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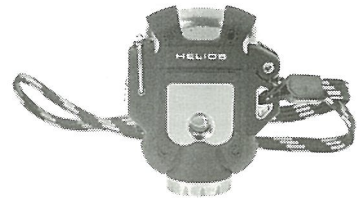
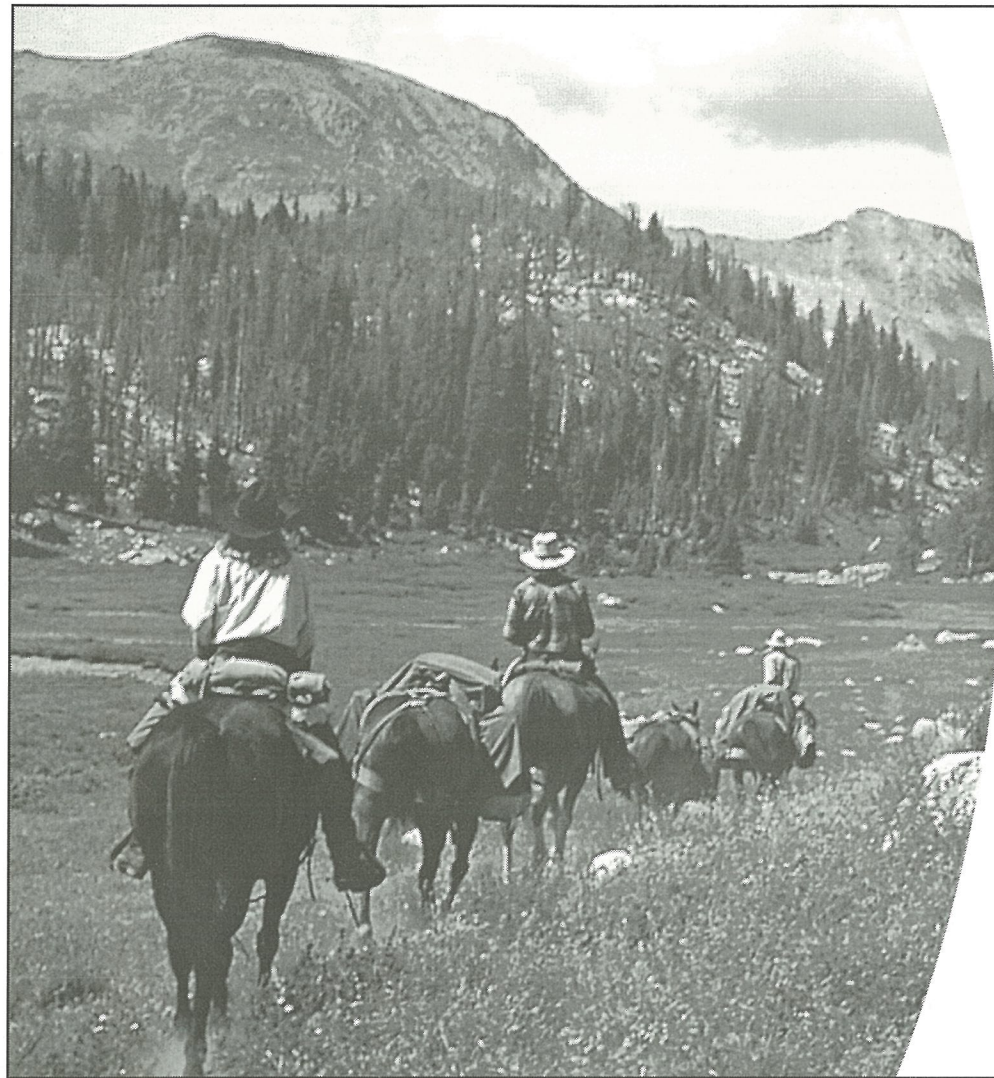
Wyoming Chapter FNAWS

SPRING 2004



Photo credit David Luzmoor





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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

3-Year Membership \_\_\_\_\_ \$40.00

Lifetime Membership \_\_\_\_\_ \$300.00

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Make checks payable to:  
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P.O. Box 845, Dubois, WY 82513

## Wyoming FNAWS Board and Membership Meetings

Wyoming FNAWS holds its winter board meetings on the first Saturday of December and summer board meetings the first Saturday in June at the Wyoming Chapter's annual fundraiser. General membership meetings accompany both board meetings. Details and locations will be posted on the Wyoming Chapter Web site.

