

## RESUME OF OREGON'S BIGHORN MANAGEMENT

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I'm going to give the state report with what little information I was able to get over the phone Friday.

Incidentally, I hope that state employees from the state of Alaska will take some comfort in the fact that I think the National Park Service areas in Alaska, wherever they might be, will probably always be a pool for any transplants you may need in your hunting areas - if that's any comfort, and incidentally you might get the idea that I'm against hunting. I'm not, I worked for the state of California for 10 years.

About all I can give you about the state of Oregon are populations, and as I understand it, all of the bighorns have been transplanted at one time or another.

Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge, which is an antelope refuge but has a pen with California bighorns in it, started with 20 sheep in 1954 and now has 85. Twenty-one rams were harvested during seasons, and transplants to other areas have come from this pen.

Sheldon National Antelope Refuge is actually in Nevada. Their stock came from Hart Mountain, starting with 8 sheep in 1968 and now has 28. We at Lava Beds National Monument got one of their rams, so they have supplied some animals to other areas. The Steins Mountains animals came from Hart Mountain. They transplanted 4 in 1960, 7 in 1971, and they now feel that they have between 75-100. Hunting is allowed there.

The Owyhee Mountains started with 17 in 1975 from Hart Mountain. I must add that the Hart Mountain animals originally came from British Columbia, so that's the source of all these animals. The Owyhee Mountains started with 17 in 1975, they now have 60-75, and they hunt them.

The Strawberry Mountain unit started with 21 in 1971, and is typical of so many of these areas, they don't really know how many they have because they scattered pretty badly, but they expect them to do well and they'll find them one of these days.

There are two or three transplants from Jasper, and I think some came from Colorado and Montana. The Rocky Mountain bighorns are in the Snake River area and Silver Creek. In the Snake River, again, they dispersed for a while, but they have located them. They're having some disease or parasite problems with this population. I don't think I can answer any questions for this state, so I'll leave you with what little information I have provided.