

Adopt a Bighorn



**Help Preserve and Protect
Zion National Park's
Desert Bighorn Sheep**

Desert Bighorn Sheep are a Symbol of Zion's Wilderness

A resounding crack echoes through the canyons and across the slickrock expanses of Zion National Park wilderness: somewhere out there, two desert bighorn rams charge one another and clash horns in a spectacular fight for breeding rights.



Bighorn sheep are sometimes called a “wilderness species” because they require some of the most remote and protected areas in the West. Today, Zion visitors may be lucky enough to see a bighorn in the park, but this has not always been the case, for Zion’s bighorn history is a tumultuous one.

Zion has long been home to bighorn, for they are well-depicted in prehistoric petroglyphs and were often seen in the early days of European settlement. However, combined stresses from human settlement led to their extinction in Zion in the 1950s. Their historic range lay vacant for over 20 years until the 1970s when bighorn were returned to the park through an intensive reintroduction program. Only 12 bighorn were brought to Zion to re-establish the population, and despite the odds, they have prospered and the population is now estimated to be over 150 individuals.

Adopt a Bighorn to Preserve and Protect a Healthy Zion Ecosystem

By joining the Adopt-a-Bighorn program, you can help protect the desert bighorn sheep, the park’s symbol of wilderness. When a park supports a healthy population of such a sensitive species, it is proof of a healthy ecosystem and its ability to support many other wildlife species, including mountain lions, California condors, Mexican spotted owls, and peregrine falcons.

There are Two Ways to Adopt a Bighorn:

- At the Zion Natural History Association bookstore, see a sales clerk for the enrollment form to make a donation and adopt your plush bighorn immediately.
- Or join on our Web site at www.zionpark.org.

Adopt-a-Bighorn is a cooperative program of Zion National Park and the Zion National Park Foundation.

