

Oregon Wild Sheep Foundation



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WINTER 2021

Officers & Board

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Walter Chuck

1st President

Kevin Martin

2nd President

Craig Foster

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Kevin Martin

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Brent Tannock

Scott Peckham

Ray Wurdinger

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David O'Connor

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WALTER CHUCK



Happy New Years to everyone! If you have not heard yet Oregon FNAWS have changed our name to the Oregon Wild Sheep Foundation. We have updated our website and social media accounts to reflect that change. In the coming months we will be updating our merchandise with the new logo and putting them in our online store for purchase.

I was voted in as President at our January Board meeting and would like to thank Kevin Martin for the great job and hard work he put in as President. I am looking forward to working with the Board and doing my best to represent ORWSF and working hard for Oregon Sheep and Goats.

ORWSF sent a contingent down to Reno for Sheep Show 2022. We unveiled the new booth, name, and started selling tickets for the Ultima Thule Dall Sheep Hunt. It was great to get together and see our friends from the Sheep community and make new ones after not being able to meet for 2 years. The Oregon Governors Tag sold for a record \$345,000 shattering the old record of \$210,000! If you get a chance, I would highly recommend making the trip down for a few days it is truly one of the best Shows of the year.

One of our past Board members Ellen Campbell was awarded the WSF Artemis Award for her lifetime contribution to hunting and conservation. Congratulations Ellen and Thank you for all you have done. ORWSF is proud of you and your accomplishments.

ORWSF will be at the Central Oregon Sportsman's Show March 10-13. If you are planning to go to the show, please stop by and check out our new booth and say Hi. Our banquet committee is working hard to put on a great fundraiser at our new location, Eagle Crest Resort in Redmond. Our new venue will have more room which will allow for more guests. You will be receiving notices in your inbox and see posts about it on our website and social media.

Don't forget to put in for those Sheep and Goat Hunts!

Walter Chuck

ORWSF President

5 2022 Annual Banquet

Shane Byerly

Oregon Wild Sheep Foundation

21st Annual Banquet

Eaglecrest Resort Redmond, OR



April 30th, 2022 Doors Open: 3:30pm

Live Auction
Silent Auction
Wall of Guns
Door Prizes
Dinner
Drinks



Auctioning Statewide
Mountain Goat Tag

For Tickets Visit:
www.OregonWSF.org

We are finally able to be back in person at a banquet fundraiser and we can't wait to have a great time with you folks. On April 30th our annual banquet takes place at Eagle Crest Resort, Redmond Oregon. Doors open at 3:30pm and dinner is served 5:45pm. We will be auctioning off the Oregon statewide Mountain goat tag along with many other great items. The wall of guns is back and for those of you life members who attend, we will be raffling off a life member rifle. There will be awards, silent auction, door prizes and early bird raffles. We will conclude the night by drawing the winner of the Alaska Dall Sheep hunt raffle. If you have a mount of wild sheep you would like to display, please bring it to the banquet early! Members interested in volunteering with the banquet please reach out to info@oregonfnaws.org

Get your tickets online: www.oregonfnaws.org

For lodging, please call 855-682-4786 and let them know you are attending the OR Wild Sheep Foundation Banquet. Condos require 2-night minimum stay. Lodging deadline to book is March 30th, 2022.

Room rates:

Double Queen: \$119 per night

1 Bedroom Suite: \$139 per night

2 Bedroom Condo: \$199 per night 3 Bedroom Condo: \$249 per night

4 Bedroom Condo: \$299 per night



OREGON WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION



PREVIOUS RAFFLE WINNERS



HUNT RAFFLE DALL SHEEP HUNT WITH ULTIMA THULE OUTFITTERS

10-day 1x1 Dall Sheep hunt scheduled for late August - early September 2022 with Ultima Thule Outfitters. Outfitter will work with winner on dates. See website for more info.



