

# Oregon Wild Sheep Foundation



OREGON



WILD SHEEP  
Foundation

Fall/Winter 2023

# Officers & Board

President: Kevin Martin .....Term Expires 2026  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Craig Foster .....Term Expires 2026  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: David O'Connor.....Term Expires 2025  
Treasurer: Marcus Gores.....Term Expires 2025  
Secretary: Liz Wurdinger.....Term Expires 2025

## Board:

Kevin Martin, Craig Foster, David O'Connor, Marcus Gores, Liz Wurdinger, Tom Peterson, Vic Coggins, Larry Jacobs, Shane Byerly, Walter Chuck Jr., John MacDonald, David Geelan, Don South, Brent Tannock, Ray Wurdinger.

## Newsletter Production:

Editor in Chief: Marcus Gores

Editor: Kevin Martin

If you would like to inquire about advertising space in our quarterly newsletter, please reach out to [Info@oregonfnaws.org](mailto:Info@oregonfnaws.org) for availability and pricing

# Newsletter

FALL/WINTER 2023

1-2 **ORGANIZATION INFO**

3-4 **EDITOR'S MESSAGE**

5 **2024 ANNUAL BANQUET**

8 **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

9-10 **DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP HUNT RAFFLE**

12-16 **GOVT & LEGISLATIVE**

17-18 **SHEEP SHOW '24**

20 **LIFE MEMBER MTN GOAT HUNT GIVEAWAY**

21-22 **I-84 BIGHORN SHEEP CAPTURE**

# 3 Editor's Message

Marcus Gores



Editor, Marcus Gores, Shiras Moose Utah 2023

A lot of great information coming to you folks in this newsletter. We have made the formal transition to having National Wild Sheep Foundation manage and maintain our membership.

Tickets, tables and sponsorships for the 2024 banquet are now live. Make sure to read up on ticketing and sponsorship opportunities.

A new hunt raffle is live as well. Get your name in the hat to go on a Desert Bighorn Sheep Hunt with Sierra El Alamo in Sonora, Mexico.

This is the last combined newsletter we will be producing and going back to quarterly releases now that a lot of the major transitions are completed.

We look forward to better serving you with our newly freed up time as well as serving Wild Sheep and Mountain Goats in our amazing state.

Marcus Gores

OR WSF Treasurer

# 5 | 2024 Annual Banquet

Our 2024 Annual Banquet is coming up quick! Tickets are available for purchase. Go to our website and click the flyer or the button below the flyer to purchase banquet tickets. We have a limit of 400 people! This event will sell out so be sure to get your tickets when they go live!

We are working with a new company to handle all registration, check-in, purchase tracking and check out to make your banquet experience far better than it has ever been before.

New this year: Life Member Mountain Goat Hunt Giveaway! One life member who purchases a banquet ticket and is in the room during the drawing to accept the hunt will win. Hunt is for Fall 2024. Not included is tag, license, charter flights, and tax. You must be registered for banquet and in the room during the drawing or else we will draw the next person as the winner.

Things to look forward to at the banquet: Wall of Guns, Sam Mason Card Game, Rack of Purses, \$5,000 auction credits, General raffle Items, Life Member Mountain Goat Hunt, Desert Bighorn Sheep Hunt Raffle, and much more!

One of the best ways to help us raise money for wild sheep going into the banquet is by donations either financially or in products or experiences to put in the raffles, silent auction, or live auction.

If you have anything you would like to donate please email us @ [info@oregonfnaws.org](mailto:info@oregonfnaws.org) and we will get a donation form filled out and coordinate donation pick up.



**OREGON WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION**  
**25TH ANNUAL BANQUET**  
Riverhouse On The Deschutes  
Bend, OR  
May 4th, 2024

Live Auction  
Silent Auction  
Wall of Guns  
Door Prizes  
Raffle Prizes  
Dinner  
Drinks  
Statewide Combo  
Deer & Elk Tag

Scan For Tickets  
[www.OregonFNAWS.org](http://www.OregonFNAWS.org)

*Darryn Epp*  
DARRYN EPP PHOTOGRAPHY

# KNOW WHERE YOU STAND

**TRUSTED BY BIG GAME HUNTERS**

For more information on the most comprehensive hunting maps available visit: [ONXMAPS.COM/HUNT](https://onxmaps.com/hunt)

## Membership Take Over

**Marcus Gores**

Some of you may have received an email within the past week noting a cancellation to your renewal if you are an annual member or have a family annual membership. This **DOES NOT** mean that your membership is cancelled. This action simply cancels the OR WSF website from charging your card on a subscription basis now that Nationals Wild Sheep Foundation is managing our chapters membership.

