



Wyoming Chapter

Foundation for
North American

Wild Sheep

Volume 7


Summer 1999

Number 2



The Wyoming Chapter of F.N.A.W.S. is offering up to \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone poaching Bighorn Sheep in Wyoming. Call (307) 234-9597

REWARD!


Wyoming Chapter
Foundation for North American Wild Sheep
Sand Creek Ranch
Alcova, WY 82620



Membership Application

Help Support The Wild Sheep Join the Wyoming Chapter Today!

YES, I want to help "Put Sheep on the Mountain." Enclosed is my check.

- \$15 for One-Year Membership
- \$40 for Three-Year Membership.
- \$300 for Lifetime Membership
- I am a new member.
- This is a renewal.

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone () _____

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I also wish to join the National Foundation for North American Wild Sheep and have enclosed a check for:*

- \$45 - 1 year, Regular Membership or three years for \$120.00
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- \$1,000 - Lifetime Ages 59-64 \$750 Ages 65 and over \$500
- \$1,000 - 1 year Corporate Supporting Membership

*All figures in U.S. Funds

Make all checks payable to: Wyo FNAWS,
David Luzmoor, 1010 Washakie Avenue, Green
River, WY 82935

Freddie L. Goetz
Box 603
Wheatland, WY 82201

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Chapter Dedicates Ron Ball Memorial Room

Founder, Past President, National FNAWS Grass Roots Award winner, Ron Ball was honored June 6, 1999. A large attendance filled the newly named area of the Sheep Center in Dubois to honor Ron. The Chapter provided funding to renovate the room to accommodate changing displays.

The Chapter is pleased to honor Ron for his great love of sheep and years of hard work and support. Make plans to stop in the sheep center on your next trip through Dubois and tour the "Ron Ball Room."



Ron Ball with coues deer taken in 1996 on a hunt purchased at our Sheridan convention. Ron hunted with Dave Crockett near Tuscon and harvested this nice coues deer, December 17th, 1996.

To All Our Membership

Our apology on the tardiness of the summer newsletter! We'll strive to do better.

-Jim Collins

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

DECISION MEMO

CLOSURE OF NORTH FORK AND BALDY
LAKE SHEEP ALLOTMENTS
USDA FOREST SERVICE
BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST
PINEDALE RANGER DISTRICT
SUBLETTE COUNTY, WY

DECISION

It is my decision to permanently close the North Fork and Baldy Lake sheep allotments to domestic livestock grazing. The Baldy Lake Allotment has been vacant for over ten years and the north Fork Allotment was recently vacated. The domestic livestock grazing permits for both allotments have been returned to the Forest Service.

PURPOSE

The two sheep allotments are located along the continental divide and overlap the summer range for the Whiskey Mountain bighorn sheep herd. The Whiskey Mountain bighorn sheep herd is nationally known and has the largest number of bighorn sheep in the United States. Bighorn sheep occupied the full length of the Wind River Mountain Range historically.

Research has shown that, when domestic sheep and bighorn sheep mix, disease can be transmitted. Research recommends separation of domestic and bighorn sheep to prevent disease transmission. The proposed action would provide separation between domestic sheep and the Whiskey Mountain bighorn sheep herd.

Aug. 8, 1999

Dear Jim,

I feel our Commissioners License Raffle was a success. During the time we ran the raffle, I turned in \$7,550.00 to Jay for deposit.

I also have cash of \$480.00 for a grand total of \$8030.00!

Good Hunting,
Dave Connor

Thanks Dave for all the hard work on a job well done!

Dubois Summer Meeting Draws large crowd!



