

HISTORY OF TRANSPLANTING MOUNTAIN SHEEP – NORTH DAKOTA

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CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP

The last native bighorn, an Audubon ram, *Ovis canadensis auduboni*, was reported killed in the fall of 1905 some 20 miles west of Grassy Butte on Maggie Creek near the Little Missouri River in the Badlands of western North Dakota.

There were no bighorn sheep in North Dakota until November 1956 when 18 California bighorns, *Ovis canadensis californiana*, were procured from British Columbia and translocated to a holding pasture in the same Maggie Creek area.

Since 1956, 53 additional trapping/transplant operations have been conducted by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department involving 247 sheep captured and released within North Dakota. In addition, 71 other bighorns captured during 3 additional operations in British Columbia and Idaho were transported to and released into the Badlands area.

Trapping and transplanting bighorn sheep will likely continue in North Dakota to supplement the aggregate population of between 300 and 350 California bighorns.

Table 1. Chronology of bighorn sheep trapping and transplanting in the North Dakota badlands (1956-1995).

Date Released	From	To	Bighorns Released			Additional Information and References
			Male	Female	Total	
11/05/56	British Columbia	Maggie Enclosure	9	9	18	NDG&F - 1958
01/15/59	Maggie Enclosure	SUTRNP (Free Ranging)	5	0	5	NDG&F - 1959
02/17/60	Maggie Enclosure	SUTRNP-Enclosure #1	2	3	5	NDG&F - 1960
02/25/60	Maggie Enclosure	SUTRNP-Enclosure #1	2	3	5	NDG&F - 1960
01/15/62	SUTRNP Enclosure #1	SUTRNP-Enclosure #1	6	4	10	NDG&F - 1962
01/16/62	SUTRNP Enclosure #1	Dutchman's Barn Encl.	2	0	2	NDG&F - 1962
01/16/62	Maggie Enclosure	Dutchman's Barn Encl.	0	3	3	NDG&F - 1962
01/16/62	Maggie Enclosure	Maggie Enclosure	3	0	3	NDG&F - 1962
01/17/62	Maggie Enclosure	NUTRNP (Free Ranging)	2	0	2	NDG&F - 1962
12/04/62	Maggie Enclosure	Maggie Enclosure	0	3	3	NDG&F - 1962
12/05/62	Maggie Enclosure	Moody Plateau	6	5	11	NDG&F - 1962
12/05/62	SUTRNP Enclosure #1	Dutchman's Barn Encl.	0	2	2	NDG&F - 1962
12/05/62	SUTRNP Enclosure #1	Moody Plateau	2	0	2	NDG&F - 1962
01/05/65	Maggie Enclosure	Maggie Enclosure	2	5	7	NDG&F - 1965
01/25/66	SUTRNP Enclosure #1	Moody Plateau	0	3	3	NDG&F - 1966
01--78	Sully Creek	Sully Creek	0	1	1	NDG&F - 1978
01--78	Moody Plateau	Moody Plateau	0	2	2	NDG&F - 1978
01--78	SUTRNP	SUTRNP	0	1	1	NDG&F - 1978
01--78	Maggie Enclosure	Maggie Enclosure	0	2	2	NDG&F - 1978

Date Released	From	To	Bighorns Released			Additional Information and References
03/-/83	Chateau De Mores	Lone Butte	1	8	9	NDG&F - 1983
03/25/86	Dutchman's Barn Encl.	Dutchman's Barn Encl.	2	4	6	NDG&F - 1986
03/25/86	Dutchman's Barn Encl.	SUTRNP Enclosure #2	2	0	2	NDG&F - 1986
03/25/86	Dutchman's Barn Encl.	Moody Plateau	4	0	4	NDG&F - 1986
03/09/87	Maggie (Free Range)	SUTRNP Enclosure #2	0	4	4	NDG&F - 1987
03/10/87	Moody Plateau	Sheep Creek	2	8	10	NDG&F - 1987
03/10/87	Moody Plateau	Dutchman's Barn Encl.	0	3	3	NDG&F-1987
03/11/87	Chateau De Mores	Dutchman's Barn Encl.	0	2	2	NDG&F-1987
03/11/87	Sully Creek	Sully Creek	1	2	3	NDG&F-1987
03/11/87	Chateau De Mores	Chateau De Mores	0	4	4	NDG&F-1987
03/12/87	Dutchman's Barn Encl.	SUTRNP Enclosure #2	0	1	1	NDG&F-1987
03/15/88	Lone Butte	Lone Butte	0	7	7	NDG&F-1988
03/15/88	Lone Butte	Hettinger Sheep Barn	1	0	1	NDG&F-1988
03/15/88	Lone Butte	Dutchman's Barn Encl.	0	1	1	NDG&F-1988
03/21/88	Dutchman's Barn Encl.	Wannagan Creek	2	8	10	NDG&F-1988
03/15/89	British Columbia	North Bullion Butte	2	8	10	NDG&F-1989
03/19/90	SUTRNP Enclosure #2	SUTRNP Enclosure #2	3	4	7	NDG&F-1990
03/19/90	SUTRNP Enclosure #2	Lone Butte	2	0	2	NDG&F-1990
03/19/90	SUTRNP Enclosure #2	Dutchman's Barn Encl.	1	0	1	NDG&F-1990
03/20/90	Chateau De Mores	SUTRNP Enclosure #2	1	1	2	NDG&F-1990
03/20/90	Chateau De Mores	Dutchman's Barn Encl.	0	6	6	NDG&F-1990
03/21/90	Moody Plateau	SUTRNP Enclosure #2	0	2	2	NDG&F-1990
03/21/90	Moody Plateau	Lone Butte	1	9	10	NDG&F-1990
03/23/90	Maggie Creek	South Bullion Butte	3	8	11	NDG&F-1990
11/28/90	East Fork Owyhee River, Idaho	Killdeer WMA0	6	17	23	NDG&F-1990
12/08/91	Owyhee River, Idaho	Dutchman's Barn Encl.	3	7	10	NDG&F-1991
02/06/92	SUTRNP Enclosure #2	Moody Plateau	2	0	2	NDG&F-1992
03/-/92	Moody Plateau	Moody Plateau	2	10	12	NDG&F-1992
03/-/92	Maggie Enclosure	Maggie Enclosure	0	10	10	NDG&F-1992
01/19/95	Duchman's Barn Encl.	Burnt Creek	6	5	11	NDG&F-1995
01/25 to 03/08/95	SUTRNP Enclosure	Wannagan Creek	4	1	5	NDG&F-1995