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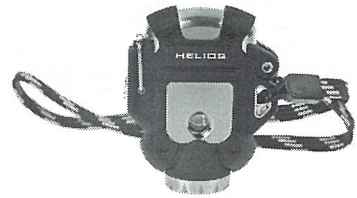
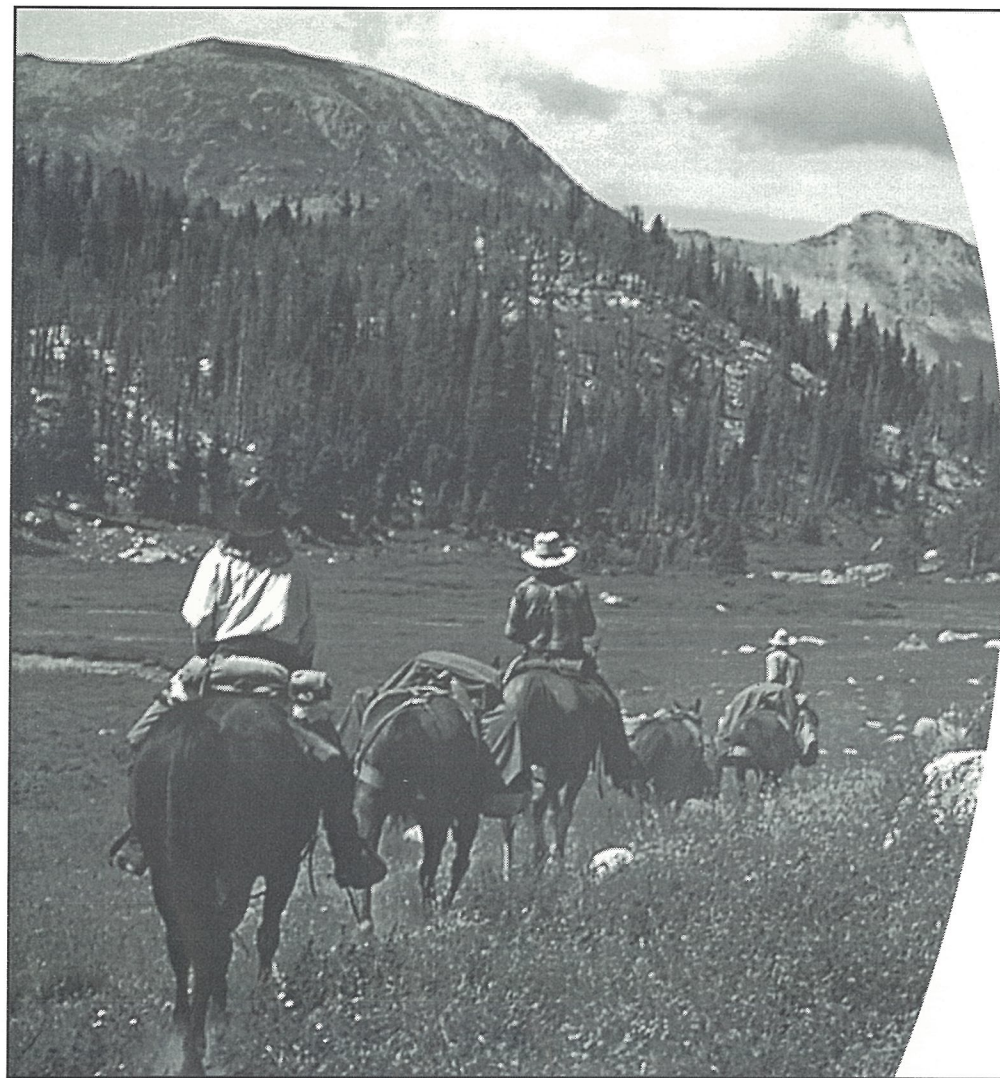
The RAMPAGE

Wyoming Chapter FNAWS

SPRING 2003



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Renew Your Membership Now!

If you see a "***" symbol next to your name on the mailing label of this newsletter, it means your WY FNAWS membership has expired. Renew your membership with us today, keep *The Rampage* coming and help support our bighorns! Just complete the membership application below and mail it along with your check made payable to Wyoming FNAWS.

Membership Application

I hereby make application for membership in the Wyoming Chapter F.N.A.W.S., and enclose my membership fee.

Annual Membership _____ \$15.00

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The Wyoming Chapter Newsletter is published semi-annually and your subscription is included with your paid up dues.

'Bring Your Own Horse'

Set for July 18th-20th

The Wyoming Chapter will hold its annual "Bring Your Own Horse" pack trip July 18th-20th. Participants will view Pilot Creek in bighorn sheep hunt area 1 in the far northwest corner of Wyoming.

WY FNAWS life member Tim Hockhalter of Timbercreek Outfitters has generously offered to host the trip. Forest Service regulations will be followed, which means there is a limit to the number of people who can participate. Anyone who is interested in coming should contact WY FNAWS Board President Cole Benton as soon as possible. Cole can be reached at 307-736-2277.

The Wyoming Chapter extends a big "thank you" to Tim for offering to host the trip.

