



These are drawings of various petroglyphs of bighorn sheep. The petroglyphs are from The Dalles area. Courtesy of The Museum at Warm Springs.

Bighorn return ...

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At that time there were an estimated 1.5 million to 2 million bighorns, said Terry Luther, Fish and Wildlife manager for the Tribes.

The current population of bighorn sheep is estimated at 2 percent of what it was prior to the arrival of the white settlers, said Luther.

For at least a few decades there were no bighorn sheep in Oregon. Before the state began its reintroduction program in the 1950s, the last sighting of a California bighorn in Oregon happened in 1906.

The California bighorn is a relative of the Rocky Mountain bighorn, which in Oregon can be found in the Wallowa Mountains.

In 1954, Oregon wildlife officials released bighorn sheep into the Hart Mountain area. The sheep came from British Columbia. This was the first bighorn transplant in Oregon, said Luther.

The new Hart Mountain bighorn herd in time grew to where sheep from this population were used for transplanting to other mountainous areas. There are now about 3,000 California bighorn sheep in Oregon at various locations.

The Mutton Mountains were one of the best remaining reintroduction sites not yet stocked with bighorns, said Luther.

Talk of reintroducing the sheep into the Muttons began at least back in the 1950s, when Joe Warner worked at Natural Resources, Luther said.

Luther, who has been with Natural Resources for 24 years, has been working on the reintroduction project for the past 15 years. Wildlife biologist Doug Calvin, and biological technician Stanley Simustus have also been working on the bighorn project.



With the bighorns now being reintroduced, the Confederated Tribes are seeing years of planning and preparation at an important juncture. Everyone should realize, Luther said, that we all must provide stewardship of the Mutton Mountains bighorn herd.

A main concern, he said, is poaching, which already happens to deer and elk on the reservation. If the bighorns are poached, then the long-term reintroduction will not succeed.

Protecting the sheep against poachers cannot be left only to wildlife law enforcement. Instead, everyone has to be mindful. If tribal members in the future want to see and on occasion hunt the bighorns, then the herd has to survive and grow, said Luther.

If the herd fails, then ODFW will likely not participate in a second reintroduction, said Luther.

Tribal Council policy is that only tribal members will be eligible to hunt the bighorns that live on the reservation.

If the new herd does well, then in three to five years a limited number of tags — perhaps just one or two annually — will become available, said Luther.

A ram California bighorn sheep can weigh up to 350

pounds. Its horns continue to grow during its lifetime. You can tell the age of a sheep by examining the rings of the horns. A bighorn sheep can live to between 10 and 12 years of age.

If the Mutton Mountain herd does well, then some of the sheep may eventually be used by ODFW for transplanting to another location. This is a term of the agreement between the Confederated Tribes and the state.

A transplanting project costs about \$700 per sheep, so with 20 sheep, the Mutton Mountain reintroduction can be expected to cost about \$14,000. This cost is being covered through a BIA wildlife management contract.

The 20 sheep being introduced into the Mutton Mountains are part of a larger state-wide transplant involving about 100 animals.

Some of the 20 sheep coming to the Mutton Mountains will be ewes that are pregnant. In this way, the transport of the 20 sheep will soon result in a larger herd.

The Tribal Council resolution that provides for reintroduction of the bighorns onto the reservation states in part:

"The Tribal Council believes that the reintroduction of bighorn sheep into their traditional habitat in the Mutton Mountains is highly desirable and furthers tribal objectives of fully developing the natural habitat and wildlife resources of the reservation."

The story of the return of the bighorns to the Mutton Mountains will continue in the next edition of the Spilyay Tymoo.



Photos by Tina Aguilar

And the winner is

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Cece Herrera, 2002's Miss Warm Springs, was flanked by Natasha Mares, left, and Vera Smith, right, before the announcement of the pageant winner. Herrera, who graduated in 2001 from Madras High School, was previously Junior Miss Warm Springs and Miss Pt-Ume-Sha 2001. During her reign she will be an ambassador for the community at powwows, conferences, parades and other gatherings.



Council seeks prevention projects

The Warm Springs Council on Alcohol & Drugs is looking to develop community based, youth prevention projects.

Persons, families or community groups who have any idea about a project or an activity that would help families and prevent alcohol and drug use are urged to contact the Alcohol & Drug Council.

