



Bleats and Blats

Official Newsletter of the Desert Bighorn
Council



JUNE 2005

Inside:

- 2005 DBC meeting overview.
- *Draft Business Meeting minutes.*
- Hansen-Welles Scholarships awarded.
- Information for contributors to the DBC Transactions.
- Membership dues.
- And more...

Hello DBC members and friends,

As most of you know, the DBC held its biennial meeting in Alpine, Texas in April. It was a great meeting, thanks to Clay Brewer and Billy Tarrant, who arranged the meeting with the help of many Texas Parks and Wildlife Department staff and helpful individuals from Sul Ross State University. I'm including here the conference program so those of you who didn't get to join us at least know what you missed! Our website (<http://www.desertbighornCouncil.org>) will soon include this information along with photos.

Please read on for updates from our Business meeting, Hansen-Welles scholarships that were awarded during the meeting, and more.

The next newsletter is scheduled for August so if you have updates or announcements to share, please send them to me by July 31. 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 (erubin@sandiegozoo.org)

PROGRAM OF RECENT DBC MEETING

**48th MEETING – DESERT BIGHORN COUNCIL
APRIL 6-9, 2005
Alpine, Texas**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

4:00 **Registration-Social** Kokernot Lodge – Sul Ross State University

THURSDAY, APRIL 7

7:30 - 8:30 **Registration**

8:30 **Convene the 48th Meeting of the Desert Bighorn Council**

8:30 - 8:45 **Welcome and Introductions** – Clay Brewer, Chair and Billy Tarrant, Vice-Chair
 2005 Desert Bighorn Council

8:45 - 9:00 **Keynote Address** – David Wetzel, President, Texas Bighorn Society

9:00 – 9:15 **Those that paved the road** - Dick Weaver, California Dept. of Fish and Game (Retired)

9:15 - 9:45 **Break**

MORNING SESSION

9:45 - 12:00 **State Status Reports (Chairperson: Mike Hobson, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.)**

Arizona	Brian Wakeling
California	Vern Bleich
Colorado	
Nevada	Mike Cox
New Mexico	Elise Goldstein
Texas	Clay Brewer
Utah	Bill Bates
Mexico	Ray Lee
CEMEX	Alejandro Espinosa Treviño

12:00 – 1:00 **LUNCH** University Center Foyer, Sul Ross State University

THURSDAY, APRIL 7

AFTERNOON SESSION

1:00 - 3:00 **Historic Distribution and Restoration (Chairperson: Louis Harveson, SRSU)**

Historic Distribution of Desert Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis Canadensis*) in Coahuila, Mexico
Alejandro Espinosa-T., Desert Bighorn Sheep Restoration Program, CEMEX, Monterrey, Mexico
Andrew V. Sandoval, Borrego Cimarron Wildlife Consulting, Chacon, NM
Armando J. Contreras-B., Laboratorio de Ornitología, Facultad de Ciencias Biológicas, Universidad

Autonoma de Nuevo Leon, Mexico

Restoration of Bighorn Sheep on the Navajo Nation

Nike Goodson Stevens, David R. Stevens, Stevens Wildlife Consulting, Bozeman, MT
Jeff Cole, Pam Kyselka, Navajo Department of Fish and Wildlife, Window Rock, AZ

Desert Bighorn Reintroduction in Maderas Del Carmen, Coahuila, México

Bonnie Reynolds Mckinney, Jonas Delgadillo Villalobos
Naturaleza Sin Frontera, A.C., El Carmen Project, Del Rio, TX

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

3:30 - 5:00 **Predators (Session Chair:James Mueller Ph.D, SRSU)**

Cascading Effects of Subsidized Mountain Lion Populations in the Chihuahuan Desert

E. M. Rominger, F. S. Winslow, E. J. Goldstein, D. W. Weybright, W. C. Dunn. New Mexico
Department of Game and Fish, Santa Fe, NM

Preliminary Analysis of the Effectiveness of Mountain Lion Control in Decreasing Mortality Rates of Desert Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis mexicana*)

Elise J. Goldstein, Eric M. Rominger, Stephen Kohlmann, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Santa Fe, NM

Mountain Lion Predation on Bighorn Sheep: An Examination of Risk Factors and Seasonal Mortality Patterns