Members taking care of Chapter Business

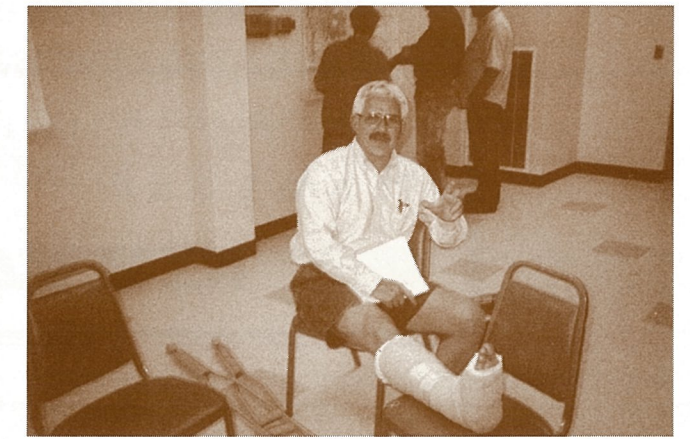
Once again a large crowd of Chapter supporters attended our summer fun weekend. The annual Shoot Saturday afternoon had to be canceled due to rain, which gave us a chance to really visit with the Wyo. Game and Fish Biologists on areas of improvement and problem areas where the Chapter can help. Each Sheep area/herd unit in the state was discussed in detail, and our membership came away with an understanding of the large role the Chapter needs to under take.

The membership voted to fund \$10,350 in projects. \$1000 was OK'd for signs to help control snowmobile usage in bighorn wintering areas. The National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Center was granted \$1350 for help with their web site and other educational materials. The Jim Mountain habitat intuitive will be funded for the full \$8000 that was requested by the G+F Department.



Sunday included a members tour of Trail lake meadow and irrigation project funded by Chapter.

We need 50¢ raffle items. These can be material items or cash. The 50¢ raffle is a big money maker so the more items the better!



Director Kevin Hurley attended the summer meeting amongst some discussion of horse riding lessons

The funds will be used for a planned burn in Area 2 on Jim Mountain in the spring of 2000.

Nominations for 4 board members to be elected at the Casper winter meeting were held. Nominated were Dennis Claman, Fritz Meyer, Pat Baughman, David Connor, Fred Thomas, and Craig Kling. If you would like to serve the Chapter or know someone that would, please contact a Board member.

Nominations were made for the national awards of State Statesman, and Grass Roots award with Doug McWhiter and Fritz Meyer being nominated respectively.

The by-laws were also amended to included the immediate past president as a full member to the Board. If you would like to have a copy of the Chapters by-laws contact Secretary David Luzmoor.

ROY PETROWICZ

CYNTHIA PETROWICZ

Lamplighter Lodge

MCBRIDE LAKE
P.O. BOX 538
STURGIS, SASK.
S0A 4A0

WINTER NO.
STURGIS PH./FAX 306-548-2104

SUMMER PH./FAX
306-547-4477

Roy and Cynthia will again have a booth at the 1999 winter banquet. Stop by and visit about that color phase bear or whitetail hunt.



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WY-FNAWS BRING YOUR OWN HORSE PACKTRIP

In early March, the Wyoming Chapter of the Foundation for North American and Wild Sheep finalized an agreement involving two Sublette County domestic sheep ranchers and the U.S. Forest Service to permanently retire two domestic sheep grazing allotments in the Bridger Wilderness. This was the culmination of countless hours of discussions and negotiations and will serve to minimize the risk of pneumonia related to die-offs in the Whiskey Mountain bighorn sheep herd. The financial incentives which made this arrangement possible were provided by National FNAWS, Eastern FNAWS, and Iowa FNAWS, with the lion's share coming from the Wyoming Chapter.

In late July, 10 WY-FNAWS members and a Sublette County Commissioner joined Forest Service and Wyoming Game & Fish Department representatives on a packtrip into the Wind River Mountains to tour bighorn sheep habitat contained within the two retired domestic sheep allotments. The group left the trailhead at Boulder Lake on the morning of July 30, and proceeded up Boulder Creek. Nearly 7 hours and over 15 miles later, the camp above Victor Lake on the North Fork of Boulder Creek was reached.

