



Sheep Fever Journal

A Publication for the Oregon Chapter of the FNAWS

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Stew Stone “Wins” Biosphere Tag

Nobody has more fun than Stew Stone at the annual dinner and fundraiser. And this year he had more fun than ever. The bidding for the Vizcaino Biosphere Reserve desert bighorn hunt was fast and furious but when the auctioneer banged his gavel and Stew was the winner he jumped out of his seat and pumped his fist in the air. With his bid of \$70,000 Stew will join two friends on a desert bighorn hunt at the Biosphere. Oregon FNAWS life member Dennis Pahlisch and Scott Limmer of Colorado also bought Biosphere hunts at National FNAWS and Iowa FNAWS respectively and the three friends have decided to hunt together. The hunts will be professionally filmed and made into a video. We look forward to seeing the video and hearing the complete story at our banquet in 2007. Best of luck, Stew, Dennis and Scott.

The bid amount will help keep sheep on the mountain. The Biosphere gets 90% of the funds, Nat'l FNAWS and Oregon FNAWS each keep 5%. The 90% going to Mexico goes into a bank trust for “conservation, management and sustainable development of bighorn sheep in the Vizcaino Biosphere Reserve.” All of Stew’s money will benefit wild sheep.



A very pleased Stew Stone after becoming high bidder on the Biosphere desert bighorn hunt.



A very pleased Brittnay Liming standing next to a shoulder mount aoudad.

Brittnay Liming Wins Aoudad Raffle

Brittnay Liming, granddaughter of member Tom Liming, won the raffle for the aoudad hunt. She will be going to Texas sometime between October of this year and March of 2007. Lucky girl! Bubba Glosson of S W Trophy Hunts is looking forward to taking this young lady on a very special hunt. Shoot straight and watch out for the jumping cholla.

Brittnay and Tom are super volunteers for Oregon FNAWS. They both have been great help at manning our booth at Nat'l FNAWS and local sportsman shows.

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Message from the President

Our banquet and fundraiser is our primary event for the year. It takes lots of help, planning and participation from all the members and supporters of OR-FNAWS. This, our 7th annual banquet and fundraiser was a great success, thanks to all who donated, helped set up, participated in the auction and raffles and showed great support. We had a couple of lively auction items this year. We were fortunate enough to be able to auction a Desert Bighorn Sheep tag for Baja California Sur, Mexico- Vizcaino Biosphere. This sold for a whopping \$70,000. The state-wide deer tag sold for \$29,000. We are still crunching the numbers but it looks like we will be able to dedicate between \$45,000 and \$50,000 to Bighorn Sheep projects in Oregon this coming year. A big Thank you goes out to everyone!

If anyone would like to be more involved in OR-FNAWS, I encourage you to contact us. Our standing committees are: Projects, Banquet, Budget and Finance, Newsletter and Web site, Government & Legislative, Membership, Tri- State, Long Range Planning, Hands on Projects Trade Shows and Awards. We can use your help and we value your input.

We would like to extend an invitation to OR-FNAWS members to share in their success. If you have taken a ram over the last couple of years, or just have a great hunting tale you would like to share, please send it in. It is always great to hear about members' success and hard work on your hunts.

Lastly, if you have a friend or neighbor who enjoys hunting, ask them to join OR-FNAWS. It is a strong membership that continues to help put sheep on the mountain. I hope everyone has luck in drawing their tags and enjoy your summer.

Larry Jacobs

Oregon Mountain Goats

Mountain goat populations continue to increase. The 2005 population is estimated to be 580 animals in nine herds or sub-herds. Trapping and transplanting has been responsible for much of the increase.

A transplant is planned for July in the Wenaha River Canyon of the Northern Blue Mountains. The Elkhorn Mountains will be the source. A drop-net purchased by Oregon FNAWS, baited with salt, will be used for the capture. A few mountain goats currently occupy the upper Wenaha drainage, most likely moving on their own from the Elkhorns. ~ *By Vic Coggins*



Lucky Sam Mason

Sam Mason is defying the odds. For two straight years he has won the handgun in the playing card draw. Buy a card for \$20 and you get a 1 in 52 chance of winning. Sam usually buys two or three tickets to improve his odds but winning again this year is pretty darned lucky. He'll be back for another try next year. Maybe he should stay home and buy a lottery ticket.



That's Derek Thomsen holding "Lucky" Sam Mason's handgun.

