. Whitley Circle, MI 49461 Unit 45B South 1st Choice
Wayne D. Murray, Jr. 572 Dameron Prescott, AZ 86301 Unit 15B West 2nd Choice	Claude Evans 315 E. 8th St. Casa Grande, AZ 85222 Unit 39 2nd Choice	Robert Jochim P.O. Box 988 Cottonwood, AZ 86326 Unit 45B 2nd Choice
Robert Wonderly 5841 E. Sharon Scottsdale, AZ 85254 Unit 15B West 2nd Choice	Charles Meacham 7601 N. Hopdow Tucson, AZ 85741 Unit 40A 2nd Choice	Douglas Wright Box 1018 Cottonwood, AZ 86326 Unit 45B 2nd Choice
Bruce Bramblett Star Rt. S ASP Cornville, AZ 86325 Unit 15B West 1st Choice	Ryan J. Wampler 4035 E. Fanfol Phoenix, AZ 85028 Unit 40B West 2nd Choice	John Dorrance IPY Ranch Devils Tower, WY 82714 Unit 45C 1st Choice
Dean E. Priest 1911 E. Karen Phoenix, AZ 85022 Unit 15B West 1st Choice	Gordon Smith 1931 E. Vine Mesa, AZ 85204 Unit 40B East 1st Choice	Scott C. Anderson 664 N. Forest Mesa, AZ 85203 Unit 45C 2nd Choice
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Gerald R. Hatch Box 821 Snowflake, AZ 83937 Unit 15C North 1st Choice	Arthur Smart 13389 Bridges Yuma, AZ 85365 Unit 43A & 43B 1st Choice	Barbara Ridgeway Camp Wood Rt. Prescott, AZ 86301 Unit 46A 2nd Choice
Jon L. Byler P.O. Box 2457 Camp Verde, AZ 86322 15C North 2nd Choice	Gary R. Williams 8423 E. Holly Scottsdale, AZ 85257 Unit 43A & 43B 2nd Choice	Kpjm Abpid 100 N. Stone A Tucson, AZ 85701 Unit 46B 1st Choice
Karl A. Gunnel 113 W. Main St. Mesa, AZ 85201 Unit 15C North 2nd Choice	Peter A. Bossart 23 Woodfield Saddle River, NJ 07458 Unit 44B North 2nd Choice	Leo L. Maestas P.O. Box 21 Holbrook, AZ 86025 Unit 46B 2nd Choice
Louise B. Ellison P.O. Box 2443 Globe, AZ 85502 Unit 15C North 1st Choice	Joe Bill Pickrell P.O. Box 7612 Phoenix, AZ 85011 Unit 44B North 1st Choice	GOOD HUNTING AND BEST OF LUCK
Stephen M. Schmitt 8677 E. Clark E. Lansing, MI 48823 Unit 15C South 1st Choice	Michael S. Criss 10331 N. Orange Tucson, AZ 85741 Unit 44B North 2nd Choice	

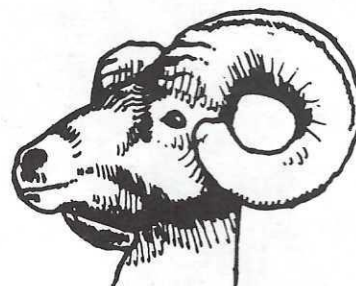
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## THE RAM'S HORN

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## Jim Ferguson Wins Special Sheep Permit

An excited crowd of 40-50 sportsmen and women sat on the edge of their chairs as Arizona Game & Fish Department's Director **Bud Bristow** and Game Branch Supervisor **Dave Brown** slowly turned the big barrel of raffle tickets. Society members **Jerry Walters** and **Don Johnson** had previously deposited handful after handful of tickets into the barrel after removing them from two locked steel boxes.

These tickets had begun to trickle in to the Society way back in December 1983, accompanied by \$25, \$50 and \$100 checks. As the tickets began to accumulate in two Valley bank safe deposit boxes, the donations were deposited in a special savings account. As the deadline approached, the tickets and donations poured in to the Society. And finally, August 25th arrived, and sheep hunters across the country hoped for that phone call with their fingers crossed.

Society Charter Member **Ben Avery** was invited to do the honors. Ben took a moment to comment on these bighorns that have meant so much to all of us, closed his eyes, and pulled the winning ticket. There was a moment of absolute silence, and then the words, "the winner is . . . **Jim Ferguson of Yuma, Arizona.**" And, so, it's wait 'til next year for the rest of us.

We were not able to contact Jim immediately after the drawing. We were able to get word to him through family members, however, who broke the news that night with a **champagne celebration**. It must have been quite an experience for Jim's wife **Gayle** who bought the two tickets when they were sent by the Society. Apparently it was a joint checking account, because Gayle put her name on one and Jim's on the other. Jim thinks she did just fine, but I'm sure Gayle wishes she had somehow switched those names before she mailed them in. Next year, you write the check Jim, and put Gayle's name on *both* tickets.

Jim lives in Yuma which is in the heart of the finest sheep country in the world! He has been a member of the Sheep Society for many years and was fortunate to take a Desert Ram from Unit 43 almost 20 years ago. The fact that Jim couldn't hunt sheep in the ensuing years hasn't diminished his interest. He is "rarin' to go" and can't wait to get down to Aravaipa with his wife and brother and start sizing them up. One of the nice coincidences about Jim winning this hunt is the fact that this particular area was finally opened to sheep hunting in 1981 largely because of the interest and support of Jim's brother **Frank ("Spec")** when he was a member of the Game Commission.

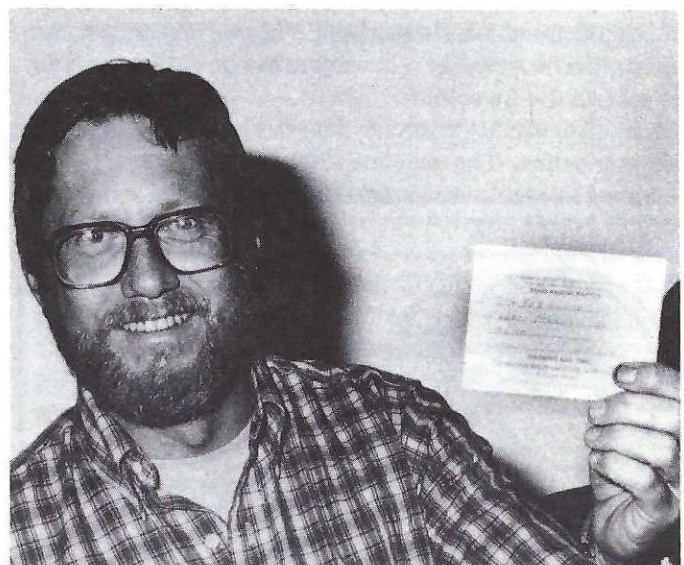
Although there was only one permit winner in this program, the success of this fund raiser will make winners out of Arizona's Bighorn Sheep. Members and friends of the Society from all over the world were generous in their support. Donations of **\$82,450.00** were received from thousands of sheep hunters. The addition of **\$64,000** raised in the Kofa Permit Auction at February's Foundation for North American Wild Sheep's convention and accumulated interest has enabled the Society to present over **\$150,000.00** to the Department for sheep work here in Arizona.

The Society's cost of about \$3,000 to conduct this campaign was absorbed from other Society revenues, so every penny that was donated to this fund raiser will go into sheep management. A joint committee of Society representatives and Game & Fish personnel has been formed to administer this fund. We will keep you informed in future Ram's Horns as various projects are completed with this money.

Thanks to all of you who supported this program with your time and money!



**Ben Avery** draws winning ticket. Past Society President **Don Johnson** and Az. Game & Fish Director **Bud Bristow** looking on.



The lucky ticket!

# 16th Annual Awards Banquet Report

The 16th Annual Award Banquet was held on June 16th, 1984, at the Safari Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona. Over 175 people attended to honor the 1983 hunters, listed below, who took record class rams.

Louis Saide, Paul Przybyla, Tim Konkol, Bret Glover, Jerry Walters, Scott Sutherland, Steve Williams, Patricia Thorson, Jim Yeager, David Root, Dorene Daiss, J.D. Smith, Richard Avey.

The Awards Banquet had a new twist this year. There were not raffle tickets sold as in the past, and we were able to move right along and be out when planned. **Dave Brown**, who is the Az G&F Big Game Supervisor and also a member of ADBSS, was our M.C. Dave kept everything light and moving right along. We were indeed fortunate to also have Bob Corbin, Arizona Attorney General, as our guest speaker. His wife, **Bobbie**, also attended.

Corbin told us about the Hunter Harassment Bill (the ADBSS participated with the G & F in this bill). It was a first in the country and since then, ten other states have adopted the same law. Bob also told us about the NRA and it is time for us to be aware of our right to bear arms and to be able to hunt.

