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# The RAMPAGE

Wyoming Chapter FNAWS

WINTER 2001

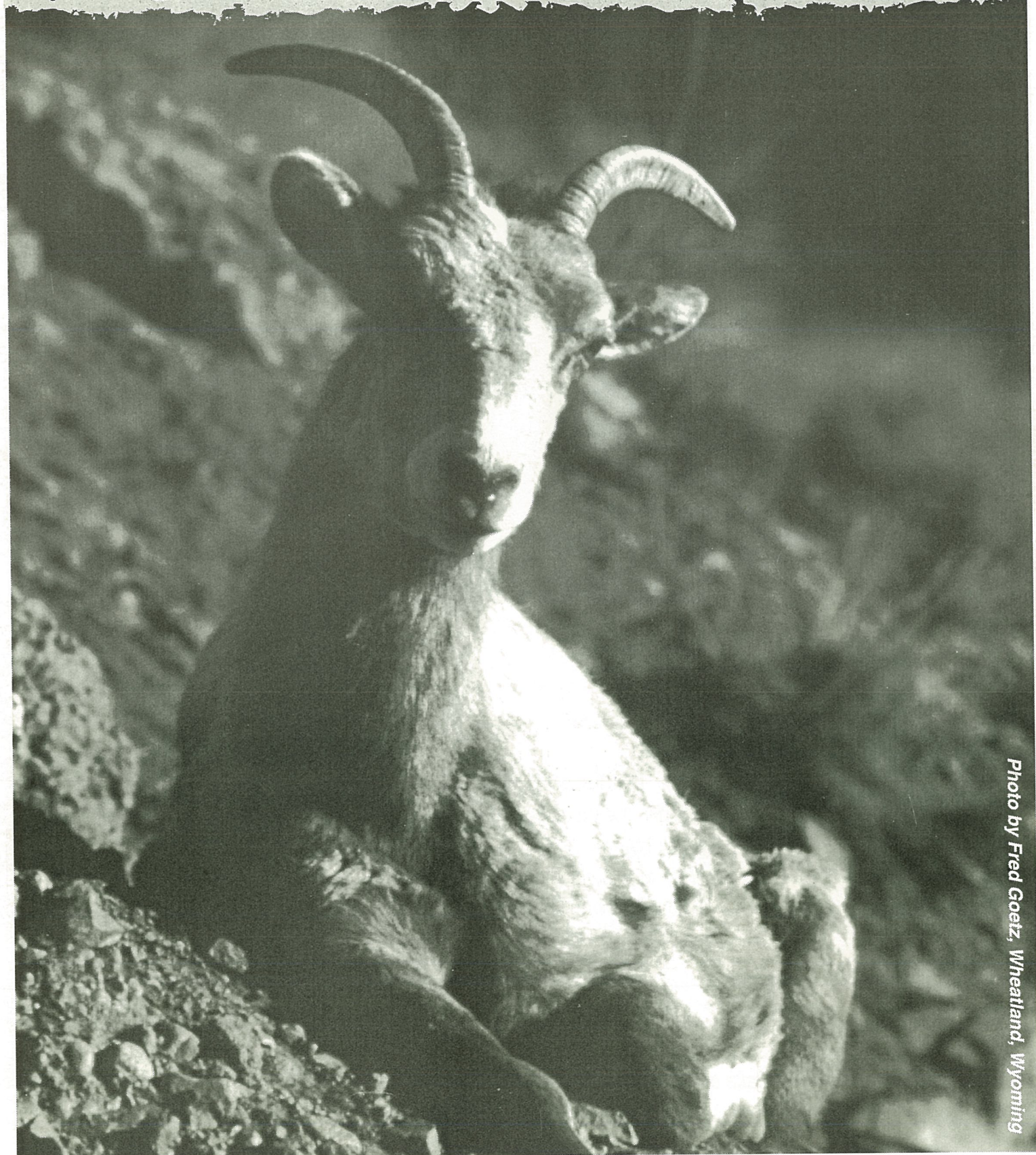


Photo by Fred Goetz, Wheatland, Wyoming



**Wyoming Game and Fish Department  
Bighorn Sheep Preference Points/Drawing Odds**

**RESIDENT**

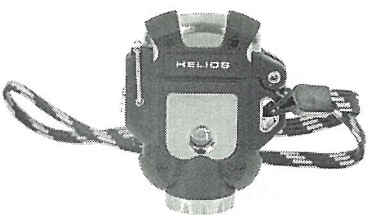
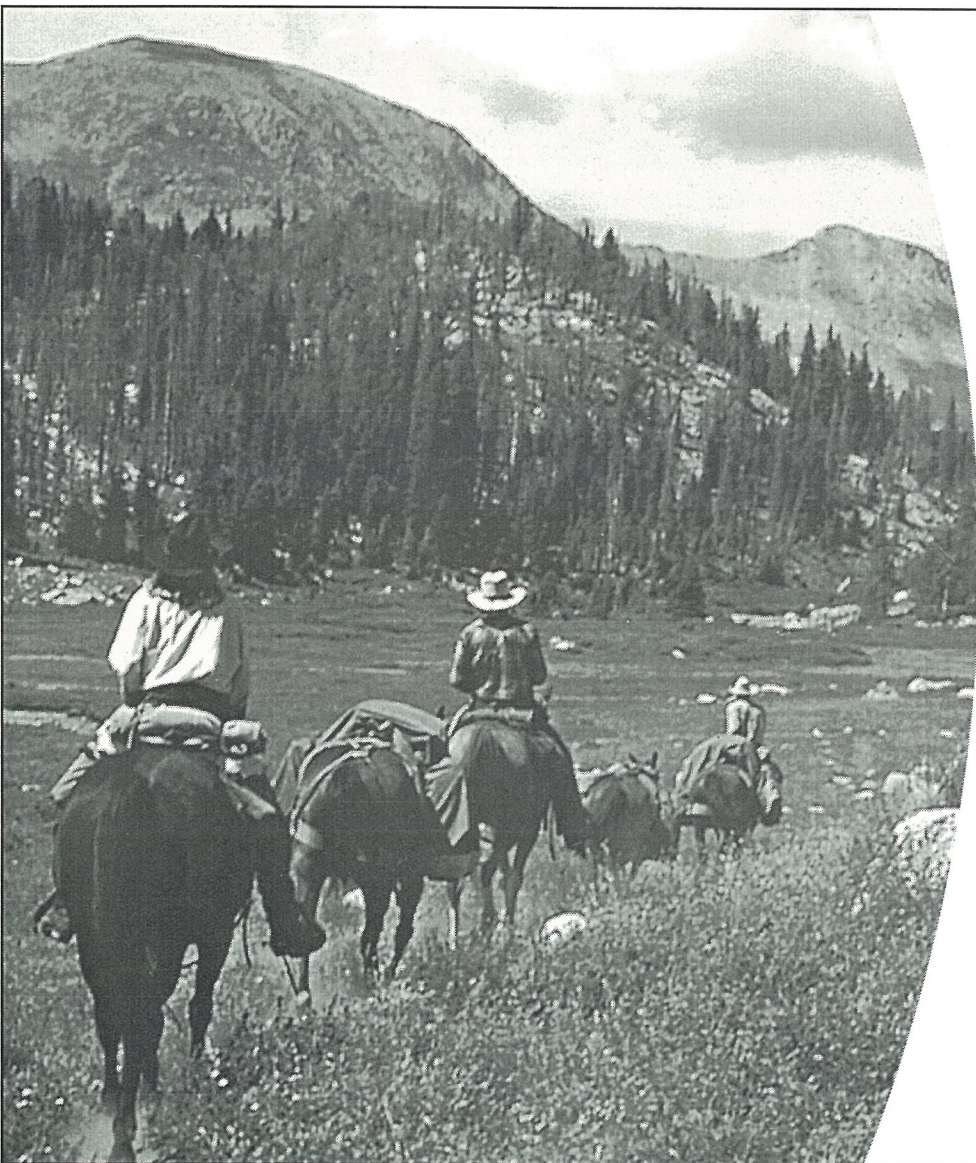
**NON-RESIDENT**

