



# Sheep Fever Journal

*A Publication for the Oregon Chapter of the FNAWS*

Winter 2006

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## ***The 2007 Oregon FNAWS Banquet***

Set aside April 21, 2007. The 2007 Banquet and Fund-raiser is shaping up as another great one. To be held once again at the Deschutes Fair and Expo Center in Redmond, there will be hunts auctioned, many items raffled including an ATV, merchandise for sale, a silent and oral auction, a fabulous auctioneer, and a lot of fun--all for the good cause of putting and keeping sheep and mountain goats "on the mountain".

Our Chapter will auction a Statewide Elk Hunt which gives the winner the opportunity to hunt anywhere in the state for an elk from September 1 to November 30, 2007. The auction will be held at 8:00 pm sharp so that individuals not in attendance may call in and bid over the phone. Oregon FNAWS contact people will be Larry Jacobs at 503 784-1358 and Dave Geelan at 971 583-0619.

Again in 2007, we will have another ATV to be raffled. It is a beefy Polaris 500 4X4 that has plenty of power for getting into the mountains or doing chores around the home place. And like prior years there will be guns and other merchandise raffled or auctioned.



***Mark you calendars to attend the Oregon FNAWS Banquet and Fundraiser April 21, 2007***

Make sure you mark April 21 on your calendar and be sure to attend the Oregon FNAWS Banquet and Fund-raiser.

## ***The January 13, 2007 Board Meeting & Election of Board Members and Officers***

You should attend. "Putting sheep on the mountain" cannot happen without the interest and action of this membership. Come out and get involved. We want and need the support of every member in this organization. And you don't have to be a board member to make a difference. Come to the meeting and put a voice to your support for sheep and mountain goats and the habitat that is so crucial to these wonderful animals.

The meeting will be held at the home of Tom and Connie Thomsen in Aurora, Oregon. The address is 25355 NE Glass Rd, Aurora, Oregon, 97002, and is about two miles east of I-5 at exit 282 going North or exit 282A going south. Call for directions if you can't map quest the directions. (503 678-2342) The official start of the meeting will be 9:00 a.m. but come early and have coffee and donuts.

There will also be a smorgasbord for lunch with cold cuts and the usual lunch fixings. After lunch any remaining business will be concluded quickly.

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# Once in a Lifetime

By Mark Brown

For five years, my wife, Renae, and I have been applying for the Bighorn Sheep hunt near our place in Dayville, Oregon. When Renae read the draw results we received from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife she said I got the draw and could hunt the Aldrich Mountains just east of Dayville. I thought she was fooling but then she showed me the card.

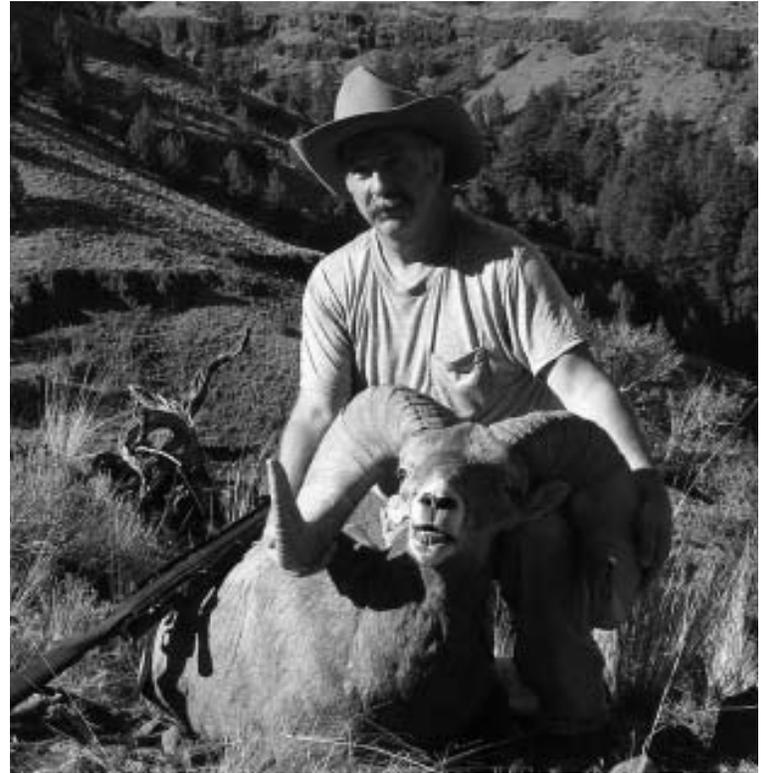
Immediately I called John W. Cole of Monument, to help me. John's first thought was to get Josh Moulton, of Tygh Valley, to guide me as Josh got his bighorn in this same unit in the early 90's. Others helping were Jerry Maley, Cody Cole, and John Jones.

