

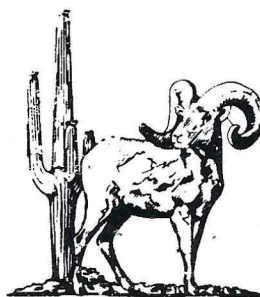
THE RAM'S HORN

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

Volume 21

Summer '88

#3



RAM'S HORN

P.O. Box 5241, Phoenix, Arizona 85010 is the official publication of the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, Inc., and is published for the Society's membership.

Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, Inc.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1988

Waterhole Projects

January 9/10	AGF (Completed)
Jan. 30/31	Fish & Wildlife
February 20/21	Foundation for North American Wild Sheep
March 5/6	Minn/Wisc Chapter
March 19/20	AGF
April 9/10	AGF
April 23/24	AGF

1988

EVENTS

October 1	Hunter's Clinic & Ram Recognition Banquet
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COVER PHOTO

Provided by:

Eddie Cocking

WE NEED SUCCESSFUL SHEEP HUNT
PICTURES

Please! Please!

Sheep Poachers Pay

Last year on Valentine's Day weekend 2 poachers shot and killed a 4 to 6 year-old ram on the north side of Apache Lake. The ram was part of a herd that had been re-introduced to the area in two earlier transplant operations. After killing the ram, the poachers took the sheep's head and horns but left the rest of the carcass to rot.

A lengthy investigation by the Mesa regional officers of the Arizona Game and Fish resulted in the citing and prosecution of Kenneth Wishman and William J. DeLisle. Wishman pled guilty to possessing unlawfully taken wildlife and was fined \$1,370 and sentenced to two days in jail.

DeLisle pleaded a no-contest plea to possessing and transporting unlawfully taken wildlife and was fined \$1,370 plus 24 hours in jail.

The investigation was assisted by several news releases, a silent-witness-style television spot, numerous reward posters placed throughout the area, and a combined reward of \$4,000 offered by the Arizona Game and Fish and the Society.

Earlier, in May of this year the Arizona Game and Fish Commissioners established a civil assessment for the loss of the poached ram.

The minimum that could be charged was \$750, but commissioners assessed the two \$9,832. Commissioner Woods, who came up with the figure, broke it down to \$750 for the animal, \$1,400 for producing a videotape that helped catch the pair, \$153 for loss of a permit on that animal, \$129 for the non-refundable part of permit applications that would have been submitted for that animal, \$3,200 for the reward paid for information that resulted in the arrest, \$1,200 in costs involved with transplanting the animal to the Apache Lake area and \$3,000 loss for non-consumptive users, those who would have spent money around the lake just to see the animal.

Big Sheep Are Where You Find Them!!

By Le Roy Van Buggenum

It was February 28, I had just left the Tanque Verde Swap meet at Tucson and was headed back home 30 miles north of Tucson. As we drove by Orange Grove and I-10, I stopped at the swap meet there. The rest of the family greeted my swap meet enthusiasm with moans and groans. Only by promising them all ice cream at Thrifty's did I succeed in taking in the swap meet. As I hurried down the aisles and was looking over the displays, seeing nothing of interest, I was about to leave when I froze! There on a shelf back of the table was the skull and horns of the largest desert sheep I had ever seen!!

I was born and raised on a ranch in Wyoming. I guided along with ranching for 30 years. I have taken 15 different North American big game species including a slam and ¼ of sheep. I know what a good sheep looks like and this one was very good! After holding the monster in my hands I knew I would have to own these if it meant selling out winter home in Arizona. After some debate over price I left with the horns but I was minus \$30.00. I could not believe my good fortune.



In Wyoming 75% of the population hunt or fish. If 4 people from Wyoming would have walked by, 3 of them would have asked about those horns. I was the first person to ask about them in the six weeks they had sat there. After arriving back in Wyoming I had the horns officially scored 183 2/8 points. It stands about number 29 in the current Boone and Crockett Book, and about the 6th largest Desert Sheep ever recorded from the United States. Yes, I believe big sheep are where you find them!!

MEGA TANK PROJECT

February 20-21

This project is located in the Lake Havasu Wildlife Refuge in the Needles Mountains. For the first time sheep society members traveled by boat down the Colorado River to a point approximately 30 minutes walk to the project site.

