



OREGON CHAPTER OF FNAWS NEWSLETTER

www.OregonFNAWS.org

Volume 12 | Issue 4

December | 2011

President's Message

by **Mike Boethin, President**

As 2011 comes to an end, and 2012 begins, OR-FNAWS and your Board of Directors wish all of you Happy Holidays. 2012 brings our January Board Meeting at the home of Brent & Carole Tannock. Nominations for Directors and Officers is on the agenda.

We have Don Whittaker from the ODFW as our guest speaker. Don will elaborate on the ODFW Budget for Bighorn Sheep & Rocky Mountain Goats. Including what's new for 2012. Members and possible new members are invited. Contact information and a map to meeting is shown on the following pages.

Recently OR-FNAWS has been very active & involved with OHA, RMEF & OCA. In supporting ODFW Wolf Plan. OHA & OR-FNAWS jointly hired Jeff Mornarich of Dole Coalwell, Clark, Mountainspring & Monarich; to file an Amici Curiae Brief in opposition to Petitioners' Motion for Stay Pending Judicial Review of Agency Rule. OHA & OR-FNAWS are vigorously involved in the promotion, protection and management of wildlife in Oregon and actively participated in the formation of the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan, which includes the Oregon Administrative Rule Petitioners are challenging. As your President and with the support of your Board of Directors; OR-FNAWS will continue to promote professional wildlife management and educate the public as part of our mission statement. This is only the first phase of

protecting wildlife and sportsman's rights. If anyone would like to volunteer their time and thoughts to this growing concern of Gray Wolves in Oregon. Please contact your director or myself.

In the coming months you will start receiving notices for the April Banquet/Fundraiser. Your Banquet Committee needs its members to be actively involved in donating to the fundraiser. No donation will be turned away or not used!!! If anyone of you want to be more involved or offer expertise in the event!! Please contact Brent Tannock. He is your Banquet Chairmen.

Sheep and Goat Hunters for 2011, congratulations on your successful Hunts. Our Newsletter wants your stories!! We want to read about your hunt and the experience you have just completed. Contact me at mikebo@bendbroadband.com.

Happy Holidays, travel safe and looking forward to seeing you at the January Board Meeting or in April. Thank you for supporting OR-FNAWS.

Without all of us, Putting Sheep on the Mountain would be far more difficult...

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Look to the Future... April 21, 2012

2012 Banquet & Fundraiser will be changing locations



Main Exhibit Hall, www.faircomplex.com
Washington County Fair Complex
873 Northeast 34th Avenue, Hillsboro, OR
(503) 648-1416

WA County Fairplex in Hillsboro

The banquet committee made a recommendation to the Board of Directors to change location for 2012. After listening to the options; the Board voted to change the date & location to the Washington County Fairplex in Hillsboro.

The new date of banquet/fundraiser will be April 21, 2012. You can visit oregonfnaws.org for more information.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend!



Map of Wa. County Fairplex
873 NE 34th Ave,
Hillsboro OR
97124
(503) 648-1416

Direction to 2012 Banquet/Fundraiser

From Portland Area

1. Head north on NW 6th Ave toward NW Couch St
2. Take the 1st left onto NW Couch St
3. Take the 1st left onto NW Broadway
4. Turn right onto SW Clay St
5. Merge onto US-26 W via the ramp to Oregon Zoo/Forestry Center
6. Take exit 62A for Cornelius Pass Road S
7. Merge onto NW Cornelius Pass Rd
8. Turn right onto NE Cornell Rd
9. Turn left onto NE 25th Ave
10. Turn left at NE Grant St
11. Turn right

Destination will be on the right

From Eugene Area

1. Head north toward Coburg Rd
2. Merge onto Coburg Rd
3. Merge onto I-105 E via the ramp to I-5/Springfield/Portland
4. Continue onto OR-126 E
5. Take exit 4B on the left to merge onto I-5 N toward Portland
6. Take exit 292A to merge onto OR-217 N toward Tigard/Sunset Hwy/Oregon Coast
7. Keep left at the fork, follow signs for US-26 W/Tillamook/Astoria and merge onto US-26 W
8. Take exit 62A for Cornelius Pass Road S
9. Merge onto NW Cornelius Pass Rd
10. Turn right onto NE Cornell Rd
11. Turn left onto NE 25th Ave
12. Turn left at NE Grant St
13. Turn right

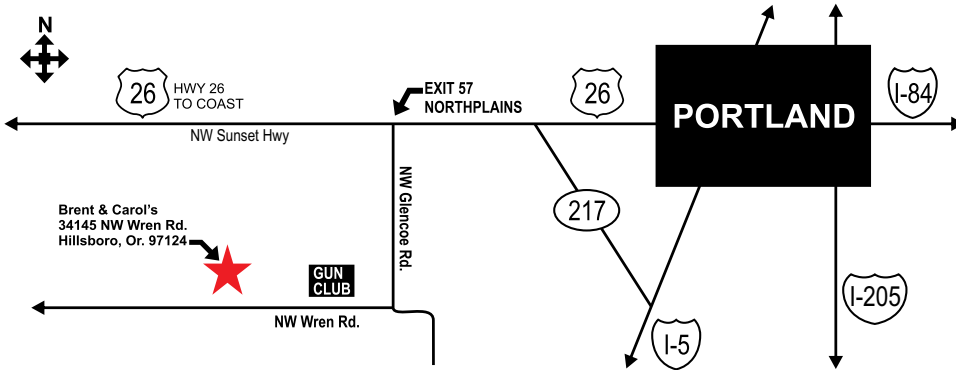
Destination will be on the right



Need Lodging?