Hunt Area	# of Pts	# of Applicants	# of Licenses	Drawing Odds	# of Applicants	# of Licenses
1*	5	75	9	8.3:1	203	3
2*	5	115	14	8.2:1	276	4
3*	5	459	27	17.0:1	1010	9
4*	5	104	18	5.8:1	340	6
5	5	562	34	16.5:1	1254	11
6	5	6	2	3.0:1	43	1
7*	5	156	14	11.1:1	548	4
8	5	42	2	21.0:1	103	1
9	5	35	5	7.0:1	111	1
10	5	305	9	33.9:1	734	3
11		CLOSED				
12		CLOSED				
15		CLOSED				
16		CLOSED				
17		CLOSED				
18*	5	65	2	32.5:1	192	1
19	5	58	2	29.0:1	141	1
21		CLOSED				
22	5	22	2	11.0:1	57	1
23*	5	106	7	15.1:1	227	2
24*		CLOSED				
Appl. with max. pref. points		2110	147	14.4:1		48
Appl. with less than max. pref. points		3276			Total # Resident = 5239 (2110 - 147) + 3276	

\* Indicates change in number of licenses during 1995-2000 period

Hunt Area	# of Pts	# of Applicants	# of Licenses	Drawing Odds	# of Applicants	# of Licenses
1*	5	8	3	2.7:1	56	1
2*	5	26	5	5.2:1	82	1
3*	5	179	9	19.9:1	471	3
4*	5	36	6	6.0:1	125	2
5	5	89	11	8.1:1	376	4
6	5	1	1	1.0:1	3	0
7*	5	15	5	3.0:1	96	1
8	5	3	1	3.0:1	5	0
9	5	4	2	2.0:1	13	0
10	5	64	3	21.3:1	276	1
11		CLOSED				
12		CLOSED				
15		CLOSED				
16		CLOSED				
17		CLOSED				
18*	5	1	1	1.0:1	5	0
19	5	10	1	10.0:1	17	0
21		CLOSED				
22	5	3	1	3.0:1	9	0
23*	5	17	2	8.5:1	41	1
24*		CLOSED				
Appl. with max. pref. points		456	51	8.9:1		14
Appl. with less than max. pref. points		1170			Total # Non-Res = 1575 (456 - 51) + 1170	

\* Indicates change in number of licenses during 1995-2000 period



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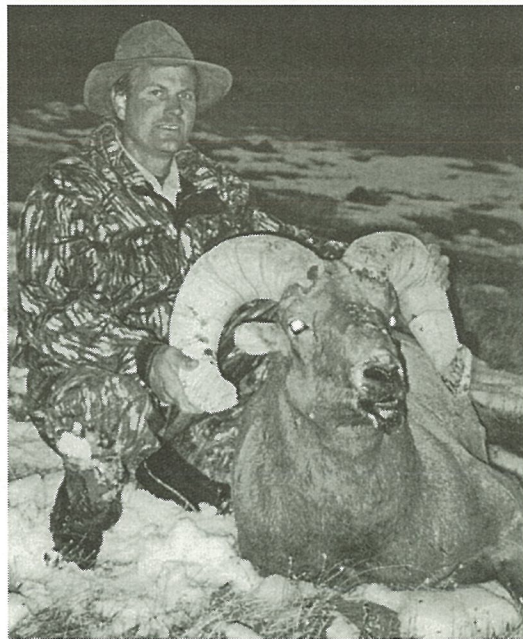
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# HUNT REPORTS

continued

A dream hunt is what **RUSSELL HEWS** of Klamath Falls, Oregon titled his big horn hunt. It was near midnight on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September when his hunting party reached the Jack Creek Trail head about 26 miles west of Meeteetse in area 5. The sky was filled with stars and the air clear and crisp, a far cry from his scouting trip of a month earlier. At that time the skies were smoke filled from record breaking fires here in the west. Russell had the good fortune to develop a friendship with elk hunter Kurt Eisenach of Sheridan and sheep hunter Dave Stenson from Guernsey, who were hunting in the same area, and were willing to help him. Also along were farther-in-law Bruce Froemke and friend Daniel Cooney. On the 24<sup>th</sup> they moved out on the quest for the bighorn. Several sheep, elk, and deer, as well as grizzly, were seen, but it was not until the following day, when the party had split up, did Russell spot the ram of his dream. On the morning of the 26<sup>th</sup> Russell, Kurt, and Daniel packed up to Piney Creek to try and stalk the ram of the previous day. The ram was spotted but the only real approach was to drop into the creek bottom for cover, and advance up stream. It was a plan that worked to a "T"! The combination of the stalk, Russell's climb from the streambed to gain altitude, and the rams feeding toward him, made for 2 perfect shots, the first 315 yds and the second 355 yds. "It would take a night spent up on the mountain huddled in some rocks and two days before we got the ram to the trail head. Thanks to my wife who enables me to do things like this, Bruce, my father-in-law, and Kurt and Dave, new Wyoming friends for their willingness to do whatever it took to make this a successful hunt". Dave Stenson shot his trophy ram on the second day, and both of the bighorns were 8 1/2 years old. Russell also wanted to give "a very personal THANK YOU", to Kevin Hurley, WY G & F biologist, who gave him all of the helpful information in order to complete a successful bighorn hunt.



