



# The RamPAGE

*Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation*

*FALL 2014*

*Photo credit: Meade Dominick*



*Plan to Attend the WY-WSF Winter Meeting  
December 5-6, 2014 in Cody!  
Please see page 10 for details. Bring your family,  
bring a friend, bring a kid!*

## 2014-2015 Calendar of Events

December 5-6, 2014 Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation Winter Meeting  
Holiday Inn, Cody, WY

January 8-10, 2015 Wild Sheep Foundation Convention  
Peppermill Hotel/Reno-Sparks Convention Center  
Reno, NV

Cover Photo: Ward Dominick of Cody, WY with his beautiful 2014 Hunt Area 3 ram! Congratulations to all the 2014 sheep hunters, in and outside of Wyoming!!

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](http://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](http://www.wyomingwildsheep.org).  
Contact address:

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



## 2014-15 Wyoming WSF Officers & Board of Directors

### **President::**

**Mike Porter (6/2016)**  
2321 Easthaven  
Casper, WY 82609  
Phone: (307) 258-7040  
E-mail: fullcurl@yahoo.com

### **Vice President::**

**Jerry Galles (6/2016)**  
3332 Allendale Blvd.  
Casper, WY 82601  
Phone: (307) 234-6100  
E-mail: jerrygalles@wyobeam.com

### **Secretary:**

**Dirk Montgomery (6/2015)**  
121 Dahlia Street  
Casper, WY 82604  
Phone: (307) 631-1337  
E-mail: dmontgomery@pmch.com

### **Treasurer:**

**Joni Miller (6/2015)**  
6722 Hwy. 28  
Lander, WY 82520  
Phone: (307) 332-9119  
E-mail:  
joni.miller@fremontcountywy.gov

### **Director:**

**Jim Collins (6/2015)**  
910 Buchanan Road  
Thermopolis, WY 82443  
Phone: (307) 864-3929  
E-mail: sdckjim@rtconnect.net

### **Director:**

**Dean DiJenno (6/2015)**  
36 Appaloosa Lane  
Cody, WY 82414  
Phone: (307) 527-7008 (home)  
Email: ddijenno@gmail.com

### **Director:**

**Meade Dominick (6/2016)**  
2832 Chopper Lane  
Cody, WY 82414  
Phone: (307) 899-1490  
E-mail:  
meadedominick@hotmail.com

### **Director:**

**Kurt Eisenach (6/2015)**  
55 Crown Road  
Sheridan, WY 82801  
Home: (307) 673-4928  
Cell: (307) 751-6251  
E-mail: keyes555@msn.com

### **Director:**

**Daniel Hinz (6/2016)**  
540 Road 2AB  
Cody, WY 82414  
Phone: (307) 250-0056  
E-mail: dhinz@tctwest.net

### **Director:**

**James Rinehart (6/2016)**  
P.O. Box 1130  
Laramie, WY 82073  
Phone: (307) 745-6024  
Cell: (307) 760-3800  
E-mail: james@ranchbrokers.com

### **Director:**

**Bob Sundeen (6/2016)**  
P.O. Box 111  
Buffalo, WY 82834  
Phone: (307) 217-1110  
E-mail: trailswest@vcn.com

### **WY Game & Fish Liaison:**

**Doug McWhirter**  
2820 State Highway 120  
Cody, WY 82414  
Phone: (307) 527-7125 or  
(800) 654-1178  
Fax: (307) 587-5430  
E-mail:  
Doug.McWhirter@wyo.gov

### **Executive Director:**

**Kevin Hurley**  
P.O. Box 666  
Cody, WY 82414  
Phone: (307) 578-8613  
Cell: (307) 899-9375  
E-mail:  
info@wyomingwildsheep.org

### **WSF Chapter/Affiliate Coord.**

**Becky Layne, WSF HQ**  
720 Allen Ave.  
Cody, WY 82414-3402  
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](mailto: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
2014-15	Mike Porter

Dear WY-WSF Members:

Fall is in the air. Hunting pictures are circulating and animals are on the alert. We have seen numerous great ram photos already, from Wyoming and beyond. Please remember to send in your pictures to [info@wyomingwildsheep.org](mailto:info@wyomingwildsheep.org). Hopefully the Wyoming wild sheep family is enjoying the hunting season.

I am extremely proud to say that your WY-WSF chapter had an incredible record banquet in May. The evening started with 40+ youth attending, as WSF Youth Education Coordinator Ryan Brock had a laser shoot and archery shoot to challenge our young hunters. We recognized Dr. Jim Wetzel for his outstanding service to WY-WSF. The highest honor for our chapter, the Ron Ball Award was presented posthumously to the late Tom Easterly for his tireless efforts for bighorn sheep. The auction offered numerous hunts, tags, and trips. Banquet income was a record \$191,009 minus expenses \$78,195 = \$112,814 New record Net!!! Thank you to our supporters, members, donors, and WY-WSF family for putting and keeping sheep on the mountain.

With the great success of raising money comes the many responsibilities to properly invest in our bighorn sheep. Your board and membership have approved many great projects over the years. This year is no different, as your board meets regularly with great partners at the Wyoming Game & Fish to enhance habitat, disease research, expand hunting opportunities, and transplant more bighorns around the state.

Recent Board highlights: Fantastic banquet in Casper, Kids Page added to *The Rampage*, 40+ Youth at our event in May 2014 in Casper, record sales for Wyoming **Governor's Bighorn Sheep Licenses (\$386,000 for 5 licenses!), board members attended** and worked the Wild Sheep Foundation 2014 convention in Reno, board is working with WGFD on upcoming bighorn sheep transplants around Wyoming and disease testing/research at the Sybille research lab. The board is preparing to launch a new website in October 2014; please take a look and give us your feedback.

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, attending the banquet, or all the above. Bighorn Sheep continue to need our help.

The Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation 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.