Comfort Inn - Next Door to the Fair Complex
3500 NE Cornell Rd, Hillsboro, OR 97124
(503)648-3500, www.ComfortInn.com

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS... the Winter Board Meeting will be held
at Brent and Carole Tannock's home on January 7th, 2012
Starts at 8:30 am - Food and drinks will be provided!**



DIRECTIONS to WINTER BOARD MEETING

1. Come through Portland and head WEST towards Oregon Coast (Hwy 26)
2. Take a LEFT on Exit 5 (Northplains)
3. Go through traffic light - Approx. 1 1/2 miles SOUTH, off Hwy 26 (Road is pretty straight)
4. Turn RIGHT onto Wren Rd. & go 1 mile WEST
First house past the Gun Club (Green 2 tone)
Call of you need more info: 503-648-9468 or 503-784-6598

2012 BOARD MEETING AGENDA

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Don Whittaker, ODFW Rep. to discuss 2011-12 sheep and goat transplants 2. Nomination & Election of Officers 3. Wolf Program Discussion 4. 2012 Hands-on Projects 5. 2012 Fundraiser/Banquet Budgets 6. Commitee Assignments | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Advertising & Social Media 8. Tri-State / 2012 WSF Summit 9. Kirkwood Display 10. New Hunt Ideas & Budget 11. Membership Process & Fees 12. Grand In Aid Projects |
|---|---|

Putting wild sheep on the mountain is serious business!

**Major Events
in 2012**

Dates and times are subject to change. Please check our website for latest information.

January 2012

- 7 Winter Board Meeting
Brent & Carole Tannock's
34145 NW Wren Rd
Hillsboro, Or. 97124

- 19-21 WSF Sheep Show
Reno, NV

- TBD Pre-Banquet Meeting

February 2012

- TBD Juniper Cut - Dayville, Or.
Aldrich Mts

April 2012

- 21 2012 Fundraiser/Banquet
Wash. Co. Fairplex in
Hillsboro,Or.

MAY 2012

- 19 South Table Owhyee
Guzzler Installation

June 2012

- TBD Youth Day
- 22-24 Tri-State & WSF
2012 Sheep Summit

- TBD Deschutes River Canyon
Weed Control Project

July 2012

- 14 Sheep and Goat
Orientation
- 15 Summer Meeting
Discovery Center
The Dalles, Or.



Looking to the Future...

OR-FNAWS is on FACEBOOK! Please “LIKE” us and share with your friends & family.

So What Exactly Is Facebook?

Facebook is a social networking site that allows users to connect and share information.

Facebook is an Internet site that allows users to post online profiles (including photos, information about themselves, etc.) and then connect to other users who share the same interests, experiences, etc. [Founder Mark] Zuckerberg threw up Facebook while he was a student at Harvard to provide an online avenue for students to find one another. It has since morphed into a social network for everyone.

Facebook is built around groups and is made up of many networks, each based around a company, region, high school, or college. Many nonprofits already have accounts and are reaping the benefits for their organization and their cause. One reason why it's so popular is because it's very easy to use. Adding friends, updating your profile, changing your status message — whatever you do takes just minutes.

How to Get Started

1. Sign up and create a Facebook Account.

To get started, go to Facebook.com, click “Register” and fill out a short online registration form. Once you're signed up, you'll need to have a profile to share information and photos about your organization with others.

What to include in your organization's profile? Photos, links to your Web site, and videos can all be added. And remember, when creating your profile, you can include as little or as much information as you feel comfortable.

2. Find friends and connect with your community.

Now that you have a Facebook account, connecting to people in your community is easy. Start by using the Search feature to find friends who are already using Facebook and request to be their friend. You can add just about anyone you can think of, including your members, supporters, volunteers, staff, and even your board members. Don't worry if you don't have a big list right away. Once you have two or more contacts, you'll be able to expand your social network by locating mutual friends and contacting them.

3. Send and receive messages.

Facebook offers a message board feature called “The Wall” that displays member profile pages. You can use it to post all kinds of messages to your network. But beware: Comments can be viewed by all your contacts in your list of Facebook friends.

4. Create a group for your organization or event.

Just like every other social networking site, you can create and join groups on Facebook. And there are a growing number of groups dedicated to social change.

Why create a group? Creating groups

allows you to share information about pretty much anything. You can create groups for your organization or event to make announcements, join discussion groups, or even to share pictures. There are two kinds of groups on Facebook — open and closed. So be sure to create open groups so that people can find it and your members can invite others to join.

5. Upload and share pictures.

One of Facebook's most popular features has been the ability to upload and share pictures. Facebook also offers an unlimited quota, with their only restriction being a 60-photos-per-album limit.

The process is very simple. Start by creating an album which you can then assign limitations to (for example, visible to my members only) and upload photos within them. The album is then put into your profile, and other users can see and comment on them. You can also “tag” your photos with the names of people you mention and share the photos via a Web link or by email. What's more, you can order prints online!

6. Promote your events.

Facebook is a great place to promote your organization's events. Simply create the event, add pictures, and invite your contacts to join. In addition to groups, you can post details of events in your profile so people can RSVP. You also have the option to leave the event open to people in your network or open for everyone.