RUSSELL HEWS



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## EDITOR'S NOTES

*I would like to hear from you regarding the content of our magazine, your likes, dislikes, and what additional content, if any, you would like to see included. Your input will become increasingly more important as your officers and directors consider a recommendation to increase the license fee and waiting period for a bighorn hunting license here in Wyoming.*

*As you will read later in this issue, it appears some of our Wyoming wildfires were a benefit to big horn habitat, but it is always unsettling when natural disasters of this nature take human life.*

*Reports so far indicate several terrific Wyoming rams, 170+ B&C, taken this year. We all hope this trend will continue. Conversely, extremely poor weather in the Stone's sheep geography resulted in difficult, and in many instances, impossible, conditions. Several northern Canadian outfitters have reported sharply lower harvest percentages.*

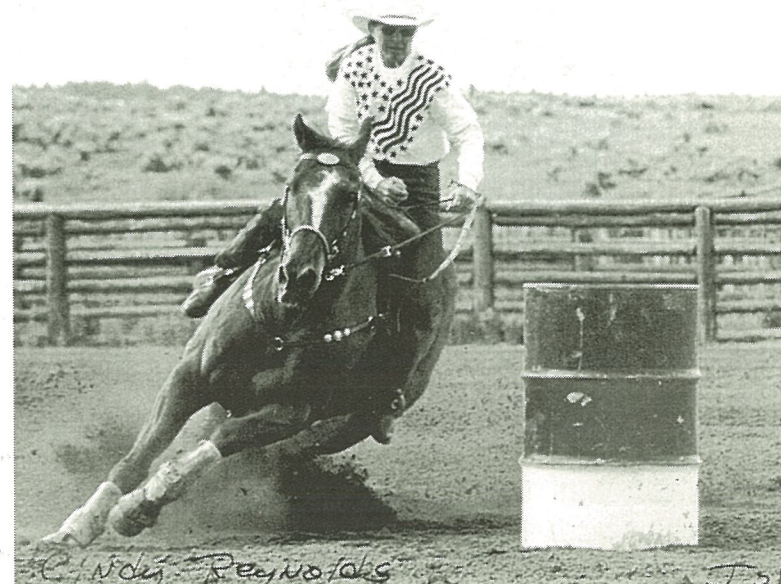
*Wyoming chapter banquet in Rock Springs in December was fun, as evidenced by the photos you can review in the centerfold. We raised approximately \$20,000.00 for big horn sheep. We also held our winter meeting and the election of officers and directors. Results of the election are shown here adjacent to this column.*

*I hope to see many of you in Reno in February for National FNAWS annual convention. Fritz and Dirk are bringing our booth, so report there for messages and updates. Governor Jim Geringer and Senator Craig Thomas will be honored at the convention this year!*

*David B Connor*

## Top Hand - Cindy Reynolds

Wyoming Chapter Life member #25, **CINDY REYNOLDS** of Douglas won big at the National Senior Pro Rodeo finals in Reno this year. Cindy walked, or I guess I should say rode, away with six awards during the events, which took place October 29 - November 5. She won the event's barrel racing, ribbon roping, and all around in the women's 40 division. Cindy breaks and trains her own horses for barrel racing and is shown here on "Cat" racing around a barrel earlier this year in Island Park, Idaho.





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*I believe the pressure of a deadline creates brevity, so you will only have to endure a concise introduction. I was elected your president at the December meeting held in Rock Springs, and look forward to the challenges of the next two years, especially continuing the terrific success of our annual banquet and fund raiser, which ultimately contributes to Wyoming bighorn sheep. Congratulations to the new officers and directors who were also elected. A very special Thank You, to all who helped make our annual banquet and auction a hit.*

*I hope your fall hunting was successful and you enjoyed companionship with friends and family, and the breathtaking beauty of our wonderful Wyoming. We are fortunate to live in such a remarkable environment.*

*During the term of my presidency I am going to make an effort to get more of you involved in the chapter, and whatever business is at hand, and I encourage you to contact any of the board members with your input.*

Best wishes,

Cole Benton, President



## Wyoming Chapter Life Members

#1 Ron Ball (D)	#35 Kay Thomas	#67 Dan Coletti
#2 Jeff Reynolds	#36 Fred Thomas	#68 Douglas Liller
#3 Dave Steger	#37 Lou Misterly Jr.	#69 Ron Elkin
#4 Don Schmalz	#38 Lawrence I. Masserant	#70 Tom Spawn
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#9 Dr. R. D. Keeler	#43 Richard Lennington	#75 Ron Lockwood (H)
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#11 Mike Martin	#45 Russ Green	#77 Jim Smith
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#13 Kent Stevinson	#47 Tex Goerger	#79 Debi Van Buren
#14 Fritz Meyer	#48 Ron Wilmes	#80 Mike Hildner (H)
#15 Kathy Gay (H)	#49 Wally Young	#81 Patrick Zummo
#16 Keith West	#50 Joshua Robert d'Elia	#82 Mike Turek
#17 Lud Kroner	#51 Ralph J. Campoli	#83 Douglas D. Cline
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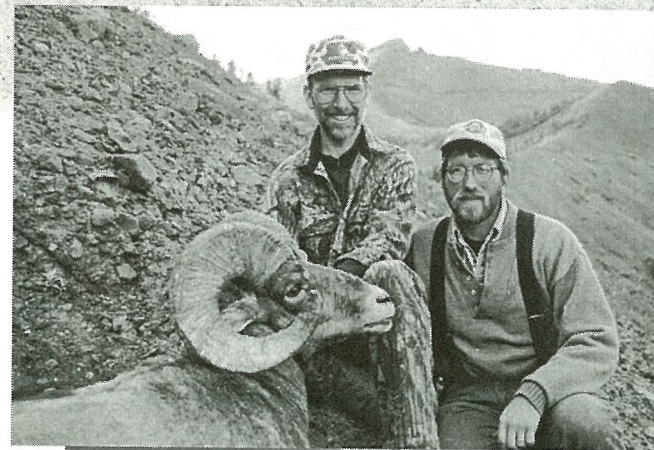
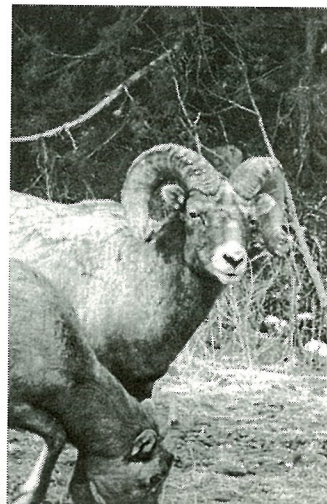
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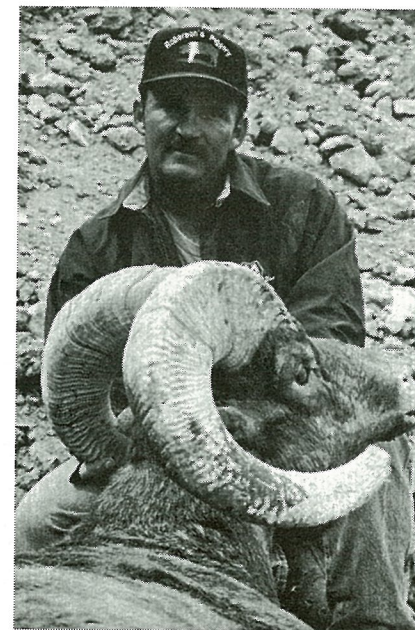
I HAVE A GRAND SLAM; PLEASE SEND A FORM TO DOCUMENT IT



