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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 Grant-In-Aid request form is available on the Wyoming FNAWS Web site at [www.wyomingfnaws.org](http://www.wyomingfnaws.org) and on Page 12 of this newsletter. The mailing address is Wyoming FNAWS, P.O. Box 845, Dubois, WY 82513

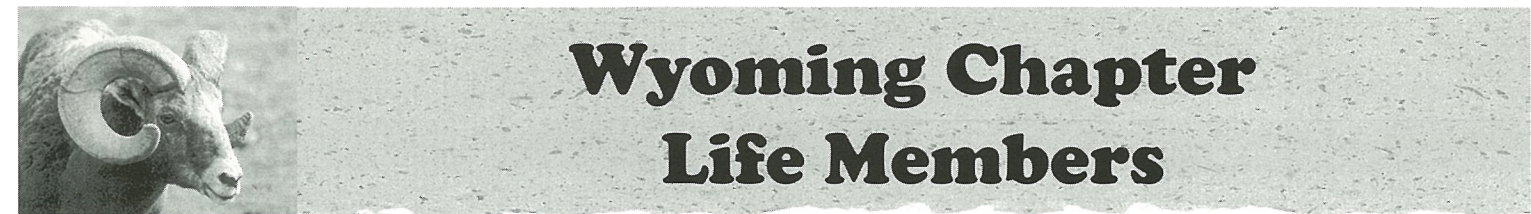
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WY FNAWS Name Tags have proven to be a popular item at our life member breakfasts and we've received many requests, so they are now available for sale. The name tags are \$10 each. Life members who order them will have their life member designation 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



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# President's Message

The thrill of victory, or the agony of defeat. Once again the year long wait is over and the excitement of this special time of year is upon sheep hunters both in state and out of state. Wyoming's 2006 bighorn sheep draw is out. For some, it's been many year's of patience. For others who have been more fortunate, their "checking the mail box" "ended years ago, and they have a beautiful Wyoming bighorn on the wall to show for it. Each year, there are a few special names that those of us in the sheep world are hoping we'll see pop up on the "successful" list.

Being fortunate enough to being involved with Wyoming FNAWS, those of us on the Board know when the draw has been completed and when it will be publicized. Two names were very important for me to check immediately, Russell Green and my son Tyler. Tyler has been applying since he was 14 and will be turning 26 his month. Sorry, we won't be hunting sheep together this year. I'll let the Game & Fish make that notification. The second person I needed to know about is Russell Green. Russ is more than just a neighbor and dear friend. His father, Glenn Green, started me sheep hunting and helped me take my first bighorn many years ago on Pilot Creek in Wyoming's Hunt Area 1. Because of Glen, I am one sheep away from a Grand Slam today. With this passion for sheep that started with me on that first hunt, I in turn have helped many hunters put that first ram on the wall.

What a surprise – after 39 years of applying, Russell has an Area 5 sheep tag. I immediately called Russ and let him know. The telephone lines on Powder River haven't quit buzzing. You'll see an update on this hunt in your winter Rampage. I am quite sure Wyoming has given up a ram for the Green family wall.

The business at hand right now is getting ready for the 2006 fundraiser to be held June 10 in Sheridan at the Holiday Inn. Hundreds of volunteer hours will be spent before this event is completed. Not only is this a chance to raise money for our bighorn sheep, but all business must be taken care of. There will be GIAs, the election of three board members, and many decisions to be made. This is where we need you, our membership, to help us out. So in ending, please join us in Sheridan to help keep this Chapter a leading role in decision making for Wyoming's bighorn sheep. See you there.

Cole D. Benton  
President

P.S. Congratulations to all of you that drew a tag this year and good luck on your hunt. For those of you who did not draw, don't give up. Russ didn't, and it took him 39 years.



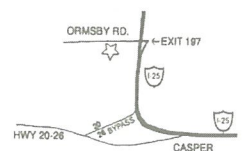
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## WY FNAWS Supports Statewide Fire Signage Effort

By Ryan Amundson, Wyoming Game & Fish Department

In 2005–2006, WY FNAWS teamed up with the Wyoming Game & Fish Department and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to develop eight information/education signs that will be distributed throughout the state. The signs all have a similar message: “Fire, whether wild or prescribed, can be a good thing for wildlife”.

The large metal, colored signs will be located along roadside turnouts / parking areas, where tourists and local residents alike can be reminded of the benefits to wildlife that are associated with fire.

“The message that Smokey the Bear sent out for years has adversely affected wildlife habitats in many areas, particularly in bighorn sheep ranges,” said WY FNAWS Past President Jim Collins, “Fire is absolutely necessary to maintain high quality forages and open areas for sheep to inhabit. Snuffing out every naturally caused fire has put us in a tough position, drastically changing the natural fire cycles of the West. Many wild sheep ranges have shrunk in size due to conifer encroachment into traditionally occupied habitats. We need to improve the public’s perceptions and attitudes about fire and gain their broad support for re-introducing wild and prescribed fire back into these systems.”

The wording on the signs is unique to each individual location, and all describe a recent fire event, reminding the reader of the positive changes in habitat conditions that have occurred at the site.

Sign locations include the Laramie Range, South Fork of the Shoshone River near Cody, Whiskey Mountain, and Rock Creek in southwest Wyoming. Similar signs were completed and installed last year in Wind River Canyon south of Thermopolis and Coal Mountain near Casper.