After dinner, the scenery in North Fork Canyon prompted numerous discussions of wild sheep, wild sheep habitat, and the activities of the Wyoming Chapter. The seriousness of potential disease transmission among domestic and wild sheep as well as the seriousness of permanently removing livestock grazing AUM's from federal lands dominated the discussions. Equally dominant was how important it is to deal with the issue of wild sheep/domestic sheep separation in the right way; meaning working with the willing permittees and other affected interests to find cooperative solutions. In this regard, the Wyoming Chapter should be very proud of its' efforts. A glance in any direction around the camp was enough of a reminder of what we are striving for: a healthy, thriving bighorn sheep herd in the Wind River Mountains.

The following day an excursion was made to Hay Pass at the North Fork Canyon. On the way to the pass, we traveled through country that had been occupied by bighorn sheep in the not too distant past. Once at the pass, we were treated to a gorgeous view of the Middle Fork of Bull Lake Creek and more of the seemingly endless rocky, broken terrain characteristic of the Winds. On the way back to camp, the fishing gear came out, as many people tried their luck on the Boulder Creek cutthroats. The fishing was great, especially for those employing their "cowboy waders" to access the better holes in the creek.

Following another great dinner, the conversation took up where it left off the previous evening. There was never a shortage of topics, or viewpoints among the group. In fact, these talks were probably one of the most important outcomes of the trip. It's too bad that more discussions in our fast-paced world can't take place around campfires at remote places in the mountains, there might be fewer problems if they did. We sure solved a good chunk of the world's problems for a mere three day packtrip.

After breakfast the next morning, it was time to pack up and leave

for the trailhead. A whirlwind trip indeed, but a very worthwhile and enjoyable trip just the same. Even before we reached the trailhead there was talk of next year's "Bring Your Own Horse" trip. This is an exciting time for the Wyoming Chapter, with lots of things going on, so it shouldn't be too hard to come up with something to do. Keep watching the newsletter and get involved with your chapter.

The camp and food were provided by Kim and Kathy Bright of Boulder Lake Lodge and the meals were prepared by Barb Harper. Many thanks to Kim, Kathy, and Barb for making this an extra special trip!





Life Member Scott Jankowski Area 10 Ram

Late in the spring of 1998, I received notice that I was successful in drawing a Bighorn Sheep tag for the state of Wyoming. The Unit that I drew was unit 10, an area supporting the largest herd of Bighorn Sheep in the state.

I booked my hunt with Fritz Meyer of Dubois, Wyoming due to his excellent references and recommendations given by other hunters. He also was the only outfitter that I could find that had successfully taken bowhunters.

I arrived in Wyoming in August to hunt one week with my bow, hoping to get a shot at a decent ram. After 7 days of hunting, I finally was able to get within bow range of a band of six rams bedded under a boulder field high up on a distant mountain. After a long stalk, I peeked over an edge to see a ram 30-35 yards away. Drawing my bow, I placed my 30 yard pin on his chest and released. My arrow sailed just under his chest sending the ram in a mad dash for safety. This was the last day of my hunt and I knew my trip was over.

We packed out that evening and arrived at the trailhead a few hours after leaving base camp. During the trip, Fritz invited me back to hunt with my rifle "on call" if there was time between hunters.

Two weeks later, I received a phone call from Fritz saying that he had spotted four large rams above his base camp and that I needed to be in Dubois immediately. I arrived in Dubois shortly after and met up with Fritz's number one guide Dirk Edgington. Dirk guided me during my bow hunt a few weeks earlier and I was extremely impressed with his abilities to hunt Sheep. Needless to say, I was very thankful to have him as my guide for the rifle hunt.

