



The RamPAGE

Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation

FALL 2013

Photo credit: Jack Atcheson, Jr.



*Plan to Attend the WY-WSF Winter Meeting
December 6-7, 2013 in Wheatland!!
Please see page 14 for details and a summary of
planned activities. Bring your family, and a friend!*

2013-2014 Calendar of Events

December 6-7, 2013 Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation Winter Membership Meeting, Wheatland, WY

January 22-25, 2014 Wild Sheep Foundation Convention
Peppermill Hotel/Reno-Sparks Convention Center
Reno, NV

May 30-31, 2014 Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation Convention
Parkway Plaza, Casper, WY

Cover Photo: Wild Sheep Foundation President & CEO Gray N. Thornton (WY-WSF Life Member #342) of Cody connected on this beautiful 9 year old Dall's ram in Alaska's Brooks Range, accompanied by WSF Past Chairman Jack Atcheson, Jr. of Butte, MT. Read Gray's story on page 22! Congratulations!!

Interested in advertising 2X/year in *The Rampage*? If so, please see ad rates below. Due dates for ads to be included in the semi-annual *Rampage* are October 15th and March 15th. Get your message out 2X/year to 850+ wild sheep enthusiasts!!

Wyoming WSF Board & Membership Meetings

Wyoming WSF holds its winter board/membership meeting on the first Saturday of December and summer convention/board/membership meeting the first Saturday in June. Details and locations are listed in the Calendar of Events and online at www.wyomingwildsheep.org.

Funding requests for consideration at the winter board meeting are due no later than Nov. 1. Funding requests for consideration at the summer board meeting are due no later than May 1.

The Grant-In-Aid request form is available on the Wyoming WSF website www.wyomingwildsheep.org.
Contact address:

Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation
P.O. Box 666
Cody, WY 82414
E-mail: info@wyomingwildsheep.org

WYOMING WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION

The RamPAGE Newsletter

FULL COLOR ADVERTISING RATES

Full-Page \$250 (\$200/issue, 2 issues)

1/2-Page \$150 (\$125/issue, 2 issues)

1/4-Page \$70 (\$50/issue, 2 issues)

1/8-Page \$50 (\$40/issue, 2 issues)

Donations netting WY-WSF >\$500 entitle donor to a free 1/4-page ad in next 2 issues of *The Rampage*.

Ads must be received in camera-ready .jpg format by 10/15 & 3/15!!



2013-14 Wyoming WSF Officers & Board of Directors

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Phone: (307) 527-6261
Fax: (307) 527-7117
E-mail:
blayne@wildsheepfoundation.org

Wanted: Your E-mail Address!!

Wyoming WSF is looking for e-mail addresses from our membership so that we can convey important information and communications in the timeliest manner possible (e.g., E-Newsletters). If you have not submitted an e-mail address or need to update the one we have on file, please send it to info@wyomingwildsheep.org. Wyoming WSF will not share your e-mail address with third parties, nor will you receive solicitations or "spam" from our organization.

WY-WSF President's Message

WY-WSF Past Presidents

1983	Dave Steger
1984	Dave Steger
1985	Dave Steger
1986	Ron Ball
1987	Ed Novotny
1988	Ed Novotny
1989	Dave Steger
1990	Dave Steger
1991	Jack Hildner
1992	Jack Hildner
1993	Ron Ball
1994	Ron Ball
1995	Ron Ball
1996	Ron Ball
1997	Jim Collins
1998	Jim Collins
1999	Jim Collins
2000	Jim Collins
2001-02	Cole Benton
2002-03	Cole Benton
2003-04	Cole Benton
2004-05	Cole Benton
2005-06	Cole Benton
2006-07	Cole Benton
2007-08	Bob Sundeen
2008-09	Bob Sundeen
2009-10	Jack Morey
2010-11	Bob Sundeen
2011-12	Mike Porter
2012-13	Mike Porter
2013-14	Mike Porter

Dear WY-WSF Members: As the snow begins to fly, I hope you were/are able to head to the great outdoors for some R&R and maybe even some hunting. I have been fortunate to be able to take my wife and kids out this year for some great experiences.

The winter meeting is scheduled for December 6th & 7th in Wheatland, WY. Ryan Amundson and his family have scheduled a TERRIFIC weekend of fun. On Saturday, **Ryan has scheduled a field trip to Sybille Canyon at the WGFD's research facility for a "Behind the Scenes" tour. If you haven't been to the winter meeting or haven't come in a while, please attend.** WY-WSF will have a membership meeting in the afternoon followed by a dinner banquet on Saturday night. Sierra Amundson is speaking on a recent bighorn sheep project she worked on. We greatly appreciate your time and hope you plan to attend. Please notify WY-WSF Executive Director Kevin Hurley of your plans, if you would.

Recent Chapter highlights: Tremendous Banquet for 2013, 8 New Life Members, full-color *RAMPAGE*, New Website (Thanks to Raleigh Whalen), Sponsoring Youth Outdoor Adventure Camp, WY-WSF Endowment established, Partnership on disease research with Washington State University, Raised \$200,000 through Midway USA for Wyoming 4-H Shooting Sport, Established a guzzler in Bennett Mountains, on and on!

Each year, Governor Matt Mead issues governor tags for 5 Wyoming Bighorn sheep tags. Wyoming Bighorns have set a NEW RECORD this year for licenses sales, averaging \$66,600 per license. The WY-WSF board has decided to retain one of the **Governor's 2014 sheep licenses to auction off at our May 31st banquet in Casper.** This is a big endeavor for the chapter coming off a record year. The board would love to raffle off the license, but the time and effort dictate an auction is more practical to reach the high sales numbers the chapter needs. Please talk to your friends and colleagues about **the Governor's sheep license and look for more details to follow. This is a great resource.** Please take the time to thank Governor Matt Mead for his continued support **of the Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition, and encourage him to keep investing in Wyoming's Wildlife.**

As the board continues to grow your chapter, we encourage membership participation. Whatever your involvement, we appreciate it. Please consider running for the board, stretching a little more on a donation, or attending the banquet. As I have been very fortunate to draw two WY bighorn tags, I have tried to give back as well and recently signed up my wife and 3 kids as life members, as our passion for wild sheep continues to grow. Bighorn Sheep continue to need our help even more.

The WY-WSF Endowment is a great option for estate planning and giving. Please consider naming WY-WSF in your estate plan through a specific bequest or gift in your wills and trusts. WY-WSF continues to invest in Wyoming Youth. This past June was an amazing site as we had over 30 youth standing at the podium representing our future. Each youth received a WY-WSF bag, ear protection, and safety glasses. Two of the youth won a rifle. The youth also helped throughout the **night with the banquet. I'm secretly grooming some of these youth as the next WY-WSF President.**

The chapter needs your help to be successful. We look forward to seeing you and YOUR FAMILY in Wheatland on December 6th/7th. Thank you for an amazing year in 2013 for Wyoming Bighorns.