“We have to continue to inform and educate all members of the public about the importance of habitat and the role that fire plays in molding and shaping the landscape for wildlife. Bighorn sheep are a very sensitive wildlife specie, with very specific habitat requirements. Failure to fulfill their basic habitat needs, including open areas for foraging and escape cover, will result in further declines in wild sheep populations in occupied habitats,” stated Collins.

In addition to habitat enhancements, research, and sheep trapping and transplant efforts, dollars raised by WY FNAWS are used for projects including informational / educational efforts such as signs, sponsorship of Stop Poaching rewards, and contributions to the annual Hunting and Fishing Heritage Expo held in Casper.

### Account Balances Report 2 - As of 4/28/2006

Account	Balance	Liability Accounts	
Bank Accounts		2006 Convention Expenses	-20,000.00
		Area 1 sheep collar project	-3,959.50
Buffalo Raffle	12,582.52	BH Sheep Center	-2,900.00
CHECKING	61,335.41	Cheat grass- Wild Fire	-3,750.02
Vincent - MMA	87,728.23	Devil Canyon Transplant	-16,533.00
WELLS FARGO BUSINESS ACCOUNT	6,967.97	Devil’s Canyon Predator control	-3,000.00
<u>WY FNAWS LIFE MEMBER ACCT</u>	<u>69,303.16</u>	Devil’s Canyon Ram Collar	-3,766.00
<b>TOTAL Bank Accounts</b>	<b>237,917.29</b>	Ellis Donation	-27,200.00
		Fire Education Signs	-700
Cash Accounts		Life Member	-67,968.98
Petty Cash	0	Predator control	-3,000.00
TOTAL Cash Accounts	0	Reward Fund	-5,000.00
		Richeau Hills Prescribed Burn	-5,000.00
		Triple Peak Allotment	-500
		Whiskey Mtn Habitat Improvement	-4,649.25
		Whiskey Mtn Predator Ctrl	-7,960.00
		WY G & F	-8,250.95
		WY G & F 1 4 Circle Ranch	-5,000.00
		Wyoming Range allotment buy out	0
		<u>TOTAL Liability Accounts</u>	<u>189,137.70</u>
		<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>48,779.59</b>

## Whiskey Mountain Bighorn Sheep Predator Control Project

*This report is a final report of the Whiskey Mountain Bighorn Sheep Predator Control Project. This project was funded by the Wyoming Chapter of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, (Wyoming FNAWS) and the Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board (ADMB).*

Whiskey Mountain bighorns have been a crown jewel for Wyoming’s wildlife for over 50 years. This sheep herd has been the source for trap/transplant activity and herd establishment throughout Wyoming and 5 other western states. No sheep have been available for transplant since 1995, due to poor herd performance and low recruitment.

This high profile bighorn herd is one of Dubois, Wyoming’s main tourist draws. The National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Center was located in Dubois to highlight this herd, and is successful in tours, bighorn education and public outreach, using Whiskey Mountain Bighorn Sheep herd as its focus. With a population estimated at over 1,450, the Whiskey Mountain bighorn sheep herd unit suffered a die-off in 1991, 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 and Fish Department (WGFD) and the interagency Whiskey Mountain Bighorn Sheep Technical Committee (WMBSTC), proposing “The Whiskey Mountain Lamb Survival Study” to determine why lamb ratios were not rebounding. Wyoming Chapter FNAWS, along with other non-government organizations (NGOs) were asked to help fund this study.

For the next four years, the Wyoming Chapter stepped up to cover the lion’s 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 Wyoming FNAWS, WGFD, and the WMBSTC have been held in an attempt to get our arms around this lamb recruitment problem. This herd is aging and lamb survival ratios remain in the single digits per 100 ewes. The herd unit objective remains at 1,350, with the herd’s population estimated at less than half that and declining.

Over the last four years, the Wyoming Chapter negotiated two USFS domestic sheep allotment waivers in the southern Wind River Mountains, across the Continental Divide from areas 9 and 10, spending nearly \$50,000 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, Wyoming FNAWS started considering ways to address the possibility that this bighorn herd could be in a “predator pit scenario.” Reviewing historical literature of bighorn sheep, several authors noted a recurring theme of coyote predation. Hass (1989) considered coyote predation to be a major cause of mortality of bighorn sheep lambs on the Bison Range National Wildlife Refuge in Montana. Fairaizl (1980) wrote that coyote predation was the major cause of death in transplanted sheep herds in North Dakota. Pertinent to this particular herd, Thorns (1979) believed coyotes were the greatest identified cause of natural mortality in his three-year study. Hebert and Harrison (1988) believed predation by coyotes was a major source of lamb mortality in British Columbia, and that predator control was responsible for significant increases in ewe-to-lamb ratios.

The Wyoming Chapter began pushing to improve lamb survival at Whiskey Basin by removal of a portion of the offending coyotes preying on this herd. In spring 2002, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services (WS) was contacted for a cost estimate to conduct coyote control on lands used by the Whiskey Mountain Bighorn Sheep herd. Beginning in 2003, Wyoming FNAWS and the Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board funded a coyote control project to enhance production on the Whiskey Mountain Bighorn Sheep herd as a partial solution to relieve the “predator pit” problem and raise lamb survival, once again giving this historically important bighorn herd a chance to rebound.