Greg Marstall of Gold Beach, drew the other tag and he was kind enough to call me so our hunts would complement each other rather than compete. Greg is an experienced hunter who with friends, Bryan and Larry Larsson, has been applying for this hunt for years. Along with Greg were his son, Kipp, and the McGinnis brothers, Ryan and Brandon. What a nice way to pass down a hunting heritage to the next generation.

Another pleasant surprise was an invitation to the first Big Horn Sheep Orientation day sponsored by The Oregon Chapter of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (Or-FNAWS). At the class, we learned about the reintroduction of the Rocky Mountain Bighorns and the California Bighorns. Vic Scoggins of ODFW was there along with Keith Kohl and they explained sheep habits, hunting methods, scoring, care of the cape and so forth. Interestingly, Vic was on the team for the first transplant from Jasper Park, Alberta in 1971 to The Lostine Area of Hells Canyon. Oregon's California Bighorns were reintroduced into Hart Mountain with animals from Williams Lake Canada. As the herds grew eventually California Bighorn sheep were transplanted into the Aldrich Mountains.

John, my friend from Monument, spent a lot of time preparing for this hunt. Aldrich and Little Aldrich, Chilkoot Pass, Bottle Rock, Smokey Creek and other areas were all scouted for sheep. Before I knew it, it was time to go to camp and prepare for the 12th of August, opening day.

The best day of scouting was Friday, the 11th. Josh & I got within 150 yards of 9 rams, two of which were good sized. Then John said he saw a bigger one but it would be a real long hike. Josh and I spent the night under the



stars on top of Chilkoot Pass. Saturday morning, Greg hiked up to our camp and we glassed again. The big one was still down the canyon. Josh and I went to find him. It was a long hike. We found him. He was big. I pushed myself into a mountain mahogany that was growing low and got ready to take the shot. The ram was about 200 yards down hill. I waited because his left horn was right where I wanted to shoot, a clean heart shot. I knew if I did not wait his horn would be shattered. The big ram knew something was up. His two buddies were also turned sideways to us and looked our way. I waited. Then the ram looked due east and Josh reminded me, "Hold low, bottom of his heart. That bullet won't drop much this steep downhill". This is the shot that I had been fretting about. My responsibility to the animal, to not wound, to not shoot where he would fall off a cliff, to the other hunters that could have been here, to the State of Oregon, to the opportunity, and to the FNAWS members. I squeezed the trigger. Bang! He was down. Josh said chamber another one, he might move. He was anchored, though. In the steep terrain it took 45 minutes to get down to him. Three of us packed him out to the South Fork of the John Day River. The ram is the largest ever shot in Grant County. (The ram is rumored to have green-scored more than 180 points).

## Foundation for North American Wild Sheep Salt Lake City Convention

The 30th Annual Convention for FNAWS will be held in Salt Lake City, January 17th to the 20th of 2007. No longer just the FNAWS Convention, it is now called the Western Hunting and Conservation Expo and will include the Mule Deer Foundation and Sportsmen for Habitat.

It promises to be a great convention. Comedian Jeff Foxworthy and country/western singer Montgomery Gentry will perform one evening and that should be a hoot. Additionally, there will be many informational seminars that will cover topics like elk calling, fitness, bow hunting, horseback hunting and the like. Best of all, the State of Utah is providing 200 hunts for convention-goers only. These hunts will be raffled off and you must attend the convention to win but that makes the odds pretty darned good. And don't forget about the many exhibitors and auctions that come with the whole package. It will be fun.