Funding requests for consideration at the winter board meetings are due no later than November 1<sup>st</sup>. Requests for consideration at the summer board/general membership meeting are due no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>. The mailing address is Wyoming FNAWS, P.O. Box 845, Dubois, WY 82513

WYOMING CHAPTER FNAWS

## The RAMPAGE Magazine

### ADVERTISING RATES PER ISSUE

<b>FULL PAGE</b>	<b>\$180.00</b>
<b>1/2 PAGE</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
<b>1/4 PAGE</b>	<b>\$ 55.00</b>
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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



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Membership dues are \$60.00 (U.S. currency) annually and are payable when making application.  
Life Membership: \$1000.00 (U.S. currency)





# Wyoming Chapter Life Members

# 1	Ron Ball (D)	#59	Wayne Suda	#117	John Coulter
# 2	Jeff Reynolds	#60	Scott Jankowski	#118	Joseph Konwinski
# 3	Dave Steger	#61	Solvay Minerals Inc.	#119	Bill Skelton
# 4	Don Schmalz	#62	Ron Dean	#120	Ron Pomeroy
# 5	Harry Whyel	#63	Ed Novotny	#121	Jeffrey A. Keim
# 6	Freddie Goetz	#64	E. Perry Edgeington	#122	Gretchen Hurley
# 7	Gene Hardy	#65	Randall K. Edgeington	#123	Terry Janssen
# 8	Hale Kreycik	#66	Michael J. Thompson	#124	Lenore Smith
# 9	Dr. R. D. Keeler	#67	Dan Coletti	#125	Joe Vollmer
#10	Jim Collins	#68	Douglas Liller	#126	Dennis Claman
#11	Mike Martin	#69	Ron Elkin	#127	Don Peay
#12	Jack Hildner	#70	Tom Spawn	#128	Randall S. Edgeington
#13	Kent Stevinson	#71	Bruce John Thompson	#129	Wally Needham
#14	Fritz Meyer	#72	Robert Sherd	#130	Al Benton
#15	Kathy Gay (H)	#73	Larry Brannian	#131	Steven Wildeman
#16	Keith West	#74	Dan Gay	#132	Bob Sundeen
#17	Lud Kroner	#75	Ron Lockwood	#133	Gary Roebling
#18	Serge d'Elia	#76	Scott Bushnell	#134	Allan A. Holland
#19	Terry Marcum	#77	Jim Smith	#135	Ron Crispin
#20	Kevin Hurley	#78	Wayne Knapp	#136	Wayne Jones
#21	Craig Pitters	#79	Debi Van Buren	#137	Gary Keene
#22	Sam Pancotto	#80	Mike Hildner (H)	#138	Jim Verplancke
#23	Vincent Allegra	#81	Patrick Zummo	#139	Opey Hlavnicka
#24	Dirk Edgeington	#82	Mike Turek	#140	Robert Joslin
#25	Cindy Reynolds	#83	Douglas D. Cline	#141	Ken Metzler
#26	Fred Mau	#84	Dan Pocapalia	#142	Gary Lease
#27	David S. Luzmoor	#85	William T. Hill, Jr.	#143	Jenny Meier
#28	Craig Kling	#86	Robert Van DeRostyne	#144	Jackie Benton
#29	Sam Green	#87	Tad Giovanini	#145	Brenton Scott
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#45	Russ Green	#103	Jeffrey Adam Milton	#161	Mark Brusino
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#53	Jesse Troutman	#111	Roger B. Donahue, Jr.	#169	Robert L. Mills
#54	Tom Sauter	#112	Bernard R. Harvey	#170	To Be Auctioned at Life Member Breakfast
#55	Thomas P. Grainger	#113	Terry Davis	#171	Tony Spriggs
#56	Mike Crocker	#114	Tom Christiansen	#172	Mack Miller
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## President's Message

Hello, membership,

Spring has sprung. Again, very little moisture here in Northeast Wyoming. But, there's always a positive side. It's awfully good calving weather! It's going to be another year where livestock producers are certainly going to have to keep those water tanks full for the wildlife.

Your Wyoming FNAWS board has been working on June's fundraiser. The minute we finish up one year's, we immediately start another. We want to make sure each of these is more successful than the last. Our projects for bighorn sheep are getting larger and more expensive. Without all of the help we receive from other organizations, Wyoming would never see many of these started, let alone finished.

I'm always amazed at our Chapters east of us. Minnesota/Wisconsin, Eastern and Iowa FNAWS have no sheep herds of their own—but look at the hard work they do for the states that have sheep. The amount of money they raise is unbelievable. Let's not forget to say "thank you" to these Chapters and any other person or organization that continually supports wildlife.

The first step for our transplant in Devil's Canyon has been completed with the collaring of 6 ewes in March. Wyoming G&F Biologist Tom Easterly of Greybull is working very hard on the project. It will be the first transplant since 1995 in Wyoming. We will be touring this area immediately following the summit meeting at Burgess Junction on August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Much of the funding for this transplant will come from the sale of the five Governor's Sheep Licenses. We are in the second year of having these, thanks to Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal, including the license that Wyoming FNAWS auctioned. The total off of just these five licenses is \$219,000 for 2004. Many thanks to our governor.

