



Bleats and Blats

Official Newsletter of the Desert Bighorn
Council



May 2007

Inside:

- 2007 DBC meeting overview.
- *Draft Business Meeting minutes.*
- Awards.
- Information for contributors to the DBC Transactions.
- Membership dues.
- And more...

Hello DBC members and friends,

As most of you know, the DBC celebrated its 50th Anniversary in Las Vegas, Nevada, last month. It was a great meeting (with 83 registered participants) thanks to Ross Haley (Meeting Chair) and the program committee: Kathy Longshore, Darren Divine, and Pat Cummings. I'm including the conference program in this newsletter so those of you who didn't get to join us at least know what you missed! We hope to post photos of the meeting on our website (<http://www.desertbighorncouncil.org>) in the near future.

Please read on for updates about the meeting, Transactions, and dues.

The next newsletter is scheduled for early August so if you have updates or announcements to share, please send them to me by July 20th . Also, if you have photos or other materials for the website, they would be most welcome.

Hope to hear from you!

Esther Rubin

DBC Secretary (esrubin@consbio.org)

PROGRAM OF THE RECENT DBC MEETING

Desert Bighorn Council 50th Anniversary Meeting Las Vegas, Nevada April 3-6, 2007

Tuesday, April 3rd

6:00-8:00pm Registration and Hosted Mixer

Wednesday, April 4th

7:30-8:30am **REGISTRATION** / Continental Breakfast

8:30-8:45am Welcome and Opening Remarks

8:45-9:15am Keynote Address – **Dick Weaver**, CDFG - Retired

9:15-9:30am Award (Bob Campbell – Posthumously) – **Dick Weaver**

STATE REPORTS

9:30-9:45am Arizona – **Brian Wakeling**

9:45-10:00am California – **Vern Bleich**

10:00-10:15am Colorado – **Brad Banulis**

10:15-10:30am New Mexico – **Eric Rominger**

10:30-11:00am *BREAK and POSTER SESSION*

11:00-11:15am Nevada – **Pat Cummings**

11:15-11:30am Texas – **Calvin Richardson**

11:30-11:45am Utah – **Anis Aoude**

11:45-12:00pm Mexico - **Alejandro Espinosa Treviño.**

12:00-1:30pm *LUNCH*

TECHNICAL SESSION I

1:30-1:55pm *Serodiagnostic Test Results of Desert Bighorn Sheep Transplanted to Coahuila, Mexico*
- **Ivonne Cassaigne G.**, Wildlife Health Services, Mexico Division and Department of Etology and Wildlife, Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Science Medicine, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de México. **Andrew V. Sandoval**, Borrego Cimarron Wildlife Consulting. **Alejandro Espinosa T.**, Desert Bighorn Sheep Restoration Program, CEMEX. **Jose A. Barajas R.**, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Science Medicine, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de México.