WYOMING CHAPTER FNAWS

The RAMPAGE Magazine

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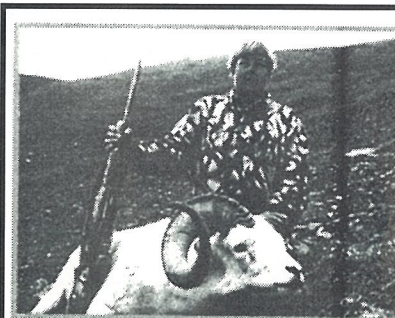
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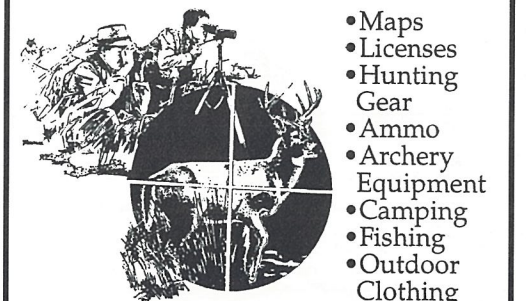
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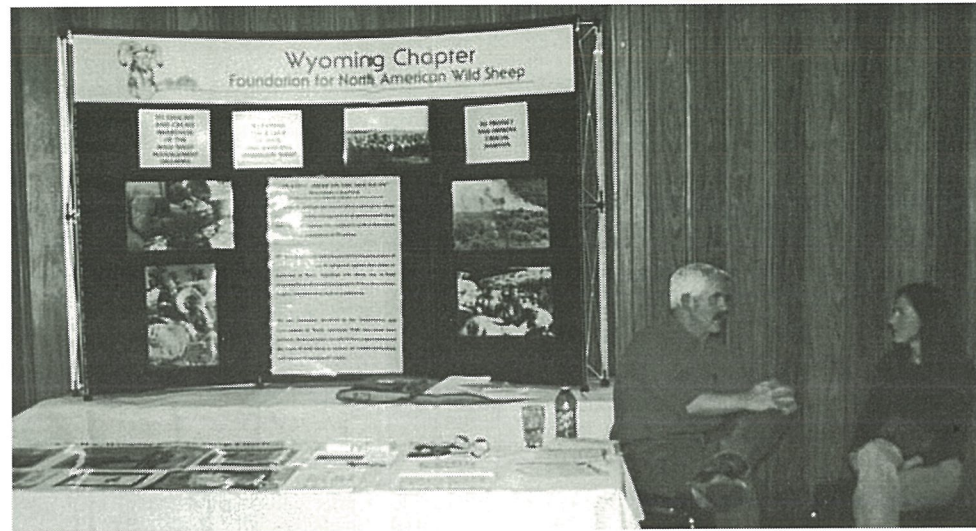


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ANNUAL BOWHUNTERS CONVENTION



WY FNAWS was asked to have a booth at the Annual Bowhunters of Wyoming Convention, which was held in Sheridan on April 5th convention. Chapter President Cole Benton, his wife Elaine and WGFD liaison Kevin Hurley manned the booth. Kevin also gave a presentation on the Wyoming Governor's Licenses and an update on WY FNAWS project accomplishments. Hurley is pictured here visiting with Karla Warder.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



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 E-mail: grizout@vcn.com

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Dirk Edgeington
 Box 1352, Dubois, WY 82513
 Work: (307) 856-5372
 Home: (307) 850-6273
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 Box 631, Dubois, WY 82513
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 Phone: (307) 684-5233
 E-mail: trailswest@vcn.com

Director

Mike Wakkuri
 3036 North Fork Highway
 Cody, WY 82414
 Phone: (307) 587-8238
 Cell: (307) 331-1605
 E-mail: wakkuri@vcn.com

Kevin Hurley

Wyoming Game & Fish Liaison
 356 Nostrum Rd.
 Thermopolis, WY 82443
 Phone/Fax: (307) 864-9375
 Cell: (307) 899-1264
 E-mail: khurley@trib.com

Sheri Howe

Administrative Assistant
 P.O. Box 845, Dubois, WY 82513
 Phone/Fax: (307) 455-2094
 E-mail: ryter6@wyoming.com

Becky Layne

Chapter/Affiliate Coordinator
 FNAWS Headquarters
 720 Allen Ave., Cody, WY 82414-3402
 Phone: (307) 527-6261
 Fax: (307) 527-7117
 E-mail: blayne@fnaws.org

Editor's Notes

The Wyoming Chapter extends its congratulations to Wyoming Game & Fish liaison Kevin Hurley. Kevin was recently awarded a promotion to WGFD regional supervisor in Cody and will begin his new job on July 1.

Kevin has given endless hours of his time to make things better for our bighorns. After his years of hard work, his promotion is well-deserved. He will continue to work with WY FNAWS as his schedule permits and his dedication is greatly appreciated. Congratulations, Kevin. You earned it and we know you'll do a terrific job.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Finally, we are receiving some much-needed moisture here in northeast Wyoming. We were going into our fourth year of drought and our wildlife has been suffering because of it. This drought is not only in our area, but covers several states. A snow pack estimate for April showed most of the Big Horn Mountains above 100% of normal. These dry years really make us appreciate wildlife organizations and livestock producers for a lot of the only water only available for wildlife.

However, this water doesn't come cheap or easy and projects cost money. The decision that Wyoming's new governor, Dave Freudenthal, made concerning the 20 governor licenses is going to help all of Wyoming's wildlife. This money will benefit research, habitat and education, just to mention a few. Please read more about it in *The Rampage*. The next time you see Governor Freudenthal, tell him thank you from all of Wyoming's wildlife.

