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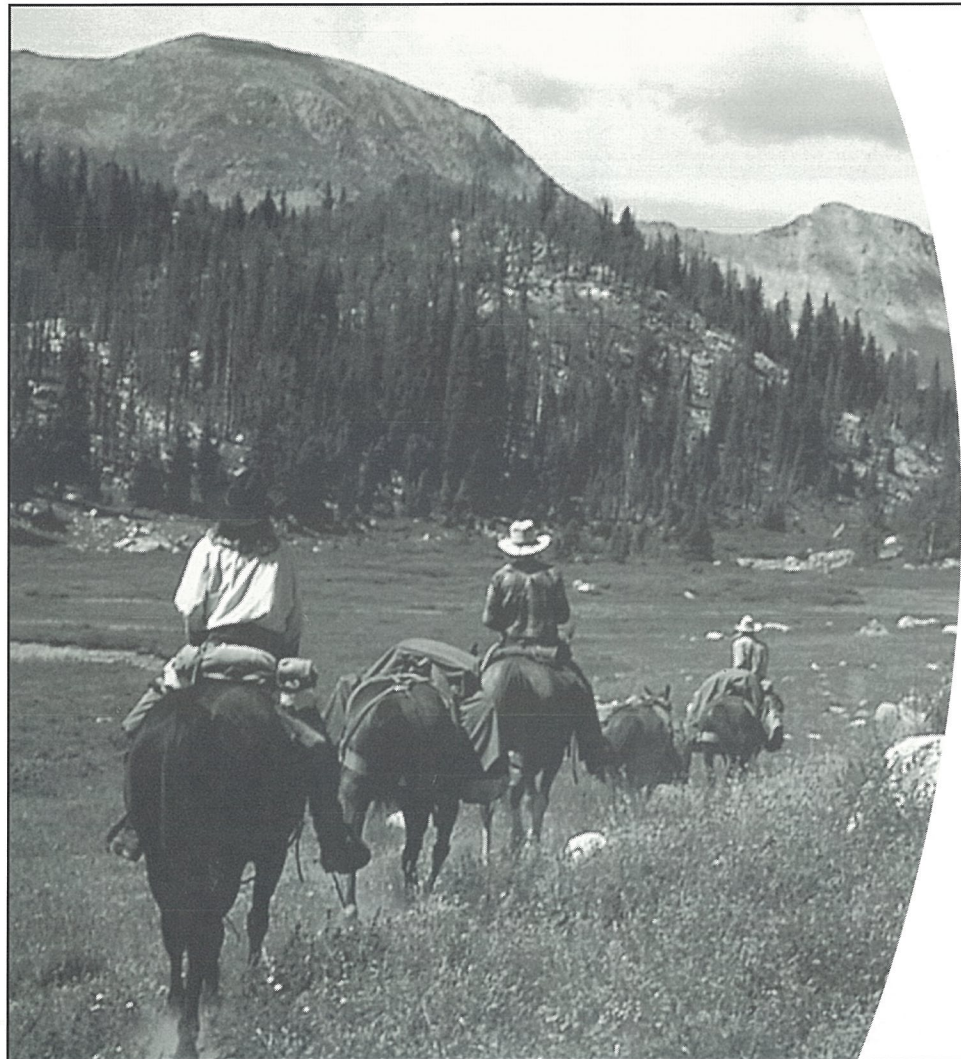
The RAMPAGE

Wyoming Chapter FNAWS

SPRING 2005



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

WYOMING CHAPTER FNAWS

The RAMPAGE Magazine

ADVERTISING RATES PER ISSUE	
FULL PAGE	\$180.00
1/2 PAGE	\$100.00
1/4 PAGE	\$ 55.00
1/8 PAGE	\$ 35.00

**PLEASE SEND COPY WITH YOUR CHECK TO
WY FNAWS MAGAZINE
P.O. Box 845, Dubois, WY 82513**

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

____ Renewal ____ New Member ____ Life Member Email: _____

Name _____ Telephone # _____

Address _____ State _____ Zip _____

City _____

*Make checks payable to:
Wyoming Chapter of F.N.A.W.S.
P.O. Box 845, Dubois, WY 82513*