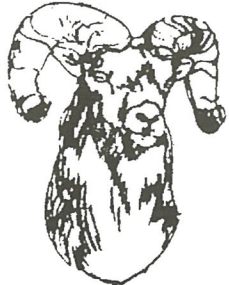
I see a new calf just hit the ground, so I'd better sign off. Hope to see all of you at our fundraiser in Lander on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Cole

## Wyoming Game & Fish Honors Kevin Hurley

Kevin Hurley, WGFD Wildlife Management Coordinator for the Cody Region (Bighorn Basin) and long-time WGFD liaison to Wyoming FNAWS, was recently selected by WGFD Wildlife Division Chief Jay Lawson as the 2003 Wildlife Division "Employee of the Year." Citing Hurley's tireless work ethic, accomplishments for the department's overall bighorn sheep program, and efforts to initiate the Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition in 2003, Lawson honored Hurley with this award at the April 26, 2004 WGF Commission meeting in Casper.

WY FNAWS Name Tags have proven to be a popular item at our life member breakfasts and we've received many requests, so they are now available for sale. The name tags are \$10 each. Life members who order them will have their life member designation included. To order a name tag, complete the form below and mail it along with a check made payable Lucy Turek to Lucy at 2225 West 45th St., Casper, WY 82604



*Please fill out your name below as you would like it to appear on your nametag.  
The other information is for mailing or questions.*

First Name	Last Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Address	City
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Zip Code	Phone Number
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**Wyoming Chapter Foundation for North American Wild Sheep**





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## Time's Running Out – Buy Your 2004 Commissioner's License Raffle Ticket Now!!

Time and tickets are running out for our 2004 Commissioner's License Raffle. The grand prize is a commissioner's license to hunt elk, deer or antelope in the open hunt area of choice. Other prizes are:

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: 300 Weatherby Mark V Deluxe

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: 270 WSM Winchester M70 Featherweight

4<sup>th</sup> Prize: 25-06 Remington M700 Mountain Rifle

5<sup>th</sup> Prize: 7mm Ruger M77 Stainless

6<sup>th</sup> Prize: Zeiss 3x9x40 Rifle Scope

7<sup>th</sup> Prize: Brunton 10x42 Eterna Binoculars

8<sup>th</sup> Prize: Nikon 16x47x60 Spotting Scope

9<sup>th</sup> Prize: Zeiss 10x30 Binoculars

10<sup>th</sup> Prize: Leica 800 Laser Range Finder

Tickets are \$100 each and only 300 will be sold. The drawing for the commissioner's license will be held at WY FNAWS' annual fundraiser and banquet on June 5<sup>th</sup> in Lander.

To purchase tickets by check, send your check made payable to Wyoming FNAWS to Bob Sundeen, P.O. Box 111, Buffalo, WY, 82834. To pay by Visa or MasterCard, contact Administrative Assistant Sheri Howe at (307) 455-2094.

Raffle winners must purchase regular hunting licenses.

**MT. LION  
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ELK - DEER**

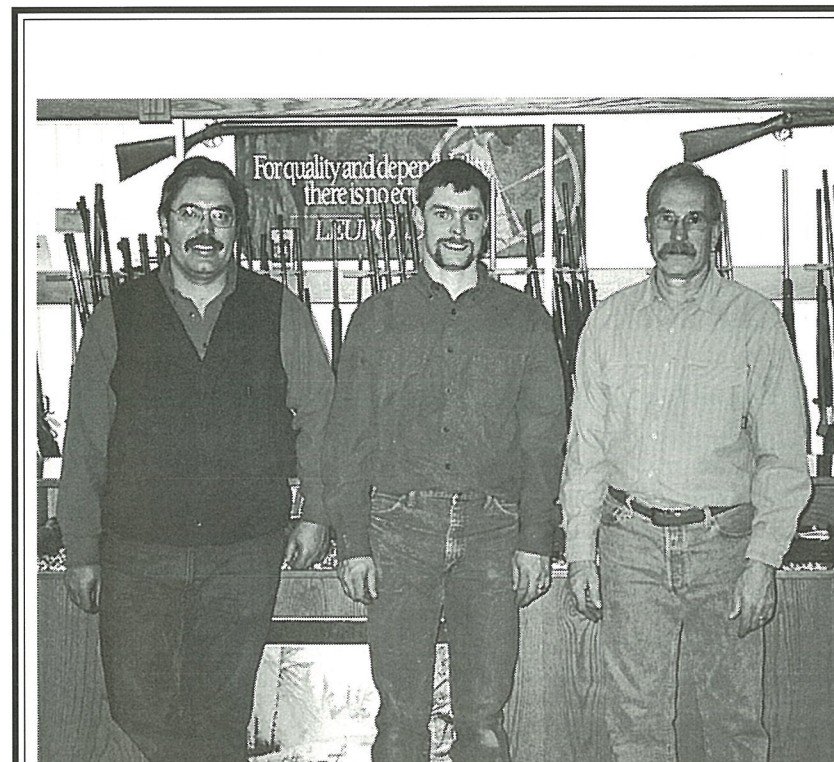
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From left to right, Luke, Adam and Dave