We hit the trail not long after arriving in Dubois heading to base camp 3-5 miles close to Whiskey Mountain. Along the way, Dirk and I stopped to glass a low burn that at times held a few rams. Looking far off in the distance, I spotted a lone ram moving through the timber above the burn. As we planned our stalk, we watched him vanish into another canyon a mile away. Grabbing our packs, we headed to the canyon trying to stay above the ram and out of site. Easing over the canyon, we started to glass both sides, hoping to catch site of the ram. After 6 hours of glassing, Dirk spotted him far on the other side of the canyon, feeding. Dirk and I wasted no time and scrambled to a ridge above the ram in the rocks. As we peered over, we spotted the ram 100 yards away in the Timber with only his chest exposed. I immediately stepped out, leaned against a deadfall and squeezed off a shot and the ram went down.

After the season ended, I was told that he was the largest ram taken in unit 10 for the 1998 season. His official B & C score was 175 1/8 with measurements of 36" on his right horn and 34" on this left with 15 1/4 in bases. This is the finest animal I have ever taken.

I would like to thank Fritz Meyer and Dirk Edgington of Wind River Outfitters for providing me with the hunt of a lifetime. I strongly believe that they operate one of the finest outfits in the state of Wyoming.



Scott Jankowski
Durango, Colorado



Michigan Hunter is Ram Tough

Hunter: Rick Rzendzian, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Guide Service: **Wind River Mountain**
Fritz Meyer, owner
Dubois, Wyoming
Phone: 307455-2464

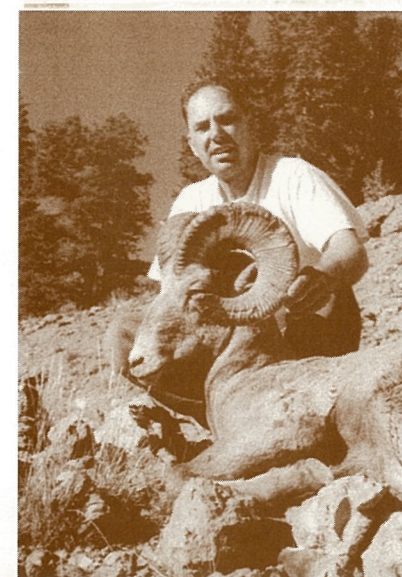
Personal Guide: Dirk Edgington
Area Hunted: Wyoming Area #4
Date of Kill: 9-1-98
Age of Ram: 12 years,

As Dirk and I climbed to his secret glassing spot on Opening Day, he quipped, "As soon as we get there I know we'll just have to climb back down again." He must have been psychic because I didn't even have my backpack off when he shouted, "Rams! Six of 'em!"

"Yea, right," I muttered to myself. But, as Dirk scrambled to for the spotting scope, I knew he wasn't kidding. They were there—approximately three miles away in a rock slide—getting ready to bed. Two of the six were "shooters" for Wyoming's Area #4. One of the rams was broomed and just an inch shy of full curl, but carried his mass well through his horn. "I'll put my tag on that one right now," I told Dirk with confidence.

After the rams bedded, we headed back down the mountain to get our horses. Five hours later we were within 200 yards of the rock slide and no sheep were in sight! I was bummed, tired, and sucking wind like a freight train, and wondered to myself, "Why did I ever apply for a sheep tag?"

After a short break, my guide Dirk, suggested we climb to the top of the rock slide and take a look. We still had some daylight left, so off he went and my skeptical "behind" went dragging so reluctantly in his footsteps. Following another 45-minute climb, Dirk began glassing when suddenly he began to motion frantically.



I turned quickly and looked out. Standing about 340 yards away on a rocky peak was MY ram. As he was surveying his domain like the Lion King, my heart began to pound in anticipation of the kill. Not feeling too comfortable with a shot a this distance, we moved about 100 yards closer.

I set my sights, squeezed the trigger, and in one shot, I had the trophy of a life time.