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

Wyoming Chapter Foundation for North American Wild Sheep

*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 _____

Address _____ City _____

Zip Code _____ Phone Number _____

E-Mail Address _____



Membership Application

720 Allen Ave., Cody, WY 82414
 Phone: 307-527-6261 • Fax: 307-527-7117
 www.fnaws.org • knieters@fnaws.org

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renew or join for one year \$45.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Renew or join for 3 years \$120.00
<i>\$15.00 savings</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> FamilyMember - \$80.00
<input type="checkbox"/> International Member - \$100.00
<i>(non-North American)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Company Member - \$200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Junior Member - \$10.00 - for ages 4-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> Upgrading or becoming a Life Member: \$1000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ages 59-64: \$750.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ages 65 & over: \$500.00
<i>(Please send photocopy of proof of age such as driver's license.)</i>
Life Payment Plan:
<input type="checkbox"/> 10 months @ \$100.00 per month
<input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly Payments of \$250.00 |
|--|---|

YES: As a part of my membership, here is my additional contribution to go to FNAWS, which is entirely tax deductible.

- \$20.00
 \$50.00
 \$100.00
 Other

Check here if you are an outfitter

Check here if you are an artist



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip: _____

Office Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

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My check is enclosed for \$ _____ U.S. Funds

Please bill my: Visa MasterCard Discover

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Thank You

President's Message

According to the calendar, spring is here. With these storms, one behind the other—mostly snow—the temperatures say it's still winter. We've picked up more moisture in the month of April that we've seen in a long time. Every low place has water in it and a pair of ducks. It has been years since the wildlife has been able to move around freely without the concern of a drink. This moisture sure gives us humans a change of attitude, also. We're actually having a bright green spring, just like the "good old days."

Speaking of a bright outlook for the future, April 13th was the third meeting of the Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition. Thanks to Governor Freudenthal's 20 complimentary big game licenses, we were able to fund \$266,000 in on-the-ground projects for Wyoming's wildlife. According to Mo Brown, Executive Director of the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of Wyoming, the coalition topped the \$1 million mark in gross receipts since its beginning in 2003. Almost 100% of all the projects funded in the past three years for our wildlife would never have happened if it wasn't for our governor's love of Wyoming and its wildlife. We're looking forward to another banner year in 2006 for projects funded.

April 19th was the drawing for the Wyoming Chapter's Governor's Sheep License Raffle. (See more about this in below.) Through a lot of hard work and wonderful support of all of you, we made \$46,600 off this one license to put back on the ground here for bighorn sheep projects.

We've moved into May with a few short weeks left before the Wyoming Chapter's fundraiser in Sheridan on June 4th. Don't forget, Wyoming Game and Fish Commissioner Linda Fleming's license that we are raffling. Remaining tickets will be sold on June 4th and the 10 winners will be drawn that evening by Commissioner Fleming.

Wyoming Chapter FNAWS has taken on the largest projects ever this year. We on the board would like to thank all of you for your support and for believing in our goals. Until next time, have a green and wet summer.

Cole

And the Winner is...

Congratulations to Bill Trapp of Daniel, Wyoming, the winner of the Wyoming Chapter's Governor's Sheep License Raffle!

The drawing took place April 19th at the Governor's Tourism and Hospitality Conference at the Parkway Plaza Hotel in Casper. Governor Dave Freudenthal, originally scheduled to conduct the drawing, was unable to do so when his airplane experienced mechanical difficulties. Natrona County Wyoming Game and Fish Commissioner Jerry Galles drew the winning raffle ticket in the governor's stead in front of an enthusiastic crowd of 200-300 people.



A total of \$46,600 was raised in this year's raffle sales. The Wyoming Chapter extends its deepest thanks to Governor Freudenthal for his generosity and to everyone who purchased tickets to support the Chapter's efforts for wild sheep.



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# 4	Don Schmalz	#69	Ron Elkin	#134	Allan A. Holland
# 5	Harry Whyel	#70	Tom Spawn	#135	Ron Crispin
# 6	Freddie Goetz	#71	Bruce John Thompson	#136	Wayne Jones
# 7	Gene Hardy	#72	Robert Sherd	#137	Gary Keene
# 8	Hale Kreycik	#73	Larry Brannian	#138	Jim Verplancke
# 9	Dr. R. D. Keeler	#74	Dan Gay	#139	Opey Hlavnicka
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#11	Mike Martin	#76	Scott Bushnell	#141	Ken Metzler
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#59	Wayne Suda	#124	Lenore Smith	#189	Mike Pilch
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#65	Randall K. Edgeington	#130	Al Benton		

Log on to www.wyomingfnaws.org!