BOB CASSELL

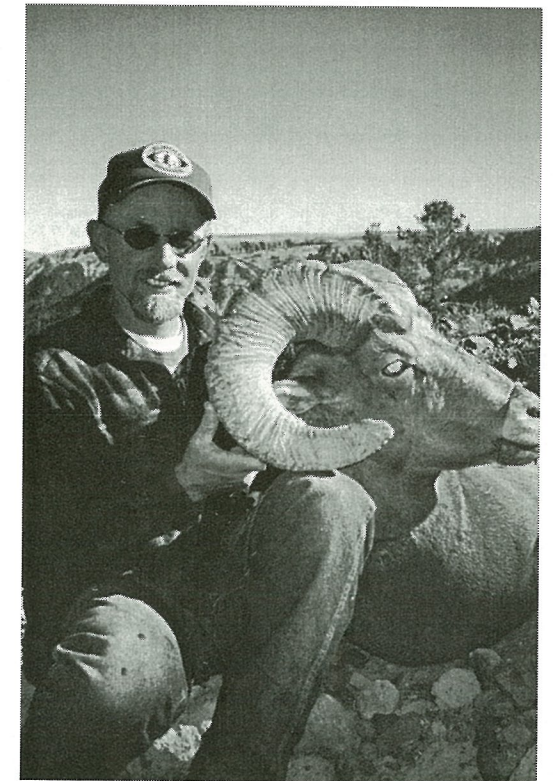


Another Alaska boy, **BOB CASSELL** from Wasilla visited Wyoming this year and left with the trophy shown. Then Bob went home and took the Dall's also pictured! Half a Grand Slam in one season, congratulations. Bob shot his Rocky Mountain Bighorn with John Porter of Morning Creek Outfitters in area 1 north of Cody.



DAVE ROBERTSON

**DAVE ROBERTSON** shot this ram while hunting with his friend Fred Thomas. Both of these fellows live in Meeteetse and have been hunting buddies for some time. Dave's ram was taken in area 5.



L. SCOTT JENKINS

**L. SCOTT JENKINS** from Idaho Falls, Idaho, hunted with Fritz Meyer of Wind River Mountain Outfitters. His guides were Cody Brown and Dirk Edgeington. Scott said it took 17 years applying in 11 states, but finally drew this tag for area 4 in Wyoming. Base camp was about a 20 mile horseback ride from the trail head, and after several days of glassing it was decided to move out to a spike camp. This proved eventful as Dirk survived sure catastrophe from a horse wreck, and we nearly were blown off the mountain with icy, howling winds. When the decision was made to break camp and move down, naturally the sun came out and the weather broke, for the better. After glassing a couple of rams for over an hour Cody and Dirk said the 8 year old was an excellent trophy for area 4, and the decision was made for Cody and Scott to go for it. They lost no time topping out over the canyon, skirting around the crest and beginning a cautious descent down to shooting position. Practice on a level plane in calm winds was of no value here, as "I found myself in an awkward prone position over 2 back packs aiming through gusting winds at a steep downhill angle at 311 yards on the rangefinder". The practice did pay off though as "insurance" shots were only necessary to keep the ram from wiggling over the lip of a cliff. Scott said it was a long awaited dream come true.



# H U N T R E P O R T S

c o n t i n u e d

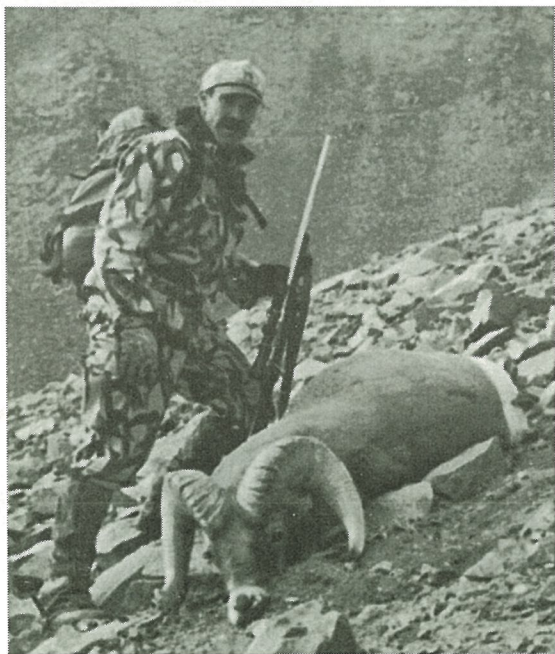
**CHIP BRUSS** of Deaver, WY gave me a really fun report. He hunted in area 2 with Morning Creek Outfitters, and Chris Nielsen was his first guide, followed up by John Porter. Chip's report, "April 30 I took early retirement from Federal service, May 1 John Porter calls with draw results. May 5 John & Lori take me out to dinner in Cody. July we move to our new home in Deaver. September 2 Chris took me on a scouting trip and I pass on 7 rams. September 20 (my 51<sup>st</sup> birthday) John and I pack into his wilderness camp. September 21-22 snowed in. September 26 I collect my ram with John's expert coaching on shooting". Brief, but certainly to the point! I ask what the terrain was like in my report forms, and Chip simply stated "vertical". He also said Chris & John love sheep hunting and go out-of-their way to get a good ram for their clients. Numerous sheep, mule deer, elk, and naturally in area 2, grizzly bear, were also spotted.

Welcome to Wyoming Chip.



CHIP BRUSS

CHRIS DAUBIN



South Riverton warden, **CHRIS DAUBIN** hunted in area 5 with fellow wardens Brad Gibb and Jerry Longobardi, and friend Gary Good. Chris told me if he ever drew a tag he wanted a ram dark in color, heavy bases and broomed horns, and as you can see by the photo it was a dream come true. The bases alone were 15 7/8"! I am not sure if you can tell by the photo, but Chris is holding the ram up on the hill with his left leg, and right after the pictures were taken the ram did roll about 100 yards, but no damage to the horns. It was a tough hunt well above tree line, and those of us who know Chris had full confidence he could hike that mountain like the rest of us walk down the street! He is a man you always want on your side. Congratulations Chris, well deserved.



BRUCE BITTERMAN

**BRUCE BITTERMAN** from neighboring North Dakota hunted in area 5 with friends Fred and Kay Thomas, both life members of WY FNAWS. Bruce said they saw sheep and grizzly bear on a daily basis, and Fred had an "up close and personal experience with one griz". Bruce stated hunting with friends makes for a memorable experience. Hunting at 12,000 feet is tough on a flat-lander from ND and Fred's patience was a lifesaver. Bruce said he got exactly the ram he had pictured in his mind, and credits Fred and Kay for their knowledge of sheep, and the area. It was a beautiful fall hunt in early October, and the drainages were turning color.