Sincerely, Michael J. Porter , WY-WSF President
(Life Member #323)



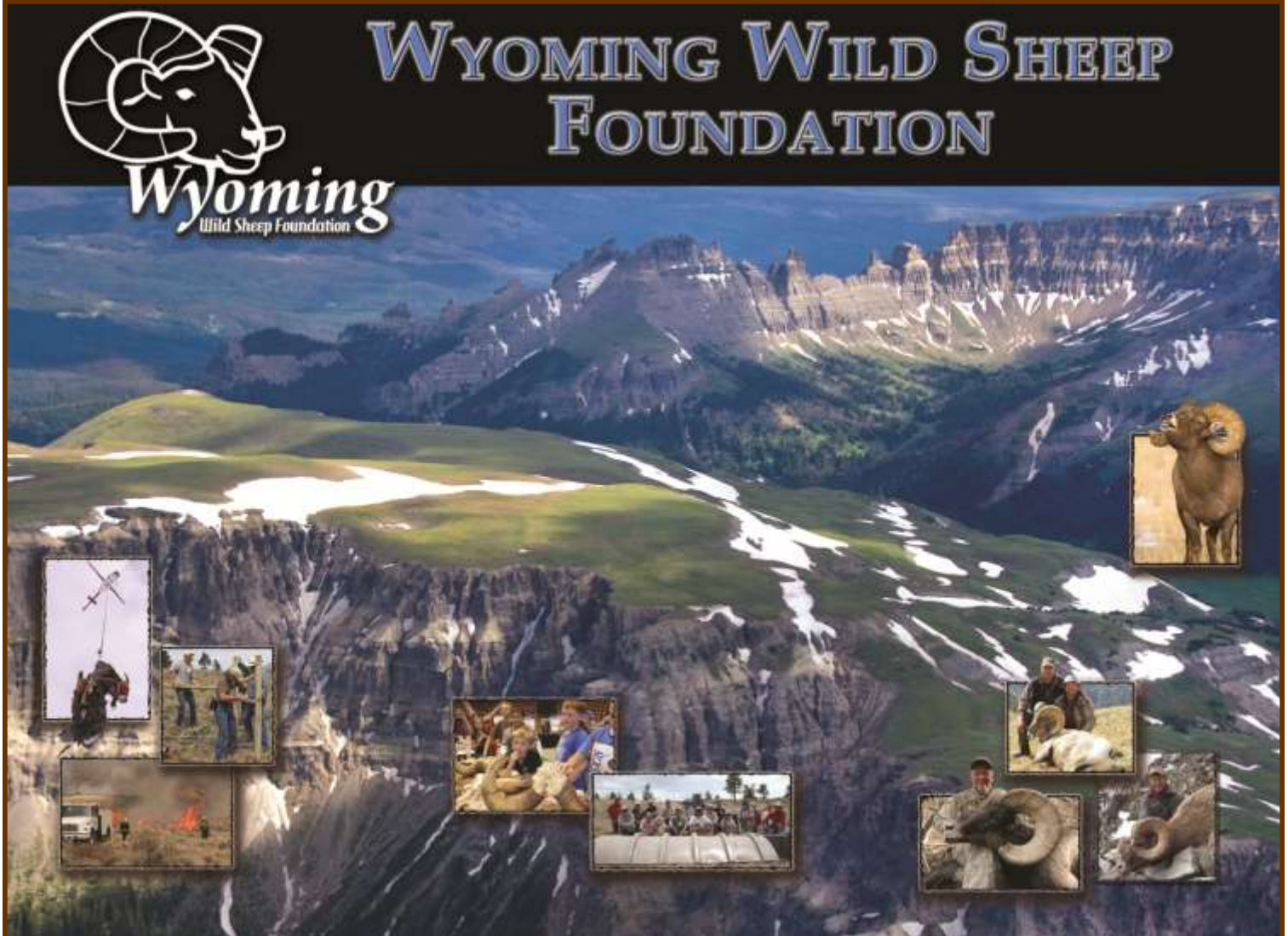
WY-WSF Executive Director's Message

Greetings to all our members! I hope summer and fall 2013 have been good to you, especially those lucky individuals chasing a wild sheep on the mountains of Wyoming, or elsewhere. As usual, things have been quite busy on the "bighorn sheep" front. Lots of good project involvement, some early discussions on potential transplants during winter 2014-15, close cooperation with Wyoming Game and Fish Department on bighorn management and needs in our Cowboy State, planning for our Winter 2013 and Summer 2014 conventions, etc!

As Mike notes in his President's column, plans are well underway for our winter meeting in Wheatland on December 6th and 7th. Thanks to Ryan Amundson for taking the lead on planning this year's winter gathering. Please turn to page 14 for further details and specific info. Who knows what travel conditions will be, but please make plans (and notify me, please!) to bring yourself, your family, and a friend or two (we welcome non-hunters, too) to Wheatland. Attendees will be getting a special "behind-the-scenes" look at the WGFD Sybille (Thorne/Williams) Research Unit, including some "up-close-and-personal" time with some captive bighorns. A great trip to visit Tom Horn historic sites will be led by WY-WSF Life Member #6 Freddie Goetz of Wheatland. Come to Wheatland, for a special event!

We're always grateful for new members, in particular Life Members. Please take a look on page 13, to see those who have made the commitment as Life Members since our spring 2013 *Rampage* was published last April. Per direction from the Board, with approval of the membership, we are only going to publish the complete Life Member list in alternating issues of *The Rampage*, to save space and cover other important items. As always, if I can be of any assistance to our current and/or potential members, please let me know!

WY-WSF Executive Director Kevin Hurley (Life Member #20)



2013 WY-WSF Convention, Parkway Plaza, Casper, WY









Wyoming WSF 2013 Full Curl Table Purchasers

The businesses and individuals listed below, and acknowledged on the next page (if logos were available) made significant **investments for Wyoming's bighorn sheep by purchasing a "Full Curl" table for 8 attendees at our June 1, 2013 banquet in Casper.** We thank them for their support, and invite others who might be interested in a Full Curl table for 2014 to contact President Mike Porter, Executive Director Kevin Hurley, or any WY-WSF Board Member. We appreciate your outstanding support!!

2013 Fundraiser Full Curl Tables

Power Services, Inc., Casper

Rocky Mountain Brake Supply, Casper

Rory Shogren Agency, Casper

Dr. James Wetzel, DDS, Casper

Crandall Creek Outfitters, Casper

Kilburn Tire Factory, Rawlins

Laser Tech, Casper

Central Truck & Trailer, Casper

Rocky Mountain Discount Sports, Casper

Eggington's, Casper

The Sports Lure, Buffalo

Kerry & Terry Paddock, Douglas

Fremont Motors, Casper

Dr. Rodney Hill, DDS/Dr. Roy Paulson, DDS, Casper

Baker Hughes Process & Pipeline Services, Casper



Rory Shogren



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Mark Your Calendars for our 2014 Annual Convention
May 30-31, 2014, Parkway Plaza, Casper



(For WY-WSF office use only)

Destination/Item #

Art, Merchandise, Cash Donation Form

Donor Name: _____

Company Name (if desired): _____

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Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

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Description of Donation: _____

Date of donation: ____/____/____

Est. Value of Donation: \$ _____ Item is 100% Donated?: Y or N

Donor Wishes % split (50% maximum split)? Y or N

If Yes, specify % split desired by donor: _____%

WY-WSF makes no representation, express or implied, concerning deductibility of this item for federal income tax purposes. Donor should contact tax adviser for questions regarding deductibility of this donation. WY-WSF is a tax-exempt 501(c) organization.