Visit us often at www.wyomingfnaws.org for project updates, the latest news, links and contact information, upcoming events, membership renewals and sign-ups and more.

**Account Balances of the Wyoming Chapter
Foundation for North American Wild Sheep
As of April 29, 2005**

BANK ACCOUNTS:

First National Bank, Buffalo, WY	\$ 3,637.92
Certificate of Deposit U. S. Bank	100,000.00
U. S. Bank Checking	75,828.04
Linsco Money Market Account	85,310.97
Wells Fargo Buiness Account	4,874.91
U. S. Bank Life Member Account	62,333.38

Total Bank Accounts **\$331,985.22**

LIABILITY ACCOUNTS:

2005 Convention Expenses	\$ 20,000.00
Area 1 Sheep Collar project	10,000.00
Bessmer Bend Fire Sign project	1,000.00
Big Horn Sheep Center	1,000.00
Devil's Canyon Sheep Transplant	11,587.50
Devil's Canyon Predator Control	3,000.00
Jim Mountain/ Boardman Allotment Buy out	35,000.00
Life Member Account	61,698.98
Whiskey Mountain Predator Control 2	3,000.00
Whiskey Mountain Predator Control	12,438.50
Reward Fund	5,000.00
Richeau Hills Prescribed Burn	10,000.00
Whiskey Mountain Habitat Improvement	10,000.00
Wind River Sign Project	17.51
Wyoming Game and Fish Fund	9,641.14
Wyoming Range Allotment	125,990.00

Total Liability Account **\$319,643.63**

OVERALL TOTAL **\$ 12,341.59**

Governor's Big Game License Sales top \$1 Million

Proceeds from the sale of Gov. Dave Freudenthal's big game licenses recently topped \$1 million, the bulk of which has been put to work for Wyoming's wildlife resources.

By statute, the governor can receive up to 20 complimentary licenses each year. Since he took office in 2003, Freudenthal has turned his big game licenses over to the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of Wyoming to administer on behalf of the Governor's Office and the Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition (WGBGLC).

Proceeds from the sales go toward Wyoming wildlife and habitat projects through an efficient and controlled process, one that is accountable to both hunting and conservation communities. In 2003, the governor's licenses raised \$325,000; in 2004, \$399,390; and, so far this year, \$319,500.

The coalition has approved a total of 71 projects, nearly 40 of which have already been completed. Examples of projects approved include awareness campaigns, riparian habitat restoration and population monitoring efforts. In the first three years of the WGBGLC, there have been a total of 18 bighorn sheep projects receiving funding from the WGBGLC bighorn sheep account, for a total of \$237,925.

"The sale of these licenses seemed like the perfect opportunity to turn around and put resources back into Wyoming's wildlife," Freudenthal said. "We have all grown up able to enjoy the wildlife and habitat that help make this state what it is; I want future generations to have that same chance."

For further information about the program, including how to apply for funding, contact Marlene "Mo" Brown at the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of Wyoming at 307.777.4529.

Total Count of Projects Submitted	Sheep Proj. #	Moose Proj. #	Elk Proj. #	Deer Proj. #	AW Proj. #	Total Count
20	5	5	9	8	9	36
Project Name	Sheep	Moose	Elk	Deer	All Wildlife	Total
Audobon Bird Monitoring					\$2,150.00	\$2,150.00
Bats of Wyoming Poster and Publication					\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00
Bates Creek Watershed Restoration			\$10,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$22,500.00
Beaver-Using Beaver to Restore Riparian Habitats on the Bighorn National Forest		\$1,300.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	\$4,900.00
Clear/Crazy Route Closure			\$2,500.00			\$2,500.00
Devil's Canyon Bighorn Sheep Supplemental Transplant	\$68,000.00					\$68,000.00
Expo-Wyoming Hunting and Fishing Heritage	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$10,000.00
Ferret-Black-footed Ferret Anesthesia Equipment					\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Gooseberry Watershed Enhancement Project				\$7,500.00		\$7,500.00
Hansen Conservation Easement			\$2,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$6,000.00
Jackson Habitat Use and Population Dynamics of Shira's Moose in Northwest Wy		\$15,000.00				\$15,000.00
JHWF-Enhanced Power Line Markers to Prevent Loss to Trumpeter Swans					\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Jim Mountain Allotment Complex Waiver	\$15,000.00		\$10,000.00			\$25,000.00
Lake Desmet Conservation District Diversion Rehabilitation					\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Laramie Range Prescribed Burns				\$5,000.00		\$5,000.00
Red Rim Elk Seasonal Movements Study			\$1,000.00			\$1,000.00
Sagebrush Restoration Pilot Project-Johnson County				\$2,500.00		\$2,500.00
Sheep Center-National Bighorn Sheep Int. Center Exhibit Pres and Upgrade	\$6,000.00					\$6,000.00
Snowy Range Moose Habitat Ecology and Carrying Capacity Est.		\$15,000.00				\$15,000.00
Sunshine-Dick Creek Grazing Management Phase II			\$6,500.00			\$6,500.00
WRAC-Wy Range Allotment Complex Domestic Sheep Allotment Waiver Phase II	\$20,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$3,200.00	\$48,200.00
Total Amount Requested	\$111,000.00	\$38,300.00	\$45,000.00	\$38,800.00	\$33,150.00	\$266,250.00