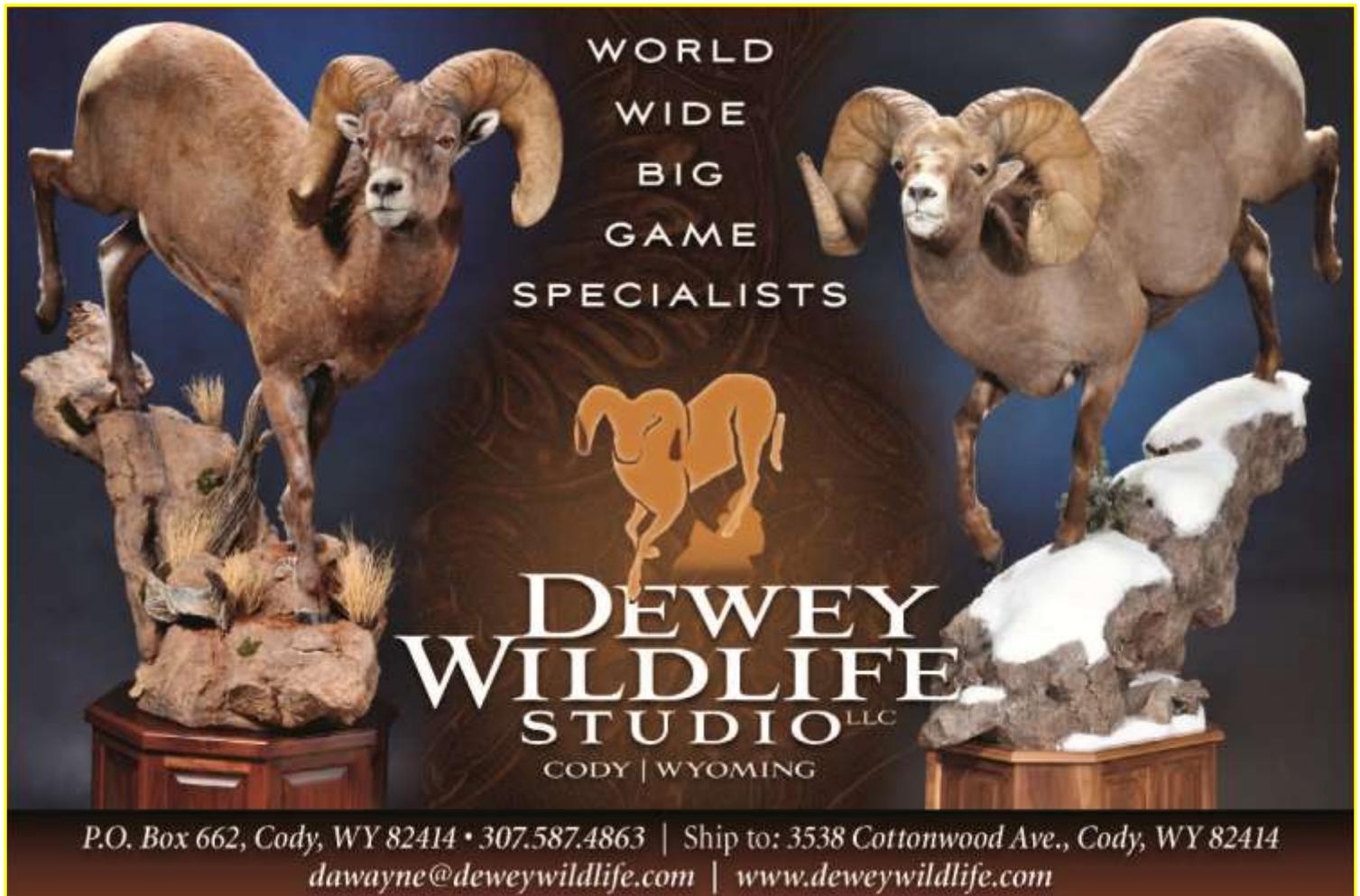


The chapter needs your help to be successful. We look forward to seeing you and YOUR FAMILY in Cody on December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for an amazing year in 2014 for Wyoming Bighorns.

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

## WY-WSF Executive Director's Message

Greetings to all our members!  
Executive Director Kevin Hurley (Life Member #20)



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dawayne@deweywildlife.com | www.deweywildlife.com

Home

WYOMING WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION

WILD SHEEP PROJECTS

During the past 30 years, Wyoming WSF has funded \$835,423 in research, management, and education efforts to benefit Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep in the Cowboy State.

READ MORE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the snow continues to fly, cabin fever is starting to set in. I had a successful ice fishing weekend with my family, so a little fresh air helped. I hope the Wyoming wild sheep family is enjoying winter, as well.

READ MORE

2014 FUNDRAISER

2014 Wyoming Game & Fish Commissioners License Raffle. 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.

READ MORE

Over the summer, your Wyoming WSF Board has been working hard to revise and update the WY-WSF website, in terms of content, ease of use, on-line purchase of everything from raffle tickets to logo'd clothing, and other improvements. Our ultimate goal is to offer on-line registration for our winter meeting and summer fundraiser/convention. We appreciate everyone's efforts and contributions to date, and we hope to "roll out" the new webpage in early November. Please check out the site <http://www.wyomingwildsheep.org> over the next few weeks. Realizing this is a continual work in progress, we appreciate constructive review and suggestions for improvement, and we appreciate everyone's patience as we move forward! Thanks!!



# Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation

The Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation is one of 21 state and provincial chapters and affiliates of the Wild Sheep Foundation, whose purpose is to promote and enhance increasing populations of indigenous wild sheep on the North American continent, to safeguard against the decline or extinction of such species, and to fund programs for professional management of these populations, keeping all administrative costs to a minimum.\* In recent years, efforts of the Foundation and its state chapters and affiliate organizations have expanded beyond the needs of wild sheep to include all wildlife, its habitat, and support of sportsmen's rights.

Wyoming WSF was formed in 1983 and has a long record of actively working for Wyoming's bighorn sheep, other wildlife, education, and hunter's rights. Led by an all volunteer Board of Directors, Wyoming WSF annually raises thousands of dollars through the energy and efforts of conservation-minded sportsmen and women throughout Wyoming.

As a non-profit organization with 501 (c)3 status, contributions to Wyoming WSF are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Annual and lifetime memberships are available at a bargain price. Won't you please consider joining us in our efforts on behalf of Wyoming's bighorn sheep, wildlife and sportsmen?



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## QUICK LINKS

- [Wild Sheep Foundation](#)
- [WSF Chapters](#)

**CONTACT US**  
**WYOMING WILD SHEEP**  
**FOUNDATION**  
**PO BOX 666**

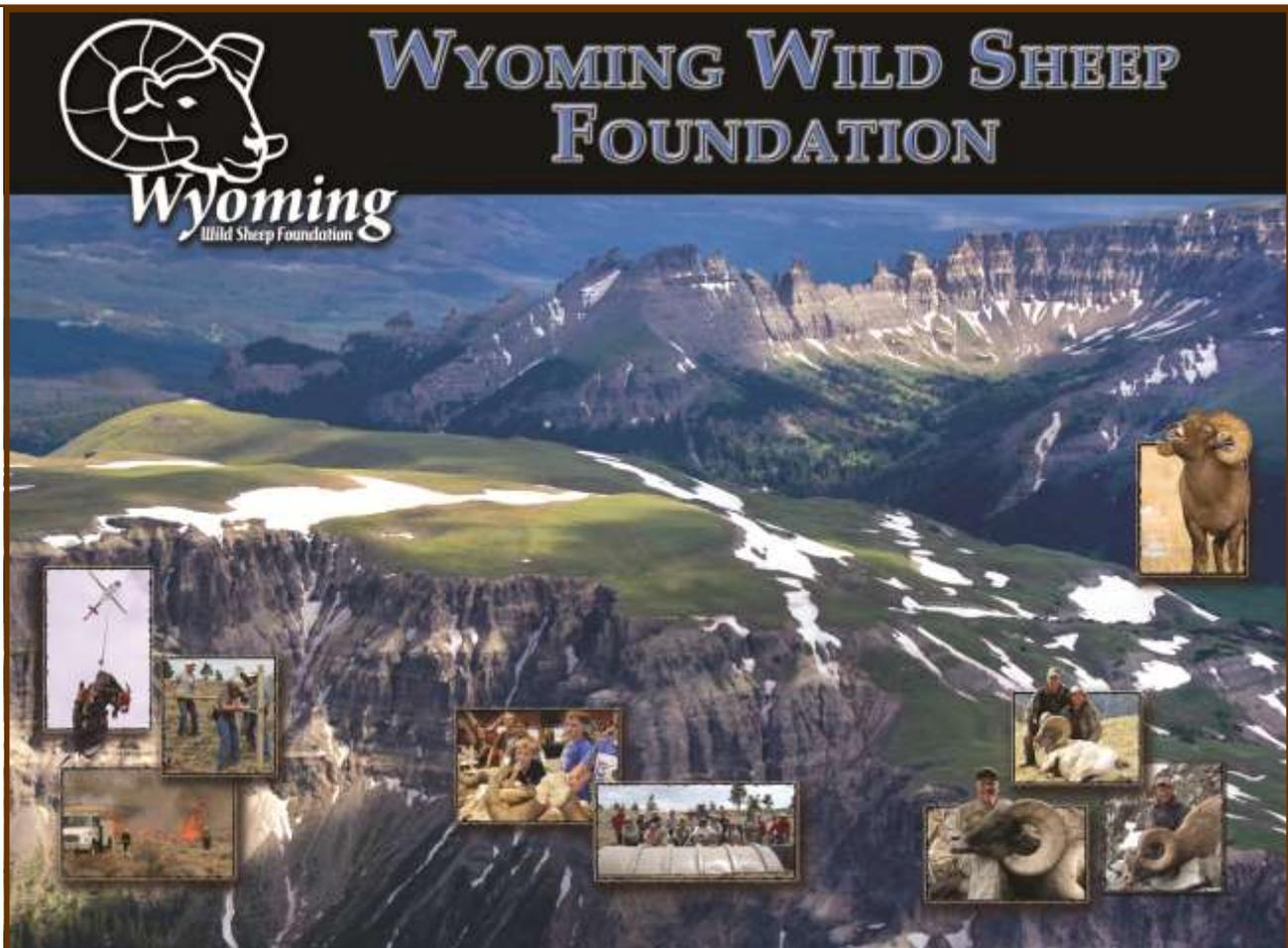
# 2014 WY-WSF Record-Setting Annual Convention & Fundraiser, Parkway Plaza, Casper, WY!!



