

2021 WSFR National Virtual Federal Aid Coordinators Meeting Questions and Answers (Q&A)

Topic/Speaker: Success Story - Nevada Department of Wildlife: Bringing Bighorns Back by Alan Jenne, Habitat Division Administrator and Mike Scott, Game Division Administrator

1. Keren Dill: How much does each of the large guzzlers cost to build/install?

The total price for a new large capacity unit ranges from \$40,000 and \$50,000 with all material, labor and mileage included. Material costs alone are approximately \$30,000 for a 8,000 gallon system with a 54'x60' catchment apron.

2. Michael Schiavone: What sustained the 30K sheep population in the 1860s? Was it all natural springs? Is a 1,700 unit guzzler system sustainable for the long-term?

Prior to the 1860's all natural water sources were available to and sustained Nevada's wild sheep populations. Since Nevada is the driest state in nation, settlement of the wet and watered productive lands occurred first taking away many of the more accessible water sources.

As to the sustainability of 1,700 guzzlers, it is possible, especially as we improve our designs and employ better materials. Historically, we have seen a small percentage of total failures due to maintenance issues with most failures due to catastrophic events such as fire and flood. We have a 3 year monitoring cycle where we visually inspect every guzzler to ensure timely maintenance. Given our programs history, structure, and support we see no future issues with ensuring the long-term commitment and sustainability of artificial water developments. In addition to the artificial water developments we are currently expanding our natural water source protection program to help ensure the integrity of the remaining waters on Nevada's public lands.