Another big concern for those of us who enjoy wildlife is the wolf issue. Wolves have now been confirmed on the east slope of the Big Horn Mountains from the Montana line south to Kaycee, Wyoming. We have one of the greatest moose herds left in Wyoming right here in the Big Horns, but for how long? Our governor and the Wyoming Game & Fish Department are working hard on this wolf issue. Let's all support them.

By reading *The Rampage*, you can certainly see that all of us with the Wyoming Chapter FNAWS are working very hard for Wyoming's wildlife and would like to thank all our membership for the great support. We will try not to let you down. We put in many hundreds of volunteer hours to keep everything rolling.


Thank you,
Cole D. Benton, President

National Bighorn Sheep Center Celebrates 10 Years

The National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Center in Dubois, Wyoming celebrates its 10th anniversary on July 2nd and WY FNAWS members are invited to join the celebration!

Festivities will start at 2 p.m. at the Sheep Center, located at 907 West Ramshorn in Dubois. Scheduled events and activities include presentations on bighorn behavior, sheep safaris of the past, National FNAWS' continuing partnership and 20 years of Wyoming Chapter FNAWS history and support of Wyoming's bighorns. All presentations are free of charge.

A social hour and buffet will start at 5:30, with the evening concluding with Dr. Valerius Geist's presentation of "The Return of Royalty," sponsored by Wyoming Chapter FNAWS. Reservations for the banquet are required. For reservations and banquet prices, call the Sheep Center at (307) 455-3429.

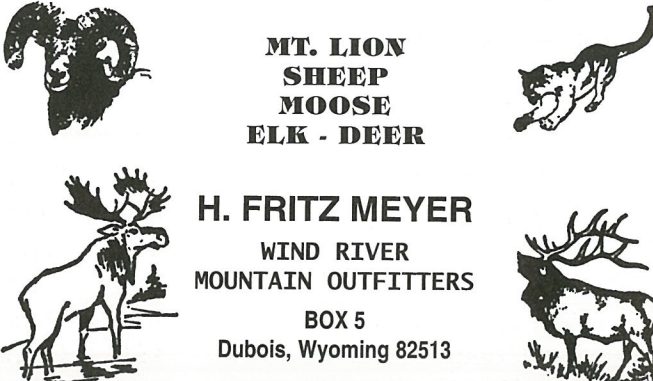


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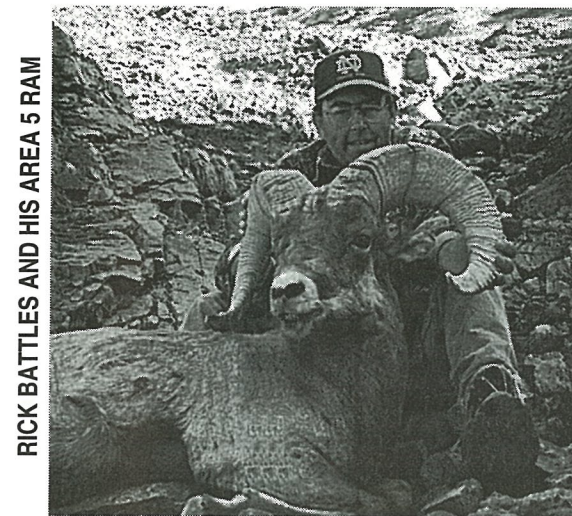


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H U N T R E P O R T S



RICK BATTLES AND HIS AREA 5 RAM

It was a hunt of a lifetime for WY FNAWS member **Rick Battles** of Poultney, VT

In September, I was lucky enough to have a permit in Wyoming for area 5. I was guided by Wayne Suda; he was one hell of a guide.

We went up, around and over mountains. I saw a lot of Rams. One mountain was called 11/2 (11,200'). What a hunt of a lifetime.

Now I have two ¾ slams. I just need that desert ram to complete "the dream" and get the "Grand Slam Ring." This would make my life complete. Love to hunt rams!

WY FNAWS member **Paul Boedeker** of Dubois found this area 10 ram to be worth the wait

My 26-year wait for a sheep permit ended by taking this tremendous ram in area 10. I hunted with Parry Wyant, Brand Eastburn and Don Cleveland. The first hunt was archery hunting. We hunted four days and passed up four rams that would have scored in the low to mid 160s. My goal was 170 or better.

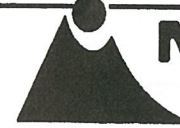
The second weekend of rifle season found us back on the mountain. I couldn't believe what I was looking at: six rams; three were the biggest I had seen in this area. One big problem was we couldn't get there from where we were—Ross Lake blocked our stalk. We would have to go back to camp, head back to town and hope they would still be there the next afternoon. Then I remembered a canoe! We had spotted a canoe during archery season. I knew it had been there since the mid 1960s. We took a chance and bailed off. Darkness fell as we made it to the canoe. It looked like it could float—but no oars.

The next morning found us paddling across the lake using pine bows for oars. A three-hour stalk and one-hour canoe ride put us directly above the rams. Two of the big rams were gone, but mine was still there. The rangefinder read 237 yards and the shot was nearly vertically straight down. So I held at the bottom of his chest. With the video camera rolling, one shot with my custom 300 Remington magnum dropped the ram in his tracks.



