

Lady Cougars go on central Oregon rampage

By Ellen Morris Bishop
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Wallowa Cougar's girls team dominated both the Condon Wheeler basketball team, and the Lone/Arlington teams on Friday and Saturday respectively. On Friday night they defeated Condon / Wheeler 65-23, leading throughout the game. The Cougars started off strong with 18 points in the first quarter, slowed a bit in the second quarter, but swamped Condon/Wheeler 23-7 points in the third quarter. Shanna Rae Tillery scored 19 with 13 rebounds. Jamie Johnston tossed 18 points through the hop, Haley Brockamp scored 13 Megan Aamodt was the high scorer for Condon/Wheeler with 8. "We read our break really well," said coach David Howe. "Unfortunately we missed a ton of lay-ins. But our posts did a great job as a group."

At Arlington/Lone on Saturday the Cougars continued their rampage, winning 59-32. Jamie Johnston tossed in 34 points, more than the entire opposing team. The Cougars led all the way in this game as well, although at the end of the half the score was nail-bitingly close, as 14-12. But in the second half things opened up for the Cougs, while they allowed just 15 total points to their opponents. A. Heideman was high scorer for Arlington/Lone with 11 points. "We ran our break really well tonight," Howe said. Our guards are seeing the post and delivering the ball on-time. Obviously, Jamie was a one-woman wrecking machine today, but our defense and our fight was just awesome. It's nice to have everyone back and healthy."



Ellen Morris Bishop

In the December game against Cove, Jamie Johnston (left) heads for the basket. Johnston scored 34 points in the Dec. 21 game with Lone/Arlington.



Jonny Armstrong/Oregon State University

A brown bear consumes sockeye salmon in Yako Creek in southeast Alaska.

Big brown bears eat salmon in little streams

By Chris Branam
Oregon State University

CORVALLIS, Ore. — It's a familiar scene to anyone who's watched footage of brown bears catching sockeye salmon in Alaska: They're standing knee-deep in a rushing river, usually near a waterfall, and grabbing passing fish with their paws or jaws.

But a new study published in the journal *Conservation Letters* reveals a different picture of how and when bears eat salmon. Most of these bears, also known as grizzlies, are dipping into small streams to capture their iconic prey.

Using a foraging model based on the Wood River basin in southwest Alaska, a study team led by Oregon State University determined that while small-stream habitats have only about 20% of the available salmon in the watershed, they provide 50% of bear consumption of salmon.

"This tells us that populations of sockeye salmon that spawn in little streams are disproportionately important to bears," said study lead author Jonny Armstrong, an ecologist at Oregon State

University. "Bears profit from these small streams because they offer salmon at unique times of the season. To capitalize on plentiful salmon runs, bears need them to be spread across time."

Small streams typically have cold water, which leads to populations of salmon that spawn much earlier in the season when no other populations are available to predators such as bears.

These results have potential consequences for how environmental impact assessments are conducted and evaluated for large projects such as the proposed Pebble Mine in Alaska's Bristol Bay.

These reports typically focus on how the project will affect the abundance of salmon in lakes and rivers, but they usually overlook smaller habitats, Armstrong said.

"When people want to build a large mine, they think these streams don't matter because they represent a small fraction a watershed, in terms of area or salmon abundance. In conservation and management, we generally place value on the largest runs of salmon at

the expense of the smallest ones," Armstrong said. "If we pose a different question and ask which habitats are important for the ecosystem, then small streams become particularly relevant."

The researchers developed a mathematical model that explores how watershed development and commercial fisheries affect how many sockeye salmon are available to grizzlies. The model simulated different patterns of development and explored how they affected the number of salmon bears consumed.

Protecting large salmon runs at the expense of smaller ones turned out to be bad for bears.

"This causes the bears' total salmon consumption to drop off faster compared to strategies that protected small salmon runs and the early feeding opportunities they offer to bears," Armstrong said. "If you impair these areas, you may only reduce the total number of salmon by a little, but the number of salmon that end up in bear's stomachs — you could reduce that a lot."

According to the study authors, there are two significant reasons why the larg-

est bears in the world are drawn to small streams to eat salmon.

First, the fish in these streams are easy to catch for adult and juvenile grizzlies. And second, because the water is colder than in lakes and rivers, salmon spawn in them earlier — probably to give their eggs more time to incubate, the authors said. So, the fish are plentiful by the first week of July — making them the first places bears fish after they emerge from hibernation.

"When they come out of hibernation, the bears are just scraping by and barely making it," Armstrong said. "Having these streams means they can start eating salmon in early July, which is about six weeks before the river- and lake-salmon populations start spawning and become available to bears. It's an incredible foraging opportunity for bears."

Armstrong added, "I'm sure that native Alaskans who subsisted on salmon were keenly aware of this, too."

Armstrong is an assistant professor in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife in OSU's College of Agricultural Sciences.

Men think they are better liars than women

Brianna L. Verigin
University of Portsmouth

Men are twice as likely as women to consider themselves to be good at lying and at getting away with it, new research has found.

People who excel at lying are good talkers and tell more lies than others, usually to family, friends, romantic partners and colleagues, according to the research led by Dr Brianna Verigin, at the University of Portsmouth.

Expert liars also prefer to lie face-to-face, rather than via text messages, and social media was the least likely place where they'd tell a lie.

Verigin said "We found a significant link between expertise at lying and gender. Men were more than twice as likely to consider themselves expert liars who got away with it.

"Previous research has shown that most people tell one-two lies per day, but that's not accurate, most people don't lie every-day but a small number of prolific liars are responsible for the majority of lies reported.

"What stood out in our study was that nearly half (40 per cent) of all lies are told by a very small number of deceivers. And these people will lie with impunity to those closest to them.

"Prolific liars rely on a great deal on being good with words, weaving their lies into truths, so it becomes hard for others to distinguish the difference, and they're also better than most at hiding lies within apparently simple, clear stories which are harder for others to doubt."

Dr Verigin quizzed 194 people, half men and half women, with an average age of 39.

They were asked a series of questions including how good they were at deceiving others, how many lies they'd told in the past 24 hours, the type of lies they'd told, who to,

and whether they'd done so face-to-face or via other means.

She said: "Time after time, studies have shown we are not as good at detecting lies as we think we are. At best, most of us have a 50:50 chance of getting it right when someone is pulling the wool over our eyes.

"We wanted to focus on those who are good at lying and try to understand how they do it and to whom."

The study found one of the key strategies of liars is to tell plausible lies that stay close to the truth, and to not give away much information. And the better someone thinks they are at lying, the more lies they'll tell.

The most commonly used strategy among all those who admitted to lying, whether experts or poor liars, was to leave out certain information. But expert liars added to that an ability to weave a believable story embellished with truth, making the lies harder to spot.

In contrast, those who thought they weren't good at lying resorted, when they did lie, to being vague.

Overall, of the 194 people, the most common types of deception, in descending order, were 'white lies', exaggerations, hiding information, burying lies in a torrent of truth and making up things.

Most people chose to lie face-to-face, then via text message, a phone call, email, and last, via social media.

Most expert liars lie most often to family, friends or colleagues. Employers and authority figures were least likely to be lied to.

The study showed no link between level of education and lying ability. Dr Verigin said more research needs to be done, particularly on better understanding good liars' expertise at embedding lies within truthful information, and at using facts that were impossible to check.