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Devil's Canyon Transplant

Tom Easterly, WGFD Wildlife Biologist, Greybull

On December 4, 2004, 20 bighorn sheep from the lower Deschutes River in Oregon were released near Devil's Canyon on the northwest corner of the Bighorn Mountains. That day was the beginning of an experiment that took over a year to prepare for and many years of anticipation.

Ever since a proposed transplant into the Sweetwater Rocks in central Wyoming was cancelled, wildlife biologists have been looking for a place to try a new approach at establishing new bighorn sheep herds. All but two previous attempts at establishing new sheep populations in Wyoming were done using bighorns from Whiskey Mountain, near Dubois. These were migratory sheep, well adapted to spending summer on lush alpine meadows. Most bighorn release sites, however, had been low-elevation, dry canyons with a high percentage of sagebrush in the habitat. This new approach would take bighorns from low elevation, brush-covered habitat to fill similar habitats.

Devil's Canyon was chosen as the site for this experiment. The area is 90% public land, no domestic sheep were within 10 air miles, and had a small population of bighorns that were in need of a boost. This herd was begun in 1973 with sheep transplanted from Whiskey Mountain, when 39 bighorns were released on the south side of Devil's Canyon. There was some mortality documented soon after the release. Some sheep moved down Devil's Canyon, crossed Yellowtail Reservoir, and helped establish a population on Big Horn Canyon National Recreation Area. A few crossed Devil's Canyon to the north and established a small population. For the last 30 years, this herd never expanded; between 30-50 sheep were estimated to be present in 2004.

Since Wyoming did not have any bighorn sheep populations using low-elevation canyons that had sheep to spare, another source herd had to be found. Several states have low-elevation bighorn sheep populations: North and South Dakota, Montana, Oregon, and Nevada, to name a few. Oregon had been trapping and transplanting bighorn sheep for several years to help control their populations. These sheep seemed perfect for Wyoming. These herds tended to be non-migratory and lived in grass-sagebrush habitats. Biologists in Wyoming contacted their counterparts in Oregon; Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) was willing to assist with Wyoming's transplant experiment by providing bighorns.

Following months of intensive planning and with much fanfare, the December 2004 transplant came off without a hitch. Bighorns were captured by crews in Oregon and placed in specially-adapted horse trailers ("Ewe Hauls"). After an 800-mile road trip and a helicopter ride to the release site, the "Oregon bighorns" became "Wyoming bighorns." New members of the herd consisted of 14 ewes, 3 lambs and 3 young rams.

All 20 sheep were fitted with either a radio-collar or a radio-ear tag, so their movements and habitat use could be monitored. Flights are being done on a regular basis to relocate all the sheep. Additionally, the 12 radio-collars are equipped with a GPS unit and store-on-board technology. Collars are programmed to drop off the animals in a couple years. After recovering each collar, location data will be downloaded to the computer. Geographic Information System (GIS) software will be used to match locations with habitat types. Each radio was also equipped with a mortality sensor. If the radio remained motionless long enough, the signal would change so biologists monitoring them would know something was not right.