PAUL AND HIS LONG-AWAITED TROPHY BIGHORN

The horns measured 14"x36" on both sides and scored 176 Boone & Crockett. This ram wouldn't have been possible without Parry, Brand and Don and what we went through. I also want to thank Gari Epp and his daughter Sheryl for all their help in making a lifelong dream come true with a ram of a lifetime.



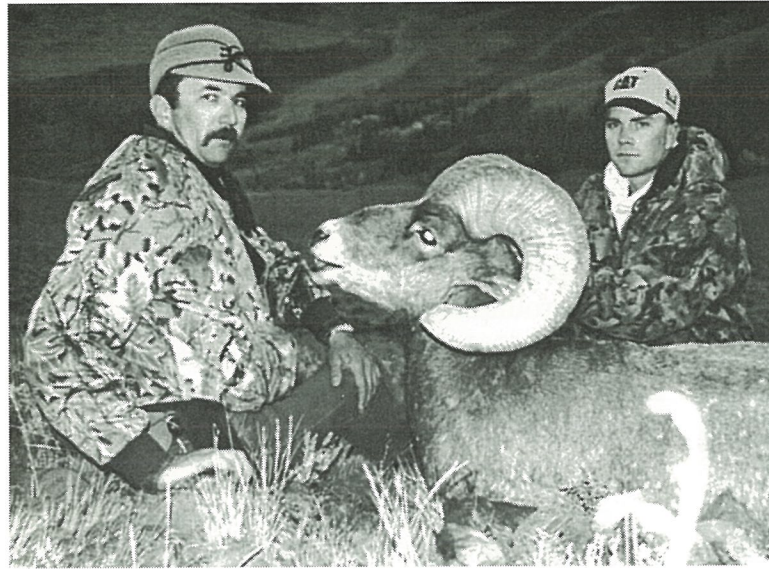
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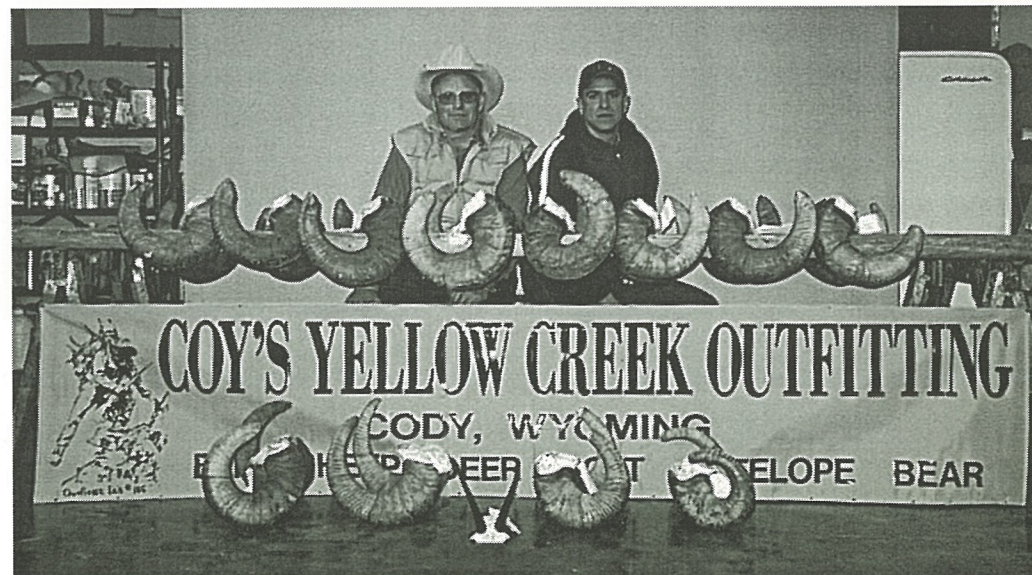
Dustin Schell (pictured right) took a great ram with guide Jess Troutman in September 2002 in area 5's Stuart Creek. WY FNAWS Board President Cole Benton of Grizzly Outfitters and WY FNAWS Board Member Bob Sundeen of Full Circle Outfitters provided the guiding services.

Cole Benton and Bob Sundeen also helped WY FNAWS member **Jim Forman** hit the jackpot last fall with this nice ram, taken in Anderson Creek in area 5.



Coy's Yellow Creek Outfitting

Pictured here is WY FNAWS life member and outfitter B. Joe Coy (left) and Rod Kilian with 12 of 16 rams taken in the 2002 hunting season. B. Joe summed the successful season up very well by saying, "Wow, what a year!"



