Historical Literature Pertaining to the Occurrence of Mountain Goats in Oregon

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Abstract: Wildlife managers of the 20th century generally accepted south central Washington as the southernmost range of indigenous mountain goats (Oreamnos americanus) in the Coastal and Cascade mountains of North America. We reviewed historical publications to provide 21st century managers a more complete review of native mountain goat distribution. Criteria used to dismiss non-credible material is discussed. A significant number of historical documents published during the 1800s place mountain goats south into Oregon and California. Based on our interpretation of the literature, we conclude that goats were native in historical times at least as far south as the central Cascades and the northeast mountains of Oregon.

BIENN. SYMP. NORTH. WILD SHEEP AND GOAT COUNC. 15: 2006

Key words: Cascade Mountains, distribution, literature review, mountain goat, Oreamnos americanus, Oregon.

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