

Making a Difference for Wildlife

Hundreds of local conservation projects are undertaken annually by SCI Chapters. They are reinforced by many notable conservation initiatives funded by the SCI Foundation.



Bighorn Sheep Lamb Survival
Whiskey Mountain, Wind River
Range, Wyoming, USA
Total Funds: \$7,500

WYOMING's Whiskey Mountain sheep herd was a prolific habitat-restocking source throughout the West. Since the 1940s, Arizona, Utah, Idaho, South Dakota, Nevada and Wyoming have received almost 2,000 Whiskey Mountain sheep. All that came to an end in 1990, when the herd failed to recover from a pneumonia outbreak. After several poor years, Wyoming Game and Fish, the US Forest Service and BLM began research to find out why.

Microbes and lions, the usual suspects, were eliminated as field observations revealed that lambs were dying of selenium deficiency

a few weeks after birth. Selenium is an important trace element usually found in the forage eaten by the sheep. The ongoing research program has now shifted to a chemistry study to find out why selenium has become a limiting nutrient for this formerly healthy sheep population. The answer may well hold significance for sheep across North America.

Significant funding has been provided by SCI's Jackson Hole, San Diego and Idaho chapters; the SCI Foundation Sables; and SCI's Matching Grants program.

