

The **Bighorn**

WINTER 2015/2016



>>> PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS BIGHORN SOCIETY

Restoring Bighorn Sheep to their Native Ranges in Texas, and Ensuring the Viability of their Habitat

TEXAS BIGHORN SOCIETY'S 28TH ANNUAL ROUNDUP

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BIGHORN

The official magazine of the Texas Bighorn Society
Advertising Rates Effective 1-1-2009
Bighorn is published 3 times annually

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Bighorn is a four-color glossy publication, and the following is required:

Ads should be supplied on a disk and in one of the following formats:

- Photoshop
- TIFF (Preferred)
- PDF (Preferred)
- JPEG

Each ad should be: 300dpi (minimum) in CMYK color space

All other formats must be approved by our production staff

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Spring – February 1st

Summer – April 1st

Fall / Winter – October 1st

DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENT RATES

Location	Rate Per Issue
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Inside Back Cover (Supply as full color bleed)	\$270.00
Back Cover (Supply as full color bleed)	\$315.00
Full Page (Supply as full color bleed)	\$225.00
Half Page (4 ¾" Tall X 8" Wide)	\$175.00
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Quarter Page (1 ¾" Tall X 8" Wide)	\$ 75.00

Note: An exchange of advertising for Donations, Sponsorships, and In-Kind Advertising will be considered on a case by case basis.

PRODUCTION

Bighorn's production staff is available to help you build your advertising copy. Production costs, hourly rates, and estimates are available upon request.

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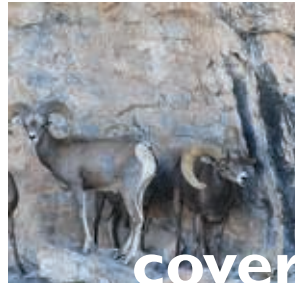
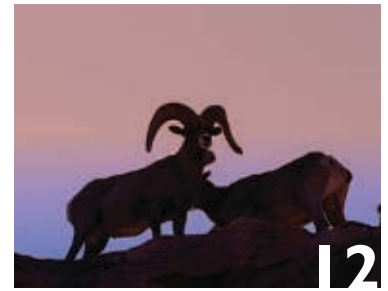
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www.midtownprint.com

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BIGHORN

Winter 2015/16

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Texas Bighorn Society

[Winter 2015/16 Membership Application]

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Life membership, Life Bighorn Magazine,
2 Window Decals, Wall Plaque & Badge

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Howdy, New Members!

On behalf of the current members, the TBS Officers & Directors, and all the Texas Bighorn Sheep your patronage will go to support, we'd like to welcome you to our organization! We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you at the next TBS event!

individual

Blake Blanchette
Jill Burns
Eddie David
Derek Fountain
Herman (Bing) Graffunder
Wes Howard
Mattie Huffman

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family

Michael Wheeler

student

Amanda Emert

Don't forget - Student Memberships are only \$25/year!
Encourage students you know to join today!

Help us stay current with your address and email information!
Contact Diane Gregson if you have moved, changed email addresses,
or have questions about your membership. She can be reached at:

dgregson@texasbighornsociety.org

806-745-7783

This & That

Check facebook.com/texasbighornsociety for more photos and videos!



Bull Roar

Q: Why is air a lot like sex?

A: Because it's no big deal unless you're not getting any.

Teacher: "Little Johnny, give me a sentence using the word, 'geometry.'"

Little Johnny: "A little acorn grew and grew until it finally awoke one day and said, 'Gee, I'm a tree.'"

I dressed my dog up as a cat for Halloween. Now he won't come when I call him.

I was staring at her boobs as she got on the elevator when she asked, "Would you please press one?" So I did. I don't remember much after that.

A blonde and a redhead own a ranch. They have just lost their bull. The women need to buy another, but only have \$500. The redhead tells the blonde, "I will go to the market and see if I can find one for under that amount. If I can, I will send you a telegram." She goes to the market and finds one for \$499. Having only one dollar left, she goes to the telegraph office and finds out that it costs one dollar per word. She is stumped on how to tell the blonde to bring the truck and trailer. Finally, she tells the telegraph operator to send the word "comfortable." Skeptical, the operator asks, "How will she know to come with the trailer from just that word?" The redhead replies, "She's a blonde so she reads slow: 'Come for ta bull.'"

In a knife fight with street entertainers I always go straight for the juggler.

A man is having a job interview.

Interviewer: What would you consider your greatest weakness?

Man: My honesty.

Interviewer: Honesty? I think that's more of a strength than a weakness.