Your membership is still valid for one year from the time of your last purchase. Unlike the previous years, we will not be auto renewing your membership through our website. National WSF will be reaching out to you directly to renew through their website which hosts the location where our members will either renew, upgrade, or purchase a membership for the first time.

Our organization continues to strive based on the membership support we have gained over the years. With that we want to continue to grow as well as unify our membership with Wild Sheep Foundation (Nationals). We will be transferring all the membership organization and processing through WSF.

What does this mean for current members? We will be sending WSF nationals our current and active membership list with contacts so WSF can follow up with renewals and updated information. Any updating or renewals will now be through WSF website.

We have made this decision as a board so we can spend more time focusing on sheep projects, conservation efforts, and engagement as opposed to organizing and updating membership. Membership management is a large time commitment and having WSF Nationals manage our membership will allow us to do more in the field and more for fundraising for Wild Sheep projects.

### Common Questions:

Does WSF take a percentage of sales for managing membership? **NO.** they do this at no charge to us so all of membership dollars can go directly back to putting and keeping wild sheep on the mountain.

Does this make all active members of OR WSF a member of WSF Nationals automatically? **YES AND NO.** National WSF is giving you a free annual membership with nationals to give you the experience of an annual member with them. It is highly encouraged for all of our membership to join and be a part of WSF Nationals after the free membership period with them.

Will any of my membership benefits change? **NO.** All of your current accesses, benefits, and perks for being an OR WSF member will not change.

What if I'm a Life Member at OR WSF: Nationals will offer you a life membership with them after a free trial as a life member with nationals at a discount. This is an incentive to be a life member with both OR WSF and WSF Nationals.

Thank you all so much for working with us through this transition. We cannot wait to work with Wild Sheep Foundation to handle membership for Oregon WSF and be able to focus more energy and time to raising money and working with Wild Sheep!

# Desert Bighorn Sheep Hunt Raffle

Oregon Wild Sheep foundation is raffling off another amazing experience to get one of you lucky supporters out in the field sheep hunting. Tickets are available on our website.

*This is a 10-day Desert Bighorn Sheep hunt with Sierra El Alamo in Sonora, Mexico. We will be selling 700 tickets and tickets are \$100 each. Drawing will take place at the end of the 25th annual banquet. Winner need not be present to win.*

*Each ticket is 1 entry into the 10 day guided Desert Sheep hunt. This hunt takes place in Sonora, Mexico with Sierra El Alamo outfitters. There is a total of 700 tickets sold. Drawing will be held at our Annual Banquet Fundraiser May 4th, 2024 in Bend, OR . Need not be present to win. Hunt date is to be determined with outfitter for 2025/2026 season.*

*Hunter is responsible for the following:*

*tags, licenses and airfare to and from Hermosillo, Mexico*

*Trophy import/shipment to the United states*

*Gratuities for guides and staff*

*cites permit and Mexican gun permit*

*Provided:*

*Round trip ground transportation to/from Hermosillo International Airport*

*Services of a full-time guide/translator, two experienced hunting guides, gear packer, camp cook, and in-camp staff*

*Observer or companion may join for \$2,500 for 10 days.*

*Point of outfitting - Sonora, Mexico*

*Hunt concludes upon successful harvest of a Desert Bighorn Sheep*

# Desert Bighorn Sheep Hunt Raffle



Scan to buy tickets



SIERRA EL ÁLAMO  
SONORA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Tickets: \$100 Each

Only 700 Tickets will be sold

10 - Day Desert Bighorn Sheep Hunt in Sonora, Mexico  
Drawing: May 4th, 2024      Hunt Dates: TBD 2025/2026

What separates posers from the real deal?



← This badge.

Only 2% Certified™ brands can prove their commitment to conservation. It's about accountability.

To the wildlife your business depends on.  
To your customers. To your legacy.