Wyoming Chapter Life Members

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
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| # 2 Jeff Reynolds | #50 Joshua Robert d'Elia | #98 Pepper Neustal |
| # 3 Dave Steger | #51 Ralph J. Campoli | #99 David Connor |
| # 4 Don Schmalz | #52 John Zenz | #100 Joe DeCora |
| # 5 Harry Whyel | #53 Jesse Troutman | #101 Elaine B. Benton |
| # 6 Freddie Goetz | #54 Tom Sauter | #102 Mark W. Fountain |
| # 7 Gene Hardy | #55 Thomas P. Grainger | #103 Jeffrey Adam Milton |
| # 8 Hale Kreycik | #56 Mike Crocker | #104 Bill Pidd |
| # 9 Dr. R. D. Keeler | #57 Dyrk Eddie | #105 Kyle Hurley |
| #10 Jim Collins | #58 Bob Kelez | #106 Steve Hornady |
| #11 Mike Martin | #59 Wayne Suda | #107 Michael J. Wellman |
| #12 Jack Hildner | #60 Scott Jankowski | #108 B. Joe Coy |
| #13 Kent Stevinson | #61 Solvay Minerals Inc. | #109 Tim Hockhalter |
| #14 Fritz Meyer | #62 Ron Dean | #110 David C. Stull |
| #15 Kathy Gay (H) | #63 Ed Novotny | #111 Roger B. Donahue, Jr. |
| #16 Keith West | #64 E. Perry Edgeington | #112 Bernard R. Harvey |
| #17 Lud Kroner | #65 Randall K. Edgeington | #113 Terry Davis |
| #18 Serge d'Elia | #66 Michael J. Thompson | #114 Tom Christiansen |
| #19 Terry Marcum | #67 Dan Coletti | #115 Dave W. Daigle |
| #20 Kevin Hurley | #68 Douglas Liller | #116 Keith Dana |
| #21 Craig Pitters | #69 Ron Elkin | #117 John Coulter |
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| #47 Tex Goerger | #95 Glenn Anderson | |
| #48 Ron Wilmes | #96 David G. Soderquist | |

Wyoming Governor's Complimentary Hunting Licenses

Under Wyoming statute, 5 bighorn sheep, 5 moose, and 10 elk/deer/antelope licenses may be issued annually at the direction of Wyoming's governor. In one of the most significant decisions in recent years concerning Wyoming's wildlife, Governor Dave Freudenthal opted to delegate administration of his complimentary big game hunting licenses to the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of Wyoming. There will now be a very efficient and controlled process, accountable to hunting groups, conservation organizations, and the Wyoming public, which will ultimately benefit Wyoming's wildlife, according to Governor Freudenthal.

Historically, these licenses had been auctioned by conservation groups around the country, most notably by the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep and its chapters. Typically, the selling entity retained 10% of the auction price, with 90% being returned to previous governor's offices for distribution to charitable organizations.

Under the new system implemented by Governor Freudenthal, a collaborative group of wildlife conservation organizations (known as the Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition, comprised of organizations **dedicated to the species** which generate these licenses), will cooperate to market these licenses, attempting to maximize revenue generated via auction or raffle of these licenses. Sellers of these licenses will include national and/or state/local chapters of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, North American Moose Foundation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and Mule Deer Foundation. Wyoming FNAWS has been deeply involved in the development of this concept, and assisted by auctioning one bighorn sheep license for 2003.

As in the past, selling entities will continue to retain 10% of the proceeds. However, 90% of the proceeds will now be deposited in the following manner: 10% will be retained by the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of Wyoming for administrative support and to help fulfill their mission; 10% will be deposited into an "All Wildlife" account, for the support of any and all of Wyoming's wildlife, and 70% will be deposited into **dedicated** accounts for bighorn sheep, moose, elk, and deer. Expenditures for sheep, moose, elk, and deer projects will be annually determined by species-specific committees comprised of Wyoming Game and Fish Department and conservation organization representatives. Expenditures under the "All Wildlife" account will be annually determined by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

By early April 2003, 17 of the 20 licenses had been auctioned, generating \$77,070 for sheep and \$41,475 for moose; pending sale of the final 3 licenses, approximately \$48,650 is projected for elk, approximately \$38,675 is projected for deer, and approximately \$29,410 is projected for the "All Wildlife" account. Combined, the total amount available for wildlife is projected at over \$235,000 for 2003.

According to Wyoming FNAWS President Cole Benton, "I believe this is the best thing that has happened to Wyoming's wildlife since implementing hunting seasons. Wyoming Chapter FNAWS was a huge supporter of this concept, and we stood solidly behind WGFD wildlife biologist Kevin Hurley as he crafted this proposal over the past 20+ years, and then presented the concept to Governor Freudenthal," Benton continued. "We owe Governor Freudenthal a huge 'Thank You' for his decision, and to Kevin Hurley for his creativity and persistence. Once again, big game hunters have clearly shown their support for all wildlife. With this decision, Wyoming's wildlife, sportsmen and women will benefit tremendously through the coming years."

HUNT REPORTS

Wyoming FNAWS Life Members to the Power of 5!