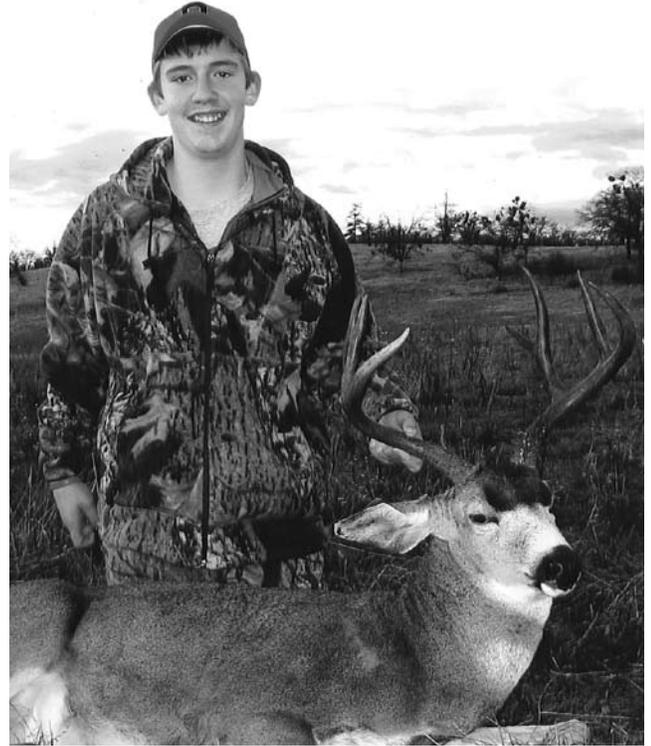
For more information about the Convention, the special Utah Permits or to register for the Convention, go to the FNAWS website at [fnaws@fnaws.org](mailto:fnaws@fnaws.org) or call FNAWS at 307 527-6262.

### STATUS- Rocky Mountain Bighorns In Hells Canyon

Hells Canyon bighorn sheep were surveyed by the states of OR, WA, & ID from helicopter, fixed wing aircraft and on the ground in 2004 -2005. There are approximately 875 bighorn sheep in 16 herds within the Hells Canyon area.

The population counts are as follows:

Herd	Total	Ewes	Lambs	Rams	Estimated Pop.
Asotin, WA	49	26	8	15	50
Wenaha, OR	72	32	9	31	80
Mountain View, WA	25	12	4	9	35
Muir Creek, OR	35	25	1	9	35
Lower HC, OR	25	19	3	3	35
Lower Imnaha, OR	159	93	41	35	190
Bear Creek, OR	15	8	3	4	35
Lostine, OR	74	38	13	23	80
Sheep Mtn, OR	19	13	6	0	25
Upper HC, OR	32	17	3	12	35
Big Canyon, ID	17	7	2	8	20
Redbird, ID	113	74	10	29	130
Upper HC, ID					20
Saddle Creek, OR	8	5	0	3	10
Meyers Creek, ID	6	4	0	2	10
					875



Winner in 2005, Alec Fransen, with a very nice buck. Winner in 2006 was Eryn Vest.

### Youth Blacktail Hunt

Again in 2007, a youth blacktail deer hunt will be auctioned at the banquet to be held April 21. The youth aged 17 and younger will hunt on the Hamann Ranch in Southern Oregon over Christmas break of 2007. Jack Hamann will be the guide. Dates over the Holidays will be worked out by Jack and the hunter.

There's more! The youth also wins a Remington youth rifle with a Leupold scope although he or she may not want to keep it. If the hunter donates it back to OrFNAWS he/she becomes eligible for a drawing for a 2007 Wyoming elk hunt with guide B. Joe Coy. The auction in 2007 will be the last one and with the four previous winners all returning the rifle, the '07 winner will have a 1 in 5 chance of winning the elk hunt. And the winner of the elk hunt gets to keep the rifle. A great deer hunt and a 1 in 5 chance of taking a new rifle on a Wyoming elk hunt. What's better than that.