We don't dictate where or how you give to wildlife.  
We certify that you've done it.

With members worldwide, the sun doesn't set on the measure of a True Conservationist:

1% Time + 1% Money = 2% for Conservation

**Make your mark, prove your effort: [fishandwildlife.org](http://fishandwildlife.org)**

## Government & Legislative Affairs

Kevin Martin

August-December 2023

### Minam Wildlife Area Acquisition – PURCHASED!!

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Manulife Investment Management Timber and Agriculture Inc. (Manulife), the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation with support from multiple hunting and conservation organizations, including the Wild Sheep Foundation, Oregon Wild Sheep Foundation and the Mid-West Chapter Wild Sheep Foundation, completed a two-phase project that conserves and opens access to a combined 15,573 acres of wildlife and riparian habitat, now part of the Minam River Wildlife Area, in northeast Oregon.

This is a project that OR WSF provided funds, sent letters of support, and provided testimony to assist in this important purchase.

The wildlife area is located 30 miles from La Grande in Union and Wallowa Counties and accessible off Highway 82 and the Hells Canyon Scenic Byway. A proposed trailhead near the highway will flow south through the project area and connect with the Eagle Cap Wilderness.

Combined with the 361,000-acre Eagle Cap Wilderness and Minam State Recreation Area, it now forms a block of public land larger than Yellowstone National Park. The project also improves hunting and recreational access to 6,000 acres of USFS and Bureau of Land Management lands.

A 2021 report named the Minam River as the second-most ecologically important river in the state because of its water quality, recreational value, and ability to support rare or at-risk species. The project area improves habitat connectivity and supplies critical winter range for up to 1,200 elk, serves as transitional and migration range for elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep and other species, and includes 114 miles of riparian habitat that benefits Snake River spring/summer run Chinook salmon (federal and state threatened), Snake River Basin Steelhead (federal threatened), Grande Ronde bull trout (federal threatened) and Pacific lamprey (state sensitive). In addition, ODFW and tribal co-managers documented coho salmon redds in the Minam River in 2021, after a 40-year absence.

Oregonians and visitors to the state also gain permanent public access to an area of high recreational value that is planned to be open April 1-Nov. 30 annually (a closure Dec. 1-March 31 protects big game on their winter range). Recreation opportunities include hunting, fishing, hiking, birdwatching, horseback riding, kayaking and other activities.

An on-site celebration is tentatively scheduled for June 20-22, 2024.

### ION Partnership - Grant-In-Add Funded!!

In August 2023 the ION Partnership received \$210,000 of the \$226,000 requested from the WSF's Grant-in-Aid process!! The entire project cost for this year totals \$741,930 with a total of \$1,239,471.00 invested by the partners over the past 2 years.

The Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation (IDWSF), Oregon Wild Sheep Foundation (OR WSF), Elko Bighorns Unlimited, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited (NBU), Nevada Bighorns Unlimited-Midas Chapter, and Nevada Bighorns Unlimited-Fallon Chapter fully supported this multi-jurisdictional project. This the second year of this project in the Idaho, Oregon, and Nevada (ION) Partnership management area.

# Government & Legislative Affairs

The project uses Test and Remove (T&R) methods to identify carriers and clear Movi from free-ranging bighorn sheep populations. T&R efforts are being conducted in bighorn sheep populations in the Santa Rosa Range of Nevada and 10 Mile/Rattlesnake in Oregon. These bighorn herds are part of an interstate metapopulation that both states have acknowledged and have been collaboratively managing for over a decade. In addition to the Santa Rosa and 10 mile/Rattlesnake efforts, hopefully final pathogen testing will be conducted in the Snowstorm Mountains (NV) which has been an on-going and Test and Remove project since 2016.

The Lower Owyhee herd is Oregon's third oldest reintroduced California bighorn sheep herd, established in 1965. This herd grew to over 400 bighorns by 2015 when an Movi outbreak began in October 2015. Actions this year are the first steps using Test and Remove (T&R) methods to identify carriers and clear Movi from the Lower Owyhee. Bighorn sheep are known to cross the state boundary between Oregon and Idaho along the Owyhee Front. In 2015 bighorn in the Leslie Gulch area (OR) of the Lower Owyhee suffered a severe pneumonia outbreak and have not recovered.