Fortunately, most of the new Wyoming sheep survived this mild winter. After release, they scattered into Devil's Canyon. By the next relocation flight, most of the new sheep had regrouped and many were mixing with bighorns from the original population.

A couple of the new bighorns were not so lucky. Within two weeks of release, the oldest ram (2½ years) wandered about 10 miles west of the release site. He tried to cross the Bighorn River, but apparently could not navigate across the ice; he broke through the ice and subsequently drowned. The radio collar was tracked to the river, but could not be retrieved safely. Now that ice has melted, plans are underway to "fish" out the collar and carcass. A ram lamb fell prey to a cat (mountain lion or bobcat). The last of the bad news came in early March 2005. During a flight, one of the ewe collars was indicating the mortality signal. When biologists went in on the ground to determine cause of death, however, there was some good news. The collar malfunctioned and dropped off the ewe much earlier than expected. This ewe is still alive, but there will be no way to monitor her movements or lambing success.

Biologists will continue monitoring new bighorns and the existing population. Lambing season is just around the corner. Twelve of the 14 ewes from Oregon were confirmed pregnant at the time of capture. Bighorn sheep in Oregon's lower Deschutes herd typically lamb in mid- to late- April, while Wyoming bighorns lamb in late May to early June. Biologists are interested to see if the new bighorns continue this cycle in their new home in future years.

Original plans were to transplant sheep into Devil's Canyon on two consecutive years. Early this spring, Wyoming will again contact Oregon biologists to determine availability of sheep. Habitat use by the new sheep will be compared to habitats used by the pre-existing herd. Movements, survival, and reproduction will also be monitored. Our hope is to have not only a huntable population, but also one that can serve as a source herd for transplants to other low-elevation, dry, canyon habitats throughout Wyoming and other states. And so, the experiment continues.

Wyoming FNAWS was instrumental in getting this transplant accomplished. All bighorn sheep enthusiasts thank WY FNAWS for their support, financially and otherwise!

H U N T R E P O R T S

Bart Kroger is All Smiles

As you can tell, I'm all smiles after harvesting this ram last fall in area 5. After hunting for 10 days with several family members and friends, and looking over 130 rams, I finally pulled the trigger on this guy. Although the thrill of killing such a magnificent animal is overwhelming itself, the experience of hunting in some of the most spectacular wild sheep country in the world and being able to share it with family and friends is by far the most overwhelming.

"Sheep Hunting Among Family and Friends"

by Bart Kroger

Family and friends shared in the excitement of this hunt,
even a 65 year old father who never elected to punt.

My brother never passes on opportunities to reap,
even on my previous hunts, for moose, goat, bison and now my second sheep!

Numerous hunting buddies contributed and played vital roles,
as for most sheep hunts, they can take a heavy toil.

Laughs, liquor and landscapes were shared among family and friends,
giving our minds and souls a good cleansing mend.

Opening day found us with no plan at hand,
so we kept on searching across this magnificent land.

Watching 15 grizzlies feeding within the talus at first light,
lessened our urge to take a leak in the middle of the night.

Piney and Pickett held many mature rams,
but none were to the liking of this old ham.

Cuddled on the top of Dundee in the darkness of night,
only to find another hunter come first morning light.

A two-mile stalk was made with determination and bold,
what the hell, their only 2 and 3 year olds.

Chief Mountain was known, so it was worth a look-see,
however the only good ram there had been shot in the knee.

The top of Carter held a glimmer of hope,

I even found the local warden's old spotting scope.

The head of Deer Creek was a playful maternity ward,
so I said a hopeful prayer to the almighty sheep Lord.

We hunted new country not knowing where he'll be,
but as the light began to fade we saw him duck behind a tree.

The next day found us searching for this vanishing sheep,
close to an old hunting camp, that had treasures to keep.

We searched high and low, but he was never found,
we waited till dark, then fell asleep on the ground.

After a week of rest, we were ready to go again,
after seeing 130 rams, I decided it was either me or him.

This time we found him among the white-bark pine cones,
his horns were like truck tires, so we named him Bridgestone.