Man: I don't care what you think.



June 2015 Board Meeting Summary

The Texas Bighorn Society conducted a board meeting on June 5, 2015 during its annual Roundup at Tapatio Springs Resort in Boerne Texas. Twenty-six people attended the meeting. Robert Joseph gave the treasurer's and membership reports. Currently, TBS has 738 members including 21 new members since the last board meeting. The Board voted on, and passed, a motion to appoint Froylan Hernandez to the Board as an advisory member. Congratulations Froy! We all appreciate all that you and all of TPWD do for the sheep and TBS.

Kathy Boone recapped the financial results of the 2015 Work Project. Amazingly, TBS came out ahead but only because of all of your

generous contributions during the Work Project auctions and the fact that no helicopters were used during the Work Project. The Board also discussed the 2016 Roundup, which will be held in Fort Worth on June 10-11th. So, please mark your calendars and make plans to attend. You now can't claim that you didn't know in time.

The Board also approved funding for damaged web cameras at Elephant Mountain and purchased trail cameras for Big Bend Ranch State Park. These cameras will help us keep track of the sheep we for which we all work so hard.

J.D. Bolner and James Payne start college this fall and will not be able to monitor and update TBS'

social media. Consequently, TBS needs a replacement social media coordinator(s). Please advise Kathy Boone if you know the difference between a tweet and post and would like to help.

Kathy informed the Board that TBS is now registered with Amazon Smile. Amazon Smile is an Amazon Foundation charity that donates money to non-profit organizations. When someone purchases an item through Amazon Smile, a percentage of the purchase price is awarded to the designated charity. So please purchase your next Amazon items through Amazon Smile and request that TBS receive the contribution. Every little bit helps.

Mar 04 02 13:02:43 4/6



This photo was taken from the TBS Webcams on Elephant Mountain. Go to texasbighornsociety.org to see more webcam shots featuring all varieties of wildlife!

September 2015 Board Meeting Summary

Kathy and Dan Boone graciously hosted the September Texas Bighorn Society Board Meeting in Lubbock, Texas. Fifteen people attended the meeting. Dr. Sam Cunningham introduced Dr. Warren Conway, who is a professor with Texas Tech University's College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources. Dr. Conway and the Board discussed potential opportunities to involve his Wildlife Management students in TBS' conservation efforts.

The minutes of the June 2015 Board meeting were reviewed and approved. Robert Joseph gave the treasurer's report, which was reviewed and approved. Robert also gave a membership report. TBS has 756 members, which includes 18 new members since the Board's June meeting. Kathy reported on two expense items that were previously approved by the Board via email votes; the General Liability Insurance and GLO lease payments. The Board also approved a motion to provide TPWD funds to attend the 2016 Wild Sheep Foundation convention.

The Board discussed the

2016 work project and potential work project locations, which included pen and guzzler work at Black Gap Wildlife Management Area or guzzler construction at Big Bend Ranch State Park. TPWD will continue to consider and decide on the best location. Kathy stated that the 2016 Roundup will be held on June 10-11 at the Fort Worth Stockyards and the 2017 Roundup will be held on June 9-10 at Tapatio Springs in Boerne, Texas. Please plan to attend.

The Board spend some time discussing the best way to advertise the Sheep tag that will be auctioned off during our 2016 Roundup. Potential advertising ideas included, handing out flyers while exhibiting during the Texas Wildlife Association, Wild Sheep Foundation, and Dallas Safari Club conventions, and advertising in the publications of other conservation groups. If you have any advertising ideas or know of someone who may be interested in the tag, please share them with us.

Jim Payne stated that Mark Lockwood, TPWD Regional Director of State Parks is interested in developing and installing desert

bighorn signage in Big Bend Ranch State Park. TBS will continue working with Mark on this project.

Froylan Hernandez discussed the recently completed 2015 sheep survey. He reported that the survey time was hampered by helicopter mechanical issues. Overall, the numbers are slightly down from last year. However, the Black Gap sheep numbers have increased slightly. There are no captures scheduled during the 2015-16 winter, but TPWD is considering a January 2017 soft release at Black Gap. The Black Gap bighorn management plan was also discussed. Froylan suggested that a better understanding of sheep movement is needed in the area. Sheep have been observed as far away as Sanderson, Langtry and East of Marathon.

Kathy mentioned that the newly remodeled San Antonio Witte Museum, which will reopen in 2017, would like to exhibit full bodied bighorn mounts and tell the TBS and bighorn sheep story. TBS will continue to work with the museum on this project. The next Board meeting will be held during the January 2016 Dallas Safari Club convention.