California bighorn sheep were released into Jacks Creek, Idaho several times starting in 1967 after native sheep were extirpated in the early 1900s. The population grew to a high count of 360 animals. After 1993, the number of bighorns began to decline and the most recent survey in 2021 found 139 bighorn sheep. Causes of decline are unknown. In December of 2022, 29 bighorns were captured, and health tested in the Owyhee Front and Jacks Cr. All were negative for Movi. Lamb surveys in 2023 indicate that recruitment may be low. Lamb survival rates were lower than desirable, with many lambs being lost in the first few weeks. Surveyors have observed few yearling animals. Predation by mountain lions has been documented as a limiting factor in some bighorn sheep populations elsewhere but long-term and current cause-specific mortality data are not available for the Jack Cr. population. Idaho will continue to collect information to determine potential actions.

The ION project will also increase genetic diversity and recreational opportunities with the transplant of California Bighorn into the Montana Mountains, Nevada, and Trout Creek Mountains and Abert Rim in Oregon. This also will assist in managing high bighorn numbers in the John Day River herds (OR) and adjoining private lands.

There is an interesting ongoing analysis by Oregon State University (Dr. Clint Epps) working to find pre-extirpation bighorn sheep skulls and attempt to gather genetic samples. This could expand our historic knowledge of bighorn sheep populations across the great basin.

This year we begin a collaborative project with Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge and NDOW capturing and collaring bighorn sheep, mule deer, and mountain lions on and around the refuge. Then monitoring predation rates on ungulates to gather data to assist in future management decisions.

## Tri-State Partners – Grant-In-Add Funded!!

The Tri-State Partnership received \$220,000 of the \$235,000 requested from the WSF's Grant-in-Aid process!! The entire project cost for this year totals \$772,600, with a total of \$2,100,430.00 invested by all partners to date since 2020 (4 years).

This is the fourth year of the multi-jurisdictional adaptive management project to further investigate the use of "test and remove" to clear *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (Movi) from ailing bighorn sheep populations in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. This project is unique in that we are "going big" across multiple states and jurisdictions, analyzing data from the seven populations to improve implementation of disease management in bighorn sheep. What distinguishes this project is that this is a dedicated effort to combine forces and compare test and remove in different populations.

The objective is to improve the health of bighorn sheep populations at Burnt River, Lookout Mountain, and Lostine, Oregon Lower Salmon River, Lower Panther and Main Salmon, Idaho, and Yakima Canyon, Washington. The Cleman Mountain population in Washington is included as a control. The replicated design of this collaborative project across populations explores underlying factors that may affect Movi persistence and management, and results will provide practical information that wildlife managers can use to speed recovery of bighorn sheep populations following pneumonia outbreaks.

This year we plan to capture and sample 300 sheep by helicopter net gun and ground darting in these seven populations. This project is designed as a manipulative experiment that builds on and improves previous test and remove (T&R) Movi clearance efforts. We are using adaptive methods to identify the least invasive, most efficient approaches to clearing Movi from free-ranging bighorn sheep populations. These seven focal populations represent a range of health and demographic histories (size, native vs reintroduced, etc.), patterns of space use, infection, and accessibility.

Gaining a better understanding of the patterns and determinants of health and disease in these populations would help in finding ways to make T&R a more efficient management tool that can be used more widely in other sheep populations west wide.

As partners in the tri-state area, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon State Wildlife Agencies, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon WSF Chapters, the Forest Service, the BLM, the Confederated Tribe of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and the Nez Perce Tribe we thank the WSF for providing continued support for this project.

**Protecting Hunting Heritage Education Act** – The U.S. Department of Education (US DOE) had proposed to cut funding to schools with hunting, archery, or sport shooting programs and courses. The WSF, OR WSF with multiple other hunting and shooting organizations nationally, made their voices heard among our federal lawmakers.

In early August OR WSF first received notice of this issue, and that Oregon Department of Education (OR DOE) may be one of the agencies applying the restriction to Oregon schools, what most sportsmen groups considered, a misinterpretation. OR WSF reached out to Oregon's Senator's Offices to share our concerns. We did not believe that this was the intent of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, but a poor interpretation. We told them that we thought we had a lot of local school programs and high school shooting clubs that this would impact.