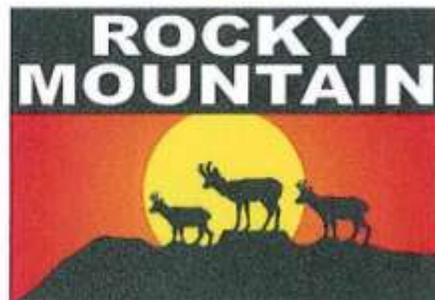


## Wyoming WSF 2014 Full Curl Table Purchasers

Businesses and individuals listed on the opposite page (if logos were available) made significant investments for Wyoming's bighorn sheep by purchasing a "Full Curl" table for 8 attendees at our May 31, 2014 banquet in Casper. We thank them for their support, and invite others who might be interested in a Full Curl table for our 2015 fundraising banquet to please contact President Mike Porter, Executive Director Kevin Hurley, or any WY-WSF Board Member. We appreciate your outstanding support, and look forward to another great banquet/fundraiser in 2015!!



Notice to WY-WSF Members: per the June 1, 2012 membership meeting 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 6th membership meeting in Cody, where the May 31, 2014 membership meeting minutes will be up for approval. Thanks!



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# Winter Fundraiser/Banquet/Field Tour December 5-6, 2014 Holiday Inn, Cody, WY

Friday December 5th

2:00-5:00 PM Board Meeting, Holiday Inn Board Room

6:30-9:00 PM Informal Gathering and Munchies, Holiday Inn Bandanna Room

Saturday December 6th

Breakfast (on your own)

7:45 AM Meet in Holiday Inn Front Parking Lot

8:00 AM Depart/travel/carpool to upper South Fork Shoshone River winter range

11:00-11:30 AM Brown Bag lunch (\$10/person) [need head count and prepayment for lunch to Kevin Hurley by December 2nd] Choice of Ham and Swiss, Turkey and Cheddar, or Roast Beef and American; lettuce, tomato, bakery bun, chips, fruit, and dessert, plus assortment of soft drinks

2:30-3:30 PM Drive back to Cody

3:45-5:00 PM WY-WSF Membership Meeting, Holiday Inn Bandanna Room

5:30 PM Cash Bar, Holiday Inn Bandanna Room

7:00 PM Buffet Style Dinner (Roast Beef and Gravy, Baked Stuffed Salmon, Potato, Vegetables, Rolls, Dessert, Non-Alcohol Drinks) \$22/adult, children 12 and under eat free [Payment to Kevin Hurley by December 2nd]

Formal Presentations During/After Dinner

Preliminary 2014 BHS Ram Harvest

Other: if you have 2014 harvest photos from Wyoming or elsewhere; please bring with you on a flash drive, to share

To make your own lodging arrangements, please call Holiday Inn 307-587-5555, **and request a room from out block of 30 rooms ["ZAT"]**, Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation. Rate of \$89 is good through November 28, 2014, then room block will be released.

# *Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation*

*2015 Wyoming Game & Fish Commissioners License Raffle*

**Tickets \$100.00 each; Only 300 tickets!!**

**1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE: WYOMING GAME & FISH COMMISSIONERS  
ELK, DEER, OR PRONGHORN 2015 LICENSE**

*(Donated by WGF Commissioner Mike Healy, Worland)*

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

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Nikon 13 30X50 Angled Body ED Field Spotting Scope**

**4<sup>th</sup> Prize: Ruger Hawkeye Varmint 22-250 Remington Rifle**

**5<sup>th</sup> Prize: Ruger All Weather 300 Win. Mag. Rifle**

**6<sup>th</sup> Prize: Ruger Mark III Hunter .22 Auto Pistol**

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

**8<sup>th</sup> Prize: Olympus Tough TG-3 16MP Waterproof Camera**

**9<sup>th</sup> Prize: Nikon Monarch Rifle Scope**

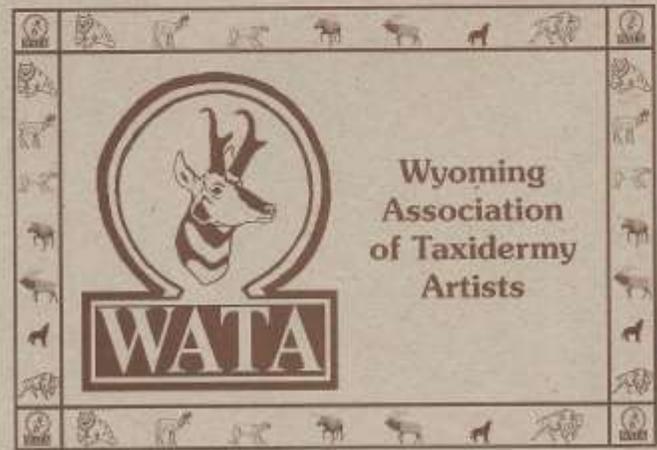
**10<sup>th</sup> Prize: Samsung Galaxy Tab 4 8" Tablet**

Drawing will be held June 6, 2015 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](mailto: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.



For many years, the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation has provided a plaque for the winning wild sheep taxidermy mount at the annual Wyoming Association of Taxidermy Artists (WATA) annual convention. We are proud of Lynn Stewart, WY-WSF Life Member #44 from Dubois, who won this year's first place award. Congratulations Lynn on recognition of your work!



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# Mark Your Calendars for our 2015 Annual Convention



(For WY-WSF office use only)

Destination/Item #

## Art, Merchandise, Cash Donation Form

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Company Name (if desired): \_\_\_\_\_

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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Donor's Signature (if available): \_\_\_\_\_

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.

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*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](mailto:info@wyomingwildsheep.org)

[www.wyomingwildsheep.org](http://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 contact WY-WSF ([info@wyomingwildsheep.org](mailto:info@wyomingwildsheep.org)).

Wyoming WSF would like to thank, and recognize, Life Members who have signed up since the Spring 2014 *Rampage* was published in April 2014. A complete listing of WY-WSF Life Members is included on pages ??-?? of this Rampage, and is also 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 (opposite page ). 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!!

Know a kid that needs a .410? FYI, we will live-auction Wyoming WSF Life Membership #410 at our December 6th banquet in Cody! The perfect gift for Christmas!!

**Since we don’t collect date of birth** information on our WY-WSF members, we cannot be sure, but our most-likely eldest member, Ollie Kukla of Meeteetse, passed away June 30, 2014, at age 94. After a lifetime of being an excellent farmer and rancher and a true country gentleman, Ollie will be missed by those who knew and loved him.

#394 Bruce Card  
 #396 Tyler Bergien  
 #397 Josh Kilpatrick  
 #398 Brett Montgomery  
 #399 Andrea Dominick  
 #400 John Burd  
 #401 Doug Sayer  
 #402 Greg Nelson  
 #403 Mike Fiedor





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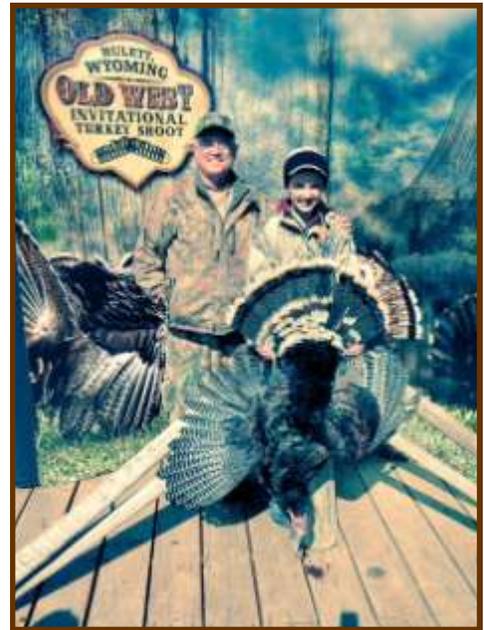
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Life Member #380 Gage Porter, Casper, WY with his 1st antelope buck, and his proud Mom Stacie Porter, Life Member #381. President Mike Porter (Life Member #323) proudly took these photos!