Tickets: \$100 each
Only 600 tickets sold
Drawing April 30th, 2022

Purchase tickets:
www.oregonfnaaws.org



1 | 2022 Dall Sheep Hunt Raffle

Marcus Gores

Oregon Wild Sheep Foundation is raffling off a 10-day Dall Sheep hunt with Ultima Thule Outfitters. This is the very last time you will be able to purchase raffle tickets to hunt Dall Sheep with Ultima Thule as they are transitioning to donating this hunt to <1 Club at Sheep Week Nationals. This hunt takes place in 2022 late August-early September. Exact hunt dates are to be coordinated with outfitter. Tickets are \$100 each and only 600 tickets will be sold. Winner will be draw at our annual banquet on April 30th, 2022 around 9pm. Need not be present to win.

Tickets can be purchased online: www.OregonFNAWS.org

Included in Hunt:

- Food and Lodging During Hunt
- 1x1 Guide Service
- All Flying During Course of Hunt
- Transportation via Anchorage or Valdez
- Cost of National Park Charges

Not Included in Hunt:

- Transportation to and from Alaska
- Housing and food before and after hunt
- Tags and Licenses
- Tips for Guides
- Any costs incurred by hunter due to delays in getting to or leaving the lodge are beyond Ultima Thule Outfitters control

Purchase Tickets: www.OregonFNAWS.org



1 | Sheep Week 2022 – Reno, NV

Kevin Martin

Year 2022 is starting of much different than the last couple of years. This year the Wild Sheep Foundation held both a live Sheep Show in Reno and an online Sheep Week for those not able to join us this year. It was wonderful to be able to get together with our wild sheep family again and celebrate all that we have accomplished together.

It was an opportunity for the us to unveil our new name, logo, and booth - officially as the Oregon Wild Sheep Foundation! Several of our Board and Chapter Members spent time at the Wild Sheep Show in Reno, working the booth, going to multiple meetings, and representing OR WSF throughout the venues. It was great being able to again be with others in love with wild sheep and goats and the places they live. OR WSF was represented at a breakfast meeting discussing wild sheep issues folks we have with some of the Federal land management agencies. We were again represented at the WSF Annual Membership and Chapter & Affiliates, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) Wild Sheep Working Group, and the Wildlife Professionals meeting. OR WSF facilitated a discussion with our neighbors in SW Idaho and Northern Nevada about interest in working more formally together. The outcome of this discussion was the desire to pull a work group together to explore this further. There were over 60 interested individuals represented from the WSF, Chapter & Affiliates, State and Federal agencies, Tribes and Universities.

We would like to thank all of those who assisted in managing our booth and those who stopped by to say “Hi” and talk about wild sheep and goat management in Oregon and across the west. We had a successful year in Reno. We signed up new members, sold raffle tickets for our Dall Sheep Hunt with Ultima Thule in Alaska, talking about all that is going on in Oregon, getting to know new friends, and catching up with old ones. Because ODFW was unrepresented at the show, members spent a lot of time discussing individual hunts and promoting the Oregon sheep tag which brought a record \$345,000 at Saturday night’s auction.

Please think about joining us next year at the Sheep Show. We are always looking forward to meeting new friends, getting extra help and enjoying a great time.



Frances Cassirer
Idaho Department of Fish & Wildlife

2022 State Statesmen Award:
FRANCES CASSIRER, Ph.D.

The Wild Sheep Foundation recognize and appreciate your career accomplishments and contributions toward wild sheep conservation and management.

Ellen Campbell
Oregon Wild Sheep Foundation

2022 Artemis Award:
Ellen Campbell

Award recognizing an outstanding WSF women leader & mountain hunter who has made significant contributions to WSF, wild sheep and other mountain game conservation.

Clay Brewer
Wild Sheep Foundation

Life Member Award OR WSF:
Clay Brewer

Clay Brewer, retiring Director & Bighorn Sheep Programs Lead Wild Sheep Foundation, for his years of support and coordination with the Oregon Wild Sheep Foundation on multiple federal, state, & local issues.