The methods used to take the coyotes were traps, calling, decoy dogs, and fixed-wing aircraft. All recovered coyotes’ stomach contents were examined and were found to contain 100% big game – either bighorn sheep or deer – no rodents or anything else were found. Wildlife Services Supervisor Merrill Nelson noted a comment from pilot Ted Jensen: “To find coyotes, all we have to do is find sheep and the coyotes will be near.” From the very start of the project, our goal was to work on the offending coyotes that live near these sheep herds, not just the number of coyotes taken. In 2004, we also had the airplane crew work the north side of the highway focusing on the Dennison and Black Mountain sheep wintering areas. Much of that funding came from the Dubois Outfitters Association, Sportsmen For Wildlife and Casper SCI. Dubois Game Warden Cole Thompson felt there was a great improvement in lamb survival in this area. In the three-year period, a total of 127 coyotes were removed from the Whiskey Mountain/ Dennison Mountain areas. Sixty-eight were taken from Whiskey; 59 were taken from Dennison.

It is also noted that the classification numbers of lamb-to-ewe ratio in the three years of coyote control averaged in the high 20s, doubling the previous 12-year average for the Whiskey Mountain area.

The coyote control is to continue at least one more year on remaining funds from the project.

## Who Should Pay?

By Jim Collins, Past President

- About a century ago, our Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) was mandated the responsibility of managing the approximately 800 species of wildlife found in Wyoming. Only about 100 of these species are hunted or fished; the other 700 are what we term non-game species.
- Wyoming has an estimated 280 sensitive species that could potentially be nominated for threatened or endangered listing.

At present time, WGFD is spending about \$7.5 million (\$7,500,000) annually on non-sportsman related programs such as sensitive species/non-game, energy development mitigation, conservation education, wildlife diseases, unfunded federal mandates, and more. A century ago, no one could foresee the huge issues and expenses that would arise from the non-game species. Should this burden of support be placed on the hunters with their license dollars? With the future looking to explode with these issues, will it even be possible for hunters to pay for these expenses?

The hunters and fishermen of Wyoming are proud of our history of paying for wildlife management through voluntarily excise taxes and license fees. There is great doubt that these funding sources are capable of future needs, and there are strong feelings that they should not! Alternative funding must be found.

WY FNAWS is part of a coalition comprised of eight conservation groups that is planning to ask our legislators to address this problem in the next Legislative session.

What is the answer? This coalition of conservation groups has been meeting to try and address this issue. We have come up with a Purpose Statement:

“To secure a dedicated, politically independent source of revenue sufficient to fund Wyoming Game and Fish Department programs that should not be funded exclusively by sportsmen.”

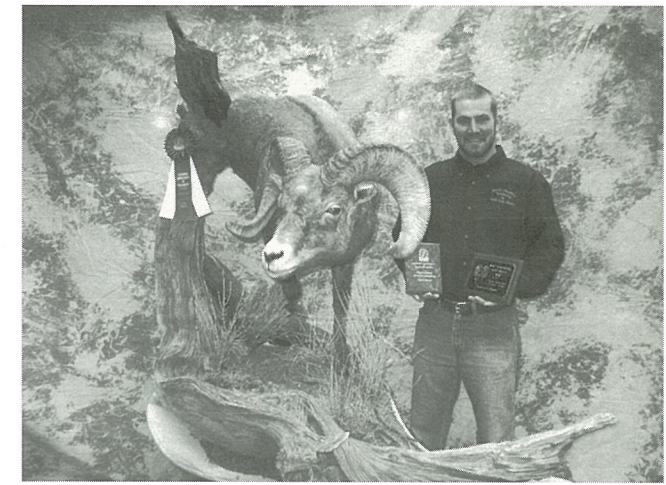
Points to consider:

- Our WGFD is unique in the fact it is governed by a commission that is appointed by the governor. The WGFD director is appointed by the governor as well.
- Our WGFD is funded, for the most part, from license sales and Federal excise taxes. These funds are totally independent of the state’s General Fund and the legislative process. These sources should remain the funds that are used to manage our game species.

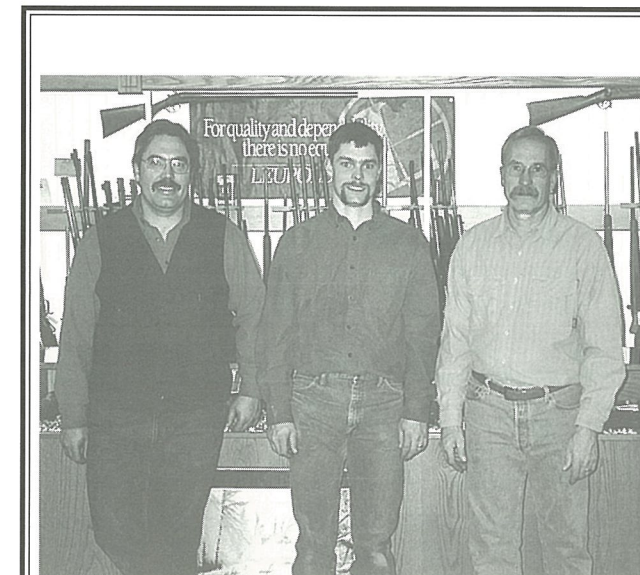
Alternative funding needs to meet some very rigid standards. The funding must come from an independent source with no legislative strings attached. We need an independent commission that is at the head of the WGFD. The funding must be strictly earmarked for non-game issues that are clearly defined. The WGFD must be required to account for these funds uses.

