

Idaho doesn't recognize bighorn ram as state record due to hunting violation

By Keith Ridler
Associated Press

BOISE — The Idaho Department of Fish and Game will not recognize as a state record a bighorn sheep that was killed nearly three years ago by a Nez Perce Tribe member because the agency said the ram was shot in violation of state hunting regulations, even though those regulations do not apply to tribe members hunting on ancestral lands.

But the Boone and Crockett Club hunting group has recognized the kill by hunter Gary Sublett in September 2016 as being within his tribe's 1855 rights and has invited him to its Big Game Awards banquet in early August in Springfield, Missouri, where the bighorn's head will go on display.

The animal's massive horns rank No. 1 for Idaho and No. 26 for the U.S. and Canada on Boone and Crockett's list of largest Rocky Mountain bighorns.

"It is the largest that we have recorded from Idaho," said Justin Spring, director of Boone and Crockett Club's Big Game Records. "From what we've seen, there were no reasons why we wouldn't accept that entry."

Idaho Fish and Game had

closed the area to bighorn sheep hunting and Sublett said he was heavily criticized after he killed the bighorn at the end of a three-day hunt in Hells Canyon. The canyon forms part of the Idaho-Oregon border and Sublett was on the Idaho side of the canyon about 40 miles west of the Nez Perce Tribe's reservation in northern Idaho but within the tribe's ancestral lands.

"There were people calling me everything but a human being," said Sublett. "In this canyon there are petroglyphs and arrowheads. My tribe has lived in that canyon for over 10,000 years."

Fish and Game spokesman Roger Phillips said state officials recognize the treaty but won't recognize the bighorn as being the biggest killed in Idaho.

"We're not going to call it an illegal kill," said Idaho Fish and Game spokesman Roger Phillips. "But for our state records, they have to be in accordance with our fish and game laws."

The 1855 treaty gives Nez Perce Tribe members access to federal public land on about 26,500 square miles of the tribe's ancestral areas that are now part of Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Montana.

About 3,500 tribal members can use those rights retained when the tribe ceded the land to the U.S. government.

The Boone and Crockett Club said it recognizes Sublett's ram because of the treaty and because the tribe has a management plan for sustainable hunting of bighorns.

Sublett said he has used the treaty rights to hunt bighorns in Hells Canyon and some neighboring areas since the mid-1970s. He said he has killed 10 bighorns and that nine of them rank as trophies by scoring more than 180 points in Boone and Crockett scoring.

Non-tribal hunters in Idaho face long odds of winning a tag to hunt Rocky Mountain bighorns or California bighorns, the other species in the state. Non-tribal hunters can kill one of each in their lifetimes.

Bighorn poachers in Idaho face stiff penalties. In 2016, Paul Cortez of Nampa received a fine of \$10,000, 30 days in jail and a lifetime hunting ban for killing a trophy bighorn sheep along the Salmon River in Idaho.

Sublett said there was a lot of publicity about his bighorn ram before he killed it, includ-

ing speculation it might be a potential trophy for Idaho's annual bighorn ram auction tag that could sell for hundreds of thousands of dollars. But that ended after Sublett, 62, killed the ram.

"They acted like I basically robbed the bank and got away with it," he said.

The Nez Perce Tribe declined to comment about the bighorn.

The tribe has played a leading role in Idaho in attempting to preserve bighorn sheep habitat. Among those efforts, the tribe was part of a federal lawsuit that concluded in 2010 and forced the removal of domestic sheep from parts of the Payette National Forest, including portions of Hells Canyon. Domestic sheep carry



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Our Expanded Vendor Fair Saturday, 8am to 8pm • Sunday, 8am to 3pm

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Fun for the whole family! Come early and stay late!



Nate E. Conklin



BIGFOOT

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"Wildfires can easily be ignited by backyard burning; an unattended campfire; a hot car on tall, dry grass; or from dragging tow chains — and they spread fast," Walker said in a statement. "We hope our Bigfoot campaign will draw attention and create a bigger 'footprint' of wildfire prevention efforts around the state."

Get it? A bigger footprint.

The state campaign's taglines play on both the large, unusual footprints in the forest that have been attributed to the furry beast and Sasquatch's mythical status.