The ADBSS also was honored to have, as our guest, some new members of the Game & Fish Department: **Duane Shroufe, Lee Perry and Bruce Taubert.**

**President Bill Hook** recognized Mr. & Mrs. Frank "Spec" Ferguson. Frank is a past G & F Commissioner, who has always had a serious interest in sheep. We were extremely pleased to have them with us.

**Past President Harry Hussey** recognized his 1983 Board with special recognition to **Don Johnson** and **Jim Marquardt** for their work on the first Raffle/Auction conducted by the Society, and to the first Fund Raising Committee for their fine job: **Tom Boggess, Joe Bill Pickrell, Dean Bowdoin, Harry Vander Hoek, Jim Fiedler and Bill Hook.**

President Hook passed out trophies to all who had taken record class bighorns, with Dr. Smith taking the highest scored bighorn of the 1983 hunt.

A good time was had by all.

David Hussey,  
Chairman

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## Cat-Tail Catchment

The **Aubrey Hills** have traditionally been a good sheep area. However, in recent years, the sheep population had declined to a point where there were very few sheep. Now the sheep are coming back. It is estimated there are over 40 sheep in this small range of mountains, and things are looking better for the future.

**Cat-Tail Catchment** is located in the South end of the Aubrey Hills. This is but one of the water developments the Arizona Game & Fish Department has constructed in this area in the last few years. Their goal has been to establish permanent water, away from Lake Havasu itself. This will hopefully reduce the conflict between the recreational use of the land by people and its use by wildlife.

A small masonry diversion dam was built to funnel water into a pipeline. The pipeline, 300 feet long, ran to two fiberglass storage tanks, (approximately 4,000 gal. capacity).

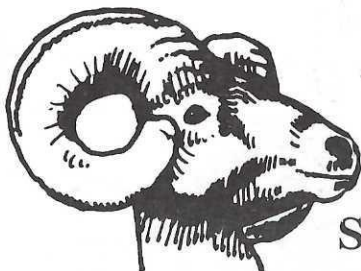
A watering trough, with a float valve, was installed at the tanks. This on-demand watering system conserves water by preventing evaporation. Water is released as needed, stopped evaporation that would normally take place from an uncovered source of water. A burro tank was constructed around the tank and trough installation.

We did have a couple of interested on-lookers at the project site that provided some excitement for all of us who were there. Two young rams showed up Saturday morning and stayed around the entire day, supervising our efforts. They showed absolutely *no fear* from all of the people and activity in the area. This fact probably demonstrates the importance in putting the water away from human contact.

Special thanks to **Bruce Sitko** and all of the young men he brought with him from **Payson High School**. They dug right in and made it possible for us to complete the job in two days.

Pete Cimellaro  
Project Chairman

*continued on page 10*



**Send Pictures!**

Had a successful hunt????

Send us an article, along with pictures, and we will print them in the Rams Horn.

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## Board Meetings

The ADBSS Board Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. The meetings are open to all concerned members. Location of the meetings is: Scottsdale Towers, Shoeman Lane, Scottsdale (one block south of Camelback Road, on the East side.) Time of meeting: 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 or 10 p.m.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

## Horse Mesa Sheep Introduction Project

Submitted by:  
Melodie A. Carr and Robert D. Ohmart

On 19-20 December 1983, 32 desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis mexicana*; 23 ewes, 9 rams) were removed from the west Kofa and north Plomosa mountains of southwestern Arizona and released on the east and west ends of Horse Mesa in south-central Arizona. Two, and possibly three, capture-related mortalities occurred. A three-year-old ram, suffering from hypothermia, died en route to the release site, and a five-year-old ewe died of the same cause shortly thereafter. Approximately one month after the transplant a seven-year-old ram was found in Apache Lake after apparently falling from a cliff above the lake. A necropsy performed on this ram indicated the presence of an intestinal hernia prior to death. All other sheep were released without incident into the Horse Mesa area.

Fifteen sheep were released near Horse Mesa Dam at the west end of Horse Mesa on 20 December and another 16 were released at Bronco Butte on the east end of Horse Mesa the following day. All ewes were tested for pregnancy prior to release in an effort to test two new transplant procedures that will have a net effect of creating a greater overall distribution of sheep and lambing sites while reducing the potential for stress and spring overcrowding. Nine ewes were fitted with radio collars and their movements are currently being monitored by intensive ground tracking and periodic fixed-wing surveys conducted by the Arizona Department of Game and Fish. The Department also conducted a helicopter survey in May to obtain information on population parameters such as lamb production and lamb survival.

Following the initial release, ewes interacted closely with each other near their respective release sites. West-side ewes with lambs formed close social ties among themselves as did east-side ewes, but little, if any, integration of ewes with lambs has occurred between the two herds. The two mini-releases segregated or split sheep on the west end of Horse Mesa from those on the east end so that essentially there are two separate herds of bighorn sheep on Horse Mesa. Some interchange is occurring between the two bands but this tends to involve only rams or ewes without lambs.

Six months of intensive field observation indicates that westside ewes with lambs are using a 3 square mile area on the southwest corner of Horse Mesa. East-side ewes with lambs are likewise utilizing a 2 square mile area in the vicinity of Bronco Butte. It appears the ewes are showing an increased fidelity towards these areas and that these two areas will become critical lambing sites in future years.

During the summer months, all sheep (including rams) are

concentrating their movements in areas along the north face of Horse Mesa. This appears to be in response to water availability and reduced exposure from the sun.

Radio-collared ewes without lambs have traveled farther distances and covered more area during the spring months than did ewes with lambs. Two ewes were sighted near Utery Pass Road and another ewe left Horse Mesa entirely and now inhabits an area not far from Weaver's Needle in the Superstition Mountains. This is approximately eight miles from her release site. The spring home range of these three ewes was at least double that of ewes with lambs. No radio-collared sheep have been located near the geographical center of Horse Mesa, but this area may begin to receive some utilization as the breeding season approaches and movements increase.

The results of ground observations of bighorns made in the course of radio-tracking and random observation has resulted in a total of 32 groups of sheep, accounting for a total of 119 sheep observations. Twenty-six of 29 transplanted sheep have been observed by ground tracking. Bands ranged in size from 1 to 11 sheep with a mean band size of 4 sheep. Age and sex composition, determined from ground observations, are 40 lambs:100 ewes and 32 rams:100 ewes. No yearlings are present within the two herds of sheep. With the exception of one ewe, who lost her lamb early in the season, all eight ewes with lambs still have their lambs with them to date. The sex composition of the lambs, from ground observations, is three ewes, four rams, and one undetermined. To date, the estimated bighorn sheep population on Horse Mesa is 37 sheep.

### Acknowledgements

We are extremely grateful to the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society for their financial support during this phase of the study. Pat Crouch, Rick Gerhart, and Norris Dodd provided invaluable field assistance during the field work. Salt River Project provided helicopter time with access to the west end of Horse Mesa. To these and others we greatly appreciated their help and encouragement.

*Editor's Note: In May, 1984, the Board approved funding of \$1,740.00 for financing of this research project. In August, the Board approved funding to continue this project for an additional nine months. The ADBSS wishes to express their thanks to Melodie, Bob, Pat Crouch, Rick Gerhart, Norris Dodd and SRP for their contributions.*

# Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Status Report 1970

*(A Look Back In Time)*

The following articles appeared in the 1970 & 1983 Transactions of the Desert Bighorn Council and are reprinted here for the sole purpose of general interest.

*Abstract. Four hundred sixteen desert bighorns have been harvested in Arizona during 16 years of hunting. The average age is seven years.*

*Activities in each of the five regions in the Arizona Game and Fish Department, which have sheep populations, are discussed concerning bighorn surveys, hunts and problems.*

*Research on bighorn sheep in Arizona is directed toward drug use for capturing and sectioning incisor teeth as an aging technique.*

*"Progress" and human disturbance have been, and could be, causes of a major decline of Arizona's bighorn populations in many areas.*

*Ninety-six developments to benefit desert bighorns have been constructed throughout the state.*

*Ten sheep have been released into the 112 acre enclosure at Aravaipa. Six sheep remain.*

*A drop-net was tried from a helicopter for the purpose of capturing sheep.*

*The Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society participated in seven bighorn watering projects.*

## INTRODUCTION

Arizona has been hunting desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) since 1953. During these 16 years 416 sheep have been harvested by 1,033 hunters for an overall hunter success of 40.3 percent.

Since 1957, 368 sheep were aged by horn growth rings and the average age is estimated at seven years (if our aging technique is correct).

On a statewide basis, 170 hours of helicopter flight time were expended in 1969 and 662 sheep were classified. 183 hours will be flown this year.

