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# The RAMPAGE

Wyoming Chapter FNAWS

SPRING 2007



Photo credit Freddie Goetz

## 2006-07 Calendar of Events

June 2, 2007

Wyoming FNAWS 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraiser, Cody, Wyoming

June 21 & 22, 2007

WGFD/WY FNAWS Bighorn Sheep Summit

November 1, 2007

Grant-in-Aid Requests due for consideration at Wyoming FNAWS

2007 Winter Meeting

December 1, 2007

Wyoming FNAWS Winter Meeting  
(location to be announced)

## 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 Nov. 1. Requests for consideration at the summer board/general membership meeting are due no later than May 1. The Grant-In-Aid request form is available on the Wyoming FNAWS Web site at [www.wyomingfnaaws.org](http://www.wyomingfnaaws.org) and on pages 13 and 14 of this newsletter. The mailing address is Wyoming FNAWS, P.O. Box 845, Dubois, WY 82513

### WYOMING CHAPTER FNAWS

# The RAMPAGE Magazine

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#15 Kathy Gay	#75 Ron Lockwood	#135 Ron Crispin	#194 Bryan Berg
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#17 Lud Kroner	#77 Jim Smith	#137 Gary Keene	#196 Cort Feeley
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#21 Craig Pitters	#81 Patrick Zummo	#141 Ken Metzler	#200 Kathy B. Huber
#22 Sam Pancotto	#82 Mike Turek	#142 Gary Lease	#201 Curtis D. Townsend
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#51 Ralph J. Campoli	#111 Roger B. Donahue, Jr.	#171 Tony Spriggs	#230 Gary Butler
#52 John Zenz	#112 Bernard R. Harvey	#172 Mack Miller	#231 Cal O'Neal
#53 Jesse Troutman	#113 Terry Davis	#173 Cody Brown	#232 M. Shawn Nelson
#54 Tom Sauter	#114 Tom Christiansen	#174 Allen Kerkhove	#233 Allen Mooney
#55 Thomas P. Grainger	#115 Dave W. Daigle	#175 Jess Forton	#234 Roger Coguille
#56 Mike Crocker	#116 Keith Dana	#176 Mike Lapeyre	#235 Don South
#57 Dyrk Eddie	#117 John Coulter	#177 William "Butch" Townsend, III	#236 Bill Williams
#58 Bob Kelez	#118 Joseph Konwinski	#178 Mary Ann Patton	#237 Bill Suranyi
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#60 Scott Jankowski	#120 Ron Pomeroy		#239 Justin Poppe

# Foundation for North American Wild Sheep



## Membership Application

720 Allen Ave., Cody, WY 82414  
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- Renew or join for one year \$45.00
- Renew or join for 3 years \$120.00  
\$15.00 savings
- FamilyMember - \$80.00
- International Member - \$100.00  
(non-North American)
- Company Member - \$200.00
- Junior Member - \$10.00 - for ages 4-12
- Upgrading or becoming a Life Member: \$1000.00
  - Ages 59-64: \$750.00
  - Ages 65 & over: \$500.00  
(Please send photocopy of proof of age such as driver's license.)

### Life Payment Plan:

- 10 months @ \$100.00 per month
- 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



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## President's Message

The Wyoming FNAWS annual winter meeting was held Dec. 2, 2006 in Cody. Following National's convention in January held in Salt Lake City, the Wyoming FNAWS board continued its progress toward the Wyoming FNAWS summer convention and membership meeting to be held in Cody, Wyo. at the Cody Auditorium June 2. This will be one of the most important meetings we've held in several years. Of the 11 board members, seven are up for reelection. I have served as your President for six-and-a half years, and believe it is time for a change. We need some new blood with some new ideas for the future. Vice President Bob Sundeen has offered to run for President for the next term. I have worked very closely with him both in WY FNAWS and the hunting world for many years. I would like to ask you for your support of him as you have supported me. As of June 2, there will be three new individuals running for the board. You will have the chance to meet them and hopefully vote for them at the Saturday morning membership meeting. Our entire board is very excited about the involvement of these three new people.

On April 18, 2007 the Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition met in Casper. For any of you who are not aware of this, there are five people on each of the five committees that make the decisions of where the revenue from the 20 Governor's licenses will be used to enhance Wyoming's wildlife. The sheep committee members are Kevin Hurley and Doug McWhirter of the Wyoming Game & Fish Dept., Ray Lee from National FNAWS, and the present and past President of WY FNAWS, who at this time are Jim Collins and me. We approved \$91,750 for bighorn sheep projects. There was a total of \$288,500 approved by all five committees for wildlife projects in Wyoming. We owe Governor Freudenthal a huge debt of gratitude for these licenses. In five years, these licenses have generated over \$2 million. The coalition also needs to be thanked for putting this money to work in the right direction to make sure that all species of wildlife benefit.

There will be a lot of excitement and many things to do on June 2 in Cody. Please join us. We need your support and any input is welcome to ensure that we know that we are leading WY FNAWS in the right direction. Thank you and please support your new Wyoming FNAWS board. I will stay on for two years as your past President.

Cole Benton  
 President



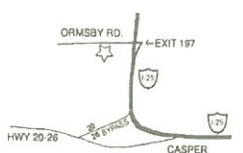
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### It's Convention and Fundraiser Time – Have You Signed Up?