"... Leave only footprints," says one poster for the campaign, showing Bigfoot hiking with some human friends in Oregon's majestic wilds.

"BELIEVE in fire safety," offers another, perhaps a nod to "The X-Files" motto: "I want to believe." The poster shows a silhouette of Bigfoot carrying a shovel and a sloshing

bucket of water.

The office will be using the hashtag #BelieveInFireSafety on social media.

Bigfoot has been a pop-culture icon in the Northwest for decades. In the 1960s and '70s, sightings were frequent, and hikers could call a hotline to report seeing the notoriously shy animal.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the time wrote in its Northwest environmental atlas that Sasquatch's existence was "hotly disputed."

All these years later, fascination with the creature lives on.

"Investigators tend to fall within three main groups, believing Sasquatches are either: (a) animals, (b) spirits, or (c) extra-terrestrials," John Zada writes in the new book "In the Valleys of the Noble Beyond." Some people, Zada adds, believe Bigfoot is an offshoot of "an enormous prehistoric species of Asian gorilla ... known to science as Gigantopithecus blacki."

TWIST

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Long story short, from then on after they went down, he'd say OK, you ready? Me — yep. He'd hit the call and 99% of the time they'd start popping back up. We're slow but, we were believers.

We shot whistle pigs for about two hours and had a blast. Finally, we refocused and remembered we were supposed to be fishing. We finally reluctantly agreed that we had better finish our trek to the lake — after all, we had spent an hour packing our fishing gear.

I had to go out of town the next morning at 5:30 a.m. so we only had about 5½ hours of fishing time. Well, theoretically, if we hadn't have spent 1½ to 2 hours shooting whistle pigs, I guess we could have fished a bit longer.

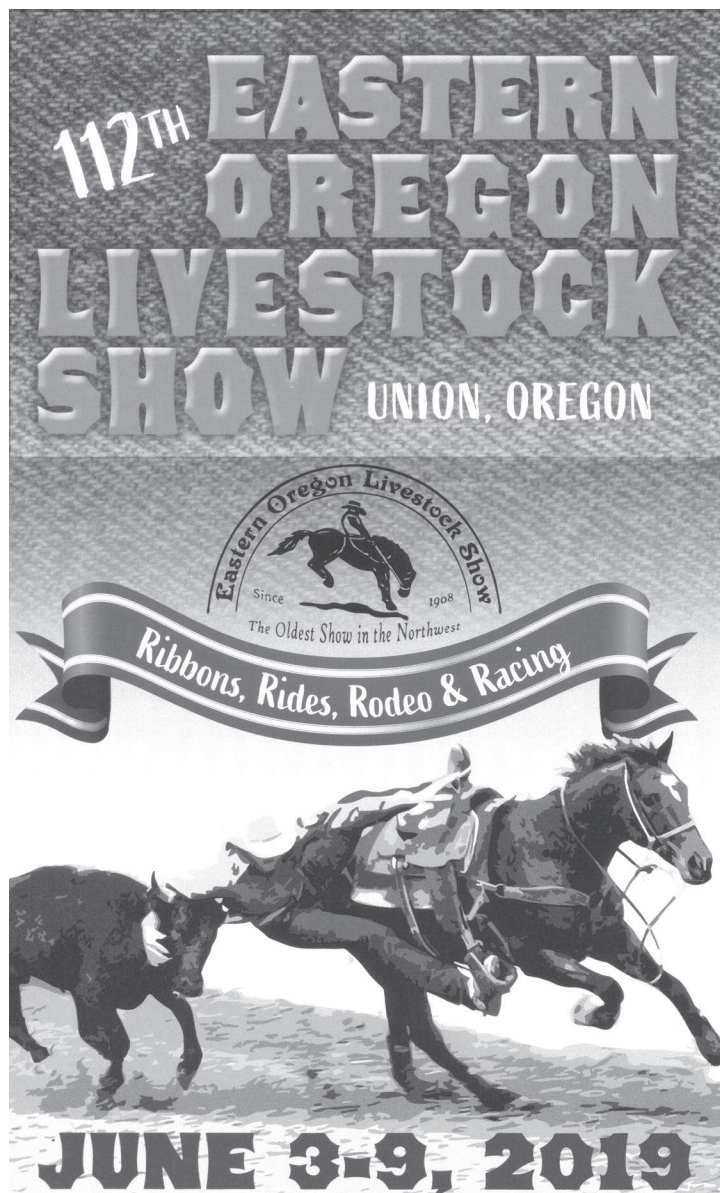
I know I say this every two minutes, but gee I love Idaho in the springtime. How can you not? Between bear hunting, turkey hunting, mushroom hunting, whistle pig hunting and crappie fishing you can wear yourself out. Springtime in the Northwest is flat out magical.