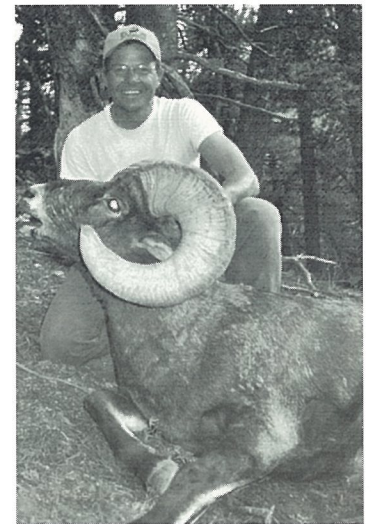
We played hide and seek for most of the day,
but I soon grew tired of this, it was time for him to pay.

A great stalk was made, not more than 200 yards,
at the report on my rifle, this magnificent ram played his last card.

As we trudge down the mountain, our packs heavy with sheep,

I reflect on the memories, I will always keep.

This sheep hunt will never have a final end,
because it was shared among family and friends.



Wild Sheep and Wild Fire

Bart Kroger

Wildlife Biologist, WGFD, Worland

As part of a cooperative funding project between WY FNAWS and the Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition, on April 19, 2005, three interpretive signs were placed within the Wind River Canyon south of Thermopolis.

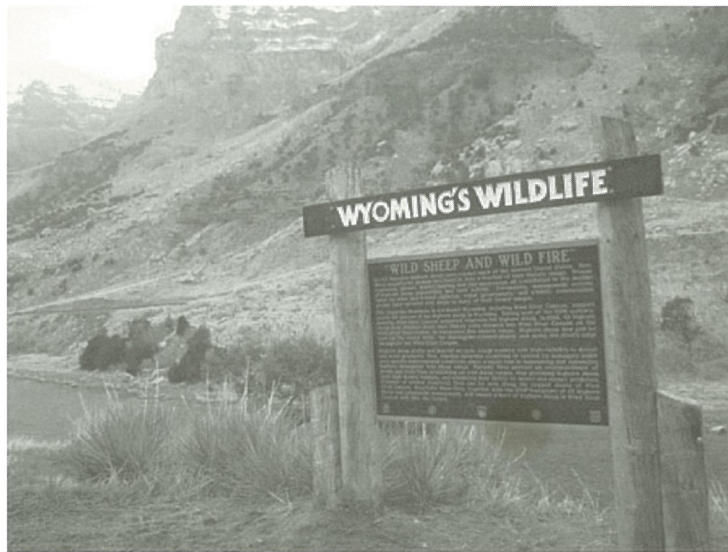
Wind River Canyon is an ideal location for these signs titled "Wild Sheep and Wild Fire." The signs give the reader a historical and present day perspective of bighorn sheep management, as well as the ecological relation between bighorn sheep and fire in northwest Wyoming. In 1995, 43 bighorn sheep were released in Wind River Canyon, and in recent years, the canyon has experienced several wildfires, which have improved the sheep habitat. Wind River Canyon is also a primary thoroughfare for visitors and travelers in and out of the Bighorn Basin. Thus, the signs should help ensure the public gets a good educational taste of bighorn sheep, their ecological needs, and the biology of Wind River Canyon. The signs were placed at the Wedding of the Waters public fishing area, at a large pullout about one mile upstream from the Wolf Creek Store, and at the Boysen Dam overlook. The entire project was a cooperative effort between the Wind River Indian Reservation Tribal Fish and Game Department, Wyoming Chapter FNAWS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition, Wyoming Department of Transportation, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. The Wyoming Department of Transportation volunteered their heavy equipment and crew to install the signs.

"Wild Sheep and Wild Fire"

Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep once roamed much of the western United States. Now, these magnificent animals are found in only a fraction of their historic range. Human expansion, disease, market hunting and fire suppression all contributed to the decline of bighorn sheep populations and their habitat. Fortunately, management actions taken by state and federal agencies, tribal governments, and wildlife conservation groups have restored wild sheep to many of their former ranges.

The Absaroka Mountains in northwest Wyoming, including Wind River Canyon, support nearly 80 percent of the bighorn sheep in Wyoming. During most of the 20th century, however, Wind River Canyon supported relatively few bighorn sheep. In 1995, 43 bighorn sheep from Whiskey Basin near Dubois were released into Wind River Canyon on the Wind River Reservation, to repopulate this historic range. Bighorn sheep now can be seen on the rocky cliffs, the bunchgrass-covered slopes, and along the river's edge throughout the Wind River Canyon.