January 2016 Board Meeting Summary

The January Texas Bighorn Society Board Meeting was held during the Dallas Safari Club conference in Dallas, Texas. Seventeen people attended the meeting. The minutes of the September 2015 Board meeting were reviewed and approved. Robert Joseph gave the treasurer's report, which was reviewed and approved. Robert's membership report indicated that TBS now has 762 members. The Board discussed the 2016 work project which will be held at Big Bend Ranch State Park. TBS and TPWD will construct two new guzzlers at the Ranch and will check whether the

three guzzlers previously constructed need any work. If everything can be organized in time, TBS may also construct a viewing area at the Ranch that will include information on desert bighorn sheep. The "headquarters" for the work project will be the Lajitas Resort. Rooms are limited, but there should be plenty of campsites and RV hook-up slots available. Dan Boone reported that he continuously needs articles and content for TBS' Bighorn magazine. Dan encouraged anyone that had an interesting hunt, vacation or adventure please send an article to us so we can include it in the

magazine. TBS' Facebook page also consistently needs information and photos. So, if you have any interesting photos, please share them with us. Finally, Kathy appointed Jerrell Coburn and Sam Cunningham as members of the Board's nominating committee for the director positions currently held by Steve Bolner, Kathy Boone, Lynton Holloway and Jim Payne. The next Board meeting will be held before the Work Project on April 7th. Hope to see you all then.

**CALLING ALL HARD WORKERS.
YOUR ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED.**

2016 WORK PROJECT*

LAJITAS, TX | APRIL 7th-9th

*NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART

mark your calendars!

ARRIVE: April 7th

BEGIN WORK: April 8th

Campgrounds available. Limited hotel accommodations.

More details to come at www.texasbighornsociety.org and on our facebook page at www.facebook.com/texasbighornsociety

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Allen McGiffert
WYOMING | Oct 2014



Clay Beard
ARIZONA | Dec 2014



Ernie Davis
TEXAS | Dec 2013



Brad Griffith
TEXAS | Mar 2015



Gus Maxfield
ARIZONA | Dec 2013



Savannah Hart
UTAH | Nov 2014



Jim Wilson
NEW MEXICO | Nov 2013



Larry L. Altimus
UTAH | Oct 2014



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Summer 2015

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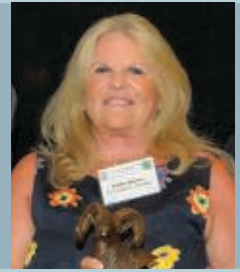


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**A WORKING PARTNER WITH THE TEXAS BIGHORN SOCIETY TO INSURE THE FUTURE OF
THE DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP IN WEST TEXAS**

Looking Forward to Another Great Year

President's Letter



Kathy R. Boone
TBS President

By the time you read this, I hope you will have had a wonderful Holiday Season and are starting 2016 with great expectation.

January brings the beginning of the annual hunting shows and conventions. TBS will have a booth at both Dallas Safari Club and Wild Sheep Foundation.

Texas Parks and Wildlife has blessed us again with a Desert Bighorn Sheep Permit. Texas is probably the best place around to get a record book sheep. This hunt will take place on Elephant Mountain Wildlife Management Area. Two Record Book sheep have been taken from there in the last nine months -- one with a bow. This tag will be auctioned at our 28th Annual Roundup Fundraiser in Fort Worth on June 11th, 2016. 100% of the proceeds from this hunt will be used for Texas Bighorn Sheep restoration, management, and research. TBS Officers have met with TPWD twice in the last four months to discuss the bighorn sheep program. In coming months, we will work together to insure we garner the best price for the sheep permit.

Our 2016 Work Project will be April 8th and 9th at Big Bend Ranch State Park near Lajitas. More information will be available on our website: www.texasbighornsociety.org.

Hope to see you at our upcoming events.