Murphy Love with young hunter Grace, WW - TF Old West Invitational Turkey Hunt, Hulett, May 2014

## YOUTH PAGE

Kolby George 2014 antelope



**Kelly and Travis Collins with Kelly's 1st antelope buck.**



The next generation of Wyoming sportsmen and sportswomen! Thanks to the adults who took these kids outside, into the Wyoming outdoors. Next time you go hunting, fishing, riding, or hiking, take a youth (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](mailto:info@wyomingwildsheep.org).** Thank you!!

## Summer 2014 WGFD Internship - Sierra Amundson, Wheatland, WY

**Throughout my summer at the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Thorne/Williams Research Center (WGFD TWRC), I feel as if I accomplished a lot as a 17 year-old high school senior; much more than I could have ever dreamt of. My favorite jobs were the ones that involved working with the bighorn sheep lambs. Those babies were precious! Every day, first thing in the morning, I would go out to the isolation pens where the remaining ewes from a herd from Gribbles Park, Colorado were kept, to record daily observations of the ewes and lambs. Observations included recording clinical symptoms such as "nasal discharge, ocular discharge, cough, appetite, energy level, ears (perky or droopy), Body Condition Score (BCS) and breathing (raspy or normal)." Each category, for the ewe and lamb, was scored on a scale that went from "none" to "mild" to "moderate" to "severe." If any animal was marked "moderate," Dr. Mary Wood, the state wildlife veterinarian was called. She would typically show up within a day of being called with any concerning animals. Any ewes or lambs marked "severe" were to be removed from the study and either treated or euthanized in order to prevent further suffering.**

Monitoring these animals was my favorite task at the WGFD TWRC. Watching the lambs grow up and observing the progression of pneumonia proved to be very interesting. I learned a lot about the diagnosis and development of symptoms in bighorn sheep, and feel that my observations can be used as a crucial part of bighorn sheep pneumonia research that is currently at hand. The most exciting thing that came from the observations was being able to see the oldest lamb develop. This lamb eventually died of pneumonia, but she **lived for over 2 months (that's a record, by the way). Unfortunately, none of the lambs from this group survived the pneumonia that they contracted shortly after birth. However; after each lamb mortality, I believe a little more progress in the understanding of the disease was made. I became familiar with the phrase "The more you learn, the less you know," because every time a conclusion was made, two new questions seemed to arise.**

When a lamb would die from pneumonia, I would make a trip to Laramie, Wyoming to drop off nasal and tonsil swabs at the Wyoming State Vet Lab. After helping to isolate samples on culture plates of different **mixtures of agar that allowed different "bugs" to grow, I would head to Fort Collins, Colorado with the carcass.** Dr. Karen Fox, a pathologist at the Colorado Parks & Wildlife Research Center, would necropsy (autopsy) the lamb to look for signs of disease or cause of death. In every single one of the Gribbles Park lambs that died throughout the summer, chronic pneumonia was found in the lungs. After observing a couple, I was finally allowed to assist Dr. Fox with the necropsies. Although I enjoyed the daily contact with the live lambs at TWRC, I found the necropsies of lambs to be fascinating, as well. After a bit of training and guidance of the necropsy procedure, I gained proficiency in the use of a scalpel, lamb dissection, and the ability to determine the presence of pneumonia in bighorn sheep lambs.

**On my journey towards becoming a wildlife pathologist, my summer internship at WGFD's Thorne/Williams Research Center definitely led me several steps in the right direction. I am now positive that I want to attend the University of Wyoming in 2015 after I graduate from Wheatland High School in the Spring of 2015. I learned so much and owe all of it to the people that helped me throughout the summer. My summer mentors were composed of a large team of dedicated and talented people, giving 110% of their efforts toward finding answers to bighorn sheep pneumonia issues. This team included WGFD TWRC staff (Matt Huizenga, Cole Hansen, and Sam Lockwood), the Wyoming State Wildlife Veterinarian (Dr. Mary Wood), the people that do the crucial "behind-the-scenes" work in the lab (Hank Edwards, Jessica Jennings-Gaines, Hally Killion, and Terry Creekmore), and Dr. Karen Fox, along with her staff at the Colorado Parks & Wildlife Research Center. I appreciate the effort that everyone took to mentor me and I am thankful to have so many people willing to help me succeed.**

**I also owe a "thank you" to Linda Virant and the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services for funding my summer salary and helping me set (and achieve) my goals. Lastly, thanks to the Wyoming Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation for helping me with work travel expenses and funding part of my pre-exposure rabies vaccination. I hope to one day become part of a team of professionals that can find the answers that will lead to bighorn sheep disease prevention and/or treatment.**



Sierra beginning to necropsy a lamb from TTRWC.



Sierra bottle-feeding an orphaned lamb @ TRWC.



Sierra in the middle of her daily observations, recording symptoms at TWRC



Sierra, Dr. Karen Fox, and CPW team perform a necropsy on a bighorn sheep lamb from TWRC



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### “The Perseverance Ram”

Freddie Goetz, WY-WSF Life Member #6,  
Wheatland

*“Kevin: I’ve waited 47 years to write this story; I know it’s long, but after you read this story, you will know why this ram deserved the name....”*

After putting in for 47 years, I finally saw the most wonderful sight on the 2014 License Draw results: **the word “successful”!**

The first person I called was Jack Finnerty, and told him the good news. About 20 years earlier, I told him I was tired of trying to get a sheep tag. He told me to keep trying, and he would make sure I would get a sheep. Things were touch-and-go for a while. We found out my wife Glenda was having some major medical problems. Then, in February, it got worse. In March, we found out she had cancer, and would need 12 chemo treatments, each two weeks apart. I was trying to figure out how I could help Glenda and still be able to hunt sheep.

Jack got the ball rolling, and in a few weeks I had lots of people wanting to help. Our hunt was going to start September 5th, so we had 2-1/2 days to get that long-awaited sheep. Steve Sherard found out Jack and I were planning on setting up a camp down the creek from his **cabin; he said “no way”, we were going to stay in his cabin! We were ~2 hours out of town, and hadn’t even made it to the cabin when we spotted a good ram; the hunt was on! After 2 hours, we had to abort the stalk because we ran out of cover. I thought, man, this sheep hunting is going to be easy! Little did I know the next 2 days would change my mind!**

Saturday morning came pretty fast; a crew of 6 people showed up to help make sure I got a sheep. I was in awe! We started down the creek, glassing up both sides of the canyon as we went. About an hour into our hunt, Brian spotted a ram he thought we should take a better look at; looking through the spotting scope, Brian confirmed a nice ram. I checked him out, and decided that I was going to go after this ram. We lost him as he went through the trees; after what seemed like hours, we spotted him bedded in a saddle 500-600 yards uphill.

We made our plan of attack. Brian, Adam and I were going up the mountain; Kim, Steve, Jeff **and Jack would stay back to spot. We started our climb up that steep ol’ mountain, one step at a time. My heart was pounding and my legs hurt, and we had only gone a couple hundred yards. After a brief rest, we resumed our climb. We had to get up the mountain at least another 200 yards, hoping our cover held out and the ram didn’t make us. At ~300 yards from the ram, we stopped to rest again. Before we resumed climbing, I got my camera out to take this ram’s photo; Brian looked over at me, wanting to know what I was doing. I told him I had to have a photo of this ram, hopefully the last live picture of this ram.**

We kept climbing, but ran out of cover; we ranged the ram at 232 yards. I could not get a **steady rest laying over Brian’s pack; to my left about 10 yards was a downed tree. Brian said the ram had spotted us, so move slowly to the tree and get set up with a good rest. I had never before put rifle crosshairs on a sheep; I’ve only seen them through my camera lens. I had a good rest; all that ram had to do was turn broadside, and he was mine. Problem was, we waited and waited, but he wouldn’t turn. Brian said I would have to take him, looking right at me. I got set, squeezed the trigger, and the ram jumped to the right; I thought I’d missed, but Brian didn’t think I had. We checked with our spotters down below; Brian and Kim have the**