This is a very difficult issue, so please stay tuned in, give us your input and be ready to lobby your representatives for a more equitable way to fund our game and non-game species.

The Wyoming Association of Taxidermy Artists (WATA) held its state convention and show in Cody, Wyoming April 27-30. Joe Hargreave, owner of Windy Mountain Taxidermy in Dubois, Wyoming, was presented the Outstanding Sheep Award, which was donated by Wyoming FNAWS. Joe also won a first place ribbon and the best of category for a shoulder mount in the Professional Division. The trophy sheep was harvested by former Dubois resident Daniel Gustafson.



Past President Jim Collins hunted free ranging aoudad in the Davis Mountains of Texas with Point Blank Hunts, taking two javelina and a good 30+” ram. Jim says it’s a great sheep hunt at low cost in rough country. Look for Joe Jakab’s Point Blank Hunts, European Chamois hunt at the Life Members Breakfast auction in Sheridan!



From left to right, Luke, Adam and Dave

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## A Buffalo Hunt Not Soon to be Forgotten

The first time I saw the buffalo at the Durham Buffalo Ranch between Gillette and Wright, I was 17. I have passed by there several times over the years and always dreamed that some day I would be able to take a big bull from that ranch. At the June 2005 FNAWS Convention in Sheridan, I was the highest bidder on the trophy Buffalo Hunt donated by John Flocchini of The Durham Buffalo Ranch. Kevin Hurley, a biologist for the WGF Department and liaison for the WGF to the Wyoming Chapter FNAWS, contacted John and asked him to donate a hunt to help raise money for WY FNAWS projects. John graciously donated the hunt

I made arrangements with John to hunt my buffalo in December 2005 the day after the Winter FNAWS meeting in Cody. My hunting partner, Denny Claman, and I headed over the mountains to Gillette and then south to the Durham Buffalo Ranch. John, having a previous commitment, wasn't able to meet with us, but instead had Bud Knight, top hand at the ranch, be our guide. Bud took us to an area where I could sight in my rifle, a Ruger #1 300 Weatherby Mag with a Leupold 4x12 scope. My rifle had been sighted in at 300 yards because of a caribou hunt I had been on in September 2005 and felt I needed to drop my sight down to 100 yards because I "knew" that I was not going to have shoot farther than 50 or so yards?

And I "knew" these critters were "like cattle." I "knew" this because in 1989, I shot my first buffalo in a pasture near Lander. That buffalo was standing at 25 yards, when it turned his head, it died as result of a bullet behind its right ear. I "knew" this would be the same.

Bud said there were 7 bulls in a pasture located on the north portion of the ranch. We spotted 6 of them from the highway on south face of a hill side about a half mile way. We drove down a ranch road, went through a gate and parked on the opposite side of the hill from the buffalo. Bud said that he needed to shut the gate or the bulls could get out, which struck me kind of funny after considering at the smallness of the barbed wire and the massive size of the buffalo. After the gate was shut, I got my rifle and put a couple bullets in my pocket so as to shoot my buffalo. Pondering on it for a very short moment, I reached in and got a handful of bullets and also put those in my pocket. Bud asked me what I was looking for in the way of a bull. I told him I that I would like to shoot the meanest, nastiest and toughest bull in the herd. Little did I know then that my wish would come true.

The day was beautiful, the sun was shining. The temperature was in the 40s with a light wind by Wyoming standards and snow was melting in places as Bud, Denny and I headed up the hill toward the buffalo. The wind was hi our favor, but the lack of concealment hurt our approach. The 6 bulls spotted us before I could make a choice of which one to take and they ran off approximately 250+ yards and stopped to watch us from across a draw. I remembered that a half an hour earlier I had changed the scope elevation on my rifle from 300 yards down to 100 yards. I asked Bud if there was a way to get closer. He said "Probably not." So I put the legs down on my bipod, laid down in the wet snow, which in itself was no big thing because this was "going" to be over with in a minute or so. Of the 6 bulls standing, two caught my eye. One was tall and dark. But the other was a little shorter and lighter in color but had heavy hair on his head and chest. He was haired up and lookin' tough. He was the one.

I didn't want to try for an ear shot after changing my scope elevation, so I opted for a shoulder shot. I placed the cross hairs on his right shoulder, pulled the trigger and he dropped straight down. It was all over in less then 10 minutes. My bull was down and like I said earlier, "Just like shooting cattle in a pasture." It almost seemed like a let down being over so quick!

Bud, Denny and I waited while the other bulls milled around their fallen comrade. After 30 minutes, they turned and started off towards the west. My bull, who I thought was pretty much dead, jerked its head, watched his partners leaving, got up and followed them! I have shot moose, elk, deer, antelope and a caribou through the shoulders and none of them got up after being hit that hard! I'm not a bad shot; I shot the caribou at 550 yards, one shot, through the shoulder and it was dead! I knew that I didn't have "buck fever" or jerk the trigger. But my buffalo was walking off! I looked at Bud and Denny, but they just shrugged.