“

Putting and Keeping Wild Sheep on the Mountain

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1 | Government & Legislative Affairs

Larry Jacobs

October 12, 2021 - Letter to the USDA, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Regional Forester with the Washington Wild Sheep Foundation –

We shared a potential list of items for discussion:

History and Background of OR FNAWS and WA WSF., Existing National/Regional Forest Service Direction related to Bighorn Sheep, The Full Curl Coordinator Position, Risk of Contact Modeling (ROC) - Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) - updated model, Washington State University Disease Research and Endowed Chair, Forest Planning, Species of Conservation Concern, Pack animals (goats/sheep) , Partnerships: Hells Canyon Bighorn Sheep Initiative - (Multi-State, Multi-Agency partnership)

Ongoing Concerns/Issues: Yakima Canyon - Okanogan/Wenatchee NF range allotment planning, Other bighorn sheep herds and disease concerns, Hells Canyon Domestic Sheep Outreach Program partnership - (ODFW, WDFW, IDFG, Asotin County, U of I, ID WSF, WWSF, and OR FNAWS).

October 22, 2021 - Letter of support for Frances Cassirer, PhD, Senior Wildlife Research Biologist for Idaho Department of Fish and Game, for the State Statesman Award from the Wild Sheep Foundation - signed by Oregon FNAWS, Idaho WSF and Washington WSF -

It is our pleasure to recommend Frances Cassirer, PhD, Senior Wildlife Research Biologist for Idaho Department of Fish and Game, for the State Statesman Award. We have been working with Frances for over 25 years and have had the opportunity to work and interact with her on a broad range of bighorn sheep issues. Frances's experience, knowledge, and leadership of bighorn sheep issues has made her a leader in bighorn sheep field research and management not only in the States of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington but across the west. Frances has used her expertise to quietly research and manage bighorn sheep through a vast network of cooperative endeavors with a broad range of groups. She is the epitome of coordination and cooperation to gain, share, and use knowledge. Frances has long been a leader in gaining knowledge through cooperative research with universities, state and federal wildlife and land management agencies, and the Wild Sheep foundation's Chapters and Affiliates. She has been a leader in communicating bighorn sheep interests and field research to the multiple agencies and interests in a clear and authoritative manner. Frances shares her knowledge through professional and academic relationships, including Wild Sheep Chapters, to benefit a larger audience within the conservation community. Her sharing of knowledge allows others, like our Chapters, to then interact, inform and educate at state, local and individual levels. Frances then uses the knowledge to lead bighorn management efforts at levels ranging from the development and utilization of the highly promising Capture-test-remove method of controlling Movi, which is being implemented across the west, to her identification of the Ten Mile Ranch property, a vital lambing area, as a high priority for a conservation easement. Frances is a leader among our state and regional partners and her research is cutting edge. She has the respect and admiration of our partners and is seen as an individual who is an expert in the field of bighorn sheep research and management.

Examples of her leadership Include: 1) Her 25-year leadership and commitment to the Hells Canyon Bighorn Sheep Initiative. 2) Her innovative work with Dr. Tom Besser (Washington State University, emeritus) to identify Movi as the primary pathogen responsible for bighorn sheep disease and die offs. 3) Her leadership of the Capture-test-remove program in Hells Canyon that is now is being used in most western states and provinces. 4) Her authorship and co-authorship of refereed scientific and other professional publications concerning bighorn sheep disease identification and recovery over the last 25 years (see attached spreadsheet). 5) Her leadership conducting annual field population surveys in the Hells Canyon area of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. 6) Her involvement in acquisition of important lands and wildlife habitat in the Hells Canyon area. 7) Her research data, coupled with data from other biologists in the Hells Canyon area, that provided the sheep movement data that was the basis for the development of the national Risk of Contact model. 8) Her involvement with the Movi free small flock work in both Hells Canyon and Challis, Idaho, both in educating the public and agency employees. 9) Frances has been in numerous videos - with the most recent being the Wild and Wool short film. She is involved in multiple Idaho Department of Fish and Game YouTube videos, involved in both the editing, and providing information.

These efforts are not easy, they require perseverance and 'grit'. Luckily, for bighorn sheep and for us, Frances has plenty of both. We have the greatest personnel and professional respect for Frances and believe she deserves this recognition.