# The Moose is Loose

How many moose are now in Oregon? According to Vic Coggins, at least 24 different animals were sighted between June 1 and October 1 of this year. A minimum of 7 calves, including 2 sets of twins, has been reported in the Blue Mountains.

Moose have been moving into Oregon from Southeast Washington and Western Idaho. A reproducing moose population is new to Oregon, probably starting in the last few years. Because the moose population is so low, estimated at 25 animals, the herd is vulnerable to illegal hunting. Hunters and other forest users are urged to help protect Oregon's moose and report sightings to the ODFW District Office at 541 426-3279. Photos with the location, date and time are very useful in determining moose numbers and distribution.



## Mountain Goat Hunters Successful

By Vic Coggins

Seven out of seven mountain goat hunters were successful this fall. The largest, a 53 inch billy taken by Matt Weitz, will meet the Boone and Crockett minimum of 50 points. It was taken in the Elkhorn Mountains. Coming close to the B and C minimum was Pat Foldi. His billy scored 49 6/8 and was taken in the Snake River Unit.

Mountain goat herds continue to increase according to surveys conducted in 2006. Transplants to areas of vacant habitat or areas of low density have resulted in dramatic increases in Oregon's goat herds. A total of 102 Elkhorn Mountain animals have been moved to six Northeast Oregon sites since 2000. The current population is estimated at over 600 animals in Northeastern Oregon. Twenty years ago, the population was estimated to be less than 40 animals. Last year the population was estimated at 580 animals. (I don't think Vic is counting a small population that has migrated to the Strawberry Mountains near John Day.)

Oregon FNAWS has supported mountain goats through the purchase of capture nets for transplants, radio collars for herd monitoring and money for flights for population surveys.

## Is This Goat Lost?

Vic Coggins has reported that a mountain goat has left his home in the Elkhorn Mountains and headed west. This young billy has been reported in the Butter Creek area near Pendleton, on the slopes of the John Day River and, most recently, in the Deschutes River drainage. Nobody knows what's going through his brain, of course, but it sure would be nice if he could call in a few nannies and establish a herd in the Cascades. Vic promises to let us know what happens to this adventurous goat.