The Council would like to see more community members involved in providing cultural activities, such as weekly craft nights or art clubs, throughout the community.

To help do this the Council has limited funds that can be used to purchase materials and food to support the activities people might want to do.

If you are interested please write down your idea and what you think it might cost to do the project and give it to Sheilah Wahneta at the Community Counseling Center/Prevention Office, or call at 553-3205.

The Council will review these ideas and get back with you.

Please get your ideas in by January 31, 2002.

Workforce Development Department updates activities

To the community, the following is the quarterly update from the Workforce Development Department.

During the past quarter, the department had over 2,478 contacts from customers (this includes some repeat of personal contacts, telephone calls, and drop-in calls.)

The department participated in what the tribes is calling the "Navigator Project," which has to do with focusing on specific employment efforts. It appears that the focus will start out with a work crew, which is very similar to what we've been doing since 1988. The other project involves carpentry/construction, which is also something we've been doing since 1986. It is believed that these projects will be implemented in early 2002.

The department completed five homes during this past quarter, and is currently working on a couple more through

the winter.

Workforce Development has requests to build more Demo and private homes next spring. "We have ten home sites at Sunnyside subdivision, and are still waiting for water and sewer lines to go in at Elk Loop to build more homes," the department report states.

The department's Special Work Project Crew did several forestry projects, which included tree planting, tree carding, gopher trapping, and tree thinning.

"We cut resale firewood as much as we could, up until we were shut out of the woods due to fire season," the report states. "We have firewood for sale. Contract WFDD at 553-3324. The reason we bought resale permits is because we need to be a more self-reliant operation with the budget constraints upon us."

As the year ends, the department has one program budget,

which exceeded, due to the volumes of tribal members coming in for service. This particular budget has been operating on only 35 percent of what it used to have.

"Over time, we've lost 65 percent of what we used to have. Our programs are a big part of the Tribal Council's number one priority, employment. We very much need to be a priority because we help the people regain employability and self-reliance.

Tribal members not only benefit from hands-on training and development, but when coupled with a classroom training approach, their knowledge and skills are enhanced even more.

The department served 114 youth with a tribally funded summer work opportunity and served 31 eligible youth with a federally funded summer work opportunity. There were 403 working age tribal

member youth in 2001.

"So we basically were able to serve 28 percent of them. In 2002, there will be 548 working age tribal member youth. For 2002, we will accept summer job applications from youth 14-17 years of age starting spring break-no sooner.

"We aren't sure if we will be able to fund after school work under the tribal funds due to the amount of youth who will be applying to work during the summer. Youth who are eligible for WIA, we do have six after school work slots. Eligibility primarily has to do with household income criteria."

The department began setting up skills bank on adults and youth who have come through the WFDD programs.

"While we are capturing the pre-employment skills, the tribe could also benefit from someone capturing all current employee's skills."

The report also states the

following:

With the old JTPA program closing out and new Comprehensive WIA program beginning, we sponsored classroom training and served 31 eligible youth and 14 adults. We completed our first annual report our first Supplemental Youth Services semi-annual reports. We exceeded the planned standards which is very good.

We are informed by Economic Development department, to move the Dollar N' Sense Thrift Shop and Traditional Treasures Indian Market out of the Plaza, by December 31, 2001. We have been busy doing this. Our new location is 2107 Wasco Street (previous Small Business Center office). Watch out for our re-opening, Saturday, January 12, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. We will have snacks and re-dedication of our shops. The exciting thing is, we will be moving toward the second phases of both shops during

2002. The thrift shop will expand to household items and eventually into furniture, while Traditional Treasures will be moving toward the sewing section. The goal is to have clean-finished garments (rib-bon shirts, wing dresses, vests, shawls, in a range of sizes and much more). In addition, we will have splash beadwork on selected items, as done in the past with apparel industries.

We are anticipating a very busy, challenging, and energized year of hard work and services to the best of our abilities to Warm Springs. As you may or may not know, "employment" is the number "1" Tribal Council priority and our department is a big part of this.

Happy, Happy New Year and make the most of 2002 everyone. From a team that cares and keeps hope. Marcia, Corey, Carlos, Laura, Frances, Verleen, and Melinda.