KEVIN, KYLE AND GARY WITH KYLE'S TURKEY



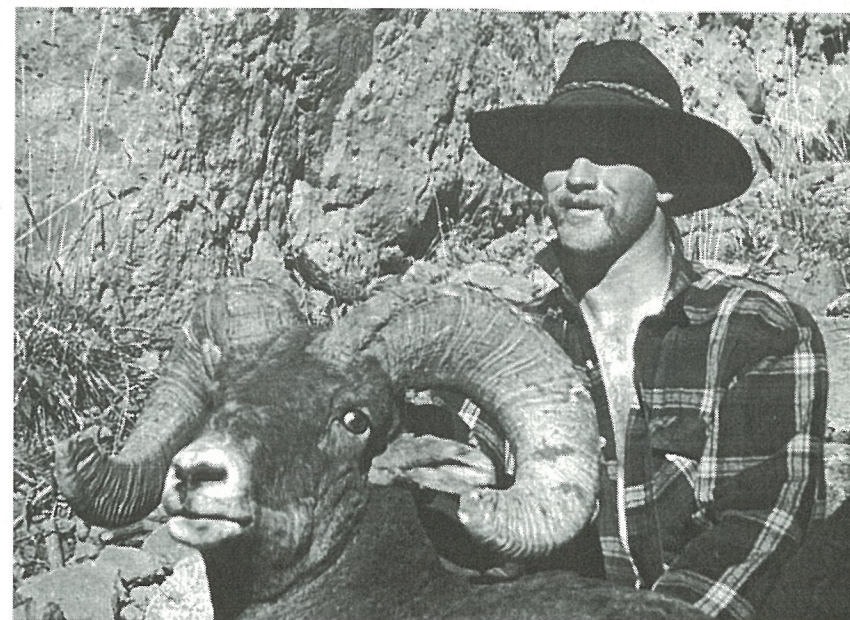
For the 2002 annual fundraiser, Gary Roebing (Life Member #133) donated a youth turkey hunt to be auctioned. President Cole Benton (Life Member #30) purchased the hunt, then turned around and donated that hunt to **Kyle Hurley** (Life Member #105). In late April 2003, accompanied by his parents Kevin (Life Member #20) and Gretchen (Life Member #122), Kyle connected on his first ever wild turkey! Wyoming FNAWS is obviously dedicated to wild sheep, but friendship, youth education, hunter recruitment, and enjoying Wyoming's outdoors are right near the top of the list!

Mark Zastrow of Watertown, WI hunted with Suda Outfitters in Dubois and moved one step closer to achieving his Grand Slam.

Thanks to Wayne Suda and Wyoming Game & Fish, I'm now at ¾ Slam status.

In the spring of 2001, I drew an area 3 sheep tag with *less than* the maximum amount of preference points. Wayne called with the good news in April and by September 20, we were camped in the high country and listening to the elk bugle. It took a couple of days to find a worthy sheep, but we did find two good ones. This was mid-season now and the sheep were in and out of trees. They were hard to find at times, but Wayne's got great eyes!

After watching a group of five rams most of the day, I took my ram on September 23rd. He was 9½ years old and green-scored 160 B&C. I couldn't have been more thrilled!!! I did miss my wedding anniversary on September 22nd *again!!* I seem to always be hunting then. Thanks to my wife Judy who is very supportive. Shoot straight!



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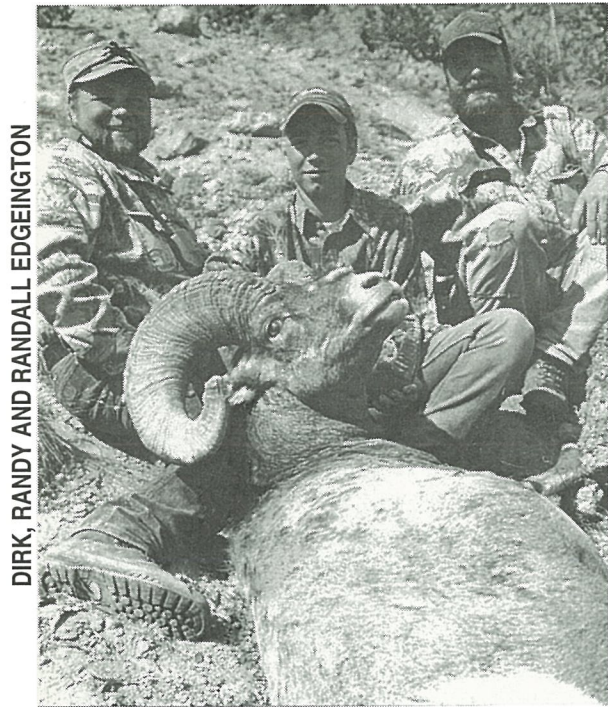
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DIRK, RANDY AND RANDALL EDGEINGTON

“That’s What it’s All About”

Randall K. Edgeington, Riverton, Wyoming

Last year, my son **Randy S. Edgeington**, age 15, was lucky and fortunate enough to draw a Wyoming bighorn sheep tag for Area 4. It took a little time for Randy to hit him; he didn’t at first show near the excitement or do the “Sheep Dance” like myself or his Uncle Dirk did, but he did finally come around.

My brother Dirk guides for Fritz Meyer of Wind River Mountain Outfitters in Dubois, Wyoming. They hired Randy to wrangle and help on some late summer fishing trips and the first two weeks of sheep hunting in Area 10. When he came back to start school, he was wound up tighter than a two day clock—he had the sheep fever bad. The two weeks until his area opened seemed like eternity.

The week before the opener, we took a little “sniff around” trip. We spotted a really nice ram from a couple miles away. We just sat there, plotting, planning and passing the spotter back and forth until the sun

went down. The next day, we packed up and left, not wanting to blow them out of there. It was a quick trip in and out; it reminded me how long it had been since I spent that many hours on a horse.

Finally the big day came. We could hardly sleep. We made our way up to where we had last seen the giant ram. We spotted him, and due to the light of the moon, the wind, the sun, the clouds, niner, niner, he escaped, never to be seen again. Probably why he was so big. Over the next 11 days, 3,867 miles, we saw several sheep, but none like the one on the opener. My son—“little scout” we’ve nicknamed him—passed on several. On the 12th day, he took this beautiful ram at 387 yards. Green score, 179 3/8; official Boone & Crockett, 176 6/8. We life-sized it—it’s in my living room. (My wife is impressed.)