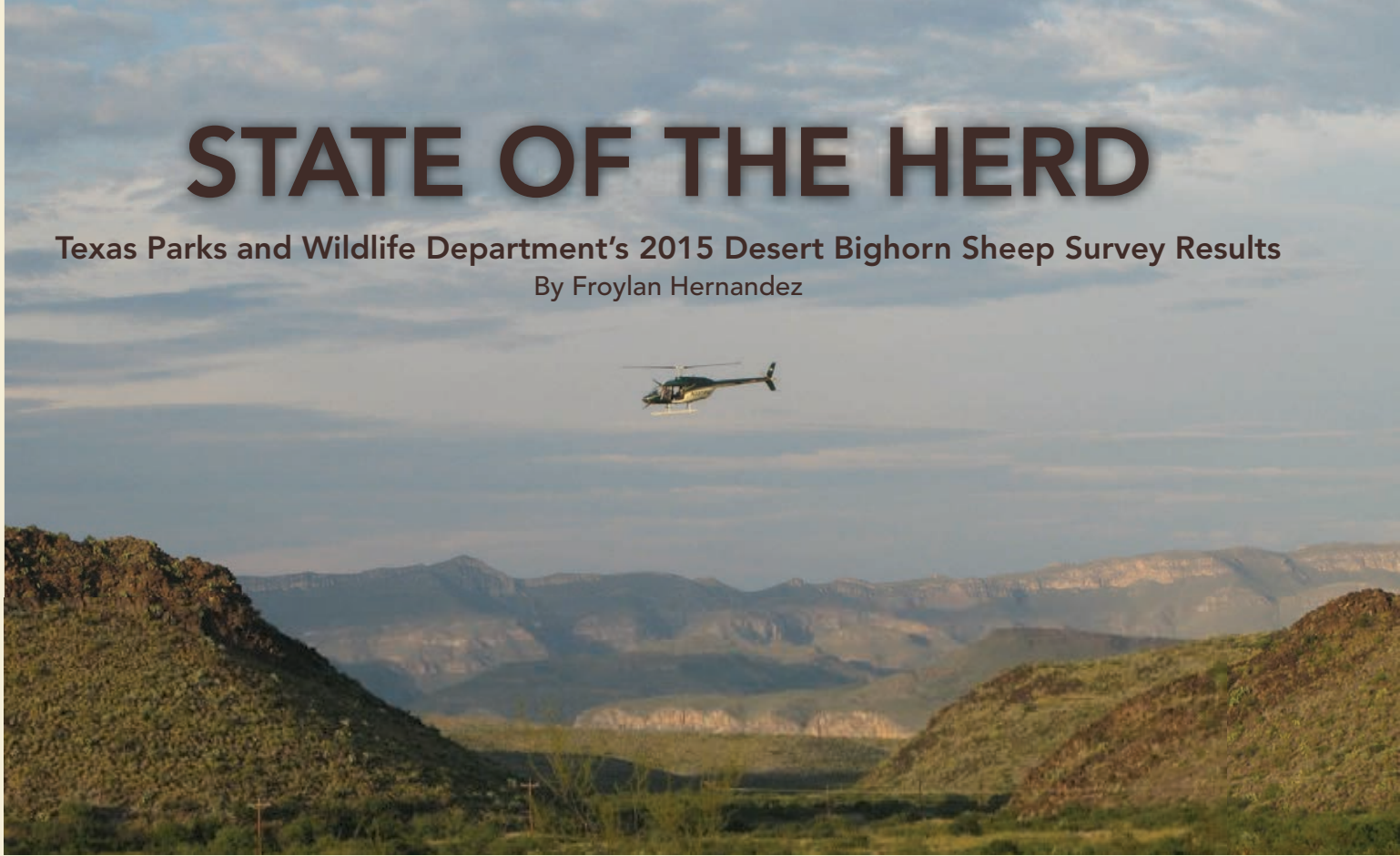
Sincerely,

Kathy Boone

President

STATE OF THE HERD

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's 2015 Desert Bighorn Sheep Survey Results
By Froylan Hernandez



The 2015 desert bighorn sheep surveys began somewhat on a bad foot. Originally scheduled to begin 3 August (first Monday in August), the sheep surveys were initially pushed back one week due to helicopter mechanical delays (i.e. chipped tail rotor). At first, it seemed like no big deal because turnaround time for the tail rotor was within 7 days. However, after nearing the end of the first week, it was pushed back several more days. This time, the bolts associated with the tail rotor were shearing off

when the mechanics would attempt to tighten them to specified torque... not exactly a good sign. In fact, we were told that because of the sheared bolts, about 25 helicopters of the same model were grounded nationwide until our bolt issue was resolved.

Luckily, the issue was eventually corrected, but by then it was already mid-August and likely not enough time to complete all surveys. Fortunately, we still had an active survey contract with the private contractor which

had been used in the past. With a few calls and schedule changes, HeliQwest was able to send Pilot Earl Watters to the rescue. However, that would mean we would have to endure Earl's non-stop chatter and know-it-all conversations. But because he is a good pilot (don't tell him I said that) and a friend, we took HeliQwest's offer.