Sheephunting in Arizona, as elsewhere, is becoming increasingly popular. For the past four years the number of applicants for the roughly 81 to 86 permits, which are authorized yearly, has jumped from 581 to 888 to 1,170 to 1,376. The chance of getting drawn for one of these permits was 16:1 in 1969.

### Region II.

The known sheep areas of this region lie north of the Colorado River and west of the Grand Canyon National Monument.

Aerial surveys in this unit have so far been very unproductive with only three sheep observed; however, 17 bighorns were seen by ground surveys between Whitmore, Snap, and Pierce Canyons in 1968. None were observed in 1969.

The 1970 surveys will be conducted late this spring by vehicle, foot, and horseback, with an additional 15 hours by helicopter.

Sightings are infrequent due to the vastness and inaccessibility of this remote area.

Two five-permit hunts have been held in the past two years and a total of three rams was harvested.

### Region III.

This region lies in northwest Arizona and contains four sheep hunting units. Generally it is the area around Lakes Mead, Mohave, and Havasu, and the Colorado River which connects them.

Between 15 and 20 permits are authorized each year in this region.

Surveys have resulted in somewhat increased observations during the last few years. This is attributed primarily to the increased experience of the observers in their use of the helicopter.

Hunt results have remained stable. There are still some unsolved problems with hunters that take smaller than "trophy" rams, but at this time, we have no solution to the problem.

Our overall bighorn populations appear relatively stable; in a few areas they may be increasing slightly. We have observed some increased mortality during the past two years due to highways and fencing.

We are continuing our water development program and are planning to construct a number for use by desert bighorn sheep. At least fifteen water developments are proposed and hopefully, will be completed within the next five years.

*Note* — If the subdividers keep going at their present rate, we may have to sell the catchments as bar-b-que areas and swimming pools.

The major problems of sheep management are those associated with "progress". These are current and increasing human disturbance factors which must have an adverse effect on sheep in some of our areas. The Aubrey Hills area, below Lake Havasu City, is experiencing high use by dune buggy enthusiasts, boaters, campers, and subdividers. A new highway will soon be completed, along with larger State Parks developments. New boating facilities are being planned by the National Park Service in some of our good sheep areas. New roadway systems are being planned along the Colorado River and in the Lake Mead National Recreation area.

It is believed that these proposed roadways will have an adverse effect on not only desert bighorn sheep, but on most other forms of wildlife found in these areas.

This may sound somewhat pessimistic, but it is rather discouraging to look at some of these situations knowing that in all probability great losses are going to occur and the only thing to prevent them may be an agency's land-use policy.

In regard to the mortalities mentioned earlier, I have been trying to gather as much information as possible over the past fifteen years on some of the mortalities caused by the influences of man, other than legal hunting. My information includes poaching, drownings in man-made impoundments, road kills, sheep caught in fences, and bighorns that died of known or apparent causes and ones that were found dead with no known cause.

I have been collecting data from both Arizona and southwest Nevada. These data cannot be subjected to statistical scrutiny, but so far the 107 observations are broken down as follows:

Shot (illegal)	42	39.2%
Road Kills	22	20.6%
Caught in Fences	17	15.9%
Drownings	14	13.1%
Natural Accidents	12	11.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

No conclusions are drawn from this breakdown, except that civilization is making significant inroads into bighorn habitat. Aside from the natural mortality, 88.8 percent is the direct result of human interference. The collection of these data will continue and it is hoped that in the future enough information will be collected to make a worthwhile publication contribution.

#### **Region IV.**

This region is located in the southwest corner of Arizona, and at present contains ten sheep hunting units. It also contains the majority of the sheep in Arizona. Fifty sheep tags were issued in this region last year.

Helicopter surveys are in progress there now, but in 1968 582 bighorns were classified, and 481 in 1969. 103 hours of helicopter flight time were used in 1968.

#### **Unit 39 — Maricopa Mountains.**

Over 50 sheep were seen in 1968 and 1969. The lamb crop was slightly above 50 percent and population seems to be increasing somewhat.

Ten permits were issued and six sheep were harvested, one of which was illegal. Most of the hunting, confined to the Maricopa Mountains, does not seem to be hurting the population.

One problem encountered is that hunters are reporting their kills in mountain ranges other than where the sheep were actually killed. This seems to be a common practice, especially among guides who do not care to reveal where the sheep are killed.

#### **Unit 40A — Saucedo and Sand Tank Mountains.**

This is an excellent sheep area. However, surveys dropped off in 1969 for no apparent reason.

The hunters are averaging about 55 percent success over the past three years. There were seven kills made in 1969 out of 12 permits.

#### **Unit 40B — Sierra Pinta Mountains.**

There is not a great number of sheep in this unit. Sheep habitat is widely dispersed and the sheep seem to move a lot. They are found in different ranges each year. Lamb crops usually run around 50 percent at survey time.

The hunt has averaged about 50 percent success over the past three years, with four permits per year.

#### **Unit 40C — Auila, Crater, Mohawk, Copper, and Tinajas Atlas Mountains.**

This is another unit with widely dispersed bighorn habitat. Sheep numbers in the west end of the unit appear to be declining due to human influences. Sheep populations along with the eastern edge have not fluctuated.

Hunter success was 100 percent in 1968, and 60 percent in 1969. Five permits were issued each year.

#### **Unit 41 — Eagle Tail, Little Horn, Tank, Palomas and Mohawk Mountains, and the Buckeye Hills**

Fair numbers of sheep have been seen over the past four years with fairly good lamb crops. The habitat is widely dispersed. The number of permits have been reduced from ten to seven to five in the past three years.

Two rams were harvested in 1969, and only one in 1968. Sheep populations appear to be declining in this unit.

#### **Unit 42 — Harquahala Mountains.**

There are just scattered observations in this mountain range, with no hunting and a few sheep managing to hang on. The Region IV Supervisor terms it as: "Excellent historic range".

#### **Unit 43A — Castle Dome Mountains — Kofa Game Range.**

Fair numbers of sheep are seen and there are good lamb crops. The rams seem to drift in and out of this unit. The Supervisor's overall rating is: "Holding its own".

#### **Unit 43B — Trigo and Dome Rock Mountains.**

This unit has been hunted since 1953 and is still holding up very well. Permits have been reduced in the past two years because hunters are taking legal, but not trophy rams.

This unit has excellent sheep numbers.

#### **Unit 43C — Kofa Mountains — Kofa Game Range.**

This is an excellent sheep unit. The habitat is good, sheep densities are high, the lamb crops are generally good, the hunt success has held up well, and many good trophy heads come from the Kofas.

#### **Unit 44 — Harcuvars, Planet Peak, Gibraltar, and Buckskin Mountains.**

Fair numbers of sheep are seen on surveys, but the overall population is declining. The lamb crops, as a rule, are poor.

There is a lot of human interference in this area. The Parker Strip Honda Rentals, mining interests, and Sunday Plinkers are thought to be the major influences.

There have been no rams taken in this unit in the past three years. The overall rating is poor. The population is declining, and the trend seems irreversible.

Plans are still in the process of being drawn up for a 256 mile Colorado River Parkway from David Dam to the International Boundary at San Luis, Arizona.

From Parker Dam to San Luis, the potential for game management within this parkway is disastrous.

This area, to be administered by the National Parks Service, would be eliminated from the hunting scene and contains good desert game concentrations.

The roadway would leave irreparable scars through excellent bighorn sheep habitat. It has been well shown in other areas that masses of people and bighorn sheep are not compatible, and the parkway would bring many thousands of people into this sheep habitat. The parkway, as proposed, is wholly undesirable.

#### **Region V.**

This region lies in south central Arizona and has only one sheep hunting unit with ten permits.

#### **Unit 39 — Estrella Mountains and Buckeye Hills.**

Bighorn sheep habitat is limited in this region to two small mountain ranges.

In the Estrella Mountains, sheep observations have dropped from 31 to 22 to 2 in the past three years. The 1970 surveys are in progress now.

The unit has been open to bighorn hunting for many years, but 1967 and 1968 were the only two years that hunters harvested any sheep. Three were taken in 1967 and six in 1968. All kills were made in the southern portion of the Estrella Mountains.

*continued on page 17*

# Arizona Bighorn Sheep Status Report 1983

**Abstract.** A total of 1716 bighorn sheep classified on ground and aerial surveys consisted of 456 rams, 883 ewes, 298 lambs and 79 yearlings. Forty-two hunters harvested 36 rams for 86% hunter success. Research is continuing in Arizona to determine bighorn sheep and livestock interactions in Aravaipa Canyon. Studies have also begun on the U.S. Army. Yuma Proving Ground to document bighorn use of the military installation. Research is continuing to compare successes of enclosure and wild releases of bighorn in Arizona. A research project funded by electrical utility companies to access impact of power line construction and existence on bighorn has entered its sixth year. Research on impacts of the Central Arizona project on bighorn sheep is continuing. These studies are funded by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation and is in its fourth year. Monitoring is continuing on the Virgin Mountains, Redfield Canyon-Muleshoe, and Goat Mountain-Painted Cliffs transplants. Ten bighorn ewes were captured in southwest Arizona and transported by New Mexico Department of Fish and Game personnel to the Peloncillo Mountains of southwest New Mexico to supplement the existing transplant. Some 33 bighorn transplant sites have been identified within Arizona. Planning is continuing for future bighorn sheep capture techniques and transplants within Arizona.