If you haven't signed up for the Wyoming Chapter's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention and Fundraiser in Cody, time is running short! Starting off with a reception hosted by National FNAWS and ending with our fundraiser banquet, this year's event promises to be the best one yet. Take a look at the schedule of events and plan to join us!

#### Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>

- 9 a.m. Board Meeting, Holiday Inn (Including funding requests)
- 7 p.m. Open House/Reception, National FNAWS Headquarters (720 Allen Avenue, Cody)

#### Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>

- 7:15 - 8:45 a.m. Life Member Breakfast, Holiday Inn  
*(Life members only; reservations required by May 22<sup>nd</sup>)*

#### The following Saturday events will be held at the Cody Auditorium

- 9 - 11 a.m. Board /General Membership /Business Meeting  
(funding requests, election of board members & officers)
- 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Vendor Booths Open
- 11:30 - 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break
- Noon - 2 p.m. Ladies Luncheon at the Buffalo Bill Museum, cost \$15 each.  
**RSVP Cindy Collins by May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 307-864-3929.**
- 1 - 1:40 p.m. "Clarks Fork/Beartooth BHS Inter - State Movements Study"  
*Doug McWhirter, WGFD/Shawn Stewart, MTFWP*
- 1:45 - 2:10 p.m. "Wyoming's Absaroka Stronghold: BHS Hunt Areas 1 - 5"  
*Kevin Hurley, Doug McWhirter, Bart Kroger, WGFD*
- 2:15 - 2:30 p.m. "Laramie Peak BHS Transplant" – *Martin Hicks and Ryan A.m.undson, WGFD*
- 2:35 - 2:50 p.m. Wyoming FNAWS Project Update – *Cole Benton, WY FNAWS & Kevin Hurley, WGFD*
- 3 - 3:50 p.m. "Let's Count Sheep: BHS Classification Simulation" – *Ron Lockwood, WGFD*
- 4 - 5 p.m. Complimentary Wine, Vegetable and Cheese Party; Photo Judging
- 5 - 6 p.m. Happy Hour (Cash Bar)
- 6 - 7 p.m. Prime Rib Dinner
- 7:30 - 11 p.m. Fundraiser Auction

#### Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>

- 9 a.m. Board Meeting, Holiday Inn

To make your reservations, complete the reservation form at the bottom of the fundraiser announcement that was mailed mid-April. Or, log on to [www.wyomingfnaws.org](http://www.wyomingfnaws.org) and print the online reservation form. Banquet prices are \$45 per single, \$75 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 \$20 savings). Send your completed reservation form and payment to: **Wyoming FNAWS, P.O. Box 845, Dubois, WY 82513.** Questions? Call Sheri Howe, Wyoming FNAWS Administrative Assistant at 307.455.2094.

### Renew Your Membership Now!

If you've changed your address, please use the membership form below to advise us of the change. You can also e-mail address changes to [info@wyomingfnaws.org](mailto:info@wyomingfnaws.org). 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

If you've changed your address, please use the Membership form below to advise us of the change. You can also email address changes to [info@wyomingfnaws.org](mailto:info@wyomingfnaws.org)

Annual Membership \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00

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

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

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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



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

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# Officers & Board of Directors

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**Dirk Edgeington**

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**Director:**

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## 2007-08 Board to be Elected by Acclamation

There are nine positions open for the Wyoming FNAWS Board of Directors. Two positions are due to recent resignations of current board members Gary Keene and Brad Thoren. The WY FNAWS Election Committee received nine letters of interest from the following candidates:

- Dennis Claman (current Board Treasurer)
- Jim Collins (current Past President)
- Steve Kozisek (WY FNAWS member)
- Curt Shatzer (current Board Member)
- Jim Smith (WY FNAWS life member)
- Lynn Stewart (current Board Secretary)
- Bob Sundeen (current Board V.P.)
- Mike Turek (WY FNAWS life member)
- Jim Wetzel (current Board Member)

Per WY FNAWS bylaws, the remaining board members may elect individuals by a majority vote to fill the unexpired terms of any director who vacates his/her position. Jim Collins and Curt Shatzer have volunteered to fill the remaining one-year terms for the two vacancies that resulted from the resignations and will be formally appointed at the general membership meeting in June. The remaining seven seats will be filled by acclamation by the remaining seven candidates.

## Membership Dues to Change

Effective July 1, 2007, membership dues will increase as follows:

	Current	As of July 1, 2007
■ One-year membership	\$15	\$25
■ Three-year membership	\$40	\$65
■ Life membership:	\$300	\$500

If your membership has expired or if you've been considering becoming a life member of Wyoming FNAWS, now is the time to act! (If there is a \*\* next to your name on the mailing label of this newsletter, your membership has expired.) Complete the membership form on Page 15 and return it to Wyoming FNAWS, P.O. Box 845, Dubois, WY 82513 along with your payment.



From left to right, Luke, Adam and Dave

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## Log on to [www.wyomingfnaws.org](http://www.wyomingfnaws.org)!

Visit us often at [www.wyomingfnaws.org](http://www.wyomingfnaws.org) for our Grant-in-Aid Request Form, project updates, the latest news, links and contact information, upcoming events, membership renewals and sign-ups and more.