Therefore, to ensure we would complete sheep surveys by 31 August, we had two helicopters in the air with two distinct survey crews. The TPWD

LOCATION	RAM AGE CLASS				TOTAL			TOTAL		RATIOS		
	I	II	III	IV	RAMS	EWES	LAMS	SHEEP	GROUPS	M	: 100 F :	L
BAYLOR MOUNTAINS	4	3	4	7	18	55	15	88	22	33	100	27
BEACH MOUNTAINS	9	27	11	21	68	97	43	208	63	70	100	44
BLACK GAP / BREWSTER COUNTY	0	6	9	14	29	61	17	107	26	48	100	28
BIG BEND RANCH STATE PARK	3	7	5	7	22	54	19	95	24	41	100	35
CARRIZO MOUNTAINS**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0
EMWMA*	2	15	12	27	56	54	16	126	20	104	100	30
SIERRA DIABLO MOUNTAINS	6	34	28	42	110	167	79	356	105	66	100	47
VAN HORN MOUNTAINS	0	2	3	10	15	22	6	43	6	68	100	27
EAGLE MOUNTAINS***	0	2	1	2	5	4	3	12	4	125	100	75
9 POINT MESA***	0	1	3	4	8	19	8	35	12	42	100	42
TOTALS	24	97	76	134	331	533	206	1070	282	62	100	39

helicopter started in the south at Black Gap WMA/S. Brewster County. Earl and the HeliQwest helo began surveys in the north on the Sierra Diablos. Both helicopters would work towards meeting somewhere in the middle.

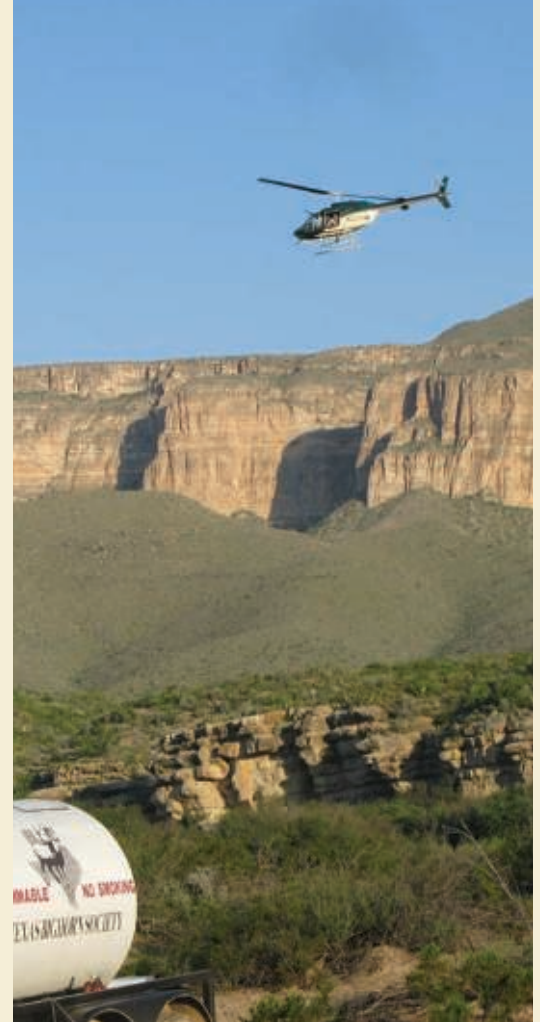
Both helicopters experienced mechanical problems and were grounded several times during surveys, burning precious time of an already delayed schedule. But good piloting and patience eventually paid off and we were able to complete surveys just under the wire – 31 August.

When all was done, the 2015 sheep surveys ended on a better foot, than what they had begun. A total of 1070 sheep were counted

(Table 1). The count does not include bighorns on Capote Peak. There are still collared bighorns on Capote and therefore didn't waste time on surveying/monitoring them.

Of note, positive growth was observed on BBRSP with almost 100 bighorns counted (95 actual count). The count does not include several collared bighorns which telemetry signals were heard for, but not observed. Those sheep were not included in count, since they were not actually observed. But, the corrected count is probably closer to 120-130 animals at BBRSP.

We hope to not have as many issues with next year's surveys and look forward to a better start.



TPW district biologist Mike Janis untangling a ram from a fence. The crew noticed he was in trouble from the air.