## Wild Sheep and Wildfire Effects of the 2000 Fire Season

Kevin P. Hurley

Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Like many other western states, Wyoming experienced a dramatic fire season in summer 2000. More than 600 fires burned approximately 280,000 acres, from Yellowstone National Park to Laramie Peak, and from Flaming Gorge to the Black Hills. The single largest fire was the Kate's Basin Complex, which burned approximately 137,600 acres on the Wind River Indian Reservation, west of Thermopolis.

With 6,700 Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep spread throughout many Wyoming mountain ranges, wildfires and sheep habitat were bound to come together. Where wildfires burned in bighorn sheep habitat, preliminary evaluations by Wyoming Game and Fish Department, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Wind River Reservation Tribal biologists indicate a short-term loss of forage but likely long-term benefits to wild sheep.

Burning decreases shrub and tree cover, opens up migration corridors between seasonal bighorn ranges, and enhances the ability of wild sheep to detect and escape predators. The flush of nutritious, palatable post-burn forage should improve body condition, lamb birth weights, lamb survival, and overall herd vigor. According to Kevin Hurley, Wyoming Game and Fish Department wildlife biologist in Thermopolis, "bighorn sheep habitats have been shaped by periodic fire through evolutionary time. Generally speaking, there is a very positive relationship between wildfire and quality of bighorn sheep habitat in the northern Rocky Mountain region."

"Since bighorns are primarily grazers, post-fire herbaceous growth of perennial bunchgrasses (e.g., bluebunch wheatgrass) will be a real boon for wild sheep," said Gary Butler, Wyoming Game and Fish Department Terrestrial Habitat Program Manager in Cheyenne. "Not only will fire improve spring and fall transition ranges, but forage production on crucial winter ranges should be greatly enhanced,"

said Butler. Post-burn moisture and warm fall days actually led to new growth of preferred grasses, and in many cases, "bighorn sheep will go onto late fall and early winter ranges with green grass," added Hurley.

On many bighorn ranges in Wyoming and the Rocky Mountain West, lack of periodic fire has led to subtle but definite successional changes in vegetative communities, to the detriment of wild sheep. Sagebrush/grassland habitats which once provided high-quality, high-visibility foraging areas for bighorns have been encroached upon by juniper and limber pine, as wildfires have been quickly suppressed. The historic fire frequency in many of these habitats was probably every 10-40 years (or longer, depending on the species of sagebrush and the geographic area), but almost 100 years of active fire suppression have altered this fire-dominated regime.

Across Wyoming, prescribed burning to improve bighorn sheep habitat has been a priority management focus in recent years. Opportunistically, some of the summer 2000 wildfires burned in areas slated for prescribed burning, including wildfires near Laramie Peak, Whiskey Mountain, and the Hoback River drainage. An interesting note is that where prescribed or wild fires have burned in recent years, summer 2000 fires either did not start at all or they tended to extinguish themselves more readily than in areas where no burning had occurred recently.

Winter 2000-01 bighorn sheep ground and aerial surveys will provide much-needed information on population size, seasonal distribution shifts (if any), and lamb survival, but preliminary evaluations indicate summer 2000 wildfires were more beneficial than detrimental to Wyoming's wild sheep herds.



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**CORRECTION:** In the Summer 2000 issue of "The Rampage", a herd unit profile was included for the Targhee Sheep (HA 6). Under Recreation/Development/Encroachment, heli-skiing was individually identified as a recent disturbance factor. What should have been stated is that expanded backcountry skiing has been recently identified as a disturbance factor; heli-skiing should not have been specifically singled out. Kevin Hurley, WGFD Thermopolis 8/29/00

See You at Nationals in Reno in February



# HUNT REPORTS



KEN MILNE

Another Wyoming hunter, **KEN MILNE**, of Casper, scored on this Dall ram while hunting with South Nahanni Outfitters in the North West Territories. His guide was Kerrik Woodland.

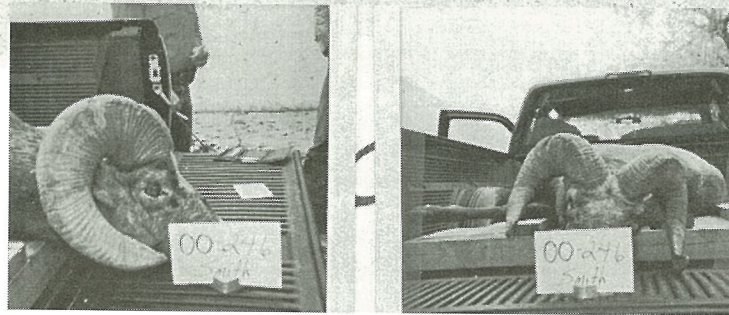


RALPH FLEEGL

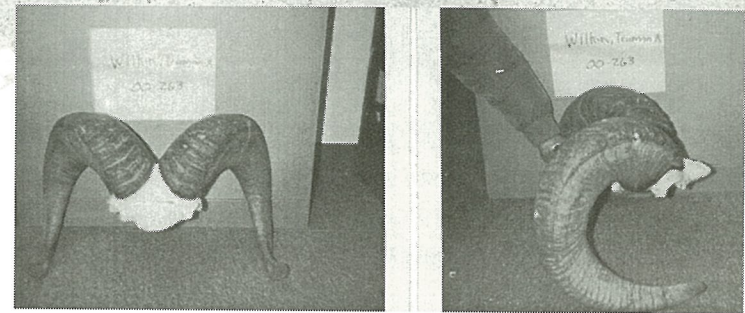
After a 10 year wait, **RALPH FLEEGL** of Chestertown, MD finally had the preference point system work in his favor. After a week of homework and late evening phone calls, Ralph decided upon Greg & Karla Turner of Lost Creek Outfitters based in Cody, to be his outfitter.

Guide John David from Meeteetse packed Ralph into base camp and the following 4 days were spent scouting and glassing. They spotted several rams but not one they wanted to shoot. On September 5 the dream ram appeared and the stalk was on. At 7 in the evening a 300 yard shot presented itself and the day and the dream, and probably the once in a lifetime hunt was over, except for the ride back to trail head. It seems horse wrecks have woven a trail throughout this issue, and this hunt was no different, along with the ever present grizzly bears! Ralph says "thank you Wyoming for the opportunity to realize my dream of hunting bighorn sheep".