- 1:55-2:20pm *Distribution and Trans-Highway Movements of Desert Bighorn Sheep Along U.S. Highway 93 in Northwestern Arizona* - **Thorry Smith** and **Ted McKinney**, Arizona Game and Fish Dept.
- 2:20-2:45pm *Bighorn Sheep Movements in the Sierra Nevada: Implications for Disease and Metapopulation Structure* - **Thomas R. Stephenson**, California Department of Fish and Game.
- 2:45-3:10pm *Development of a Predictive Habitat Model for Bighorn Sheep in the Peninsular Ranges California* - **Esther Rubin**, Conservation Biology Institute. **Chris J. Stermer**, Habitat Conservation Division, California Department of Fish. **Walter M. Boyce**, Wildlife Health Center, University of California. **Steven G. Torres**, Wildlife Investigation Laboratory, California Department of Fish and Game.
- 3:10-4:00pm **DEDICATED POSTER SESSION and BREAK**
- 1. Desert Bighorn Reintroductions Into Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument** - **Harry Barber**, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.
- 2. Trans-Highway Movements and Use of Wildlife Crossing Structures by Desert Bighorn Sheep at Arizona State Route 68** - **Michelle Crabb** and **Kirby Bristow**, Arizona Game and Fish Department.
- 3. Selection of Desert Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) Transplant Sites in Sierra Maderas del Carmen and Sierra San Marcos y del Pino in Coahuila, Mexico** - **Alejandro Espinosa-T.**, Desert Bighorn Sheep Restoration Program, CEMEX. **Armando J. Contreas-B.**, Laboratorio de Ornitologia Facultad de Ciencias Biologicas, Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon, A.P. **Andrew V. Sandoval**, Borrego Cimarron Wildlife Consulting. **Mario A. Garcia-A.**, Facultad de Ciencias Forestales, Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon.
- 4. Restoring Desert Bighorn Sheep Habitat With Landscape Scale Prescribed Fire** - **Mara Weisenberger**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, San Andres NWR. **Mark Kaib**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fire Management. **Don Kearney**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sevilleta NWR. **Kevin Cobble**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, San Andres NWR.
- TECHNICAL SESSION II**
- 4:00-4:25pm *Genetic Survey of Mountain Lion of Guadalupe Mountains National Park* - **Oranit Gilad**, Department of Biology, Texas A&M University. **Jan Janečka**, Department of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University. **Michael E. Tewes**, Feline Research Program, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, **Rodney Honeycutt**, Natural Sciences Division, Pepperdine University.
- 4:25-4:50pm *Restoration of Desert Bighorn Sheep on the Navajo Nation* - **Nike Goodson** and **David R. Stevens**, Stevens Wildlife Consulting. **Jeffrey Cole**, **Gloria M. Tom**, and **Pamela Kyselka**, Navajo Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- 6:00-8:00pm Banquet

Thursday, April 5th

7:30 - 8:30am Continental Breakfast

PANEL DISCUSSION

8:30-10:00am **Desert Bighorn Sheep Management: Reflecting on the Past and Hoping for the Future**

Panelists:

Rick Brigham – *BLM (Retired)*

John Wehausen – *White Mountain Research Station*

Eric Rominger – *New Mexico Department of Game and Fish*

Alejandro Espinosa - *Desert Bighorn Restoration Program, CEMEX*

Todd Esque – *USGS Western Ecological Research Center*

10:00-10:30am **BREAK**

TECHNICAL SESSION III

10:30-10:55am ***Evaluation of Potential Habitat for Desert Bighorn Sheep in Coahuila Mexico*** - **Alejandro Espinosa -T.**, Desert Bighorn Sheep Restoration Program, CEMEX. **Andrew V. Sandoval**, Borrego Cimarron Wildlife Consulting. **Mario Garcia-A.**, Desert Bighorn Sheep Restoration Program, CEMEX. **Armando J. Contreas-B.**, Laboratorio de Ornitologia Facultad de Ciencias Biologicas, Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon, A.P.

10:55-11:20am ***Phylogeographic Investigation of Bighorn Sheep in California from Mitochondrial DNA Sequences with Emphasis on the Eastern Sierra Region*** - **John D. Wehausen**, White Mountain Research Station University of California, San Diego. **Clinton W. Epps**, Dept. of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management University of California, Berkeley. **Rob R. Ramey II**, Conservation Science Foundation

11:20-11:45am ***Potential Effects of Human Recreation Activity on Bighorn Sheep Habitat Use in Joshua Tree National Park, California.*** - **Christopher Lowrey**, USGS-Western Ecological Research Center. **Daniel Thompson**, Department of Life Sciences, UNLV, and **Kathleen Longshore**, USGS-Western Ecological Research Center.

11:45-1:30pm **LUNCH**

TECHNICAL SESSION IV

1:30-1:55pm ***Habitat Suitability Study for Reintroducing Desert Bighorn Sheep into Guadalupe Mountains National Park*** - **Oranit Gilad**, Department of Biology, Texas A&M University. **Ben Wu**, Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management, Texas A&M University.

