

## GOALS OF THE COUNCIL

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When the Desert Bighorn Council was first thought of by a few interested men and then brought into reality in 1957, its objectives were to allow field men an opportunity to exchange ideas, compare findings, discuss problems and seek solutions to management of desert bighorn sheep. The first meeting was made up on personnel from our Southwest; representatives from state and federal agencies and colleges. Mostly, the men were directly concerned with management of desert bighorn sheep.

As a result of this first gathering, a purpose for the organization was created, which simply stated: "Established to promote the advancement of knowledge concerning Desert Bighorn Sheep and the long-range welfare of these animals." This is so stated on the brochure that is sent to inquiring individuals interested in the functions of our organization. The statement quoted is also part of our letterhead.

Shortly after our first meeting the Council adopted a Constitution and Bylaws, and in this governing document we find four objectives. briefly, these are:

- (1) To provide for the exchange of information.. ..through meetings and published transactions.. ..
- (2) To stimulate and coordinate studies in all phases related to desert bighorn.
- (3) To provide a clearing house of information among all agencies, organizations and individuals.. ..through the appointment of work committees.....
- (4) To function in a professional advisory capacity, where appropriate, on local, national and international questions involving the management and protections of the desert bighorn, and to adopt such measures as shall tend to

promote the advancement of knowledge concerning bighorn and the long-range welfare of these animals.

Those of you who are familiar with the Constitution realize I have quoted the last objective in its entirety. I did so because it is probably the most important and possibly the cradle to the whole organization and its makeup. The last half of the fourth objectives also provided us with the wording of the purpose found in our letterhead.

Although these are objectives, they are to be thought of as goals of the Council and should be given important consideration because they have implications that are being questioned today, not only by our own members, but by the administration of cooperating agencies.

In an organization of this type we are exposed to varied personal philosophies and ideologies, but often our ideas are guided and influenced by our own organizational policies. In our contacts here we are entertained by many thoughts and ideas with which we may not necessarily agree. For every idea expressed, I am sure someone, someplace can provide a counter-idea, or an argument.

At this point you may wonder how this is related to the goals of the Council. It may simply be stated that we must accept our goal in its basic concept without looking for complicated definitions or hidden meanings to gain a means to an end. The end, in this case, being personal satisfaction. I should like to elaborate on this.

Our four objectives speak for themselves and require little interpretation or explanation. We fulfill our first objective by exchanging information freely in our meetings and in the form of transactions. Pick up a copy of our publication and this is proof enough. From the demand shown for our transactions it may well be considered a success.

Our second goal, or objective ~~has~~ been partially fulfilled. We have certainly stimulated studies of desert bighorn in the past nine years.

Our third goal appears to be the most difficult and requires considerable effort on our part. Lack of time and restricted space limits the effectiveness of committees to make material progress in functioning as a clearing house. The Technical Committee and individual contributions has helped to meet this objective. The Council will continue to profit by fulfilling this goal through the endeavors of interested and cooperating members.

The last Council objective requires some close scrutiny in view of recent events. I did not realize this until I received copies of correspondence

stating that one of the agencies' representation would be pulled out of the Council because of a resolution that was written several years ago.

We do not want the Desert Bighorn Council to be treated by State and Federal agencies with studied contempt, nor do we want agencies looking upon us as another spur-of-the-moment, fly-by-night, bandwagon-type organization that comes from a small interested group with the idea of sitting around entertaining ourselves by exchanging yams and waxing sentiment. I am sure that we have all seen such councils, task groups, task forces, committees, work shops, and what not, come and go with the seasons, the moods and the whims of a few, and soon dissipate.

To say we must refrain from mentioning anything that might be controversial is to limit us to a parrot-like conversation of each agent's policy without recourse for debate through scientific thinking. An organization is emasculated when it cannot express itself to the good of the organization, or what it represents, without a furtive, benevolent nod from the parent agency. I should think that the administrative bodies would have more faith in their representatives. I am sure they do.

The Desert Bighorn Council has made several resolutions directed to the welfare of desert bighorn; it has provided a mutual meeting ground where the problems and findings, dealing with desert bighorn, could be discussed; it has generated interest not only among men working with bighorn, but among sportsmen, guides, taxidermists and conservationists; it has provided an outlet for all these findings, knowledge and data; and most of all the Council has become recognized through its own beneficial contributions, materially, financially, physically and intellectually. These are all goals.

I feel that the Desert Bighorn Council cannot idly stand by and watch mismanagement of bighorn or bighorn habitat, or the circumvention of authority by those who do not understand the needs of the desert bighorn. Some would have us continue in a line of progressive reasoning, pursuing space age ideas, however with an overhead pull-chain philosophy. We are confronted now with a problem of dragging our feet and paying little attention to anything except discussing bighorn sheep, or we can take into consideration the welfare of this animal in all related fields. If we understand the latter, then we must express ourselves as a unit.

I have heard members say that the Council is "falling apart." We may reflect upon this for a moment to try to analyze why the dissension among the ranks - so to speak.

Throughout the existence of this organization there have been sounds of discontent brought about by disagreement, dissatisfaction and in some cases petty jealousy.

On several occasions, members have purposely taken to the floor to "tactfully" criticize policy of an agency or take a "sophisticated" oratory "poke" at someone who said something that was not exactly agreed with. Corrective criticism is always welcomed, I am sure, but to excoriate under the guise of corrective criticism should not be allowed in the Council. This is not the place for a harangue of this type. When this happens we are no longer objectively working in behalf of the organization, rather, we are subjectively tearing it down. Do not let personal sentiment interfere with good judgment.

What is the goal of this organization? I think it is a combination of purpose, as we outline in our brochure and objectives as we mention in our constitution. Without these, we have no other reason or means to conform to any type of an organization. We have no reason for getting together.

However, I feel there is something else we must strive for--a goal that cannot be expressed like a formula. This goal should be the success of the organization through fulfillment of its purpose and its objectives. We would be selfish to sacrifice the Desert Bighorn Council for want of personal satisfaction. We would be derelict in our duties to the conservation of the desert bighorn and its habitat not to take a stand on issues. But, above all this and foremost in our intentions, or goal is the success of the Desert Bighorn Council.

