Another Champion¹

SYRIL N. ZUFELT

Range Conservationist, Inyo National Forest, Bishop, California.

Highlight

A large silverleaf buffaloberry has been found growing in western Nevada. The plant is over 20 ft tall, has an average crown spread of 18 ft, with a circumference of over 5 ft at breast height.

The western edge of the Great Basin located in eastern California and western Nevada appears to be conducive for growing unusually large plants. Besides having the largest big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) (Schneegas and Nord, 1967), bristlecone pine (*Pinus aristata*) (Dixon, 1961), single-leaf pinon² (*Pinus monophylla*) and Utah juniper² (*Juniperus osteosperma*); the area can now lay claim to the largest silver buffaloberry (*Shepherdia argentea*).

The shrub, one of about 25 large specimens, was found growing at Truman Meadows on the Inyo National Forest by Nick Zufelt and Dave Dunaway, Wildlife Biologist for the forest. Truman Meadows, 50 miles north of Bishop and just over the California border into Nevada, is located at 7,200

¹ Received May 25, 1970; accepted for publication June 11, 1970.

FIG. 1. Silverleaf buffaloberry plant in Western Nevada. Plant is 20 feet high, has a crown spread of 18 feet and an aggregate value of 91.0.

feet elevation and is surrounded by pinon pine and Utah juniper.

The plant is 20 feet six inches tall, has a stem circumference of five feet six inches at breast height and an average crown spread of 18 feet. Using the formula developed by Dixon (1961), the aggregate value is 91.0 easily surpassing the value of the largest previ-

ously buffaloberry's score of 53.5 located in Oregon.²

The plant has more characteristics of a tree than is usually associated with

² Personal communication with Mrs. Carol Ronka, Assistant to Chief Forester, the American Forestry Association, Washington, D.C.

this species, namely a single main trunk with the majority of branching towards the top.

The shrub is growing on the edge of a sub-irrigated meadow in deep sandy loam. Entangled with wild rose (*Rosa spp.*) it is also associated with wiregrass (*Juncus balticus*), bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), various sedges (*Carex spp.*) and

rubber rabbit brush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*).

The large size is attributed to the deep soils with abundant subsurface moisture and its protection from grazing animals by the abundant wild rose surrounding it. Annual precipitation has little significance as it is less than 12 inches per year.

Literature Cited

- DIXSON, DOROTHY. 1961. These are the champs. American Forests 67(1): 40-50; (2):41-47.
- SCHNEEGAS, EDWARD R., AND EMOR C. NORD. The Monarch big sagebrush of White Mountain. J. Range Manage 20:51-52.