Remember when I said these bulls were in a pasture? The image that may project in one's mind doesn't do justice for the massiveness of the Durham Buffalo Ranch. The "pasture" I was in could easily have contained a small to medium-sized Wyoming town. And my buffalo was moving to the far west corner of that "pasture." I followed. Each time he presented a shot, I would lie down in the snow, take aim and fore. Snow hides cactus! Each time I hit the bull, he would either flinch and trot off or he would turn and face me. When he turned to faced me, the pucker factor increase 10-fold. I also started to notice that my hunting companions were getting farther and farther away from me and there were no trees or boulders or buildings in the area. The only thing that lay between buffalo and me was snow-covered cactus and my bullets were dwindling.

When the battle finally was over and my more than worthy opponent lay dead, my 10-minute hunt had stretched into an hour or so. I was wet and cold. My stomach and legs were peppered with cactus needles and my ego was busted and bruised. There was no joy in this kill. Never have I ever taken an animal with more stamina and brute strength then this buffalo. When Bud and I caped him out, I noted that four of my shots in the shoulder could have been covered by the palm of my hand and none of them penetrated the 14 to 16 inches into a kill spot. The hanging meat weight was 1,100 pounds. I think a large part of that was due to the lead I put into it.

Gary Keene of Ancient Way Taxidermy is doing the mount on this buffalo. I asked him to do a special head mount as a tribute to this buffalo. He said he would and I will submit that picture to the Rampage at a later time.

I would like to thank John Flocchini of the Durham Buffalo Ranch for donation of this buffalo and Bud Knight for his expertise. Also my hunting partner, Denny Claman, for coming along for the ride even though he harassed me all the way back to Farson. I would highly recommend the Durham Buffalo Ranch to anyone interested in taking a buffalo. This is not a corral hunt, nor is it a canned hunt. It's real and run by class people.

Brad Thoren, Life Member #184  
Wyoming FNAWS Board Member



## Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition 2006 Funding

On April 19, 2006, the Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition (WGBGLC) met in Casper to award funding for 2006 projects. Under the Bighorn Sheep account, eleven projects around the state were awarded a total of \$71,638:

Project Name	
Canada Thistle Bio Control, Laramie Range	\$3,000
Clarks Fork BHS/Beartooth Mountain Goat Seismic Monitoring	\$5,000
Clarks Fork Bighorn Sheep Survey	\$4,500
Devil's Canyon BHS Habitat Enhancement Project	\$17,300
Devil's Canyon BHS Transplant, Phase IV	\$10,800
Don't Poach the Powder, Bridger-Teton NF	\$2,000
Lower Gros Ventre Habitat Enhancement Project	\$9,780
Targhee BHS Survey	\$5,000
Triple Peak Forage Reserve, Wyoming Range	\$5,000
Whiskey Basin Range Pitting	\$7,258
Wyoming Hunting & Fishing Heritage EXPO	\$2,000
<b>Total Amount Allocated</b>	<b>\$71,638</b>

## WYOMING BIGHORN SHEEP HARVEST 2005

In 2005, a total of 172 rams were taken in Wyoming by 232 hunters, for a statewide hunter success of 74%. Resident hunter success was 73% (123/169), while non-resident sheep hunter success was 79% (50/63). The table below shows hunter success for each hunt area, by residency status. [Attached table!] For 2006, a total of 232 licenses (174 resident, 58 non-resident) were issued on April 28th in the Wyoming Game & Fish Department's license draw; all 2006 license recipients received a letter and Wyoming FNAWS Convention/Fundraiser flyer from Kevin Hurley, WGFD Liaison to Wyoming FNAWS).

YEAR	HUNT AREA	TOTAL # HUNTERS	TOTAL		RESIDENT		NON-RESIDENT	
			HARVEST	SUCCESS	HARVEST	SUCCESS	HARVEST	SUCCESS
2005	1	15	12	80.0	8/11	72.7	4/4	100.0
2005	2	25	17	68.0	12/19	63.2	5/6	83.3
2005	3 <sup>a</sup>	46	35	76.1	26/34	76.5	9/12	75.0
2005	4 <sup>b</sup>	43	33	76.7	22/31	71.0	11/12	91.7
2005	5 <sup>c</sup>	61	52	85.2	37/43	86.0	15/18	83.3
2005	6	4	0	0.0	1/3	0.0	0/1	0.0
2005	7 <sup>d</sup>	3	1	33.3	0/2	0.0	1/1	100.0
2005	8,23	12	6	50.0	5/9	55.6	1/3	33.3
2005	9	3	3	100.0	2/2	100.0	1/1	100.0
2005	10	8	6	75.0	4/6	66.7	2/2	100.0
2005	19	8	4	50.0	3/6	50.0	1/2	50.0
2005	22	4	3	75.0	3/3	100.0	0/1	0.0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>74.1</b>	<b>123/169</b>	<b>72.8</b>	<b>50/63</b>	<b>79.4</b>

<sup>a</sup> HA 3: 1 successful NR Governor's license (Tyrrell)

<sup>b</sup> HA 4: 1 successful R medical carryover from 2004 (Kinchloe) + 1 successful R Governor's license (Trapp) + 1 successful NR Governor's license (van de Maele)

<sup>c</sup> HA 5: 3 successful NR Governor's licenses (Byler, Dahm, Taylor) -2 R medical carryovers to 2006 (Starkey, Tarbett)

<sup>d</sup> HA 7: 1 R medical carryover to 2006 (Shelda)

## 2006 Fundraiser to be held in Sheridan, Wyoming

It is time to come together to support Wyoming FNAWS and attend the Annual Fundraiser. The fundraiser will be held at the Sheridan Holiday Inn in Sheridan, Wyoming on June 10th.