Signature of WY-WSF Representative

Date: ____/____/____

[White Copy to Donor; Yellow Copy to WY-WSF]

P.O. Box 666, Cody, WY 82414

307-578-8613

info@wyomingwildsheep.org

www.wyomingwildsheep.org

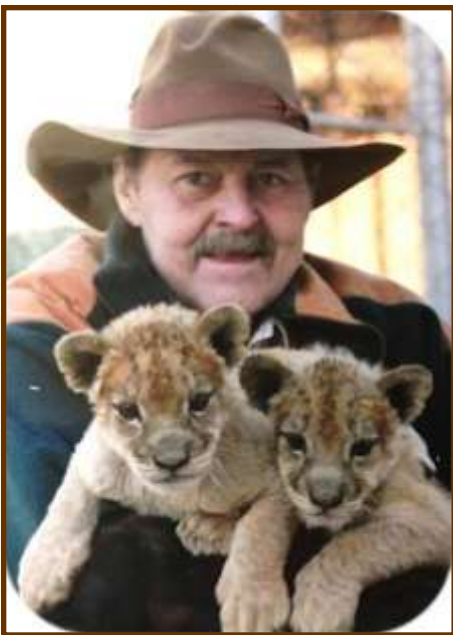
If you know someone who might be interested/willing to make a donation to WY-WSF, please provide them with one of these donation forms, and ask that they make contact (info@wyomingwildsheep.org) no later than May 1, 2014!!

Wyoming WSF would like to thank, and recognize, Life Members who have signed up since the Spring 2013 *Rampage* was published in April 2013. A complete listing of WY-WSF Life Members will be published in alternating issues of *The Rampage*, and is available for viewing on the **WY-WSF webpage, under the “Life Members” tab:**

<http://www.wyomingwildsheep.org/content/life-members>

If you would be interested in signing up/upgrading to Life Member status with WY-WSF, please refer to our Membership Application (page 16, this newsletter). A \$500, one-time payment (or \$100 down, with quarterly \$100 payments), invests in **Wyoming’s bighorns, plus gets you or someone you know a high-quality engraved knife (either fixed- or folding-blade) or plaque.** We thank all of our past, current, and future Life Members!!

- 371 Dean DiJenno
- 372 Leonard Liebert
- 373
- 374 Amy C. Luton
- 376 John Swanson
- 377 Corey Fischer
- 378 Adam Quiroz
- 379 Brook Paddock
- 381 Stacie Porter
- 382 Whitney Porter
- 383 Mack Morgan Porter
- 384 Ryan Amundson
- 385 Keith Culver
- 386 Lana Culver
- 387 Payton Wetzel
- 388 Connor Wetzel
- 389
- 390 Ian Tator
- 391 Rod Brown
- 392 Brett Kroger



WY-WSF is saddened to hear of the August 25, 2013 passing of Life Member #146 Gary Ploeckelmann of Brookfield, WI. Gary was a long-time supporter of **Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation. Our condolences to Gary’s family and friends.**

**2013 WY-WSF Winter Meeting / Banquet and Tour
December 6 - 7, 2013 Wheatland, Wyoming**

Friday, December 6, 2013

WY-WSF Board Meeting 2:00 - 5:00 PM First State Bank Community Center, 1405 16th Street, Wheatland

WY-WSF Informal Gathering 6:30 - 9:00 PM

Super 8 Motel, 2401 16th Street, Wheatland

Breakfast Room / Lobby and Poolside; WY-WSF will order in pizzas, but BYOB adult beverages!!

Saturday, December 7, 2013

Breakfast on your own (*free breakfast provided 5:30 AM – 9:30 AM daily for Super 8 guests in lobby area, including waffles, rolls, cereals, fruits, and drinks*)

7:45 AM Meet in Super 8 Motel parking lot

By 8:00 AM, depart/ travel /carpool to WGFD's Thorne Williams Wildlife Research Center @ Sybille, 35 miles SW of Wheatland on WY HWY 34 (4WD will likely be necessary for other parts of the tour later in the day.)

9:00 – 11:00 AM "Behind the Scenes" Tour of WGFD's research facility. Discuss past, current, and future bighorn sheep research, CWD and Brucellosis research, and planned facility modifications to complete bighorn sheep-related research in the future. Tour will include handling and processing of bighorn sheep in working chutes / facilities and close up interaction and viewing of captive bighorns by participants. Discussions led by WGFD Bighorn Sheep Working Group members, Thorne Williams Research Facility Staff, and Wyoming Wildlife Veterinary Research Services / State Vet Lab personnel.

11:00 – 11:30 AM Brown Bag Lunch (\$6 per person) at the Research Facility Conference Room (**need head count and pre-payment for lunch to Kevin Hurley by December 2nd*). Lunches will be prepared by Drake and Sierra Amundson, and will be delivered to Sybille Conference Room for tour participants. Restrooms will be available @ Sybille.

11:30 AM – 2:30 PM Bighorn Sheep Viewing in Sybille Canyon and Tour of "Tom Horn Country" (*visit the country where Tom Horn worked as a range detective and see the site where Tom shot and killed the 14 year old son of a sheepherder in 1901, a crime for which Tom Horn was ultimately hanged*) *Weather permitting. Tom Horn Country tour to be led by WY-WSF Life Member, Freddie Goetz of Wheatland.

2:30 - 3:30 PM Return Travel to Wheatland

3:45 – 5:00 PM WY-WSF Membership Meeting at First State Bank Community Center, 1405 16th Street, Wheatland

6:00 – 10:00 PM Winter WY-WSF Banquet and Dinner

Platte County Fairgrounds 4-H Building @ 59 Antelope Gap Road, Wheatland

Cash Bar available at 6 PM; Buffet Style Dinner served at 7 PM [Pork Tenderloin, Sliced Roast Beef, Vegetables, Salads, Rolls, Dessert, Drinks] \$22 per adult, children age 12 and under eat for free! (Payment to Kevin Hurley by December 2nd)

Formal Presentations During / After Dinner

- 1) 10-15 minute Presentation: PowerPoint from Sierra Amundson - 2013 Bighorn Sheep Disease Research Project (2013 Platte County Fair Grand Champion Exhibit and Judge's Choice Award; 2013 WY State Fair Grand Champion Overall Exhibit).**
- 2) Preliminary 2013 Wyoming ram harvest**
- 3) Other - (if you have 2013 ram harvest photos/stories, from Wyoming or elsewhere, please bring with you...)**

Lodging Options Wheatland: Best Western Torchlight Inn 322-4070; Motel 6 322-1800; West Winds Motel 322-2705

A room block (N=20) has been reserved (\$71/night/room) at the Super 8 in Wheatland, 2401 16th Street (307-322-2224). Make reservations by December 1st; mention you are with **"Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation" to receive the room block rate. No pets or smoking. Free breakfast for guests.** Indoor swimming pool available. Questions? Call (307) 578-8613, (307) 899-9375, or e-mail info@wyomingwildsheep.org

Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation

2014 Wyoming Game & Fish Commissioners License Raffle

Tickets \$100.00 each; Only 300 tickets!!