Old #37 and Little Toughie

*by Bonnie McKinney, Wildlife Coordinator
El Carmen Land & Conservation Co LLC*

This story takes place in Coahuila, México in the Sierra Maderas del Carmen in November 2004 when we were capturing and hauling desert bighorn sheep from Sonora, México back to the El Carmen Project. We had been capturing sheep from the Yaqui Reserve and hauled some thirty plus hours back and released the bighorns into the wild herd we were establishing at El Carmen. This was a mixed age class group of sheep, with several big rams, pregnant ewes and yearlings. We had radio collars on all of these bighorns and one ewe in particular was very old. Normally we wouldn't have taken her but she was pregnant and we were moving all of the bighorns from the Yaqui Reserve

to Coahuila. The release went well, and we were monitoring the sheep with radio telemetry daily. A few of the sheep had scattered out from the release site to the adjoining red rock hills, among them was the old ewe #37, and a younger ewe #35, both were pregnant and stayed together in the red rock country. We continued monitoring all the bighorns daily, and we would always know exactly where to look for #37 and her sidekick #35, both were in good shape, and hopefully would have healthy lambs by March. Several other bighorns were in this area but they would move in and out, not these two ewes, they had found their new home and apparently were not leaving. The

two ewes spent the winter months of 2004 in a small area in the red rock country, it had plenty of food sources, lots of cover, and good high vantage points. On January 29, 2005 I was checking telemetry it was an unusually warm day and the bighorns were moving around on the mountain feeding on the early spring greens that were cropping up, the two ewes had been joined by two other pregnant bighorn ewes and one ram. However, the two ewes kept to themselves, preferring their own company to that of the other bighorns. Possibly they were part of a group that had been separated when we captured them at the Yaqui, and decided they would stay by themselves. Either I or someone else was

checking the bighorns daily by telemetry as well as observations, we were still seeing the two ewes together in early February, and both were very pregnant and in great condition. One day in mid-February we were doing telemetry the day was bitter cold with an even colder north wind howling. I made the remark that both of those ewes would probably decide to have their lambs in this nasty weather. They had both moved off the rimrock and were down in a big drainage, #37 was standing amongst some rocks watching us watch her, and #35 was just below her and down the arroyo a short distance. We continued daily checks on all the wild bighorns and we were paying special attention to the two ewes that were still in the red rock country above Santa Salome. The weather had been unseasonably warm, but ole man winter wasn't finished, on February twenty-fifth morning we had a norther blow in bringing clouds right down on the mountain tops, wind, mist that shortly turned to sleet, then snow. Nasty weather and we were in the midst of bighorn lambing. Early the next morning the weather wasn't much better but the winds had died down, it was bitter cold and raining. Snow was covering the higher mountain tops and it was just plain miserable outside. Finally about mid-morning the sun popped out and we headed to the mountain to check bighorns and telemetry signals. Signals were loud and clear, the bighorns were ready for a little warm sunshine and were easy to spot standing on peaks soaking up the sun's warmth.

We left that area and headed across to Santa Salome to check on the two ewes. Their signals were loud and clear, but they were not together, #37 was in a rockpile right on top of the rimrock and #35 was over on the backside of the far

ridge. We pulled out scopes and binoculars and started searching. The grand ole lady #37 had a brand new lamb, the first wild born bighorn lamb in Coahuila state in over fifty years. There she stood in the morning sunshine with the tiny lamb by her side, and behind her the mountain tops were covered with snow. I will always have that picture she made in my memory. I called Bill on the radio and told him the good news. This old ewe had pulled it off, she had originally been captured on Tiburon Island, taken by boat to the mainland, then hauled in a trailer to the Yaqui Reserve in Hermosillo, Sonora, and she was there a number of years. Finally in 2004, she was net gunned again, fitted with a radio collar and hauled some thirty hours in a trailer to Coahuila, Mexico and released on new range in a new desert. She was a tough old ewe, and I was guessing her age to be at least twelve to fourteen years old, her face was completely white. Nevertheless, she had the honor of being the first bighorn ewe to lamb in the wild in a Mexican state that hadn't had wild sheep in many years. The next week #35 also had her lamb and shortly the two ewes with their tiny lambs were back together in the red rock country they now called home. In mid-March, #37 and #35 and both lambs left the red rocks and moved southeast about a mile or so and joined another group of wild sheep. Maybe something spooked them from the red rock country or maybe they just decided it was time to join the other bighorns. We continued telemetry and direct observations on all the bighorns but we always paid a little extra attention to the two ewes, who were still hanging around together even though there were other bighorns in the near vicinity.