At National (FNAWS) in Reno this spring, Randy received two awards: The Youth Achievement Award and the most impressive, the 2002 Youth Award of Excellence for the largest sheep taken by the 18-year-old and younger class in all sheep species. Good job.

Over the years, I’m sure Randy, Dirk and I will always remember this hunt. Dirk and I used to hunt a lot together when we were younger. The busy schedules we set, the different paths we take doesn’t allow that as much any more. I think that’s what it’s all about—a dad, a brother, a young son and the time spent in the back country, sharing and passing on the thing we love so much. A friend of mine has a bumper sticker that says a lot: “Kids that hunt, fish and trap don’t mug little old ladies.”

Thanks, Dirk—words don’t describe. Thanks, Fritz, for the use of your tough horses. Thanks Shawna, my wife, for your support and hours of what may have seemed like repetitive sheep conversation. And most of all, thanks to you, Randy Scott, my son, for your hard work and dedication—you are truly a blessing in my life.



Commissioner Kreycik drew the raffle ticket winners for the commissioner’s license he donated to WY FNAWS. Pictured from left to right: Wyoming Game & Fish Department Commissioner Linda Fleming, WY FNAWS Past President Jim Collins, WGFD Director Brent Manning, Commissioner Hale Kreycik, WY FNAWS Board Member Bob Sundeen and Kevin Hurley, WGFD liaison to WY FNAWS.

Commissioner Licenses Net \$28,000

The Wyoming Chapter received two Wyoming Game & Fish Commissioner licenses for the 2003 hunt season. Commissioner Linda Fleming’s tag was auctioned and Commissioner Hale Kreycik’s tag was raffled. WY FNAWS netted \$28,000 for Wyoming’s wildlife from these two tags.

S&S Outfitters of Casper was the successful bidder of Commissioner Fleming’s tag and the raffle drawing for Commissioner Kreycik’s tag was held March 17 at the WGFD Commissioner’s meeting. Raffle winners were:

- 1st – Frank Echeeverria – Wyoming Game & Fish Commissioners License
- 2nd – John O’Brien – Remington Titanium 270 Win
- 3rd – Pete Mowbray – Winchester M70 300 WSM
- 4th – Arthur Schisler – Tikka 7mm Mag Whitetail Delux
- 5th – Glen Meyers – Leica 1200 Rangefinder
- 6th – Jerry Shater – Zeiss 3x9x40 Conquest Rifle Scope
- 7th – Gary Zobel – Brunton 10x42 Eterna Binoculars
- 8th – Paolo Montegazza – Bausch & Lomb 15x45 Spotting Scope
- 9th – Gary Roebling - \$400 Cabelas Gift
- 10th – Scott Shreve – \$300 Cabelas Gift Certificate

Congratulations to all of our winners and thanks to everyone who participated in the phone auction and purchased raffle tickets to help our bighorns.

Check Us Out at www.wyomingfnaws.org!
 WY FNAWS is now online! Log on to www.wyomingfnaws.org for project updates, the latest news, to communicate with us, upcoming events, membership renewals and sign-ups and much, much more.

Wyoming Chapter Annual Fundraiser Banquet Celebrating 20 Years

The Wyoming Chapter is proudly celebrating its 20-year anniversary and you're invited to celebrate with us at our upcoming annual meeting and fundraiser at the Lander Community Center.

A board meeting, which will include funding requests, will be held at 9 a.m. on Friday, June 13th at the Lander Community Center.

Several events will take place at the Community Center throughout the day on Saturday, June 14th, beginning with the Second Annual Life Member Breakfast. The annual board/general membership/business meeting will begin at 9 a.m. Afterwards, informative seminars will be held on various topics, including an orientation for successful 2003 Wyoming bighorn sheep tag applicants, field care of capes, field judging trophy rams, hunting in grizzly bear country, wolves and bighorn sheep, a WY FNAWS project update and more. A photo contest will take place, so bring your favorite wildlife-related photo and enter! Pre-banquet games and a wine, cheese and vegetable party will precede a prime rib and shrimp dinner. After dinner, the live auction will take place. There will also be raffle drawings and a silent auction.

Make your early bird reservations no later than May 25th for a chance to win \$100 in auction credit for the evening's live auction. Hotel rooms have been reserved at a special rate of \$59 per night at the Pronghorn Lodge (307-332-3940) and \$55 for a single, \$65 for a couple per night at the Best Western Inn at Lander (307-332-2847). These rates are guaranteed until May 25th.

Banquet prices are \$40 per person, \$60 per couple and \$20 for children under 12. A one year membership is included. Raffle tickets are \$20 per sheet (which includes 5 raffle tickets) or \$100 for six sheets (a total of 30 raffle tickets). For more information, call (307) 455-2094 or e-mail info@wyomingfnaws.org.

In Your Honor – Life Member Breakfast

The Wyoming Chapter of Foundation for North American Wild Sheep Board of Directors is proud to announce the Second Annual Life Members Breakfast.

Once again, WY FNAWS is putting on the Ritz with prime beef filet & egg breakfast, door prizes and gifts at no additional cost to life members who purchase a banquet ticket and return it by the deadline of May 25th.

