

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK  
P.O. BOX 299  
BORREGO SPRINGS, CA 92004



July 8, 1987

Northern Sheep Count---July 3-5, 1987

SHEEP COUNT PARTICIPANTS:

The results are in from the 17th Annual Bighorn Sheep Count. Everyone made it back to civilization without injury and many counters claim they'll be back for more next year. The total number of sheep is the second lowest in the count history but the ratios of lambs to ewes and yearlings to ewes is not as poor as some of us suspected might be the case this year.

Some sites were blanked as is usually the case during the census, but this year such hot spots as Tubb Canyon, Upper Middle Willows, Palm Canyon's First Grove, and Salvador came up with "zeros". Palm Canyon and Middle Willows combined for 82 of the 119 sightings. This year we are finding some of the traditional concentration areas are being abandoned and the sheep seem to be spreading out or diminishing. Possible areas for us to explore are the drought situation this year--the first one in over ten years, the spread of exotic viruses, what effect feral cattle removal may have on sheep habitat in the future, and what effect placement of sheep guzzlers may have on sheep numbers in the Vallecito Mountains. There is still a lot of work to do!! Counters in Upper North Fork of Sheep Canyon had a rare chance to view an adult cougar for quite awhile and everyone from the Coyote Canyon region saw a nice ram overlooking Lower Willows on their ride back to civilization on Sunday. Thanks to you all for your dedication and patience--hope to see you for the next count!

Sincerely, *Mark C. Jorgensen* Mark C. Jorgensen

SITE	EWES	LAMBS	YEARLINGS	RAMS	TOTAL
Lower Palm Cyn. Trail	0	0	0	0	0
First Grove-Palm Canyon	0	0	0	0	0
Second Grove	10	7	0	4	21
Third Grove	5	0	1	3	9
Fourth Grove	1	1	0	2	4
Tubb Canyon Guzzler	0	0	0	0	0
Middle Spring	0	0	0	0	0
Big Spring	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Hellhole	4	2	1	2	9
Upper Hellhole	0	0	0	0	0
Box Canyon-Lower Willows	1	0	0	2	3
Lower Willows	1	0	0	1	2
Monkey Hill	6	1	0	1	8
Middle Willows	27	8	6	7	48
Upper Middle Willows	0	0	0	0	0
Upper Willows	2	0	0	1	3
South Fork Sheep Canyon	0	0	0	2	2
North Fork Sheep Canyon	0	0	0	0	0
Upper N. Fk. Sheep Cyn.	0	0	0	1	1
Cougar Canyon	0	0	0	1	1
Deering Canyon	0	0	0	0	0
Salvador Canyon	0	0	0	0	0
Rattlesnake Spring	5	1	1	1	8
TOTALS	62	20	9	28	119