Rick Rzendzian, Area 4

Wyoming Chapter

Foundation for North American Wild Sheep Wyoming Chapter Life Members

#1 Ron Ball (D)	1988	#33 Alfred P. Weeden	1997
#2 Jeff Reynolds	1989	#34 James L. Scull Jr.	1997
#3 Dave Steger	1989	#35 Kay Thomas	1997
#4 Don Schmalz	1989	#36 Fred Thomas	1997
#5 Harry Whyel	1989	#37 Lou Mysterly Jr.	1997
#6 Freddie Goetz	1990	#38 Lawrence I. Masserant	1997
#7 Gene Hardy	1991	#39 Fred Pierce	1998
#8 Hale Kreycik	1991	#40 Tylor D. Benton	1998
#9 Dr. R.D. Keeler	1991	#41 Fred L. Navotny (D)	1998
#10 Jim Collins	1991	#42 Lee Livingston	1998
#11 Mike Martin	1991	#43 Richard Lennington	1998
#12 Jack Hildner	1992	#44 Lynn Stewart	1998
#13 Kent Stevenson	1992	#45 Russ Green	1998
#14 Fritz Meyer	1992	#46 Truman A. Wilkin	1998
#15 Kathy Gay	1992	#47 Tex Georger	1998
#16 Keith West	1993	#48 Ron Wilmes	1998
#17 Lud Kroner	1996	#49 Wally Young	1998
#18 Serge d'Elia	1996	#50 Joshua Robert d'Elia	1998
#19 Terry Marcum	1997	#51 Ralph J. Campoli	1998
#20 Kevin Hurley	1997	#52 John Zenz	1998
#21 Craig Pitters	1997	#53 Jesse Troutman	1998
#22 Sam Pancotto	1997	#54 Tom Sauter	1998
#23 Vincent Allegra	1997	#55 Thomas P. Granger	1998
#24 Dirk Edgington	1997	#56 Mike Crocker	1999
#25 Cindy Reynolds	1997	#57 Dyrk Eddie	1999
#26 Fred Mau	1997	#58 Bob Kelez	1999
#27 David S. Luzmoor	1997	#59 Wayne Suda	1999
#28 Craig Kling	1997	#60 Scott Jankowski	1999
#29 Sam Green	1997	#61 Solvay Minerals	1999
#30 Cole Benton	1997	#62 Ron Dean	1999
#31 Rodger Kendrick	1997	#63 Ed Navotny	1999
#32 Brian Valentine	1997	#64 E. Perry edgington	1999



Dan Artery, Wheatland, WY, Area 5 Ram 1998

1999 YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST

SPONSORED BY THE FOUNDATION FOR NORTH AMERICAN WILD SHEEP

"Discuss the relationship between people, predators and prey in an ecosystem. Explain how the activities of one can impact the others group"

Sportsmen, this is your chance to participate in a program outlined for today's youth. The Grand Prize is a 7 day mountain caribou hunt in the Northwest Territories of Canada, donated by Arctic Red River Outfitters, Ltd. We encourage you to select a youth that ordinarily would not be able to take part in a hunt of this nature.

The "Essay Committee" will screen all essays and pick the top 20, with the winning essay being picked from this group by the FNAWS Board of Directors. The contest winner will be notified January 2000.



THE GRAND PRIZE IS A FULLY DONATED 7 DAY CARIBOU HUNT IN THE MACKENZIE MOUNTAINS, N.W.T., CANADA, WITH . . .

Kelly and Heather Hougen, the owners of Arctic Red River Outfitters, Ltd. . . . This is a fully guided hunt, for a youth only, including all accommodations and transportation to and from the nearby airport, hunting license and trophy fees. Hunt dates for the year 2000 to be determined by the essay winner and Arctic Red River Outfitters.

YOUTH REQUIREMENTS

1. Youth must be between the ages of 16-19 on or before August 15, 2000.
2. Boys and girls may enter.
3. Both the winning youth and parent(s) will be required to sign a release for FNAWS and the outfitter, releasing them of any liability in case of an accident during any part of the hunt, or while traveling to and from the hunt destination.