Owhyee Guzzler Project

May 18-20, 2012



We are looking for volunteers to help install South Table Guzzler. This will be the 10th and final guzzler installed on the breaks of the Owhyee River Canyon as part of a cooperative project between BLM, BOR, ODFW and Volunteers from many organizations. If you are interested or know someone who may be interested please pass this information along. To ensure we have enough food please **RSVP by Friday May 11th.**

We will be camping at Twin Spring Campground this year. Twin Springs is located on the west side of the Owhyee Reservoir (see direction below). Volunteers should show up on Friday May 18th for dinner at 7:00 pm which will be provided. There will be a short briefing after dinner to discussing the weekend's activities. Saturday we will travel south on unimproved roads approximately 1 hour. Accessing the site involves a 2 mile walk along the ridge top and a moderate climb to

the site. The major materials have been flown in but some supplies will need to be packed in mostly hand tools. We will install ground apron style guzzler and construct a fence around the site.

As with past projects meals will be provided Friday evening through breakfast on Sunday. Additionally you will need to bring, good boots, gloves, day pack, canteen, camping gear and personal effects be prepared for variable weather conditions. There will be some BIG tents available to sleep in.

For additional information and to RSVP contact: Scott Torland, Wildlife Biologist
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Ontario Field Office
541 889-6975
scott.j.torland@state.or.us



Directions

From Ontario head South on Hwy 201 through Nyssa to Owhyee Junction, 18 miles.

Turn Right on Owhyee Avenue continue 6 miles to Mitchell Butte Road

Turn Left on Mitchell Butte Road and go 1/2 miles and turn right the road crosses the canal and turns to gravel.

Continue on gravel road to Twin Springs which is approximately 20 miles follow signs.

The road into Twin Springs is an improved gravel road with some rough spots and can be very wash boardy in places. It also gets very slick when wet. This could be a problem for larger RV's and 2 wheel drive vehicles.

Along the gravel road there will be signs indicating the way to Twin Springs Campground.



These guzzler projects make sure future generations have bighorns to see.

2010 California Bighorn Sheep Hunt

by John Rogers

Is there really such a thing as a “Do it Yourself” Sheep hunt? I think not! From the minute you find out you’ve drawn the coveted tag, your world changes. It is at first as exhilarating as it is overwhelming. Immediately your thoughts turn to the logistics of putting together the hunt-the “Hunt of a Lifetime”! There are worries that keep you up at night and details that need to be addressed. There are biologists to contact, seminars to attend and maps to obtain. One thing you’ll notice immediately about the people you meet while planning this hunt, is their willingness to help. It could be in the form of unit information, words of encouragement or of past hunt experiences. It could also come with the loaning of equipment-high quality optics, snake chaps, or just about anything else you could imagine. Then if you are fortunate, you’ll assemble a select group of hunters that will be willing and able to share with you in this incredible journey. This crew will be formed of friends, family, hunting partners and sometimes new acquaintances. Some will have experience hunting sheep and some will be eager just to experience sheep hunting.

So it was for me in 2010. I found myself in this enviable position of having the honor of putting together just such a hunt. The scouting trips, pre-hunt planning and all the rest, seemed to blur the summer months until the mid-August opening



John Rogers - Oregon - East Beatty's Butte-570B1

arrived. The main camp was set and there was more scouting and glassing. A spike camp was set closer to the chosen area and a plan in place. Opening morning finally arrived - hiking and glassing, glassing and hiking. Spotting a band of rams, a closer look showed them all to be very young. Moving on to the back side of a small ridge where more sheep had been spotted, we moved in for a better look. Picking our way over and down through the rimrock, we spotted a band of rams bedded about 70 yards away. Other rams moved in from just below our position and joined them. They were all now up and feeding-if somewhat nervously. Most of the rams in this group were of a younger age class but two of them appeared to be somewhat larger. As they fed away

from us they were very difficult to judge. I held off on this group only to regret the decision. One of the rams was broomed off and was actually a pretty good ram! The pressure of that decision and all the implications that went with it was almost unbearable. After agonizing over my decision for what seemed like an eternity, I decided to try to get back on this group of rams. They had headed for a small canyon about 600 yards below us. As we were

making our way down through the rimrock, four of the rams had circled around the mouth of the canyon below and ended up on the far side looking directly back up at us! Immediately we sat down and waited. We got as comfortable as we could and broke out the spotting

Is there really such a thing as a “Do it Yourself” Sheep hunt? I think not! From the minute you find out you’ve drawn the coveted tag, your world changes. It is at first as exhilarating as it is overwhelming.

scopes and watched and waited. We were perched on a steep side hill and baking in the sun as we waited-watching the rams watch us. Did I mention we waited? For 6 ½ hours we waited until all the sheep finally disappeared into the bottom of the small canyon. Only then were we able to cut the distance and move down the slope to the edge of the canyon. The two largest rams were immediately spotted directly below us about 120 yards away. The decision to take the “broomed” ram was an easy one with the two of them standing together. The hunt was ended when the ram presented a broadside shot. A very dark, Roman nosed ram that was later aged at 9 ½ years old.