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## The Second Time is the Charm for Matt Bell

So after passing the initiation test of correctly filling out and filing my Wyoming sheep application every year since the beginning of the sheep bonus point program, I was drawn for a unit 19 sheep license in 2003. Unit 19 is in the Laramie Mountains of southeast Wyoming and only accounts for four of Wyoming's 250 plus ram tags. The public land in the Laramies is quite rugged and abrupt, and the best sheep habitat is often difficult to access due to private ownership.

In mid September I hunted and camped on public land with three hunting buddies, Bret, Mike and Bud. We had an enjoyable and often challenging week, which included an injured horse, a vigorous snowstorm, a challenging overnight hike and ending up in the wrong canyon two hours after dark- In other words a typical sheep hunt. Only two shooter rams were seen on this trip and I was in another part of the unit at that time seeing only ewes and elk.

My second trip to southeast Wyoming was in early October. I had worked out a deal with Jon Keil to hunt on the Keil property in Sybille Canyon. Jon Keil and I spotted a group of rams on the first evening. Since there was only about fifteen minutes of shooting light left we just watched the rams until dark. The next morning I had Dave Stenson with me, who is a friend from Guernsey, Wyoming. We were able to relocate the group of rams at first light and watched them while they were settling in for the day. It was late morning by the time we had stalked to within 270 yards of them. We were set up across a small canyon from the rams with a gusty wind blowing. There were seven rams in the group. The largest ram was bedded with just his neck and head showing from behind a small pine tree. So we watched the rams through the 60x spotting scope for over an hour and a half. The biggest ram had at least seven annuli making him eight and a half years old, but there was another ram that had at least nine annuli. Even though this ten and a half year old ram had less mass than the eight and a half year old ram, I really liked the massive broomed-off ends of the ten and a half year old ram. The older ram was bedded directly in front of a smaller ram so no shot was possible on this ram either. So we waited.

Now, a real sheep hunter would have only been happy with the highest scoring ram. But I am actually a deer hunter who has been lucky enough to draw an occasional sheep tag. My Idaho ram was six and a half years old and has heavy bases but tapers out to the tips. My Nevada ram was seven and a half years old and is fairly light horned throughout. I really liked the prospect of taking this past-his-prime ten and a half year old ram with great mass on the lower part of his curl. I guess this is what they mean by the trophy being in the eye of the hunter.

Anyway, the big eight and a half year old ram finally stood up and showed a little bit of his shoulder from behind the tree. I got settled in behind the rifle and was waiting for him to take one step forward. I wasn't sure how much the ten to thirty m.p.h. wind would cause my bullet to drift left toward the tree and the big ram's paunch, so I wanted to have more of the body exposed. But he just turned around and went back behind the tree without ever exposing enough for me to feel comfortable taking the shot. So we waited some more.

Finally another pretty nice ram got up and went over to mess with the ten and a half year old ram. This got the older ram up and in the open for a broadside shot. I settled in behind the rifle again and when it went off the old ram went tumbling down the steep hill. The ram was everything I had hoped for.

On the drive home I called Mike, who lives in Montana and who had been with me on the first trip, to tell him the news. When he asked me how big the ram was I hesitated a moment. A number didn't do this old ram or this hunt justice. I replied, "Big enough!"

As usual, there were lots of people that were helpful in my pursuit for this ram. Some of the tag holders from previous seasons like Jim Smith from Gillette were very helpful, as were several wildlife biologists including Martin Hicks who really went out of his way to help. Thank you.



## Plenty in Store for our 2004 Fundraiser on June 5<sup>th</sup>

The agenda is set, donations are coming in and we're almost ready for our annual fundraiser and by now, Wyoming FNAWS members should have received their announcements.

Activities kick off Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at the Lander Community Center in Lander, Wyoming in the morning with our third life member breakfast. This event is for life members only and reservations are required. The board/general membership meeting follows at 9 a.m. Agenda items include board and officer elections and funding request approvals.