Calendar of Events

Summer Board Meeting, The Dalles

July 14 to July 16

Bighorn Sheep Orientation Day, The Dalles

July 15

January 2007 Board Meeting, Wilsonville

January 13, 2007

National FNAWS, Salt Lake City

January 17 to 20, 2007

Oregon FNAWS Banquet and Fundraiser

April or May, 2007

Bighorn Sheep Orientation Day July 15, 2006

All Oregon Sheep Tag holders and anyone interested in hunting wild sheep should attend.

Agenda

- ~ Scoring, Measuring and Field Judging Bighorns
- ~ Hunt Areas, Habitat, Where to Hunt and Hunt Strategies
- ~ Sheep Shape and Physical Condition
- ~ Care of Meat, Care of the Cape and Preserving Your Trophy
 - ~ Weapons, Optics and Gear
 - ~ Bighorn Restoration in Oregon
 - ~ Hunter Safety and Hunting Ethics
- ~ Oregon FNAWS and its Roll in "Putting Sheep on the Mountain"

There will be many experts in attendance including taxidermists. Please plan on attending for an interesting and informative session.

The ATV Raffle winner

Jennifer Rawson Thomsen was pregnant, had just a few days to go before delivery and was unable to attend the April 29 banquet. Nevertheless, the 29th turned out to be very lucky when her ticket was drawn in the raffle for the Polaris 4X4 ATV. Her husband, Derek, nervous as any father could be while 150 miles away from his very expectant bride, was delighted to take the ATV home. Jen's first comment was, "No way you're riding this, Derek." She delivered a boy on May 11.

Hells Canyon Initiative

A summary from the 2005 Annual Report

(The full report may be seen on www.oregonfnaws.org)

The Hells Canyon Initiative is a state, federal and private partnership to restore Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep in the Hells Canyon area of Oregon, Washington and Idaho. The initiative was started in 1995 as a program to accelerate restoration of bighorn sheep in Hells Canyon and surrounding areas and to focus research applicable to sheep restoration and management throughout the western U.S. and Canada.



The project area encompasses more than 5.6 million acres. Major drainages include the Snake, Grande Ronde, Imnaha, and lower Salmon Rivers. There are currently 16 bighorn sheep populations established in the project area.

The project monitors herd health through capture and testing. Tests for diseases including pasteurella are conducted.

Survival rates and ewe and ram movements are also monitored. From the last surveys it is estimated that there are 875 bighorn sheep in 16 herds, a decrease of 4% from 910 sheep in 2003/2004.

Habitat management and improvement include spring development, attempts to resolve potential conflict (disease transmission) between domestic and wild flocks, and weed control. (Unfortunately, the presence of domestic sheep are precluding reintroducing wild sheep in several areas that otherwise could be available for transplants.)

Initiative funding in the June '05 fiscal year came from many sources including Oregon FNAWS. Or. FNAWS, Idaho FNAWS and Iowa FNAWS contributed \$6,500, \$5,000 and \$3,000 respectively. Also contributing were National FNAWS with \$35,000 and Oregon Hunters Assn. with \$5,000. The ODFW, WDFW, IDFW and the USFS contributed another \$51,897.44 to the operating budget of \$106,397.44. (Interestingly, state funding from Oregon, Washington and Idaho came from proceeds of bighorn sheep auction and/or lottery tags. Hunters and hunter conservation groups are playing a very important roll in the health and survival of Hells Canyon bighorn sheep.)

Projects Report

No new projects were considered at the April 30, 2006 board meeting. There should be several proposals heard at the board meeting held at The Dalles in mid-July. In the next issue of Sheep Fever Journal currently funded projects will be reviewed for completion or status.

The hands-on project in the Malheur Refuge had to be cancelled. Refuge personnel were wary of liability issues regarding chainsaw use in the removal of juniper. Hopefully this project will come back on line in 2007. There is nothing more fun than killing juniper and improving deer and sheep habitat. You can almost hear those trees sucking up ground water. Death to 'em.

Hands-on Projects Completed

President Larry Jacobs and a contingent of volunteers completed putting in two guzzlers in the Leslie Gulch area of southeastern Oregon. Over the May 20, 21 weekend the volunteers managed to put in two guzzlers (water catchments) for the benefit of sheep and other wildlife. Hard work overcame the unusual problems of a dead battery on the helicopter and the fuel truck getting stuck.



Hunting Reports---We Want Them

We have no hunt reports to give you this issue. I could give you one of my tales but that would be about poor shooting and small rams, so I won't. Or I could give you one about my wife but that would be about stealth, sharp shooting and a big ram, so no way I'll do that. For the next issue, sometime in September or October we must have a story or two about sheep hunting or mountain goats or elk or whatever, just so long as it isn't about hunting nutria. So jump on your computer and email a story or even a picture with a caption, I don't care. And it doesn't have to be current. Send to lonepinetom@aol.com. TT



Troy Vest is having a heck of a year. Not only did he shoot a 186 class desert bighorn in the Biospere in Baja California Sur, he also killed a monster brown bear in Alaska. The two pictures tell the tale of a very happy hunter. Where's Liane going for her vacation?

