

HISTORY OF TRANSPLANTING MOUNTAIN GOATS AND SHEEP – IDAHO

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IDFG initiated mountain goat (*Oreamnus americanus*) transplants in 1960, 1962 and 1964 to reestablish populations and to supplement remnant populations in vacant suitable habitat. The results of these 3 transplants are the existing populations at Echo Bay in Unit 4A, the Seven Devils area of Unit 18 and the Palisades area of Unit 67 in southeast Idaho. Also, 5 goats were given to Colorado and 6 goats were given to Oregon. Twenty-eight goats were transplanted into Idaho from Olympic National Park in Washington (Table 1). Between 1960 and 1994, 210 mountain goats were moved during 38 separate capture operations within the state.

Table 1. Rocky Mountain goat transplants in Idaho, 1960-1995.

Capture Area	Date	Release Area	MA	FA	MK	FK	T
Snow Peak	6/28 & 7/20/1960	Echo Bay Unit 4 (Now Unit 4A)	3	5	0	0	8
	6/61	Colorado	2	3	0	0	5
	6/28/62	Seven Devils, Unit 18	2	4	2	0	8
	7/14/62	Echo Bay	2	1	0	0	3
	7/9-10/64	Seven Devils	2	7	0	0	9
	7/28/65	Echo Bay	4	3	0	0	7
	6/20-30/66	John's Cr. S.Fk.Clrwtr.Unit 15	4	4	0	0	8
	6/67	John's Cr. Unit 15	1	2	0	0	3
	7/3/68	Green Monarch Mts. Unit 4 (now 4A)	2	2	0	0	4
	7/4-6/69	Palisades Cr. Unit 67	3	2	0	0	5
	6/70	Black's Canyon, Unit 67	3	0	0	0	3
	7/2/81	Lion Cr., Unit 1	1	1	0	0	2
Snow Peak, Unit 9	6/29-7/4/83	Eikhorn. Mts., Or. Bugle Cr. Unit 1	2	4	0	0	6
	6/21-23/85	Lion Cr. Unit 1	2	0	0	0	2
	6/28-29/89	Parker Cr., Unit 1	0	5	0	0	5
		Jack Cr., Unit 27	0	2	0	0	2
	6/28/92	Parker Cr., Unit 1	0	1	0	0	1
	6/23-26/87	Oregon Butte, Unit 19	0	8	0	0	8
Olympic Natl. Park, WA	6/29-7/3/94	Ball Cr., Unit 1	3	0	0	0	3
	1982	Patterson Cr., Unit 37A	8	12	0	0	20
Baldy Mt., Unit 67	7/89	Seven Devils, Unit 18	6	0	0	0	6
	6/89	Williams Cr., Unit 28	1	1	0	0	2
	7/90	Panther Cr., Unit 28	2	3	0	2	7
	7/91	Panther Cr., Unit 28	1	4	0	1	6
	7/92	Panther Cr., Unit 28	2	9	0	0	
Baird Mt. Unit 67	6/94	Square Top, Unit 21	4	6	0	0	10
TOTAL							230

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP

There have been 368 Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep transplanted to areas within Idaho to either reestablish populations in areas where they were extirpated in the early 1900s or to bolster remnant populations. Fourteen transplants have been made within the state involving 172 animals (Table 2), and 10 transplants have been made into the state from Wyoming, Oregon and Alberta with 196 bighorns being moved (Table 3). There have been 5 transplants made from Idaho to Oregon (4) and Wyoming (1) with 49 and 22 bighorns being moved to these two states respectively (Table 4).

Table 2. Rocky Mt. Bighorn sheep transplanted within Idaho, 1969-1996.

Capture Area	Year	Release Area	Total No.
Morgan Cr.	1969	Mahogany Cr., Pahsimeroi Mts.	7
Panther Cr.	1975	Granite Cr. Hells Can.	10
Panther Cr.	1976	Granite Cr. Hells Can.	11
Panther Cr.	1976	Blue Dome, Birch Cr.	6
Panther Cr.	1978	Blue Dome, Birch Cr.	12
Panther Cr.	1979	Bernard Cr. Hells Can.	7
Panther Cr.	1981	Blue Dome, Birch Cr.	14
Panther Cr.	1982	Blue Dome, Birch Cr.	9
Panther Cr.	1982	Birch Cr. (Challis)	8
Morgan Cr.	1988	Williams Cr. (Salmon)	6
Morgan Cr.	1988	Rocky Can. (Beaverhead Mts.)	17
E. Fk. Salmon R.	1988	Mores Cr. (Pahsimeroi)	13
Morgan Cr.	1989	Selway R.	29
TOTAL			172

Table 3. Rocky Mountain sheep transplanted into Idaho from other areas, 1970-1996.