1:55-2:20pm ***Bighorn Sheep Use of a Developed Water in Southwestern Arizona*** - **C. S. O'Brien, S. S. Rosenstock**, and **R. B. Waddell**, Arizona Game and Fish Department.

2:20-2:45pm ***Coping with Life at the Urban Interface: Bighorn Sheep in the River Mountains.*** **Kathleen Longshore**, USGS Western Ecological Research Center. **Christopher Lowrey** USGS-Western Ecological Research Center. **Patrick Cummings**, Nevada Department of Wildlife.

2:45-3:00pm **CLOSING REMARKS**

3:00-3:30pm **BREAK**

3:30-5:00pm **BUSINESS MEETING**

Friday, April 6th

8:00am-4:00pm **Field Trip :** Boulder City, River Mountains and Black Canyon.

2007 BUSINESS MEETING DRAFT MINUTES

The following draft meeting minutes were recorded at the 2007 Business meeting. They are being circulated to you at this time simply for information purposes, and will officially be voted upon for approval during the 2009 Business Meeting.

DRAFT MINUTES - 2007 Desert Bighorn Council Business Meeting
April 5, 2007

3:15 pm – Meeting called to order by Ross Haley (2007 Meeting Chair).
General meeting announcements by Ray Lee (Tech Staff Chair).

Minutes of 2005 Business Meeting: Esther Rubin (Secretary) had sent copies to the Council for review after the 2005 meeting in Alpine, Texas. Council reviewed and approved the 2005 meeting minutes (R. Brigham/V. Bleich).

Treasurer’s Report: The Treasurer’s report was handed out by Ray Lee (Treasurer Stacey Ostermann-Kelm was absent). R. Lee gave a general update on the current budget, showing that accounts currently exist in two banks, and that all accounts are balanced. Report approved (J. Wehausen/ S. Torres).

Editor’s Report: Brian Wakeling (Transactions Editor) provided a brief update on the Transactions. 2005 Transactions are available at this meeting. 2007 Transactions will be available by April 2008. Papers for the 2007 issue are due to B. Wakeling by June 1. Rick Brigham inquired whether the panel discussion summary could be included in the next Transactions, and B. Wakeling said that this would be possible.

Committee Reports:

Program/Arrangements: Ray Lee thanked Ross Haley and the 2007 Meeting Committee (Pat Cummings, Darren Divine, and Kathleen Longshore) for their work in putting on a great meeting. There were 83 people registered for the meeting.

Awards: Dick Weaver provided an additional thank you and congratulations to those who received awards at the banquet last night:

Ram Awards: Joe Cresto
 Raymond Lee
 Nevada Bighorns Unlimited, Reno Chapter
 Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn
 The Ca. Dept. of Fish and Game’s Wildlife Investigations Lab

Honor Plaques: William (“Bill”) E. Clark
 Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Recovery Program

Burros: Ross Haley presented a burro status report for Arizona, California, Nevada, and Utah. Burro population estimates are steadily decreasing in each state, and, overall, the states are approaching the Appropriate Management Level (AML).

Constitution and Bylaws: Ray Lee provided an update. The Constitution and Bylaws were updated in August 2005, and these will be included in the next Transactions.

Publicity: (no report).

Historian: Rick Brigham (Historian) stated that he will no longer be the DBC Historian after this meeting.

Resolutions: (no report).

Tech Staff: Ray Lee reported that the Tech Staff met on Tuesday, April 3, 2007. At the Tech Staff meeting, the Tech Staff reviewed 2005-2007 budgets, discussed bank signature cards and the transfer of budget information from Stacey Ostermann-Kelm (current Treasurer) to the new Treasurer, and topics related to dues and Transactions. The Tech Staff also voted to award two Hansen-Welles scholarships this year, for a total of \$5828.60:

Oranit Gilad (Texas A&M University). *Distribution of desert bighorn sheep in the Delaware Mountain Range and reaction to power-generating windmills.*

Esther Rubin (Conservation Biology Institute). *Development of a predictive habitat model for bighorn sheep in the Peninsular Ranges of southern California.*

Vern Bleich asked if the Hansen-Welles scholarship funds will be available annually or every other year. Ray Lee responded that they will be made available annually.