OR WSF also reached out to Kurt Thiede, the Government Affairs Director for the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, sharing the Oregon information as soon as we had heard. This was August 8<sup>th</sup>. Kurt quickly shared with us: That the Oregon Department of Education (OR DOE) had not made an announcement like that and that the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) was able to confirm.

The US DOE had indicated that Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funds could be withheld if used to fund these programs, due to the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSEA). However, the OR DOE had not made that same assertion. We did share this updated information with both Senator's Offices. In addition, the American Wildlife Conservation Partnership (AWCP), which the Wild Sheep Foundation (WSF) is a member, also sent a letter to Secretary of Education, Cardona, asking that the US DOE reconsider its interpretation, that the department's strict, and incorrect, reading of the text and prohibition of funds for hunter, archery and wilderness education runs counter to the legislative intent of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. That this was not to end decades worth of safety training of millions of students, which provided them mental health benefits. The prohibition not only ignored the legislative intent, but it threatened to undermine the value of these longstanding enrichment programs.

Following the outcry, bipartisan legislation, titled the Protecting Hunting Heritage and Education Act, amended the previous language to clarify that school programs "training students in archery, hunting, or other shooting sports" are eligible for federal funding. The bill passed the House of Representatives with a 424-1 vote, while its companion bill in the Senate was approved unanimously. The President signed the bill into law on Oct. 6.



# Government & Legislative Affairs

## Blue Mountain Forest Plan Revision –

The Forest Plan Revision process is starting for the Blue Mountain National Forests (Umatilla, Malheur, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests). These three national forests in northeast Oregon contain 5.5 million acres of your public lands. Included in this landscape are areas critical to Rocky Mountain and California bighorn sheep, as well as much of Oregon's Rocky Mountain Goat populations.

OR WSF will be actively involved in this analysis and the development of the Plan. Members have already participated in public outreach and meetings to fully understand the process, proposed timelines, and how/when it is best to participate.

National Forest Plan revisions includes opportunities for public input. This is a detailed and complex analysis that likely will take several years to complete.

**Oregon Sportsmen Conservation Partnership (OSCP):** OR WSF is an active member in this statewide partnership, both as a general member and as a member of the Legislative Committee.

### As a member of Oregon Sportsmen Opposed to Gun Violence, we actively opposed Ballot measure 114.

There are multiple issues with this measure; it requires a currently nonexistent perming system to purchase firearms, creates a searchable database housing all permit holder's information, has an enormous financial burden, and would outlaw all firearms that can hold 10 or more rounds in internal chambers/tubes. Because the permitting system will need to be created and implemented before any permits can be issued, it would effectively stop all firearms purchase until the system could be put into place.

In November, Harney County Judge Raschio ruled Measure 114 unconstitutional and permanently banned its implementation. He cited two major components, the permit to purchase scheme and the ban on magazines over 10 rounds, as factors in the unconstitutional ruling.

We anticipate the State will appeal so this will continue to play out in the courts. However, this is a major win and helps with the ongoing litigation efforts at both the state and federal levels.

**Right to Fish, Hunt, Harvest and Gather** - On behalf of the many Oregonians who provide their families with foods from wild and foraged sources, The OSCP Legislative Committee, which includes OR WSF, continues to discuss what it would take to put forth to the citizens of the state a constitutional right to fish, hunt, harvest, and gather. To date we have not been successful in the legislature, but we will continue to develop strategies to move this forward, including what funding may be needed to be successful.

**Wildlife Crossings** - The members of the Oregon Sportsmen's Conservation Partnership, including OR WSF, strongly support strengthening of language within the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) existing programs to fund, study, and/or construct wildlife crossings in the state. We are looking for a potential bill to move forward in the Oregon Legislature's upcoming session, likely as part of a Wildlife Omnibus bill.

**ODFW Commission Representation** - The bill to reform the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission makeup passed with OR WSF providing both written and verbal testimony on this effort. Which reformed the representative structure from congressional districts to a more regionally equitable model based on the five river basin management areas. We are now working with partners and the Governor's Office on the makeup of the positions. This year there will be a new position representing Eastern Oregon, as well as 3 existing positions where the incumbents are reapplying.