During 1982-83 bighorn sheep surveys were conducted within 19 Game Management units, some with several mountain ranges, within the state of Arizona. Bighorn surveys were conducted both on the ground and with the aid of helicopters. During the survey period a total of 1716 bighorn were classified, consisting of 456 rams, 883 ewes, 298 lambs, and 79 yearlings. Calculated sex and age ratios are 52 rams to 100 ewes and 34 lambs to 100 ewes. The majority of the 1982 aerial surveys were conducted during the fall months.

As in the past, Arizona again conducted a conservative bighorn sheep hunt. A total of 42 permits was authorized for the 1982 bighorn sheep hunt, not including those authorized by the Hualapai Indian Reservation; This was a decrease of three permits from 1981. The 1982 bighorn permits were distributed over 19 hunting areas. The number of permits varied within each hunt area from 1 to 5 permits.

A total of 2585 first choice applications were received by the Department for the 42 permits (not including the Hualapai Indian Reservation). This was an average of 62 first choice applications for each bighorn permit. Total applications received by the Department for the 1982 bighorn hunt were comprised of 1858 resident and 728 nonresident applications.

During the 1982 bighorn hunt a total of 42 hunters harvested 36 rams for 85.7% hunter success.

As shown in Table 1, hunter success has remained fairly stable for the past six years with the exception of the lower success shown in 1980.

Ages of bighorn harvested ranged from 3 to 11 years and averaged 7 years. Green Boone and Crockett scores ranged from 120 0/8 to 188 2/8 and averaged 156 0/8 from the 1982 bighorn hunt.

During the 1982 bighorn hunting season, restrictions on the size of a legal bighorn ram were relaxed in 3 hunt areas.

Current restrictions for a legal bighorn ram in Arizona read "Mature Ram means a ram with at least a three-quarter curl or with a minimum horn length of 28 inches." These restrictions are in effect for 16 bighorn hunt areas. However, within hunt areas 15A and 15B, 44B north and 44B south, this restriction has been amended to allow the taking of any ram. The legal definition for these units reads, "Ram, means any male bighorn sheep excluding male lambs." These restrictions will be in effect in these units for 3 years to determine increases or decreases in the ages of rams in the harvest. Essentially the "any ram" hunt areas are an attempt to deter hunters from harvesting unbroomed young age rams. During the 1982 bighorn hunting season, rams harvested within the "any ram" unit of 15A and 15B showed an increase in the age of rams harvested (4.3 years in 1981 to 6.2 years in 1982) while the Green Boone and Crockett scores remained stable (154 3/8 in 1981 and 153 4/8 in 1982). Rams harvested in units 44B north and 44B south showed a slight decrease in age (7.3 in 1981 and 7.0 years in 1982). Green Boone and Crockett scores also showed a slight decrease (162 0/8 in 1981 and 154 5/8 in 1982).

This is the third consecutive hunt conducted on the Aravaipa Canyon transplanted bighorn population. A total of 5 mature rams have been harvested from the herd during the last 3 years. Green Boone and Crockett scores of rams harvested in Aravaipa during the 1982 bighorn season were 174 2/8 and 188 2/8 with both being 8 years of age.

**Transplant Update:** Aravaipa Canyon is the site of the Arizona Game and Fish Department's first bighorn sheep transplant. Bighorn were transplanted into the Aravaipa Canyon enclosure from 1958 to 1972. The herd grew to 22 bighorn in 1973 when a portion of the fence was removed and the sheep were released. The transplant is considered to have been a successful reintroduction effort. The population now numbers 80-100 sheep and the population has dispersed since the release. Lamb survival has declined over the summer of 1982 to approximately 19 lambs per 100 ewes. This has caused some concern since past year's surveys have shown twice that figure in yearlings per 100 ewes. Yearling survival will be closely monitored over the summer of 1983. Dispersal of the Aravaipa sheep have been documented since the initiation of the radio telemetry study in 1980. Some dispersal into new nursery band use areas has been documented in the last 3 years. Movement of young rams have occasionally been substantial (up to 70 airline miles).

A more recent transplant has been the Muleshoe-Redfield release about 40 miles southeast of Aravaipa. Twenty-one sheep were released in a pen at the Muleshoe Ranch in 1980 and 1981. Adult mortality was relatively high from a variety of causes throughout 1981. Lamb survival was poor inside the enclosure, probably due to predation. Two lambs survived during 1981. One of these was born outside the enclosure to an escaped ewe. The enclosure was opened on 13 April 1982 as the result of lion predation of a ewe in the enclosure and a subsequent observation of a lion in the enclosure.

Sheep surviving at the time of the release were 6 rams and 10 ewes.

In addition to the Muleshoe transplant, in November 1981, 17 sheep (4 rams and 13 ewes) were released at Redfield Canyon within the Guliuro Mountains between the Muleshoe Ranch

*continued on page 11*



# Nugget Tank

## March 10-11, 1984

**Nugget Tank** is located near the south end of the **New Water Mountains**. It is a new development putting water where it was badly needed in the foothills south of Black Mesa. There was no previous permanent water for sheep use in this area.

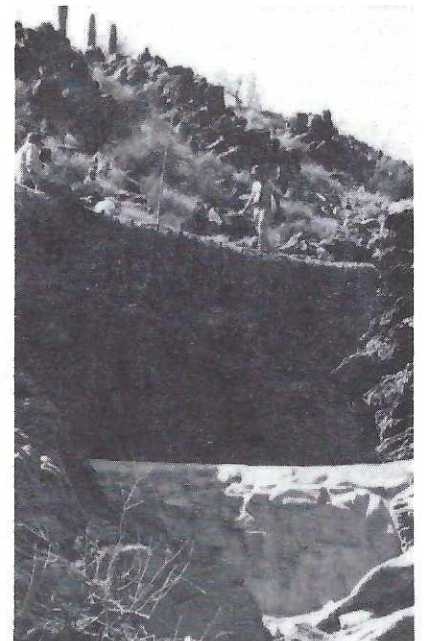
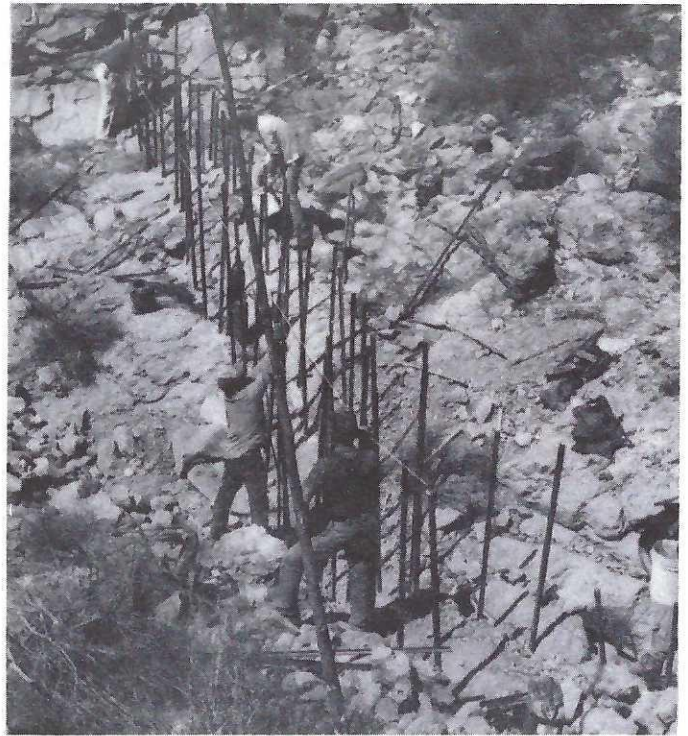
The site was a natural pothole that we mucked out, and a 5' masonry dam was then constructed increasing the storage capacity. Above the pothole, a large L-shaped gabion was constructed. The gabion was about 75' long and about 8' high at the tallest point. It took one hell of a lot of rocks to fill up that basket! Special thanks to all those people who threw rocks for two days.

A special work force revealed itself at a project for the first time. This special force from now on will be known as "**The Animals**".

**John and Joe Odinetto** and "**friends**" provided a lot of *animal force* to help finish the project. They moved an awful lot of rocks — **BIG ONES!** I was amazed at how well they worked on Saturday following the very entertaining evening they provided for Society members on Friday night.