Esther S. Rubin, Conservation and Research for Endangered Species, Zoological Society of San Diego, Escondido, CA

Chris J. Stermer, Habitat Conservation Division, California Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento, CA

Calvin Chun, Habitat Conservation Division, California Department of Fish and Game, Los Alamitos, CA

Steven G. Torres, Habitat Conservation Division, California Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento, CA

Walter M. Boyce, Wildlife Health Center, University of California, Davis, CA

Synopsis of a 5 Year Mountain Lion Control Effort on Endangered Desert Bighorn Sheep Recovery

Eric M. Rominger, Elise J. Goldstein, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Santa Fe, NM

5:00 **ADJOURN**

6:00 **BANQUET** Kokernot Lodge - Sul Ross State University

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

MORNING SESSION

8:30 - 10:00 **Habitat (Chairperson: Dave Holdermann, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.)**

Quality of Water Available To Wildlife: Comparisons among Anthropogenic and Natural Sources

Vernon C. Bleich, California Department of Fish and Game, Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep

Recovery Program, Bishop, CA

Nancy G. Andrew, California Department of Fish and Game, Bermuda Dunes, CA

Marida J. Martin, California Department of Fish and Game, Oil Spill Prevention and Response, Petroleum Chemistry Laboratory, Rancho Cordova, CA

Gerald P. Mulcahy, California Department of Fish and Game, Blythe, CA

Andrew M. Pauli, California Department of Fish and Game, Apple Valley, CA

Stephen S. Rosenstock, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Research Branch, Phoenix, AZ

Habitat Use and Movements of Desert Bighorn Sheep in West Texas

Shawn L. Locke, Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX

Clay E. Brewer, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., Fort Davis, TX

Louis A. Harveson, Dept. of Natural Resource Management, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, TX

Effects of Wildfires on Desert Bighorn Sheep Habitat in the Santa Catalina Mountains, Arizona

James W. Cain III, School of Natural Resources, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

Heather E. Johnson, Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Recovery Program, California Department of Fish and Game, Bishop, CA

Paul R. Krausman, School of Natural Resources, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

Use of Guzzlers by Desert Bighorn Sheep in the Chihuahuan Desert

Justin A. Foster, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Alpine, TX

Michael T. Pittman, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Alpine, TX

Louis A. Harveson, Department of Natural Resource Management, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, TX

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

10:30 - 12:00 **Human Impacts (Session Chair: Calvin Richardson, TPWD)**

California's Peninsular Bighorn Sheep Rebound from the Brink of Extinction

Charles T. Nisbet, The Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA

Surface Mining and Desert Bighorn Sheep Ecology

Brian D. Jansen, School of Natural Resources, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

Paul R. Krausman, School of Natural Resources, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

Kirby D. Bristow, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, AZ

James R. Heffelfinger, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Tucson, AZ

James C. deVos, Jr., Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, AZ

How Not to Manage Recreational Trail Users and the Recovery of Bighorn Sheep: Lessons from Coachella Valley California

Charles T. Nisbet, The Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA

12:00 – 1:00 **LUNCH** University Center Foyer, Sul Ross State University

1:00 - 3:00 **Management (Session Chair: Justin Foster)**

A Closer Look at Sexual Segregation in Bighorn Sheep: What Do the Patterns Tell Us About Causal Factors?

Esther S. Rubin, Conservation and Research for Endangered Species, Zoological Society of San Diego, Escondido, CA

Chris J. Stermer, Habitat Conservation Division, California Department of Fish and Game,
Sacramento, CA

A New Method of Argali (*Ovis Ammon*) Capture Using Horsemen and Drive-Nets

Rob Roy Ramey II, Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Denver, CO
Tuya Tserenbata, Institute of Biology, Mongolian Academy of Sciences, Ulaanbaatar 51, Mongolia
Sukhiin Amgalanbaatar, Institute of Biology, Mongolian Academy of Sciences, Ulaanbaatar 51,
Mongolia; Argali Wildlife Research Center, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
Z. Namshir, Argali Wildlife Research Center, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
Richard Reading, Department of Conservation Biology, Denver Zoological Foundation, Denver,
CO