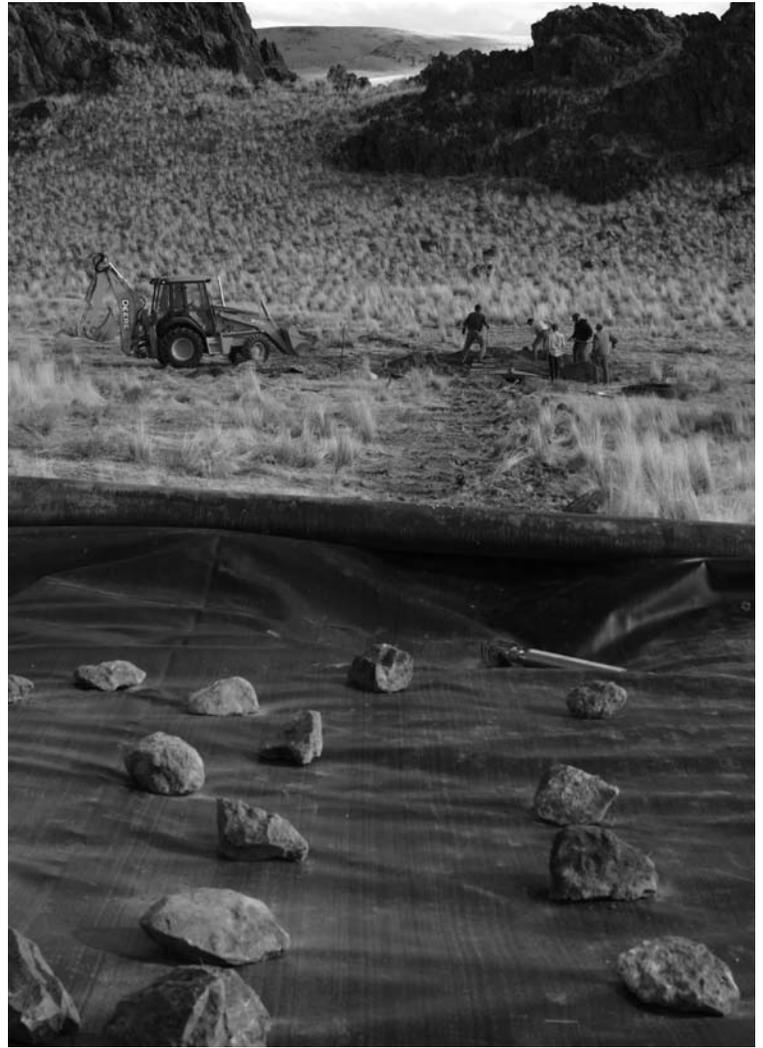
## Guzzlers-3 Down, 9 to Go

Steamboat Guzzler, the third of 12 planned “guzzlers” was installed on Oct. 20th & 21st 2006 in the Leslie Gulch area of Eastern Oregon.

When the Owyhee reservoir is lowered each summer, blue green algae blooms can be fatal to bighorn sheep. The guzzlers provide fresh water sources on the ridges so bighorn sheep won't have to travel to the drainage bottoms to reach water.

Saddle Guzzler and Spring Guzzler were installed the weekend of May 20th 2006. The next to be installed will be the Doe Guzzler on the weekend of May 5th 2007. The Doe Guzzler is a couple of miles from the nearest road in steep terrain so the plans are to have a BLM helicopter available to shuttle people up to the site. We will need a large group of volunteers (30+) to help with this project. If you will be able to help please mark your calendars and let Larry Jacobs (503-784-1358 or e-mail [ljacobs4@aol.com](mailto:ljacobs4@aol.com)) know. We can sure use a good turn out on this one.

The project will be accomplished thanks to staff and financial support from US Bureau of Reclamation, BLM, ODFW, Gem and Owyhee Irrigation Districts and volunteers from both Oregon and Idaho FNAWS chapters.



# 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. The following information on diseases was excerpted from the July, 2005, issue of Wyoming Wildlife.

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.

## **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 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. 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.

## **The Upshot**

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.*

### Calendar of Events

- John Day/Deschutes River Sheep Transplant - **Dec. 5, 2006**
- Board Meeting (Be there!) - **Jan. 13, 2007**
- Nat'l FNAWS, Salt Lake City - **Jan. 17 to 20, 2007**
- Safari Club International, Reno - **Jan. 24 to 27, 2007**
- Elk Camp: Rocky Mtn. Elk Foundation - **Feb. 22 to 25, 2007**
- Oregon FNAWS Banquet - **Apr. 21, 2007**
- Board Meeting - **Apr. 22, 2007**
- Guzzler at Doe Island - **May 5, 2007**
- Deadline for Controlled Hunt Tags & License - **May 15, 2007**
- Summer Board Meeting - **Time and Place TBA**

## Pickett Rim Bighorn Sheep Transplant

The BLM will transplant 30 California Bighorn sheep into "unoccupied historic habitat" on Pickett Rim just east of Fields, Oregon. The area has juniper, lots of juniper, and would be a prime area for some juniper removal. Juniper provides cover for cougars and sheep don't need cougars with advantages. It sure would be fun to take a bunch of chainsaws to the juniper and make sure the sheep get off to a good start. Or carefully reintroduce fire to the habitat.



### WWW.OREGONFNAWS.ORG

The website has been a little neglected but we have recently added a few items and updated others. Take a look and if you have any ideas or suggestions please forward to:  
[lonepinetom@aol.com](mailto:lonepinetom@aol.com)

## 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.

**OR-FNAWS Membership Application (Please Print)      Checks Payable to: OR-FNAWS**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Annual \$30  Family \$55  Life \$500

VISA  MC  AX  Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Charge for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Your Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Check Enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send application to: **Membership Committee Oregon FNAWS,**

**c/o Linda South P.O. Box 1088, North Plains, Oregon 97133**

FOR QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT LINDA SOUTH at [dlsouth@pcez.com](mailto:dlsouth@pcez.com)

*Oregon Chapter Foundation for  
North American Wild Sheep*



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