Editor's Note: A supplemental bighorn sheep transplant took place January 31<sup>st</sup>. The following report was supplied by Bob Lanka, Wyoming Game & Fish Wildlife Coordinator for the Laramie Region.

## Montana Bighorns Transplanted to Laramie Peak

What began in early September 2006 and took hundreds of hours in planning came to fruition today when 42 Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep from near Plains, Mont. were released on Laramie Peak.

Once captured the sheep were loaded into three trailers specially modified to securely transport wildlife. Our crews left the trap site about 1:30 yesterday afternoon and after a 16-hour drive met those of us who came along to witness the big event in Rock River at 7 a.m. this morning. After about a two-hour drive from Rock River to the release site, the trailer doors were swung open about 9:30 this morning. At first, nothing happened! But after a bit the lure of open space and wind blown ridges enticed the sheep who dashed to their freedom and a new life. This transplant will help diversify the genetics of the Laramie Peak herd and we hope, lead to better lamb production and survival and more sheep on the mountain.

This type of project cannot happen without lots of help from lots of folks. A special thanks to all our funding partners who donated approximately \$100,000 to make this project a reality. These partners included:

- Wyoming FNAWS
- National FNAWS
- Eastern FNAWS
- Iowa FNAWS
- Minnesota/Wisconsin FNAWS
- Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition, Bighorn Sheep Account

Dooley Oil of Laramie donated diesel fuel, a tank and pump unit used by Habitat and Access Personnel to clear drifts so we could all get to the release site. John Dooley made the donation in memory of his father, former Game and Fish Commissioner Kevin Dooley.

A special thanks to our Unit neighbors, the Kennedy family, for their help in allowing us to cross their land in order to get to the release site and their support of wildlife on the WHMA.

Lots of work by several folks from WGFD also was critical to this operation. A career spent developing contacts with bighorn sheep managers and enthusiasts around the nation by Kevin Hurley resulted in almost all the funding used and the right contact in Montana. Thanks Kevin!

Wheatland Wildlife Biologist Martin Hicks performed yeoman work helping make sure all the steps required for this type of work were completed. Martin, Wheatland Game Warden Craig Smith, Wheatland Habitat Extension Biologist Ryan Amundson and Warden Trainee Jon Stephens were the Department crew that went to Montana to help with the trapping and bringing the sheep here. Former Laramie Region PLPW Coordinator Bart Morris jumped back into the mix and volunteered to help with trapping and transporting duties. As you might imagine, lots of hours were spent on this between last Saturday when they left and today. Finally, thanks to the Commission for their unanimous support of the process used to make this release a reality and their enthusiastic support of bighorn sheep and all wildlife.



Wyoming Game & Fish personnel who were part of the capture and release: Roger Bredehoff, John Stevens, Ryan Amundson, Martin Hicks, Bart Morris and Craig Smith.



The bighorns were a bit reluctant to venture out of the trailers...



...but once they left, there was no stopping them.

# H U N T R E P O R T

## Sloppiest, Lousiest One-Shot Kill I Ever Made

I went hunting and trapping with Dennis Smith of Bear Paw Outfitters and Guides out of Chetywen, British Columbia in November of 2006.

Dennis has donated hunts and trapping experiences to our local SCI chapter and has also taken a number of our members on moose and bear hunts in his area, which is on the west side of Williston Lake. His guided hunting area is about 3,000 square miles and he has trapping rights to about 300 square miles, which lies in the middle of his hunting area.

He outfits and guides for black bear, grizzly bear, moose, caribou and wolves and goats. He traps for wolverine, lynx, fox, pine martin, and of course, wolves.

Dennis picked me up at the airport in Prince George and we drove north and east for about six to seven hours to his trapping cabin after picking up a dead horse. It had been the year-around home of a trapper and his family before Dennis bought the area a few years ago.

Dennis was able to trap and shoot six wolves last year and the year before he got 19 wolves. There are six wolf packs in his guiding area, but the wolves are mostly taken out of his trapping area. The further north we went from Prince George, the deeper the snow was. At his cabin there were about eight to ten inches.

Dennis showed me my bunk which was about three feet off the floor and across from a sliding window with a small shooting bench below it and a chair.

Dennis pointed out the bait pile, which was 185 measured yards from the window and across the partially frozen river.

He told me to look out whenever I could to check the bait pile.

I awoke at 2:30 a.m. and went outside and came back in and looked to where I thought the bait pile was. Nothing!

Early in the morning I again woke up, went outside, came back in, and looked at the bait pile and seeing nothing, lay down on my bunk. Dennis got up a few minutes later, went outside, came back in, and said, "Bruce, I think there is a wolf on the bait pile!" He grabbed his binoculars and said, "There's a wolf on the bait!"

I grabbed my binoculars, looked, and finally made out the wolf, lying in the snow. The sky was overcast and it was snowing. Visibility was about 300-400 yards at the best and if the wolf was a gray one Dennis probably would not have been able to see him. About four to five inches of his body was above the snowline.

"Wait till he stands up," Dennis whispered to me. "He'll be a bigger target!"

I asked Dennis to hand me the pipe wrench so I could crank up my scope to eight power. "Wait till he stands up," Dennis whispered again.