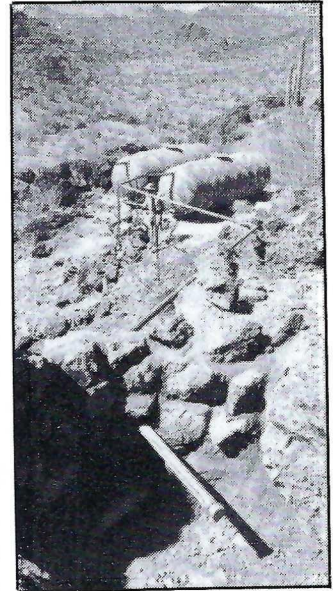
The tank is a natural Tinaja where a 7' x 15' dam was constructed down stream to contain 75,000 to 100,000 gallons of water. An ideal silt division basket was constructed upstream to insure that the pothole will remain free from debris for many years to come.

The area contains a small amount of sheep however, to project was needed to allow a transplant of up to 40 sheep during the summer of '88.

Even though the unit borders the Colorado River it is difficult for sheep to drink from the river due to the large amount of growth along the river bank. The sheep just don't like to go thru thick undergrowth for several hundred yards. The project will provide excellent sheep water and will be a vital cog in the future success of the transplant.

The project was done in cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Game and Fish and the Sheep Society. All funds required for this project were donated by the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep. We wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the support of FNAWS. This organization has been very supportive over the past few years and we look forward to a good working relationship in the years to come.

Approximately 80 people showed up to complete the project on Saturday even though we were unable to fly (due to winds) on Friday. A job well done and our thanks to all who helped and contributed.



Keith E. Heilman
Joe Machac
John Oddonetto
Dave Clayton
Duane E. Barkley
Lendell Sherrick
Robert T. Levin
Thom Fredrickson
Jose L. Gonzalez
Michele Monroe
David Anderson
Gary L. Clinton
Joe Anderson

Glenn Carter
Robert J. Persinger
John Vassel
Ed Gammons
Jim Diment
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Pete Doss

Mike Manning
Dave Conrad
Tim Tate
Bill Snider
Alex Holgin Jr.
Kurt Karson
Richard L. Robles
Don Allison
Tom Martin
Jim Fiedler
Steve Weisser
Bill Carney

WE REALIZE THAT IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO GET EVERYONE'S NAME AT OUT PROJECTS, BUT WE DO TRY! TO ALL OF THOSE WE LEAVE OUT, PLEASE UNDERSTAND! AND PLEASE COME AGAIN!

1988 Steak Fry

Our steak fry on Friday, May 13th was once again a great social event. It serves as a thank you to all the people that helped on our waterhole projects as well as a time for everyone interested in wild sheep to get together.

Approximately 300 friends enjoyed an outstanding steak dinner with all the trimmings. Special thanks go to the cooks who worked very hard in hot weather to make it all happen.

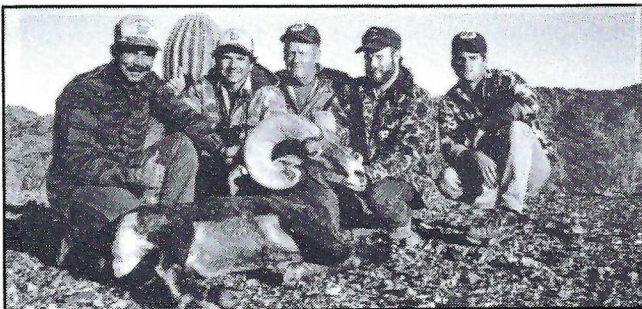
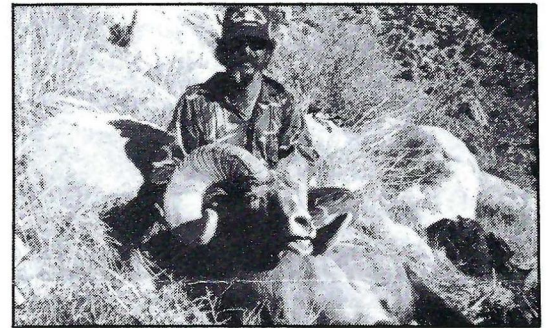
Our dinner was also attended by many of the people who work behind the scenes to make our projects a success. Game and Fish Commissioners Larry Adams, Frances Werner, and Tom Woods attended along with Director Temple Reynolds and Assistant Director Duane Shroufe. All of those people and members who came from the agencies we work with, we say thank you!

