



# Spilyay Tymo

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## Reservation bighorn herd grows by 15

By Brian Mortensen  
Spilyay Tymo

The 30 California bighorn sheep making their home in the Mutton Mountains of the Warm Springs Reservation got some company Saturday.

Through a joint effort between three state agencies and one private organization, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs received 15 out of 110 sheep rounded up from several locations around Oregon. The tribes sheep came from the lower John Day River canyon.

The sheep Warm Springs Fish and Wildlife received were lifted by helicopter into the Eagle Creek canyon area of the Mutton Mountains, about 12 miles south of Maupin and about a mile inside reservation land near the community of Dant on the Deschutes River.

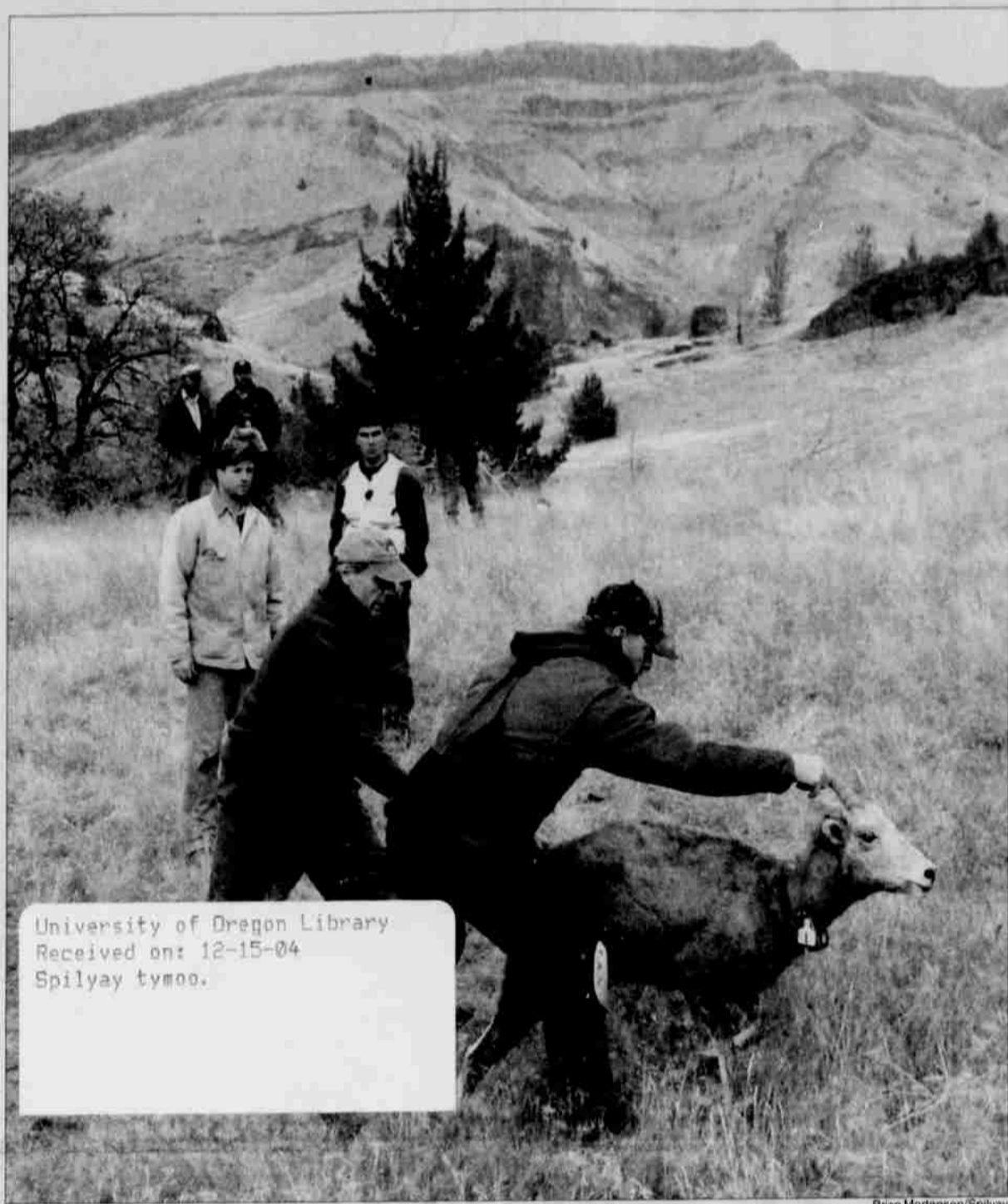
They join a group of sheep that were introduced to reservation land in January 2002, at Antoken Creek, about two air miles south of where the sheep were delivered Saturday. That group has since expanded to 30 sheep, with five lambs produced in 2002, seven in 2003 and six this year.