# Government & Legislative Affairs

## Sportsmen for the Owyhee:

### Malheur Community Empowerment for the Owyhee Act -

The Owyhee Sportsmen Coalition (OR WSF is a member), including hunting and fishing organizations that represent more than 25,000 sportsmen and women in Oregon, continued to provide support, as well as continuing to suggest improvements needed to the Malheur Community Empowerment for the Owyhee Act. This legislation aims to find collaborative solutions for the social and economic well-being of Malheur County and ensure benefits to fish, wildlife, and the local outdoor recreation economy.

We believe that the Owyhee Plateau is a landscape that should be safeguarded for future generations of American sportsmen and women, and we appreciate efforts to bring diverse stakeholders to the table to discuss ways to protect the Owyhee canyon country and the multiple uses it supports. Our organizations support the multiple uses of public land and recognize that good stewardship means sustainable ranching, wildlife habitat management, public access, and meaningful resource conservation.

We support the needs for continued economic development, community participation, flexible grazing, and Wilderness designation. Access is important for management activities by land managers as well as hunters, anglers, and permittees. From a hunting and angling perspective, we want to ensure language is included to improve the benefits for fish and wildlife. Together, we have provided language to improve the bill to Senator Wyden's Office.

We are also ready and willing to work with Oregon Congressman Bentz's Office as well as he is discussing the potential for working on legislation for the Owyhee country.

In addition, there is discussion and a push by some organizations for a potential National Monument designation. OR WSF will engage as needed if this looks like a possibility.

## Tri-corner Community Collaboration –

This is a Community Based Shared Stewardship Sagebrush Conservation Collaborative. This effort exchanges information, shares resources, builds relationships, and problem solves collaboratively. The collaborative seeks to discuss and reach consensus on specific, achievable, tangible, and measurable steps to promote healthy and sustainable sagebrush steppe, while preserving and promoting social, economic, cultural, and ecological values within the Tri-Corner Region where Oregon, California and Nevada come together. The goal is to develop a community based, working landscape vision for the landscape which can be used to respond to current and/or future special designation requests by the environmental community.

OR WSF was asked to participate in this new collaborative. Board member Craig Foster continues to participate, keep us apprised, and assure us that bighorn sheep interests are part of the ongoing conversations.

**Wild Sheep Foundation Bi-Weekly Legislative Affairs Committee Calls** – Larry Jacobs and Kevin Martin, representing OR WSF continue to participate in these biweekly calls with the WSF. Some items of discussion include:

- Forest Planning – attempting to assure that bighorn sheep are identified as a Species of Conservation Concern. This would ensure that future forest decisions would include the potential effects to bighorn sheep populations, as well as ensure consistency across the national forests.
- Protecting Hunting Heritage Education Act – see the earlier discussion – this has passed and been signed into law.
- Chronic Wasting Disease – discussing/exploring additional funding needs.
- Non-Lead ammunition – attempting to understand the issues and concerns with lead, including potential replacement materials, such as the price and availability of copper. Additionally, discussing the needs to explore other material replacement options, and the potential legal issues that need to be worked through to utilize.
- Feral Horses and Burros – how to deal with the ongoing issues associated with the management of feral horses and burros on public lands across the western states.

**Bighorn Advocates Monthly Calls** - Larry Jacobs, Vic Coggins, and Kevin Martin representing OR WSF continue to participate in these monthly calls with bighorn sheep advocates from across the country.

- Risk of Contact Modeling (ROC) – having discussions on how the ROC models are applied and if being applied consistently across the western states, by agencies, tribes, and organizations. There appears to be some interpretation which needs to be corrected to ensure implementation is accurate and consistent.
- Discussions and updates on ongoing litigation around bighorn sheep populations across the western states.
- This partnership is also focused on Forest Planning and the need to assure bighorn sheep are consistently considered a species of conservation concern (SCC)

# Sheep Week 2024



**DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP HUNT DRAWING**  
 FULL REGISTRANTS ARE ENTERED TO WIN A 10 - DAY HUNT WITH SIERRA EL ALAMO IN 2025

**SIERRA EL ALAMO**  
 SONORA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

DRAWING DURING FIRDAY'S BANQUET  
 MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

**AUCTION CREDIT DRAWINGS**  
 REGISTERED GUESTS OF THURSDAY, FRIDAY OR SATURDAY BANQUETS ARE ENTERED NIGHTLY TO WIN \$10,000