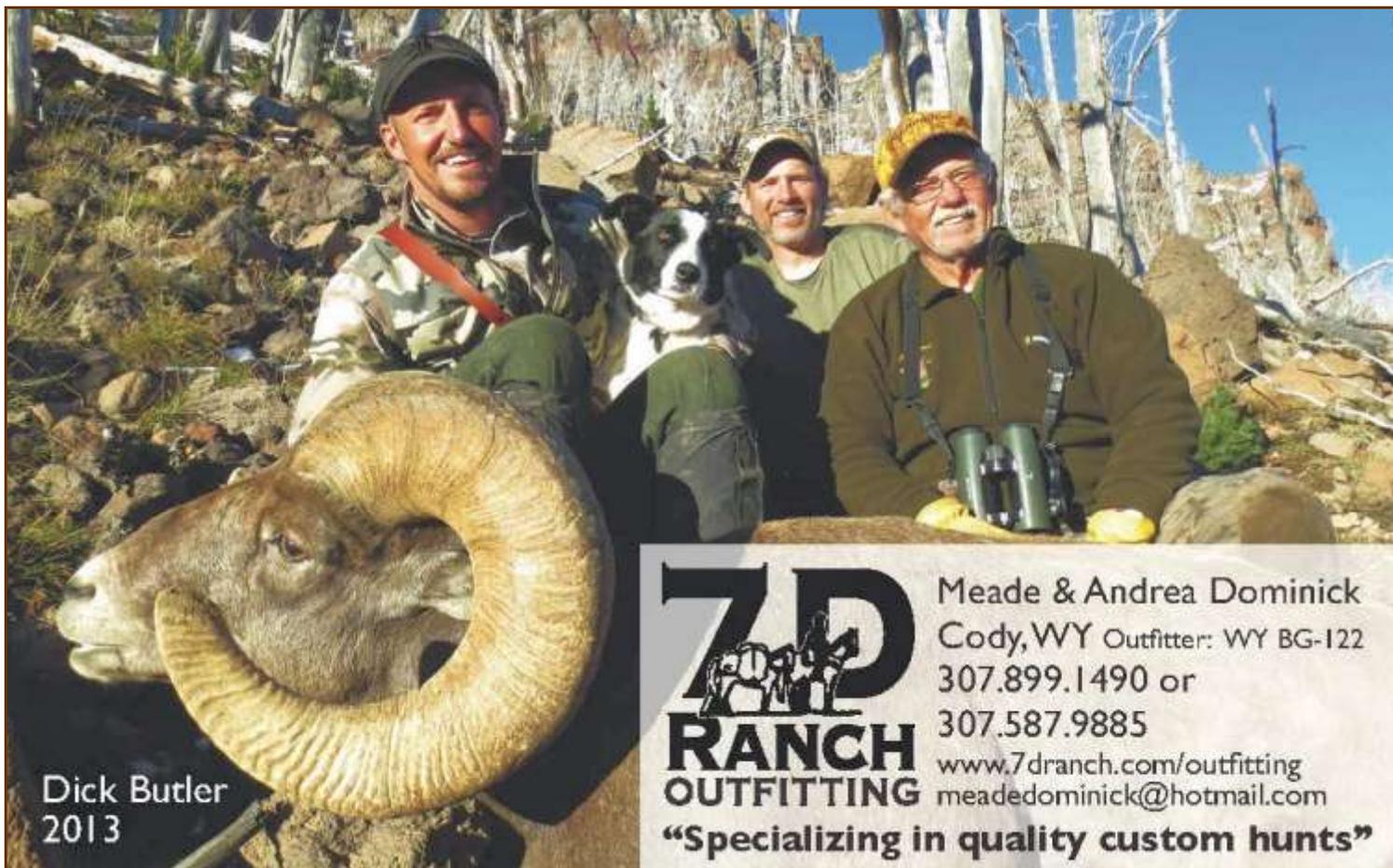
the best system for hand signals. Kim signaled the ram had gone 2 ridges to the south. We made our way down the mountain, heading south. At the creek bottom, Kim told us that **they'd seen blood on his left shoulder; my ram was hit, but not hard enough to put him down.** We moved down the creek, glassing. After ~3 hours, Jack, Steve and I headed back to the cabin; the older part of the crew was beat. Brian, Kim, Jeff, and Adam stayed back to see if they could spot the ram. About 7:30 Saturday evening, the rest of the crew came in with good news that they had found the ram, and he looked like he was bedding down for the night. My hopes were pretty high; now we would find him in the morning.

It was one of the longest nights I had ever spent. Next morning, the crew showed up, so **down the creek we went to find my sheep., past a rock we named "frog rock", spotting a black bear** on the same slope as my ram. Jack and Kim stayed back to spot while Brian, Steve, Jeff, Adam and I went up that mountain. After a couple hundred yards we hit lots of downed timber and big boulders, so we moved down the mountain to try another route. We checked **with our spotters down on the creek; they hadn't seen anything. We were all over that mountainside** but could not locate the ram. After 3 hours trying to find him, I made my way down to join Jack and Kim. We glassed the rest of the morning, but found nothing. Steve and Adam came down to join us, saying Brian was going to check out the top of the mountain. **We headed back to the cabin. Brian finally made it back but reported "no sheep". Brian found** some hair on boulders near the top, and figured the ram made it to the top on 3 legs, headed for the next drainage. Our ride back to town was pretty quiet; I was pretty dejected. I had all week long to figure out what went wrong.

Five days later, on Thursday, my hunting crew said we were going back up on Saturday the **13th. We left the cabin about 6:30 AM; Adam couldn't make this trip, so my good friend Luke joined us. We went to "frog rock" and started glassing. We spotted some magpies feeding on** something. Brian got out the spotting scope and after what seemed like hours, he turned and told me that I finally had my bighorn ram! After some tearful hugs and handshakes I went up **that mountain with a lot of spring in my step. After a few hundred yards that ol' mountain** about had me whipped again. We finally made it to the ram; checking it over, I was amazed how massive his horns were. We found tags in each ear; one from Wyoming and one from Montana. It was a happy ride back to town! When we got to the house, Glenda came out and I told her we had our sheep. I called WGFD biologist Martin Hicks, but got his answering machine. The next day, when Martin called, I gave him the numbers off the MT eartag; he looked in his records and told me this was not one of 7 yearling rams released in January 2007. I asked, how could that be? I had the eartag in my hand. Martin then told me that eartag was put in a 6-month old ram lamb; my ram was just a lamb when he bolted out of the horse trailer! I have video and photos of that release! Throughout this story, I know I kept saying **"my sheep"; well, it's not really my sheep, it's "our sheep".**

There are a few organizations that need to be thanked for putting these sheep on the Wyoming mountain they now call home. Wyoming WSF, National WSF, Eastern WSF, **Midwest WSF, Iowa FNAWS, and the Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition BHS** Account made this happen!

Now, for my hunting crew, who I could not have done this without. Steve Sherard, Brian and Kim Artery, Jeff Sweet, Adam Muniz, Luke Michelena, Jack Finnerty, and my wife Glenda. There are also 6 guys from WGFD who helped trap and bring these sheep from Montana to **Wyoming in 2007; you all know who you are. You're the best!**



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2014 Area 3 Hunt  
Dennis Claman Life Member #126  
Farson, WY

Although I had unsuccessfully applied for a sheep license for many years, I had managed to accumulate less than the maximum number of preference points. Last fall, while sitting around the coffee table at Jim and Cindy Collins home, Jim advised me that with the number of points I had I should have a good chance of drawing a license in Area 3. Keeping this advice in mind I applied for Area 3 in 2014. (This must have been good advice since Jim gave **the same advice to fellow life member John O'Brien who also drew an Area 3 license in 2014.**)

When I checked the website after the drawing and found that I had been successful, I had to face the reality that this long-awaited hunt was finally going to happen. When I first started applying for a sheep license I was much younger, in better physical condition, and owned horses. The thought then was that it would be a do-it-yourself hunt involving some friends to assist with their knowledge of bighorn sheep. But as the years went by, coupled with the fact that I no longer owned horses, I decided to make the most of what will likely be my one and only sheep tag by going with an outfitter.