Any of the above activities could totally consume your

free time, much less five of them! No wonder why, by the time spring has fizzled out, that I am flat out ragged out and swear off of anything outdoors for a couple of days so I can catch up on my sleep!

But then summer hits and it is off to the races again.

Some day when I get old, I'm going to have to slow down. But, in July my daughter and I have a big fishing trip planned to the historic Plummer's Fishing Lodge in The Northwest Territories. That will be the best daddy/daughter date ever won't it? I can't wait.



Contact 2019
EOLS Royalty
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**Kelly
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2019 EOLS Schedule of Events

MONDAY, JUNE 3			FRIDAY, JUNE 7		
4-H Horse Show	9am		Cowboy Breakfast	6am	
Dog Show	10am		4-H & FFA Showmanship	9am	
TUESDAY, JUNE 4			Queens Luncheon	11am	
4-H Horse Show	9am		FFA Awards Presentation (Sale Barn)	1pm	
Small Animal Show	10am		Carnival	2-9pm	
Queen's Coronation (Clubhouse)	7pm		Main Street Parade	2pm	
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5			PRCA Rodeo & Pari-Mutual Horse Racing	4pm	
Livestock Weigh-In	1-7pm		4-H Awards Presentation (Sale Barn)	6pm	
Breeding Goat Showmanship & Conformation	3pm		Adult Dance (Clubhouse)	After rodeo	
THURSDAY, JUNE 6			SATURDAY, JUNE 8 ★ Patriot Day ★		
Cowboy Breakfast	6am		Cowboy Breakfast	6am	
4-H & FFA Conformation	9am		Livestock Auction	8am	
4-H & FFA Judging Contest	3pm		Carnival	1-9pm	
Carnival	3-9pm		PRCA Rodeo & Pari-Mutual Horse Racing	2pm	
Happy Hour	5pm		Adult Dance (Clubhouse)	After rodeo	
Ed Miller Xtreme Bulls	7pm		SUNDAY, JUNE 9		
PRCA Freestyle Bullfights			PRCA Rodeo & Pari-Mutual Horse Racing	1:30pm	
Calf Scramble (during intermission)					

FUTURE SHOW DATES June 8-14, 2020 • June 7-13, 2021

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Pre-Sale Available at Union Market and D&B Supply
Children must be at least 2 years old to ride
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Spring Cleaning 101

What you should know about the disposal of household hazardous waste.

What is household hazardous waste?
HHW is anything labeled toxic, flammable, corrosive, reactive or explosive. These materials can threaten family health and the safety of pets and wildlife.

What are some examples of hazardous waste?
Aerosols, Bleach, Drain Cleaners, Metal Polish, Mothballs, Oven Cleaners, Toilet Bowl Cleaners, Ammonia-based Cleaners, Mercury Thermometers, Wood Polishes, Waxes, Fertilizers, Insecticides, Herbicides, Rodenticides, Spa and Pool Chemicals, Roofing Compounds, Antifreeze, Batteries, Motor Oil, Paint Strippers and Thinners, Gasoline and more.

Where can I safely dispose of my hazardous waste?
La Grande Facility: Open to any resident of the three counties every other Tuesday, 8am-12 noon. By appointment, however, small labeled quantities accepted daily. (541) 963-5459.
Baker City Facility: Open the first Wednesday of each month, 10am-12 noon. By appointment only. (541) 523-2626.
Enterprise Facility: Open the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month 10am-12 noon. By appointment only. (541) 426-3332.

Americans generate 1.6 million tons of HHW per year!

The average home can accumulate as much as 100 pounds of hazardous waste.