We sat there next to the open window and I thought, "It's illegal to shoot out of a vehicle, but not illegal to shoot out of a building."

I had the rifle scope on him as he lay and ate there for about 10 to 15 minutes. I was getting very impatient and was about ready to squeeze the trigger. To heck with waiting for the wolf to stand up, when Dennis whispered, "Think you can hit him lying there?"

BANG! He didn't move an inch. I thought I saw him slightly drop his head an inch or two and his whole body seemed to relax.

"Sloppiest, lousiest one shot kill I ever made," I thought, sitting on a chair in my long underwear in a warm log cabin, with a rifle poked out an open window, and before breakfast!

Dennis, with his overactive mind, started to tell me all about this wolf. Dennis started in with, "That was 'Ralphie.'" He was one of my six pet wolves, but I'm glad you got him. I was kind of put out with him. When he sits on my lap he always licks my face and he drools on my beard and then the whiskers freeze together. He's also a vegetarian and loves to eat soy burgers—won't even eat ketchup on them; claims it's inhumane and cruel to chop up and squeeze tomatoes. He's also very fussy with his salad dressing; only likes French Roquefort and blue cheese on his salads. At night when I'd read him the story of *Little Red Riding Hood*, he'd get put out and claim I discriminate and am insensitive to wolves. He was getting to be a real big pain in the rear. No, Bruce, I'm glad you got him!"

Bruce Gilbert  
WY FNAWS member  
Ten Sleep, Wyo.



### "Hunting & Horse Trails from Mongolia to the Yukon"

Wyoming FNAWS member Bruce Gilbert has written and published a book that covers hunting adventures from Wyoming to Kazakhstan and just about everywhere in between. Its 316 pages include 100 photos that highlight the recounting of his hunting adventures.

This book is a great gift idea for family, friends, fundraisers...and anyone who is interested in hunting in the States and abroad. The cost is \$14.95 for softcover or \$24.95 for hardcover, plus applicable tax and \$2.05 shipping and handling. For orders of 10 or more of the hardcover edition, a discounted price of \$20 per book will be given.

For more information or to order, contact Bruce at (262) 644-5125. Orders can also be faxed to (262) 644-5151.



## What a Great Ram Hunt!

Imagine my surprise when I drew an Area 5 Wyoming bighorn tag for 2006! It is the stuff of dreams and imagination for any serious big game hunter, and I had been putting in for a tag since I had become a second-time Wyoming resident, but without any actual thought I might actually draw. Wow, I had to decide quick how I was going to hunt a ram this time. Twelve years ago my husband and I had drawn Colorado tags, and that time we scouted all summer then took three weeks off work for a self-guided backpack hunt. We did both get nice rams, but we knew from that experience just how hard you can make it on yourself. Back then my bad knee wasn't *too* bad and we had no grizzly bears to contend with.

Well, with a second chance on a bighorn ram, I thought I would like to try for a really nice ram rather than simply a mature, legal ram. That was going to take getting back into the wilderness; that was going to take horses – something we have never had. Well, we kicked it around and decided what

better way to celebrate our 30th anniversary than to do what we did every year. Hunt. We decided to take our second ever guided horseback trip for this sheep hunt, in celebration of the milestone.

As is usual for lucky sheep tag holders, I was flooded by offerings from outfitters, but my conversation with Greg “Griz” Turner of Lost Creek Outfitters in Cody made me decide he was the right fit for my style of hunting. So it was arranged. I set to work on my pet rifle, a 7mm Remington Magnum that had suddenly turned cranky. OK, it was only June, but September was just a few weeks away. After a little able gunsmithing by Joe Bautz of Lander and some tinkering with the stock on my part, coupled with meticulous reloading by my spouse, Ron, I had a combination that I could confidently stretch out to 300 yards (as if I'll take a first shot that far). On sheep you never know what will present itself.

We went into the Carter Mountain area in sleet, which changed to snow as we set camp. Day one was so foggy up top we called it a day an hour after the climb up, and got out of there before we inadvertently blew all the sheep out of the basin. The day was certainly not without interest because we were surrounded by hundreds of elk, with bulls bugling almost incessantly. We had hit a pocket in time when elk were in the rut, on the move because of weather, and concentrated on our side of the mountain because of a forest fire that had burned all summer on the other side of the main ridge. For the next four days we would have to plan every movement around concentrations of elk.

When the weather gave us a break we found sheep. Some in classic sheep habitat on the open breccia cliffs, others deep into the burned timber below our vantage. For me, the most interesting rams were at the edge, or deep into the timber. We studied one nice tight-curl younger ram and his heavier ¾ curl companion, but they were the first sheep I had seen in there and I had no way to judge how they measured up as representative for our hunting area. Griz and I discussed pros and cons, but ultimately I passed. We continued to glass and started to find other offerings. Most of the sheep in the area wound in and out of timber, but the majority bedded on edges where they could be seen. The open timber canopy from the recent burn in our area gave us the advantage of a “transparent forest” through which we watched game that thought it was hidden. There were interesting lessons to be had on elk, deer and sheep behavior.