The afternoon will offer a series of seminars, including a bighorn sheep hunter orientation (by invitation only), an update on bighorn sheep hunt areas 1-5, field judging trophy rams, noxious weeds in bighorn sheep country, a Wyoming FNAWS project update and informal visits with WY FNAWS board members and Wyoming G&F personnel on sheep hunt areas and opportunities. A special event for women is also being planned and vendor booths will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The evening will begin with a complimentary wine and cheese party, a cash bar for happy hour and pre-banquet games. A prime rib and shrimp dinner will be served starting at 6:30 p.m., followed by some fantastic items to bid on during our live auction, including caribou, chamois and goat hunts, optics, artwork and much, much more. Attendees can also look forward to some terrific items on our silent auction and raffles.

Banquet prices are \$40 per person, \$60 per couple and \$20 for children under 12. Raffle tickets are \$20 per sheet (which includes 6 raffle tickets) or \$100 for six sheets (a total of 36 raffle tickets—a \$5 savings). Please send your reservation and payment to: Wyoming FNAWS, P.O. Box 845, Dubois, WY 82513. Reservations and payments received by May 18<sup>th</sup> will be eligible for our early bird drawing for \$100 auction credit.

A very limited number of rooms are available at a special rate at the Pronghorn Lodge for \$50 per night for a single bed; \$59 for two beds (307-332-3940) and the Best Western Inn at Lander for \$65.95 for one person; \$75.95 for two people per night (307-332-2847). Make your reservations by May 18<sup>th</sup> and mention Wyoming FNAWS to receive the special rate.

Call (307) 455-2094 or e-mail [info@wyomingfnaaws.org](mailto:info@wyomingfnaaws.org) with questions or for more information. Don't miss out—it promises to be a great time while helping to preserve our bighorn sheep!

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## 'Bring Your Own [Iron] Horse' Weekend

Just a reminder: the dates for the Wyoming Chapter's annual BYOH weekend are August 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

For the past 7 summers, chapter members have participated in horse/pack trips into various bighorn sheep hunt areas to familiarize themselves with management issues and opportunities for Wyoming's wild sheep. For the 2004 trip, participants will take a look at potential bighorn sheep habitat in the Devils Canyon/Porcupine Creek area in the northern Bighorn Mountains. Instead of packing into the backcountry, participants will be based out of a frontcountry camp site (details being worked on), complete with Friday and Saturday night cookouts. An all-day ATV trip (participants provide their own ATVs) will be taken to look over a potential transplant site.

Check our Web site for more details—put your iron pony in gear and get ready to join us!



## Two Great Hunts for Our 2004 Fundraiser Live Auction!

### Central Canada Barren Ground Caribou Hunt in the Northwest Territories

For the third consecutive year, John and Anita André of Courageous Lake Caribou Camps have fully donated a Central Canada Barren Ground Caribou hunt in the Northwest Territories.

The successful bidder will have a five-day hunt by boat and on foot for two caribou, with two hunters per one guide. Optional wolf and wolverine hunting and lake trout fishing are also offered. Another hunter or non-hunter can be added at additional costs.

The hunter is responsible for transportation to Yellowknife, trophy and license fees and approximately \$500 for round-trip air charter from Yellowknife into camp. Camp accommodations include heated miner-type tents, hearty, home-cooked breakfast and dinner served in camp and lunch on the hunt.

Wyoming FNAWS Board Secretary Lynn Stewart is also fully donating two caribou shoulder wall mounts. He owns Lynn Stewart Taxidermy in Dubois, Wyoming.



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### Hunt Chamois and Goat with New Zealand Mountain Hunting Limited

Gary Herbert of New Zealand Mountain Hunting Limited has donated a five-day hunt for Alpine Chamois and Goat. Hunts can take place from a modern hunting lodge or from a spike camp at approximately 5,000'.

This is a spot-and-stalk-type hunt with one guide and one hunter. The successful bidder will receive five days of hunting for one Alpine Chamois and one Goat. Trophy fees are included. The hunt can be taken between March 1<sup>st</sup> through August 1<sup>st</sup> in either 2004 or 2005.

The following items are not included and the successful bidder will be responsible for: round-trip airfare from the U.S. to Queensland, New Zealand, approximately \$600 for air charter into the Alpine hunt area, fleshing and salting of cape and shipping to the U.S.

For an additional cost, Tahr, Red Stag, Fallow Deer, Wapiti and Boar can be added. More information is available online at [www.nzhuntingsafaris.com](http://www.nzhuntingsafaris.com) or by e-mailing Gary Herbert at [gherbert@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gherbert@xtra.co.nz)



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

### A Beauty of an Elk

Wyoming FNAWS President Cole Benton, owner of Grizzly Outfitters in Buffalo, shares this story of an outstanding elk hunt.

We watched this bull in the early fall of 2003 and hoped we could find him later. Frank Echevaria, the winner of the Wyoming FNAWS Commissioners License raffle, was to hunt with us, but became ill and had to cancel. Ron Toste of Fresno, Calif. had a license for this area. Along with his friend Leroy Pimentel, we harvested this bull October 20<sup>th</sup>. The bull scored 338 Boone & Crockett.