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**1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE: WYOMING GAME & FISH COMMISSIONERS  
ELK, DEER, OR PRONGHORN 2014 LICENSE**

*(Donated by WGF Commissioner Keith Culver, Newcastle)*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: 7 Day Caribbean Cruise**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Ruger M77 Magnum Hunter .300 Win Mag Rifle**

**4<sup>th</sup> Prize: Ruger Super Red Hawk Alaskan .454 Casull Revolver**

**5<sup>th</sup> Prize: Ruger Mini 14 .223 Remington Ranch Rifle**

**6<sup>th</sup> Prize: Nikon 13-30x50mm Angled Body ED FieldScope**

**7<sup>th</sup> Prize: Nikon Monarch 7 10 x 42 Binoculars**

**8<sup>th</sup> Prize: Nikon Monarch Gold Laser 1200 RangeFinder**

**9<sup>th</sup> Prize: GoPro HD Hero3 11MP Outdoor Edition Camera**

**10<sup>th</sup> Prize: Kindle Fire HD 8.9" Display**

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Drawing will be held May 31, 2014 at the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation annual banquet in Casper, Wyoming. Winners need not be present to win. For more information, and to order tickets online, please visit the WY-WSF web site: <http://www.wyomingwildsheep.org>

OR

For tickets, contact: WY-WSF, P.O. Box 666, Cody, WY 82414 (Phone): 307-899-9375

info@wyomingwildsheep.org

Commissioners License is good for Elk or Deer or Pronghorn in Wyoming, and is independent of regular WGF license draw. Winners are responsible for all applicable license fees and taxes. Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation Board of Directors members are eligible to participate in all fundraising activities.



Wanted: Your Hunt Story & Photos!

If you are a WY-**WSF** member, and have a hunt story and photos that you'd like to share with our membership, we want to print it! Just send it to Wyoming WSF, and **we'll try to publish it in our semi-annual newsletter, *The Rampage***. Photos are also welcome. Send your story and photo(s) to: Wyoming WSF, P.O. Box 666, Cody, WY 82414

Stories can also be e-mailed (WORD .doc format, please) to: info@wyomingwildsheep.org. E-mailed photos should be .jpg format (≥ 300 dpi)

A FAMILY BIGHORN SHEEP HUNT - By Richard (Dick) Kroger, Worland

The 3-hour stalk on a full curl ram was ending as I watched from 2/3-mile away. Adam, his uncle Bart, and his cousin Blaine were picking their way horizontally along the steep mountain slope as the out-of-sight ram slowly grazed away from them.

This drama began months before as my son Brett (Adam's father, and WY-WSF Life Member #392) checked WGFD's big game lottery results. After 18 years of applying and buying points, he knew his chance of drawing a 2013 sheep permit was almost certain. Further examination of the lottery results was a shocker when he saw his son Adam's name, who had beaten great odds by drawing a permit on his first try. Brett submitted Adam's application at the minimum age of 12 mainly as a start to gain points so he would be guaranteed a sheep permit in the future. Brett's joy about Adam's success soon waned with the realization of having to explain to Jackie (his wife) that he would be taking their 12-year old son on a bighorn sheep hunt.

Only 1 month earlier, Adam had to have emergency hip surgery to place a screw into the ball of both femurs. He was required to use crutches and a wheel chair for 4 weeks to keep weight off of his legs. During that time, his leg muscles dwindled and became weak. Before the surgery, he was very strong from a season of playing ice hockey, but now his spindly legs did not look as if they could carry him up a flight of stairs, let alone a mountain. Brett considered a medical deferment on the permit, but Adam wanted to go.

The two of them were now on a challenging and familiar road faced by Brett, his brother Bart (WGFD Worland wildlife biologist), and me over 30 years ago. In 1981, I submitted 16-year old Bart's application along with mine; he drew (HA 2), I did not. The next year, Brett drew (HA 2), and I again failed. Bart and I (flatlanders then) and a more experienced mountain hunter friend blazingly bush-whacked our way up the rugged and treacherous Jaggar Creek Canyon in Sunlight Basin, northwest of Cody. Bart got a ram the first day, but the steep climb from 7,000 to 11,400 feet with 45-pound packs and the descent with 70-pound loads was physically devastating. The next year, 16-year old Brett and I **increased the exercise pack to 70 pounds as we went up and down Worland's football bleachers.** Brett also took a ram the first day, and our new exercise regime made the Jaggar Basin hunt more enjoyable. A few years ago, while talking to a rancher in Sunlight Basin, I mentioned going up Jaggar Creek Canyon to hunt sheep. He looked at me in disbelief and said he knew of only one person who had ever made it up Jaggar Canyon to the upper basin. I said my two sons, friends, and I had done it five times but never dared to go back down that route.

For the current hunt, a 65-pound pack was worn as I did squats and climbed the football bleachers and nearby Rattlesnake Ridge; Brett and Adam shouldered heavy packs while climbing the hills and **mountains around Jackson.** Bart's fourteen year-old son Blaine always out climbs me, and keeps up with his Dad. Bob Raup, a longtime friend, came along to enjoy the challenge of a bighorn sheep hunt. **Unlike the Jaggar Basin hunts, when I often feared for my sons' lives, Bart packed his horse and mule to lighten our loads and led us up the Francs Fork southwest of Meeteetse into country familiar to him.** My role over the decades has gone from Alpha male leader to passive follower, as Bart's and Brett's backcountry experienced surpassed mine.

After setting up camp, Brett, Adam, and Bob scouted for sheep west from camp, and Bart and Blaine headed to the east, while I rested. Brett and crew spotted a ram, but did not think it worthy of an opening morning stalk; Bart and Blaine saw only ewes and lambs.

Visions of rams on the mountainsides permeated our minds as we drifted off to sleep. A starlit morning sky greeted us as we gulped down coffee, cocoa, and oatmeal around a roaring fire prepared by Bart as the rest of us still slept. This was unlike a 1980 opener with two sheep hunting friends when we woke to knee deep snow on nearby JoJo Mountain. Brett and Bob angled up the hill behind camp at first light while the rest of us took a different route up the hill. When coming out of the trees onto a grass slope leading to the rocky mountain side, we saw Brett and Bob, who signaled they had spotted a ram. The six of us studied the ram that was bedded down 2/3-mile away as we planned a stalk which would give Adam the best chance for a shot.

We finally agreed that Adam, Bart, and Blaine would go back down into the trees and make a 2-mile half circle that would eventually lead them out onto the barren mountain slope where a low ridge might conceal them as they approached the ram. Brett and Bob would drop back into the timber and circle an equal distance north around a high peak to reach a ridge saddle where the ram might run to, if spooked by the approaching hunters. I would stay in place to keep the two hunter groups informed about the ram's activities, and fret about everything that might possibly go wrong. Brett and Bob emerged onto the saddle after nearly 2 hours and hid in a rock outcrop for concealment, should the ram come their way. Another half hour passed before Adam and crew came out of the trees and started climbing the steep talus slope toward a potential shooting point from the low ridge, but progress was slow on the sliding talus.

