Lone Pine National Park

Big Game Report 1986

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PREFACE

This report is a summary of the year's activities, as well as goals for the Big Game Reserve of Lone Pine National Park for 1987.

Permits

Herd Count

During the 1986 Hunting season the Lone Pine Game Reserve offered permits for the taking of Deer, Elk, Antelope, Buffalo, Rocky Mountain Goat, and Bighorn Sheep. A count of all herds as of 31 December 1986 revealed the current numbers of big game:

Big Game Census

Antelope		 	 •	.145
Big Horn Sheep		 	 •	.250
Buffalo		 	 	467
Deer		 	 . 1	,569
Elk		 	 	334
Rocky Mountain Go	pat.	 	 	.98

Hunting Hours

The hunting hours were continued as per recommendation of the 1985 program improvement proposal (ANPI85LPNP):

Hunting Hours

Tags

The Big Game Permits were issued by lottery, bid, and onceinalifetime priorities. All permits were monitored by the Checking Stations during the 1986 hunts.

- 1. Tags were removed by the Checking Stations and returned to the Ranger Station Headquarters.
- 2. Any permits not accounted by receipt of tags were contacted by mail through Ranger Station Headquarters.

The following table reflects the average number of tags taken daily at each checking station for the 1986 season:

Big Game Tags

Station	#1.	•			•		•		. 5
Station	#2.								.12
Station	#3.								.3
Station	#4.		•	•		•	•	•	.15
Station	#5.			_		_	_	_	. 9

Big Game Hunts

Conservation Measures

According to the 1985 proposal, the Game Reserve would conserve the Big Game resources by reducing the number of permits available in 1986. The permits were cut by 20% for the 1986 hunting season by raising the legal age for hunters of big game. No hunting license (except for Rocky Mountain Goat) was issued to any resident under the age of twenty-one (21) according to the State Big Game Proclamation.

Number Taken

The following is a graph of the numbers of big game legally taken during the 1985 and 1986 seasons:

Big Game Hunt

Numbe	rs			Le ===	egend = 1983
100					1984
90	===				
80	===	===			
70	=== === ***	===			
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1		=== ***	===		
1	=== ***	=== ***	===	===	
- '	=== ***		=== * * * === * * *	===	===
			=== *** === ***		=== === ***
20	=== ***	=== ***	=== ***	=== ***	=== ***
Туре	_			- 66 1	
Sheep	Deer	Ł⊥ĸ	Antelope	Buffalo	Big Horn

Hunter Education Program

The steps for obtaining Big Game Permits under this program are as follows:

- 1. Attend ten hours of instructions over a five week period.
- 2. No license will be given until the course is completed.
- 3. A Blue Card will be issued upon completion of the course.
- 4. The card does not need to be on the hunter's person while in the field; it need only be presented when receiving the game permit.
- 5. Any violation of the regulation will mean automatic forfeiture of the card (except in "Krivosi Heights").

The goals and improvements for the 1987-88 hunts are given in detail in the Program Improvements Report.

Summary

Because of increased revenues during 1986, due largely to Big Game Permits, the park was able to meet most of its outstanding obligations. However, the donated funds mentioned in the proposal are needed to complete the 1987-88 projects.