It takes a special effort, and great cooperation from all involved, to make the society successful in its work.

THANK YOU ALL!!

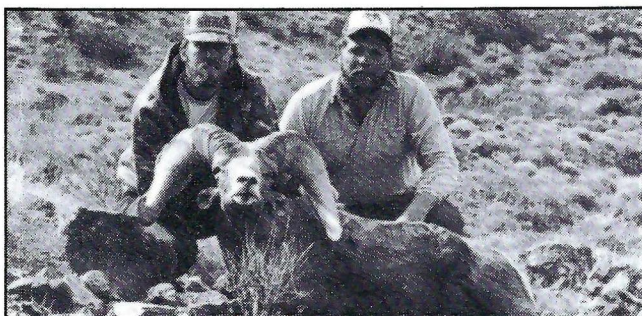
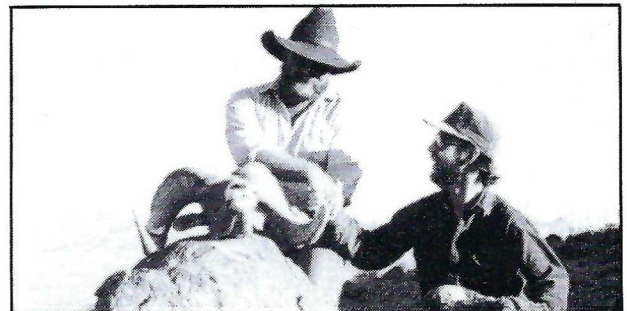
Plan to come again next year on our waterhole projects and get involved!!

Dick Morin took his ram from the Catalina Mountains in Unit 33. This beautiful sheep officially scored 182 6/8. Assisted by many family members and friends including Dick's wife Bonnie.



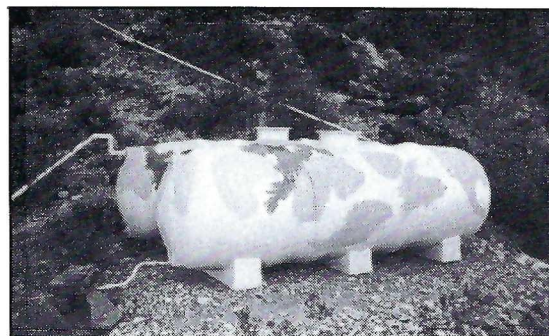
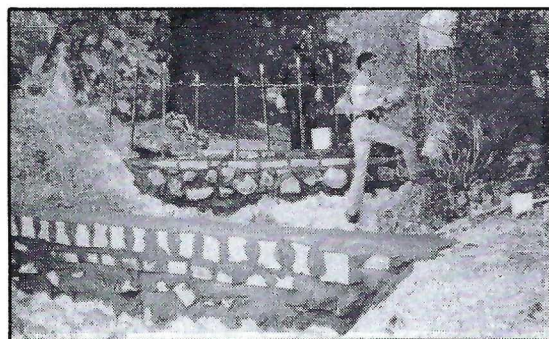
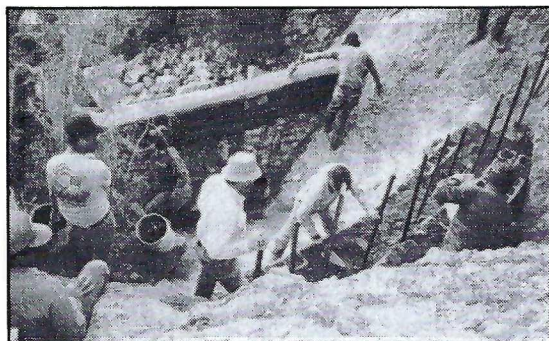
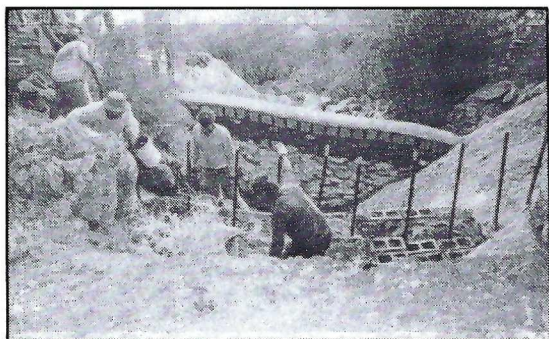
Charles Black completed his once-in-a-lifetime Desert Sheep Hunt in Unit 44B South with the help of Mike Mell, Steve Weister, Dean Bowdoin and Chris Guterrez.