Coordinated by Fish and Wildlife manager Terry Luther, a group of 15 people, including employees of the tribes and volunteers, both tribal members and residents of Dant, helped in bringing the sheep from the lower John Day River area to their final destination in the Mutton Mountains.

"I think things went really well," Luther said. "I think the members really enjoyed it. It was nice to have them there. I think it provides some ownership to have them (involved in) the whole project. And you couldn't have had a better day."

In fact, the capture, transport, and release of the sheep to Warm Springs happened on a clear day with temperatures around 40 degrees the entire day. All but one of the sheep destined for the Mutton Mountains were captured in the morning Saturday; the delivery was complete by about 4 p.m., just before sundown. The other sheep delivered to the reservation had been captured late Friday afternoon.

The sheep were taken from the lower John Day River area because the herd there has successfully grown in numbers to the point it can afford to effectively share with areas where herds do not exist, or to help solidify existing herds where plenty of suitable terrain, forage and water are sufficient to create habitat for the sheep.



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Terry Luther, left, and Dr. Leon Pielstick, Burns, give a California mountain sheep a boost into the wild after loosing it from its binds after it was flown into Eagle Creek Canyon Saturday afternoon.

The five-day (Nov. 30 to Dec. 4) round-up yielded 110 sheep, which were transported via livestock trailers to locations in Idaho, Wyoming, and North Dakota, as well as to Steens Mountain in Harney County and to the Mutton Mountains.

"We have sheep in most of the general areas where we have good habitat, and now it's just a matter of expanding some of those herd ranges where we already have sheep," said Rod Klus, Assistant District Wildlife Biologist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) in Hines and one of the men in charge of the round-up. "There aren't really too many new areas where we're looking at putting wild sheep right now."

The round-up was a perpetuation of

a program in place since the California bighorns were reintroduced to Oregon at Hart Mountain in 1954.

"All the sheep in Oregon are from transplants, since they were completely removed from the state at one time," Klus said. "And so all the sheep have been reintroduced. It started at Hart Mountain and then Steens Mountain, and then we started moving sheep into new areas. The sheep program is something we're pretty proud of."

The sheep have proven to be rather adaptable to the places they've been reintroduced, to the point that they typically stay in the general area they are planted, with very little migration. Such is the case with the sheep brought to the reservation in 2002.

"(Eagle Canyon) is a spot we thought

*When the doctor gave the silent "go" sign, the blindfolds were removed from each sheep and they were let go, like the start of a race...*

those other sheep might end up in when they put them in there the first time, and they chose to basically stay right where they were loaded out of the truck, which is good," Klus said. "They know what they like, and if they're happy where they're at, it's good for them."

See **BIGHORNS** on page 13

## Lamprey may be protected

(AP) - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has agreed to review whether four species of lamprey found on the West Coast should be protected by the Endangered Species Act.

Under the settlement of a lawsuit filed earlier this year in U.S. District Court in Portland, the agency agreed to make an initial decision by Dec. 20 on whether a yearlong review should be done on the status of Pacific lamprey, river lamprey, western brook lamprey and kern brook lamprey.

The lamprey is an important species to the Confederated Tribes. "This is our sacred food," said Tribal Councilwoman Bernice Mitchell. "We will never let it go."

A coalition of 11 conservation groups petitioned in January 2003 to list the four species as threatened or endangered. At the time they said they hoped to increase pressure to improve fisheries habitat and the ecological health of watersheds harmed by dams, logging, agriculture and development.

Fish and Wildlife responded that the agency saw no reason to grant emergency protection for any of the species, and would not have the time or money to begin formal consideration until a new budget year. As they have with many species, including the northern spotted owl, environmentalists then sued to force consideration.