The ram had gotten up many times but always laid back down. Now, however, he had been grazing toward the north, away from Adam, for about 20 minutes. I watched as the hunters began traversing the mountainside on the escaping ram's route. When I looked back, I could not find the ram in my binoculars. While frantically searching, a shot rang out and I instantly saw the reeling ram on the saddle as Brett's second shot put him down.

In the 10 seconds I watched Adam and crew, the ram, evidently spooked by their approach, made an escape run to the saddle. The plan had worked, except the ram was supposed to be Adam's. Back at camp, I was told Adam was not a happy camper during picture taking time. He soon became okay with the outcome after realizing there was no way he could have even seen the running ram, let alone gotten a shot. After resting around camp for a couple hours, Adam asked if we were going out hunting again. Adam, Brett, Bart, and Blaine went back up to where the smaller ram had been seen the previous afternoon. As I topped the hill behind camp, I could tell they were going on a stalk.



Bob and I settled in and spent some 20 minutes scanning the rocky ravine where the ram had been before finally spotting him, grazing among some scattered trees. After about 45 more minutes, the hunters emerged from thick timber, and began sneaking along a thinly-treed slope toward the rocky ravine. The ram was now on alert and looking in their direction as Adam got into a prone position with his rifle resting on his pack. As I watched the hunters and long seconds ticked by, I expected the ram to bolt at any moment. Bob yelled, he's hit, and seconds later we heard the distant shot. As the ram went down, my war whoop yells echoed off the mountain sides for a second time that day. Adam had just become one of the youngest hunters, if not the youngest, to ever take a mature ram in recent Wyoming history.



Bob and I built a blazing beacon fire and waited for the triumphant hunter to return. About 10 pm, when thinking they had decided to spend a cold night on the mountainside, we saw four headlamps lighting their way on the far hillside above the Francs Fork. Adam was now a very happy camper with a 7-year old ram (16" bases and wide flaring 35" horns) every bit as impressive as Dad's 8-year old (15" bases and more tightly curled 39" horns). Besides, he got his with one shot at 225 yards, and Dad needed two shots at 125 yards.

They related the heated discussion about whether the distant ram was worthy and whether they should immediately go after him or wait until morning. Blaine, a boy of few words, said he'd shoot him; Adam followed with, "let's go now"! Blaine clinched the argument by asking what are we going to do, sit around camp all evening wondering if he will be there in the morning? The eager inexperienced young ones convinced the hesitant dads, regardless of the impending darkness they could face.

The hike to the trailhead the next day with heavier packs was made easier with the emotional highs and fatherly and grandfatherly pride over a successful bighorn hunt. Adam now admitted that Dad's forced conditioning program was a good idea, because this hunt was the hardest thing he had ever done. Hockey games and drills will now seem easier.

I still apply for my first ram permit. If lucky, I will live long enough to at least be able to stagger up a mountain side with two walking sticks. If called to the happy hunting grounds before then, I have been blessed to have had all the past and current cherished memories of watching two sons and now a grandson take trophy rams in some of the grandest country in the world. Such lifetime memories of shared hunts are the glue that brings hunting friends and family members closer together.



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Tom Pallansch, MN (and long-time donor to WY-WSF) lucked out when he drew the only 2013 non-resident Devil's Canyon HA 12 ram license. In early October, Tom connected on this beautiful 6 year-old, 38" X 16.5" ram, right before a snow storm hit. Awesome ram! Congratulations Tom!!



Brooks Range 2013 - WY-WSF Life Member #342 Gray Thornton, Cody, WY

His second Alaska Dall's sheep hunt and third wild sheep hunt overall proved to be the charm for a sheep-less WSF President & CEO. Hunting partner Jack Atcheson, Jr. spotted two fine rams on the second day of the hunt with Alaska Hunting Expeditions, LLC, but after a cold snap, one foot of snow, and a lost day, the hunting party was not able to get on them until Day 4 of an 8-day hunt. Although within 550 yards of two legal rams, Gray choose not to shoot, due to the precarious location of the sheep and the potential post-shot drop. They banked the rams, hunted another drainage the following day, and then got back on the two sheep on Day 6. A 2,000 foot climb, a classic stalk and a single 335 yard shot anchored this fine 9+ year-old flared ram. "Kicked out" of the <1 Club, and happy to be so!! Congratulations Gray and Jack, on a great accomplishment!





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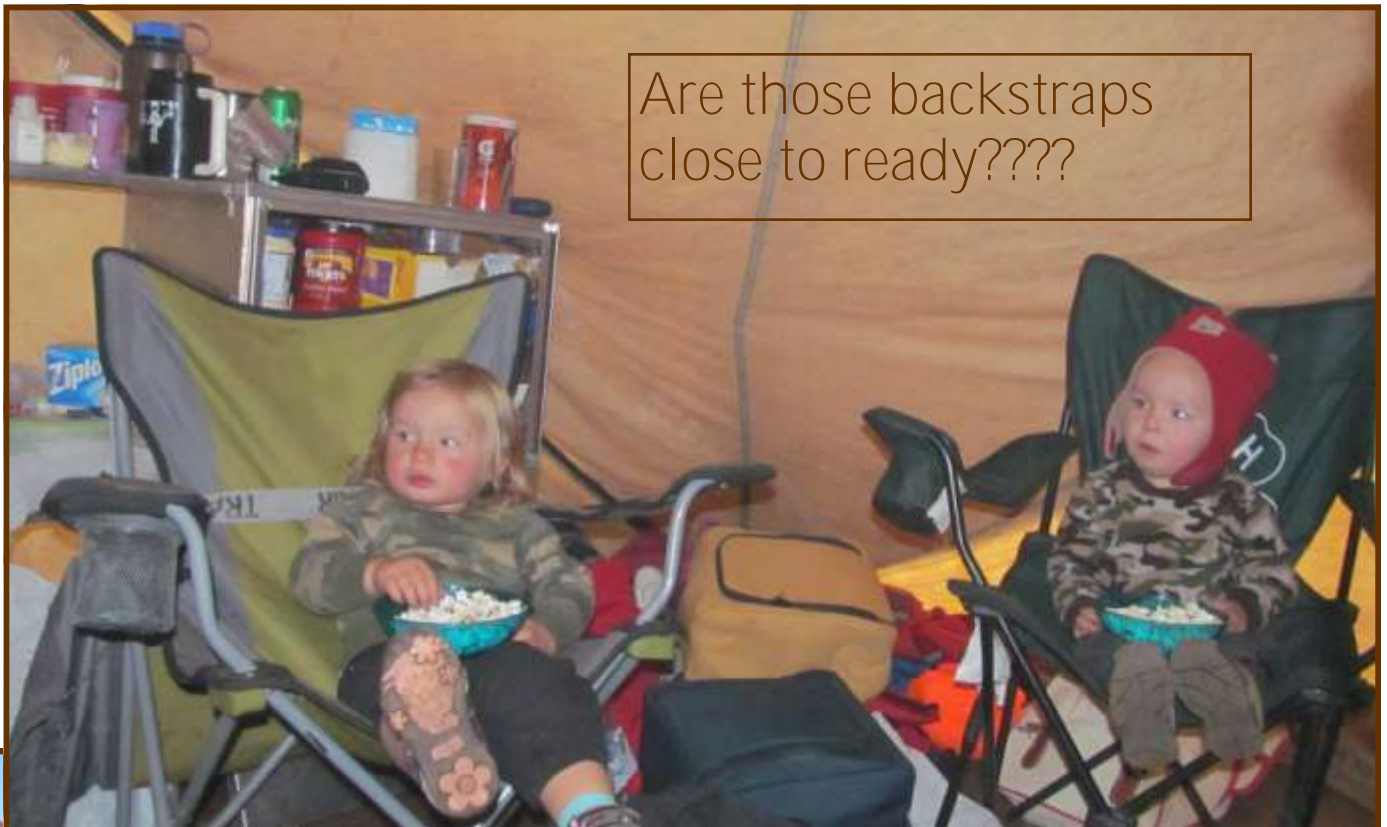