A TALE OF TWO RAMS cont. from page 14

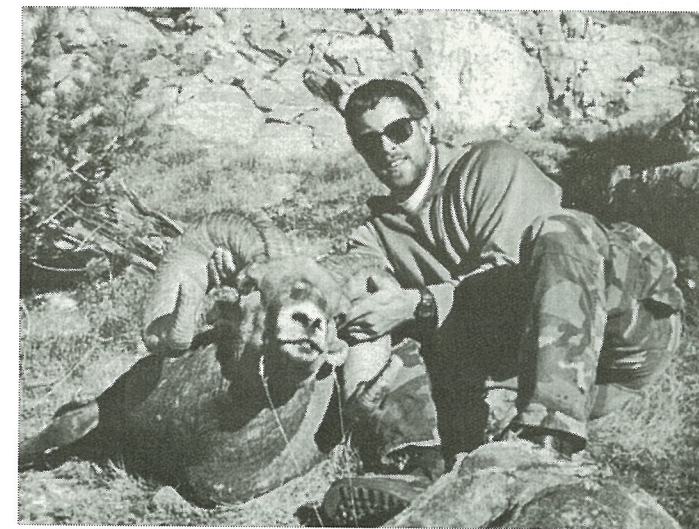


Smith's 14½ year old Ram



Wilkin's 4½ year old Ram

My friend Dave Luzmoor forwarded this photo of **JON LESKO'S** tremendous ram taken in area 23. Jon's ram green scored 179 and was one of the better rams taken in Wyoming this season. Terry Reach was the outfitter. I never had the opportunity to talk to Jon, but the photo speaks for itself, just look at how diminutive Jon's hands look holding on to the horns. Jon hails from the Rock Springs area.



JON LESKO

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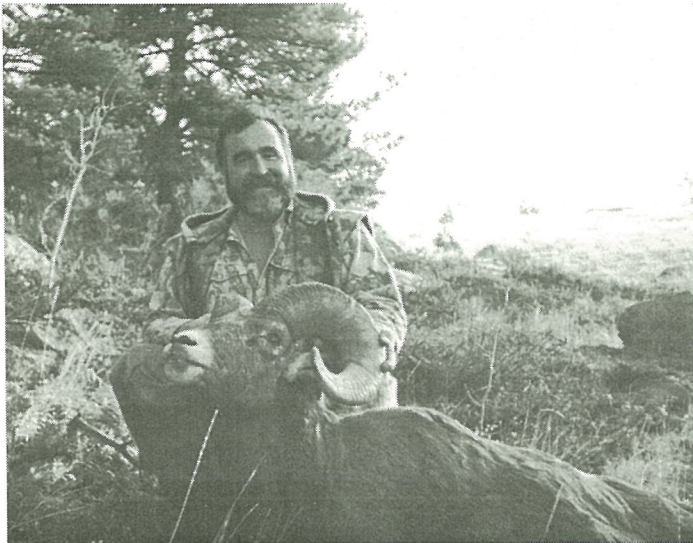
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## A TALE OF TWO RAMS - HUNT AREA 19



JIM SMITH

I am going to paraphrase a story by Ryan Amundson, WY G & G biologist, and WY FNAWS member. 24 days later and 30 pounds lighter, **JIM SMITH** of Gillette, and WY FNAWS Life member, harvested his first bighorn in area 19, the Laramie Range of SE WY.

Jim started the season hunting with local outfitters Brian Artery & Clark Noble, owners of Hunton Creek Outfitters of Wheatland. A week was spent on Split Rock, west of Wheatland. Jim encountered extremely tough conditions this fall, as temperatures were high and the summer drought had adversely affected water availability and forage on the rugged mountain. Several sheep were seen in

the Duck Creek area, where more palatable and nutritious forage could be found. Determined not to give up, Jim hunted an additional 10 days S of Split Rock, in the rugged foothills of Sybille Canyon. After 18 days of hunting private and public lands, of the many sheep they saw, none were legal.

Jim returned to Gillette, rested up a bit, waited for cooler weather, then returned to SE Wyoming to continue his quest for a ram. He returned several times to old and new haunts including Bearhead Mountain, an area burned during the 1995 fire. In late October Jim moved north to the LaBonte Canyon area, and after a brief snowstorm, he spotted 2 rams feeding in an open park. As Jim hiked through heavily forested, steep, rocky terrain, he could hear the cracking of heads. As he approached the sparring rams they split apart, providing an excellent broad side shot at the largest ram. The ram had 13 1/2" bases, was 14 1/2 years old, and scored 154 B&C. A great trophy for a dedicated and determined hunter from Gillette!

Now, I would like you to compare Jim's ram to that of Truman Wilkin's, which was only 4 1/2 years old and scored 169! Wilkin's ram, the longer of the 2, was not only younger but longer at 35", while Smith's older ram, by 10 years, was 32.5" long. They hunted in the same area. As Ryan Amundson points out, this is a perfect example of quality and quantity of forage, and if any of you would like Ryan's complete story on these 2 hunts, and the comparison of the 2 rams, please give me a call.

Life member of the WY Chapter, **TRUMAN WILKIN**, from Cedar Rapids, Iowa killed his ram in area 19. He hunted with Dan & Brian Artery in September, in the Split Rock area, and in October at Reese Mountain. Truman saw about 10 rams during his September hunt, but it was extremely difficult to verify their 3/4 curl legal status. In October there was no question about the rams they located, and another successful hunt was completed. Truman said the outfitters and guide, Dave Gamlin, were excellent and hard working. He went on to say, "I felt very fortunate to be able to draw a WY tag and hunt with great people, and succeed in getting a trophy ram". As a footnote to this story the WY G & F Dept. determined this ram was only 4 1/2 years old, had 16" bases, and green scored 169 B&C, yes, that's right, a 4 1/2 year old Wyoming ram!

*A TALE OF TWO RAMS cont. on page 15*

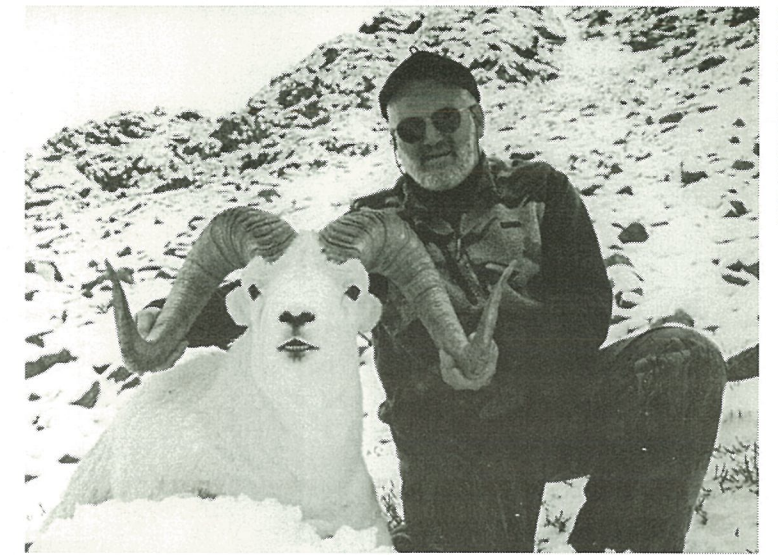


TRUMAN WILKIN

My good buddy, **DAVID LUZMOOR** of Green River, and his hunting buddy, **MIKE NEIBER**, were fortunate to be hunting sheep with outfitter Pete and Sharon Jenson north of Dawson City in the Yukon Territory.