I'm sorry Frank couldn't use this Commissioners License for this elk.

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### A Dream Come True in Mexico

Wyoming FNAWS Board Member Dave Steger, who is also life member #3, harvested a nice desert ram and mule deer on a recent hunt in Mexico. Here's what he had to say.

Maci and I ventured to the Sonora State in Mexico in January for the ultimate sheep hunt. On arrival, we only had the rifle and started to hunt with borrowed shells, boots and clothes. We hunted the Pico Johnson Range of the Sierra Madre Mountains near the Coast of Mexico. I harvested a dream 160 Desert Bighorn with Sierra Grande Adventures.

The rock climbing was as steep as it gets, but the climbing in 60 degree weather with no snow makes for one hell of an enjoyable hunt. We also harvested a beautiful 170-class mulie and caught a boat load of fish along the coast.

The country is magnificent and it was quite an adventure all the way around. Thanks to Les Ezell of Sierra Grande Adventures—the trip will be long cherished. What a rush!



## ‘Rookie’ Ron Mamot Gets His Ram

I’ve been a Wyoming FNAWS member for less than a year. I joined after drawing a sheep permit for the 2003 season and then receiving an invitation to attend the summer conference. I’m 57 and have been trying for 34 years to draw another sheep permit. I drew one in 1969 that I didn’t fill. I figured if it took me as long to draw another permit, I would be 91 years old!

With that in mind and permit in hand, I headed for the summer conference. I have been hunting for 43 years, but soon after arriving for the conference, I felt like a fish out of water. I knew that I had to be the only person there who hadn’t hunted sheep all over North America or the rest of the world. I wasn’t even working on filling the last slot of a grand slam. And didn’t even have a Stone or Dall hunt booked for the future. I felt that the nametags that had been issued at the door should have had “Rookie” stamped on them! (When my wife Laura and I had gotten into the buffalo business and attended our first and only national bison association conference, they did have nametags that said you were a first-timer, which made for conversations at a different level.)

I had heard that a 160 or better sheep was good, yet I had no idea how to determine that while looking at a sheep several hundred yards away, even though I have photographed a lot of sheep. At that meeting, I met some interesting people and quickly realized how dedicated they were not only to sheep, but to the well-being of wild sheep in general. The number of red shirts that were roaming the conference were enough to make you think there couldn’t have been a warden in the field anywhere that day. And they all knew everything there was to know about sheep! The whole thing was very impressive as well as intimidating. I quietly left the conference before someone realized there had been a mistake and an ordinary guy like me had received a permit and they wanted it back. Seven years ago when I drew a mountain goat permit, a license and regulations arrived in the mail and that was the end of it. My wife and I hunted on our own and harvested a goat. The whole experience seemed no different than drawing a limited quota deer or elk permit. Sheep people are a different breed!

I received my initial packhorse experience from Rollie Brown, who was a great sheep outfitter out of Dubois. I’ve enjoyed helping on several self-guided sheep hunts. We had seen sheep while we were hunting goats and had an idea where we might start. But since we have gotten the buffalo business and I still work a full-time job, it has gotten harder to get away for any extended time. After a lot of persuading from everybody, I talked to, including my wife, I consented to looking into a guided hunt. Problem was, I had no idea where to start. It felt like my best bet would be to close my eyes and pick a name out of a hat. I had met a couple of outfitters at the conference, but at that time, was still thinking of doing it on my own. The first outfit I had received a brochure from after getting my permit was Crandell Creek Outfitters. I contacted a couple of references they listed and got good reports from them. By the time I got around to calling, they were booked for the month of September. We set up a hunt for the first week in October—that way, Laura could hunt elk while I looked for sheep.

I swear the month of September was the longest one ever recorded in history. I tried everything to keep my mind off the idea that I had only missed opening day of sheep season as well as the first half of the only season I was ever going to see! I’ve heard since that Laura thought the month was a lot longer for her than it was for me. When the time finally came to leave for the hunt, we enjoyed the drive up remembering the trips we had made into the eastern part of the area when we were looking for goats. We spent the evening talking to the Fischers, going over details of the hunt, filling out forms and looking at photos of the successful sheep hunts they had while we had been waiting at home!

The next day, it was just hard to stay out of the way as they organized, saddled and packed the horses. On every pack trip we had even made, it was always Laura and I who were doing the work. Once we were in the saddle and heading into country that was new to us, all the fears and doubts I had while we were waiting quickly faded. We were into a new adventure! The Fischers and their crew are an enjoyable bunch to be with and in camp, the meals, accommodations and hospitality were all first class. The father/son team of Mickie & Corey Fischer know their business and run a good outfit. Corey got Laura on a 6-point bull and her permit was filled as the sun came over the ridge opening morning. Two days later, after an exciting stalk, my dream came true when I got up to my 169-point ram. It is easy to see how sheep can get in your blood. They are magnificent animals and live in some exciting and beautiful country.