All was well and the lambs

were growing and spring was early bringing lots of green weeds for the bighorns. I was out early on the first of April doing telemetry and picked up a mortality signal on the old lady #37, my first thought was "oh no, not her." The mortality signal was loud and clear and in her usual home range, I dug out my scope and started searching, shortly I located #35 and her lamb, and also #37's lamb which was a little bigger since it had been born a week earlier than the other lamb. I scanned the slope in vain looking for #37 but the vegetation is dotted with prickly pear, shrubs and rocks. I called in on the radio and Bill, Jonas and Salvador came up to where I was. They had the extra receiver and antenna and started hiking in to find her while I checked the other bighorns telemetry signals. A mountain lion could have moved into the area and killed the old ewe, as well other bighorns in the immediate area, but all the signals were live. When the guys started into the immediate area where the mortality signal was coming from ewe #35 and her lamb started moving off, and right behind them came #37's lamb. I watched with interest to see if the ewe was going to let him travel with her. Evidently she had no problem with that, and this little tough guy wasn't about to be left behind.

Bill called me on the radio and said they would be back down in a few minutes, I asked if a lion killed her and he replied, "no, natural causes." When they arrived back at the trucks, he told me that she apparently just died of old age, not a mark on her, and that it looked like she just keeled over in a big patch of prickly pear. Two days previously her signal was live. I hated losing that old ewe, and knowing her history seemed to make it worse. Granted she was really old, and certainly wasn't going to live forever



but she had become a favorite of mine and then there was her lamb. What was going to happen to him? He was too young to make it on his own, just a few days over a month old, would the other ewe adopt him. I had never read about bighorn ewes adopting another ewe's lamb, and I surely had never seen it happen. The little fellow was sticking by #35 and her lamb. We decided to wait and see what was going to happen. The next morning we were out early looking, sure enough there was #35 with both lambs, and the little guy seemed to be doing fine. I had my fingers crossed that #35 was going to adopt him.

Truth of the matter was, she didn't adopt him, he adopted her and he stuck to her like glue. I never saw her nurse both lambs, but for sure he was nursing and continued to grow. We watched the ewe and both lambs closely to see how this adoption was going to work. One day several weeks later #35 and both lambs were taking a noon siesta in the shade

of several big rocks. Shortly #35 woke from her siesta and both she and her lamb started walking off, the adopted lamb was still asleep. The ewe and her lamb were moving off toward the top of the peak when the adopted lamb woke up. He immediately jumped up, looked around and evidently saw his adopted family and took off like a small freight train, he caught up with them quickly and all three went out of sight over the rim. I laughed out loud, no way was this little guy going to let his adopted mama out of his sight. That fall when the large groups of bighorns got together, ewes, lambs of the year and yearlings from the previous year there was no way to tell which one the adopted lamb was, they all looked alike and were all close to the same size. So bighorn ewes will adopt other lambs in certain situations, of that I am sure, how often it happens I don't know. The old lady #37 left quite a legacy in that tough lamb she produced, when I see a mature bighorn ram

standing silhouetted on a peak I often wonder if that is "little toughie," I like to think so anyway.

Desert bighorns in western Texas and northern Mexico are now making a comeback from extirpation levels back in the 1950s. Texas Parks and Wildlife has wild population of bighorns in numerous mountain ranges in the Trans-Pecos Region, and just across the Rio Grande the population is growing and doing well in the Carmen Mountains in Mexico. The desert bighorn has a bright future barring any disaster like extended drought or disease. Hopefully through the work of the many dedicated men and women in both countries and the natural ability of the desert bighorn sheep to thrive in desert country they will remain for countless years for future generations to catch their breath when a see a big ram on the skyline of a desert mountain or watch tiny lambs frolic in rockpiles and skip across ledges where angels wouldn't dare tread.

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ELEPHANT MOUNTAIN WMA
MARCH 2015
OFFICIAL POPE & YOUNG SCORE 172 3/8

THINK TEXAS!

Black Gap WMA: An Untapped Resource

by Travis Smith
Black Gap WMA Biologist

Black Gap WMA is the largest state-owned Wildlife Management Area (103,127 acres) and lies within the Chihuahuan Desert, 55 miles south of Marathon, adjacent to Big Bend National Park. Black Gap's primary function is to provide hunting and fishing opportunities to the public as well as acting as an outdoor classroom and demonstration area for educational institutes.