I already knew Meade Dominick from 7D Ranch Outfitting from the time I had spent as the WY Wild Sheep Foundation Treasurer and Meade as a board member, so I was leaning toward contacting him. After asking a couple of friends who are knowledgeable about Area 3 outfitters and hearing Meade as a strong suggestion from them as well, I made the call to Meade and booked the hunt.

Since I had committed to work as a Seasonal Law Enforcement Ranger at Keyhole State Park through Labor Day, Meade scheduled me for the second hunt of the season with the understanding that if his first hunter filled early I would have an opportunity to hunt earlier. Meade told me that I would be in the capable hands of his long time guide Chris Scheer.

While working at Keyhole State Park on September 1, I kept looking at the cloudy sky and thinking that if the Cody area was getting the same weather it would cut visibility and make it unlikely that the first hunter would harvest a ram on opening day. Much to my surprise, early on the morning of September 2 I received a call from Andrea Dominick telling me the first hunter had been successful on September 1. One of the guides would bring the hunter and his sheep out on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and would be ready to take me in on the 4<sup>th</sup>. September 3 found me driving to Cody where I was to meet Meade and the guide who would accompany me to camp. While waiting to meet up with Meade, I stopped at Game and Fish to see if an old friend Doug McWhirter happened to be around but as luck would have it, he was out of town. So I went over to National WSF to see if Kevin Hurley might be around, only to learn he also was out of the office.

**I met up with Meade and Jeff Meikle at Meade's residence and turned over some of the gear** for the trip into camp the following day. This was my first meeting with Jeff who impressed me with his enthusiasm for the upcoming hunt and was very encouraging with his reports of rams seen in the area.

On September 4 Jeff and I along with 2 pack horses and one mule made the 7-hour ride into camp. Chris Scheer had remained in the camp area to do some scouting while Jeff was taking the first hunter out and bringing me back in. The advertised 7-hour ride was slightly longer due to some blow down timber blocking portions of the trail but we made it with no major mishaps.

When Chris returned to camp that first evening he told me that he had failed to locate a couple rams seen in the area earlier, so the plan was to get to high ground and glass the following morning. During the evening, both Chris and Jeff proved to be very enjoyable companions and spent time discussing where they had seen sheep during the previous hunt. Chris also displayed the skull and horns of an estimated 10 year old ram he had found while scouting. I told Chris that I was looking for a mature ram and was not holding out for the largest sheep on the mountain. During the evening Jeff mentioned seeing a dark-colored mature ram on Petrified Ridge which sounded like what I was I looking for.

The morning of the 5<sup>th</sup> found us starting out from camp and headed to higher elevations to look for rams. Jeff and I went up one ridge while Chris went up another. After Jeff tied the horses, he indicated a point saying that he was going there to glass. I told him I would join him there but would not be climbing as fast as he would. When I reached Jeff, he had the good news that he had spotted a band of 8 rams across the valley from us. Two of the rams were mature, and he believed one of them might be the dark ram he had seen previously. After viewing them Jeff said that he believed that they were worth taking a closer look at but, he wanted Chris to view them as well. We continued to watch the rams until Chris joined us. After Chris had a chance to view the sheep he came to the same conclusion that two of the rams were indeed mature rams with the darker one being heavier but also being slightly broomed off. From the point where we were viewing them to the rams was 1.3 miles according to my GPS. Of course, we had to ride down the ridge, up the creek, and to the top of Petrified Ridge to get near them, a much longer journey.

When Chris and I finally got as close as we could by horseback, we started a short stalk to where we had last seen the rams, only to find that they had moved. Chris was very meticulous in searching the hill side locating the rams bedded in the timber about 320 yards below us. We relocated slightly to get a better vantage point while waiting for the sheep to get up and hopefully move into the open. After a couple hours, the rams began getting up and moving directly toward us, stopping to drink at a small spring directly below us. We had plenty of time to view the rams as they walked toward us and judge the merits of the two mature rams. The darker ram was heavier but did have some noticeable brooming. The other ram, while not has heavy, seemed to have less visible brooming. Chris estimated the heavier ram to be about 8 years old.

Since we had been able to view the sheep I decided that I liked the looks of the darker heavier ram but that I would take whichever one presented the best shot. As luck would have it, the lighter ram finished drinking and went back to the timber without presenting a shot. The heavier ram started walking to the timber as well but turned broadside about 200 yards from us. One shot and my hunt that had started with day dreams years ago was over. (Except for the work getting the sheep off the mountain, of course!)

I cannot express my gratitude enough to Meade, Chris and Jeff for making this such an extraordinary adventure. I am also thankful to for the opportunity to hunt such a magnificent animal which is due in large part to the hard work of Wyoming Game and Fish, and organizations such as the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation and the Wild Sheep Foundation (National). It was my hunt of a lifetime!



## WGF Commissioner's License Elk Hunt

Kyle Hurley, Life Member #105, Cody, WY

My father, Kevin Hurley of the Wild Sheep Foundation and Wyoming WSF, is a master of the odds, and has always known the right moment to go all in. He and I have made many amazing memories together, from baseball trips and archery competitions, to partying in Cabo. But, by far the best are the ones spent together on a mountainside with the sun peeking over the horizon and the wind in our faces, in pursuit of big game. It really doesn't matter which of us is hunting; the excitement is always palpable. In most cases, the non-hunter is even more jittery in the hopes that his best hunting buddy will harvest the animal of a lifetime! I was lucky enough to be right next to my father during three of his Four North American Wild Sheep hunts. Those three hunts have been the most amazing I have been on, because those animals were *his* once-in-a-lifetime harvests.

Now, I get to tell the story of *my* once-in-a-lifetime Wyoming bull elk tag that my dad facilitated and accompanied every step of the way:

As a May 2014 graduate of the University of Wyoming with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, my dad felt the need to reward my efforts with a memorable graduation present. This was unbeknownst to me until a month after graduation when I got a call while driving. "Kyle, I put you in a raffle at the Wyoming WSF Banquet for a Wyoming Commissioner's license, and you just won it!" It took me a second to comprehend his words and realize that he was not joking; I almost crashed due to excessive celebration. A Commissioner's license in Wyoming means that you choose to hunt deer, elk, or pronghorn. The hunter can also choose virtually any area in the state in which to hunt! It is a very prestigious tag, one that I never expected to have. Fortunately for me, my dad had played the odds and purchased enough raffle tickets that I had a chance at actually winning the tag. Dad knew the money was going to a good cause either way, that's just the kind of guy he is. Special thanks to WGF Commissioner Keith Culver of Newcastle for donating one of his licenses to Wyoming WSF!!

Once I got over the excitement of winning the raffle enough to start talking logistics, Dad asked me which species I wanted to hunt. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I knew I wanted to hunt with my bow. I love the purity and the challenge of archery hunting, as well as the massive adrenaline rush that comes with being so close to the animal. So I thought to myself, which species will most likely produce the biggest rush and possible satisfaction? That choice didn't take long. Sure, Wyoming has some of the biggest buck deer around, and some fantastic pronghorn hunting. But, most of you will agree that there is just something a little more special about being in the middle of a timber grove with several majestic bull elk screaming all around you, evading the eyes of the cows and trying to keep your bow hand steady. I had tried to bow hunt bulls before, but only connected with a cow. With the chance of harvesting my first bull elk lingering constantly in the back of my mind, I made the choice to hunt elk, then got to work and started practicing with my bow.

I want to clarify that I have never been a "trophy hunter", or one to pass up animals if I don't think they are big enough for my wall. The thrill of the hunt and just being out there, especially with my dad, is the experience I seek. But, I did realize the gravity of this tag and did want a try at a nice bull if possible. My dad helped me choose an area that he thought would yield a great bull, the Wagonhound Ranch south of Casper, then made the arrangements. We set up an opening week hunt with Dax McCarty of Wagonhound Outfitters, an experienced outfitter and a great guy.