Bighorn sheep prefer and depend on open, rough country with high-visibility to detect and avoid predators. Fire, whether naturally occurring or ignited by managers under very specific environmental conditions, plays a major role in maintaining and enhancing habitats throughout wild sheep range. Periodic fires prevent an overabundance of shrubs and trees from establishing on wild sheep ranges, thus providing bighorn sheep open high quality habitats, and enhancing their ability to detect and escape predators. Evidence of several beneficial fires can be seen along the rugged slopes of Wind River Canyon. Hopefully, these fires, together with the 1995 transplant of 43 bighorn sheep and subsequent management, will ensure a herd of bighorn sheep in Wind River Canyon well into the future.



Jim Mountain Allotment Complex Waiver, North Fork Shoshone River

Kevin Hurley

WGFD Cody Region Wildlife Management Coordinator

In early May 2005, on behalf of multiple conservation partners, the Wyoming Chapter of FNAWS issued payment to Shoshone National Forest livestock permittee Russ Boardman for waiving his grazing allotment permit (for cattle), without preference, back to the U.S. Forest Service. This allotment complex (totaling 16,616 acres, 500 AUMs) is located in crucial bighorn sheep, elk, and mule deer winter range near Jim Mountain, on the Wapiti Ranger District of the Shoshone National Forest, in the heart of bighorn sheep Area 2. In addition to the USFS allotments, Mr. Boardman's will voluntarily relinquish two small adjacent BLM grazing leases, authorizing ~50 AUMs.

As with several other livestock allotment retirements in Wyoming negotiated by Wyoming FNAWS, suitable alternative forage (replacement AUMs) on private land was cooperatively located by project proponents and the permittee; Mr. Boardman's livestock operation will continue, and in fact, will be enhanced via the private-land forage base secured for his use.

Bighorn sheep, elk, and mule deer will all benefit from this project, which guarantees forage availability on public lands that cannot be subdivided. As you may know, the Wapiti Valley has experienced significant encroachment with subdivisions, second homes, and other development on crucial foothill and valley-bottom, big game winter ranges. This project specifically addresses, and partially mitigates, some of the habitat values and crucial winter range losses which have occurred in the last decade or more. Also, this proactive approach eliminates the possibility of grizzly bear and/or wolf depredation on cattle on these USFS/BLM allotments.

Of particular note is how the U.S. Forest Service intends to manage this 16,000+-acre allotment. In ground-breaking fashion for the Shoshone NF, it is the USFS's written intent to manage this allotment as a "wildlife winter-range emphasis" complex, to maximize quality and quantity of forage for big game. This allotment will not be closed to livestock grazing. This allotment will not be issued under any term permit to an existing operator. Rather, an inter-agency, interdisciplinary steering committee (comprised of USFS, WGFD, BLM, adjacent private landowner, former grazing permittee, and conservation NGO groups [e.g., WY-FNAWS, RMEF] will determine if, and when, high-intensity, short-duration cattle grazing is occasionally needed, to improve forage quality and quantity for wintering big game. That would be the only way any cattle grazing would occur on this allotment. In advance of the Shoshone Forest Plan revision, this is an extremely important alternative for the USFS to test and evaluate.

This project has a strong multiple-use approach, a willing and very cooperative permittee who we worked with closely to line up replacement AUMs and complete all necessary paperwork, cooperative agency efforts, and an economically-based incentive. According to Wyoming FNAWS Past President Jim Collins, "this is another great example of a win-win solution, whereby wildlife and a livestock operator both come out ahead."

Funding for this project came from Wyoming FNAWS, Minnesota/Wisconsin FNAWS, the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of Wyoming, Grand Slam Club/Ovis, Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition (WGBGLC) Bighorn Sheep account, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, WGBGLC Elk account, and the National Wildlife Federation. Our thanks to all our partners for their support, to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Shoshone NF, and Cody BLM for their cooperation, and to Russ Boardman for his interest in wildlife and willingness to pursue this resolution to a long-standing situation.

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All the Angles

Jim Collins

WY FNAWS Past President

Direct funding from your Wyoming Chapter FNAWS to address declining bighorn numbers in the Whiskey Mountain herd has exceeded \$133,000 from 1997 through 2004. Include monies from all our funding partners, NGOs and government agencies, and the dollars expended are staggering. Projects have covered all the angles that could be causing this herd's reduction, including habitat, nutrition, domestic/bighorn co-mingling concerns, bighorn movement, health monitoring and predator concerns.