This hunt could not have taken place without the many people involved, directly or indirectly. My thanks to the ODF&W, Oregon FNAWS, OHA and the many other groups, organizations and individuals that had the vision to restore Bighorn Sheep to Oregon. To my wife Carmen, who was so supportive and knew just how important this hunt was. To the “crew” of Gary, Rich and Rick who were absolutely incredible. My deepest thanks is to our God for the gift of His creation-the incredible landscape, the animals, and for this “Once in a Lifetime” opportunity.



John Rogers - Oregon - East Beatty's Butte-570B1

“One thing you’ll notice immediately about the people you meet while planning this hunt, is their willingness to help.”



Did You Know?

Annual membership to OR-FNAWS is only \$30 for an individual and \$55 for a family? What a great gift idea!

My 2011 John Day River Big Horn Sheep Hunt

by John Shipley

Wow! I can't believe it is over. All the preparation that goes into a hunt like this with the river float on top of it made life crazy for a while. My tag was for the East John Day River. My journey started with my wife running out of the house on a sprint screaming towards me. It meant one of two things, one of the kids was headed for the hospital or I had drawn my dream tag of 20+ years of applying. Thanks God it was the latter! It just so happened that my father was over at that time so the tears of joy were shared together. He like many others has been applying since the beginning. Our dream of a sheep hunt had finally become a reality.

The first decision was too float or not to float. After the great orientation by OFNAWS in The Dalles and time spent with my wildlife biologist, I started contacting past hunters and some of the land owners to get a good perspective of the trip. My end decision was I wanted the biggest adventure I could get out of my once in a lifetime tag. Float the John Day River.

My hunting party consisted of my Father, brother, wife, life long friend and my 10 year old son. I decided to pre float the river just a week before my season opened. Then, float again and go after what I saw. A lot of people told me I was wasting my time because the sheep move constantly. But what the pre float did do for me was show me the core areas the sheep were in at the present time, which were not the traditional areas of the past. Also, way down river we came across an old ram that had lots of mass and character that I fell in love with.

So with our scouting report in hand we decided to float by a lot of the so called best areas. This put a lot of stress on me knowing I could not go back once we went on by. Still we pressed on. The first two days of the season we saw very few sheep on our side of the river. We still had not reached the point where we had seen the bulk of the sheep on our pre float.



John Shipley and his ram.

On the morning of day three of the hunt we moved into an area that my dad, wife, and son had spotted a heard from the night before. Still not the shooter ram I was looking for. Just when I thought the morning was a bust, my father spotted sheep down river a mile or so. I put the spotting scope on them and was elated to see my old ram lying in the middle of the bunch. My father and I jumped into a raft and headed down river to make a stock. After 9 hours of cat and mouse I had my ram feeding below

me at 150 yards right where I wanted him. This journey end the same way it started, with hugs and tears from my father. I could not of scripted it any better. To spend that moment with him was priceless.

My ram was a 10 ½ year old beast! The biologist said he could even be 11 ½. He had no fat on him at all. We figure this was going to be his last winter for sure. I could not be prouder of any trophy than this old ram.





MEMORANDUM

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE



Hells Canyon Bighorn U P D A T E

Summer lamb surveys in the Lower Imnaha herd (Snake River and Chesnimnus Units), indicate excellent lamb survival. Late July counts found 42 ewes with 36 lambs or 86 lambs per 100 ewes. This is the highest survival rates we have seen for many years.

Many of the Hells Canyon herds have been plagued by lamb pneumonia outbreaks that normally cause death in the first 6 weeks after birth. Bacteria, *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* has been found in most lambs recovered that died in these epidemics. This is a bacterium common in domestic sheep and goats that can spread to bighorns with devastating results and is the common killer of Hells Canyon bighorn lambs.

Other herds surveyed in late July were Muir Creek, Oregon that had 11 ewes and 3 lambs, and Lower Hells Canyon, Oregon that had 13 ewes and 4 lambs. While lamb survival was lower than we would like, it's an improvement over past years when no lambs survived.



Shelby's Once-in-a-Lifetime Ram Hunt

by Laurie Byerly

To all. We hunted hard for three days, had a failed stalk opening day, we had rams in the trees at 60 yards but no good shot and little time. On the afternoon of the third day we picked up a helper "Walker Powell", he has hunted the area with his dad and knows it well. I spotted a group of rams across canyon and we decided to go after them. It was about 6:00 pm so daylight going away quickly. We side hilled around above the bedded rams and back tracked a couple of times until we were able to sneak in above them at about 150 yards in a Mahogany patch. The rams had stood up and were looking at us. The ram she shot was perfectly broadside, she took a quick rest on a tree and fired, the ram did not react. I was sure she had hit him, the hillside exploded with six running rams. We lost sight of them and I quickly hiked back to Travis and our packs (Flashlights) while Walker and Shelby looked for blood before we lost all daylight.

By the time I reached Trav it was dark, we hiked down to Shelby and Walker where they had found blood, but no ram. After following the wounded ram for 100-150 yards we lost the blood trail. We had called for Laurie to drive in on a ranch road and were pondering what to do next we certainly did not want to leave the ram overnight because the meat would spoil. After a few minutes, Walker happened to make a 30-40 yard circle and found the



OR-FNAWS members Shane, Laurie, and Shelby Byerly with Shelby's ram.

ram dead not 30 yards from us. Shelby had made a perfect one shot kill and hit the ram right behind the shoulder, he still ran about 200 yards. He ended up being 5-1/2 years old and scored 146-3/8" we were hoping for a little larger ram, but he is a great trophy for a 14 year old girl's second big game animal ever. We got some help packing him off the hill and got into camp at 1:30 a.m. that night/morning. Thanks to all of our friends that graciously took the time to come over and help on Shelby's once in-a-lifetime Oregon Ram hunt.