One evening we studied one really nice ram that we couldn't judge well in gathering darkness – how good was he? We couldn't find him again after a couple days, and were preparing for an incursion into his stronghold as we glassed the terrain at dawn. Griz was getting a little anxious. He normally had his hunters filled by day three, but he doesn't usually hunt with a holdout like me. He was willing to let me decide, though, so we had kept looking. After some study in the area, I had an idea of what we might find, and was patient enough to wait – I still had five more days.

Then...wait, look at that new ram just about to disappear over a distant ridge! Lots of Swarovski glass got plastered all over him; yeah, **that was my ram!** We waited for the thermals to turn upward, and then made a sneak to the ridge and crept over it. No rams to be found bedded on the other side, so it became a waiting game. They **had** to be bedded lower in the timber. I took up a post on an exposed rock cliff, Griz went to keep an eye on the back door in case they came out where I couldn't see them. Ron kept me company, but was dozing when they showed up five hours later. The big boy appeared from the low side of a ridge sharply below me at just about 100 yards, and though he showed me a small vital area, that was all I needed. We found him at the bottom of the hill, about 200 yards from where he went down. He had slid to a timber patch that was braided with sheep tracks and pocked with sheep beds. What a trip – Griz and his wife Karla have a great outfit, well cared for tractable riding stock, are excellent wilderness hosts, and they understand how a real fair-chase hunt should work.

Marcia Murdock  
Lander, Wyo.

## Sheep diorama at Bighorn Canyon

### Battling bighorns depicted at Taggart Visitor Center

On Saturday, the Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area Visitor Center at Lovell received a new name. Monday, it received a spectacular new exhibit.

Taxidermists Monday erected a new diorama at the Cal S. Taggart Visitor Center – a pair of Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep rams in the act of clashing head to head. The brand new exhibit rests high atop the east wall in the center's main display room.

Gary Keene of Fort Washakie and Lynn Stewart of Dubois worked Monday to create the diorama using mounts they created and depicting the natural habitat of the bighorns in Big Horn County.

Both Keene and Stewart are members of the Wyoming Foundation for North American Wild Sheep.

Park Ranger/Interpreter Jim Staebler said the diorama continues work to upgrade the visitor center that has included a new front counter and mounting the area relief map on the wall. It is the first of five new exhibits that will be created using fee demonstration program monies over the next two to three years.

Exhibits yet to come include exhibits on geology, local plant and animal communities (a mid-room island), native Americans/archaeology and local historic ranches. Staebler said the five exhibits carry a price tag of \$182,000.

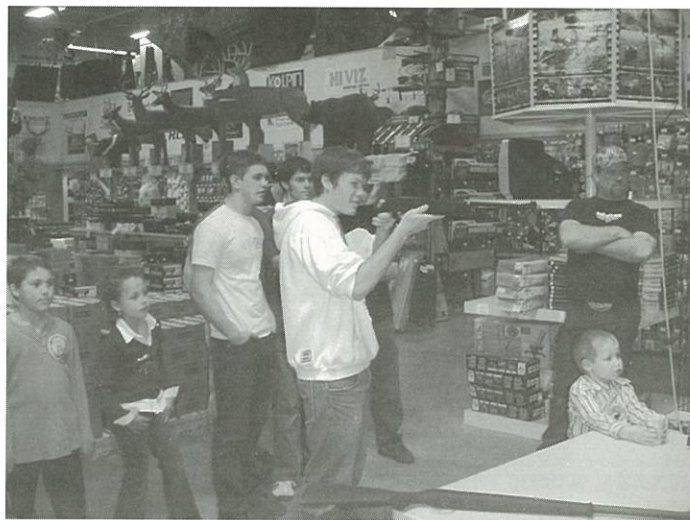
*Article courtesy of the Lovell Chronicle*



Gary Keene and Lynn Stewart put the finishing touches on the bighorn ram display at the newly re-named Cal S. Taggart Visitor Center

# WY FNAWS, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Promoted at Sportsman's Warehouse Event

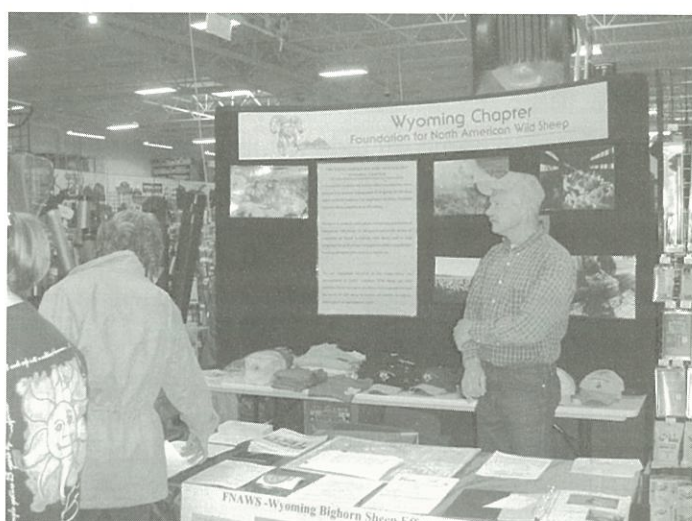
Wyoming FNAWS and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation were promoted at a March event at Sportsman's Warehouse in Casper. Sportsman's Warehouse donated \$1,000 to sponsor the WY FNAWS laser game that travels to various events. The booth was put to good use during the two-day event. Wyoming Game & Fish Commissioner Jerry Galles, Blaine Daveys of RMEF and WY FNAWS Past President Jim Collins took time during Commissioner Galles' bighorn sheep hunt to plan the event.