Domestic Goats, Infectious Keratoconjunctivitis, and Desert Bighorn Sheep

Brian D. Jansen, School of Natural Resources, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
James R. Heffelfinger, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Tucson, AZ
Paul R. Krausman, School of Natural Resources, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
James C. deVos, Jr., Arizona Game and Fish Department, AZ

Using Genetic Analyses to Describe and Infer Recent Colonizations by Desert Bighorn Sheep

Clinton W. Epps, University of California, Berkeley, CA
John D. Wehausen, University of California, White Mountain Research Station, Bishop, CA
Per J. Palsbøll, University of California, Berkeley, CA
Dale R. McCullough, University of California, Berkeley, CA

AFTERNOON SESSION

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

3:30 - 4:00 **Management Continued**

Evaluating Errors in GPS-Collar Locations

Jeffrey T. Villepique, Idaho State University & Scientific Aid, Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep
Recovery Program, California Dept. of Fish and Game, Bishop, CA
Vernon C. Bleich, California Department of Fish and Game, Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep
Recovery Program, Bishop, CA
Becky M. Pierce, California Department of Fish and Game, Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep
Recovery Program, Bishop, CA
R. Terry Bowyer, Department of Biological Sciences, Idaho State University, Pocatello, ID

Recruitment Dynamics in Desert Bighorn Sheep

John D. Wehausen, University of California, White Mountain Research Station, Bishop, CA

4:00 – 5:00 Business Meeting

5:00 **ADJOURN**

6:00 **SOCIAL-STEAK DINNER** Elephant Mountain Wildlife Management Area

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

8:00 **FIELD TRIP** Elephant Mountain Wildlife Management Area

2005 BUSINESS MEETING DRAFT MINUTES

The following draft meeting minutes were recorded at the 2005 Business meeting. They are being circulated to you simply for information purposes now, and will officially be voted upon for approval during the 2007 Business Meeting.

DRAFT MINUTES - 2005 Desert Bighorn Council Business Meeting April 8, 2005

4:00 pm – Meeting called to order by Clay Brewer

Minutes of 2003 Business Meeting: Copies handed out by Esther Rubin. Council reviewed and approved (R. Weaver/J. Wehausen).

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report was handed out by Ray Lee (Treasurer Stacey Ostermann absent). R. Lee explained the difference between interest generated by Hansen-Welles accounts and interest generated by operating accounts. It was decided to grandfather in the past interest accounting and, from this point forward, to differentiate between the two interest sources by separating them into specific bookkeeping categories. Report approved (L. Wilson/B. Garlinger).

Committee Reports:

Arrangements: Clay Brewer reported that there were \$9850.00 donations and that we had 88 people registered for the meeting, with a net of \$7458.48.

Burros: Ross Haley made a Powerpoint presentation summarizing the status of burros in each state. Populations have decreased in the past but some populations have increased in recent years. Numbers in all states (Arizona, California, Nevada, and Utah) exceed recommended numbers. Burro management, including funding, is related to the management of feral horses.

Transactions: Brian Wakeling reported that he is willing to continue working as Transactions Editor, and that the Transactions will be mailed out to those who did not pick them up at the meeting.

Publicity: (no report)

Historian: (no report)

Tech Staff: Ray Lee (Chair) reported that the Tech Staff has decided that the Ralph and Florence ("Buddy") Welles ram statue will be a traveling award. He also reported that 3 Tech Staff positions are up for re-election. In addition, the Tech Staff has decided that each year, up to \$3000 will be available to the future Council Chair, to be used as seed money for meeting planning and reservations. Lee announced to the Council that Hansen-Welles scholarship funds will be presented to 3 students this year:

\$5000 Brian Jansen (University of Arizona)

Relationship of a mountain sheep population to surface mining and a disease epizootic.

\$4200 Jeffery Villepique (Idaho State University)

Tradeoffs between forage quality and predation risk: assessing response of bighorn sheep to predation risk.

\$2000 James Cain (University of Arizona)

Influence of man-made water sources on desert bighorn sheep.

Elections: Ray Lee reported that the following 3 Tech Staff members have expired terms: Ray Lee, Eric Rominger, and Rick Brigham. He also reported that nominated officers for the 2006/2007 years are:

Secretary: Esther Rubin (continuing)

Treasurer: Stacey Ostermann (continuing)

2007 Meeting Chair: Ross Haley (incoming)

The council approved by a show of hands.