~ A very proud dad.

**Have a Fantastic
Once-in-a-Lifetime
Hunt to share?**

Please send your article and photos to Mike Boethin at mikebo@bendbroadband.com or become a fan and share them on our OR-FNAWS facebook page!



New wolf pack crosses Snake into Oregon

By Matthew Brown / The Associated Press

Oregon has a new wolf pack in the Hells Canyon area along the Idaho border, and two members of the state's original pack have split off to roam new territory in the central part of the state — developments that move the state closer to taking wolves off the state endangered species list.

State wolf coordinator Russ Morgan said Tuesday that tracks show at least five wolves in the Snake River unit, near the northern end of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area on the Idaho border. Photos show at least one pup. Morgan emphasized that they have only been able to document five, and there could well be more.

Morgan said biologists have picked up scat samples and sent them off for genetic analysis to see where the new pack's members have come from — Idaho or an existing Oregon pack.

Fourth pack in Oregon

This is the fourth pack to establish in Oregon since wolves introduced in Idaho started moving west in the 1990s. Once four packs produce two pups a year for three years running, the species can be taken off the state endangered species list, though protections would remain in place.

Meanwhile, radio collar tracking

data shows two young males from the Imnaha pack in northeastern Oregon have gone west into Central Oregon. Two others went east to Idaho. The Imnaha pack was the first to produce pups and has become the most notorious because it is the only one to have preyed on livestock.

Two of the four remaining members are under a kill order from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Oregon Court of Appeals has put a temporary stay on the order while it considers a challenge from the conservation group Oregon Wild.

Generally 'good news'

"Generally it's good news for wolf recovery in Oregon if ODFW or poachers don't shoot them," said Rob Klavins, of Oregon Wild. "This should provide the state an opportunity to refocus on conservation rather than killing wolves at the request of people who think the only good wolf is a dead wolf."

Oregon Cattlemen's Association President Bill Hoyt and northeastern Oregon rancher Todd Nash did not immediately return telephone calls for comment.

Morgan said there have been no reports of livestock attacks linked

to the new Snake River pack or the two young wolves roaming Central Oregon.

The 3-year-old wolf known as OR-3 left the Imnaha pack in May. A tracking flight picked up his collar in July in Wheeler County and the Ochoco Mountains at the end of September.

The wolf known as OR-7 left the Imnaha pack Sept. 10 and has gone through six counties — Baker, Grant, Harney, Crook, Deschutes and, most recently, Lake.

"Every time he shows up somewhere, within a week or two he is somewhere else," said Morgan. "There is no way to tell where he ends up. For all we know he may end up in California."

Don't forget...

Check the renewal date on your memberships. Annual membership to OR-FNAWS is only \$30 for an individual and \$55 for a family. What a great gift idea!

ODFW relocates a dozen bighorn sheep to Jim Creek drainage

By Jim Ward / East Oregonian

It's a bird; it's a plane, no, it's ... bighorn sheep.

That's what onlookers were likely thinking last month, parked along the banks of the Snake River, several miles upstream of Brownlee Reservoir.

Sheep were literally falling out of the sky.

At least, that's what appeared to be happening, until you could see the red Hughes 500 helicopter descending from the clouds — attached to a 70-foot rope with bighorns dangling at the other end.

All these “flying” sheep were part of day-long effort to capture two young rams and 10 ewes. These animals would help restore a herd to the Jim Creek drainage in the Chesnimnus unit just south of the Washington border. According to Vic Coggins, Wallowa district biologist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the capture effort was sorely needed.

“Prior to 1995, the Jim Creek area had a thriving herd of bighorns until they contracted a devastating disease which nearly wiped them out,” he said. It was suspected these bighorns had earlier come into contact with domestic sheep.

“Wild sheep are notoriously susceptible to domestic sheep diseases. Many of these diseases don't affect the domestics much, but can really hammer their wild



Sheep in transport to Jim Creek drainage.

cousins.”

The project was conducted by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, with help from the U.S. Forest Service and others. Launching a helicopter, and its three-man crew, up and down the steep ridges above the Snake River can be very expensive. Hunting groups, including the Oregon chapter of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited and the Oregon Hunters Association donated the funds to cover the costs.

What was truly amazing, from this writer's point of view, was the incredible efficiency exhibited by all those involved with the effort.

About 20 people — a mix of wildlife biologists, veterinarians and well-seasoned assistants — literally assaulted the sheep with great care. The animals received nasal and rectal swabs and blood was drawn. All this would be sent to a lab to test for the animal's current health. Measurements were taken and ear tags were attached. Several of the animals received radio collars. These would allow the researchers to track the animals in their new haunts. The animals were kept calm with leg hobbles and face masks and, in mere minutes, the sheep were loaded into a horse trailer. The parent herd that supplied animals for the capture came from the Lookout Mountain area, east of Baker City. Baker district ODFW

These animals would help restore a herd to the Jim Creek drainage in the Chesnimnus unit just south of the Washington border. According to Vic Coggins, Wallowa district biologist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the capture effort was sorely needed.

biologist Brian Ratliff was more than happy to allow the removal of “his” sheep.