Breakfast will begin at 7:15 a.m. June 14th at the Lander Community Center, located at 950 Buena Vista, Lander. Bring your name tag from the First Annual Life Member Breakfast in Thermopolis to be entered in a special drawing.

Invitations have been mailed to our current life members. If you're not a life member, not to worry—you have till May 25th to sign up as an honored WY FNAWS Life Member! Just complete and return the membership application included in this newsletter along with your life membership dues of \$300.

On Our Watch: A Wyoming Treasure is Vanishing

By Jim Collins, WY FNAWS Past President

The largest wintering Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep herd in the world and the crown jewel of Wyoming's bighorn transplant resources has plummeted, by nearly 60% in the past 12 years! A population of nearly 1,500 has plunged to near 650 and is on track for a population of fewer than 400 in the next decade. The Whiskey Mountain bighorn herd unit encompasses hunt areas 8,9,10, and 23, and in 1990, presented our bighorn hunters with 100 permits. In 2003, there will only be 32 permits and if trends don't change, the outlook for 2013 is bleak.

The Whiskey Mountain bighorn sheep herd has been the source of 1,878 bighorns used for transplant stock from 1949 to 1995. In fact, to a large degree the history of bighorn transplanting in the western U.S. has been underwritten by this Wyoming bighorn treasure.

A winter die-off in 1990-1991 is charged with a loss of between 300 to 350 sheep with several causes being suspected. Historically, major bighorn die-offs are followed by several years of poor lamb recruitment. After five years, the alarm was sounded by the Wyoming Game & Fish Department and the inter-agency Whiskey Mountain Technical Committee, proposing "The Whiskey Mountain Lamb Survival Study" to determine why lamb-to-ewe ratios were not rebounding. The Wyoming Chapter FNAWS, along with other non-government organizations (NGO) were asked to help fund this study. For the next four years, the Wyoming Chapter stepped up to cover the lions' share of the lamb mortality study. In 1998, the second year of the study, analyses led to the possibility of a selenium deficiency causing symptoms similar to white muscle disease (WMD) in domestic sheep. Since that time, bighorn ewes have been supplemented with mineral blocks in an attempt to relieve this deficiency. The Whiskey Mountain Lamb Survival Study brought up lamb health concerns and additional concerns of elevational summer migration to mineral/salt licks and predation during these movements. These problems were all addressed and solved by increasing selenium/salt in the diet. Four years of providing selenium blocks, while beneficial, has not improved lamb survival and yearling recruitment.

Discussions between the Wyoming Chapter, WGFD and the Whiskey Mountain Technical Committee have been held in an attempt to get our arms around this lamb recruitment problem. The Wyoming Chapter is not comfortable in "just discussing" this problem. This herd is aging and lamb survival ratios remain alarmingly low. The habitat folks keep reminding us that it is possibly a habitat problem; however, they don't propose any habitat solutions for the Wyoming Chapter to address. The herd unit objective remains at 1,350, with the herd's population estimate at less than half that amount and declining.

Over the last four years, the Wyoming Chapter negotiated two U.S. Forest Service domestic sheep allotment waivers in the

southern Wind River Mountains, across the Continental Divide from areas 9 and 10, spending nearly \$150,000 to help minimize the chance of transmission of Pasteurella bacteria to Whiskey Mountain bighorns from domestic sheep. Thirteen years after the 1990-91 die-off, addressing mineral deficiency and possible habitat and disease problems, no improvement in lamb recruitment has occurred.

Two years ago, the Wyoming Chapter started considering ways to address the possibility that this bighorn herd could be in a "predator pit" scenario and the Wyoming Chapter has been pushing to improve lamb survival at Whiskey Basin by removing a portion of the offending coyotes preying on this herd.

In spring 2002, USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services was contacted for a cost estimate to conduct coyote control on land used by the Whiskey Mountain bighorn sheep herd to raise lamb survival, once again giving this historically important bighorn herd a chance to rebound.

The Wyoming Chapter Board voted to fund and request the Animal Damage Management Board (ADMB) to cost-share on this predator control project, which will last three years. The first year will include aerial hunting from fixed-wing aircraft and helicopter over private, state, USFS, BLM, and WGFD bighorn sheep winter ranges. Ten weeks of field work utilizing trapping, shooting, calling and decoy dogs, as well as all other means deemed appropriate by the Wildlife Services, will be completed in the first year. Years two and three will be at least as aggressive.

Over the last decade, the Wyoming Chapter has funded over \$99,000 and been responsible for additional hundreds of thousands of dollars being spent from our wildlife partners, including FNAWS Chapters, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Safari Club International Chapters etc., benefiting Whiskey Mountain bighorns. Whiskey Mountain bighorns have the Wyoming Chapter's unwavering commitment.

More to Come at Our Annual Meeting

Wyoming Bighorns Need Your Help!

With a huge consensus, the number one habitat problem for bighorn sheep is conifer encroachment. The Whiskey Mountain herd has been waiting multiple years on a burn window/USFS priority to complete a burn on Sheep Ridge. Use your influence on the Congressional delegation and the Forest Service to elevate the priority of these controlled burns. Contact any Wyoming Chapter Board Member for list of long awaited burns, some of which have been mapped and approved for over 13 years, awaiting USFS action! Call, Write, Be Heard!