



# Bleats and Blats

Official Newsletter of the  
Desert Bighorn Council  
January 2015



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*Hello DBC members and friends,*

*This won't be much of a newsletter, more of just an announcement of the April DBC meeting.*

*I would like to get a complete newsletter in March, so please take a moment and send me any updates, relevant literature citations, or interesting happenings relative to sheep. From Arizona, there will be an update on our Catalina Bighorn Sheep Reintroduction project and an update on our Tonto National Forest Wilderness EA. I hope to hear from folks so my next newsletter is more complete.*

*No dive trips to share this time. I have been stuck on land too much lately, but, honestly, with Brian Wakeling jumping ship and joining Nevada, I feel like I am barely keeping my head above water. Might as well go diving and literally be under water, right.*

*Congrats on the new job, Brian – a new challenge can be very refreshing.*

*For more information about the Desert Bighorn Council or to download a membership form, please visit our website at [www.desertbighornCouncil.com](http://www.desertbighornCouncil.com).*

*All the best to you,  
Amber Munig (DBC Secretary)*

*Game Branch  
Arizona Game and Fish Department  
5000 W. Carefree Highway  
Phoenix, AZ 85086  
Office phone: 623-236-7355  
[amunig@azgfd.gov](mailto:amunig@azgfd.gov)*

# Come Join Us!



## 2015 Desert Bighorn Council Meeting

### *Borrego Springs Resort and Spa*

Borrego Springs, California  
April 14-16, 2015  
Optional Field Trips, Friday  
April 17

Contact: Ben Gonzales,  
California Department of Fish  
and Wildlife, 916-813-6323  
Ben.Gonzales@Wildlife.ca.gov

### **Hotel Information:**

<http://www.borregospringsresort.com>

1112 Tilting T Drive

PO Box 981

Borrego Springs, CA 92004

888-826-7734 or 760-767-5700

Fax: 760-767-5710

### **2015 Meeting Highlights**

- April 14—Evening Welcome Reception
- April 15 - Paper Presentations on Respiratory Disease, Burro and general Bighorn Management
- April 15- Evening BBQ at University of California, Irvine Anza Borrego Research Center
- April 16—State Status Reports, Bighorn Management Paper Presentations and DBC Business Meeting
- April 16— Evening Awards Banquet
- April 17—Optional Field Trip
  - 3 mile hike to Borrego Palm Canyon with the likelihood of seeing bighorn
  - Short hike to view Native American bighorn hunting blind, a significant archeological site





# **Desert Bighorn Council Meeting**

## **April 14-17, 2015**

### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

The 2015 Biennial meeting of the Desert Bighorn Council will be held **April 14-17**. We welcome papers and posters on all current research and management issues related to bighorn sheep. An important theme of the 2015 DBC conference will be respiratory disease in desert bighorn.

We encourage each state to present a bighorn sheep status update and that the respective state bighorn sheep leads confirm their participation and identify the presenter.

You are invited to submit abstracts for oral or poster presentations.

Instructions for Oral Presentation and Poster Abstracts:

In Microsoft Word format:

- 1) Type the title in capital letters and bold font.
- 2) List all authors in capitals using first and last names, followed by their affiliation, address, and contact information in standard letters.
- 3) Abstracts are restricted to 250 words and should summarize findings. Please identify whether the abstract is for an oral presentation or poster presentation immediately after the abstract

Please submit abstracts electronically by **Friday, February 27, 2015**, to:  
Steve Torres, 916-358-1987 [Steve.Torres@Wildlife.CA.Gov](mailto:Steve.Torres@Wildlife.CA.Gov)

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## **Call for Awards Nominations**

The Awards Committee is requesting nominees to be considered for recognition by the Desert Bighorn Council at our meeting in Borrego Springs during April 2015. Names of nominees to be considered for the Council's Ram Award or Honor Plaque should be sent to Vern Bleich, Awards Committee Chair ([vcbleich@gmail.com](mailto:vcbleich@gmail.com)) by December 31, 2014. Please be sure to include a list of meaningful accomplishments and justifications for each nominee.