“The Lookout Mountain herd is doing quite well and these twelve animals won’t be missed,” he said. “We like to keep the herds from getting too large, as they tend to roam a bit when they approach over-crowding. This can lead to wandering animals coming into contact with domestics. When an infected animal returns to the herd it can be devastating.”

The helicopter crew was equally efficient. Leading Edge Aviation, headquartered in Lewiston, Idaho, conducted the sheep capture. These guys travel the country contracting with game departments, tribes and others to capture many species of wild critters. Their last project found them tackling moose in Minnesota. This summer they were leaping out of their ‘copter on bison. After the Snake River bighorn effort, they headed out to Wyoming for more sheep.

This is how it works: the three-man crew includes a pilot with a steady hand on his controls. This guy has to zoom over treacherous terrain, often in high and unpredictable winds, and steady his airship over galloping, scared-to-death wild animals. He has to move in close enough for his gunner to get aim on the animal with his net gun. He does this knowing his crew’s safety greatly depends on his timing and split-second maneuvers.

Then there’s the muggers — not to

be confused with those creeps that grab old ladies’ purses in the dark alleys of New York City. These guys not only have to be incredibly barf-resistant to all the ‘copters banking and diving, they have to have a steady hand with the net gun. They have to be willing to leap on such things as galloping bull moose and tank-like bison.

When asked how one would qualify for a job like this, Mike Atchison, manager of the capture crew, said they usually don’t go down to the local unemployment office.

“The mugger we now have was a state champion wrestler and renowned marksman,” he said. “He’s not afraid of a broken rib or detached shoulder on occasion, either.”

Atchison added that once you put a few animals to the ground, you begin to learn good techniques.

“It really isn’t as difficult or as dangerous as you might think,” he pointed out.

All went well that day. By now, 12 Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep are checking out their new digs. Hopefully they’ll prosper and provide viewing and hunting opportunities for years to come.

So next time you find yourself along the Snake River and you notice bighorn sheep flying around, just know that these aren’t a new hybrid that morphed into a predator-eluding form. It’s likely just Mike and his boys bringing down another batch of wild sheep to your friendly, neighborhood ODFW crew, preparing them for transport to another wild place in Oregon’s backcountry.

ODFW relocates a dozen bighorn sheep to Jim Creek drainage



Ram Down!!!

by Chris Tipton



Well I can hardly believe it! My sheep season is over and never to be done again. But by Gods' grace and blessing I shot my dream ram with my longbow on day 7 of this extreme hunt. He is 7 years old, 160" greens score and was the only close encounter and only shot opportunity I had at any ram. The hunt was very demanding, exhausting, and draining. I'm glad its over. He is the only ram ever to be listed from Oregon in P&Y Traditional Record Book and I feel honored. My partner, Scott and I spotted 5-18 rams a day but usually couldn't stalk them because of location, wind or wasn't the ram I wanted. I wanted a heavy, wide, full curl ram that would score in the 160". I spotted this ram in early Aug. with buddy Tor when we were packing water in, (smart decision!). I nicknamed him Pretty Boy cause he was awesome to watch.

Friday before the season I spotted him and pretty much dedicated the season to getting him, although I hunted a number of other big rams. I saw higher scoring rams but none that looked as impressive as Pretty Boy. The other hunter was a 14 year old girl named Byerly who got a 5 year old ram on day 4 of her hunt that scored 148". Her family and I camped together and were wonderful people to shared camp with.



2011 Oregon Aldrich Mtn., TRADITIONAL BOWHUNTER, Chris Tipton

She hunted very hard and am I very proud of her for making a one shot kill, the last 10 minutes of light on her last day to hunt.

“only ram ever to be listed from Oregon in P&Y Traditional Record Book ”

I spotted my ram early in the hunt with 4 other rams and thus called them the Elite 5. On day 7 I spotted them going up the same rim and watched as they disappeared. I waited until midafternoon to go after them and proceeded the 1000' descent. I peeked over the ledge and 80 yard below I spotted a young ram bedded under a juniper with 2 other shooter rams. As I crawled up to edge of a 40' ledge directly above them I heard rocks roll to my right 30 yards away. Two rams,

a young ram and Pretty Boy, bedded in the cliffs. When they finally bailed off that 15' cliff to join the other rams below, I stood up with my toes hanging over that 40' cliff with my longbow between my legs at full draw I shot him at 40 yards while he was quorting away directly on top of him. The shot was perfect and died in 40 minutes, 60 yards away. Its 4:30 in the afternoon.

The pack was my most extreme pack ever, climbed 1000' straight up with 90 to 100 pound packs on Scott and my back. It was 5 miles back to 4 wheeler and we hadn't eaten or drank anything to speak of all day. We were exhausted so we spent the night right there and at daylight climbed, clawed, crawled our way out of that hole.

The meat is excellent and the cape is in great shaped for a life sized mount. I left out a lot important details but you get the idea of what we went through. Hope you enjoy the essay.

But by Gods' grace and blessing I shot my dream ram with my longbow on day 7 of this extreme hunt. He is 7 years old, 160" greens score and was the only close encounter and only shot opportunity I had at any ram.



Bowhunter, Chris Tipton and partner, Scott, with ram.

Washington panel OKs wolf management plan

By The Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. — The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission on Saturday approved a proposed plan for managing gray wolves, a decision sure to spark criticism from hunting and livestock groups that complained it calls for too many of the predators.

