

HANDS-ON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Jordan Seitz

Encampment K12 Teacher

Students, parents, and other local volunteers, had the opportunity in early February to help Biologists CuFaude and Cheesbrough, and their fellow Game and Fish employees with the third capture of ewes from the Encampment River bighorn sheep herd. Thanks to grant-in-aid money donated by the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation, ten more collars were placed around ewe necks. There were two sheep from 2017 running around like ghosts and wearing defective collars, but they finally met a mugger's net and got the old collars swapped out for new ones. This means we have 12 total collars gathering data and additional health samples are getting processed at the lab!

Photo Credits: Jordan Seitz and Shannon Craig

ADULT QUOTES:

Jordan Seitz: "I'm thrilled that my students, and some parents and community members, could once again work shoulder to shoulder with G&F experts with this hand-on component of wildlife management. It literally makes the connection between humans, animals, and the land come alive. Two new things we learned from the muggers is that they capture and collar animals around the country from wolves to moose and their net-gun is a machine-shop modified T/C single shot pistol shooting .308 blanks!"

Shannon Craig: "Such a cool experience, I had an adrenaline rush the whole time! I felt like we were involved in a fragile part of life; something so important that made me feel happy that these animals are in such safe hands! All the people who were there genuinely care for these incredible creatures!!"

STUDENT QUOTES:

Aspen Boxberger: "I love the outdoor field trips we've been doing this year, but the sheep capture was my favorite. It was the best experience of all the trips and it was the best day ever!"

Regin Stewart: "The sheep capture was so fun and a great experience. It was so cool seeing the helicopter flying in with the sheep."

Madi Dunning: "I think the sheep capture was a once in a lifetime experience and I'm so happy I got to take part in it. I'm also happy I got to help preserve the Encampment River sheep herd."

Kelli Ramiller: "It was a unique experience and it was fun and really cool to be able to do it!"