



Bleats and Blats

Official Newsletter of the
Desert Bighorn Council

JANUARY 2007



Inside:

- **50th anniversary meeting information...**
 - **Meeting registration...**
 - **Call for papers...**
 - **Seeking awards nominations...**
- **Important Hansen-Welles Scholarship Fund reminder.**

Hello DBC members and friends!

This is a brief but important newsletter. Please read on for information about our meeting, which will be held on April 3-6, including important reminders about registration, membership, a fieldtrip planned for April 6th, and other important reminders such the deadline for the Hansen-Welles scholarship. April will be the 50th anniversary of the DBC, and Ross Haley and others have already been hard at work to organize a fantastic meeting, so we hope to see you all there! Information on the meeting is also posted on the Desert Bighorn Council website: www.desertbighornCouncil.org Today is the perfect time to register and make your travel plans! Please feel free to distribute the registration and membership form.

I hope to see you in April!

*Esther Rubin
DBC Secretary (esrubin@consbio.org)*

2007 DESERT BIGHORN COUNCIL MEETING INFORMATION
AND CALL FOR PAPERS

April 3 - 6, 2007
Tropicana Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada

The 50th anniversary meeting of the Desert Bighorn Council will be held in Las Vegas, where it all began! This is not a coincidence. Those of you who attended the meeting in St. George may recall that the decision was made to adjust the regular rotation of meeting locations so that the 50th would be in Nevada and, more specifically, in Las Vegas, where the Council first met in 1957.

The meeting will be held April 3-6 at the Tropicana Hotel. April 3 is a travel day, with a welcome reception to be held at the hotel that evening. Technical sessions will be held on April 4 and 5, and a field trip will occur on April 6 (see more details below). There is a block of 50 rooms reserved for Tuesday through Thursday nights (April 3-5) for \$75/night, so be sure to make your room reservations soon!

The Tropicana
Phone 1-888-826-TROP (8767)
www.tropicanalv.com

The Tropicana is located at the corner of Tropicana Avenue and Las Vegas Boulevard (the Strip), about one mile from the Airport, and shares the corner with the MGM Grand, the New York/New York, and the Excalibur Casino. Next door to the Excalibur is the Luxor, and next to that, the Mandalay Bay. These hotel casinos are within easy walking distance of the meeting, and a monorail station is located just across the strip, making it easy to visit other Las Vegas attractions.

Meeting Registration

Early registration (if postmarked by March 1, 2007)	\$100.00
Regular registration (if paid after March 1, 2007)	\$120.00
Senior registration (for those at least 60 yrs young)	\$ 80.00
Student registration	\$ 80.00

The registration fee includes the welcome reception, coffee-break refreshments, the 50th Anniversary Banquet, and a field trip!

Please complete the attached registration and membership form and mail to:
Esther Rubin (DBC Secretary)
Conservation Biology Institute
PO Box 369
Borrego Springs, CA 92004

Call For Papers

Deadline - March 1, 2007

If you would like to present a paper or poster at the meeting, please send an abstract and contact information (electronic version - MS Word format preferred) to Darren Divine at the email address or mailing address listed below. Status reports are also requested from all states and from Mexico. Individuals presenting status reports should also please contact Darren to indicate their intention to present a report. Abstracts are due by March 1, 2007.

Please forward this call for papers to others who may be interested in presenting or attending the workshop. For further information, please contact Darren Divine,

Dr. Darren Divine, Chair
CCSN Department of Biological Sciences
6375 West Charleston Blvd, Sort Code W3E
Las Vegas NV, 89146-1164.
darren.divine@ccsn.edu

Call for Special Sessions

If you would like to suggest a Special Session (Special Session set aside for papers on a specific topic, Round-Table Discussions, or any other Special Session) please send a brief proposal (electronic version – MS Word format preferred) to Darren Divine at darren.divine@ccsn.edu or to the address listed above.

Field Trip!