Members of the commission called the plan a good compromise that will keep wolf management in the hands of state officials, instead of the federal government. They emphasized on Saturday that the management of wolves in Washington was a work in progress and that the plan was merely a guide for future action.

Commission Chair Miranda Wecker said the panel shouldn't overemphasize the importance of the management plan.

"What matters most is how we react to wolves on the ground," she said.

Wecker said the plan is important, however, because it establishes Washington state as the authority over what happens to wolves and other wildlife in the state, instead of the federal government.

"As long as we have no plan, we are extremely limited in our management authority," she said before the vote was taken. The chairwoman said this understanding is what pushed her to vote for it after feeling very conflicted in the days before Saturday's hearing.

State wildlife officials have been working since 2007 to determine

how best to recover wolves in their historic territory and ultimately delist them from endangered species protections, while reducing and managing wolf conflicts with livestock and humans.

Wolves migrated to Washington from Idaho, Oregon and British Columbia, though they are listed as endangered throughout Washington under state law and as endangered in the western two-thirds of the state under federal law.

Currently, five wolf packs have been documented in the state, all in eastern Washington. Three reside in the northeast corner, with one in north-central Washington's Methow Valley and the fifth in the Teanaway Valley of Kittitas County. Wolves have been sighted in southeast Washington's Blue Mountains, where they are believed to be crossing between Washington and Oregon.

Have a Great Hunt you want to share?

Please send your article and photos to Mike Boethin at mikebo@bendbroadband.com

Perfect ending to my once-in-a-lifetime hunt

by Tish Fields

My family's year began with many changes in our life. I accepted a promotion, which required relocating from eastern Oregon to the Portland area. We also had a late August wedding of our son and new daughter-in-law to attend. Because of these obligations, I asked my husband Jack not to apply for any big game tags this year. Unbeknownst to me, my husband, Jack, only applied for Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goat in Oregon, because our chances of drawing a tag were so remote.

One day in June, I walked to the mailbox and found the results of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Big Game Controlled Hunt drawing results. I was in total shock upon reading I was successful in drawing a Bighorn Sheep tag for the Lower Owyhee Unit in eastern Oregon. My scream was heard across the street in our house, and Jack came outside to see what was wrong. I told him my scream was from the excitement of learning I had drawn a once-in-a-lifetime Bighorn Sheep Tag. Our summer plans instantly became one mission, finding some nice rams in the Lower Owyhee. We called our good friends John Echanis, Dave Stiefvater and Danny Smith to tell them the news. All three said they would help scout. John also asked our friend Larry Tuttle, who has been active with ORFNAWS for a long time, to help with the hunt. With our team assembled, my quest to shoot a nice ram was off to an excellent start.

Shortly after being notified of my good fortune, I received an invitation to attend a workshop sponsored by ORFNAWS and the ODFW for Sheep and Goat tag holders. This meeting was so helpful because we were able to meet



Tish Fields 2011 Sheep Hunt

the local ODFW Biologists, as well as some of the other hunters.

The Ontario Biologists, Scott and Phil were very helpful, giving several locations of rams in the Lower Owyhee Unit. Fortunately, we were familiar with the Lower Owyhee unit; however, we just needed to locate the rams from the information provided by Scott and Phil. John, Larry, Danny and Jack spent several weeks scouting the unit. Because of my new job, I was only able to attend one scouting trip. The Lower Owyhee unit is very remote and rugged, bisected north-south by the Owyhee river. There is no way to cross the river or Owyhee reservoir for at least 70 miles. A few main roads are good, but most of roads are rough and slow going.

Through several scouting trips to the area, three groups of rams were located which we estimated had 160 plus class rams. A 160 class ram is a

good California Bighorn for this area. Finding two or three groups of rams proved to be the success of my hunt. John and Larry were also fortunate enough to find an old double red tagged ram, which had been tagged by ODFW biologists in 2002. The old Red Tag Ram loved extremely difficult terrain, so the decision was made to pursue a group of rams on the west side of the unit.

After two months of scouting, sighting-in, shooting and dreaming, opening morning was upon us. We set up our optics and began looking for the rams. It didn't take long before we were able to spot a couple rams, then a few more, until nine rams joined in one group. The rams were feeding together and we were waiting for them to bed down so we could start the stalk. The rams approached one of their normal bedding areas to stay out of the hot afternoon sun. This is when we

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anticipated the stalk to begin. But, as hunts typically don't go as planned, the rams this day decided not to bed down, and instead walked over the top of hill and disappeared.

We decided to pursue them, as we were familiar with another bedding area about a half mile from where they crested the hill. Needless to say, after a two-hour hike and an hour of glassing, we could not find the rams. The temperature was approaching 100 degrees, so we decided to try again later in the evening. We split up to glass that evening and we had no luck locating the rams.

We returned to camp, made dinner and retired with dreams of success for the next morning. As we awoke the next morning, it became clear some things were missing from our camp. During the night, thieves had come into our camp and stolen several coolers containing our food and water. Pretty gutsy move considering everyone in camp was armed. All of us have spent years hunting and camping and this was the first time anyone had items stolen from a campsite. Fortunately, no optics or guns were stolen.

Sunday morning we returned to the same area. Two good rams, including a big dark chocolate ram, were spotted moving to the same bedding area as the previous morning. The rams moved out of sight into a small draw, so John, Jack and I decided to put on a sneak. As we climbed to the top of a small rim above the beds, the rams put the sneak on us and walked out the bottom of the draw, strike two for the hunter. With most of our water and food stolen the night before, the decision was made to return to town, restock and regroup.