The Banquet and Auction

If Oregon FNAWS is going to help put and keep bighorn sheep and mountain goats "on the mountain" then a fundraising event like our annual banquet and auction is extremely important. Hard work by many volunteers and loose wallets in the hands of a very lively crowd made for a great, very successful evening. A final tally has not been done but roughly \$40,000 was raised for the benefit of wild sheep. Transplants, disease research, habitat improvement, radio collar purchases, and various studies can go forward with Oregon FNAWS support. A very big "thank you" to all who made the banquet a huge success.

Five New Life Members



We proudly announce five new life members. From the left Robert Baker, Dennis Pahlisch, Tatum Carlin, Gary Wise and Alex Williams.

Ram Killed Illegally - An Update

In late January or early February someone illegally killed a mature bighorn sheep ram. With the assistance of Oregon FNAWS, the OHA and several chapters of the OHA a reward of up to \$5,000 was offered for information leading to the arrest of those responsible for the illegal killing and waste of the bighorn sheep in Lake County. The sheep had multiple wounds and its head and hindquarters had been removed. The remainder was left to rot.

The Oregon State Police have been doggedly following leads and taking testimony and now have enough evidence that an arrest is imminent. Equally important, the size of the reward and the publicity may have led to the arrest of other individuals involved in poaching deer, elk and possibly another bighorn sheep. The six individuals arrested were charged with six felonies and 71 misdemeanors. Hopefully, the publicity over these arrests will give second thoughts to other bad guys. "Whatcha gonna do when they come for you?"

Liane Vest and George Pace Win Awards

Liane Vest of Molalla was the recipient of the Oregon FNAWS Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual banquet and fundraiser held in Redmond on April 29, 2006. Fellow board member and ODF&W Biologist Vic Coggins presented the award. Liane's dedication and commitment to Oregon FNAWS began with her attendance at the first organizational meeting in November of 1998. She was elected to the first board of directors, and has continued to serve on the board to date. Liane has held the office of Treasurer for many years, and is extremely organized and efficient. Her contributions to Oregon FNAWS are many, and are appreciated by all!

George Pace of Springfield was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by board member Nick Berg. Oregon FNAWS recognizes George's dedication to Oregon's sheep and other wildlife as well as his commitment to many conservation groups over the years.

Thank you again, Liane and George for your dedication to Oregon's wild sheep and goats! ~ Submitted by Don South



Liane Vest receiving her well deserved Lifetime Achievement Award from board member Vic Coggins. With luck she will be helping for many years to come.



The ever-helpful George Pace received his Certificate of Appreciation from Vic Coggins. George's work has been invaluable through the years.

Sheep Diseases

From an article by Chris Madson in the July issue of Wyoming Wildlife

Why did sheep have to be transplanted back into Oregon in the early 1970's? Certainly hunting pressure from early settlers was part of the cause for their disappearance in the late 1930's but a more likely cause has been the big-horns' susceptibility to disease.

It should leave you with the feeling that there is considerable and very important work to be done when it comes to both habitat and disease research. Putting sheep on the mountain and keeping them there is not a simple matter. Maybe we could get Vic Coggins to go around and inoculate all the wild sheep but until that day arrives we'll have to pursue the solutions at hand.

Psoroptic Scabies (Mange): Mange is caused by small mites. These little bugs chew on the skin of their host and feed on the serum and lymph that oozes from the damaged tissue.

A healthy bighorn sheep seems to do a good job of fighting an infestation of these mites. However, if the infected sheep is stressed or starving the mites survive and prosper. Inflammation spreads; hair falls out; scabs form and the sheep begins to shed layers of skin. The oozing surface provides an ideal environment for bacterial infections, which inflict even more damage. The patches of sloughed hide, hair and dried ooze may fall off easily leaving bare skin behind. During the winter, this loss of insulation further stresses the animal.

The mites can be killed with insecticidal powders and dips but the best treatment is prevention. For bighorns, this means good year-round forage and protection of migration routes so that sheep are not crowded on the same pasture throughout the year.

Lungworm: Lungworms are small, parasitic roundworms that live in the lung tissue of an infected bighorn. Having a bunch of tiny worms rooting around in lung tissue isn't a healthy situation for a bighorn but by itself a lungworm infestation isn't generally fatal for an adult sheep. A low-level infection in an otherwise sound adult may cause the victim to cough now and then while heavier infections may leave the host short of breath after heavy exercise, and in extreme cases, the infected sheep may lose weight, cough a lot after exercise and tire easily.