Government & Legislative Affairs

Larry Jacobs - Continued

November 4, 2021 - Letter to the ISDI, Washington and Oregon State Office, Bureau of Land Management, State Director with the Washington Wild Sheep Foundation

We shared a potential list of items for discussion:

- History and Background of OR FNAWS and WA WSF.
- Existing National/Regional Direction related to Bighorn Sheep
 - Congressional Direction
 - BLM National Direction - 1730 directives
- Risk of Contact Modeling (ROC) - Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) - updated model
- Washington State University Disease Research and Endowed Chair -
- BLM - Resource Management Plans -
- Vale and Lakeview RMPs

Existing and Potential Partnerships:

- Hells Canyon Bighorn Sheep Initiative - (Multi-State, Multi-Agency partnership - existing)
- SE Oregon/SW Idaho/Nevada - proposed

Ongoing Concerns/Issues:

- SE Oregon - Prichard Creek Allotment - Vale BLM
- BLM grazing monitoring and analysis
- Other bighorn sheep herds and disease concerns
- Pack Animals (goats/sheep).
- Hells Canyon Domestic Sheep Outreach Program partnership - (ODFW, WDFW, IDFG, Asotin County, U of I, ID WSF, WWSF, and OR FNAWS).

November 13, 2021 - Scoping comments to the Prineville District Bureau of Land Management - Thirtymile Recreation and Travel Management Planning -

The area is occupied by bighorn sheep, is winter range for both deer and elk and provides habitat for many other wildlife species. The area is valued for its access to the river for shorter floats for bighorn sheep hunting, and upland areas for big game and bird hunting. The Thirtymile Acquisition area provides valued access to a large area of contiguous public land for hunting, angling and wildlife viewing and is one of the few public access points to the John Day River between Clarno and Cottonwood Bridge. The John Day Basin has one of the larger populations of California Bighorn Sheep in Oregon, this herd has been a critical source for transplants and supplementation or to increase genetic diversity in bighorn sheep herds in other areas of the western U.S.

Following are our recommendations for consideration in the Thirty Mile Planning Process.

- The main access road to the John Day River should be open year around. Although the current seasonal access is not an issue for bighorn sheep hunters, year around access would provide access to a substantial portion of the river and canyon for winter steelhead anglers and upland bird hunters. Due to the substantial rock base of the main road, year around access should not result in significant erosion, road deterioration or the need for additional road maintenance. In fact, the main road should not be substantially upgraded in order to maintain the primitive nature of the area.

- Off road travel and travel on existing roads and trails off the main access road should be closed to all motorized vehicles, including E-bikes. For the planning area the BLM should adopt the definition of E-bikes used by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon State Parks.

- The boat launch site at Thirtymile should be upgraded so it's possible to launch non-motorized boats and rafts from a trailer. Not only would this make it easier for people wanting to float the river, but it would decrease erosion during muddy conditions caused by people backing as close as possible then dragging their boat to the water.

- For sanitary reasons the current temporary plastic outhouse should be replaced with a permanent vaulted toilet.

- Non-native invasive plants continue to occur throughout the canyon and the old field used for dispersed camping at the Thirtymile launch site continues to act as a source of seed for some of these species. Establishing a stand of non-invasive perennial grasses and forbs in the old field area would assist in controlling noxious weeds in the canyon. Restricting motorized travel off road and on secondary roads and trails will help restrict the spread of noxious weeds.

- Wildlife diseases have the potential to impact species on the area. *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* is a disease of particular concern for bighorn sheep. The potential use of pack goats for recreational use is of great concern and they should be prohibited in the area. We encourage you to engage with ODFW, OR FNAWS and others on managing and modeling risk of a disease transmission. The updated risk of contact model, which is the best science available, should be used to gauge relative risk posed by any existing domestic animals within the area.

3 | Government & Legislative Affairs

November 23, 2021 - Meeting with the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Regional Forester and Staff, with the Washington Wild Sheep Foundation -

We discussed the following issues and interests related to bighorn sheep management on National Forests in the Pacific Northwest:

Existing National/Regional Direction related to Bighorn Sheep:

- Including past and potential future Congressional Direction
- Why we believe there is a need for reestablishing the national Full Curl Coordinator Position
- and proposed new range manual directives, including the WSF input (we did share the letter that was sent to the FS National office commenting on this proposal).