Elections: Ray Lee reported on the status of the following positions:

Treasurer: Stacey Ostermann-Kelm will stay on until June 1, 2007. Kathy Longshore was nominated and elected as the new Treasurer.

Secretary: Esther Rubin was nominated and elected to another two-year term.

Editor: Brian Wakeling was selected to stay on for two more years.

2009 Meeting Chair: Colorado was selected to host the 2009 meeting, and Brad Banulis was elected 2009 Program Chair.

Tech Staff: No positions are open at this time.

Old Business:

Ray Lee reported that dues paid this year (2007-2008) will include the next issue of the Transactions (2007). In 2009, dues will also include a copy of the latest Transactions, and may increase slightly to cover associated costs.

Ross Haley raised the question of whether we should consider going back to an annual meeting schedule. The Council discussed various pros and cons, and decided that the biennial schedule should be given more time. The Council was in agreement that we need to recruit more students and increase the number of papers presented at meetings and in the Transactions. It was suggested that we recruit professors for this effort.

Gavel passed from Ross Haley to Brad Banulis.

New Business: (none)

4:21 pm- Meeting adjourned

AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE MEETING

One of the highlights of the meeting was the 50th Anniversary banquet. Dick Weaver and Rick Brigham (Awards Committee) presented the following awards. Congratulations Everyone!!

Ram Awards:	Joe Cresto Raymond Lee Nevada Bighorns Unlimited, Reno Chapter Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn The Ca. Dept. of Fish and Game's Wildlife Investigations Lab
Honor Plaques:	William ("Bill") E. Clark CDFG Staff of the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Recovery Program

HANSEN – WELLES SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The following two Hansen-Welles Scholarships were awarded for a total of \$5828.60.

Oranit Gilad (Texas A&M University). *Distribution of desert bighorn sheep in the Delaware Mountain Range and reaction to power-generating windmills.*

Esther Rubin (Conservation Biology Institute). *Development of a predictive habitat model for bighorn sheep in the Peninsular Ranges of southern California.*

If you could use some funding for your bighorn sheep projects, remember that the Hansen-Welles Scholarships will be awarded again in the spring of 2008, with applications due at the end of the year. Although any person is eligible to apply for this scholarship, graduate students will receive preference in our selection of applicants. Check our website for more information.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Report submitted by Stacey Ostermann-Kelm, DBC Treasurer:

Hello everyone,

Congratulations on a very successful 50th Anniversary meeting! I'd like to thank Ross Haley, Kathy Longshore, Darren Devine, Esther Rubin, Mara Weisenbuger, Ray Lee, Brian Wakeling, Rick Brigham, Dick Weaver, and Mark Jorgensen for all of their time and hard work in making the meeting the success that it was. A few meeting expenses are still trickling in, so a final accounting of meeting income and expenses is not yet available.

I'd like to welcome Kathy Longshore as the new DBC Treasurer. I will be serving as the Treasurer until June 2007, when all of the meeting business will be wrapped up. I'm confident that Kathy will do an outstanding job as the new Treasurer. It's been a pleasure working with the Tech Staff and Esther on DBC business for the past 4 years – thanks for the great experience!