Capture Area	Year	Release Area	Total No.
Banff Natl. Park, Alberta	1970	Mahogany Cr., Pahsimeroi Mts.	24
Whiskey Basin, Wyo.	1978	Elbow Can., Borah Mt.	17
Whiskey Basin, Wyo.	1980	Jaggles Can.,	11
Whiskey Basin, Wyo.	1983	Badger Cr., Little Lost R.	19
Whiskey Basin, Wyo.	1984	Craig Mt.	17
Whiskey Basin, Wyo.	1984	Uncle Ike Can., Little Lost R.	22
Lostine R., Or.	1984	Shoup, Salmon R.	16
Lostine R., Or.	1985	Rocky Can., Beaverhead Mts.	22
Lostine R., Or.	1986	Falls Cr., Pahsimeroi Mts.	18
Whiskey Basin, Wyo.	1992	3-Creeks, Hells Can.	30
TOTAL			196

Table 4. Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep transplanted from Idaho to other areas, 1970-1996.

Capture Area	Year	Release Area	Total No.
Panther Cr.	1979	Imnaha R., Or.	15
Panther Cr.	1984	Imnaha R., Or.	11
Panther Cr.	1984	Grande Ronde R., Or.	11
Ebenezer Cr., Salmon R.	1985	Minam R., Or.	12
Morgan Cr.	1992	Shell Can., Wyo.	22
TOTAL			71

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CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP

California bighorn sheep were extirpated from Owyhee county and Idaho about 1919 (Hanna 1978). The IDFG transplanted 19 California bighorns from Williams Lake, British Columbia to the East Fork of the Owyhee River drainage in 1963. This was the first of six transplants and a total of 74 sheep from British Columbia (Table 5).

Since 1980 when five California bighorns were trapped in the Little Jacks Creek drainage and released in the Granite Mountains in Nevada, eleven groups of bighorns totaling 205 animals have been captured and moved to Nevada, North Dakota and Oregon (Table 6). These transplants are all from the populations which resulted from the initial 6 transplants into the state.

Beginning in 1981, IDFG began trapping California bighorns in the East Fork Owyhee River drainage and Little Jacks Creek and releasing them in vacant suitable habitat elsewhere in the state and have completed 11 transplants involving 130 animals (Table 7). The result of all transplants into and within the state resulted in there now being an estimated 1200-1500 California bighorns in the area of the state designated for this subspecies of bighorn. In addition the three states where transplants have been made also have populations which are a result of the original transplants into Idaho.

Table 5. California Bighorn Sheep Transplanted Into Idaho From Canada, 1963-1996.

Capture Area	Year	Release Area	Total No.
Williams Lake, British Columbia	1963	East Fork Owyhee R.	19
	1965	East Fork Owyhee R.	9
	1966	East Fork Owyhee R.	10
	1967	Little Jacks Cr.	12
	1984*	Murphy Hot Sp. Jarbidge R.	10
	1988	Big Jacks Cr.	14
TOTAL			74

*Released by Nevada Department of Fish and Game.

Table 6. California Bighorn Sheep Transplants Within the State, 1963-1996.

Capture Area	Year	Release Area	Total No.
Deep Cr. E. Fk. Owyhee R.	1982	W. Fk. Bruneau R.	12
E. Fk. Owyhee R.	1984	W. Fk. Bruneau R.	11
Little Jacks Cr.	1985	W. Fk. Bruneau R.	1
Little Jacks Cr.	1985	So. Fk. Owyhee R.	9
E. Fk. Owyhee R.	1986	Cottonwood Cr. Cassia Co.	15
Little Jacks Cr.	1987	Cottonwood Cr. Cassia Co.	10
Little Jacks Cr.	1988	Cottonwood Cr. Cassia Co.	14
E. Fk. Owyhee R.	1988	Big Jacks Cr.	2
E. Fk. Owyhee R.	1988	Big Jacks Cr.	24
E. Fk. Owyhee R.	1990	W. Fk. Bruneau R.	16
E. Fk. Owyhee R.	1991	Dry Cr., Cassia Co.	11

Table 7. California Bighorn Sheep Transplanted From Idaho To Other States, 1963-1996.

Capture Area	Year	Release Area	Total No.
Little Jacks Cr.	1980	Granite Mts., Nv.	5
E. Fk. Owyhee R.	1981	Upper Jarbidge R., Nv.	12
E. Fk. Owyhee R.	1985	Snowstorm Mts., Nv.	9
E. Fk. Owyhee R.	1986	Snowstorm Mts., Nv.	6
E. Fk. Owyhee R.	1986	Jackson Mts., Nv.	2
Little Jacks Cr.	1988	L. Humboldt R., Nv.	12
E. Fk. Owyhee R.	1990	Kildeer Mts., N.D.	23
E. Fk. Owyhee R.	1991	Snowstorm Mts., Nv.	38
E. Fk. Owyhee R.	1991	Badlands, N.D.	38
E. Fk. Owyhee R.	1993	Battle Mt., Nv.	25
E. Fk. Owyhee R.	1993	Deschutes R., Or.	35
TOTAL			205

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