

The economic benefits of big-game in the study area also are reflected in willingness-to-pay, as determined by the amount sportsmen pay to join one of the local hunting clubs. Two of the five hunting clubs in the area offered information. Those two clubs stated that dues total \$150,500 annually. Individual memberships ranged from \$50 to \$250 per year, with some requiring a \$2,000 initial (one-time) membership fee in addition to the annual dues. Sportsmen pay a considerable amount for hunting rights, perhaps as much as it costs landowners to support the herds.

Big-game may bring additional nonmonetary benefits to local residents, state residents, and society as a whole. These benefits also should be considered when making management decisions relative to big-game.

Conclusion

The case study indicates that more research is needed in

the area of range/wildlife economics. The benefits derived from wildlife are difficult to assess with the methods of travel cost, user day, willingness-to-pay, or similar methods. There are no reliable methods to measure the economic impact of big-game use of private land.

The study does point out the inequities associated with migratory big-game animals. Those landowners incurring damage or impacts are often not able to share in the economic benefits from big-game animals.

References

- Hansen, Christopher S. 1977.** A report on the value of wildlife. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Intermountain Region.
- Hansen, Christopher S. 1979.** A report on the value of wildlife. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Intermountain Region.
- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. 1984.** Information obtained through interviews with personnel.

The Future from the Past?

Dan Fulton

Cowboys and Merino sheep are two of the more prominent adjuncts of range management, so last spring my wife Mary Ann and I went to Spain to see their origin. We were in Spain a little over three weeks, taking one bus trip of 14 days and another of 10 days. These were conducted by two different well-known and reputable tour agencies. The guides, on both tours, were very able persons, highly trained in art, architecture, history and philosophy. They might have been a little deficient in agricultural training. We frequently, and almost always unsuccessfully, tried to determine the annual precipitation at various spots in Spain. We did know from reading our *Encyclopedia Americana* before leaving home that the average annual rainfall in the interior is no more than 16 inches. We did see much of Spain where a few centuries ago a hundred or so out-of-work, grub-line-riding, cowboys put their horses on a couple of sail boats and captured North and South America.

We visited many fine galleries and museums where the guides talked with great knowledge on art. We visited many great cathedrals where the guides had opportunity to display their knowledge of architecture. The many miles we travelled gave them ample opportunity to expound their philosophy and history. We saw only a few close-herded sheep between the fields and olive groves. There were also some cattle. Once we saw five head of cattle herded by two men. Both guides lectured us on the Spanish economy which had a 20 percent unemployment and after giving this figure speculated on the causes.

Both guides told us of the rule of Ferdinand and Isabella and the defeat of the Moors at Granada in 1492 ending the period of 800 years of Moorish rule of Spain. This was the year that Columbus sailed to America bringing the golden age to Spain. Following that, both guides went into stories of

the Inquisition and left us with an inference that the Jews and the Moors had been very good entrepreneurs and that the eradication of many of them during the Inquisition was the root of much of the current problem.

Recently Mary Ann and I attended the National Range Conference at Oklahoma City. Everyone was optimistic and hopeful for the future, determined to do what is needed for rational management of our resources for our needs. The tone of the Conference was synopsisized by Dick Whetsell, chairman of the closing session ". . . Opportunities for the Future" in "What is best for Rangelands of the World." Leonard Wilson stressed an upbeat tone and opportunities of the future. We were told to look at the total of our resources, that we have responsibilities, and that laws and regulations are not good solutions. We left the Conference much encouraged and hopeful of progress in attainment of the science and the art of Range Management. As one of the organizers of the conference said, "It is a breath of fresh air." Might it bring about tenure that will give an incentive and make possible better management of some of our national resources.

Comparing the words of the Conference to what we heard on our trip to Spain, one possible alternative occurs to us: A few centuries from now an American tour guide might be lecturing a group of tourists from off planet telling them that in the 20th Century we had some good range managers but they were burned at the stake so we didn't get the job done. Let us not repeat the past.