The annual Life Member breakfast – open to life members only – will be held Saturday, June 10th with raffles, auction and drawings. The general membership meeting, which is open to all members, will begin at 9 a.m. A great variety of events have been scheduled, including a series of 3 seminars to be presented to the Wyoming FNAWS membership and other interested parties on Saturday afternoon:

- 1 to 2 p.m.: “Devils Canyon Bighorn Sheep Transplant Update” – Tom Easterly, WGFD
- 2 to 3 p.m.: “Bighorn Sheep Habitat Management on National Forest Lands in the West”  
- Melanie Woolever, USFS, Denver
- 3 to 4 p.m.: Wyoming FNAWS Project Update – Cole Benton, WY FNAWS & Kevin Hurley, WGFD

Please arrange your schedules to attend these informative seminars!

We will again have a Photo Judging Contest. Please have your photos at the convention by 4 p.m. Contest rules include:

- Unframed photos only
- Matted photos are allowed
- Maximum size: 11” X 14”

Winners will be determined by People’s Choice. First prize will be \$75 auction credit; second prize, \$50 auction credit; and third prize, \$25 auction credit.

A complimentary wine and cheese party will begin at 4 p.m. A great slate of raffles and auction items – silent and live – are lined up. Raffle tickets will be available for the Wyoming Commissioner’s License and nine other great prizes. Happy hour will begin at 5 p.m. with the prime rib banquet dinner to follow at 6:30 p.m. The Live Auction will follow the banquet dinner. Some of the great items lined up for the auction include:

Mountain Goat Hunt ~ Caribou Hunt ~ Several Fishing Trips  
Custom Made Rifle ~ Quality Firearms  
Great Artwork to Include Joshua Spies Prints  
An Original Oil Painting by Barry Dumaw  
Wyoming Commissioners License

Banquet tickets are \$75 for a couple, \$45 for singles and \$20 for children under 12. Send your check made payable to Wyoming FNAWS to P.O. Box 845, Dubois, WY 82513. Questions? Call (307) 455-2094. To make room reservations, call the Sheridan Holiday Inn at (307) 672-8931 and ask for **IN-HOUSE RESERVATIONS** to access the WY FNAWS block of rooms. Reservations for the special rate must be made before May 24th.

Mark your calendar and plan to be in Sheridan on June 10th to help put “Sheep on the Mountain”!

## Hunting is a Family Affair

Being the wife of an avid (and obsessed) hunter, I often get asked how I deal with Curt’s obsession. My answer is easy: I became obsessed right along with him.

Growing up around hunting myself, it was easy to love it as much as Curt. In our 10 years of marriage, I have been fortunate enough to have many opportunities to enjoy hunting and the outdoors with my family. Our honeymoon was probably one of the first. Although it was not a hunting trip, it was a great outdoor experience. We spent the night in a tent right in the middle of grizzly bear country in Yellowstone National Park. I didn’t get much sleep that night, but it was worth it when we got to see a big, beautiful silvertip grizzly feeding the next morning.

There is also my first deer hunt when I looked and walked like I was 7 months pregnant – but I was really only 4 months – with Curt encouraging me, “Come on, hon, just over the next hill.” The next hill was a long ways away, but I did get my deer...so all the waddling was worth it.



I also enjoy going along with Curt on his hunts, just to be a part of it and spend time with him. There are also the numerous times when we have taken our boys – Colter, 7 and Connor, 5 – fishing, prairie dog hunting or canoeing. Whenever possible, we include our boys. My 2005 elk hunt was definitely a family affair because our boys were able to be a part of it. I am sure we have two little hunters in training and they will love it as much as Mom and Dad do.

I would say to any wife who is unsure about joining her husband – give it a try. You may find that it is rewarding for you. I am looking forward to the 2006 hunting season and also preparing for my dream hunt for an Alaskan moose in the near future.

Shanda Shatzer  
Wife of WY FNAWS Board Member Curt Shatzer



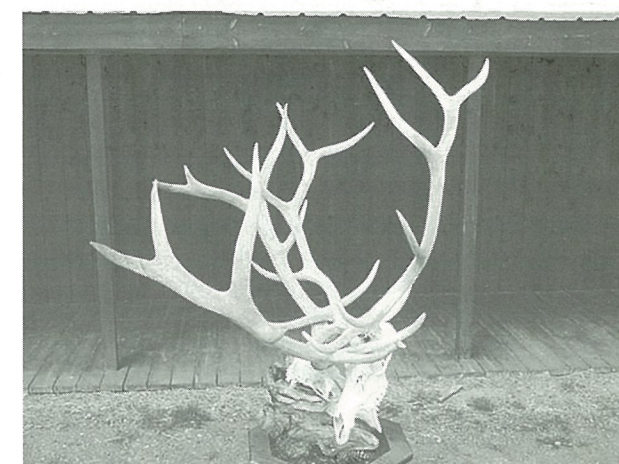
## To the Death

During the fall of 2005, my wife Cathy Keene (life member #155) was lucky enough to draw her third moose tag in the Owl Creek Mountains on the Wind River Indian Reservation. This in itself wasn’t surprising since she has drawn four bighorn sheep tags during the same period. In 2004, she had the hunt of a lifetime by harvesting a 291 5/8 B&C gross mule deer. This feat gave Cathy almost celebrity status for the next year.