They had met the Jenson's in 1990 after a Dall's sheep hunt, and Pete and Sharon have been regular contributors and attendees at our annual Wyoming Chapter FNAWS banquet and auction. In 1998 Dave and Mike booked the hunt for Fannin or Dall's sheep, plus mixed bag, if time permitted.

Two days ride with guides George Klein and Tom Van Veen brought them to camp, previously occupied 4 years earlier. Needless to say the rodents had converted the cabin to their own use! Day three the hunting began in earnest, and shortly after leaving camp 3 rams were spotted. Briefly distracted while



DAVID LUZMOOR

unsaddling, everybody suddenly realized a sow grizzly and 2 cubs had spooked the sheep up into a snow covered basin. After a difficult stalk it was agreed Mike would have first choice. He hit the ram from a perfect dead rest over a rock ledge. The Fannin monarch was 13 years old and carried a magnificent trophy head with 40 3/4" X 38 1/4" X 13" for green score of 163 5/8 B&C. On day 9 Mike and guide Tom also claimed a grizzly for Mike.

After 11 days of every kind of hunting weather you can imagine, rain, snow, fog, sleet, more fog, Dave and guide George were still at, concentrating 100% on finding a trophy ram for Dave. On the 12th day, after a long morning ride, George literally flew out of his saddle to avoid 3 rams from spotting him, as they were moving along a bench directly above the hunters, less than 1/2 mile away. After an agonizing discussion both Dave and George decided it would not be prudent to literally risk life and limb at that time of day to pursue the rams, and the hunt would have to continue to the 13th and last day.

Early the next morning both men were pumped and rearing to go. They turned away from the Blackstone River and up the canyon a good 3 hours ahead of their previous schedule, as they were on a mission. Here I cannot fully express Dave's adrenaline and excitement, especially when George said "there they are, I see them" all while devouring a squashed and frozen sandwich and without the aid of binoculars. Suffice it to say Dave finally had his trophy, the Fannin of a lifetime. He was 9 years old and sported horns of 39 1/2 X 39 X 13 3/4 for green score of 161 7/8 B&C. What a terrific conclusion to a wonderful hunt with friends!



MIKE NEIBER

ROY PETROWICZ

CYNTHIA PETROWICZ

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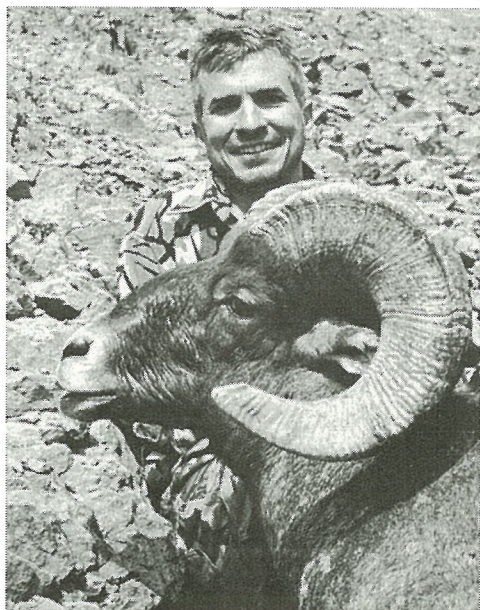
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# HUNT REPORTS

c o n t i n u e d



MARK CHAMBERS

**MARK CHAMBERS** from Anchorage and I have become friends through sheep hunting and he was fortunate enough to draw a tag in area 5. He hunted with mutual friend Fred Thomas who lives in Meeteetse. Mark would call one of us on just about a daily basis to see if the fires were out, if the area was still open, should he fly down now or wait, and other anxiety questions. Well, you can tell by the smile on his face all of the anxiety was answered and this gentleman returned to Alaska a very happy man. Fred and I will be visiting Mark in Anchorage this year; Fred to compete in a marathon hill (Mountain?) climb on July 4<sup>th</sup>, and I hope to be hunting Dall's sheep around McGrath in August.



DENNIS ANDERSON

**DENNIS ANDERSON** of Anaheim, California hunted with Terry Reach of Elk Ridge Outfitters, in area 8 to harvest this fine ram. Dennis ran into rain and snow as they hunted above tree line in September, but saw plenty of sheep and elk. This California boy said Wyoming is fantastic country and he had the hunt of a lifetime! Come on back Dennis.

**JOHN BABLER**, one of the founders of National FNAWS, member #2, from Mahtomedi, MN honored me with a photo of his B&C ram! I say "honored" as it is quite an achievement to make the cover of GRAND SLAM Magazine (see ad this issue). John sent "Enclosed find photo of my bighorn taken in area 10 with Wayne Suda, Suda Outfitters, in August. I hunted for 21 days in area 3 last year with B Joe Coy looking for at least a 165 ram but couldn't find one. While talking with Wayne at the National FNAWS convention, he felt strongly about being able to find me a ram that would make me happy. So I again bid up the MN/WISC Chapter Wyoming Governor's tag this year and made arrangements to hunt with Wayne at season opening. By the photo you can tell he made me real happy!! Right horn 38 6/8<sup>th</sup>, left 37 7/8<sup>th</sup>, bases at 15" total 180 3/8". Wayne runs lean and mean and does a fantastic job. I can't thank him enough for the super effort he put into locating this ram.

I would also like to thank Governor Geringer for making these tags available for fund raising, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. for their fine sheep program".

Editors note: I guesstimate John contributed approximately \$60,000.00 plus, to wild sheep, to earn this ram.



JOHN BABLER

**J**ake Clark, pictured on the left, of Wyoming Wilderness Outfitters guided **HORACE SMITH** to this outstanding ram in area 5. Horace traveled to Wyoming from Daytona Beach, Florida. He said "Jake and his crew do an excellent job. His mules are great, his camp is well equipped and his knowledge of the area and the sheep is unbelievable! On top of all that, Jake is fun to be with, so the experience is better than the hunt." In addition to the ram taken by Horace, they saw 9 additional rams, about 200 head of elk, a couple of bears, and mule deer.

