

Notes from the Editor

The California red-legged frog and the coho salmon, both listed species, are two species that have been studied and reported on extensively in the scientific literature. Yet, amazingly, there are still new things being discovered about them. In this issue of *California Fish and Game* we are publishing two species notes describing methodological discoveries that will improve our ability to locate, in the case of red-legged frog egg masses; and track, in the case of juvenile coho salmon; which will give biologists a better chance to manage their recovery. These improvements can be reported and the benefits to the species may be realized because the authors went through a process to design a study, collect data, analyze that data, and then draw conclusions on what it all meant. Finally, they did the most important thing in science (my opinion); they wrote it up for publication in a scientific peer-reviewed journal. Too many times this process ends with a final report or an oral presentation without making its way to publication. There is absolutely nothing wrong with a final report or an oral presentation; they are both encouraged in the Department's new policy on integrity in science. But also, the policy commits the Department to support quality science and provides standards for scientific conduct and key elements for scientific work including scientific publications. By completing this process, we give others a chance to learn and build on our finding, which adds integrity to our work as scientists.

On the cover is a Nelson's bighorn sheep. This is to honor and celebrate the life of Dick Weaver, a longtime sheep biologist with the Department. I met Dick only twice as a young wildlife biologist. Dick retired during my third year with the Department. But I remember those times clearly. One was at a statewide wildlife managers meeting we had in Oakhurst. I was so impressed and in awe of the knowledge, dedication and professionalism on display by the old guys, including Dick. Dick gave a presentation on sheep and the guzzlers. So eloquent. Little did I know at the time that I would see one of those guzzlers 25 years later. All the old guys—my mentors Bruce Elliott, Don Pine, Jim Lidberg, and all the others—made lasting contributions to wildlife in this state and they should all be thanked.

We featured bighorn sheep with our archive paper, and to contrast that, we have a new paper on sheep by the most recent past Editor-in Chief of *California Fish and Game*, Vern Bleich. It's nice to know some people retire but they don't stop working.

Armand Gonzales
Editor-in-Chief

Link to the Department of Fish and Wildlife Scientific Integrity Policy:
<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=149016&inline>