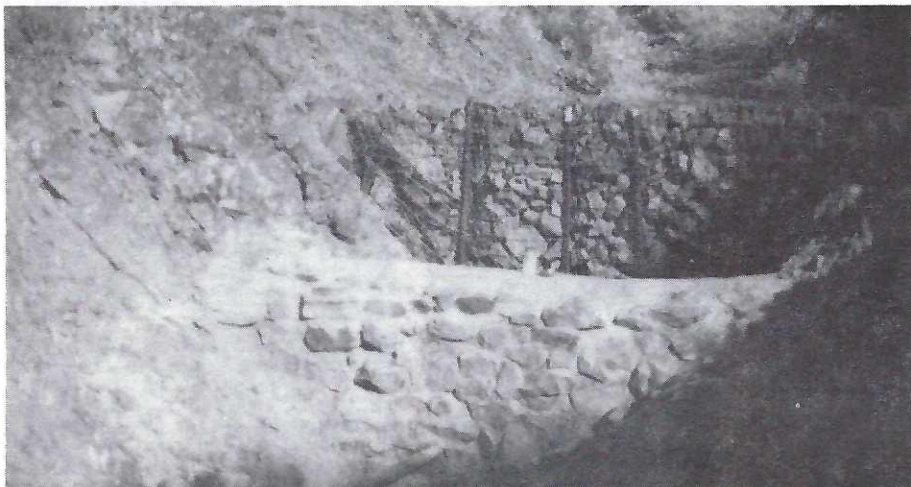
Very special thanks to **Danny Nasca** who helped us by flying all of the extra materials and equipment from the job site to camp on Sunday.

Pete Cimellaro



# Cat-Tail Catchment Photos

*continued from page 12*



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and Aravaipa Canyon. Two additional rams were released at Redfield Canyon in January 1982. Mortality of these sheep has not been high, although one known lion kill and one undocumented mortality have occurred.

The Muleshoe and Redfield sheep have interchanged regularly. Mortality has not been excessive of the radio collared sheep from both transplants. However, lamb survival has been low during 1982. Surveys to document lamb production and subsequent survival will be performed within the next few weeks. Regular radio tracking flights have provided the majority of the monitoring effort up to this time.

In November of 1980, 20 bighorn sheep (7 rams and 13 ewes) were captured in the Kofa and Plomosa Mountains and released near Goat Mountain north of Apache Lake in south central Arizona. In November of 1981, 11 additional sheep from the Castle Dome Mountains were released near Painted Cliffs, approximately 3 miles west of Goat Mountain. Total known mortalities for these two transplants include 4 ewes and 1 young ram. Bighorn sheep from each transplant site have interacted on a regular basis. Surveys conducted in May 1982 located 5 rams (2 yearlings) 16 ewes (1 yearling) and 13 lambs within the Goat Mountain, Painted Cliff area. Additional surveys conducted in October 1982, located 10 rams (1 yearling) 22 ewes (3 yearlings) 7 lambs and 1 unclassified yearling for a total of 38 bighorns.

Locations of radio collared sheep and observations indicate that these bighorn are principally occupying the release area although some dispersion is apparent. At least one ram has wandered approximately 50 miles to the northwest of the release site. Reproduction has been exceptionally good, lamb to ewe ratios from fall surveys indicate lamb survival has remained high (fall lamb: ewe ratios were 70:100 in 1981 and 41:100 in 1982).

A total of 20 Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep have been released in the Blue River area of eastern Arizona. In the spring of 1979, 2 rams and 6 ewes were released; during March of 1980, 5 rams and 7 ewes were released in the same location. Currently, winter surveys produced sightings of 31 bighorn in the upper Blue, with 46 sheep believed to currently inhabit the area. The Rocky Mountain bighorn are spending their summers at approximately 1980 meters (6500 feet) in lower Blue River. However, 3 radio collared ewes have stayed on the summer range during the winter of 82-83. Winter range of these sheep include the mixed conifer belt of the river canyons from 2430m to 2740m (8000 to 9000 feet) of elevation. The New Mexico Rocky Mountain bighorn herd released near Glenwood, New Mexico appear to be expanding their range into eastern Arizona. Approximately 25 bighorn from the Glenwood herd were located in the Clifton area during June of 1982. These were all young sheep and probably moved back to New Mexico during the winter of 1982-83. In addition, 16 bighorn sheep were located in the Frisco drainage of eastern Arizona during 1982.

During the winter of 1981-82 sixty-two desert bighorn sheep were released in the Virgin Mountains of northwestern Arizona. These releases include the Hendricks Canyon transplant, in which 21 of 25 bighorn were released from a 700 acre enclosure in January of 1982. An additional 20 bighorn were released in Sullivan Canyon of the Virgin Mountains north of Hendricks Canyon. A third release of 21 bighorn

was made at Buck Spring north of the Nevada state line.

Thirty-one of the 62 bighorn released in the Virgin Mountains were fitted with radio transmitter collars. Aerial locations are obtained twice a month to monitor movements and mortality. Since the releases, 14 mortalities (7 rams, 6 ewes, 1 lamb) have been recorded, 12 of which occurred within the first 6 months of the release. Overall surveys conducted within the transplant area, observed 19 lambs for 24 ewes. Continued aerial and ground observations will determine yearling survival rates for these transplants.

Currently 10 bighorn sheep (3 rams, 5 ewes, 2 lambs) remain within the Hendricks Canyon enclosure. These bighorn will be continually monitored and perhaps supplemented for future releases into the Virgin Mountains.

The capture of free roaming desert bighorn sheep was limited in Arizona during 1982. Ten ewes were captured in the west Kofa Mountains of southwestern Arizona in November 1982. These bighorn were transported by New Mexico Department of Game and Fish personnel to the Pelocillo Mountains of southwestern New Mexico to supplement the existing transplanted population.

Other captures include two desert bighorn lambs (1 ram and 1 ewe) from the Plomosa Mountains of southwest Arizona to be reared in the Sonoran Desert Museum.

Within the State of Arizona the Game and Fish Department has identified 33 possible bighorn sheep transplant sites. As priority transplant areas are determined and planning with the land management agencies is completed, some transplants may occur as early as the summer of 1983.

**Research.** The Arizona Game and Fish Department initiated a livestock-bighorn sheep interaction study in the Aravaipa Canyon area of south central Arizona in 1980. To date, field work has been mostly completed and data are currently being analyzed with results and recommendations to be documented. Data obtained from this research will aid the Department and land management agencies in proper livestock stocking rates and grazing practices that may have the least significant impact on bighorn sheep populations.

Research is continuing in the Catalina Mountains just north of Tucson on a remnant bighorn population of about 50-70 bighorn. This study was undertaken to document movements, seasonal habitat selection, lamb production and survival of the population located on the Pusch Ridge Wilderness area of the Coronado National Forest. Currently only 15-20 mi.<sup>2</sup> of habitat are utilized by the population although more suitable habitat exists. Major problems with this population may be continued development and heavy human use of the area.

Research is also ongoing in Arizona to determine the relative success of the different types of bighorn sheep transplants within Arizona. Monitoring of movements, extent of habitat utilization, and net production of bighorn will be compared from the Aravaipa Canyon herd, the Virgin Mountains, and Galiuro Mountain enclosures and subsequent free releases in Redfield Canyon, Goat Mountain Painted Cliffs, and Virgin Mountains, to determine the most suitable transplant method of each of the priority release sites.

A ten year research plan for bighorn sheep as well as other big game species has been drafted and will outline needed

*continued on next page*

## 1983 Status Report, *continued from preceding page*

research projects and priorities to be conducted by the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

Desert bighorn sheep studies have been initiated within the U.S. Army, Yuma Proving Ground Installation. This study is being funded by the U.S. Army to determine extent of habitat utilization, movement corridors and critical habitat of desert bighorn sheep within the installation. These studies will assist the U.S. Army in future planning to minimize impacts of installation operations on existing bighorn population.

Private and federally funded research projects involving desert bighorn sheep are presently ongoing within Arizona. A desert bighorn sheep study initiated and funded by Arizona Public Service and Southern California Edison Electric utility companies is presently in its sixth year. This research project was designed to determine impacts from powerline construction and post construction existence of a 500 kv electrical transmission line throughout bighorn sheep habitat in the New Water, Dome Rock Mountains, and the northern portions of the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge. A great deal of data on home range, movements, seasonal habitat, forage selection and lambing chronology of bighorn have been documented from this research.

In addition, a desert bighorn sheep and mule deer movement study is presently in its fourth year of research. This research project is being funded by the U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation to determine movements of bighorn sheep and mule deer in relation to the Granite Reef Aquaduct portion of the Central Arizona Project near the Little Harquahala, Harquahala and Granite Wash Mountains of southwest Arizona. Considerable data on seasonal movements, herd interchange, lamb production, habitat and forage selection have been documented from this project.