The field trip will travel to Boulder City and across Hoover Dam to the Black Mountains of Arizona and then proceed on an optional boat trip (no extra cost) up the Black Canyon below Hoover Dam. In Boulder City, the trip will provide the opportunity to see the River Mountains, the largest single source of desert bighorn transplant stock anywhere, and will provide a chance to see and discuss urban impacts on this population. We'll visit Hemenway Park, an urban park where over 50 sheep can be commonly observed on a summer day in close proximity to tennis courts, basketball courts, etc. We'll discuss planning efforts and research to address this urban interface and increasing recreational use in the mountains, particularly as Boulder City markets the area as a major mountain biking destination. From there we will proceed to Hoover Dam where we'll observe and discuss a major highway widening and realignment project approaching a new bridge spanning the Black Canyon below the Dam. Mitigation measures and studies to monitor the effectiveness of those actions to prevent highway mortality and habitat fragmentation are underway, and will be discussed. On the Arizona side of the river, we'll see additional highway construction and associated mitigation measures and will have the opportunity to hear from Arizona Department of Game and Fish staff about their studies. This construction project cuts through a portion of the Black Mountains which is the largest population of desert bighorn in Arizona. Other issues of interest affecting this population include drought, diseases, burros, fires and mountain lion predation. Perhaps not an unusual list, but these factors are apparently taking an unusually large toll on this population at the

present time. We will then proceed to Willow Beach and boat up the Black Canyon to the base of Hoover Dam for a better view of some of both Nevada's and Arizona's best sheep habitat.

Questions and/or suggestions about the meeting should please be referred to:

Ross Haley (Meeting Chair) at Ross_Haley@nps.gov

Pat Cummings at pcummings@ndow.org

Kathy Longshore at longshore@usgs.gov

SEEKING DBC AWARDS NOMINATIONS

Submitted by Rick Brigham, Technical Staff Member

Awards Chair Dick Weaver is seeking nominations for awards for the upcoming (50th anniversary!!) meeting at Las Vegas. PLEASE! Think about individuals who have contributed significantly to the betterment of desert bighorn sheep and who might be awarded the Ram Award, a plaque, or a certificate of appreciation. It would be great to make several awards at the Las Vegas meeting. Contact Dick at 505-539-2378, or regular mail at P.O. Box 100, Glenwood NM 88039. Do it soon! Or, if you function best via email, contact Rick Brigham at rick-ceil@syringa.net with your nomination. **Nominations must be received no later than March 1!**

IMPORTANT HANSEN-WELLES SCHOLARSHIP FUND REMINDER

Do you need money for your desert bighorn sheep research project?? Here is an excellent opportunity to apply for some of that much-needed money! The Hansen-Welles Scholarship Fund provides funding for projects that benefit desert bighorn sheep or desert bighorn sheep habitat. You can find more information about the application process at:

<http://www.desertbighorncouncil.org/scholarship.html>

Applications must be received by February 15, 2007 and funds will be awarded at the DBC meeting in April.





DESERT BIGHORN COUNCIL

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

2007 Meeting Registration and 2007/2008 Membership Form

Name _____

Organization _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone (Work) _____ (Home) _____

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:

Please select from the choices below:

- A) Registration for 2007 meeting (April 3-6, 2007 at the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas)
 - Early registration (if postmarked by March 1, 2007) _____ (\$100.00)
 - Regular registration (if paid after March 1, 2007) _____ (\$120.00)
 - Senior registration (if you are at least 60 yrs young) _____ (\$ 80.00)
 - Student registration _____ (\$ 80.00)

B) 2007/2008 Membership dues _____ (\$ 20.00)

C) 2005 Transactions (not included in membership or registration fees) _____ (\$ 15.00)

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

The registration fee includes a welcome reception, coffee-break refreshments, the 50th Anniversary Banquet, and a field trip! Membership is good for 2 years starting April 1, 2007 and provides valuable support to the DBC. The 2005 Transactions are the most recent issue available, and they will distributed at the 2007 meeting or mailed to you if you do not attend the meeting.

Do you plan to attend the field trip? Yes _____ No _____

Please send completed form and check, payable to the Desert Bighorn Council, to:
Esther Rubin (DBC Secretary)
Conservation Biology Institute
P.O. Box 369
Borrego Springs, CA 92004

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