

Rocky Mountain goats released

On July 16-18, 13 Rocky Mountain goats were transported from the Elkhorn Mountains in Wallowa-Whitman National Forest to the Strawberry Mountains in Malheur National Forest as part of ODFW's ongoing relocation efforts. These mountain goats will supplement a small population that likely migrated from the Elkhorns in the late 1990s and have been successfully reproducing since 2005.

ODFW wildlife biologists and veterinary staff were on the ground to capture, transport and release the animals. Staff from the U.S. Forest Service and volunteers from the Oregon Hunters Association assisted with the project.

Rocky Mountain goats are attracted to salt during the spring and summer, so the goats were trapped using a drop net baited with salt. To protect and monitor the animals' health, biologists and veterinary staff obtained blood samples from and administered inoculations to the animals. After biologists placed ra-

dio-collars on the goats to track movements and survival rates, the goats were placed in individual crates, taken to the Strawberry Mountains in vehicles, and released.

Rocky Mountain goats were likely extirpated from Oregon prior to or during European settlement in the late 19th century. The rarest game animal actually hunted in the state today, the present population is estimated to be 600-700, the result of efforts like the one that occurred this week.

People who want to catch a glimpse of the rare Rocky Mountain goat can try hiking the higher elevations of the Elkhorns along the Elkhorn Crest hiking trail. In the Malheur National Forest, try the trails in the lakes basin area of the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness.

Right; Rocky Mountain goats are relocated to the Malheur National Forest by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife with the assistance of the U.S. Forest Service and hunter volunteers. Efforts like this have helped reestablish these rare animals in Oregon. Photo by Pilar Rivera.



CCCHD offers human rights grants

The Columbia County Citizens for Human Dignity (CCCHD) is once again offering grants to fund projects that further the cause of social justice. These grants, of up to \$500 each, are available to any groups or individuals in Columbia County.

The CCCHD Community Grant Program was developed to enable worthy local projects that might not otherwise be possible, due to lack of funding. Specifically, it is designed to facilitate programs or events that will help to support, educate, or encourage people, in line with CCCHD's mission to promote basic civil rights and human dignity for all. CCCHD has already awarded over \$7000 in grants to twenty-one groups in Columbia County since the program began in 2002.

Eligible projects include arts and cultural projects, health

and social service projects, educational and community-oriented outreach projects, seed money to begin new projects, collaborative projects between agencies, and short-term funding to address a current need. Creative and unique projects that support CCCHD's mission will be given special consideration.

Applicants can be non-profit or publicly-funded organizations such as educational institutions, social service agencies and human rights or charitable organizations. Also eligible are loosely constructed groups with no official legal status, but with a plan of action. For example, a group of concerned citizens

who want funding for a local, short-term project, may apply. The organization and project must be operated within Columbia County, and must have local decision-making capability.

Funds for this year's grants come from CCCHD's Kaleidoscope Winter Gala last January, where the theme was "The People of Columbia County (A Collective History)".

Applications must be received by September 30th, 2007. For full eligibility criteria, more information, or to download an application form, visit the CCCHD website at http://ccchd.colcenter.org/ccchd_grants.htm, or contact Prati Fullerton at 503-860-5571.

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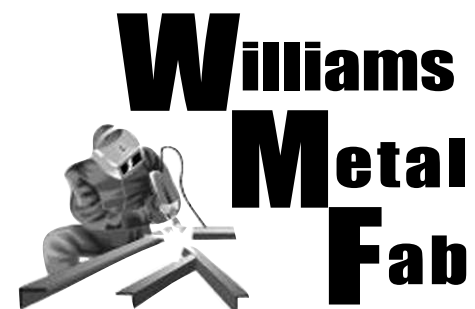
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