**Planning.** Previous recent captures of free roaming desert bighorn sheep in Arizona have been exclusively done by aerial drugging of individual sheep. Current planning is to investigate the possibility of capturing desert bighorn sheep with a drop net using apple pomace as bait. This will be attempted along the shoreline of Lake Mead in July and August of 1983. It is hoped that large numbers of sheep can be removed from the existing high density population and utilized for transplant purposes.

Since the passage of the Bighorn Sheep Strategic Plan by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission in 1978, management planning for continuing research, transplants, and habitat improvement to Arizona's bighorn sheep will continue into the future.

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## 1984 Annual Bar-B-Que and Clinic

Friday night . . . October 12th . . . the aroma of charcoaled steaks and cowboy beans . . . the popping of cans . . . once again can be heard at Squaw Peak Park, 2701 E. Squaw Peak Drive in Phoenix . . . starting at 6:00 p.m. In addition, you can hear (if you're extra quiet and listen) all the sheep hunting experiences, bragging and boasting, among other things.

This is the kick-off for our Annual Hunter's Clinic to be held on Saturday, October 13th at the Paradise Valley Park Community Building located at 17631 N. 40th Street, one block North of Bell Road. The starting time for the Clinic is 9:00 a.m., with a break for lunch, and end at 3:00 p.m. (Lunch will cost approximately \$5.00 each.)

Our Committee has once again pulled out of the magic

hat new ideas to help the 1984 hunter with his most precious permit, to help him with the legal requirements, trophy ram identification, discussion of sheep in each region, sheep pictures, and more . . . but you have to be there to see the magic performed. The Arizona Game & Fish Department will be well represented as well as the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society.

Plan to attend . . . it should be very informative to all! If you should have any questions, call the ADBSS office at 274-9069.

David Hussey,  
Chairman

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## One Helluva Ram

After applying for Sheep in Arizona for thirteen years and going on about 20 sheep projects, I finally got drawn for the Plomosa Mountains in 1983. I had been drawn in Nevada for sheep in 1982 so this would be my second hunt in as many years. In Nevada, I shot a 15 year old ram. Though it had a full curl, it only had 13" bases and did not go in the book. I knew there were good sheep in the Plomosas so I set my goal as a book ram, 10 yrs old and broomed off.

Scouting trips in the summer near water holes revealed several large rams and my hopes soared. I knew the rams would

not be anywhere near the water during the hunt, but this was a good way to survey the area. One ram in particular struck my fancy. He had a large chip out of his right horn.

Opening morning found Mernice Alkire and me sitting in a fog. Mernice had driven a cactus thorn into his knee while quail hunting and was pretty well out of commission. When the fog lifted about noon a small ram walked by at about 200 yds. He wanted me to shoot it so he could tell all his friends that the way to hunt sheep was with a lawn chair, a footrest, and a newspaper. The weather cleared, Ed Shannahan came out for a few days but we still couldn't find a good ram. I was still looking for the one with the chipped right horn. On

about the eighth day I passed up an old ram that was about 170 then went two days without even seeing a sheep. About ten days into the season I was getting pretty low and seriously thinking that if I couldn't hook up with a big ram I would just let it go and try to draw again.

Sunday the 11th of Dec. was the last day Mernice could stay and we were feeling pretty down. When we got back to the truck, there was an invitation to dinner at Danny Nasca's on the windshield. This was a welcome change from camp chow. Mernice went to Danny's, had dinner and went home all cleaned up. In the morning we took the jeep and went to look at one of Danny's "honey holes". Six rams were spotted at first light. Two rams split off from the bunch and led us on a wild goose chase completely around the mountain before we got close enough to realize that the biggest was about 145. Back we went to the starting point and found that the original four had gone up a side canyon. A simple upwind cross-hill stalk put me within 60 yards. Two rams side by side. One was

12 the other about 2" shorter and 9 yrs old. I waited until they were clear of each other and took the 12 yr old with my .280. He scored 175 2/8 B. & C. dry. Many thanks to Mernice Alkire, Ed Shannahan, Danny Nasca, and Steve Weiser. He sure is one helluva ram.



Harry Vander Hoek

## Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, Inc.

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, October 10, 1984

MONTI'S LA CASA VIEJA

3 W. First Street  
Tempe, Arizona

- 6:00 P.M.**     **Cocktails  
(No-Host)**
- 7:00 P.M.**     **Prime Rib Dinner**
- 8:00 P.M.**     **Annual Meeting  
Election of  
Officers/Board**
- Speaker:**     **DAVE BROWN, AZ G&F  
"1985 Transplants"**
- COST:**         **\*\$15.00 per person  
Reservations Required  
(274-9069)**

### PROPOSED 1985 SLATE

#### OFFICERS:

**PRESIDENT:** JIM FIEDLER  
**VICE-PRES:** JOE BILL PICKRELL  
**SECRETARY:** PETE CIMELLARO  
**TREASURER:** JIM SVOBODA  
**PAST PRES:** BILL HOOK

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JIM MARQUARDT	ALEX HOLGIN
STEVE WILLIAMS	TOM MARTIN
FRANK TENNANT	PAUL PAVLICH
PAUL RUSKAUP	DAVID HUSSEY
LARRY HEATHINGTON	

#### ARTICLE II. Section 2 —

The officers and members of the Board of Directors shall be elected at the annual meeting. Nominations for officers and directors shall be in writing, signed by a member in good standing, and submitted to the Board of Directors not less than thirty (30) days prior to the annual membership meeting.

**R.S.V.P. to the ADBSS office,  
(602) 274-9069 no later than  
Friday, October 5th.**

\*NO CHARGE IF ATTENDING ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ONLY

Return this section . . .

PLEASE MAKE \_\_\_\_\_ DINNER RESERVATIONS @ \$15.00 ea.

Amt. Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I will be attending the meeting only. (No dinner)

Will pay at door.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

Make check payable and mail to: **ARIZONA DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP SOCIETY**  
49 E. Thomas, #108  
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Please return no later than  
**Friday, October 5, 1984**

# Sheep Hunting with Steve Williams

After sixteen years of applying, I was finally drawn for a desert bighorn sheep permit. It arrived the day before my birthday. I was really surprised the Arizona Game and Fish Department would be sending me such an appreciated gift.

Sheep guide, Ronnie Clark and Gilbert police officer, Larry Heathington prompted me to apply for unit 40-A based on a discussion we had at an Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society waterhole project last May. They had a tale of a huge ram, nicknamed "Yellow Horns", which roamed the Sand Tank Mountains. I made up my mind I should be the one to kill Yellow Horns.

A Game and Fish helicopter survey, conducted two months before the hunt, classified five class 4 (mature, trophy class) rams in the Sand Tanks. Yellow Horns was alive and well and had company.

I scouted for eight weekends prior to the hunt, assisted by Larry, who generously offered his assistance in familiarizing me with the Sand Tanks. He knows them well, having spent the last four years watching sheep there.

For the hunt itself, Larry was in camp along with three other sheep enthusiasts. They were: Dwayne Barclay, an accoun-

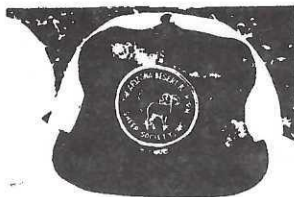
tant for the Department of Economic Security; Bill Carney, a retired El Paso Natural Gas Company employee who now operates a Tastee Freez in Casa Grande; and my longtime hunting partner, Glen Dickens, a habitat specialist for Arizona Game and Fish in Flagstaff.

The first five days of the hunt were spent trying to decide where Yellow Horns was spending his time on the mountain. I passed up a small class 4 ram on the fourth day of the hunt, and spent many perplexing moments wondering why the big, magnum rams weren't down in the low country where I was told they would be.

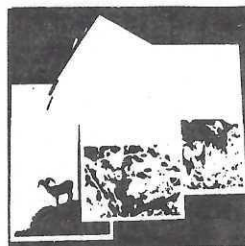
When Dwayne, Bill and Glen left camp after the fifth day to take care of prior commitments, Larry and I were left to our own devices. On the sixth day of the hunt I persisted in scouring the low country and saw nothing but whitetail deer. Larry searched the top of the mountain where we had seen small rams and ewes throughout the early days of the hunt, and saw sheep. By Wednesday, December 7, we were convinced the big rams were with the ewes on top of the mountain. We planned our strategy during the evening.

Thursday morning, December 8, found Larry and I leaning over a rock ledge at 9:40 a.m., glassing a group of 13 sheep which were bedded below us at a distance of less than 200 yards. The group contained four rams (3 class 4's and 1 class 3). After evaluating them, I decided to shoot the ram bedded on the far right of the bunch. As the crosshairs settled behind the left shoulder and I began to squeeze the trigger, I thought to myself, "He'll never know what hit him." He didn't. He died in his bed.