Forest Planning:

- we shared the need to use and complete Risk of Contact Modeling (ROC) on bighorn sheep herds and existing domestic sheep grazing allotments. This model was developed and now updated by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA).
- we discussed the need to identify bighorn sheep as a Species of Conservation Concern during the Forest Planning process.
- We had a discussion related to the ongoing Okanogan/Wenatchee NF range allotment planning and bighorn sheep.
- and shared concerns around the use Pack animals (goats/sheep) in and near existing bighorn sheep herds because of the potential risk of disease.

We scheduled a follow-up meeting to continue our discussions on additional issues and opportunities for January 19, 2022.

December 2, 2021 - received correspondence from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge on the release of the Final Environmental Impact Statement and that the Record of Decision could follow within 30 days -

the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in partnership with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and U.S. Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services, will publish the final environmental impact statement (EIS) for a management plan to address an alarming decline in the California bighorn sheep population on Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge.

The California bighorn sheep population on Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge has declined by 67 percent since 2017 – 149 in 2017 to 48 in 2020 – and is now at a potentially unsustainable population level. The population decline is a result of high cougar predation and declining habitat quality due to juniper encroachment and invasive plants. In cooperation with ODFW and USDA-Wildlife Services, the Service has developed a final EIS and management plan to address the population decline.

December 11, 2021 - Request to participate in the creation of a formal coalition for Oregon's Sportsmen's groups - the Sportsmen's Conservation Partnership -

Oregon Wild Sheep Foundation has been involved in multiple conversations with folks regarding the need/desire to create a sports group coalition. As we look at future initiative attempts, Federal and State agency-level issues, working with the ODFW Commission, and the future of our legislative landscapes, we are realizing that our groups, both state and national, have a growing need to build a strong coalition to defend our interests.

As discussed, groups are moving forward with the creation of a formal coalition for Oregon's sportsmen's groups. The Sportsmen's Conservation Partnership will hold its inaugural meeting in January of 2022 where they will approve bylaws, install officers, assign committees, solidify the goals and mission of the group, and hear from our agency partners on timely topics.

December 16, 2021 - Hells Canyon Bighorn Sheep Restoration Committee meeting - Idaho Fish & Game, Lewiston, ID -

Introduction of the new Rocky Crate Chair – Kate Huyvaert, Washington State University

We received a Hells Canyon Research Update from Frances Cassirer. Including an update on the ongoing Test & Cull Projects:

Yakima Canyon - Washington

Lower Salmon River - Idaho

Lookout Mtn., Burnt River, Lostine - Oregon

Rattlesnake/Tenmile - Oregon

There was an update on the Asotin County Conservation District Private Sheep and Goat flock Outreach occurring across the greater Hells Canyon Area.

The University of Idaho shared the ongoing Antibiotic Treatment Trials in Domestic Sheep and goat flocks.

There were updates from the State Fish and Wildlife/Game agencies of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Nez Perce Tribe, the Federal Agencies - BLM, USFS, and the Wild Sheep Foundation Chapters - Idaho WSF, OR FNAWS, Washington WSF, and National WSF.

Stop Poaching Stakeholders - Due to the ongoing COVID pandemic, there has been a reduction related to the activities of ODFW and the Stakeholders. There has only been a few shared emails, advertisements, and phone calls.

Membership and Renewals

Navigating through many trying times we want to take a moment to thank all of our current annual and life members. Without your support we would not be able to assist and advocate for wild sheep in the state of Oregon. As most of you may know we have changed the way we accept new memberships and renew annual members. If you are an annual member and you have not renewed through our website we would urge you to go through the renewal process there. We are working away from paper renewals and increasing our active members through the website. Online renewals ensures we have up to date information for all members and assists in the ability to contact members to inform them on upcoming events, newsletters, and our annual banquet.

Info@OregonFNAWS.org

www.OregonFNAWS.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ORWSF

Instagram: @OregonWildSheepFoundation



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WILD SHEEP[®]

Foundation