Mike Manning from Visalia, California, took his ram from Unit 15C. Mike was assisted by Chris Harlow.



Ed Clausen took his exceptional Northern ram from United 15C. Assisting was Chris Harlow.

DRAGON TOOTH TANKS



Approximately 96 hard-working people participated on this project. The project is located in the Sand Tank Mountains on the west end of Dragon Tooth Mt. This area is a spot where ewes have their lambs and was in real need of permanent water. Seven sheep were spotted just above the project site.

This project is located on the Barry M. Goldwater Gunnery Range and was done in cooperation with the Air Force.

The project was completely funded by the Minnesota/Wisconsin chapter of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep. Our sincere thanks and appreciation goes to those who contributed the monies to fund this project. Without their help these types of projects would be far less. The cost of this project exceeded \$10,000. Thanks again Minn./Wis. for all your help. In addition to the money, Harold McEwen and Craig Johnson also participated in the work.

Our thanks also go to all those who worked so very hard.

The project consisted of installing two fiberglass tanks and drinker. Approximately 4500 gallons of water storage.

In addition, below the fiberglass tanks a dam was constructed approximately 7 feet tall and 15 feet across to hold about 8,000 gallons of water.

A second dam was started but not completed. Next year we plan to go in and finish the second dam, which will be approximately 7-8 feet tall and 15 feet across and will hold 8 to 10 thousand gallons of water. We will also construct a silt control gabion and pipe rail fence.

It's always a pleasure to walk off the mountain leaving behind something you know is going to benefit wildlife for many years into the future.

Pete Cimellaro
Duane Barkley
Gordon Schuster
Gary Warnica Jr.
Bruce Barnes
Richard C. Tucker
John Vanel
Lendell Sherrick
Larry Dalton
Andy Dalton
Jim Fiedler Jr.
Tom Martin
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Harry Vander Hoek
Kevin Jones
Win Welch
Gary Warnica
Ed Gammons
George Caskey
Jim Jansen
Michele Monroe
Troy Halerman
Dajrl Smith
Bryce Dalton
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Aravaipa Canyon Bighorns

By Norris L. Dodd

Between 1980 and 1984 the desert bighorn was subject of a comprehensive research project at Aravaipa Canyon. This study shed considerable light on two very important topics relating to the statewide management of bighorn sheep: transplant methods, and compatibility of bighorns and domestic livestock on the same range. The evaluation of transplant and reintroduction methods led to recommendations designed to enhancement the success of future bighorn sheep transplant efforts.

On the Aravaipa area there is an unusually high degree of overlap (80%) in the distribution of bighorns and cattle. From the results of this study wildlife managers were provided guidelines to ensure that bighorn ranges are grazed in a manner compatible with maintaining the health and vigor of bighorn herds.

Assessment of Bighorn Transplant Efforts. As the Aravaipa Canyon desert bighorn herd represents the first, and to date, the most successful reintroduction effort undertaken in Arizona, it allowed for an excellent opportunity to assess transplant methods. This assessment required the collection of data on seasonal movements and home range, population, size, age and sex composition, and causes of mortality. Desert bighorn home ranges averaged about 22 square miles for radio-collared ewes and about 155 square miles for rams. During spring, ewe home ranges were much less at about 13 square miles, with ewes and lambs concentrating in the vicinity of the enclosure used to reintroduce sheep at Aravaipa Canyon. Ewes exhibited very strong ties to lambing areas, evidenced by the fact that in 1982, 3 of 4 radio-collared ewes lambled within the 124 acre enclosure. As these ewes were descendants of the original relocated sheep, it appeared that this high degree of fidelity to this original lambing area was passed from generation to generation.