Attendees gave the WY FNAWS laser game a shot



WGFD/WY FNAWS Liaison Kevin Hurley gave three presentations on Wyoming's bighorn sheep hunt areas 1-5.



WY FNAWS member John O'Brien helped man the Chapter's booth



WGFD/WY FNAWS Liaison Kevin Hurley was recognized for 25 years of service with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department at a recent Wyoming Game & Fish Commissioner's meeting. Hurley (center) is pictured here with the Department's Wildlife Division Assistant Chief Bill Rudd (left) and Wildlife Division Chief Jay Lawson (right).

# H U N T R E P O R T

## One Unique Elk

It all started when FNAWS was able to purchase a custom built .300 wm for the fundraiser. A good friend of mine, Rick Neether had been researching a light weight custom rifle. I knew we had the deal for him. After some mild persuasion he was convinced to attend the 2006 fundraiser in Sheridan.

With the help of a few mixed drinks and a couple kicks under the table the bidding was won by Rick. It all must have been a part of a plan out of our control. Shortly after that Rick was able to draw a coveted elk tag in the Big Horn Mountains. The anticipation of the upcoming elk hunt was great. I was fortunate enough to be invited to assist Rick in harvesting a bull.

It was a typical start to all big hunts, everything from shooting the new rifle to pre-season scouting.

Just like the target that was included with the Accurate Arms Rifle indicated, the rifle shot excellent. Between Rick's busy schedule and my weed spraying we did not have the time to spend in the mountains scouting that we wanted.

September finally rolled around. My father Jerry, Rick's father, Rick and I set up a very comfortable camp. The wait was not near a brutal for me as it was for Rick.

Guiding deer and antelope hunters for Grizzly Outfitting seems to occupy my first two weeks of October. Our last deer hunt ended the 14<sup>th</sup> of October and elk season opened the 15<sup>th</sup>. Without time to do much other than go from deer camp to elk camp. I arrived the night before season opened.

Four-thirty a.m. on the 15<sup>th</sup> could not come quick enough for Rick. I've been around excited hunters, but Rick definitely was the most excited!! With our daypacks on 30 minutes before daylight, we headed down to one of my favorite hunting spots that generally holds bulls. Just like I had hoped for, we spotted four bulls not 100 yards away. Three of them were four- and five- points and one small six-point. It was hard for Rick to pass but it was just too early to end the hunt. Rick reminded me that it's just not right to pass up any elk, much less a decent bull. I hope my advice would not come back to haunt me.

Over the next three days and many miles revealed several opportunities on different elk but just not the one we were after.

We both needed to come back to the real world for a few days and planning on returning the last few days of season. The weather had definitely turned cooler and the hunting pressure had all but left. We had decided to try my honey hole one more time. The walking was unusually quiet. Day light was just beginning to come. We no more had arrived and in one of the many different glassing spots and elk became visible. By the color of the elk, I was pretty sure that they were bulls.

A quick check with the range finder and binoculars, I encouraged Rick to get ready for a shot. Using a good backpack for a rest, Rick was able to make one of the best shots I have ever seen. At the report of the shot, the bull was rolling end over end to the creek bottom.

Without much time to judge him, we were excited to go see up close what we had. I knew that they were all mature bulls, but had no idea how big he really was. It took a few minutes to drop down and find the bull.

We were both pleasantly surprised to see a 6x6 bull. Even more surprising was that he had three separate horns. A truly unique trophy.

Spending the rest of the day packing the bull out on our back under the Wyoming sun was a great end to a highly successful hunting season, as well as hunting with somebody that truly appreciates the wild life and mountains for what they are. It was truly a pleasure for me.

Curt Shatzer  
WY FNAWS Board Member and Life Member #220  
Gillette, Wyo.



## Share Your Hunt Story!

If you have a hunt story that you'd like to share, we want to print it! Just send it to Wyoming FNAWS and we'll publish it in *The Rampage*. Photos are also welcome. Send your story and photo to:

Wyoming FNAWS  
P.O. Box 845  
Dubois, WY 82513

You can also e-mail them to: [info@wyomingfnaaws.org](mailto:info@wyomingfnaaws.org). If you e-mail a photo, 300 dpi in a jpeg format is preferred.



# WYOMING BIGHORN SHEEP HARVEST 2006

Kevin Hurley & Doug McWhirter, WGFD 3/8/07

HUNT YEAR	AREA	TOTAL # HUNTERS	TOTAL HARVEST	TOTAL SUCCESS	RESIDENT HARVEST	RESIDENT SUCCESS	NON-RESIDENT HARVEST	NON-RESIDENT SUCCESS
2006	1	16	15	93.8	11/12	91.7	4/4	100.0
2006	2	25a	23	92.0	17/19	89.5	6/6	100.0
2006	3	44	38	86.4	29/33	87.9	9/11	81.8
2006	4	41b	36	87.8	26/30	86.7	10/11	90.9
2006	5	47c	43	91.5	27/30	90.0	16/17	94.1
2006	6	4	0	0.0	0/3	0.0	0/1	0.0
2006	7	8	4	50.0	3/6	50.0	1/2	50.0
2006	8,23	12	8	66.7	6/9	66.7	2/3	66.7
2006	9	4	4	100.0	3/3	100.0	1/1	100.0
2006	10	8	7	87.5	5/6	83.3	2/2	100.0
2006	19	7	5	71.4	5/6	83.3	0/1	0.0
2006	22	3	3	100.0	3/3	100.0	0/0	0.0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>84.9</b>	<b>135/160</b>	<b>84.4</b>	<b>51/59</b>	<b>86.4</b>