The most important risk is the possibility of secondary infection. Apparently, the injury to lung tissue offers an ideal foothold for bacteria, especially bacilli of the genus *Pasteurella*.

How can we reduce the effects of lungworm? First, give flocks plenty of room. Second, minimize stress among

wild sheep. Good habitat means less stress and healthier sheep.

Pasteurellosis: In bighorn sheep, the *Pasteurella* (pneumonia) infection most often reported is in the lungs but it may also cause a more general infection in the bloodstream.

Bighorns seem particularly susceptible to *Pasteurella* infections. Infected animals often die so quickly that they show little emaciation or other outward signs of the disease. This virulent disease is probably the cause of most rapid, unexplained die-offs among bighorns over the last century or more.

Scientists are working hard to find solutions to this disease but at present the best approach seems to be maintaining the bighorns' natural resistance, however slight that may be and keeping flocks away from domestic sheep, which carry the virus.

Pink Eye: Several pathogens may infect the conjunctiva of the eye in bighorn sheep. Such infections usually lead to blindness and expose the animal to predation and accidents.

Other Bugs: *Cornebacterium pyogenes* is a small bacillus that lives in the mucous membranes of bighorns. It may cause pneumonia or abscesses in other parts of the body. Paratuberculosis, *Staphylococcus* infections, vibriosis, coccidiosis, *Sarcocystis* infections, three kinds of tapeworms, nematodes and botflies all attack bighorn sheep although compared to scabies, lungworm and pasteurellosis, none of them constitute a significant threat to the future of entire populations of bighorn sheep.

The Upshot: Some diseases, particularly pasteurellosis, pass readily between bighorns and domestic sheep and often seem to hit wild sheep harder than domestic sheep. Over the last 50 years, it has become increasingly clear that bighorns cannot survive in close association with domestic flocks. In recent years, one of the most significant focal points in bighorn management has been the effort to separate wild and domestic sheep. California bighorns and Rocky Mountain bighorns are at risk not only in Oregon but also north into Washington, British Columbia, Alberta as well as Idaho and other Western states.

Note: With monies raised at our annual banquet and fundraiser, Oregon FNAWS supports disease research and the removal of domestic sheep from contact with wild flocks.

Hells Canyon Bighorn Capture Completed By Vic Coggins

In March of 2006, 70 bighorns in eight herds were captured with a helicopter and net-guns in Hells Canyon. The sheep were captured in herds from Asotin Creek, Washington, to south to Sheep Mountain near Brownlee Dam. In addition, 21 Lostine bighorns were captured in a corral trap. All bighorns captured were disease tested, administered antibiotics, ear tagged, radio collared and released.

The purpose of the capture and radio collaring was to continue disease monitoring, determine causes of bighorn mortalities, document sheep movements and monitor lamb survival of collared ewes. Collars were placed on bighorns from four herds or sub-herds that had not been collared previously.

Wenaha Sheep Survey Completed By Vic Coggins

Helicopter surveys were completed in the Wenaha Unit on March 13, 2006 and 71 bighorns were observed. They were classified as 35 ewes, 15 lambs and 21 rams. The population is estimated to be 90 bighorns. This herd was hard-hit by disease in 1997 and has experienced poor lamb survival for 7 years.

The disease outbreak was part of the 1996-97 Hells Canyon pneumonia outbreak thought to have started with bighorn contact with a domestic goat near Asotin, Washington. The outbreak was responsible for the deaths of an estimated 300 bighorn sheep in Idaho, Oregon and Washington. The Wenaha herd's slow recovery may also be due to subsequent contact with domestic sheep near Troy, Oregon. Fortunately, the landowner sold the domestic sheep.

Ram numbers in the Wenaha Unit are good with some very large rams observed. A season is scheduled for a tag-holder in Oregon, the first since 1997.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Share your SHEEP FEVER JOURNAL newsletter with friends, and encourage them to become members of Oregon FNAWS. For every 3 new members who mention your name when signing up for any type of membership, you will receive a one year membership extension FREE! or a golf shirt with the FNAWS logo or \$35 in raffle tickets at the next fundraiser, your choice. This offer will end at the 8th annual banquet and fundraiser in April or May of 2007. Take this opportunity to help Oregon FNAWS grow.

Membership form here

*Oregon Chapter Foundation for
North American Wild Sheep*



This painting by Italian artist Stefano Cecchini is stunning. If you are interested in wildlife art go to his website, www.stefanocecchini.com

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