Let's cut to the good stuff. We arrived on the ranch on August 30, 2014 to meet up with Dax and do some scouting. After a lot of archery practice - out to 70 yards - and two days of glassing, we were very optimistic about our chances on opening day! The morning of September 1st, we headed into the hills toward a group of bulls on "Middle Mountain" as the ranch calls it. We had seen a screamer 6 X 7 bull the night before that I really liked. As we made our way up to the highest point on "Middle Mountain", in the dark, we expected the bulls to be talking around 6:30 or 7:00 AM. We were a little disappointed because we weren't hearing any bugles. We passed up two raghorns around 7:30 AM and kept walking along the ridge, trying to stay in a favorable position relative to the wind and where we thought the group of elk was. Dax, my father, and I walked a few miles along this ridge without seeing any more elk. It was getting pretty bright, and we had walked far past where we had seen elk the night before. The decision was made to head back and try again around dusk. As we picked our way back to the truck along the top of the ridge, we all halted when we heard a faint bugle down the side of the mountain that we hadn't focused on. Dax replied by ripping off a bugle, and we started a conversation. This bull sounded mature, so we started stalking his way. The conversation between the bull and



Dax continued, my heart pumping harder as the bugles got closer and closer. The coniferous timber became very dense, and we hadn't seen the bull(s) we were talking with yet. We all became wide-eyed as we heard a massive bugle with a nasty grunt that sounded about 50 yards away in a small hollow.

As we stalked a few more feet trying to catch a glimpse, I spotted the ear twitch of a cow laying down and looking away under a tree at about 30 yards. Another bugle - same distance. I crouched next to a boulder about 15 yards perpendicular to a "hallway" that led from the elk in the hollow to my right, to Dax's position on my left. Dax hid himself at the end of the hallway and started ripping off bugles, cow calls, and breaking dead branches. My dad was five yards directly behind me watching for the bull, just in case he came around another way. I had an arrow nocked, and did a five-second meticulous check to make sure my Switchback XT and Easton arrows tipped with NAP Nitrons were in order. No amount of practice or deep breathing prepared me for that bull suddenly and aggressively proclaiming his territory rights 20 yards directly on the other side of that boulder! I first saw antlers tossing around over the horizon of the boulder as he purposefully marched through the "hallway" looking for a fight. This bull was a monster. I am not great at judging elk size, but I knew he was a stud. The best part was that he was at 10 yards now and had no idea I existed. I could see the bloodshot eyes. I ducked below the boulder, drew, and pointed my bow toward where I thought he would walk. There was maybe 6 seconds from when I first saw him to when I let the arrow fly. It happened that fast. Thinking back to that moment - which will always be burned into my memory - he was so close that I don't think I even used a particular pin in my sight. I was shaking so badly that I put the whole sight ring on the kill-zone and let fly. As soon as the arrow penetrated, he wheeled around and took off back the way he came.

A few seconds after the shot, I asked myself if I had really just pulled the trigger at 9:40 am on opening morning with a Commissioner's Tag. I was hoping the hunt would last a little longer, but I was so pumped that it didn't matter! My dad had seen the shot unfold, and we rejoiced that it was a good shot. Like I said earlier, I think he was more excited than I was! We waited a LONG two hours recounting the series of events and then spent another hour following a 175-yard blood trail to my beautiful trophy bull. The feeling of walking up on such an amazing animal like that is not easy to describe. After packing the meat and antlers out we rough scored the bull at just over 340", which I was tickled about although I don't care much about score.

The hunt, although short-lived, was one I will never forget. My sincere thanks to Dax McCarty of Wagonhound Outfitters. He runs an excellent operation for deer, elk, and black bears, in some of the most beautiful country in Wyoming. Thanks again to Commissioner Culver for his support of Wyoming WSF. Also, thanks to my dad, Kevin, for making this happen. I owe it all to you and I cherish every hunting trip we have together. Here is to many more campfires, Pops!

## Half Way Home (by Loren Kohnen, Life Member #281, Corcoran, MN)

At a banquet, I won a Desert Big Horn sheep hunt with Amigo Outfitters of Hermosillo, Mexico. Going with me would be Zack Morgan, son of Bo Morgan, whom I know will be a special guide. He is a very hard working young man. I met Zack at the Phoenix airport, and together we flew off to Mexico.

March 1

We arrived at Hermosillo, and were met at the airport by Nayo and Silvia Balderama of Amigo Outfitters. We drove 5 hours to camp near Sonayta, Mexico, to be met by 5 guides and camp workers plus one cook (Luz); we had a steak dinner with wine. Each hunter and guest had their own large tent. That night, there was a nice rain shower, and I awoke the next morning to a perfect day. There was a hunter in camp named Robert from Texas that had gotten a beautiful ram the day before; he was leaving for home after breakfast. Cristo, Silvia, Zack Morgan and I left early to try and spot sheep. Within 1 hour we spotted 6 sheep, 3 were rams. One was a beauty but was 1500 yards from us on the side of a mountain. We watched them for 3 ½ hours. They got nervous and moved over the top. We moved to the other side and found them, slowly moving down. It appeared they may have spotted us at about 1200 yards. We watched for another 3 hours. We decided that we should make a move, so Silvia and I moved toward the bottom of the mountain. We had to move slowly, trying to stay out of sight. At about 450 yards, I got set up for a shot but the sun had gone behind the mountain and set fast; I was not able to get the shot off. We left the area quietly, hoping they would be in the same spot tomorrow.

March 2

Next morning they were there, but started back up the mountain and went over a ridge. We then hurried to the other side. We were out foxed; they had gone over the ridge, back down, and headed across the valley to the mountains on the other side. We found what they had done, and spent the rest of the day at the top of the mountain. We decided to leave that area for another day.

March 3

Third day we went to an area, glassed for 1½ hours and spotted a nice ram on top of the rocks ¾ way up the mountain. We watched for another ½ hour, then hiked about 1 mile to the mountain. Then, we started the 1½ hour climb. It would have to happen; the wind changed on us! The ram always stayed 800 yards ahead of us until he went over the top. We went back down the mountain, had lunch and a nap. Then, we decided to check another area. After several hours, we headed back to camp, and on the way spotted a nice ram silhouetted at the top of a high ridge. Getting too dark – will have to wait until tomorrow.

March 4

Up early to make a move for the ram. We found that he and 3 other rams had moved to the side of another mountain. After about two hours of hiking and climbing, they had moved, but **we didn't know if they had seen or scented us. The guides devised a plan; two guides would** move around the mountain to have them move past us. We were set up on a high point. After about one hour, here they came, the larger ram in the lead, running full out. I was ready, but had to wait for the rams to stop. They did, and I moved for the shot, but they had stopped behind a pile of boulders. I could not shoot. At the same time they scented us. It was like someone lit a fire under them, running straight away from me at about 500 yards – Lucky rams, unlucky me!



March 5

Next day, we returned to the same area where we had spotted rams on the first day. After glassing for some time, the guides spotted 2 rams. One nice older ram and a young ram were near the top, in bush and rocks. So, I made a move to get a shot. After a long stalk, we found that the rams had moved and the wind had changed in their favor. Decided to try early tomorrow morning.

March 6

Headed back hoping to see the rams. We did after a short time, but they were not in the area as yesterday. They were at the same elevation, but a little farther away in a basin area filled with large boulders. Off we went, hiking to the bottom of the mountain, then about 1½ hour climb. Finally got to a good area to shoot from. The ram was 439 yards from us in brush and large boulders. The guides all said to get comfortable and shoot quickly. Still breathing hard **from the climb, my first shot hit its mark but didn't put the ram down; the second shot went high. The third shot hit its mark, the ram was down for good. The guides all said let's wait and watch, which we did.** Then, we climbed to the ram, which was not as easy as the first time. What a beautiful ram, 8 years old with dark horns. Hand shakes all around! We all know a lot of work is left to do. Two more fellows from camp showed up to help us in the skinning and taking everything down the mountain. The guides all said that the first shot should have done it. There was a great party at camp that evening, and did the bunk feel good that night!

I want to thank Nayo and Silvia of Amigo Outfitters for a great Mexican Desert Big Horn sheep hunt. Guides, Cristo, Baca, Ramon and Don, plus the cook, Luz, and special guide Zack Morgan. Jim Borden for building a great .300 W.S.M. Borden sheep rifle that I have used on just about all of my sheep and goat hunts. Amigo Outfitters run a great outfit. Great food, camp and facilities, care of trophies, and a great area of big rams, seen every day.