The following items are offered for sale in consideration of minimum donations as specified:



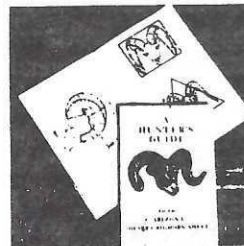
Lightweight Outdoor Caps. Blue & White, Yellow & White



Note cards and envelopes reflecting a variety of super sheep pictures.



Colorful Blue & Gold Patch



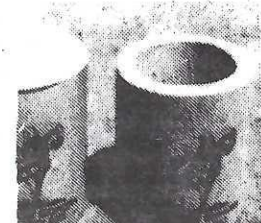
Guide - A collection of facts and articles by knowledgeable sheep hunters.



Colorful 6" x 4" ADBSS Decal



T-Shirts in Blue, Tan with Society Emblem. (S, M, L or XL)



Koozie Kups plain or with cup.

## Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society

Make checks payable to: A.D.B.S.S. Inc., P.O. Box 5241 Phoenix, AZ 85010

### FORWARD ORDER TO:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### ORDER FORM

Patch .....	\$ 2.50
Decal .....	1.50
T-Shirt .....	6.00
Hunter's Guide .....	1.00
Caps .....	5.00
Stationery - 14 pak .....	5.00
Koozie Kup - Plain .....	3.00
Koozie Kup - With Cup .....	4.50

### Postage prices are as follows:

Cap - 1.00 ea.  
 T-Shirt - 1.75 ea.  
 Kups - 1.75 ea.  
 All other items are .75 ea.

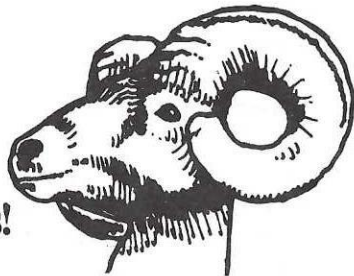
CAPS: Specify color and size.

T-SHIRTS: Specify size, style - emblem front or back, color.

No, the ram I killed wasn't Yellow Horns. He was one of the rams I passed over. From the angle of my view Yellow Horns didn't impress me as much as mine. My ram was "Curiosity". Larry named him during the scouting trip. Curiosity came off the ridge he was standing on when he saw us glassing him, ascended our ridge, and stood on a rock above us at a mere ten yards! It must have been fate. Curiosity and I would have a future destiny! He is a trophy ram and I'm proud to have him. With identical horn measurements of 15-1/8 inch bases and 33-1/2 inch length (with only one point of deductions) he scored 164-1/2 points.

This hunt was dedicated to my good friend, Ed Stockwell. Ed was the person who first sparked my interest in bighorn sheep with his tales of past hunts from the standpoint of hunter and guide. Ed even killed his desert bighorn in the Sand Tanks years ago on a hunt with John Doyle. Mine was a classy hunt. It took thorough glassing, a stealthy stalk, and a well executed shot. The result was a dandy ram. What more could Ed have wanted? The perfect way to honor this superb hunter!

Good hunting!  
Stephen M. Williams



### Send Pictures!

Had a successful hunt???? Send us an article, along with pictures, and we will print them in the Rams Horn.

### Pick Ups by the Dozen!

While picking around in western Arizona as a hunter and guide for desert sheep for 17 years (1953-1970), Bob Housholder found 56 dead sheep. At one time he had 26 pick-up trophy rams and each was found within 100 yards of permanent water and each exceeded B&C minimum at the time. Largest of the 26 was a 39x38x15x11 at 3/4 = 183 and was #14 in the 1964 B&C record book.

All 26 ram heads have been given away, sold or stolen over the years.

Bob quit sheep guiding the same year he completed the collection of 27 different species of N.A. big game—1970. (This collection was recently presented to ASU's Life Science Section of the Department of Zoology and is valued at \$200,000.00).

Bob was the first Arizonan to take the Grand Slam of N.A. wild sheep in 1960 and was also the first person licensed to guide for desert sheep in the United States. His hunters took 33 rams (including the completions of 22 grand slams) in 17 years.

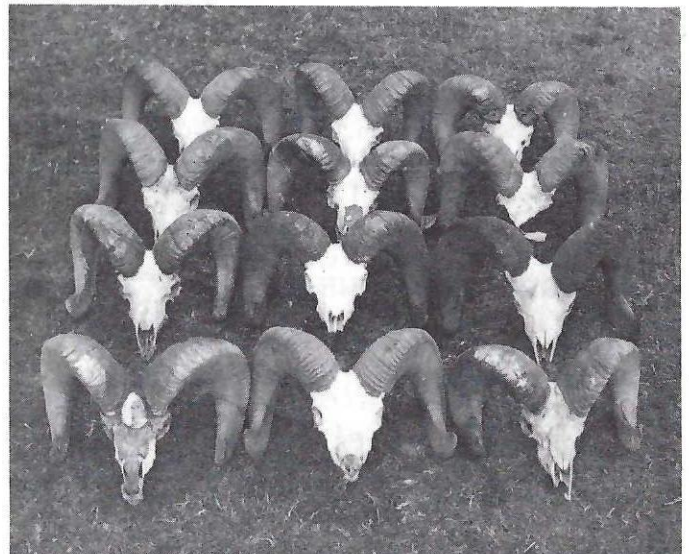
(Bob is a charter member of the Society and in fact helped give the Society its name.)

### Lost Members

We have a number of members whose Society mail is being returned as undeliverable at the address listed. If you know of any of these members or have information that could help us locate them, please advise the ADBSS office so we can continue to send these people the Society newsletter and other mailings.

NAME	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS
William Bemel	2230 E. 2nd Ave., Apache Jct., AZ 85220
W. Perry Bolin	316 N. Waddill, McKinney, TX 75069
Ron Carson	8002 1/2 N. 53rd Ave., Glendale, AZ 85302
Jerry Clay	3221 Joanne Way No. A, Las Vegas, NV 89108
Richard Dow	5812 N. 56th Pl., Phoenix, AZ 85018
Noel E. Hulbert	Box 926, Quartzsite, AZ 85346
Sylvia Jordan	2701 E. Utopia, Phoenix, AZ 85041
Mark Klarer	6423 W. Desert Hills, Glendale, AZ 85304
Romeo T. Leduc	SS2 CP25 St16, Ft. St. John, BC, Canada
Jacob V. Lulack, MD	Box 748, Plains, MI 59859
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*Editors note: Bob was a major contributor to our 1984 Fund Raising Dinner and his donations for the 1985 Dinner have exceeded last years donations. We saw the picture and asked Bob for permission to print it in the Rams Horn. Bob was kind enough to include this article.*



Following is an account of an observation by Arizona Game & Fish Commissioner Larry Adams. Larry gave the article to Dave Brown of the AzG&F Department and Dave discussed these observations with several biologist and they considered it unique.

## Goading Behavior of a Desert Bighorn Sheep Ram

Larry D. Adams

At 0500 hours, 7/8/84, I accompanied Doug Ragels, an internist working with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, to locations adjacent to Lake Mead where he was baiting Desert Bighorn Sheep with apple mash and alfalfa hay. When all sites were baited, we returned to a site at Fishfinder Cover to see if any sheep had come to bait there. We observed 14 sheep at or near the bait, including 3 mature rams.

We beached the boat and hiked to the top of a ridge to observe and photograph the 3 rams which had left the other sheep and were standing together. The sheep were about 75 yards from us and were either unaware of our presence or chose to ignore us. I judged the smallest ram to be approximately 5 years old with tightly curled and moderately broomed horns. The second ram had a typical horn configuration, was about 6 to 7 years old, and had both horns broomed. The third and largest ram was about 7 years with an extremely wide flair and also well broomed horns.

The smallest and middle-sized rams then squared off and came together with a head butt. Immediately after contact the largest ram approached the smallest ram from behind, shoved him in the rear with his left horn, and kicked him 2 or 3 times in the testicles with his left front leg. The large ram then moved to the small ram's right side and hooked his left horn tightly over the smaller animal's, withers, keeping his head next to the small animal's right shoulder (see V. Giest, 1971, *Mountain Sheep: a study in behavior and evolution*, Univ. of Chicago Press, p. 138). This posture was held for some time while the rams vocalized.

The large ram would occasionally kick sideways with his left front leg, striking the small ram in the paunch. During this time the middle-sized ram remained uphill facing the other two rams. He would periodically spar with a creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*) and then turn to face his opponents. Every 4 or 5 minutes, the smaller ram would also briefly spar with a creosote. The small ram and the middle-sized ram would then rear up and butt heads. When the smaller ram would rear up, the dominant ram would release his hold and step backwards to avoid the collision. Immediately following contact, the dominant ram would again approach the smaller ram from behind, hook him in the rear with his left horn, kick him in the testicles three or four times with his left front leg, and resume the position with his left horn over the withers.