## Wyoming Governor’s License Funded Projects

By statute, the Wyoming governor is authorized to annually issue 5 sheep, 5 moose, and 10 elk/deer/antelope licenses. Beginning in 2003, Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal authorized the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of Wyoming to work with, and through, a coalition of conservation groups to auction or raffle these licenses. The Wyoming Governor’s Big Game License Coalition includes the Wyoming Chapter of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, national FNAWS, the North American Moose Foundation, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and the Mule Deer Foundation.

In 2003, a specific process was established to direct the proceeds from the auction/raffle of these licenses, to support Wyoming’s wildlife. The seller retains 10% for their stated mission and the big game species their organization is dedicated to, 10% goes to the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of Wyoming, 10% goes into an “All Wildlife” account, and 70% goes into dedicated accounts for bighorn sheep, moose, elk, and deer. In 2003, these licenses generated over \$340,000 for Wyoming’s wildlife; 21 different projects, focusing on a variety of wildlife species, were funded in 2003. In 2003, over \$75,000 was committed to 9 bighorn sheep projects in Wyoming.

On April 13, 2004, the Wyoming Governor’s Big Game License Coalition met in Casper to select projects to be funded with proceeds from the 2004 Governor’s complimentary licenses. The 2004 governor’s licenses generated over \$393,000 in total revenue. Applicants from around the state submitted 39 project proposals for funding; 29 projects received full or partial funding. Specific to bighorn sheep, 11 projects were submitted and 10 projects were funded for a total of \$98,775.

The Wyoming Chapter of FNAWS has played a pivotal role in this successful program. According to Wyoming FNAWS President Cole Benton, “The conservation groups involved with the Governor’s Big Game License Coalition want to acknowledge and thank Governor Freudenthal for his vision, his commitment to Wyoming’s wildlife, and his leadership.” Benton said, “Many of the projects to benefit Wyoming’s wildlife would not have been possible without Governor Freudenthal’s action; sportsmen and women from Wyoming, and the nation, thank the Governor for what he’s done for our wildlife.”

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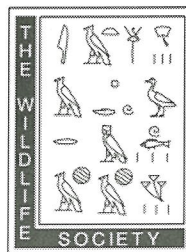
## Wyoming Governor Draws Sheep License Raffle Winner

Congratulations to Richard L. French, II, the winner of the Wyoming Chapter’s first Governor’s Sheep License Raffle! Rick lives in Wasilla, Alaska and will be making the trip to Wyoming for his sheep hunt this upcoming season.

Governor Dave Freudenthal, pictured here second from left, drew the winner on April 19<sup>th</sup> in Casper. Pictured with Gov. Freudenthal are, from left, WGFD Liaison Kevin Hurley, WY FNAWS V.P. Dirk Edgeington, WY FNAWS President Cole Benton and Board Member Bob Sundeen, who oversaw the raffle. The Wyoming Chapter thanks Governor Freudenthal for his outstanding support, and thanks everyone who purchased tickets for this special drawing.







## THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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12 April 2004

Cole Benton, President  
Wyoming Chapter, FNA WS  
1230 Norma Drive  
Buffalo, WY 82834

Dear Mr. Benton:

It is a pleasure to inform you that The Wildlife Society has selected the Wyoming Chapter, Foundation for North American Wild Sheep as the 2004 recipient of our prestigious Group Achievement Award. Congratulations!

The formal announcement and presentation of the award will be during our Award Ceremony, 19 September 2004 in Calgary, Alberta, at The Wildlife Society's 11th Annual Conference. I am providing you with this advance notice in hope that you, or your designee, may arrange to be present with us to receive the award and be recognized by your colleagues and peers. Although the award carries no honorarium or travel assistance, it is our professional recognition of the outstanding work being done by the Wyoming Chapter, Foundation for North American Wild Sheep.

I would appreciate hearing from you at your earliest convenience as to the possibility of you being with us in Calgary to receive the award. I would also like to request 2 or 3 color photographs (electronic files preferred) that we can display as the award is announced (I would like one of these to be your logo or newsletter, and the other(s) can be of a group event, the officers, etc. --your choice). If you can provide electronic pictures, they should be sent to my secretary, Yanin Walker, at [yanin@wildlife.org](mailto:yanin@wildlife.org).

