

GOATS: Restoration seems to have expanded territory

Continued from page 1

Regional Office.

After a discussion with Heath about the possibility of a unicorn or polar bear on Three Fingered Jack, Heath said, "We're too far south for a polar bear, and don't ask me about unicorns, I know nothing about them."

Then, with a broad grin, he added, "But if you want to talk about mountain goats, I'm your man."

According to Heath, the first attempt to reintroduce mountain goats (aka Rocky Mountain goats) to Oregon was a small release back in the early 1950s, into the Wallowas of Eastern Oregon. (Biologically speaking, mountain goats are not true goats, but they are close relatives—more properly known as "goat-antelopes.")

Up to the early 1980s things were sort of in limbo. Then a release was made into the Elkhorns and the Mt. Adams areas in 1983, and a couple of years later a small group of mountain goats was

spotted in the Strawberries, near John Day (most thought they had made it from the Elkhorns).

Then in March of 2010 a lone billy appeared at Horse Ridge, 20 miles east of Bend, in Dry Canyon. It was hard to miss, that beautiful white coat set against the dark basalt lava rock cliffs on Dry Canyon.

He was captured and a radio collar was placed on him, and he was released. Wildlife biologists are of the opinion that he wandered cross-country all the way from the release in the Elkhorns way over by Sumpter.

After being radio-tagged, he eventually meandered over into the Mt. Newberry area where he met up with a sweet little radio-collared nannie — placed there by Heath and members of the ODFW mountain goat crew — who eventually gave birth to a kid. the fate of the kid is unknown, as the nannie was found dead last spring.

In 2013, combined efforts of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and ODFW biologists trapped 24 mountain goats from the Elkhorns group and released them in tribal lands on the lower

slopes of Mt. Jefferson.

Historical literature and archeological evidence tells today's biologists that Rocky Mountain goats occurred on Mt. Jefferson prior to the appearance of European Americans, and the region still appears to be a good fit for the species. ODFW last surveyed the area in mid-July, and counted 29 goats during the aerial survey, including two sets of twins.

Brady Wessel of Sisters emailed to say he spotted a mountain goat nannie feeding on grasses on the side of Forest Road 2076, near Link Lake. Heath thinks this could be one of the goats from the group the Eshrick family spotted on Three Fingered Jack.

Wessel said, "I was driving back from Link Lake, when I saw a white animal emerge from the bushes on the left of



PHOTO COURTESY ODFW

Mountain goat mom and kids in the high country of Oregon, thanks to the restoration efforts of ODFW.

the road. I was a bit shocked when I realized it was a goat! It had small, pointy horns and hooves, and looked a little scruffy, perhaps from shedding its winter coat. It ran up the road when it saw me and veered off to the right, going

back up into the bushes." Those who sight a mountain goat should give them lots of room. Don't chase it, or follow it. Just stop and let the animal (any wild animal) leave your presence in its own time and space.

COLD LASER THERAPY

Helps accelerate healing and eliminate pain.

We welcome all patients, Workman's comp., and auto accidents too.

Three Sisters Chiropractic & Pain Management
Dr. Inice Gough, DC | 541.549.3583
— Since 1997 —

No Pretzel-ing
Come stretch in a fun class. Enjoy improved health, strength, energy, mood & flexibility. Decrease your stress and pain — without feeling like a pretzel.
Wednesday 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.
Taught by Karen Kassy, MS in Integrative Medicine
life.love.yoga. 164 N. Elm St.

Easier Fly Fishing
with Tenkara-style rods

- Learn in minutes
- A fun way to fly fish
- Great for adults & kids
- Take backpacking or hiking
- Affordable

The Fly Fisher's Place
SISTERS, OREGON
151 W. Main Ave., Sisters
541-549-FISH | Open 7 days a week

CORK CELLARS
FREE WINE TASTING WED. & FRI. 5-7
FRIDAY & SATURDAY SPECIALS:
Seafood Pasta
LIVE MUSIC
SAT., 8/13, 7-9 P.M.
DENNIS MCGREGOR

Tues-Sat 12-8 p.m.
391 W. Cascade Ave.
541-549-2675

Lazy days of summer are a great time to **SCHEDULE KIDS' DENTAL APPOINTMENTS**

We're committed to your family's dental health!

Ben Crockett, D.D.S.
Check us out on facebook
p 541-549-9486 / 541-549-9110
410 E. Cascade Ave. ■ P.O. Box 1027 ■ Sisters, Oregon 97759
Hours: Mon., 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Tues.-Wed., 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thurs., 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

4th Annual **TASTE** OF SISTERS

FEATURING FANTASTIC FOOD FROM SISTERS' RESTAURANTS

.....

Live Music & Dancing by Beatles cover band JuJu Eyeball
Performance by Central Oregon Aerial Arts

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 • 6 PM
EUROSPORTS FOOD CART GARDEN
223 E. Hood Ave. • Sisters, OR

Sliding-scale admission \$20-\$60 • Limited tickets available
Purchase in advance at Eurosports or bendticket.com

.....

100% PROCEEDS BENEFIT SISTERS KIWANIS FOOD BANK AND FURRY FRIENDS FOUNDATION