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## Book Review

### *Desert Bighorn Sheep – Wilderness Icon* by Mark C. Jorgensen

Review provided by Ray Lee and others

I was offered the opportunity to review a new book about wild sheep, *Desert Bighorn Sheep – Wilderness Icon* by Mark C. Jorgensen, with photographs by Jeff Young. This 143-page book is being published by Sunbelt Publications (sunbeltpub.com) and lists for \$29.95. Rather than produce a few lines in praise of this most informative book, I instead recorded the thoughts of others who work with desert bighorn sheep. Their words about *Desert Bighorn Sheep – Wilderness Icon*, and their affiliations, follow:

*A perfect tribute to one of the few remaining wilderness icons presented through incredible images and decades of knowledge, passion, and commitment to conservation. An extraordinary piece of work.*

- Clay Brewer, Chair of the WAFWA Wild Sheep Working Group, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; Chair of the Desert Bighorn Council Technical Staff

*A very thorough and insightful look into the history and ecology of this unique species. A must read.*

- Jim DeForge, Executive Director, Bighorn Institute

*The clear and well-written text and superb photos beautifully capture the lives of desert bighorn sheep and the many challenges facing them as individuals and species. This book will be a welcome addition to my library.*

- Ben Gonzales, Senior Wildlife Veterinarian, California Department of Fish and Wildlife; Chair of the Desert Bighorn Council

*Mark Jorgensen's comprehensive yet easy-to-read narrative, beautifully complemented by Jeff Young's amazing photos, make an informative, entertaining, and valuable reference about one of the most fascinating animals in the deserts of western North America.*

- Kevin Hurley, Conservation Director, Wild Sheep Foundation

*A rare and special glimpse into the life of a desert bighorn sheep, accompanied by a wealth of information on their biology, behavior, and conservation.*

- Esther Rubin, Research Branch Chief, Arizona Game and Fish Department

*Mark's book is complete with current, concise, and scientific information about desert bighorn sheep that is valuable to anyone interested in this magnificent animal. The photography in this book is second to none. Beautifully designed and well written.*

- Mara Weisenberger, Wildlife Biologist, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Desert Bighorn Council Technical Staff

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## Farewell to Pete Sanchez

Pete Sanchez passed away last fall in Glenwood Springs, New Mexico. Pete was a long time Park Naturalist in Death Valley. Pete was the Secretary/Treasurer of the DBC in the early 1980's (while he was simultaneously the Secretary/Treasurer for the Desert Pupfish Council). He was responsible for bringing the feral burro population of Death Valley National Monument to ZERO, with help from one of the early BLM burro gather contractors. Pete did some experimental work with Salt Cedar at Death Valley, and determined that a medium sized Salt Cedar (not the *Athol* variety) could pump as much as 250 gallons per day from the ground surface. This figure is used today to justify guzzler construction in northern Nevada, as Salt Cedar invaded many dry washes there in the 1970's.

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## DBC Officers and Technical Staff Members

The Council officers and Technical Staff members are as follows:

Council Chair:	Ben Gonzales
Vice-chair:	Steve Torres
Secretary:	Amber Munig
Treasurer:	Kathy Longshore
Transactions Editor:	Brian Wakeling
Tech Staff Chair:	Clay Brewer
Tech Staff:	Ray Lee, Elise Goldstein, Mark Jorgensen, Mara Weisenberger, Brian Wakeling, and Patrick Cummings

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Interested in the Desert Bighorn Council?  
Questions about our organization or any of our projects?  
Please contact us – we'll be happy to answer your questions.

Desert Bighorn Council  
28 County Road 458  
Rochelle, TX 76872

Phone: 325-463-5001  
Fax: 575-382-5454  
E-mail: [clay.brewer@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:clay.brewer@tpwd.texas.gov)