### **2014 Hunt Area 3 John O'Brien, WY-WSF Life Member #192, Thermopolis, WY**

After a 19-year wait, age had become a factor; but my Hunt Area 3 sheep tag finally came. This hunt for bighorns could possibly be my last chance, so I decided to go with an outfitter. I chose Greg (Griz) and Ginger Turner with Lost Creek Outfitters and my guide was to be a long-time friend and well experienced hunter Tanner, with his wife Lindsay as cook and wrangler.

After 4 months of hiking and gym workouts, I met Tanner at the trailhead for a 6-hour ride to camp where Lindsay was waiting. Saturday night and Sunday brought rain, and opening day the rain turned to snow and low clouds; but within a couple hours the skies had cleared, and my hunt began.

For two days we moved around checking basins and doing a lot of glassing. We saw sheep both days but no mature rams. Wednesday we headed for a basin Tanner knew of. There wasn't a horse trail leading there, but a trail on top lead across the ridge of one basin to the ridge of another. We left our mules and horse and started our hunt, but still no mature rams!

That afternoon Tanner was ahead of me glassing the scattered trees below. He turned with a "thumbs up." Two rams were on another ridge below us at 450 yards. One was broomed off, with good mass. Tanner estimated he was 8+ years old, but then both rams stepped over the side and were gone. We made our stalk, crawled to the edge and looked over. Both rams were laying down at 80 yards. My rest on my pack was good, my shot even better. His head dropped and he remained in his bed. The other ram stood, took one step and was gone. No "high five", but hugs were in order. I said my prayer of thanks and went to pay my respects to a great Wyoming Bighorn.

This can be country for any aging hunter if you prepare for the hunt and are willing to be uncomfortable because of soreness, not a lot of sleep and trying to suck air that there doesn't seem to be much of at 10,000 feet. Thanks to Lost Creek Outfitters, a class act operation; the Wild Sheep Foundation for putting sheep on the mountain, and especially to my friend Tanner. This trip will never be forgotten.



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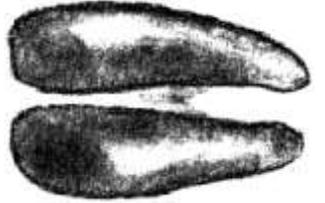
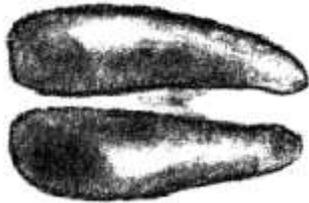
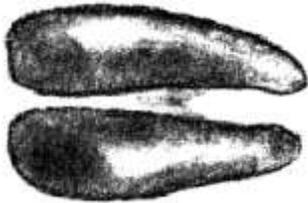
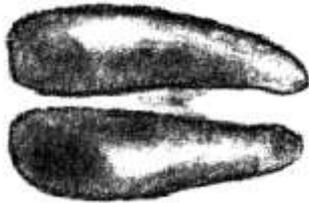
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## 2014 Hunt Area 2 Ram Hunt

Jeff Buckingham, Powell, WY  
 Scott Buckingham, Casper, WY  
 Gary Buckingham, Powell, WY

"I'm tired." Those were my words when we finally made it to camp after hiking all day with our backpacks on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of my brother's (Jeff Buckingham) Area 2 WY Bighorn Sheep hunt. My brother and dad (Gary Buckingham) echoed the same thoughts, but we were all excited to finally be sheep hunting after months and months of planning.

The next couple days were spent searching basin after basin trying to find rams. Finally, in the most remote basins we could hunt, we found 23 rams. After watching the rams until dark, a plan was made for the next morning. A two-hour hike from our base camp, put us in position to make a play on 11 of the rams. After waiting for an hour, the sheep fed up into some cliffs and Jeff and I were able to drop off the pass while our Dad stayed behind to watch the show from 11,000 feet. We proceeded to work down into the basin that the sheep were living in without being spotted. As we worked our way into position, we spotted a sheep about 300 yards away. Now came the hard part, making sure we found the right sheep to shoot without spooking them. We inched our way closer and the rest of the rams came into view with most being 200 yards away. We patiently looked over all the rams until we found the leader of the group - an old, double broomed ram. One shot from Jeff and the 9 1/2 yr old ram was down. We could glass back up the pass where our Dad was watching and he was waving to us as he was able to watch the whole thing. We took our time caping the ram and then started to make the long trek just to make it back to our tent that night arriving just at dark - tired but very happy sheep hunters.

The next day, we broke down camp and began the 2 day pack out back to civilization. Overall, it was a great hunt to share with my brother and my dad and we couldn't have asked for a better result.





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## Short But Sweet – Loren Kohlen, WY-WSF Life Member #281, Corcoran, MN

I booked a hunt with Luke Vince of Turnagain Adventures for Stone Sheep. Bo Morgan would be accompanying me on the hunt. We were picked up at Fort Nelson by Luke Vince. We took a 36-hour trip north to a river landing on the Liard River, then on to the Turnagain River, a 75-mile beautiful 3 ½ hour trip through the mountains, to the main camp called Sand Pile Creek. After a brief stop, we were onto the top of the camp, where we were met by my guide Jerry Ponter and our wrangler Scott. Jerry Ponter is a well-known guide in British Columbia and the Yukon. With Bo Morgan, the two have approximately 225+ successful sheet hunts.

We started seeing sheep at the first camp we stopped at, and then at the next camp also. The next day, we headed farther up into real sheep country at the Dunhurst Camp, where we would start our Stone Sheep hunt.

Next morning up early. Before breakfast, Jerry and Bo saw 9 great rams on the opening of the **season. Bo asked “which one would you like to try for?” There were some rams in the 40” class. I had told Luke, Bo and Jerry that I would “just like an Old Warrior Stone. It doesn’t have to be long, jut heavy horned and dark.” After breakfast, off the four of us went, trying to get a closer look at the ram. The ram was going to be very difficult to get to, was long, but not quite right. Bo glanced to the other side of this big valley and saw 3 rams; one old timer and 2 long- horned younger rams. Jerry said “I can get you up there.” We rode our horses down to the bottom of the valley and then we started out a 1-hour+ climb through the rocks and brush. You really don’t notice that when there is a beautiful ram at stake. The experience of Bo and Jerry really showed. They got me within 180 yards of the rams. Maybe they felt sorry for a 73 year old beat-up sheep and goat hunter. I got set up. Bo said to take the one on the left; I fired and heard the whop of a hit. The ram went only a short distance and it was over. Hand shakes all around, pictures taken. The work taking care of the ram was done.**

We headed back to camp with a 10 year old warrior, a beautiful animal. Just what I was hoping for. We made it back to camp and since it was getting late, we had a quick meal and hit the sack. I was very happy and thankful with a good ram on the first day. We slept a little late the next morning. Having to take care of the ram, we took down the camp and packed up and headed back down to Top Camp on the river. We were met with a group of fisherman making a fishing movie on the Turnagain River. They took Bo and me down the river to the main camp.

The next day, Luke Vince, who had been guiding the second hunter, Steve, in a difficult area, arrived in camp. Steve had injured his ribs in an accident but was able to take a great ram with an unbelievable shot at over 600 yards with the Ram climbing out of a valley.

A happy time in the main camp. We finished taking care of the hides. The next day we headed down the river, leaving for home. The hunt was short but sweet. I want to thank my main guide Jerry Ponter, my friend Bo Morgan, all the guides, and the Luke Vince family of Turnagain Adventures.



## Talkeetna Dall Ram - Jeff Muratore, Casper, WY

This is the 2014 Dall sheep I took in the Talkeetna Range of Alaska, this September, with Braun Kopsack of Knik Glacier Adventures. Braun had previously seen the very heavy ram in August and we were fortunate to relocate and harvest him. He has 14 5/8 bases and is 40" on his unbroomed horn. On the bottom of my hunt contract Braun had written "We will hunt hard" and he came through on that promise. The walk back to spike camp, from taking this ram, was 8 1/2 hours, arriving at 1am. The following day, fully loaded with camp and sheep, we hiked another 8 hours to the lake where we would be picked up by float plane. The experience will remain with me as long as the memory of this great ram.





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