Currently, hunting is permitted under the Public Hunting Lands program and is limited to those persons holding a valid Annual Hunting Permit. Legal species include mourning and white-winged dove, scaled quail, rabbits, hares, javelina, deer, and predators. Dove, quail, rabbits, and hare hunts are conducted under the Permission by Registration system and are open to the public. Gun and archery

hunts for Javelina, Mule Deer and Bighorn Sheep are conducted under the computer-drawn Special Permit system. Predator hunting is by phone registration only. Fishing is open year round on the Rio Grande and is open to the general public, but fishermen must possess one of the permits to access the river through the Area.

Non-consumptive uses on the area include: camping, hiking, bird watching, bicycling, and river rafting by private and commercial operators. Participants are required to possess an Annual Hunting Permit or a Limited Public Use Permit for non-consumptive activities.

Black Gap receives 700-1000 visitors per year with the bulk of public use occurring during cool spring and fall months by fishermen and during Quail season in October and November. Hunters and fishermen

have their choice of 30 primitive hunting camps (spread throughout the area) or 25 fishing shelters (along 25 miles of the Rio Grande), camps consist of a shade shelter, fire ring, and picnic table which may be used first come first serve.

Efforts are in progress to increase Mule Deer population by translocation, with 21 mule deer doe being released on Black Gap in February 2015 and more to come in 2016. A rebuild of many of the areas out dated guzzlers (rain water catchment and storage) is also planned for 2016.

Whether your favorite outdoor activity is hunting, fishing, camping, or just getting out of cell phone service and exploring, Black Gap can accommodate your needs. For more information please contact Black Gap WMA field office at (432)376-2216.



Black Gap WMA Public Hunt Calendar

Dove - Regular Season: Annual Hunting Permit, Permission by Registration (Sept.1-Oct.18, 2015) (Oct.24-30, 2015)

Dove - Late Season(Regular Quail Season): Annual Hunting Permit, Permission by Registration Dec. 19-31,2015

Quail - Early Youth/Adult, Permission by Registration. Youth must be under 17 years of age and be accompanied by an adult(AHP requirement waived) Adult must have a youth in their group to be allowed to participate. Bag limit to conform to that established for Brewster County, Texas. Oct. 24-25

Quail - Regular Season: Annual Hunting Permit, Permission by Registration (Oct. 31 - Nov. 15) (Nov. 21 - 25) (Dec. 14 - 31) (Jan. 8 - 14) (Jan. 18 - Feb. 28, 2016)

(AMD)**Deer/Javelina, Mule or White-tailed Deer** Buck Only (Archery), Javelina either sex. Unlimited **Coyotes**. Special Permit: Oct. 20 - 23 and Nov. 17 - 20, 2015

(YJE) **Javelina, Gun, Youth, either sex. Unlimited Coyotes**. Nov. 27 - 29, 2015

(MDG) **Deer, Mule or White-tailed** Buck Only (Gun) Unlimited **Coyotes**. Dec. 7 - 10, 2015

(GJE) **Javelina, Gun - Either Sex, Unlimited Coyotes**. Jan. 5 - 7, 2016.

Predator Hunt, Unlimited **Coyotes** and **Bobcats**. Jan. 15-17, 2016, By APH and Phone Reservation.

Open for Non-Consumptive/Equestrian Use, Limited Use Permit Required for anyone 17 years of age or older. Feb. 22 - Aug. 31, 2016.

AREA CLOSED: Oct. 19-23, Nov. 16 - 20, Nov. 26 - Dec. 13, 2015, Jan. 4 - 7, 2016, Jan. 15-17, 2016

SEPTEMBER 2015

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER 2015

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER 2015

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER 2015

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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JANUARY 2016

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
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FEBRUARY 2016

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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28	29					

MARCH 2016

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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27	28	29	30			

APRIL 2016

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

MAY 2016

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

JUNE 2016

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

JULY 2016

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

AUGUST 2016

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



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10 round:
Elastic Loops \$160
Leather Loops \$180

C-3C Murray Buttstock Shell Holder

\$50
Black \$55

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*6 round capacity for most African calibers

C-1 Murray Rifle Shell Holder



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Medium - 30.06, 300 Winchester, etc.	\$50
Long - 375 H & H, 300 Weatherby, 300 Jarrett, etc.	\$50
W size - 378, 460 Weatherby, 416 Rigby, 300 Rem Ultra etc.	\$60
Winchester Short Mag	\$55

S-11 Murray Traditional Gun Slip \$495

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C-7 Murray Carry All

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S-10 Murray Takedown Rifle or Shotgun Case

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S-2 Murray Ultimate Saddle Scabbard

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S-2A designed for scoped (up to 56 mm) rifles. \$495

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