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The next generation of Wyoming sportsmen and sportswomen! Thanks to the adults who took these kids outside, into the Wyoming outdoors this fall. Next time you go hunting, fishing, riding, or hiking, take a kid (or two) along! If you have quality photos of youngsters **in Wyoming's woods, prairies, streams and mountains**, please send them to info@wyomingwildsheep.org. Thank you!!

2013 Hunt Area 3 - Everett Boss, Gillette

After 38 years I was finally drawn for a Wyoming bighorn sheep tag. The hunt started September 1 in HA 3, in the Thorofare. I contacted Butte Creek Outfitters outside of Cody to guide me. Day 1 was spent riding up the mountain to get to camp. Day 2 was spent scouting the area to find where the bighorn sheep were located. After feeding, the sheep would retreat into what I will refer to as "the hole"; the hole is a deep dark canyon with straight up and down walls with timber and rock aplenty for the sheep to hide in. My guide Ron Lineberger said that in all the years of hunting the area he had been in the hole only one time and wasn't looking forward to going back in there.

On the morning of Day 3, we sat and watched sheep move back into the hole, but at a lower level. We tried to cut them off on the lower level, waiting about an hour. Ron then asked if I was up for a hike; I told him he was the boss and let's go! We hiked up to the last place we had seen the sheep, then entered "the hole".

We saw bits and pieces of sheep ranging from 80 to 100 yards through the dense timber. From the left, Ron saw a sheep step out on a steep ledge at ~35 yards, looking down at the sheep below, then look towards us as if sensing we were there. I asked Ron in a very low voice, if this ram would score 160, as that was my goal; Ron said yes, he is over 160. Turned out he scored 162; Ron's eyesight is pretty good!

My .257 Weatherby with the Nosier E-Tip 100 grain bullet was in the chamber. I kicked the safety off as Ron plugged his ears. I pulled the rifle up quickly and fired. The ram jumped off the ledge he was on, flipped, and drew his last breath in a deep hole below us. It took a few minutes to get to the ram; unfortunately, I had left my camera with the horses, so we couldn't get pictures of the whole ram. Our backpacks were with the horses too, as we weren't planning on entering "the hole". We had our knives to cut up the ram and carry it in pieces. I carried the head and cape, gun and binoculars; Ron took my raincoat and tied the sleeves closed and put the backstraps in each arm and the 2 front shoulders to carry out. Max found a tree limb that he trimmed into a pole with his knife; he then pierced the hindquarters onto the pole. Max then

took off his jacket to cushion his shoulders while carrying about 100 pounds on the pole, for the steep decline. It took us about an hour to get to a point where they could bring the horses in to us. We loaded the ram up and walked the horses back to camp. The camp cook did a great job cooking up some fresh ram that night.

This hunt is one that I will never forget as we pitted ourselves against the natural elements of the mountain. The whole experience from start to finish was first class. I am so glad that my friend Harv convinced me to apply again for a tag, and for highly recommending the Butte Creek Outfitters. Thank you Butte Creek Outfitters and Ron and Theresa Lineberger for a hunt of a lifetime!



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A Long Rewarding Day in HA 19 - Steve Sherard, Wheatland

Four thirty in the morning is never too early to get up to go sheep hunting! Shortly after day break, following a short drive from home in Wheatland into the mountains and a short climb, we arrived at our favorite glassing spot. I was accompanied by friend and partner, Brian **Artery, Brian's wife Kim, and my good buddy Jeff Sweet, a retired dentist from Rawlins. In** less than thirty minutes we spotted a group of twelve rams. Great news! The bad news was the rams were nearly two thousand feet up a steep mountain —and I am getting up in years and carry a few extra pounds. I admit I balked at first, but I knew we had to make the climb. Kim stayed back to keep an eye on the rams with the aid of a spotting scope. It was slow going, not just because of the slope, but because we encountered several ewes and lambs that blocked our path to the rams. While waiting hours for the ewes and lambs to clear, Brian communicated with Kim by writing on granite slabs with burned wood and hand signals.

It was brutally hot, and the rams were bedded most of the day. At about 4:30 p.m. a decision was made to make our final push to the rams. Finally, at about 6:00 p.m., Brian got me in position for the shot(s). A nice ram went down at the edge of some dense aspen, and the celebration ensued. Following a photo session, Brian tackled the work with experienced hands, and had the sheep ready to pack in no time. We started off the mountain with full backpacks - Brian and Jeff did fine. I did fine for most of the way, but as night darkened, I became exhausted. About two-thirds of the way down the mountain, we decided that Brian and Jeff would head down to the cabin while I stayed on the mountain to recuperate. Brian and Jeff dropped their packs at the cabin and proceeded back up the mountain to retrieve me. I had recuperated after a few power bars and some Gatorade. Kim was excited to see us after waiting patiently at the cabin for several hours, and I was very excited to find some **“emergency whiskey” in the cabin used for celebratory purposes. I was fortunate enough to** harvest my first bighorn in this same area in 1984, and I am extremely grateful to have had the chance to experience it again.



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2013 NWT Dall's Sheep Hunt - ARRO Matt Dockter, Green River, WY

My 2013 Dall's sheep hunt was everything I dreamt it could have been, and more. You could say it started years before when I started saving money and buying gear. Even then, it seemed like such a dream. I won't ever forget all the workouts and sweat equity I put in, so I could be my best in hopes of completing this hunt. I was nervous about the hunt from Day 1; worrying that something might go wrong that would let this chance slip away.

My anxiety stayed with me even up to the morning we left the Denver airport. My excitement never left, though; I was still in a state of awe that this was really happening. We got as far as Norman Wells, and overnighted there. The next morning, I could hardly eat in anticipation of our upcoming flight. We got to the airport only to be told that the weather was not OK for flying; we should check back in a hour. One hour quickly turned to half a day; and then an all day stay. Thankfully, the other parties flying in were good company; we even had to bunk up with someone we met that day, due to limited hotel room availability. I woke up the next morning only to find the same excitement in my stomach - only toast for breakfast, again.

