



# Desert Bighorn COUNCIL MEETING

2009 • Grand Junction • Colorado

51<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Desert Bighorn Council

## Wednesday - April 8<sup>th</sup>

3:00-8:00 Registration Starts  
5:00 **SOCIAL sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Bighorn Society** (Ballroom)

## Thursday - April 9<sup>th</sup>

7:00 Registration  
8:00 **Welcome and Opening Remarks** (Ballroom)  
8:15 **Keynote address - *Bighorn sheep and domestic sheep: Past, Present, and Future* - David A. Jessup, DVM, Senior Wildlife Veterinarian, Supervisor, Office of Spill Prevention and Response, Marine Wildlife Veterinary Care and Research Center, CA Department of Fish and Game**

### STATE REPORTS

8:50 **Arizona - Brian Wakeling**  
9:05 **California - Mary Conner**  
9:20 **Colorado - Stephanie Duckett**  
9:35 **Mexico (Coahuila and Chihuahua) - Alejandro Espinosa Treviño**  
9:50 **Mexico (Baja and Sonora) - Raymond Lee**  
10:05 BREAK  
10:25 **Nevada - Pat Cummings**  
10:40 **New Mexico - Eric Rominger**  
10:55 **Texas - Calvin Richardson**  
11:10 **Utah - Anis Aoude**

## TECHNICAL SESSION I: STATUS OF NORTH AMERICAN WILD SHEEP

- 11:25      ***The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Wild Sheep Working Group*** - Kevin Hurley, Wyoming Game and Fish Department.
- 11:50      ***Further Phylogenetic Analyses of North American Wild Sheep*** - John D. Wehausen, White Mountain Research Station, University of California; Clinton W. Epps, Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife, Oregon State University; Rob R. Ramey II, Conservation Science Foundation.
- 12:15      LUNCH (Included in Registration Fees)

## TECHNICAL SESSION II: HABITAT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

- 1:30      ***Assessment of Predictive Habitat Models for Bighorn Sheep in California's Peninsular Ranges*** - Esther S. Rubin, Conservation and Research for Endangered Species, Zoological Society of San Diego; Chris J. Stermer, Resource Assessment Program, California Department of Fish and Game; Walter M. Boyce, Wildlife Health Center, University of California; and Steven G. Torres, Wildlife Investigation Laboratory, California Department of Fish and Game.
- 1:55      ***The Role of Fire History in Habitat Selection in Chaparral Ecosystems: Implications for the Restoration of Bighorn Sheep Populations*** - Heather E. Johnson, University of Montana; Vernon C. Bleich, Department of Biological Sciences, Idaho State University; Stephen A. Holl, Steve Holl Consulting; Lora Konde, California Department of Fish and Game; Steven G. Torres, Wildlife Investigation Laboratory, California Department of Fish and Game; and Paul R. Krausman, Boone and Crockett Professor of Wildlife Conservation, University of Montana.
- 2:20      ***Effects of Fire and Rain on Bighorn Sheep in the San Gabriel Mountains, CA*** - Stephen A. Holl, Steve Holl Consulting and Vernon C. Bleich, Department of Biological Sciences, Idaho State University.
- 2:45      ***Considerations When Re provisioning Water Developments for Mountain Sheep in Desert Ecosystems*** - Vernon C. Bleich, Department of Biological Sciences, Idaho State University; Glenn W. Sudmeier, Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep; and George C. Kerr, Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep.
- 3:10      BREAK

### **TECHNICAL SESSION III: ASSORTED RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT**

- 3:30**      ***Desert Bighorn Sheep Management, 1959-2009: Success and Setbacks - Raymond Lee***, Wild Sheep Foundation; **David Brown**, School of Life Sciences, Arizona State University; **Ron Thompson**, Game Management Division, Arizona Game and Fish Department; **Brian Wakeling**, Game Management Division, Arizona Game and Fish Department; and **Mara Weisenberger**, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Las Cruces, NM.
- 3:55**      ***Identifying Key Vital Rates for Endangered Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Recovery - Heather E. Johnson***, University of Montana; **L. Scott Mills**, Department of Ecosystem and Conservation Sciences, University of Montana; **John D. Wehausen**, White Mountain Research Station, University of California; and **Thomas R. Stephenson**, California Department of Fish and Game.
- 4:20**      ***Trans-highway Movements and Use of Wildlife Crossing Structures by Desert Bighorn Sheep at Arizona State Route 68 - Kirby Bristow and Michelle Crabb***, Arizona Game and Fish Department.
- 4:45**      ***Nocturnal Movements of Desert Bighorn Sheep in the Muddy Mountains, Nevada - Kathleen M. Longshore***, U.S. Geological Survey, Western Ecological Research Center; **Chris Lowrey**, U.S. Geological Survey, Western Ecological Research Center; **Matthew Jeffress**, Nevada Department of Wildlife; and **Daniel B. Thompson**, School of Life Sciences, University of Nevada Las Vegas.
- 6:00**      BANQUET (Included in Registration Fees) - Awards & Silent Auction

### **Friday - April 10<sup>th</sup>**

- 7:00**      Registration

### **TECHNICAL SESSION III: ASSORTED RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT, CONTINUED**

- 8:00**      ***GIS Mapping of North American Wild Sheep Translocations - Kevin Hurley***, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and **Richard Jones**, Wildland Rangers and Department of Biology, Northwest College.
- 8:25**      ***Chemical Immobilization in Bighorn Sheep: Update on New and Old Drug Combinations - Lisa L. Wolfe and Michael W. Miller***, Colorado Division of Wildlife.

## **TECHNICAL SESSION IV: PREDATION IMPACTS ON DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP**

- 8:50**            ***Causes of Declining Bighorn Sheep Numbers in Kofa National Wildlife Refuge, Arizona - Grant Harris***, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; **Lindsay Smythe**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and **Robert Henry**, Arizona Game and Fish Department.
- 9:15**            ***Diet Assessment of the American Puma (*Puma concolor*) and the Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) Using Fecal DNA Analysis to Address Desert Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis Canadensis*) Predation Management at the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge, Arizona, USA - Ashwin Naidu***, Conservation Genetics Laboratory, School of Natural Resources, University of Arizona; **Melanie Culver**, Arizona Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (USGS), School of Natural Resources, University of Arizona; **Ron Thompson**, Arizona Game and Fish Department; and **Lindsay Smythe**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kofa National Wildlife Refuge.
- 9:40**            ***Recovery of an Endangered Ungulate Using Predator Control and Captive Breeding 1979-2007 - Eric M. Rominger, Elise J. Goldstein, and Darrel Weybright***, Wildlife Management Division, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.
- 10:05**            BREAK
- 10:25**            **Business Meeting (All are Encouraged to Attend)**
- 12:00**            BREAK
- 12:15**            **Field Trip to Colorado National Monument** (Sack Lunch is Included in Field Trip for Those that Registered)