On one occasion following a head butt, the dominant ram attempted to mount the smaller ram.

About 20 minutes after the rams began their combative action, a ewe left the band about 300 yards away and approached the rams. The largest ram broke away from the small ram and intercepted her. After curling his lip and sniffing her, he ran her off. After chasing her about 30 yards, the large ram returned to the other two rams, where he resumed his horn-lock, kicking behavior. On one occasion he urinated on his hocks and paunch while locked on the small ram.

The rams were still in this behavior when we discontinued observations about one hour and 15 minutes after our initial observation.

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## Society Needs Donations

The Society has a limited number of books on *sheep hunting and research projects*. These are available to all paid members from the Library in the office. We want to expand the Library but don't want to spend the money necessary to do this. Anyone desiring to donate books may contact Gloria at the Society's office (274-9069). All donations are *tax deductible*.

### BOOKS CURRENTLY IN THE LIBRARY:

Biography of a Desert Bighorn  
New Trails in Mexico  
The Desert Bighorn, Its Life History,  
Ecology & Management  
Grazing Land Management  
The Wild Sheep in Modern North America  
Hornaday's American Natural History  
Waterfowl Tomorrow  
Sheep & Sheep Hunting

Arizona Wildlife Trophies  
Arizona Wildlife Federation  
Life History & Management of the  
Mountain Goat in Idaho  
Pueblo Animals and Myths  
No. American Big Game, 7th Edition  
The Bighorn of Death Valley  
The Desert Bighorn Sheep (First Printing)  
Camp-Fires on Desert & Lava  
Hammonds Nature Atlas of America  
Kaibab North Deer Herd  
New Trails in Mexico  
Travels Among the Papago,  
Pima & Cocopa Indians, 1909-10  
Bighorn Sheep in Idaho, Its Status,  
Life History & Management  
The Wild Sheep of the World  
Many pamphlets, documents, etc. are also available from  
the Library.



Region VI.

There is, at present, only one sheep hunt unit in this region, with four permits. This area lies on the outskirts of Tucson.

Unit 33 — Catalina Mountains.

In recent years five permits per year have been authorized for this unit; however, in 1969, the number was reduced to four.

The population has been estimated at 40 animals. Helicopter surveys have never produced very many sightings, and the best information in the past has come from reliable hunters.

The Regional Supervisor is confident that the herd is holding its own despite the ever increasing human harassment.

At present the Pusch Ridge area, where the sheep are found, is easily accessible and well used by weekend shooters and hikers. Several boys were seen rolling boulders into former sheep beds at the base of a cliff. These boys also tampered with a sheep water catchment tank recently constructed. Such intrusion upon the sheep habitat and harassment could be a distinct welfare problem to the Pusch Ridge herd.

In addition, there has been an application submitted to the U.S. Forest Service for a tramway with a restaurant at the top in the Pusch Ridge area. The Regional Supervisor feels that it is economically not feasible at the present time, but, with the increasing population growth in the Tucson area, it may become plausible within the next few years. It is felt that such an undertaking would have a negative effect on the sheep.

Of special interest, is the fact that one of the leading Tucson conservation clubs wants to make the Catalina Mountain wilderness area; however, other groups are joining them in their fight to preserve the sheep habitat.

Unit 36B — South Central Arizona, Northwest of Nogales.

At present no sheep occupy this unit, although portions of it were historical bighorn habitat.

Unit 36C.

Desert bighorns may or may not be present in this unit at any given time. The topographic backbone of the major mountain, the Baboquivari, serves as a boundary of Units 36C and 38, the Papago Indian Reservation. It is known that some sheep have survived in this area, but move on and off the Reservation where they are subjected to unlimited hunting by the Papago Indians.

Unit 37A.

The Ragged-Top-Wolcott Complex is the center of the sheep population in this unit; however, the habitat is limited to less than four sections. Bighorn numbers have been declining since 1964, and at present it is estimated that no more than six to twelve occupy the unit. Because of human encroachment, there is little future for the sheep in this unit and it will probably become another area of historical bighorn habitat.

Ranchers Gain Right to Manage Wildlife

This article recently appeared in a national hunting magazine. The intent of the article would lead us to believe that wildlife will be the big loser in this program. After a conversation with Society member Steve Williams, of the Az. State Land Department, it became apparent that this program was entirely different and in fact the ranchers and their programs are being closely monitored. Following is Steve's response.

New regulations were put into effect this spring that will allow private ranchers to manage certain public lands as they see fit. Some ranchers granted grazing permits by the Bureau of Land Management would be allowed to manage wildlife, to build fences without permission, control water so that it is withheld from wildlife to provide more for cattle, and to establish feedlots. About 20 tracts are involved, including rangeland in such places as Utah's Canyonlands National Park and Glen Canyon Recreation Area, and Arizona's Lake Mead National Recreation Area. The new rules were drafted during James Watt's tenure as Secretary of the Interior.

Steve's response . . .

The outdoor press recently criticized new regulations enacted by the Department of Interior feeling they will allow private ranchers to manage public lands as they see fit. Speculation is ranchers, operating under terms of Cooperative Management Agreements, will be allowed to manage wildlife, build fences without permission, and control water for the benefit of livestock only.

The real fact of the matter is CMAs are designed to recognize the outstanding job of exemplary rangeland management some ranchers already practice. CMAs are consistent with existing BLM land use plans. They do not empower the cooperating party to exclude or limit other authorized uses on the ranch. CMAs are developed jointly by the BLM and rancher with multiple use needs of the ranch in mind, including monitoring studies to measure results in meeting multiple use objectives on the ranch. The CMA program is designed with the capable, efficient ranch manager in mind. A rancher having a good track record. The CMA allows for rancher initiated rangeland improvement. Wildlife and other natural resources will benefit.

REWARD Report Wildlife Violations

The ADSS offers a \$1,000 Reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone poaching bighorn sheep in Arizona.

CALL: 1-800-352-0700

# RAM'S HORN

P.O. BOX 5241  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85010



BH000848A 8412 8335651  
MATTHEW DOMINY  
1415 E BATES RD  
MESA  
AZ 85203

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## 1985 Fund Raiser

I'm sure everyone has heard by now — but for those who haven't — the Society netted in excess of \$32,500 from the 1984 Fund Raising Dinner. Not bad — for our first time!

Plans are already underway for the 1985 Dinner. We have set a hefty increase as our goal for 1985. Based on the success we achieved on our first attempt, we feel \$50,000 is an obtainable figure. The date and location have been set. The dinner will be held at The Registry Resort, 7171 N. Scottsdale Road, on January 30, 1985. Dean Bowdoin looked at several locations but finally narrowed the choice to two. From our experience last year, we knew room size was critical. Both locations had the desired space but The Registry had the date wanted. So, the Registry is the choice.

Anyone wanting more information, or wanting to donate to the fund raiser, can contact Gloria at the ADBSS Office at 279-9069. Following is a partial list of donations:

- Several lion & bear hunts
- Wyoming Antelope & mule deer hunt
- 7 guns donated by Bob Householder
- Original oil painting by Hayden Lambson
- A camper shell
- Spotting Scope

## Status Report, 1970 *continued from previous page*

### Unit 37C.

This area encompasses the Table Top, Sawtooth and West Silverbell Mountains. Bighorn observations have dropped from eight in 1967 to one in 1969. Human encroachment will probably seriously interfere with sheep populations in this unit also.

### MEMBERSHIP INVITATION

*Individuals who are interested in promoting the welfare of the Desert Bighorn Sheep and desire to affiliate with an organization dedicated to this purpose may do so by joining the Arizona Bighorn Sheep Society, Inc.*

*The membership roster of the Society includes conservationists, sportsmen, professional wildlife managers, educators, biologists, photographers and just plain folks all interested in the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep.*

*The Society undertakes an annual program of several (usually 5) major habitat improvement construction projects in cooperation with and under the direction of the State and Federal agencies responsible for management of the Desert Bighorn Sheep.*

*One of the more important projects of the Society is the conduction of the annual Sheep Clinic training program.*

*In addition to projects, members of the Society participate in other conservation and game management activities; a special legislative committee of the Society closely watches legislation that may affect the sheep or its habitat and general welfare.*

*While the opportunities for active participation are numerous, such participation is not a prerequisite for membership. All interested persons are encouraged to join, the Society needs and welcomes your moral and financial support.*

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I hereby make application for membership in the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, Inc., and enclose my membership donation. DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

New membership prices are as follows:

Regular membership .....	\$25.00/yr.
Youth membership .....	\$15.00/yr.
Sustaining membership .....	\$100.00/yr.
Lifetime membership .....	\$500.00

RENEWAL     NEW MEMBERS    DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TEL. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, Inc.  
P.O. BOX 5241 • PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85010