We got to the airport in good time in hopes that there would be good skies for flying; we were in luck. When we made it to base camp, we were there only long enough to put our extra gear away, eat lunch, and my wife Bailie had just enough time to sight in her bow, as she would be hunting caribou. It was amazing to me to watch the base camp run like a well-oiled machine. Although we had been stuck for a day in Norman Wells, it was clear when we got there that everyone at camp had been anxious about the weather, too. They knew how important this hunt was to us, and they were there to make it happen. The turnaround was awesome; we hiked only a short bit to the float plane, and we were off.

We landed on a beautiful lake and met our guide Kevin Wheale for the first time. There were 3 large gunny sacks sitting next to him, filled with food. Kevin told us we'd need to get those in our packs, which didn't seem possible since our packs were already pretty full of gear. He insisted that we'd need it all, as this would be our only food for the next ten days. We managed to get it all packed. Standing with this amount of weight on your back for the first time is pretty humbling. We hiked about 5 miles to our first camp that day. Oh, what a relief it was not to be stuck in a hotel any more!

Over the next few days, we glassed for sheep and hiked 8-12 miles a day in some of the most beautiful country I've ever seen. Its hard to imagine, but the Mackenzie Mountain Range is as big as the whole state of Wyoming, with not a single road in the whole range. Some days, we would spike out and others we would keep moving, taking camp with us. We put a couple stalks on rams, only to find that they were big, but not quite old enough.

On about the 5th day of the hunt, we were moving camp and were almost to our destination when I looked over to see a bear at a full run, coming straight at us. For a few

seconds, my blood was pumping pretty hard. We felt better when our guide pointed out that bear was only chasing gophers. When the bear got wind of us, he turned and shot straight up the mountain (what a relief!) We hunted in this area for a few days, but **couldn't manage to locate a ram old enough.**

Our outfitter decided to move us on Day 8. He flew us about 20 miles as the crow flies to our new destination. We hiked a few miles to our next camp, but once you are moved you cannot hunt for 12 hours after flying. This was OK though, because it gave us a chance to get some extra rest and get to bed early. We planned to hunt up a canyon the next morning, only to awake on Day 9 to a beautiful sight. I spotted 3 rams just a couple miles up the canyon. Kevin studied the rams for a few minutes and came over and said "Looks like we're in the money this morning". This, coming from a very tight-lipped guide who **didn't mince words!**

We downed some breakfast, loaded our packs with the bare necessities, and headed off on our stalk. We got to the top, only to find that the rams had gone into hiding on us. It took a little while, but Kevin located them in some cliffs hidden around a roll in the canyon, on the side of the mountain. Thankfully, the one ram in view had bedded with his face straight into the cliff. My wife stayed with the packs, and Kevin and I belly-crawled over a boulder slide for 200 yards before we could get into shooting position.

We made it without them busting us. 400 yards away laid one of my life dreams. "Don't Miss" I told myself. I took a couple of dry fires to try to calm myself. I loaded a round, and began to squeeze the trigger. I missed, and Kevin said "you hit to the right". This time, the ram was standing, and I held for more wind. I watched the bullet impact the sheep in the scope. The ram just sucked the shot up, stumbled off the cliff, and piled up.

After a lengthy photo session (with lots of smiles and high fives), we managed to get him all dressed out. My ram ended up being 11 years old, beautifully broomed on one side. I **can't say thank you enough to my wife for enduring this journey with me; you're amazing!** Tavis Molnar and his crew at Arctic Red River Outfitters are also awesome people, and their hospitality is second to none. They gave me the best guide in Kevin; his patience and expertise surprised me for a man as young as he was. Although this was the toughest hunt I have ever experienced, the reward was so worth it. My 2013 sheep hunt was everything I dreamt it could be, and more.!



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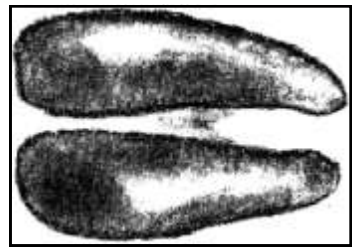
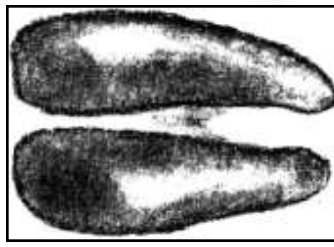
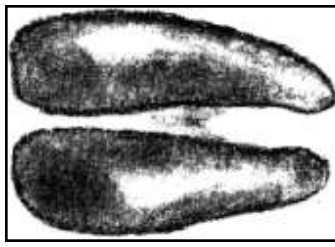
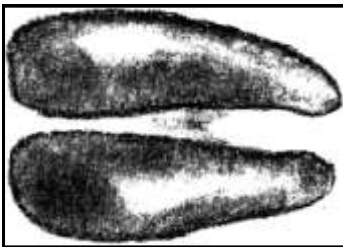
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WY-WSF Member Tyler Bergien, Jackson, with a 2013 Hunt Area 1 ram. Congratulations!!



5, 6, and 7!

By Ryan Amundson (WY WSF Life Member #384)

Kelly Simonton, Ian Tator, and I hunted together in the Bridger Wilderness of the Wind River Mountains in early October 2013, and managed to take three nice bulls in four days of hunting. We harvested a 5x5, 6x6, and 7x7.

With an October 1st opener for rifle season, the bulls were still actively rutting this year, and bugling could be heard throughout the hunt. The bugles gave away their locations and helped narrow down the search. Two bulls were killed on opening morning, and the third bull killed mid day on Day 4 of the hunt. Horses can be more of a hindrance than a help in hunting camp sometimes, but on this trip they really helped out, and completed a lot of the heavy lifting for us in really steep terrain.

The three of us agreed that this elk hunt will go down as one of our favorites. Great camp, hunt, and camaraderie in some of Wyoming's most rugged and beautiful country, topped off with 100% success!

Ryan Amundson is a WGFD Habitat Biologist in Wheatland (WY WSF Life Member #384), Ian Tator is a WGFD Terrestrial Habitat Program Manager in Cheyenne (WY WSF Life Member #390), and Kelly Simonton is a Missouri Basin Power Project employee and hunter/angler from Wheatland.



Ryan w/ 7x7 Bull



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Notice to WY-WSF Members: per discussion at the June 1, 2013 Membership meeting in Casper, it was recommended by the members and decided by the Board that only a single copy of each issue of *The Rampage* will be mailed to any single address, to avoid duplicative mailings, UNLESS there is an election ballot embedded within that *Rampage*. If this causes **heartache for any members who want their “own” copy of the newsletter, please notify info@wyomingwildsheep.org**, and we can mail you an additional copy. Thanks for your understanding, in an effort to maintain efficiency and save the chapter some \$\$.

Also, per June 1 discussion, a copy of the draft minutes of the Membership meeting may be accessed/reviewed from the WY-WSF website <http://www.wyomingwildsheep.org>, under the **“Membership” tab. Please review these minutes prior to the December 7 membership meeting in Wheatland.**, where these minutes will be subject to approval. Thanks!