The Aravaipa herd rapidly expanded from the 22 sheep released from the enclosure in 1973 to over 100 by 1983. This rapid growth, coupled with the concentration of ewes in the vicinity of the enclosure, produced overcrowding. In 1982 and 1983, a majority of lamb crops were lost, possibly due to diseases present within the herd but aggravated by overcrowding related stress.

Thus, it appeared that the high fidelity to lambing areas exhibited by ewes represented the single most important factor limiting the dispersal and overall distribution of bighorns in this area, and consequently, the ultimate size of the population. But this anomaly of desert bighorn may also be the key to refining and maximizing the efficiency of reintroduction efforts. It is proposed that future reintroductions, to be most effective in achieving the greatest overall distribution of sheep and lambing sites should employ the following strategies: (1) transplant bighorns in the early spring prior to lambing when ewes are most sedentary, instead of in late fall when their movements are greatest, and (2) relocate 2-3 small groups of 10 or more sheep, spaced 4 to 6 miles apart, instead of one large transplant as has been done in the past. The rationale of this recommendation is to create a situation where several lambing areas are "induced" throughout a range using 2-3 direct "mini-releases" of sheep at a time when they are most sedentary. This would tend to even out the distribution of bighorns in the spring and help prevent overcrowding. Since this study ended, this approach has been attempted with success at Horse Mesa near Apache Lake, and also in the Eagletail and Peloncillo Mountains.

The second major objective of the study was to assess habitat, dietary, social, and grazing behavior of bighorns to determine the potential for competition with domestic livestock. Based on their response to seven common habitat characteristics, it was found that bighorns, because of their dependence on seasonal plant condition as well as their need for escape terrain, exhibited greater seasonal variation in habitat selection than did cattle. Both used all habitat characteristics either greater than or less than the relative availability of that habitat characteristic. Bighorn habitat use and preference differed significantly from that of cattle, with topography being most important.

The bighorn diet was dominated by shrubs and forbs, while cattle ate predominantly grass, diet similarity averaging only 39%. Even though bighorns and cattle ate many of the same things, the relative abundance of many of these diet items suggests that there was little probability of direct competition.

Bighorns were observed on the average about 0.3 miles from the nearest cattle group, and gave no indication of being intolerant of or avoiding cattle.

The presence of an enclosure free from cattle grazing for over 26 years offered an excellent opportunity to evaluate the long term effect of cattle grazing on native vegetation. Only on the level slopes preferred by cattle and avoided by bighorn sheep did any really important differences show up. Perennial and annual grass cover was greater on the ungrazed area. Shrub and cacti cover was virtually identical both inside and outside of the protected enclosure. On moderate and steep slopes, no differences were detected between grazed and ungrazed sample areas for any of the vegetative classes measured.

Considering all of the factors examined during this study, it appears that the data provide considerable evidence that desert bighorn sheep and cattle can successfully co-exist at Aravaipa Canyon, with minimal competition or even the potential for it.

For more detailed information on the results of this study, consult any of the following references:

- Dodd, N.L. 1983. Ideas and recommendations for maximizing desert bighorn transplant efforts. *Desert Bighorn Council Trans.* 27:12-16.
- Dodd, N.L. 1987. Ecological relationships of sympatric desert bighorn sheep and cattle at Aravaipa Canyon, Arizona. M.S. Thesis. Arizona State University, Tempe, 120 pp.
- Dodd, N.L. and W.W. Brady. 1986. Cattle grazing influences on vegetation of a sympatric desert bighorn range in Arizona. *Desert Bighorn Council Trans.* 30:8-13.
- Dodd, N.L. and W.W. Brady. 1987. Dietary relationships of sympatric desert bighorn sheep and cattle in Arizona. *Desert Bighorn Council Trans.* (in press).

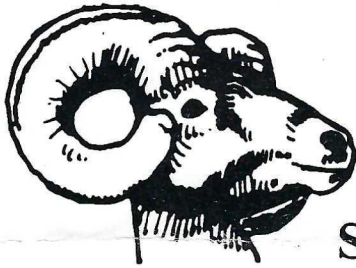
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Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society shirts, books,
Koozie cups, prints and pins are available.

Contact Tom Martin, 581-2219

Any member interested in serving on a committee, contact Society President Pete Cimellaro, 840-8749 or 275-5198.

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 follow:

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

RENEWAL NEW MEMBERS DATE _____

NAME _____ TEL. NO. _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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