Youth must provide the following for the hunt, if selected as the winner:

1. His/her own firearm with ammunition for the hunt.
2. All personal clothing and gear necessary for the hunt. (The outfitter will provide a complete list of the required gear.)
4. Extra baggage fees, if any, charged by the airlines for the transportation of the antlers back to the youths home location.

FNAWS will provide the essay contest winner with

1. Transportation from their home location to the hunt destination in the NWT, and the return home. (An overnight stay in Edmonton is necessary.)

ENTRANT DOES NOT HAVE TO BE A FNAWS MEMBER OR FROM A MEMBER FAMILY.

ESSAY REQUIREMENTS

1. Length- One page only with a minimum of 100 words and a Maximum of 250 words.
2. Essays must be typed with the heading containing the entrants name, address, phone number and age.
3. Deadline for entries- December 1st, 1999.
4. All entries must be sent to:



**FOUNDATION FOR NORTH AMERICAN WILD SHEEP
720 ALLEN AVENUE
CODY, WY 82414**

WYOMING CHAPTER COOKS FOR SECOND ANNUAL TOADFLAX PULL-EN



Wyoming Chapter volunteers once again cooked for the pullers of the Dalmation Toadflax



Pullers hard at work on the South Fork



Chapter Members prepare to cook for the nearly 150 pullers



Workers discuss the noxious weeds

For the second year the Chapter has funded biological control and cooked dinner for the pullers. This project is a great opportunity to help educate the public on the dangers noxious weeds pose to our critical winter ranges. Toadflax was more than likely carried in to this area with horse hay.



Life Member John Zenz, Sparks, NV, Area 5 Ram 1998



Bob Kelez, Area 10



Area 2 and 18 are the fourth in the series highlighting one native and one transplant herd.

Trout Peak (Area 2) (BHS202)	Revision Date:
4/17/98	

Population Estimate: 580 (post season 1997)

Population Objective: 750

Most Recent Hunting Regulations: 32 licenses 3/4 curl ram

Current WGFD Managers: Larry Roop, Mac Black, Craig Sax

JCR Responsibility: Larry Roop

Other Contacts: Bernie Spanogle, Dave Henry (USFS), Kevin Hurley (WGFD)

Previous Studies: Kevin Hurley (1985)

Problems:

Habitat - Off-wilderness needs - Jim Mountain prescribed burn

Fire would be beneficial in wilderness also

Domestic Sheep -

Predation -

Genetics -

Disease - Disease - scabies (1/4 - 1/3 of sheep?)

Migration -

Herbivore Competition -

Recreation/Development Encroachment - N. Fork Highway - potential mitigation,

conservation

easements, habitat work

Houses, loss of winter range - Logan Mt., Wapiti, Chalk Mt.

Poor/Inconsistent Classification Data -

Hunting Related -

Other -

NOTE: Jim Mountain Prescribed burn mentioned here is the same burn

funded by the Chapter at the summer meeting!



South Nahanni Outfitters has donated a year 2000 Dall hunt to hit the auction block at the winter fund raiser. Visit them at their booth in Casper!

**Winter Banquet/Fundraiser
December 4, 1999**

Our 17th annual Winter Banquet is once again to be held at the Radisson (Previously the HILTON INN). Booths are filling up fast and the auction is lining up as our best ever. Make plans to come early to the business meeting and seminars and then join the festivities that evening.

SEE YA IN CASPER!

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Bradford & Co. (Daiziel Hunting Ltd.)

P.O. Box 44

Dease Lake, BC Canada VOC 1L0

250-771-3055 Fax 250-771-3056

Stone Sheep

MTN. GOAT – CARIBOU – MOOSE – GRIZZLY

Leland Myles Bradford and Scott Murray Jackson, died November 6, 1998. They were killed in a single vehicle

accident in Sundre, Alberta, Canada. Donations to the memorial scholarship fund may be sent to: GOABC, Box

94675, Richmond, B.C. Canada, V6Y 4A4

Miles and Sherry are Chapter Supporters!