Congratulations once again. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Harry E. Hodgdon  
Executive Director

# HUNT REPORTS

## Life Member R. Mark LeFavre's Hunt for the 'Little Big Ram'

This hunt begins on day five of my Arizona Desert Sheep hunt. The morning dawned with a cool breeze, I was treated to another beautiful sunrise, the air was still and clear; a great day for glassing sheep. I was fortunate enough to share my hunt with Chris Harlow and Tyson Hatch, my guides from Dry Creek Outfitters. Both of these men are excellent guides and have an uncanny ability to find sheep. Being able to learn how to glass for Desert Sheep and learn from them was a real treat.

Around 9 a.m., Tyson spotted two rams feeding up on a dark malapai rocky ridge. The big ram was a beautiful chocolate color—turned up on the ends; and seemed to be holding his mass well. The other ram was a little better than  $\frac{3}{4}$  curl with a sandy color. We watched them through our binoculars and spotting scopes as they fed across the top of the ridge and bedded in a small patch of Palo Verde trees. Tyson said that the big ram was definitely a shooter. He believed it to be a class four ram. After talking it over, we all believed the ram to be in the mid 160s. We had Chris stay back to watch the rams while Tyson and I made the stalk in closer.

The hunt was on!! I was really enjoying this day, as it was so clear and sunny with hardly a wisp of wind. We were making a great stalk on a ram and it seemed to go just right.

This country is a big change from my home in southwest Wyoming. Once while were quietly slipping up through the creek bed in and around the cactus and Palo Verde trees in the bottom. Tyson asked if I was getting excited yet. I told him that I was just soaking it all in and when we got closer, I would really get excited.

As we were stalking in on the big ram, he was real edgy. He jumped to his feet once and Chris thought he had winded us. Then he seemed to settle down and went over and bedded down again. Tyson said that just getting as shot at this ram was going to be a real challenge. After clearing the last ridge between us and where the rams were bedded down, we sat and got ready to shoot. Tyson ranged the shot at 356 yards uphill. An hour and half later, around 11:15, the younger ram stood up and started to feed over the edge of the ridge that they were bedded behind, out in our view.

It seemed to be an eternity while we waited to see the big ram. He finally showed himself at the edge of the Palo Verde trees. But he stopped, only showing the top half of his brisket and straight on. He then backed up into the trees where we could not see him. I thought I had missed my chance! It took awhile, but he walked around the other side and started to feed down the slope to us. He paused two or three times, almost long enough for me to get steady, then moved. Chris was watching all this, getting all wound up and wondering why we hadn't shot yet. The ram finally turned and offered me a good broadside shot.

You see, the story does not end here, it only gets better!!! While walking up to my ram, I was thinking what a great day it was, and how nice it was to take a sheep here on the dark malapai rocky ridge. When I got up to the ram, I was so awestruck with his dark chocolate coat and his beautiful heavy yellow horns. It was then that we discovered that the ram we had just taken was small in body and seemed to have large feet. The ram that I had just taken was a dwarf ram. Well proportioned to his body, but small for a normal ram.

**Not always does the tape measure truly tell the tale of the trophy.** Each and every animal is a true trophy in its own way—special to everyone who has participated in the hunt. Yes, I thought he was a much larger ram than he was; we all did. My ram, when scored at Kingman G&F office, scored in at 149-7/8 gross. Of course, I had as we all do, hopes of that Boone & Crockett ram. Maybe another hunt, another time. But I am truly happy with him. He is a great ram in his own right.

My ram is indeed a four class ram and 10 years old. What an honorable and special animal. He truly is and will always be for me, my **Little Big Ram**, the majestic and tough animal that he is. I am very proud to have taken such a rare animal who was at the last end of his life span. It has truly been for me a once in a lifetime hunt, for a once in a lifetime trophy!!! I am honored to have had the opportunity to hunt with Chris and Tyson, my new and very good friends. Perhaps I will be able to hunt with them again. I sure hope so; they just don't come any better.

Chris Harlow spoke about how he always thinks of what a hard life those sheep have in the desert, and how tough this ram's life must have been. Chris is a true sportsman who cares for the animals he hunts with a compassion few men have. You know, I wonder how my ram's life must have been and what he must have seen and done. It is a special honor for me to have been able to come to Arizona and hunt these Desert Sheep.

Since my hunt, several people have asked me how my ram scored. My reply to them is, does it really matter?

I would like to thank my wife and best friend, Carla and my children, Haley and Hunter for all the support and love that I needed from home, as well as my friends and family. Thank you to Tim Mercier and the crew at Dry Creek for putting together a great hunt for me. Thanks also to the Arizona Game and Fish Department for all their help.

Hunting is our heritage, one that we will hand down to the next generation. Take a child hunting with you, enjoying the hunt for the challenge of the hunt itself, teach them to be responsible stewards of the land and the fish and wildlife that we have.