The Owl Creek Mountains have a history of exceptional antler and horn growth – most recently Cathy’s 2004 mule deer and from the same fall, Zane Bell, Jr.’s 189 1/8 B&C bighorn sheep. Cathy’s previous moose had both been decent, but not the kind we dream about. This time she set her goals high and we began looking for moose in September, only to find hunting to be slow. Moose numbers appeared to be down, resulting in more and more field time and hours behind the spotting scope.

Mid October found us hunting Sawmill drainage, an area known for producing large bulls. Cathy, with our daughter Kali, posted at the end of a long strip of timber. I began working the timber from the top, more to locate moose sign than anything else. Halfway through the timber, I saw what appeared to be a pile of antlers. I figured I had found someone’s antler stash. As I approached I could see elk skulls; moving even closer, I realize they are locked together. “I don’t believe it!” or some variation of the phrase rolled off my lips. Two mature bull elk locked in a battle to the death.

Not our intended quarry, but that’s what makes hunting so special, you never know what you can find. In the end Cathy didn’t fill her moose tag but ironically I got the trophy.



Gary Keene, Life Member #137  
WY FNAWS Board Member



# HUNT REPORTS

## My Daughter-in-Law Also Hunts

My son Tyler (life member #40) was fortunate enough to be born in a great hunting state and then grow up in a family that hunts. A lifelong resident of Wyoming, he in turn married a girl on February 2, 2002 that was born and raised right here in Buffalo. His wife Jackie (life member #144) also comes from a family that hunts. I have no doubt our grandson Kale will follow suit. Kale will be two this summer so has a while to wait for his first tag, but already joins Mom & Dad on their hunting and fishing excursions.







As Jackie guides for her dad and Tyler has been one of my most outstanding guides since he was old enough to obtain his first guide license, finding time to do much family hunting sometimes can be hard if not impossible. With a 14-day deer and antelope season in the areas we hunt, the night of the 13th found us with all of our hunters finished except one gentleman needing an antelope. This hunter was one I was guiding. Tyler called from his camp and asked if he could take Jackie out and let her possibly get a deer the last day of the season. A deal was struck. Jackie could go hunting, but Grandma gets to keep Kale for the day.

The following morning, Tyler and Jackie headed into some of the rough country that he knows so well. Growing up here and spending a lot of time gathering cattle and guiding hunters in this large area, you would think a person would see most of the deer calling this home. Certainly not so. Some of those good bucks just never show themselves. After some time spent glassing, they spotted 3 bucks together. They put a successful stalk on the group and Jackie was able to take a carefully placed shot. The result was this beautiful 6 x 8 mule that gross scored 185 B&C. This one is going to our taxidermist Tom Entinger and then on the wall. Nice job, Tyler and Jackie!



Cole Benton  
WY FNAWS President

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# Wyoming Chapter Foundation for North American Wild Sheep

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1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE: WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSIONERS  
ELK, DEER, OR PRONGHORN LICENSE

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: 7 Day Caribbean Cruise

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Winchester Rifle Model 70 325 WSM

4<sup>th</sup> Prize: Remington Rifle Model 700 XCR 300 WSM

5<sup>th</sup> Prize: Marlin Rifle 450 Guide Gun

6<sup>th</sup> Prize: Leupold 10X42 Wind River Binoculars

7<sup>th</sup> Prize: Zeiss 3-9X 40mm Rifle Scope

8<sup>th</sup> Prize: Brunton 10X42 Eterna Binoculars

9<sup>th</sup> Prize: Cannon SD400 Digital Camera

10<sup>th</sup> Prize: \$300 Cabela's Gift Certificate

The drawing will be held June 10, 2006 at the Wyoming Chapter FNAWS annual banquet in Sheridan, Wyoming. For more information and for the number of remaining tickets, visit our web site at [wyomingfnaaws.org](http://wyomingfnaaws.org).

For tickets, mail your check to: Bob Sundeen, P.O. Box 111, Buffalo, WY 82834.  
Phone: 307-684-5233

*Commissioners License is good for Elk or Deer or Pronghorn Antelope in Wyoming. Purchase of regular license required. Winners are responsible for all applicable licenses and taxes. WY FNAWS Board of Directors are eligible to participate in all fund raising activities.*

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### Check That Box!