We regrouped Sunday afternoon. Myself, Jack and, our son, Chase headed south to try to find some rams on

the east side of the river. There were two groups of rams on the east side, including the old double red tag ram. Our plan was to look for five or six rams near the river canyon, which included a nice, long flared ram. If we could not find them, we would look for the red tag ram later in the morning.

We spent the night in Jordan Valley, Oregon, rising early to beat the summer sun. The first area we planned on hunting was near an area called the Jordan Craters. The Jordan Craters is a large lava flow in the middle of the desert. It certainly seems out of place, black lava spread over several thousand acres in the desert, with lots of water coming out the end of the flow. The Craters are quite spectacular.

Driving to the area where John, Danny, Jack and Larry had previously seen the rams, my guide, my husband, took a wrong turn. After about 15 minutes on this diversion, Jack realized we were on the wrong road. We reversed course and were soon on the right road. This diversion proved to be a Godsend to my hunt. After driving to the area where the rams had been seen several times, we began glassing and couldn't find any rams. We later learned that the flared ram had been taken the day before, so the group had been dispersed. With no sheep spotted, the decision was made to move to look for the red tag ram. Driving out from the river, I looked over to my right and saw one ram laying in the yellow grass above a rim. Our stalk was on.

We quietly moved to about 300 yards from where the ram was spotted,

fortunately he was still bedded down. Chase, Jack and I looked at the ram for a couple minutes trying to determine if it was a mature shooter ram. I was in a great shooting position when the ram stood up and I asked what to do. Chase said, "Shoot". I pulled the trigger and the ram did not flinch. I missed and he moved about twenty yards away and thankfully stopped again. Jack said, "Relax, take a deep breath." Somehow I did, and my second shot found its mark. The ram collapsed and did not move.

My apprehension was high as we walked toward my ram. I was afraid that I may have taken a young ram, as none of us were experienced sheep hunters. Thankfully God and luck were on my side. The ram was beautiful and mature. A perfect ending to my once-in-a-lifetime hunt.

I would like to thank all the people involved, including the folks with the Oregon Chapter of the FNAWS for their dedication, which made my hunt possible. I truly appreciate their efforts, along with the Oregon Fish and Wildlife; who over the past decades have worked tirelessly to restore wild sheep to eastern Oregon. Thank you's also to Oregon Fish and Wildlife Biologists, Scott and Phil, who provided vital information to help with our hunt. Special thanks to John Echanis, Larry Tuttle, Danny Smith, Dave Steifvater, my son Chase and husband Jack.

Thank you all for a wonderful adventure and once-in-a-lifetime bighorn sheep hunt.

Did You Know?

Annual membership to OR-FNAWS is only \$30 for an individual and \$55 for a family? What a great gift idea!

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SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2012



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For more information and details, please go to:
www.OregonFNAWS.org

“People can explore this site before they go there,” said Meg Kenagy, ODFW conservation communications coordinator.

ODFW launches map website

Viewers can search for local wildlife habitats, parking & hiking information

By Dylan J. Darling / The Bulletin

The search for bighorn sheep, spawning salmon and other Oregon wildlife can now start on the Internet.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife last week introduced an interactive map, detailing 235 places around the state to watch wildlife.

The Google-based map on the department’s website allows people to zoom into satellite images, find parking and review hiking information.

“People can explore this site before they go there,” said Meg Kenagy,



ODFW conservation communications coordinator.

Around Bend, the map shows that Tumalo State Park is a place to see great blue herons and migrating songbirds; Shevlin Park is where to spot a flying squirrel; and Lava Lands Visitor Center is home to golden-mantled ground squirrels, yellow-pine chipmunks and yellow-bellied marmots.

What may be seen changes with the season, so the pop-up information bubbles on the map advise when different animals will be out, Kenagy

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife invites you to enjoy Oregon’s rich diversity of wildlife. The flag colors represent ODFW’s Recreation Zones so you can check for current wildlife viewing, fishing and hunting opportunities, www.dfw.state.or.us.

said. There are links for directions and websites with more information about the individual wildlife viewing locations.

An ODFW intern compiled information from state biologists to create the map over the summer.

The map comes in response to a 2008 survey that showed 1.7 million people participated in outdoor recreation where wildlife viewing was part of the plan, Kenagy said. In the site’s first 48 hours it had about 2,300 visitors.

The map is online at www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/viewing/wildlife_viewing_map.asp.

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**Membership Committee Oregon FNAWS
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www.oregonfnaws.org

Major Events in 2012:
Dates and times are subject to change Please check our website for latest information

January 2012

7 Winter Board Meeting
Brent & Carole Tannock's
Residence, Hillsboro, Or.

19-21 WSF Sheep Show
Reno, NV

TBD Pre-Banquet Meeting

February 2012

TBD Juniper Cut - Dayville, Or.
Aldrich Mts

April 2012

21 2012 Fundraiser/Banquet
Wash. Co. Fairplex in
Hillsboro, Or.

Oregon Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (OR-FNAWS) is now on Facebook!



ELK ACCESS & HABITAT STATEWIDE TAG
TO BE AUCTIONED AT
OR-FNAWS BANQUET IN APRIL 2012
DETAILS IN NEXT EDITION

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