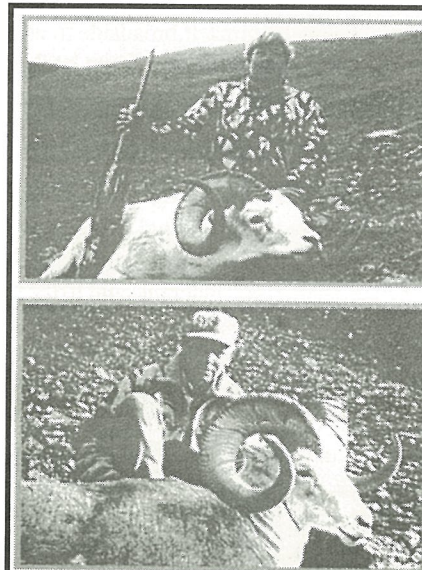


HORACE SMITH



BOBBY HAGUE

**T**he Hague's and the Berg's strike again! For those of you who know the Hague and Berg families in Riverton, you know hunters. This time it was **BOBBY HAGUE'S** turn to hunt bighorn in area 5. The first venture was in the Kerwin area south of Meeteetse on the Wood River, and friends Brian Berg, Brad Berg, and Dave Nichols were guides, wranglers, and gun bearers. Like everybody else who hunted early they ran into tough weather and no rams of any interest to Bob. Their second trip was out of Dubois in the Double Cabin, Wiggins Fork area and this time Bret Berg joined Brian and Dave to help Bob scored on the ram you see here. Shows you determination does pay off. A footnote to this story, Bob drew one of the 25% tags as he did not have all preference points! The system is working.



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# HUNT REPORTS

c o n t i n u e d

**JONI MILLER** sent me a terrific story of her bighorn hunt in area 5, but it is five pages! I know I will not do her justice, but here goes. Joni lives in Lander and she and her husband Mack have spent a great deal of their lives tromping around the "Winds" and Absaroka Mountains, so it was just a matter of deciding where to hunt for a decent ram. They enlisted the help of good friends Bob Jacob and Opey Hlavnicka, both of whom have taken their own rams, and participated on many other sheep hunts.

Several summer scouting rides were made to look over potential hunting territory, and on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August they all set out for the Jack Creek Trailhead on the Greybull River west of Meeteetse. Riding up the trail the day prior to opening they ran into a local outfitter with a bighorn client, and Wyoming hospitality being what it is, Joni and her crew agreed to let them have first crack on opening day.

Over the next three days sheep were spotted in several ravines and pockets, but not one that Joni wanted to pursue so early in the hunt. Then late in the day a huge chocolate ram in a group of 7 was glassed, and she knew this was the one. Again the agonizing decision, continue on or wait until morning. Day four it was.

Getting up early they spotted some of the rams above timberline shortly after leaving camp, but not Chocolate hide. Mack was convinced he had to be there, just not in view. Well as is typically the case Bob spotted Chocolate and whispered to Joni "shoot him" except he was the only one in position to see the ram! Mack is saying "get a rest" and Bob saying "shoot". Finally Joni could plainly see



JONI MILLER

Chocolate and "by now my adrenaline was so pumped I didn't need a rest, I just pulled up and shot off hand right through the front shoulder. At that time I felt so fortunate to have been lucky enough to have my husband and our two close friends with me when I killed my first ram".

"As I look back on this past season I realize just how fortunate we are to live around these mountains and enjoy them the way we do. Being able to do so with friends like Bob and Opey, Mack and I feel is icing on the cake"! Our congratulations to you Joni.

**M**y friend Bob Finn gave me the following information on **JOHN O'BRIEN** of Thermopolis. John hunted with Wes Berg, Johiah Lake Outfitters, in British Columbia and scored on this Stone's sheep.

JOHN O'BRIEN





**MT. LION  
SHEEP  
MOOSE  
ELK - DEER**

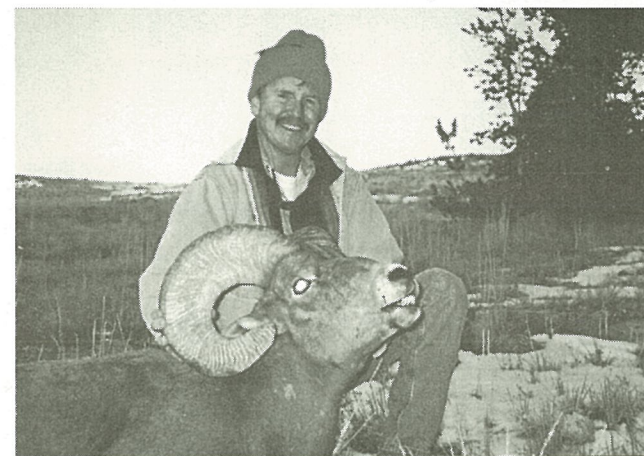




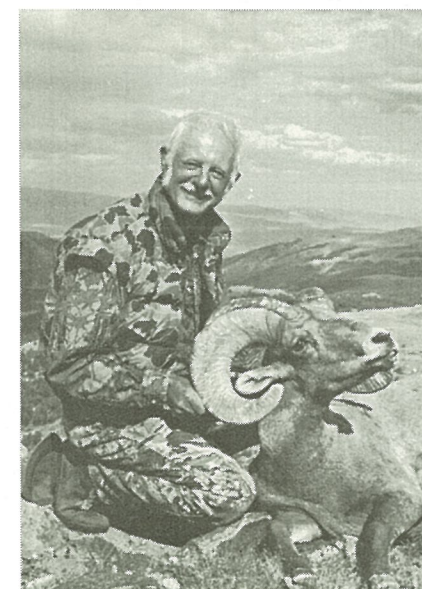
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MOUNTAIN OUTFITTERS  
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Dubois, Wyoming 82513  
Ph. 307-455-2464



**A**nother close friend, WY FNAWS Life member, and owner of Wind River Mountain Outfitters, Fritz Meyer of Dubois, and his guides, Dirk Edgeington and Cody Brown, were successful in guiding the following hunters to their trophies. Another Life member, **RUSTY GEOCH** of Pinedale; **ED LEIGH** of Cheyenne; Life member **RICH WOBSE**R of Sandusky, Ohio; **BOB KILLETT** of Sykesville, Maryland; **DON LAMPERT** of Douglas; and **STEVE HORNADY**, Hornady Bullets, Grand Island, Nebraska.



RUSTY GEOCH



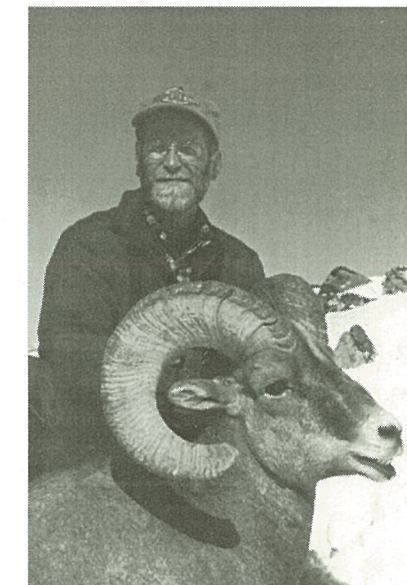
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RICH WOBSE



ED LEIGH



STEVE HORNADY



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