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Dubois, Wyoming 82513
Ph. 307-455-2464**



Wrangell R Ranch



Ray McNutt

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and Outfitter

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Ray has been a great supporter of your Chapter for years. Check with Ray when lining up your next Alaskan summer adventure or hunting trip!



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Life Member Mike Thompson, Riverton, Wyo.,
Area 10 Ram, Archery 1999



P. O. Box 4178
601 North Highway 189
Marbelton, Wyoming 83113
GENERAL CONTRACTORS
Owner: Rod Bennett

Douglas Creek (Area 18) (BHS516)
4/17/98

Revision Date:

Population Estimate: 150 (post season 1997)

Population Objective: 350

Most Recent Hunting Regulations: 8 licenses, 3/4 curl ram

Current WGFD Managers: Steve Loose, Biff Burton, Rick Straw

JCR Responsibility: Steve Loose

Other Contacts: Larry Apple, Mary Read, Tom Rinkes (BLM), Bill Haley, Rich Guenzel, Gary Brown,
Joe Bohne, Bill Rudd, Tim Thomas (WGFD)

Previous Studies: John Cook (1990)

Transplant History:

1970 Transplant - 41 sheep released in Savage Run Wilderness and at A Bar A Ranch - WGFD (1970)
- Haas (1979)
- Cook (1990)
- Hurley (1996)

Total - 41 sheep released into herd unit

Problems:

Habitat - Conifer encroachment
Spring/summer nutrition/forage quality poor
Heavy use on browse

Domestic Sheep - Snowy's - domestic sheep

Predation -

Genetics -

Disease - Chlamydia

Migration - Lack of altitudinal migration

Herbivore Competition - Cattle grazing, possible competition with elk

Recreation/Development Encroachment -

Poor/Inconsistent Classification Data - somewhat variable, done incidental to other surveys

Hunting Related -

Other -



Life Member Kay Thomas's 1998 area 5 Ram

As we all know sheep tags are sent out in May, for most of us it is like Christmas. We know we're getting something but were not sure if it is the one we were hoping for or just our money back to spend on another tag for a later date.

Well my husband is one of those who can't wait to find out, so he called Cheyenne to get the results, of course he asked for his name first and was rejected, so then he asked for mine. It was like fire works on the fourth of July, his eyes light up, he hung up the phone and a smile came across his face wider than I'd seen in a long time, with a grand you got one! you got one!! We were both excited and of course you have to start the calling tree to inform everyone that you got a sheep tag for area 5. It was the start of a great moment to be remembered for many years to come.

There was lots of things to be done before Sept 1. The most important things that needed done were getting in shape to make it to where sheep live and to look for rams that are spectacular enough to hang on the living room wall with the rest of the wild critters. A good guide would also be helpful for when the season came. There was lots of bike riding, walking, hiking, and climbing done this summer.

Throughout the summer we made many trips to the mountains looking for sheep. Some trips were hiking, some were horseback and some trips we had a whole tribe of sight seer's along for the ride, that is what makes looking fun, even if there were other things that needed done, sheep looking came first. And even if by chance you didn't see sheep you usually saw something else, either way it made for a very fun day. In all the looking throughout the summer we saw lots and lots of sheep.

Before long the middle of August was here and sheep season wasn't far off. By now, fair, vacations and other summer projects and events were done. Fred Thomas of The Great Bear Hunter was chosen to be my guide. He was raised in the area and has spent many days in the mountains where sheep and other critters of the wild live. But most of all he is my husband, and was going to tag along anyway.

I was hiking the hill behind our house with friends Shannon and Shawna. We came to a draw that didn't have much of a trail, but we all made it through, at the bottom I was waiting and looked down and seen a neat purple colored rock. I picked it up and to my surprise it wasn't a rock but an arrowhead. It was the first and only I had ever found. I knew (hoped) then that it was going to be a great sheep hunt.