Cole Benton, WY-WSF Past President and Life Member #30 had the privilege of recently hunting with Bill Stevenson with Alaska Outfitters; Cole harvested this brown bear on the Alaskan Peninsula on October 5, 2013. Cole reports it was a great hunt, seeing ~30 brown bears. Weather kept the group from going out for part of the hunt, and kept them from going after several bears, due to rough water. David Gayer from Spirit Lake, IA and Keith Stansell from Florida (WY-WSF Life Member #365) also hunted with Cole on this trip. This hunt is highly recommended for anyone who wants a great brown bear.

2012 Alaska Range Dall Sheep Hunt, Patrick Hagens, Gillette, WY

Well I'm home from Alaska and getting settled in. I had a fantastic trip, very rewarding. It was a 10 day Dall Sheep hunt near Fairbanks. I flew in to Fairbanks and then flew out in a bush plane to camp. We had great weather, some off and on rain, but never a day that we couldn't hunt, which is unusual. We hunted some very rough country in the Alaska Range south of Fairbanks. My guide Tony was a 29 year old guy that I got along with very well. He was an ambitious guy, not afraid of hiking the hills until we found what we were looking for. By the third day we had covered a lot of territory. We looked over 60 to 80 rams with none standing out as a shooter. The rams were in some of the nastiest country imaginable. Dall sheep live at the top 1/3 of the mountain and are always looking down. To gain advantage you need to be above them, and that makes sheep hunting not for the faint of heart. Better not be scared of heights either. We were jumping around in cliffs with 60lb packs on, trying to get above these guys. I did a lot of preparing for this hunt and I'm really glad I did; it was steep!

The afternoon of the third day we finally found a nice ram. He was on the move and we had to move fast to catch up with him, along with gaining several hundred feet of elevation to get above him. When we did, he saw us but he couldn't figure out who was crazy enough to be above him, so he just mingled around trying to figure us out. We had



plenty of time to size him up and make sure he was the ram I wanted. After some pictures and video, I adjusted the scope for 340 yards and took him. I had shot out to 600 yards in preparation for the hunt, so the shot seemed easy and would have been had I not over compensated for the severe downward angle. I quickly corrected and finished the job thankfully. We had a very long picture taking session and then packed him up. I had the majority of the ram in my pack, with the cape for a half life size mount. We made it back to camp at 1:00 am; my pack weighed in right at 100lbs. While in sheep camp I went out several times and picked fresh blueberries for the whole camp to have pancakes; makes my mouth water just writing about it, they were so good.

After a couple days in camp I became restless. I volunteered to go along with another guy in camp that hadn't shot a ram yet. Will, his guide Al, and I went out the following day to try and find another ram. We set up camp that night but didn't see much. The next morning, we poked our heads out of the tent and saw 8 rams bedded a couple miles away. We headed out and made a stalk on them; it took 6 hours to get to them and in position. Will the shooter and Al the guide were up ahead and I videoed the whole thing from behind. The ram was bedded in some very very steep cliffs; after a 240 yard shot and a finishing shot at over 300 yards, Will had his ram. He fell down the mountain and it was almost impossible to butcher him on the rock slide. I got my pack loaded with meat and started for camp. We left camp at 11 am and I got back in at 10 pm. I fixed up some sheep loin, instant mashed potatoes with gravy for Will and Al when they arrived at 11:30 pm, worn out and starved. I awoke the next morning and headed for sheep camp with Will's ram.

That was the last of 4 rams; everybody in camp was tagged out. So we headed for the air strip and camped at main camp for the rest of the trip. Tony and I headed out to go moose and caribou shed hunting, and possibly wolf; you can shoot 5 wolfs there. I found 5 caribou and 4 moose sheds. The next day I asked Tony if we could go work a gold claim that he had; we went to his mining camp and dug up some material and classified it which is basically is just getting the big rocks out and then ran the material through a sluice box. Tony had worked the claim a full day while I was out hunting for Will's ram, and found 3/4 of an ounce worth about \$1200. I found some but no where near that much.

We flew out to Fairbanks the next day and took care of meat and capes. Got a shower and a meal. Dang near clogged the drain in the shower, and that meal was some of the best food I had ever had. It was nice to be back to civilization. I had mentioned to the outfitter I had always thought of moving to Alaska. He said if I did that he would hire me as a sheep guide if I was interested. I was grateful for the offer. He also mentioned that in 16 years of guiding sheep hunters that he had never had someone come hunting in as good a shape as I was. And here I thought I was going to get run into the ground. I got the sheep bug now, you could say. We will see what the future brings...

Two Old Warrior Hunters Looking for Two Old Warrior Sheep - Loren Kohlen (WY-WSF Life Member #281) Corcoran, Minnesota

Second time to Russia, this time for Kamchatka snow sheep. This trip found long-time hunting partner Ron Vollrath and me flying to Anchorage, then on to Petropavlovsk, Kamchatka, being met there by Sasha, a representative of Safari Outfitters, and out interpreter. On this trip, there would be 5 hunters, each with their own guide. The other 3 people were Don from South Carolina, Richard from Florida, and John from Alaska, all long-time sheep and goat hunters.

Things went well at the airport, then we took a 5-hour trip to where we met the helicopter for a 20-minute flight into camp. There, we were met by 3 guides and cook; the camp was well prepared for us. Each hunter had their own tent. We started seeing sheep immediately from camp, the best sight to an anxious hunter!

Next morning, all the guides and hunters began climbing. In 5 hours, we all gained the top. Everyone said fog was moving in, but we were actually above the clouds. The main guide saw some rams ~3/4-mile from where we were; he asked Richard to go with him, and make a try for a nice ram. We all waited quite a while, then heard 2 shots; we hoped the rest of the **rams would move past us. Unfortunately, this didn't happen. Fog and** clouds moved in, so we dropped down the mountain back to camp. Later, Richard and 2 guides came into camp with a beautiful ram. Now, **it would be my and Ron's turn to try for a great ram.**

After a day's rest, it was time to start climbing over a mountain into a high valley, where we set up spike camp for 3 guides and 2 hunters. No more climbing up in the morning and down in the evening, at least for a while. We set tents, and had an early bite to eat. On the other side of the valley, the head guide thought we should have a good chance for rams. After about a 2.5- to 3-hour climb, the guides glassed the area, spotting 7 rams. There were 2 beauties in the group. Ron took the first shot and connected on a perfect ram. I shot second, getting a beautiful old warrior ram. Got back to camp late, tired!

Next morning, we loaded up and dropped back down to base camp. Sasha, the other hunters, and the cook were there to congratulate us. Sasha broke the news that the next day, we had to move the camp entirely out, due to a bad storm headed our way. The helicopter could not fly to get us out in poor weather, possibly for many days. Early the next morning, we all flew out, met by the other 2 successful hunters back at the landing area.

Our thanks to Safari Outfitters for providing a great hunt with all the details taken care of. Sasha made sure all our documents were ready, taking care of the language barrier, easing us through customs; he was a great guy! I would also like to thank all the guides and the cook at camp, and Jim Borden for building a great rifle that I use on all my hunts.



photo by: Craig McCann



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