Results? At best, we are hoping that the corner has been turned; herd numbers appear to have stabilized, lamb numbers are in the high 20s per 100 ewes for the second year. The unusual summer migration to low-elevation salt/mineral licks has slowed or ended due to mineral/salt block supplements. Predation is down because of the coyote control effort. Last year showed some relief from the long-term drought.

Where are we going now? The Wyoming Chapter, along with our funding partner Minnesota/Wisconsin FNAWS, has approved funding for Year 3 of coyote control, and a request is being prepared to submit to Animal Damage Management Board (ADMB) for their consideration. A project to spray 570 acres to reduce mat-forming forbs on winter range has been approved by the Wyoming Chapter and the National Bighorn Sheep Center, with funds applied for from the Rocky Mountain Bighorn Society in Colorado. Work has begun on planning and funding an archaeological assessment, to conform to NEPA, in preparation of range pitting on the winter unit. Reseeding and fertilization of the Trail Lake meadows has been done by WGFD, and the Wyoming Chapter helped purchase gated irrigation pipe for WGFD to install and do a better job of irrigating those meadows. The Shoshone National Forest has recently conducted prescribed burns on Sheep Ridge and Torrey Rim.

The Wyoming Chapter will continue to do its best to cover "All The Angles" to help the Whiskey Mountain bighorn herd recover.

Wyoming FNAWS wishes to acknowledge and thank the Sheridan attorney **Tony Wendtland**. He has stepped up pro bono to support our Chapter on numerous occasions helping with contracts & legal advice. Thank you for your generous donations to the Wyoming Chapter!



From left to right, Luke, Adam and Dave

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Wyoming FNAWS 2005 Annual Meeting and Fundraiser

June 4th - Sheridan Holiday Inn

1809 Sugarland Drive, Sheridan Wyoming

7:15 to 8:45 a.m.	Life Member Breakfast (Life members only; reservations required by May 18th)
9 a.m. to Noon	Board /General Membership /Business Meeting (including funding requests and election of board members and officers)
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.	Vendor Booths Open
TBD	Women's Lunch and Event
Noon to 12:50 p.m.	Lunch Break
1:00 to 2:00 p.m.	"Devils Canyon Bighorn Sheep Transplant Update" – Tom Easterly, WGFD
2:00 to 3:00 p.m.	"Hunting Bighorn Sheep in Grizzly Country" – Dennie Hammer & Brian DeBolt, WGFD
3:00 to 4:00 p.m.	Wyoming FNAWS Project Update – Cole Benton, WY FNAWS & Kevin Hurley, WGFD Photo Judging
4:00 to 5:00 p.m.	Complimentary Wine, Vegetable and Cheese Party
5:00 to 6:30 p.m.	Happy Hour (Cash Bar)
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.	Prime Rib and Shrimp Dinner
8:00 to 11:00 p.m.	Fundraiser Auction

Banquet prices are \$45 per person, \$65 per couple and \$20 for children under 12. For more information, visit us online at www.wyomingfnaaws.org, e-mail info@wyomingfnaaws.org or call 307-455-2094.

Wyoming Commissioners License Raffle Tickets Still Available

Tickets are \$100 each. Limited to 300 tickets.

- 1st Prize: 2005 Wyoming Commissioner License
- 2nd Prize: 7 Day Caribbean Cruise
- 3rd Prize: 270 Remington 700 SS 300 Ultra Mag
- 4th Prize: Winchester Model 70 Classic 300 WSM
- 5th Prize: Tikka Model 695 Stainless 30-06
- 6th Prize: Zeiss 10 x 30 Binoculars
- 7th Prize: Zeiss 3-9 40 mm Rifle Scope
- 8th Prize: Brunton 10 x 42 Eterna Binoculars
- 9th Prize: Cannon A80 Digital Camera
- 10th Prize: \$300 Cabela's Gift Certificate

The drawing will be held June 4, 2005 at the Wyoming FNAWS Annual Fundraiser Banquet in Sheridan, Wyoming. For tickets, mail your check to Bob Sundeen, P.O. Box 111, Buffalo, WY 82834.

Commissioners Licenses are good for elk or deer or antelope in Wyoming. Purchase of regular license required. Winners are responsible for all applicable licenses and taxes. WY FNAWS Board Members are eligible to participate in all fund raising activities.