Our son Darryl had started school so he wasn't going to be able to go with us on the hunt, but he was really excited for mom to get a good ram.

My dad did get to come and go with us. Fred also had a hunter from Oregon who was going to be hunting with us. I had first choice when it would come time to kill a ram. A good friend Dan Woody also would be with us on the hunt. He goes with Fred in the mountains when no one else will.

We went to the mountain the day before sheep season and spent the night under the stars and moon. There is nothing more peaceful than a dark sky filled with stars.

We left opening morning at 6:00 a.m. and started our hike for the day. When we reached the top of the mountain, naturally we saw rams, but they were up grazing and checking things out so we just sat and watched them and glassed. Fred and Woody found the ram we had watched one afternoon and had planned on taking. We ate lunch and started making a plan of attack. Actually Fred and Woody made the plan, the rest of us finished our lunch. By now the rams had bedded down for an afternoon nap. Fred and I went one way, Woody, Dad and Steve went another. There were seven rams in the bunch. The one we had watched had a buddy ram that was always with him. Highland never seemed to be to far away at any given time. When Fred and I got to where we could see the rams and get a spot to shoot at him we found them laying back to back and of course the ram I wanted was not on my side, he was opposite of the buddy ram. So now what? We kept an eye on them a while and they seemed to be very happy where they were and had no plan of moving anywhere. Fred glassed around while I watched the others. He found a ram down around the bend and said he looked every bit as good as the other ram if not better. So we decided to go and look as opposed to waiting for those rams to move. It could be hours before they decide to get up



and graze again. We moved to where we could see the other ram. I had to look at him before I could decide to shoot him. We got laid down and crept to the edge, he was a nice ram, laying by himself broadside to us. When you look at them that close they are spectacular. He impressed me enough to decide to shoot him and let Steve kill the other ram. So I put down my field glasses and put a shell in the chamber of my 243. The ram was 150 yards but I couldn't find him in my scope, then he was gone. There was one small ram with him, they ran out to 220 yards and stopped, but of course the little ram stopped in front of the bigger one. By now I have my rest and can follow him with my scope, so if the little ram moves out of the way he's had. They both took off again. The bigger ram stopped just ahead of the smaller ram and now they were 298 yards from where we were. Fred has a range finder so we know how far they were, no need to guess anymore with modern technology. He stopped, turned and faced us, I asked Fred where to hold, he said, right on where you want to hit him. I held right under his chin in the middle of his chest, took a breath and pulled the trigger. The ram fell to the ground, and rolled down the hill a ways. As he was rolling I was hoping nothing would break. That was the first time I had shot something that wasn't standing broad side to me. I was impressed, so was Fred. I hit him in the back bone and took out his front shoulders, he wasn't going anywhere. As my ram was rolling down the hill I got really excited. Till then as my husband say's I was cool as a cucumber. No need to get overly excited till it hits the ground. But of course that is when the work starts. Off we went to the ram, it was approximately 1:00 when he died.

We took lots of pictures and started field dressing, caping and deboning to start packing out.

Steve had gotten the other ram when the sheep left after I shot my ram. The sheep went around to where they were waiting and hoping they would go.

So it ended up a 2 ram day, lots of work now. Dad had came over to get pictures of me and my ram after he had taken some of Steves ram. Fred packed the cape, some of the meat and the horns. I had taken everything from the packs and put into mine. We loaded dad up with the remaining meat and off we went to where Steve and Woody were. When we reached them we then rearranged all the packs to pack back to where we had camped the night before. It was 11:00 p.m. by the time we made it back. We had a light supper and went to bed. It was a great sheep hunt and lots of fun. To bad you can't get a sheep tag every year, even if it is just for a reason to go along, not even having to kill a sheep. There neat to watch and great to look at.



Kay with great ram--Congratulations!