Ray Lee reviewed the past Tech Staff composition for the Council:

In 2000, the Council had voted in the following 6 people, with 3 having 3-year terms and 3 having 5-year terms:

Ray Lee (5 yr)

Eric Rominger (5 yr)

Rick Brigham (5 yr)

John Wehausen (3 yr)

Mara Weisenberger (3 yr)

Mark Jorgensen (3 yr)

In 2002, Clay Brewer was added as a 7th member, with a 5-yr term.

In 2003, the following 3 people had expired terms:

Mara Weisenberger

Mark Jorgensen

John Wehausen

John Wehausen voluntarily gave up his position on the Tech Staff. Weisenberger and Jorgensen were re-elected for 5-year terms, and Joe Cresto was elected as new Tech Staff member, with a 5-yr term. Clay Brewer was elected as 2005 Meeting Chair, and so temporarily gave up his position on Tech Staff.

This year, the following people have expired terms:

Ray Lee

Eric Rominger

Rick Brigham

John Wehausen moved that they should all be re-appointed for 5-year terms, and Council approved. Therefore, the new and current Tech Staff is:

Ray Lee (through 2010)

Eric Rominger (through 2010)

Rick Brigham (through 2010)

Mara Weisenberger (through 2008)

Mark Jorgensen (through 2008)

Joe Cresto (through 2008)

Clay Brewer (through 2007)

Old Business: (none)

Gavel passed from Clay Brewer to Ross Haley.

New Business:

- Bruce Garlinger moves that the Business Meeting should be held earlier during the DBC meeting, as this may increase attendance. Ray Lee suggested that the next meeting chair could decide this, as it would be up to the program director. Eric Rominger seconds. Council voted to approve.
- Esther Rubin asked if Business Meeting minutes should be sent out and approved before 2005 (since 2-year lapse). Ray Lee suggests that draft be sent to the Council, but that final approval needs to be done during the next business meeting.
- Vern Bleich suggested (not official motion) that we have an Honorary Chairperson for our next meeting, and suggested that Dick Weaver should be Honorary Chair of the next meeting. Ray Lee and Ross Haley

will work on this.

- Bruce Garlinger volunteered to assure that high quality refreshments (beer) are available at the Las Vegas meeting.

5:00 pm- Meeting adjourned (L. Wilson/E. Rominger)

HANSEN – WELLES SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Congratulations to the following graduate students who were awarded Hansen-Welles Scholarships to support their research on bighorn sheep. All the best with your projects!!!

\$5000 Brian Jansen (University of Arizona)

Relationship of a mountain sheep population to surface mining and a disease epizootic.

\$4200 Jeffery Villepique (Idaho State University)

Tradeoffs between forage quality and predation risk: assessing response of bighorn sheep to predation risk.

\$2000 James Cain (University of Arizona)

Influence of man-made water sources on desert bighorn sheep.

MISCELLANEOUS MEETING STATISTICS

Meeting registration:	91 registrants
Hansen-Welles Scholarship funds raised with the Silent Auction:	\$1536
Hansen-Welles Scholarship funds raised with DBC sales items (hats, t-shirts, cards, etc.):	\$1151
Number of bighorn sheep spotted during visits to Elephant Mountain WMA:	≥ 12
Snakes saved from drowning during field trip (you'll have to ask someone who was there...):	4

TREASURER'S REPORT

Report submitted by Stacey Ostermann, DBC Treasurer:

Hello all,

I think we all owe Clay Brewer and Billy Tarrant a huge round of applause for making the 2005 DBC meeting such a huge financial success!! They garnered nearly \$10,000 of donations to cover the expenses of our spectacular 2005 meeting. We also owe Mara Weisenberger a big thank you for taking the lead on creating and selling DBC paraphernalia to fund the Hansen-Wells Memorial Fund. Pat Hansen and Esther Rubin also played important roles in fundraising for the HW Fund – thank you both!! Lastly, you should all take great pride in knowing the DBC granted \$11,200 towards bighorn sheep research in 2005 to three very deserving recipients: Brian Jansen, Jeffery Villepique, and James Cain.

