



2023 Desert Bighorn Council Meeting

Espino Conference Center
Sul Ross State University
Alpine, Texas



11 - 14 April 2023, Tuesday - Friday

Theme - The Good, The Bad and The Ugly: success, disease, and aoudad/predators

1st Announcement

The 57th meeting of the Desert Bighorn Council will be hosted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The 2023 meeting will be chaired by Froylán Hernández.

- **Venue:** Espino Conference Center, Sul Ross State University, E. Sul Ross Avenue, Alpine, TX 79830.
- **Airport Transportation:** Alpine is located on Hwy 90, approximately 3 hrs from El Paso International Airport and 2.5 hrs from Midland International Air & Space Port.
- **Meeting Registration:** Registration is currently not open, but will be available soon. Once open, early registration will be \$200/person through 15 March 2023, \$250/person for late registration.
- **Meeting Plans:** General meeting plans begin with a reception/social on the evening of Tuesday, 11 April, followed by oral presentations and special session in support of the meeting theme on Wed-Thurs (12th-13th), and concluding with a field trip to Elephant Mtn Wildlife Management Area on Friday, 14 April; Business Meeting Thursday afternoon.

Call For Papers

The theme of the 2023 Desert Bighorn Council Meeting is *The Good, The Bad and The Ugly: successes, disease, and aoudad/predators*.

At times, wildlife management issues and challenges may appear daunting. Sometimes, to the point of discouragement. So, sharing wildlife management and research success stories helps us stay focused during those challenging times. It is always uplifting when one knows that some battles are won.

Disease has plagued wild sheep populations for decades. Unfortunately, with two known disease-related die-offs, Texas recently joined the list of states facing disease challenges. While the disease could have originated from domestic sheep, it appears Barbary sheep, also commonly known as aoudad, could be carriers of pathogens associated to pneumonia die-offs. Recent results from tissue sampling projects and research studies are finding these pathogens in free-ranging aoudad populations. This raises concerns not only from a disease standpoint, but also from a restoration and translocation

perspective.

In addition to disease concerns, aoudad hunting has been growing in popularity, not only because of the feasibility and nature of the hunt, but also because of the open season. This adds to the difficulty, particularly when some bighorn areas have extremely high aoudad densities.

Furthermore, the status of the mountain lion in Texas is the focus of recent attention. And, predator management activities, in relation to bighorn management, are largely unpopular. This is likely because the goals behind those activities are poorly understood. It is our duty to ensure we provide public education opportunities to the general public, as well as to manage predators responsibly through sound science.

Please submit abstracts for consideration to Dr. Carlos Gonzalez at carlos.gonzalez-gonzalez@sulross.edu AND Calvin Richardson at calvin.richardson@tpwd.texas.gov. Also, please cc Froylán Hernández at Froylan.Hernandez@tpwd.texas.gov

Call for Papers: Deadline 7 March 2023

Instructions for Oral and Poster Presentation Abstracts:

Please submit abstracts electronically in Microsoft Word format with the title of your abstract in all capital letters and bold font. Abstracts should be no longer than 250 words in length. List all authors in capitals using first and last names, followed by their affiliation, mailing address, phone number and email address in standard letters. Please identify if the abstract will be an oral **or** poster presentation and the name of the presenter immediately after the abstract.

Abstract example:

CHALLENGES MUST BE MET WITH VIABLE SOLUTIONS.

FROYLÁN HERNÁNDEZ, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 109 S. Cockrell, Alpine, TX 79830. 432-244-9620 Froylan.Hernandez@tpwd.texas.gov

CLAY BREWER, Texas Parks and Wildlife-retired, 131 County Road 458 Rochelle, TX 76872. 325-792-4177 claybrewer1@outlook.com

Abstract: Planning for an in-person meeting was more challenging than a virtual one, but hoping all will go well.

Oral Presentation

Presenter: Froylán Hernández

For more information contact:

Froylán Hernández Froylan.Hernandez@tpwd.texas.gov 432-244-9620;