ACCOUNT BALANCES:

US Bank Checking	\$52,279.92
Citibank Checking	\$17,094.58
CD#1920HW (5.00% interest rate, matures 4/22/07)	\$38,415.65
CD#8022HW (3.87% interest rate, matures 7/3/07)	\$8,248.37
CD#2882HW (3.93% interest rate, matures 9/28/08)	\$22,116.93
CD#3618C (4.88% interest rate, matures 8/23/07)	\$50,247.94
TOTAL ASSETS (as of April 4, 2007)	\$188,603.41
Hansen-Wells Scholarship Fund (as of April 4, 2007)	\$57,580.95
General Fund	\$131,022.46

A note from the Secretary: I'd like to thank Stacey for all her work during the past 4 years, and I hope we continue to see her at DBC meetings. Thank you Stacey! And welcome Kathy!!

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Many of you renewed your memberships in April, and we thank you tremendously for your support of the Desert Bighorn Council. At \$20 for two years (your membership is good for two years, until April 2009), this is an inexpensive way to show your support for the DBC, and your dues help pay for our biennial meetings. In addition, your current membership will include a copy of the 2007 DBC Transactions, which will be distributed in April 2008. They will be mailed to you, so please be sure to let us know of any address changes.

For those of you who haven't yet renewed your membership, this is the time to do so! After this

issue, we will only be sending newsletters to paid members, so be sure to send in your membership form soon. Please visit our website to download the membership form, or print out the last page of this newsletter.

WHERE IS THE NEXT DBC MEETING?

The next DBC meeting will be held in Colorado, in April 2009. The exact location is yet to be decided. Brad Banulis is the Chair for the next meeting and he can be contacted at *brad.banulis@state.co.us*. Detailed information will be posted on our website at a later date.

DBC TRANSACTIONS

We invite and encourage you to publish your work in the DBC Transactions! Please note the following instructions from **Brian Wakeling, DBC Editor**:

My goal as editor is to help authors with the opportunity to improve their final manuscripts through the peer-review process. State reports and abstracts from meetings will still be included, although they will be edited only for grammar. Authors of manuscripts for Desert Bighorn Council Transactions should use the format described in the guidelines formally used by the Wildlife Society Bulletin (available from me on request). I would also like short descriptions about the authors and their background to accompany the paper.

The Transactions will use the following timeline:

Submission deadline: June 1, 2007. I will then solicit two independent reviews for each manuscript. I will contact potential reviewers before I send them out to determine if they are willing to conduct the review within the timeline. Authors may suggest reviewers for their manuscript.

Reviews from reviewers due back to editor: July 1, 2007. I will compile the reviews and provide suggestions to the authors on how to proceed.

Manuscript revision by authors, due back to editor: August 15, 2007. Authors will need to submit an electronic version of their manuscript at this time.

Final review adjustments, if needed, back to authors: September 30, 2007. Manuscript back to editor: October 15, 2007. Page proofs to authors: December 15, 2007. Proofs to editor: January 15, 2008. Camera-ready copy to printer: February 1, 2008. Distribution: April 2008.

The opportunity for final page proof reviews by authors is only possible if these submission deadlines are followed closely. I hope that this will assist authors in understanding the information flow and timelines that the Transactions will operate under. Any manuscript addressing the ecology, biology, management, and conservation of desert bighorn sheep, even if not presented at the Desert Bighorn Council Meeting, may be submitted for publication in the Transactions.

For more information, please email BWakeling@azgfd.gov.



DESERT BIGHORN COUNCIL

Established to promote the advancement of knowledge concerning the Desert Bighorn Sheep and the long-range welfare of these animals.

2007/2008 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Name _____

Organization _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone (Work) _____ (Home, *optional*) _____

Email Address _____

Can we include your contact information in future DBC Transaction membership lists?
Yes ___ No ___ If "NO", please specify which information should remain confidential:

2007/2008 Membership _____ (\$20.00 per person)

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Membership is good for 2 years starting April 1, 2007 and includes the 2007 Transactions and electronic copies of our newsletter. Please send completed form and check, payable to the Desert Bighorn Council, to:

Esther Rubin (DBC Secretary)
Conservation Biology Institute
PO Box 369
Borrego Springs, CA 92004

For additional information please visit our website at www.desertbighornCouncil.org