Lamprey are jawless fish that resemble eels. Pacific lamprey, the most widespread of the four species, grow to 30 inches and were once an important source of food for American Indians, as well as seals and sea lions. Young salmon feed on young lamprey in fresh water.

The name comes from the Latin for rock-sucking, which refers to the lamprey's habit of attaching to rocks with its mouth while swimming upstream.

The young spend four to six years buried in silt or mud on river bottoms, filter feeding on microscopic vegetation, before migrating to the ocean, where they fatten up for the spawning run - scavenging, eating smaller fish and sometimes attaching themselves to salmon and marine mammals.

Pacific lamprey and river lamprey inhabit large to medium-sized rivers from Alaska to Mexico. The Western brook lamprey inhabits small tributaries from the Sacramento River to British Columbia. The Kern brook lamprey is found in California's San Joaquin River Basin.

Indian tribes in the Columbia Basin have been working to restore lamprey populations with funding help from the Bonneville Power Administration, but tribal harvests at Willamette Falls in Oregon have declined steadily.

Olney Patt Jr., executive director of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, said, "What we know is that this fish is in decline. We have an opportunity now to work as collaborators rather than adversaries with federal and state agencies."

## Coloring contest has great prizes

The Spilyay holiday coloring contest has some great prizes for young people. First prizes are a remote-control truck (for boys), and a 5-foot tall stuffed bear (for girls). There are other great prizes as well - pizza, ice cream and Wrangler jeans. The last day to enter the contest is next Friday, Dec. 17; so don't forget to drop off your drawing at the Spilyay office. The contest is for kids ages 12 and under. See pages 8 and 9.

## Lights parade, tree-lighting on Tuesday

The First Annual Warm Springs Light Parade will happen Tuesday evening, Dec. 14.

Following the parade will be a hot-dog and marshmallow roast, and then the Nineteenth Annual Warm Springs Christmas Tree Lighting.

The parade will include lighted vehicles only. For safety reasons, as the parade will be at night, no walkers are allowed.

Parade lineup is from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Education Building. The parade starts at 6 p.m.

There will be a hot dog and marshmallows roast starting at 6:30 at Elmer Quinn Park.

Then from 7:30 to 8 p.m. will be the tree-lighting and caroling on the Community Center front lawn.

For more information call the Warm Springs Recreation Department at 553-3243.

## Sanders joins state education board

By Brian Mortensen  
Spilyay Tymo

Jeff Sanders has participated in school boards, both locally and at the state level, for years, to represent the minority voice. By his recent election to the Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA), as its secretary/treasurer, he said he hopes to have even greater influence.

Sanders, a Warm Springs tribal member and a member of the Jefferson County 509-J School Board, will serve as secretary/treasurer of the OSBA for a year, then become the board's vice-president for a year, roll into the position of president-elect for a year, and then become OSBA president.

As secretary/treasurer, Sanders will monitor the OSBA's finances and prepare reports to the executive board and its membership, made up of elected school board members from around the state.

Sanders served in at-large positions for two previous terms before running for the secretary/treasurer position.

"I had enough name recognition



Jeff Sanders

from my at-large positions, and people knew me," he said.

He was elected at the OSBA's annual convention in Portland Nov. 13.

A member of the 509-J School District Board for 15 years, Sanders returns to a state OSBA position after a two-year absence.

His position on the OSBA executive board places him on the Western Regional Board of the National School Boards Association.

The Oregon School Boards Association is a non-profit organization that

offers support to school board members by providing such services as lobbying, financial planning, conducting workshops and conducting searches for principals and superintendents.

The OSBA convenes once a year, but its executive board meets each month in locations around the state.

Next month, he will attend a workshop in Washington, D.C. that will provide instruction on working with lobbyists and elected officials.

Sanders said the biggest reason he sought an executive position on the OSBA was to provide not only Native American but also minority representation.

"I want to make (Native American) issues be heard at the state and national level," he said. "Hopefully, I've got enough friends inside the system who want to hear me, so we can get the message to be heard out there."

Sanders, 66, is the compliance officer and program review officer for the Confederated Tribes. He has been a tribal employee for 45 years.