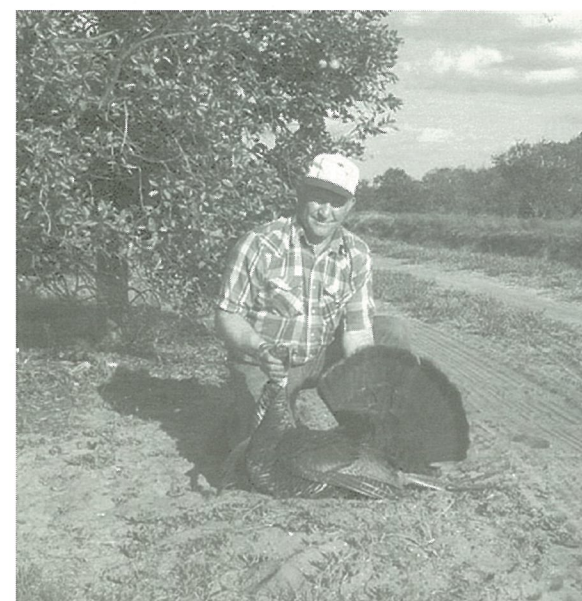
By Jim Collins, Past President

I have been fortunate to have a very good friend, Jack Morgan, who luck would have it resides in Okeechobee Florida. We have hunted Wyoming for mule deer, whitetails, elk, bighorn, and antelope, shot coyotes and all kinds of little critters. We have fished Wyoming, gone on pack trips and enjoyed each other's company in most all the out of doors wildlife recreation that this great state of Wyoming offers. But, as you have guessed, this tale is wrapped around the fish, wildlife and great winter weather that Florida has to entice a Wyoming boy!

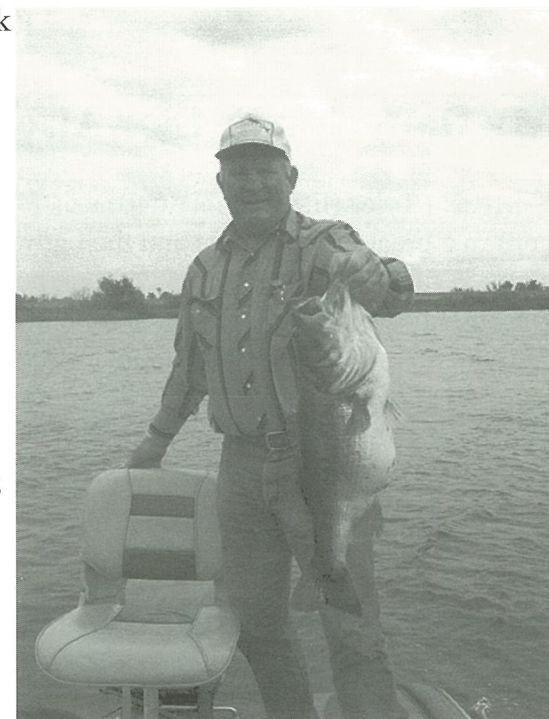
Nearly 25 years ago my wife, Cindy and I made our first trip to Jack's and his bride Bobby's, with an invite to bring a shotgun and help relieve Florida of an over abundance of bobwhite quail. On the trip, Jack introduced me to fishing for large mouth bass with shiners. For this Wyoming cowboy, it was a thrill just watching the bait "work the bobber"; hell, the bait is way bigger than the fish I was used to catching! Lazy stories of 10-pound bass, feral hogs, 10-foot alligator, and occeseola turkeys with 10-inch beards, while fishing on Lake Okeechobee, set the stage for years of fulfilling dreams!

Ranching for a living does not lend its self to long stretches away from chores, but with a short visit on an average of every third year, I pursued dream's of grand trophies. With the draw of a Florida commercial alligator license one of the dreams, a te10-foot gator, was within sight! A grand adventure resulted in the mounted head of an 11-foot, 7-inch, 650+ pound alligator residing at my Wyoming home. Jack commented on our success that we could CHECK THAT BOX!

Numerous trips yielded quail and bass to barbeque and dine on in the warm Florida evenings, But the 10-pound bass, 10-inch beard, and feral hog eluded me. I was beginning to think that a feral hog was to be my nemesis. We baited, hunted with dogs at night, in the daylight, even chased phone rumors of hogs rooting next to the road. The usual, "you should have been here last night, last week" lost its humor. I was not trophy hunting, I would have shot a newborn just to process and bring home to eat. Jack determined that the next trip would bring an end to this. With baiting and lots of home work a big boar was the talk of the trip as we dined on grilled bass and quail, CHECK THAT BOX.



With the raise in taxidermy prices, I wondered if I should quit trophy hunting. However, visiting with Jack last night, we discussed where we should anchor to slay that 12-pound large mouth next trip.



Due to a change in my life this year I was able to visit later during turkey season. While awaiting the start of turkey season, I was totally enjoying the movement of the bobber when an 11-pound, 4 ounce large mouth thrilled me with a great fight. CHECK THAT BOX!

Long hours in the blind with the thrill of turkey calling, and hours of enjoying quiet friendship, resulted in a harvest of a Tom with a 10 7/8 inch beard and 1 1/4 inch spurs. Jack looked at me and frowned saying, "Well, we checked the last box!" Guess there's not much left to come down here for! I quietly answered, "Except the 12-pound bass, the feral hog, the 12-foot alligator, and the occeseola turkeys with a 12-inch beard."

That's why I trophy hunt, not for the right to CHECK THE BOX, but for the chase of the 10 pounder while enjoying Jack, the great country, the grilling of quail, the planning on how we will get the 10 pounder next year and watching the bobber on a clear morning on lake Okeechobee.