DRAWINGS WILL BE BEFORE EACH NIGHT'S AUCTION JAN. 18-20, 2024  
 MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

**FLOOR CREDIT DRAWINGS**  
 ATTENDEES ARE ENTERED DAILY INTO DRAWINGS FOR \$1,000, \$2,500 & \$5,000  
 CREDITS TO BE USED WITH THE EXPO EXHIBITORS

DRAWINGS THURSDAY - SATURDAY | JAN. 18-20, 2024  
 MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**JUNIPER CUT:** February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024. OR WSF volunteers along side ODF&W staff will be clearing juniper in the Aldrich mountain Philip W. Schnieder Wildlife Area. Please reach out [info@oregonfnaws.org](mailto:info@oregonfnaws.org) to sign up.

## OHA Family Event

OHA is hosting a brand new event to get family and youth interest in the outdoors and conservation. The event will have over 40 organizations displaying their efforts in conservation and educational purposes. ODF&W, US Fish & Wildlife, US forestry, and Oregon Department of Forestry will be present to share information on habitat, access, and careers in outdoors.

This event is free to all attendees and will be held at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Come stop by and visit with us as we will have a booth at the event.

## LIFE MEMBER GIVEAWAY DURING BANQUET

### LIFE MEMBER MOUNTAIN GOAT HUNT GIVEAWAY

- MUST PURCHASE TICKET FOR BANQUET
- MUST BE PRESENT DURING DRAWING AT BANQUET MAY 4, 2024
- FLIGHTS, TAX, TAGS, LICENSE NOT INCLUDED
- HUNT DATE: SEPT 28-OCT 8, 2024  
British Columbia, Canada



# I-84 Bighorn Sheep Capture

On January 3, 2024 four representatives from Oregon Wild Sheep Foundation headed for Arlington to assist on a sheep capture.

Sheep captures require the right weather and previously 3 out of the 4 OR WSF volunteers had attempted to participate on captures but weather went bad and postponed or canceled the captures.

The night we all arrived in Arlington fog was present in the gorge with some rain in the forecast for the next morning. We met with all of the capture staff for dinner and a meeting to outline the capture process and safety.

We went back to our motel after dinner and hoped for a little wind and rain to keep the fog at bay the next day.

The alarm went off pretty early the next day and we met for breakfast and headed for wheat fields above the rims of the gorge.

After setup and some discussion daylight came and shortly after the helicopter arrived with sheep. At the end of the day 24 sheep were captured from the I-84 Herd, 16 would go to the Trout creek mountains and 8 would go to Abert Rim, the sheep were fitted with radio collars and ear tags for tracking.

The capture was necessary to diversify genetics in both herds and to reduce the size of the I-84 herd slightly.

Thanks to ODFW and the Land owner Blake Philippi for making it happen.

Shane Byerly



# Upcoming Events

Sheep Week:  
January 18-20, 2024

Partners in Conservation  
February 3, 2024

Juniper Cut Volunteer Opportunity  
February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024

25<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet Fundraiser  
May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Spring Board Meeting  
May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## New Life Members

- 220. Christopher Riefstahl
- 221. Jeff Mornarich
- 222. Jim Kirkpatrick
- 223. Brandon Turley
- 224. Clinton Montgomery
- 225. Stacey Hunt
- 226. Chris Getchell
- 227. Shari Glidden
- 228. David Staub
- 229. Andy Moeckel
- 230. Kyle Stelter
- 231. Jeff Harrison
- 232. Michael Clonch
- 233. Parker Jansen
- 234. Dave Vandrhoff
- 235. Candace Evers
- 236. James Shelton
- 237. Shay Law
- 238. David O'Connor
- 239. Dallas Oja
- 240. Rusty Hebert
- 241. Daniel Stadel
- 242. Bryan Tikkala
- 243. Kenneth Kirsch
- 244. Judith Kirsch

# 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](mailto:Info@OregonFNAWS.org)

[www.OregonFNAWS.org](http://www.OregonFNAWS.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ORWSF](http://www.facebook.com/ORWSF)

Instagram: @OregonWildSheepFoundation



# OREGON



# WILD SHEEP<sup>®</sup>

*Foundation*