<sup>a</sup> HA 2: 1 successful R Governor's license (Mutch)

<sup>b</sup> HA 4: 1 successful NR Governor's license (Arthur)

<sup>c</sup> HA 5: 2 successful NR Governor's licenses (Kohnen, McGiffert), 1 unsuccessful NR Governor's license (Carlson), 2 successful R medical carryovers from 2005 (Starkey, Tarbett); 19 hunters (2 NR, 17 R) with 2006 licenses opted to carryover their licenses to 2007, due to the Little Venus Fire

## Hunters Set New Record

- A survey commissioned by the National Shooting Sports Foundation and conducted by an independent firm found that 50 million Americans said they've hunted in the past two years.
- A new report released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services shows that hunters spent more than \$723 million on licenses, tags and stamps in 2005.
- 14.5 million Americans purchased a license in 2005.
- Data from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services on hunting license buyers shows that 25 states performed better than the national average.
- Visit [www.nwtf.org/nwtf\\_newsroom/press\\_releases.php?id=12081](http://www.nwtf.org/nwtf_newsroom/press_releases.php?id=12081) for entire story.
- For more information about 2005 license sales, contact Jonathan Harling at (803) 637-3106 or [jharling@nwtf.net](mailto:jharling@nwtf.net).

*Provided courtesy of the National Wild Turkey Federation*

*Editor's Note: WY FNAWS/WGFD liaison Kevin Hurley came across this interesting account on bighorn sheep behavior from the Philadelphia Times, circa late 1800s.*

## Rocky Mountain Sheep The Peculiar Use they Make of their Big Horns

### Very Scarce and Difficult to Kill – How They Curl Themselves Up Into Balls and Roll Over Lofty Precipices – A Frightful Leap

Of all the game animals in the northwest, and particularly Montana, the Big Horn or Rocky Mountain Sheep furnishes the most sport to huntsmen. Chasing the buffalo across the plains on horseback and killing them with a revolver, which was at one time the favorite method of hunting the big bison, used to be the ne plus ultra of Nimrodic amusements in Montana, but since the buffalo have disappeared hunters have drifted back in to the mountains, where the "Ovis Montana" are to be found during late years in great abundance. There must be lots of fun scampering over the prairie after a 1,500-pound bull, but there is the heat and violent exercise, not to speak of the danger of your horse plunging into a prairie-dog hole and sending you downward to grass at an angle of 15 to 20 degrees. The mountain sheep is always found among the peaks and cliffs in cool altitude and pretty near the timber or perpetual snow line. The Big Horn sheep of the Rocky mountains is a most difficult animal to bag. They are usually found in pairs, often in flocks of from four to forty, and sometimes in bands of a hundred or more. One old sheep-hunter, living on Prior's fork, near here relates that he saw not long ago a flock of eighty-one sheep in the Bitter Root range, and about five years ago, while scouting through the Teton basin, in northern Wyoming, near the southern boundary of the Yellowstone National park, he ran upon a band that must have numbered over 800.

### Exceedingly Scarce

These animals range all the way from Rio Grande to the Mackenzie, but at the limits named they are exceedingly scarce and most difficult to kill. Their natural home is among the mountains of the upper Yellowstone and Missouri rivers. Some few are found in Washington territory, Oregon, and California, but the center around which they revolve is the Yellowstone National park and the bordering counties of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming. Particularly are they plentiful in the mountains from which they take their name – viz, the Big Horn.

Very little is known of the habits of this rare game animal, even by those who have written on this subject. They range winter and summer alike in the same latitudes and altitudes, only in summer they wander farther away than in the opposite season. During the cold months they stay on the southern slopes of the mountains so as to catch the sun. In the summer they are generally found on the higher benches, when the bunch grass and mountain clover are abundant. Among the peaks where they habituate one of the first things to appear in the spring is the wild onion or leek, which is eagerly sought out and devoured by them. This wild plant imparts to the flesh a delightful flavor, and makes the meat of the Big Horn the most delicious in the mountains. Their greatest enemy is the mountain lion. In fact, the principal diet of the mountain lion is the tender offspring of the "Ovis Montana". When lambs are not to be had, the fierce North American panther does not object to feasting on the parents. These rare sheep are also subject to a sort of scab disease, which, when it becomes epidemic, sweeps off at short notice scores of them, young and old alike. The lambs are brought forth from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> of May.

The "Ovis Montana" is adorned with the most remarkable headgear imaginable in the shape of monstrous horns. These are used by them for various purposes, but principally as a means of defense. Astonishing as it may seem, they also use their immense horns to assist them in descending from one lofty eminence to a lower. If in skipping from crag to crag and from ridge to ridge it should become necessary to make a jump downward, no matter what the height, they roll themselves up into a kind of ball, vault out into the air, an, turning a succession of somersaults, keep the ball rolling, so to speak, until they strike on their powerful horns below.