The DBC account balances are listed below. We are in the process of separating the Hansen-Wells Fund from the general checking account. This will involve paying back the checking account \$11,200 from the Hansen-Wells Fund CD that matures in September 2005.

Checking account balance \$2097.38

This balance includes:

Income generated form the 2005 meeting registration fees	\$ 4,530.00
Hansen-Wells Memorial Fund Scholarships paid	\$11,200.00
Donations toward the 2005 meeting	\$ 9,850.00
Expenses for the 2005 meeting	\$ 8,552.00

Pending income from 2005 meeting registration and 2003 Transactions \$ 1,560.00

Hansen-Wells Memorial Fund Account Balance \$65,350.94

This balance includes:

Net income for the Hansen-Wells Scholarship Fund from 2005 mtg.	\$ 1,241.90
Hansen-Wells Fund CD#885 (1.29% interest rate, matures 9/05)	\$20,962.73
Hansen-Wells Fund CD#022 (2.13% interest rate, matures 1/06)*	\$ 8,248.37
Hansen-Wells Fund CD#920 (5.01% interest rate, matures 4/07)	\$34,897.94

MEMBERSHIP DUES AND CARDS

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 2007), this is an inexpensive way to show your support for the DBC, and your dues help pay for our biennial meetings. Stacey Ostermann (DBC Treasurer) will soon be sending out your membership cards. For those of you who haven't yet renewed your membership, this is the time to do so! 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 Las Vegas, in April 2007. Ross Haley is the Chair, and can be contacted at [Ross Haley@NPS.gov](mailto:Ross.Haley@NPS.gov). Detailed information will be posted on our website at a later date.

DBC TRANSACTIONS

If you presented a talk or poster at the DBC meeting and would like to publish your work in the DBC Transactions, please note the most recent instructions from **Brian Wakeling, DBC Editor**:

The *Desert Bighorn Council Transactions* are published once every two years, with the published document distributed at the subsequent meeting. Trying to get manuscripts submitted, reviewed, and published in that time frame has been challenging. The every-other-year format will provide the printer, reviewers, authors, and the editor with sufficient time to provide quality manuscripts providing that time lines are followed.

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 for the Wildlife Society Bulletin <http://www.wildlife.org/publications/bulletinguidelines.pdf>. 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: April 1, 2006. 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: June 1, 2006. I will compile the reviews and provide suggestions to the authors on how to proceed.

Manuscript revision by authors, due back to editor: August 1, 2006. Authors will need to submit an electronic version of their manuscript at this time.

Final review adjustments, if needed, back to authors: September 1, 2006. Manuscript back to editor: October 1, 2006. Page proofs to authors: November 1, 2006. Proofs to editor: November 15, 2006. Camera-ready copy to printer: December 1, 2006. Distribution: April 2007.

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. The *Transactions* have been and will remain open to manuscripts not presented at the Desert Bighorn Council Meeting. Please visit our website for complete Instructions for Contributors.

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

2nd Call for Papers – Managing Wildlife in the Southwest: New Challenges for the 21st Century.

This is the second call for papers for the upcoming meeting of the Southwest Section of TWS. This professional meeting will be held at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, TX, 9-11 August 2005. Professional wildlife biologists and wildlife students from Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas, as well as Northern Mexico, will gather for the first major Southwest Section of TWS meeting in 15 years. An edited symposium proceedings will be published and provided to all registered meeting participants.

Information about the meeting, as well as on-line abstract submission guidelines can be found at: www.swtws.org and <http://apc.tamu.edu/twsabstracts/>

All papers dealing with wildlife management in the Southwestern United States and Northern Mexico are encouraged, including the results of wildlife field investigations and analyses, as well as topic reviews of interest to wildlife students and professionals in the Southwestern Region. **Deadline for receipt of abstracts is 11 June 2005.** Abstracts for paper sessions should be submitted online.



DESERT BIGHORN COUNCIL

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

2005/2006 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

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:

2005/2006 Membership _____ (\$20.00 per person)

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Membership is good for 2 years starting April 1, 2005. Please send completed form and check, payable to the Desert Bighorn Council, to:

Esther Rubin (DBC Secretary)
Zoological Society of San Diego
Conservation and Research for Endangered Species
15600 San Pasqual Valley Road
Escondido, CA 92027-7000

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