### Very Hard to Kill

The shock would kill an ordinary animal, but these hardy denizens of the mountains don't seem to mind it much, for they spring to their feet and go bounding over impossible chasms and jagged rocks until it becomes necessary to make another descent, when the same tactics are repeated.

W.B. Dow, of the Green Mountain Cattle company, relates that he saw near his ranch on Powder river, not long ago, a band of 800 mountain sheep. They were browsing on a lofty cliff, when for some unaccountable reason the flock became stampeded and rushed away like the whirlwind. On they came pell mell to the edge of the cliff, which was cut sharp into a perpendicular decline of fully 1,500 feet. The leaders paused, but there was no help for it. The rear guard crowded them over, and the entire flocks went neck over heels down into space. It was no doubt a curious sight to see 800 mountain sheep doubled up into balls and falling over such a lofty precipice. Down they came, one after another, until the whole band had made the awful jump. As this was such a frightful leap for any breathing creature to make and live, it is not surprising to know that thirteen of the 800 were killed by the concussion. The cowboys of the ranch secured the meat, which they declared far superior to their choice Montana steers.

Some of the mountain-sheep horns attain a remarkable size. One pair brought into this fort last February by a Cheyenne Indian measured seventeen inches in circumference, although only forty inches in length. The ram from which they were taken was a splendid specimen, weighing over 200 pounds, and stood, when erect, nearly up to a man's shoulders. – *Fort Keogh Cor. Philadelphia Times*

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## WGFD Bighorn Sheep Contacts

Hunt Area	Wildlife Biologist(s)	Office Phone	Game Warden(s)	Office Phone
1	Doug McWhirter, Cody	527-7125	Chris Queen, Powell	754-5290
2	Doug McWhirter, Cody	527-7125	Chris Queen, Powell Craig Sax, Cody	754-5290 527-7125
3	Doug McWhirter, Cody	527-7125	Craig Sax, Cody Tim Fagan, Cody	527-7125 527-7125
4	Doug McWhirter, Cody Greg Anderson, Lander Doug Brimeyer, Jackson	527-7125 332-2688 733-2321	Tim Fagan, Cody Cole Thompson, Dubois Bill Long, Jackson	527-7125 455-2424 733-2321
4	Doug McWhirter, Cody Greg Anderson, Lander Doug Brimeyer, Jackson	527-7125 332-2688 733-2321	Tim Fagan, Cody Cole Thompson, Dubois Bill Long, Jackson	527-7125 455-2424 733-2321
6	Doug Brimeyer, Jackson	733-2321	Tim Fuchs, Jackson	733-2321
7	Doug Brimeyer, Jackson Gary Fralick, Thayne	733-2321 883-2998	Bill Long, Jackson Tim Fuchs, Jackson	733-2321 527-7125
8,23	Dean Clause, Pinedale	367-4353	Bubba Haley, Pinedale	367-4353
9,10	Greg Anderson, Lander	332-2688	Cole Thompson, Dubois	455-2424
11	Stan Harter, Lander	332-2688	Bob Trebelcock, Lander	332-2688
12	Tom Easterly, Greybull	765-2742	John Hyde, Lovell	548-7310
17	Greg Hiatt, Sinclair	324-7927	Bill Brinegar, Rawlins	324-2973
18	Rich Guenzel, Laramie Will Schultz, Saratoga	745-5180 358-0803	Biff Burton, Saratoga Bill Haley, Laramie	326-5583 745-4046
19	Martin Hicks, Wheatland Justin Binfet, Casper	322-3821 473-3411	Roger Bredehoff, Laramie Craig Smith, Wheatland	745-4046 322-2067
21	Will Schultz, Saratoga	358-0803	Biff Burton, Saratoga	326-5583
22	Greg Anderson, Lander	332-2688	Cole Thompson, Dubois	455-2424
24	Gary Fralick, Thayne Dean Clause, Pinedale	883-2998 367-4353	Brad Hovinga, Big Piney	276-3359

## WGFD Bighorn sheep population objectives and estimates for 16 herd units plus Yellowstone National Park, post-season 2006.

Area(s)	Origin	Herd Unit	Objective	Estimate
6	Native	Targhee	125	100
7	Native	Jackson	500	400
24	Transplant	Darby Mtn.	150	45
1	Native	Clarks Fork	500	500
2	Native	Trout Peak	750	584
3	Native	Wapiti Ridge	1000	1016
4	Native	Younts Peak	900	929
5,22	Native	Frans Peak	1360	1452
12	Transplant	Devils Canyon	200	110
18	Transplant	Douglas Creek	350	50
19	Transplant	Laramie Peak	500	250
21	Transplant	Encampment River	200	40
8,9,10,23	Native	Whiskey Mountain	1350	582
11	Transplant	Temple Peak	250	40
16	Sweetwater		400	
17	Transplant	Seminole/Ferris	300	12
		Total	8735	6110
YNP	Native	Yellowstone NP	---	200
Grand Total Population Estimate for Wyoming				6310



**Kurt Whitehead**  
Alaska Registered Guide, U.S.C.G. Captain

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